



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4486
(248) 370-2060 Fax: (248) 370-4208

Professor Seigo Nakao
Department of Modern Languages
Oakland University

April 23, 2007

Dear Professor Nakao,

I am happy to write to you in support of your proposal for a Major in Japanese.

I agree wholeheartedly that given the demand for qualified employees capable of performing their jobs in the global market in which Japan plays a significant role, the Japanese major will respond to the urgent need for Americans to acquire a knowledge of Japanese language and culture, and at the same time will provide a substantial contribution to the expanding goals at Oakland University.

As a senior member of the faculty at the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, I had the opportunity of watching the Japanese section blossom from its humble beginnings to a successful program that is about to surpass in number of students at least one of the well established languages taught at Oakland.

I won't be exaggerating when I say that it is my firm belief that the program owes its success to the superb job you, Professor Nakao have done. You created a Japanese program from scratch, nurtured and made it grow. We have seen a new position in Japanese created and successfully filled, and now we can hope a major will follow.

Your success has enriched us all at Modern Languages. You are not only a superb teacher and scholar, but also a great colleague and we are lucky to have you.

I am confident that at long last, a major in Japanese will soon be a reality in our Department.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Estela Moreno-Mazzoli'.

Estela Moreno-Mazzoli
Associate Professor, Spanish



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
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(248) 370-2060 Fax: (248) 370-4208

December 6, 2006

To whom it may concern:

With this letter I would like to express my support for the elevation of Oakland University's Japanese program to major status. A major in Japanese would strengthen the Department of Modern Languages as a whole by expanding and diversifying course offerings as well as career opportunities for our students. A Japanese major could also enhance our STEP program and thus attract more students who are interested in becoming certified as foreign language teachers. Furthermore, the expansion of our Japanese program contributes to Oakland University's general mission to globalize education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ingrid Broszeit-Rieger'.

Ingrid Broszeit-Rieger
(Associate Professor of German)



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
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(248) 370-2060 Fax: (248) 370-4208

October 17, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

As former Chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and member of the Japanese Major Proposal Committee, I would like to express my support for the proposed major in Japanese in the strongest possible terms. Professor Seigo Nakao and members of the ad hoc major proposal committee have been working on the proposal for several years and have been updating it this summer. Letters from many of our colleagues in the department attest to the enthusiastic endorsement that Professor Nakao's proposal has received in the department. Because we were able to hire a tenure-track Japanese assistant professor this year, Dr. Stephen Filler, who received his Ph.D. at Ohio State University, and several new part-time lecturers, the major in Japanese is finally becoming more of a reality for the department. We are very encouraged by the support we have received from the Provost, the Acting Dean and the Associate Deans in this initiative to develop a Japanese major and to expand Chinese and Arabic to at least a minor in the next few years. A clear sign of Oakland's strong focus on Asia across disciplines, are the granting of two new tenure-track lines: the Department of Art and Art History at Oakland University was able to hire an Asian Art Historian and the Department of History an Asian Historian. We expect these new hires to contribute to the solid establishing of the Japanese Major.

The steady increase in student enrollment in Japanese language and culture courses is indicative of the outstanding job that Professor Nakao has done since his arrival in the department in 1992 in designing the Japanese curriculum and gradually expanding the course offerings. He is a very enthusiastic and effective instructor who has spent much energy and effort on building a strong program and on student recruitment. The Japanese program in DMLL has clearly reached a point where the demand for a major is evident. With more and more students also taking advantage of the opportunity OU provides for them to study in Japan, we need to respond to student request for a Japanese major. The enrollment in Japanese courses reached 276 during the academic year 2005-2006 and we are expecting a further increase in 2006-2007. This is a significant increase from 151 when we did our ten-year Self-Study report in 2000. The Oakland University's *Strategic Plan, 2010 Vision, and Creating the Future* have stressed the move toward providing a more global education for our students. The

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major would complement very effectively the curriculum of the Japanese Studies major in the Center for International Programs that enrolls over twenty students each year but does not stress the study of the Japanese language. There is a wide interest in East Asian Studies on this Campus and each year enrollment in this field has grown steadily.

Professor Nakao's involvement in community organizations such as the Friends of Asian Art and his outreach to the Japanese-American community have been acknowledged with several grants from the prestigious Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation (JBSD). In November 2001, the foundation increased their grant award to our Japanese section from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 and invited several representatives from our department to an award ceremony at the residence of the Consul General of Japan. Collaborative interaction with the Department of Art and Art History, the Center of International Programs and the Department of History have made Japanese very visible on our Campus. As Professor Coppola has commented on very eloquently in his letter of support, this proposal complements the vibrant and popular major in Japanese Studies through the Center for International and will complement course offerings.

In our Ten-Year Self-Study Report, we stated that the total number of students completing Japanese courses has increased significantly "from 86 students for the 1990-1991 year to 151 for the 1999-2000 school year." Increasingly we have received the approval by the Associate Deans of the College of Arts and Sciences, to offer additional sections of Japanese 114, Japanese 115, as well as second year since Professor Nakao has repeatedly received requests from the ever-growing Japanese American business community surrounding Oakland University to offer beginning Japanese language courses at the noon hour in addition to evening offerings and to expand the program. The 114 course at the noon hour often has an enrollment of 30 students. We have even begun to offer off-phase sections in first and second year to meet student demand, which is indicative of the wide interest in our Japanese curriculum.

Since Oakland University is in the process of restructuring its Center for International Programs, Japanese has the opportunity to play a major role in the process of setting the curriculum for the B.A. program in East Asian studies. The majority of the students who enroll in JPN 300- and 400 level courses are currently minoring in Japanese in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures or are Japanese Studies majors at the Center for International Programs. Japanese minors at Oakland University and other Michigan institutions of higher learning, among them Madonna University, have expressed an interest in our proposed Japanese major.

This coming year, Japanese will consist of two full-time positions and three part-time positions. We have already expanded the curriculum by adding some courses at the 300 and 400 levels.

The increased number of student enrollment in Japanese clearly indicates a need for a Japanese major at Oakland University. With the expansion of Japanese industries in the

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wider Metro Detroit area and Oakland University's commitment to globalization and internationalization as stated in its 2010 Vision, the time has come to offer a Japanese major on this campus. The Japanese major will greatly enhance the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the Center for International Programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Mabee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Barbara Mabee
Professor of German

MEMORANDUM

October 15, 2006

TO: Whom it May Concern

FROM: Julia Urla, Special Instructor
Modern Languages and Literatures

RE: Japanese Major

I wish to express my support for the expansion of the Japanese program to include a major in Japanese Language and Literature. We have just hired a second tenure-track faculty member to teach Japanese language and literature, and student interest in our offerings in Japanese has been consistently strong for years. With each year that passes, the number of students interested in studying Japanese grows. They are limited at present by the fact that they cannot major in the language and yet they continue to enroll in Japanese courses. There is every reason to expect that when we offer a major in Japanese, student interest will grow.

This major will complement the Japanese studies program that already exists as part of the International Studies program. This is important since students concentrating on Japanese studies do not now have the option of also majoring in the language. Japan has long been a major participant in world economic and political affairs and I support wholeheartedly this exciting proposal to expand our offerings to include a major in Japanese.

Julia Urla



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
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(248) 370-2060 Fax: (248) 370-4208

October 11, 2006

Dear Professor Nakao,

I am writing to you to express my enthusiastic and whole-hearted support for the creation of a major in Japanese here at Oakland University. It is my firm belief that this addition to the current majors the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures offers will increase the number of students in our department, entice students to study at Oakland University, and add some much needed diversity to our current Eurocentric offerings.

In the two years since I have been at Oakland University, I have overheard at least a dozen students lamenting the fact that there is no major in Japanese here. Due to the importance of the automobile industry – and the role therein that Japanese automakers play – in metro Detroit and the position that Japan holds as one of the world's economic superpowers, students rightly see that a major in Japanese would help them advance their career plans. Furthermore, thanks to the internet, today's students are much more aware of the world around them. Exposure to Japanese animation, film, food, and graphic novels has whetted students' desire to learn more about a culture that is no longer deemed distant and unreachable. I firmly believe that it is therefore our responsibility, as the purveyors of knowledge in the field of language and literature, to offer our students the skills and tools that they so eagerly seek.

In short, I unreservedly put forth my full support for the creation of a major in Japanese here at Oakland University. If there is any further comment I could make on behalf of this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JLS', followed by a horizontal line.

Jennifer Law-Sullivan, PhD
Assistant Professor of French



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
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(248) 370-2060 Fax: (248) 370-4208

Aldona Pobutsky
Assistant Professor
Department of Modern Languages
and Literatures
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309

October 9, 2006

RE: Japanese Major at Oakland University

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my most enthusiastic support for the initiative of having a Japanese Major in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (DMLL) at Oakland University. Creating a Japanese Major will greatly enhance the scope of the DMLL and will attract many students to the department and to the university as well.

I have been very impressed with Professor Nakao's hard work and dedication to the Japanese program and, like everyone else in our department, I am very aware of his success with it, since the enrollment in Japanese is steadily growing. Obviously a great potential lies ahead not only in the numbers that such program will attract but also in how our department will develop.

The DMLL can only benefit from a Major in Japanese. First, students who enroll in languages as challenging and demanding as Japanese are serious and conscientious and therefore we can only wish to bring them into the program. Secondly, considering the current context, nationally and internationally, it is crucial for us as a department to widen the scope of our teaching by including non-European languages such as Japanese in our majors.

In sum, I strongly support Professor Nakao in his enterprise to create a Japanese Major, and I urge the committee to approve his proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Aldona Pobutsky'.
Aldona Pobutsky



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4486
(248) 370-2060 Fax: (248) 370-4208

October 8, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal to make Japanese a major in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Since coming to Oakland University, Professor Seigo Nakao has consistently worked to develop the Japanese program in our department, as he was charged to do when he first came here. Under his leadership, the program has steadily progressed with increasing enrollments to the present time, when interest in Japanese has reached a point that demonstrates the logic in making Japanese a major at this time. Under his direction, the two year program became a minor some years ago. Since then, the program has continued to evolve through the creation of new courses and the continuing growth in enrollments to the point where the numbers now show that interest in Japanese is steady and predictable.

Presently, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has major programs in Spanish, French and German only. In the global society in which we live, it only makes sense for a modern language department to include other languages besides the European ones in its curriculum because of the role that non-European countries play in the world today. There is no doubt that Japan is now, and will continue to be, a major factor in the international business community. There is also ample evidence to show that interactions between American and Japanese people are more successful if there is linguistic and cultural understanding between the parties involved. Today's language students often take foreign languages for important practical reasons, including wanting to go into careers where the knowledge of foreign languages and cultures is crucial. There are a variety of careers across the spectrum for which this is true. Oakland University can therefore contribute to its mission of preparing graduates for the real world by filling this void in our department with respect to the proposal for a non-European language major in our department, i.e., Japanese.

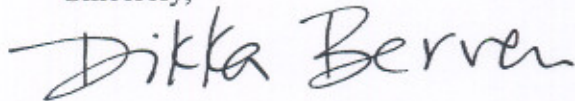
Whether the Japanese major would intend to use his/her degree for the purposes of pursuing a graduate program in Japanese, or in order to pursue the various careers for which Japanese would be a contributing factor to success, there is no doubt that those

students who were to pursue the Japanese major would be well-prepared to move forward in their lives.

Furthermore, the program which Professor Nakao proposes would fit perfectly in the context of the other major programs in the DMLL, as the courses which he describes clearly indicate. In addition, the number of OU students already studying abroad in Japan reflects the seriousness of intent for students presently in the minor program. All signs point to the benefits to OU of a major in Japanese.

With the inauguration of the Japanese major in the DMLL, Oakland University will be all the more interesting to students who are interested in preparing themselves for the future, with an eye on the shrinking world in which we live. The university has expressed its interest in internationalization through the Creating the Future report. I believe that the university will find in the Japanese major a logical, indeed necessary, component to one of its own most important stated goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dikka Berven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dikka Berven, Ph.D.



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
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October 5, 2006

Caroline Jumel
Assistant Professor
Department of Modern Languages
and Literatures
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309

RE: Japanese Major at Oakland University

To whom it may concern,

I would like to strongly support the initiative of having a Japanese Major in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (DMLL) at Oakland University. I believe the creation of a Japanese Major would greatly enhance the scope of the DMLL and would attract many students to the department and to the university as well.

I have been very impressed with Professor Nakao's hard work and dedication to the Japanese program. He has relentlessly spent the necessary time and effort to develop it and I believe it is fair to say he has achieved excellent results. The enrollment numbers in Japanese are the evidence of this statement. Obviously a great potential lies ahead and Professor Nakao is right to encourage the creation of a Major in Japanese.

The DMLL can only benefit from a Major in Japanese. First, students who enroll in languages as challenging and demanding as Japanese are serious and conscientious and therefore we can only wish to bring them into the program. Secondly, considering the current context, nationally and internationally, it is crucial for us as a department to widen the scope of our teaching and instead of focusing essentially on European languages, it is time to include non-European languages such as Japanese in our majors.

I strongly support Professor Nakao in his enterprise to create a Japanese Major, and I urge the committee to approve his proposal. If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 370-2071 or jumel@oakland.edu.

Sincerely,
Caroline Jumel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Jumel', written over a horizontal line.



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
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(248) 370-2060 Fax: (248) 370-4208

May 22, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in strong support of the proposal to create a Japanese major at Oakland University. I believe the Japanese major would be beneficial to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, the university at large and the Oakland County community if properly implemented and given sufficient funding and support.

When Professor Nakao the Japanese section's first full-time tenure track faculty member arrived in 1992, the Japanese program was in its infancy, the new faculty position being the product of a grant from the generous McGregor Foundation. Since that time Professor Nakao with the help of many colleagues interested in implementing a Japanese major, has made great strides in strengthening the program by developing it from a concentration to a minor. Steady enrollments, quality of instruction and dedication to the program allowed this evolution to occur. The Japanese minor already has a solid academic foundation and provides students with the opportunity to study abroad at Nanzan University.

Professor Nakao has worked tirelessly, not only at providing students with a solid basis in Japanese, but he has been an active faculty advisor to the Japanese Club and active in community organizations such as the Friends of Asian Art. He has also sought and received grants from the prestigious Japan Foundation and the Japanese-Detroit Business Society. As a former member of the DMLL Committee on Instruction, I have worked closely with Professor Nakao and observed the great care he has put into planning the major. In addition, Oakland University has demonstrated commitment to the Japanese program by allowing us to hire an assistant Professor who will join us this fall 2007.

I believe the Japanese major would foster much needed diversity at the university and departmental levels. As it stands, the Asian section has no major. This is a deficiency given the importance of Asia in today's world market, particularly in the automobile industry so vital to our region. The major is also supported by and relevant to other departments such as the Department of Art and Art History, the Center for International Programs and the Department of History, all of which offer courses centering on Japan. I know that many professors from these departments also have a strong interest in seeing the establishment of the Japanese major.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stacey Hahn'.

Stacey Hahn
Associate Professor of French

Dear

I am writing this letter to support Dr. Seigo Nakao's petition for the creation of a new Japanese major program at Oakland University.

As the new tenure-track appointee in Japanese, I certainly have a personal interest in Dr. Nakao's petition. A Japanese major would mean a wonderful opportunity to expand offerings in Japanese language, literature, and culture. Beyond this, my teaching experience at schools with strong Japanese programs - Oberlin College, Ohio State University, and Denison University - gives me great certainty that a Japanese major would greatly benefit the students at Oakland, and the institution as a whole.

First of all, graduates with Japanese majors consistently perform well in business as well as in graduate school. Education in a difficult, non-Western language and culture provides a miniature liberal-arts education giving students strong linguistic and analytic abilities and the confidence and patience to deal with difficult challenges. Good students tend to self-select into Japanese programs. Japanese majors I have taught have consistently done well, whether choosing to go into Japan-related careers in business or academia, or fields such as education, medicine, or law. A Japanese major will create a large base of successful alumni whose activity extends all over the world.

Secondly, Japanese is popular. At Oberlin College, our Japanese courses were consistently over-enrolled, and my colleagues in universities all over the country report the same thing. Here at Oakland, out of some 45 students I am teaching this semester, about half say that they would like to major or minor in Japanese. The majority of students say that they chose to take Japanese based on an interest in Japanese culture, such as graphic art and animation, martial arts, or music. Students who take Japanese are very likely to continue with these interests after they graduate.

Finally, of course, the Detroit area is the home of a vast number of Japan-based industries as well as of the Japanese Consulate General in Detroit. One of the top Japanese departments in the world, at the University of Michigan, is also nearby. Opportunities to involve our students in internships, exchange programs, and research are almost unlimited.

Oakland University presently has the needed base of resources and instructors to establish a high-quality Japanese major. As the major develops, it can become one of the prides of this university. I sincerely hope that we will be able to bring a Japanese major into being.

Sincerely,

Stephen Filler



Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

418 Wilson Hall
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4486
(248) 370-2060

January 6, 2004

Seigo Nakao, Pd.D.
DMLL
Oakland University

Dear Professor Nakao,

As the approval for Japanese to become a 4-year program at Oakland University is in its final phases, you have asked me to outline the process for Japanese to become a teaching major and minor and specifically a part of the OU Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP). Although Dr. Dawn Pickard, Associate Dean of the School of Education and Human Services at OU, describes application as a "fairly straightforward process that could be completed in a semester," I would note that however "straightforward" the process may be, the paperwork (see attached documents) will be very involved and time-consuming.

First of all, you would write a proposal for Japanese to join French, German and Spanish as teaching majors and minors supported by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures for STEP. The proposal will have to be addressed in the COI of both the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the School of Education and Human Services (SEHS), although, if CAS approval for Japanese to be a **teaching** major and minor is part of the original plan, only SEHS approval will have to be sought at this time. Once the proposal has been addressed and approved by SHES and the Secondary Education Council, you will work with SHES to file the appropriate forms with Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Those forms are available at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234_5683_6368---,00.html (and click on Application for Approval of Specialty Programs for Teacher Preparation under Standards for Specialty Programs); the forms include a signoff from SEHS Dean, then an initial approval review by a committee of modern language colleagues within the state, generally from other institutions of higher education, set up by MDE. I have attached copies of the forms to this letter so that you can see what is involved. Once MDE gives its stamp of approval, our catalog copy will need to be modified.

The DMLL Committee on Instruction should work with you to seek the above approval and to propose the appropriate modifications (following the usual procedures in CAS) to catalog copy to include Japanese in the appropriate sections, i.e., sections entitled (1) Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP): Modern Languages and Literatures, (2) Requirements for the secondary teaching minor in a modern language, (3) Requirements for an elementary teaching major in a modern language and (4) Requirements for an elementary teaching minor in a modern language; once all parties have agreed and Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has given its approval for Japanese to be a teaching major

and minor at Oakland University, SEHS will make the corresponding copy modifications in their catalog copy.

Part of the process will undoubtedly be addressing the need for Japanese teachers both within the state of Michigan and in the US. If those figures are part of your original proposal, that work is done. If not, you will need to frame the need, probably with a statement from your state organization; the American Association of Teacher of Japanese (AATJ) will probably have the figures you need for the national situation. I have attached a copy of the e-mail I received from Bonnie Rockafellow when I requested a list of Michigan Schools that offer Japanese.

Although it is another process involving more paperwork, there is no reason Japanese cannot join French, German and Spanish as sections supplying both secondary and elementary teaching candidates. The methods and field supervision may or may not pose a problem. I have been serving on a MDE committee to write the "Michigan Standards for the Preparation of Foreign Language, English as a Second Language and Bilingual Education Teachers." The educators of non-European languages involved in that committee are suggesting that the methods classes for European languages will not suit the needs of Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Arabic candidates. They are suggesting the formation of a consortium of universities and colleges offering teacher education in those languages for the purpose of offering teacher training at one centrally located institution. The person I suggest you contact to inquire about the status of that plan is Motoko Tabuse, Ph.D., Professor of Foreign Languages & Bilingual Studies at Eastern Michigan University.

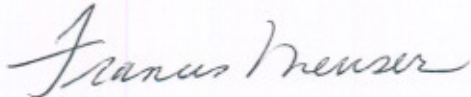
I am sure that methods class and field supervision will have to be addressed as part of the application process for MDE. While the above-mentioned consortium sounds like a good solution to the problem, it may take a while to get the details of that worked out and in the meantime we would need to provide the training within our present program. While I have no particular problem with Japanese teacher candidates enrolling in SED 428:Modern Languages, I must state up front that I have no preparation or experience in the field of non-European languages. If you or someone else in your section have the appropriate background in pedagogy and would be willing to work with the students to understand the differences in teaching European and non-European languages and to supervise their field experience, that problem would be minimal. This situation should probably be given serious consideration as you draft the job descriptions for full and/or part time position requests.

Because I have been involved both with the process of gathering and writing review folios and as a MDE reviewer, to the end that the paperwork will be both involved and time-consuming, I make the following suggestions:

- (1) that the process not be initiated until the Japanese 4-year program has been approved and decisions concerning staffing have been made
- (2) that the process not be initiated until the "Michigan Standards for the Preparation of Foreign Language Teachers" have been approved and implemented; that approval is pending
- (3) that the person(s) responsible for gathering and writing the application materials be given at least a one semester course release
- (4) that you ask SEHS to designate one SEHS person (experienced with this process) to assist with this application; Associate Dean Dawn Pickard would be a good person to approach about this

I hope this letter and the attached documents answer your questions about Japanese becoming a **teaching** major and minor. If you have other questions, I will certainly help you find the appropriate person(s) from whom you may seek answers either in SEHS or MDE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Meuser".

Frances Meuser, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Spanish

cc: Bill Macauley, Associate Dean of CAS
Barbara Mabee, Chair, DMLL

Seigo Nakao

From: "Daniel Richard Snyder" <snyder85@msu.edu>
To: <nakao@oakland.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 9:51 AM
Subject: Recommendation for Japanese Major at Oakland University

Dear Professor Nakao:

As non-traditional (age 68) student of Japanese and a resident of Oakland County, I am pleased to recommend the establishment of a Japanese Language and Literature major at Oakland University.

I make this recommendation both as a participant in the Japanese program and as an observer of the program from the perspective of a veteran academic.

As you know, I took several courses in Japanese at OU between 1999 and 2005. Previous to this, I took one year of Japanese at another university. I can say without reservation that the program at Oakland was far superior, both in breadth and quality, to that of the other institution. I found the courses in Composition, Translation into English, and Advanced Conversation and Reading particularly rewarding. I encourage the expansion of the program to a major in hopes that the course offerings would be further broadened to include a more advanced level of translation, more in-depth readings of modern Japanese literature in Japanese, and a special course on reading and writing Kanji.

Because my course work at Oakland has extended over a period of six years, I have been able to observe two separate "generations" of traditional-age students. The earlier group (late '90's) included a number of serious students but lacked what I would call a "sense of community", such as I had experienced in my undergraduate major. When I returned to OU to take Advanced Conversation and Reading in Fall, 2005, I observed a level of energy, enthusiasm, and interaction reminiscent of my own experience as an undergraduate in the 1950's. I believe that the University could take advantage of this momentum by providing an intellectual focus in a single language area, rather than requiring students to dilute their language skills in order to amass the credits necessary to graduate.

As a resident of Rochester Hills, I have found the Japanese program at Oakland to be a local treasure. I'm confident that there are others, whether senior citizens, college-bound high school students, or adults with full-time day jobs, who would take advantage of a nearby opportunity to participate in Japanese studies. Expansion of the Japanese program to a major would make it more likely that they would do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to express these views. I hope to see you soon

on the OU campus.

Sincerely, Daniel Snyder

Seigo Nakao

From: <aaozment@aol.com>
To: <Nakao@oakland.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 06, 2006 4:07 PM
Subject: On the topic of a Japanese major at Oakland University

Hello.

My name is Aaron Ozment, and I am a junior at Oakland University. I am currently enrolled in the Japanese 215 class in an attempt to catch up to my grade level. I was informed by Nakao Sensei about the possibility of a major being offered in Japanese and thought it my duty to comment to the university about this matter.

Right now the state of Michigan is in a flux with fewer and fewer jobs available for its students. As a commuter college the fate of Oakland University is tied to the fate of Oakland County. The Japanese language is incredibly useful for business as we attempt to transition into the new era of global economy and Michigan's changing role within the U.S. In addition, the creation of a Japanese major will be able to attract new students for the program.

Having attended Groves Highschool in Birmingham, I had the good fortune to be instructed by one of that nation's finest Japanese instructors, Harumi Cooper. Her leadership and skill took a small Japanese department at her highschool and turned it into a massive class (soon in need of more teachers) and within four years had taken teams to the national Japanese Quiz Bowl championships (and won) where there had been no teams from Groves in the past. This highly accomplished woman swore by and would only use professor Nakao's dictionary. Nakao Sensei's dictionary is one of the reasons I went to Oakland. I initially wanted to minor in Japanese, but now desire to study it exclusively. However, a difficulty arises.

Michigan has, not too far from Oakland, another school, Eastern Michigan, that offers one of the allegedly finest Japanese programs in the country. It is comparable in price, and it's specialized to allow for several different kinds of degrees based on language or business. However, their program, based on my dealings with the students, seems to be highly flawed, their teaching practices questionable, and the future of these students jeopardized by a program that, though a major, is inferior to that that I currently enjoy at Oakland. Yet, unfortunately, a Japanese degree carries with it so much weight that I am in the process of transferring to Eastern, a step that I do not wish to take, so that I can have the possibility of better job opportunities. I will have to go to Japan, most likely, and teach English, or something of the sort, to make sure that my Japanese skills are up to par, because, unlike Oakland, Eastern barely focuses on any writing system and its students graduate illiterate.

I know several other students from my high school who looked into Oakland (Cooper Sensei's endorsement of Nakao Sensei's dictionary endeared my whole high school Japanese class to him) but decided to go to other schools because of the lack of a program.

Please, for the good of our students, for the good of our region (rapidly falling under more Japanese industrial control), for the good of our university, and for the good of this student who desperately wishes to not have to leave his beloved Oakland to go to an inferior program, institute a Japanese Major. Thank you for your time.

Aaron M. Ozment

Check out the new AOL. Most comprehensive set of free safety and security tools, free access to millions of high-quality videos from across the web, free AOL Mail and more.

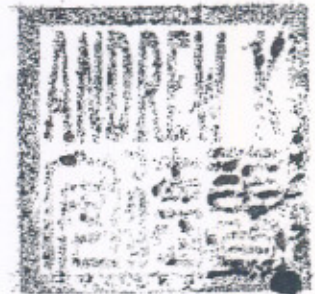
Dear Oakland University Administration,

As a minor in East Asian Studies as well as international traveler having visited both Japan and China, I am proposing with Professor Seigo Nakao for the formulation of a Japanese Major Field of study. Given the enormous interest in the Japanese language and culture in the East Asian Studies program as well as the presence of a Chinese Studies Major, I believe a Japanese Major will become an important addition to the Oakland University curriculum. There is a great deal of interest among fellow Japanese students in a Japanese Studies major and that it would open doors for education about the culture and more comprehensive studies of the language. It would be of great service to the Oakland University student body to put this field of study into official documented effect. My hope as an East Asian Studies student is that the Oakland University Administration regards this proposal with the same care and belief in its benefit to the students as Professor Nakao and I.

Sincerely,



Andrew Kotwicki
G00510842



Date: August 15th, 2006

To: Oakland University Offices of Dean and Provost
CC: Seigo Nakao; Associate Professor of Japanese

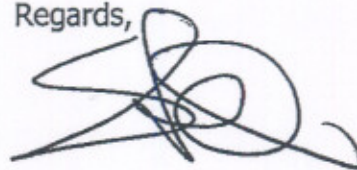
To Whom It May Concern:

I recently received information that there is interest at Oakland University in reinstating the proposal to open a Japanese Language Major at the University. As a certified top-level proficient Japanese speaker who first began studying Japanese language at the university under Professor Nakao, I highly recommend this proposal.

As for myself, my Japanese ability has been critical to my career in Global Logistics. It has enabled me to enter a line of work usually reserved for Japanese nationals working in the United States. As I mentioned earlier, I studied Japanese Language under Professor Nakao but unfortunately I could only go as high as a Minor through the Japanese language program at Oakland University. Because there were few universities offering advanced Japanese Language courses, I had to complete my Japanese language acquisition in Japan. Most people do not have that luxury.

Language acquisition is the doorway to any culture and this will enable Oakland's students to harness an invaluable tool as Japanese is both a key language in global business and Japanese culture is becoming more mainstream in the United States. Therefore having a Japanese Language Major would only bring more prospective students to Oakland and increase the prestige of the school as a whole. I sincerely hope you consider approving this proposal.

Regards,



Stanley Chelsea
2002 OU Alumni
Mitsubishi Logistics
Ocean Export Coordinator



TK Holdings Inc. and Affiliated Companies

2500 Takata Drive • Auburn Hills, MI 48326 • (248) 377-1500
Patrick M. Giampaolo • Director of Human Resources

October 29, 2003

Oakland University
Mr. Seigo Nakao, PHD
Associated Professional of Japanese Studies
403 Wilson Hall
Rochester, MI 48309-4486

Dear Mr. Nakao:


Both Scott Hayashi and I enjoyed our visit with you and your esteemed group of professionals and administrators from Oakland University several weeks ago. As a result of our meeting, I am sending you this letter to further my thoughts about your potential programs and how they may address your final decision making process.

As we had discussed, the Takata Companies are trying to position themselves to work in a truly global economy. We are accepting many in-patriates from other countries into our North American operations to learn from their various expertises. In return, we are sending many people to European, Asian, and South American expatriate assignments to equally share our knowledge of automotive restraint systems with other new and existing Takata businesses. Our need for cultural and language training has been addressed, but usually on a "one-to-one" basis, which proves somewhat difficult. In addition to the normal issues we encounter with teaching and learning cultural and language differences, we additionally search for alternative ways to present training and learning experiences, preferring to teach our transient work force via web based training modules and with video conferencing. Ideal training for our Companies takes place using a diverse methodology usually centered on non-traditional learning experiences.

As we train new employees in our Company and accept in-patriates into our environment, it becomes painfully obvious that if the various business and engineering schools of esteemed colleges like Oakland University would prepare individuals more for different cultural and language possibilities, it would make our jobs much easier. We often take engineers or business people, directly from college and fresh with a degree, and must teach basic letter and report writing skills, not to mention basic cultural and language training. Our ideal candidates for jobs are usually those who have done co-op or intern assignments, especially those that have done a "semester abroad" program. These recruitment "finds" are generally worth their weight in gold.

I appreciate the time talking with you and your group from Oakland University, and will be pleased to offer any additional information should you need it.

With Best Regards
TK Holdings Inc.



Patrick M. Giampaolo
Director of Human Resources – North America

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Inbox

Date: Wed, 6 Aug 2003 10:08:24 -0400

From: Seigo Nakao <nakao@mcfeely.acs.oakland.edu> [Add To Address Book](#)

Subject: OU-Japanese major program

To: kouhou@globalbiz.net

Cc: mabee@oakland.edu

Hi Anita-san,

I have a great favor of you. I have been working on the proposal for a Japanese major at OU for three years now. The proposal was originally written already more than a year and a half ago, and was submitted to the university program committee a while ago. The committee finally responded to my proposal asking to submit more supporting materials.

1. One is about the Japanese language/culture program in K-12 schools in this area. Do you have any list of these schools, preferably with the increase or decrease of the student number each year, as well as the number of the teachers teaching Japanese, preferably but not necessarily with their backgrounds? Is there a great demand for Japanese teachers at K-12 schools? Why these schools decided to offer Japanese classes? The figures can be approximate.

2. Also, how is the Japanese Consulate supporting the Japanese language program for K-12 as well as colleges in our area?

3. Does the Japanese Consulate or Japanese government have specific opinions about promoting Japanese language education in the USA (or in Michigan)?

4. Apart from the above, could you give your personal or official opinion on the merit of offering a Japanese major at OU?

OU has turned out very cautious about opening a new major, especially under the current restrained State budget for education, and will keep asking me to submit more supporting materials in the coming months. For this reason, and I need your support and cooperation.

Yours,
Seigo Nakao, Ph.D
Associate Professor of Japanese
403 WH
Dept. of Modern Langs and Lits
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309
Phone: (248) 370-2066

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Inbox

September 12, 2003

To: Dr. Barbara Mabee, Chair
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Oakland University
418 Wilson Hall
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4490

In Re: Major in the Japanese Language.

In a variety of circles, there has been much discussion lately about the importance of globalization and internationalization. Since McLuhan coined the term "global village" several decades ago, the process of ever-increasing interdependency has proceeded apace. Related to this, one commonly-heard term, "diversity", when properly-understood, refers to the synergy which is produced when two or more cultural or philosophical viewpoints interact, the result being a synthesis of remarkable vitality and service to universal humanity.

Language is, perhaps, the most distinctly human function; as such, it is the single most significant characteristic of culture, exceeding even ideology in its pervasiveness. Combined with its formal, artistic exorcism, literature, language constitutes the vehicle through which a people lives, dreams, loves, plans, and engages in commercial and political activity. That is to say, language is the conduit by which all human activity is performed, the water which it drinks, indeed the air it breathes, if you will.

I am a Japanese national who has lived mostly outside my country for the past ten years, (in the U.S.A. and Saudi Arabia), having traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Mexico, and Canada. Throughout my life, I have witnessed the increasing awareness of my people of the outside world and to the study of foreign languages on the part of my nation. Formerly known for its insularity, it is safe to say that Japan has, of necessity, come to face with the fact that a knowledge of the tongues of other peoples is required for our continued national development, economically and politically. This explains why so many Japanese business leaders, engineers, and those engaged in business study foreign languages in earnest. Most Japanese consider this a healthy response to a changing world scene.

Hard-won experience in a competitive business environment has shown me that in my own profession, fashion and design, a knowledge of more than one language is crucial for communication outside my country, because North Americans and Europeans normally do not know how to speak Japanese. My understanding of English, and some French and Italian served me well on business trips and in correspondence with fashion houses in Paris, Milan, and North America. After all, in order to understand fashion trends, one must stay in constant contact with the sources and originators of the trends.

Similarly, automotive design in the Detroit area needs to strengthen its connection to new developments and concepts emerging from Tokyo if it intends to recapture market share and increase its international prominence. When Japanese engineers, designers, and businesspeople spend time in the U.S.A., a strong background in English is a given. When Americans interact with Japanese, they deserve to be properly equipped as well.

For Oakland University, the importance of offering the Japanese language major reflects sound planning, combining the willingness to embrace the future with the desire to fill a need, the need to communicate with another people whose culture and concepts, patience and diligence, so useful to the world to emulate, are conveyed by the Japanese language. Based upon the discussion herein, may I respectfully request that the Committee shall approve the Major in Japanese in its deliberations.

Please contact me if you have further questions or comments. Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Ayako Mitsunaga Hoffiz
1773 Taunton Road
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
248.723.6807
benandayako@kdd.net

30 September, 2003

Dr. Seigo Nakao
Associate Professor of Japanese
403 Wilson Hall
Oakland University
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4486

Re: Japanese Major Program Questionnaire

Dear Professor Nakao:

Please find enclosed the completed questionnaire you sent on 10 September, 2003.
I am sorry that I have taken this long to answer the questionnaire.

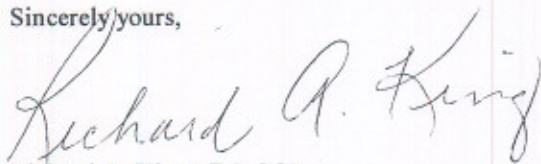
I am rather disappointed that Oakland University has yet to have the Japanese Major that they were so ardent about while I was an undergraduate and a Masters of Art candidate at Oakland University. I firmly believe that Oakland needs to have a major in Japanese in order to be competitive with the other major universities in the surrounding area.

Oakland University, because it is located in the automotive industrial center of the United States of America, where the automotive industry is in continuous contact with the Japanese, should be well aware of the needs of the automotive industry along this line of education.

While I was attending undergraduate classes at Oakland University, a Detroit based company provided monies to update the language lab with the condition that Oakland University taught Japanese language courses. Don't you think that this was a wake-up call for Oakland University to provide an expanded program of study of the Japanese language and culture?

How many of the directors at Oakland University wonder about the amount of students who changed their minds about attending Oakland University because they wanted to major in Japanese studies? Oakland University seems able to expand dorms, parking structures and discuss building a conference building on campus, in conjunction with the Palace of Auburn Hills, but doesn't seem to be able expand their Major programs. I sincerely hope that the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is able to convince the committee to decide to expand the Japanese Program into a Major program.

Sincerely yours,



Richard A. King, BA, MA
6064 Waterfront Dr.
Waterford, MI 48329

Seigo Nakao

From: "Plattenberger, Michele (M.T.)" <mplatten@ford.com>
To: "Seigo Nakao" <nakao@oakland.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2003 11:45 PM
Attach: major-letter.doc
Subject: RE: Japanese Major Program

Here you go! I have not caught up on all of my emails since Obon holiday. Forgive me for not replying to your last note yet. Things are going well here in Japan. I'm working on my new goals for when I return back to Michigan and getting very excited. I have lots to learn while I am here and am (trying) to maintain my studies every day. My goal is to become 'proficient' to the level sufficient to teach higher level classes. I am hoping that my skills will prove proficient enough to warrant a position on your staff! I have other plans in mind as well which also involve Japanese and hope I can improve my language capabilities enough in these next 3 years to follow through. I'm very excited! I was also hoping to be able to come back to Michigan and find out what kind of studies are offered for a Masters in Japanese Studies! Hurry and get the undergraduate program approved so you can begin with a Masters program!!! ahahahah!!!

I have to go back and look at my degree again. I have a MAJOR in Japanese Studies. I didn't realize this would be so difficult to be approved. You are working very hard! I'm curious how you and Dr. Coppola were able to finagle my MAJOR?????

Anyway! Good luck! Anything I can do, please let me know!

Shelley is also talking of coming for a visit! Maybe we can plan a visit all together!!! You are very welcome in our home!!!!

Hope all is well. Take care!

ミシェル T. プラタンバーガー
 Michele T. Plattenberger
 CD33x Program Management
 Ext: 820-591
 Mazda Building, 8th Floor PMT Room
 Hiroshima, Japan
 From U.S. Tel: 011-81-82287-5380
 From U.S. Fax: 011-81-82-287-5399

-----Original Message-----

From: Seigo Nakao [mailto:nakao@oakland.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2003 12:13 AM
To: Plattenberger, Michele (M.T.)
Subject: Japanese Major Program

Hi Michele,

How is your life in Japan? Summer in Japan is festive. On the other hand, as you have heard, we had a

Memorandum to: Barbara Mabee, Chair DMLL

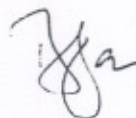
Date: September 15, 2001

From: Bonnie Abiko, Department of Art and Art History
Coordinator, Oakland's Japan Study Abroad Programs

Re: Proposal for a Japanese Language Major

This proposal for a major in Japanese is a most welcome addition to Oakland University's programs in Japanese studies and its interest in expanding its international focus. Acting as coordinator for the Japan Study Abroad Programs for the last 3 or 4 years, and having been intimately involved with them for 20 years, it is very clear that students who return from Japan have insufficient advanced Japanese language classes available to them. Their only recourse is to create independent study projects which depends upon the time and schedule of the DMLL Japanese language professors. In the last few years, we have had students who have extended their stay at either Nanzan University or the Japan Center for Michigan Universities for two years. To accommodate this, we have rewritten the course catalog to include more IS courses that can be used for studying at those institutions. (Students always enroll for an OU course in IS studies when studying at Nanzan or JCMU.) This makes it all the more difficult for them to continue their Japanese language study back at OU.

Having this major available to our students is not only timely, but it is a great need. It should enrich both the Japanese art history class enrollments and IS enrollments.



Nicole Buffard-O'Shea
Associate Professor Of French
Department of Modern Languages
and Literatures
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309-4406

October 2, 2001

RE.: Japanese Major at Oakland University

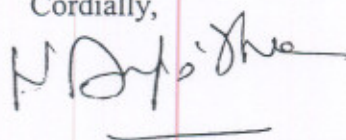
To whom it may concern,

I wish to write this letter in strong support of the Japanese Major in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (DMLL). I believe that the creation of a Japanese Major will greatly enhance the scope of the DMLL, and will attract many serious and dedicated students to the department.

I have been very impressed by Professor Nakao's hard work and dedication to the Japanese program. He has relentlessly spent the time and effort necessary to develop it, and I think it is fair to say that he has achieved excellent results. The enrollment numbers in Japanese show this. Obviously, there is great potential here, and Professor Nakao is right to believe that a Japanese Major is now needed. The DMLL can only benefit from it for two reasons: students who take languages as difficult as Japanese are serious and conscientious, and therefore we can only wish to bring more of them. The second reason, as important as the first, is that in the current context, nationally and internationally, it is crucial for us as a department to widen the scope of our teaching, and, instead of focusing on essentially European languages, it is now time for us to include non-European languages such as Japanese in our majors. Professor Nakao made it clear in his proposal that it is especially important to do so in the Detroit metropolitan area.

I strongly support Professor Nakao in his enterprise to create a Japanese Major, and I urge the committee to approve his proposal. If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 370-2071 or oshea@oakland.edu.

Cordially,



Handwritten signature of Nicole Buffard-O'Shea, consisting of stylized initials and a surname, with a horizontal line underneath.



Center for International Programs

Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401
 (248) 370-2154 Fax: (248) 370-4208

MEMORANDUM

5 October 2000

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Carlo Coppola, Director
 Center for International Programs

Re: Japanese Major

Carlo Coppola

I write this letter in support of the proposed major in Japanese to be offered through the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Oakland University.

There has been a major in Japanese Studies in the Center for International Programs for over a dozen years. This major is intended for students who wish to develop a broad-based cultural look at Japan and its civilization. While this major does require Japanese language competency at the third-year level, it does not stress language study as such.

A major in Japanese language, modeled on the Department of Modern Languages and Literature's majors in other modern languages (viz., French, German, and Spanish), will offer interested students a wider selection of possibilities of choices related to their interest in Japan. Such a range of choices is a good thing. Rather than compete with the CIP major in East Asian Studies: Japan, the major in Japanese language through the DMLL will complement CIP offerings. In fact, a wider selection of courses in Japanese language that will result from this new major, will benefit CIP students in their selection of courses. The CIP Japanese Studies major currently enrolls about two dozen students. Based on the popularity of this major, I submit that the DMLL-based major in Japanese language will attract as many—and maybe even more—students than the CIP-sponsored one.

-2-

Moreover, the DMLL-sponsored major in Japanese language will be a boon for Dr. Seigo Nakao, who currently functions as the sole, lone full-time, tenure-track member of the Japanese program. Such a new program will give him an opportunity to teach a wider variety of courses than he already does, thereby fostering his creativity and skills as a teacher (for which he recently received a faculty recognition award). In addition, with the assured growth of this program, additional faculty will need to be hired, thereby stimulating an increase in faculty, and all its attendant benefits, as well

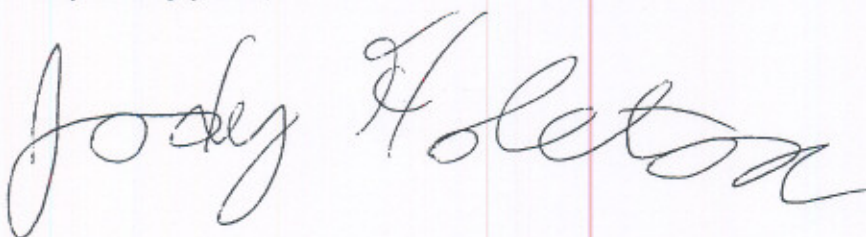
I strongly support the establishment of this major in the DMLL; I do so with enthusiasm and without any qualifications whatsoever.

If anyone has any questions regarding this matter, kindly feel free to contact me regarding this matter.

To whom it may concern,

Since I was sixteen I've always wanted to know more about Japan. I've had my dreams fulfilled with the help of Oakland University's Japanese teachers, classes and international programs. However those classes and programs have a problem: they are not considered part of a Japanese major. The emphasis at Oakland is for students to study International Studies, which covers a wide area, and does not focus wholly on Japanese. A lot of students, including myself, want a Japanese major at Oakland. With this major students can focus more of their time studying Japanese, interacting with local Japanese people (including businesses) and work harder on Japan's writing system (you need to know 2000 characters just to read a Japanese newspaper). If Oakland had a Japanese major it would draw a lot more business people, foreign students and international workers (like me). Please consider a Japanese major at Oakland University.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody Holetson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jody Holetson
2392 Barclay
Shelby Twp., Mich. 48317

630 Orchard View
Royal Oak, MI 48073

.....
November 1, 2000

Seigo Nakao
403 Wilson Hall
Department of Modern Languages and Literature
Oakland University
Rochester, MI 48309

Dear Nakao Sensee:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinion about the possibility of Oakland University offering Japanese as a major course of study. I began my studies at Oakland in engineering while interning with a Tier I supplier for the Big Three. Through my studies and my on-the-job experiences, I quickly learned the influence Japanese have had on the automotive industry. Because of this, I thought it might be beneficial to gain somewhat of an understanding of the Japanese culture. I became so enthusiastic about Japanese language and culture that I postponed my engineering studies for one year to focus entirely on my interest in Japanese. Since then, I have graduated with my engineering degree as well as a degree in Japanese Studies. This was only possible through the support of the Modern Language Department and your continuous support for the independent study program we mapped out. It wasn't until recently that I have realized the impact this would have on my career.

Cross-functional training and diversity are assets companies are quickly recognizing as essentials for business success. Technological advances have broken down international borders and offer many more opportunities to explore and expand markets. Early exposure to these environments better able individuals to quickly understand the fundamentals of competing in the global marketplace.

By offering Japanese as a major course of study, Oakland University is offering its students an edge in working in today's diverse world. Having an early understanding of the Japanese language and culture, one we all realize has a great influence on American businesses and its marketplace, will greatly impact the marketability of the graduating student and offer opportunities that otherwise may not be possible. I highly recommend providing students with the opportunity to explore Japanese as a major course of study.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at my home number, (248) 577-6184.

Sincerely,



Michele T. Plattenberger
Ford Motor Company
Export & Emerging Markets Engineering
.....

SBC DataComm
24750 North Industrial
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48335



July 5, 2000

Seigo Nakao, Director of Japanese Studies
403 Wilson Hall
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Oakland University
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4486

Dear Dr. Nakao:

I am writing you in request of information about the Japanese language major at Oakland University. After graduation, I heard that plans were in the works for starting up the language major within the next few years. I wanted you to know that I am still interested in that program.

After graduation I worked for Yamato Corporation where my Japanese skills improved. Unfortunately, since I have been working for SBC DataComm, I have not had the opportunity to use my Japanese. My goal is to grow with my current networking career and eventually get back to Japan. Without a good Japanese program, close to home, I fear I may lose my skills and never get back to Japan. Last winter semester I took the highest level Japanese class at Wayne State University. Although I enjoyed the class, it was not challenging enough for me. It is my opinion that Oakland University is the best location for residents of the southeastern metropolitan Detroit area to study Japanese. The working community in this area does not have a convenient location to study Japanese. With so many Japanese companies in the area, in addition to the companies with international ties, it only makes sense that Oakland University be the leader to provide the opportunity for linguistic and cultural growth in our community.

I know that my Japanese linguistic education from Oakland University was quite strong. At one point my skills were comparable to my friends at Michigan State and The University of Michigan. I feel that Oakland University has an opportunity to make a positive difference in its community by offering the Japanese language major.

Please contact me with any details you have about the program. My contact information is as follows:

Joseph M. Agius
875 Robinwood
Troy, Michigan 48083
(248) 689-7549

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Joseph M. Agius'.

Joseph M. Agius,
Data Sales Manager
SBC DataComm

October 6, 2000

Dear Sir or Madam:

Recently I had been informed of the possibility of adding a Japanese Major program to Oakland University's program selection. I believe we need to add this major program at Oakland University.

In the current day and age more businesses have concentrated on the over sea market. One of the major economic powers in the world today is the nation of Japan. In my field of engineering I know there are already many interactions between Japanese and American companies. The possibility that many jobs are available in the linking of the two very different cultures is a good reason to offer the program of a Japanese Major at Oakland University.

In the case of Oakland University not having a Japanese Major program is causing potential applicants to stray away and seek education at other institutions. With the addition of the Japanese Major program we can be sure that all applicants can find the program they want at Oakland University.

Other factors that show a need for the further studies of Japanese at Oakland University are because of the schooling systems in our country. We are not required to extensively study any foreign languages, whereas many foreign countries make the study of English language a mandatory class. So as foreign students come out of high school they have already taken several years of language study. On the other hand many American schools do not offer languages other than Spanish or French. We need to be able to offer a program that can take a student as far as they can possibly go in the few short years they study at Oakland University.

I hope you consider these reasons valid and consider the addition of a Japanese Major at Oakland University

Sincerely,

Mark Crandell
Oakland University Student
Computer engineering / Japanese studies
Japan Club President

ZTo Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to encourage and support a plan to adopt a program for a Japanese language major at Oakland Univ. I am currently in my 2nd yr of Japanese language studies, and although not required for my degree I have chosen to continue with the language studies for my own benefit. Since beginning Japanese at Oakland Univ I have been introduced to many new and interesting facets of Japanese culture that have help me to better appreciate the Japanese culture.

I am also a night time student working toward a BSEE/BSCSE degree. Furthermore I have been working in the EE field for the last 7yrs. During that time I can say that Japanese has played a prominent role in some the designs I was working on. As I learn more about Japanese language and culture I am finding it much simpler to interact with the various different Japanese businesses that I work with.

Best regards,
Kris Moyer