

Dedication

The Wittenberg University East Asian Studies Program is deeply saddened to lose two beloved professors this year, and we dedicate this volume to them.

Dr. Oldstone-Moore, Professor of Religion, is retiring after 21 years at Wittenberg. She has inspired students to excel and has helped guide students to work to the best of their abilities. In reflecting on her time at Wittenberg, Dr. Oldstone-Moore offered the following:

I cherish many memories of perfect moments scattered across 21 years of teaching at Wittenberg, including pilgrimages to remote temples in Japan and treks through the deserts of western China.

My best moments, however, have been in classrooms in Hollenbeck Hall amidst paper clips, chalk dust, and tablet desks. I am grateful that our classrooms have been a place where we can meet with each other and engage the beautiful treasures of thought, culture, and history of East Asia. There have been many perfect moments where after working together over text, image, or idea, the meaning and significance from long ago and far away becomes crystalline, and we can see the significance for us all. I am a fortunate woman to have experienced 21 years of such classroom magic with Wittenberg students.

It is also with great sorrow that we say goodbye to Dr. Imai-Brandle, who leaves amidst the loss of Japanese language instruction at Wittenberg. Dr. Imai-Brandle's 18 years of teaching have had a lasting impact and provided students with many fond memories. She is known for her welcoming attitude and her encouragement to learn new and fascinating aspects of Japanese culture, language, and linguistics. Her excellent attention to detail, consistency, and devotion to the well-being of her students have raised the bar for Japanese instruction. Dr. Imai-Brandle has led numerous trips for students and faculty to Japan and watched many students depart for JET and other work opportunities in Japan. In reflection, Dr. Imai-Brandle wrote,

I just feel honored to have taught so many bright and enthusiastic students and worked with amazing colleagues in EAS in the past 18 years of my time at Wittenberg and want to express my sincerest gratitude to all.

The Wittenberg University East Asian Studies Journal staff would like to thank both these wonderful professors for their rigorous standards, which have made their classes so rewarding and the great impact they have made on the Wittenberg Community.