The Year of the Dragon began on January 23, 2012. One of the most powerful and lucky signs of the Chinese zodiac, Dragons are intelligent, determined, charismatic, and lucky in love. They are natural-born leaders and inspire those around them with their strong personalities.1

There are five types of elemental dragons: metal, water, wood, fire, and earth. This year is the Year of the Water Dragon, and it is believed that the water element counteracts the dragon’s fiery personality.2

The Year of the Dragon is favorable for people who are adventurous and ambitious. If you want to accomplish a major project or goal, start it soon!3

Famous Dragons: Jackie Evancho (‘00); Rihanna (‘88); Ryan Reynolds (‘76); Sandra Bullock, Keanu Reeves (‘64); Bruce Lee, Al Pacino (‘40); Shirley Temple (‘28). Famous Water Dragons (‘52): Christopher Reeve, Liam Neeson.


THE INSIDE SCOOP! MURAKAMI HARUKI AT UHM by Lois Kajiwara

Cats. Music. Western culture. These are some of the components in our everyday lives that take on new roles in Murakami Haruki’s literary world. The recipient of the 2011 International Catalonia Prize and many other awards, Mr. Murakami skilfully weaves reality and non-reality to coexist in his novels.

Invited as a research scholar to UHM, he loves being in Hawai‘i because of the climate, natural beauty, and people. He also appreciates that there aren’t any nuclear power plants in the Islands. Able to relax and concentrate on his writing, Mr. Murakami mentioned that he has written some of his novels in Hawai‘i; for example, he wrote the first half of Kafka on the Shore on Kaua‘i. When I asked what messages do you hope your novels convey, he replied, “Not much,” and chuckled. “The main thing,” he said, “is that the readers enjoy my stories.” And he quickly added that when he’s not writing, he’s just an ordinary person – he said, “I’m nothing special.” His humble nature is very refreshing.

In his spare time, he is an avid collector of vinyl records, especially jazz and classical music. He owns more than 10,000(!) records, many of them purchased from eBay. “Music,” to Mr. Murakami, “is like air. Without music, I can’t live.” He made an interesting point that “writers need musical ears to be able to write with rhythm and to improvise.”

The highlight of his career thus far is his first novel, Kaze no uta o kike (Hear the Wind Sing), which he wrote at age 29. He said it was like a miracle that he won a prize for his first book. It was at that point that he felt his life had changed, and feels that his life can be divided into two parts – before age 29 and after age 29.

As for the future, he would like to continue to write, so he is trying to stay healthy because he believes that physical strength and mental prowess are connected. What does he want his legacy to be? He paused for a moment. He replied that he has been writing for 30 years. Readers of his early books have become parents, and now their children are also reading his books. He was pleased to learn that, and hopes that his books will continue to be enjoyed from one generation to the next.

At the end of the interview, it was Mr. Murakami who extended his hand to shake mine. Small actions reveal a lot about a person’s character. It is no wonder that his writing is able to touch the lives of his readers.
A MAN ON A MISSION by Ray Allen (www.hawaii.edu/issmanoa)

Sody Munsaka is a long way from home in more ways than one. Not only is Zambia, his home country, on the other side of the world, but the small village he grew up in exists in an era far different from present-day Hawai'i. Accord- ing to Sody, his village is so rural that when a car comes down the road, some children think it is a new kind of animal.

Although he grew up in a poor family, Sody had the opportunity to go to school in his village, eventually entering the University of Zambia where he received a B.S. in Microbiology. He was the only member of his family to attend primary, secondary, and post-secondary school.

After receiving his B.S., Sody came to UHM six years ago – only one of two students in Zambia to receive a Fulbright Scholarship to study for a doctorate in Tropical Medicine. His research focuses on the HIV virus and AIDS, a disease that affects 16-20% of the population of Zambia, making it the 7th highest country in the world for the prevalence of AIDS. For Sody, finding a cure for AIDS is not only an academic pursuit, but a personal one, having lost several members of his own family to this disease.

As a student at UHM, Sody has received numerous awards to attend national conferences on HIV. He is also involved in international ministries and speaks to HIV support groups. For the immediate future, he plans to complete his studies this spring, do more training in the U.S., and then return to Zambia to educate his people about HIV.

What drives Sody? Making a better life for his two daughters, Lillian and Lisa, as well as answering a higher calling from God to be a healer and a blessing to his people. Answering "yes" to this calling brought Sody to Hawai'i and will eventually take him home as a healer to Zambia, to his people, and to his family.
INTERNATIONAL NIGHT 2012: THE PARADISE IN YOU

The International Student Association (ISA)* invites you to join in on the celebration of cultures at International Night 2012, which takes place on Friday, March 16 from 6:00–9:00 p.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom. Students, faculty, and community members come together to present cultures via stage performances and interactive cultural booths.

Cultures represented this year are Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mariana Islands, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Okinawa, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Hawai‘i (U.S.).

Special thanks go to the Ethnomusicology Association at UHM, School of Travel Industry Management, and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

This event is free and open to the public. Donations for the Hawai‘i Foodbank will be collected at the door and will be much appreciated.

*ISA is sponsored by International Student Services. International Night 2012 is sponsored by ASUH and the Campus Center Board.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Mānoa International Exchange (MIX) provides opportunities for inbound international students to immerse themselves in the cultural and academic community of UHM and of Hawai‘i. An inbound MIX student recently shared his thoughts about the program below.

Hayden Gyles-Bedford, who is from New Zealand, was the only student from his university to study at UHM in Fall 2011. He studied international business and accounting. Hayden loved life in Hawai‘i and was active in the UHM community, participating in the Mentor-Mentee Program and ISA.

Hayden decided to study at UHM because of Hawai‘i’s “island paradise” image. By participating in MIX, Hayden hoped he would overcome his usually shy personality and gain new experiences. He was happy to say that he accomplished his goal by learning much more about himself and meeting new people. He personally recommends studying abroad, and hopes that other students continue to benefit from it in the future.

GLOBAL CUISINE 101

Ddeok Guk (Rice Cake Soup)

In Korea, there is a traditional soup called ddeok guk that is eaten on New Year’s Day. Eating a bowl of ddeok guk symbolizes becoming a year older. Nowadays, this soup is eaten year-round and is especially good on a cold night.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 lb. beef brisket or flank steak
- 3 cups sliced rice cake
- 2 eggs
- 2 pinches of salt
- 1 clove of minced garlic
- 2 tbs. fish sauce
- 2 tbs. fish sauce
- Chopped green onion
- Sesame oil
- Black ground pepper
- Thinly sliced laver (dried seaweed)

Boil 8 cups of water in a large soup pot. Soak sliced rice cake in cold water and chop beef into small pieces. Separate the 3 eggs in 2 bowls: 2 egg yolks in one bowl, 2 egg whites and the third egg in the other bowl. Add a pinch of salt to each bowl and mix well. With the egg yolks, fry and slice into thin strips. Set aside for garnish.

When the water boils, add the beef. Cover pot and boil on low medium heat for 20-30 minutes. Once done, add garlic and fish sauce. Drain the rice cake slices, add to boiling water, and put on the lid. Let boil for a few minutes until rice cake slices are floating. Pour other egg mixture in slowly while stirring. Add chopped green onion. Turn off heat and drizzle some sesame oil and black pepper. Scoop into serving bowls and garnish with laver and egg strips. Serve hot. Matitge deuseyo (Enjoy)!

ALOHA FROM MINAMI SANRIKU TOWN, JAPAN by Linda Duckworth

In January 2012, international alumni Jungsa Kim and Ayaka Ito met for lunch in Minami Sanriku Town – a town which was devastated by the March 10, 2011 earthquake/tsunami and where Ayaka volunteers with relief efforts. Jungsa keeps busy with his company’s rebuilding projects in his hometown of Miyagi, Japan, but took time to meet Ayaka to reminisce about ISA and UHM.

ANNUAL REPORT

The UHM 2010-2011 Annual Report for International Education is now online at http://manoa.hawaii.edu/international/data_reports/reports/2010-2011_UHM_Intl_Ed_Report.pdf. In the report, you will discover UHM’s vast array of international initiatives which not only attract international students and visiting scholars to UHM, but also enhance UHM’s position as a leader in education for people from all nations.