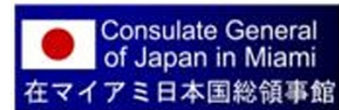


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cutline:

Photo 1: Walt Disney World's Maturiza Taiko Drummers (photo by Dr. Thayumanasamy Somasundaram)

Photo 2: UF's Japanese Club performing a traditional Japanese dance (photo by JClub)

Photo 3: "Celebrate Japan" at UF flyer

Photo 4: Members of UF's Japanese Club (photo by Wei Van)

Photo 5: A member of Maturiza Taiko performs traditional Japanese drumming (photo by Dr. Thayumanasamy Somasundaram)

Join the University Florida for "Celebrate Japan" Weekend March 18 to 20

Admission is free and events include dance performances, Taiko drumming and more

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (March 16, 2016) – Guests of all ages are invited to the University of Florida for "Celebrate Japan," a three-day festival featuring a screening of "Always Sunset on 3rd Street," traditional Japanese music and dance performances, Taiko drumming, a speech and skit contest and more. Hosted in part by the UF Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, the UF Japanese Program, the Association of Florida Teachers of Japanese (AFTJ), and the UF Japanese Club (JClub), "Celebrate Japan" takes place from Friday, March 18 through Sunday, March 20 and offers free admission to all activities and events.

Friday, March 18

Sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami, a screening of "Always Sunset on 3rd Street," will take place at Pugh Hall 170 from 5:10 to 8:10 p.m. The film depicts the lives of several residents of a Tokyo community in post-World War II Japan. Dr. Shiho Takai, assistant professor of Japanese at UF, will host a Q&A session following the screening of the film.

Saturday, March 19

JClub will host its annual spring festival, Harumatsuri, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Ustler Hall. The Consulate-General of Japan in Miami is sponsoring a Taiko drumming performance by Maturiza Taiko, the official drumming troupe of the Japan pavilion at Walt Disney World's EPCOT. Additionally, guests will enjoy traditional

UF Japanese Club
フロリダ大学の日本クラブ

2016 Spring Festival

March 19th
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location:
University of Florida
Ustler Hall 2nd floor

PERFORMANCES:

- Japanese Koto by Sato-san's Koto group
- Japanese Taiko
 - *Maturiza Taiko as seen at Disney's Epcot
 - *Tampa Taiko featuring Ron Collins
- Traditional Japanese Dance
- Origami, Photo Booth & MORE!!!

MIYA SUSHI

Japanese dances performed by JClub and a hands-on Taiko demonstration held by Tampa Taiko.

Sunday, March 20

The AFTJ will host the 2016 Mid-Florida Japanese Speech & Skit Contest at 1 p.m. in Pugh Hall 170. Students studying Japanese around the state of Florida will compete in a Japanese speech contest and perform their original skits in Japanese. Additionally, the Consulate will sponsor a special koto performance by Tokiko Bopp's Jacksonville koto group, "Kokoro". The koto is a Japanese zither about six feet long, with thirteen silk strings passed over small movable bridges.

For more information about "Celebrate Japan" at UF or the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami, please contact Lauren Sorondo at Lauren.Sorondo@mi.mofa.go.jp or (305)-530-9090.

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