

Anthony Joseph O'Donnell

I graduated in Fall 2015 with a Master of Arts degree in Bilingual Education with Emphasis in American Sign Language and English. It was not a requirement for my major, so I was not associated with Japanese Studies or did I need JAPN courses for my GE. However, after a month staying in Japan for my summer vacation and having met many wonderful Deaf Japanese people, I decided to complement studying written Japanese and Japanese culture along with learning Japanese Sign Language simultaneously. Even so, I was very glad I took JAPN courses at UCSD. Currently, I am a middle school teacher in Irvine.

To this day still, I truly thank Yuko Tipton for her teaching excellence and patience, but above all, her willingness to try her hand in finding adequate accommodations for an authentic Japanese learning. When writing conversations with my Japanese friends, I do find myself remembering her teaching and using the words that she taught me. It goes almost without saying that she has really prepared me for my continuous journey in learning Japanese. For those contemplating Japanese Studies or considering taking JAPN courses, my experience was a pleasant one---the teachers and staff were dedicated to making learning genuine and applying such to actual use right away. I am grateful for that.

While perhaps unrelated, but undoubtedly connected nonetheless, I am recently married to a lovely Deaf Japanese woman from the Yamanashi prefecture. We communicate in four languages (American Sign Language, written English, Japanese Sign Language, and written Japanese), which we love, and wouldn't have it any other way.