



## The Alun Davies English Learner's Award, 2022

The Alun Davies English Learner's Award was established in 2020 to honour the memory of our dear colleague. Alun was an inspiring teacher, devoted to his students, especially to students in the British and American Cultural Studies program. This award created in his name recognizes a student who has made outstanding progress in their studies of English. The student is hardworking and shows commitment and enthusiasm in learning English, making outstanding improvement in all four skills during the four years of study in the BACS program.

The class of 2022 is the final group of students to graduate from BACS, which will close in 2023, along with the Faculty of

World Englishes. The past three years have been difficult for students because of the COVID 19 pandemic - with fewer chances to attend classes on campus and meet up with classmates and teachers. Nevertheless, students made the most of their classes, and numerous BACS students impressed teachers with their dedication and enthusiasm. BACS recognizes student excellence in writing with annual awards for improvement and achievement. Hiyori Yagi received the award for Best Writing Portfolio while Miyu Achiha won "Most Improved Writer" in the first-year BACS Writing Awards. Sayaka Sodeyama took the "Best Essay" award in 2019 and 2020, and Hailyn Irie, Sena Yamada, and Ryora Aoki picked awards for best work in 3rd year Professional Writing classes in 2021.

Aside from awards, other students showed their best in classes. For Professor Terry Wacholtz, who taught American History, Yuta Okamoto made a strong impression for his contribution to discussions and his knowledge of American history and culture as well as a string of solid presentations. Chiharu Terai also impressed Terry with her consistently good work and attendance: "She contributed a lot to the conversations in American History." Chiharu was a student in Professor Armstrong's fourth-year research seminar and wrote a prize-winning essay on the role of soul music in raising African American awareness during the Civil Rights era. "Chiharu was determined to do her best on this project, and she responded well to advice for improvement," says Professor Armstrong. Sena Yamada, Emina Kishida and Kano Suzuki also produced fine

research essays. "Once again this year, the fourth-year seminar, was a pleasure to teach because of students' seriousness, commitment, and professional attitude," he says.

Hana Sakaguchi, Saki Sakakibara and Yuka Esaki "were responsible and hard working from beginning to end," says Professor Tony Piccolo, who supervised their graduation essay research. "What impressed me most... was that for these students the graduation thesis was not simply a requirement for graduation, but also something they were personally invested in. All three enjoyed what they were writing about and were committed to doing a good job with it. I very much enjoyed working with them." Haruka Konomi and Noana Ieda also stood out for their energetic participation in classes, preparing, asking questions and taking part in discussions. Noana attended classes with international students and saw this as an opportunity to improve her English and make friends.

BACS is proud to announce the winner of the Alun Davies English Learner's Award for 2022: Mayu Harada.



## The Recipient of the 2022 Alun Davies English Learner's Award

MAYU HARADA

"It is a great honor for me to receive this award. I couldn't have won this award without everyone who has helped me. I greatly appreciate all the support of my friends and professors. At first, I was not confident in my academic English skills, and it was especially hard for me to write essays. However, thanks to the advice of my friends and teachers for teaching me, I was able to participate in speech contests in the first year, and win prizes for essays in the second and the third year. Learning new knowledge has always been exciting for me and all experiences gave me

confidence. I will graduate school, but keep learning English hard in the future. Thank you!"

- Mayu Harada

Mayu receives this award for her all-round excellent performance as an English learner, her consistently solid performance in writing - a winner of a number of writing awards - and for her impressive work ethic. Her awards include "Most Improved Writer" (2020), "Best Professional Writing" (2021) as well as being a contestant in the first-year BACS Speech Contest and a presenter at Pop Culture Workshop 18. Professor Terry Wacholtz calls Mayu Harada a "model student": "active in class [she] always gives her opinion, she never missed any lessons, her assignments are always on time and complete." Professor Maureen Boulanger had Mayu as a student in her fourth-year research seminar as well as a number of other classes. Mayu was awarded the prize for best graduation thesis for her well researched essay on women in the Canadian film industry. Maureen says that Mayu is conscientious and has a great work ethic. Mayu "has a love of learning" that makes her a joy to have as a student, she says.

We remember Alun Davies for his enthusiasm and dedication. Every student counted for Alun, and he was especially supportive of students in BACS as well as the BACS program. He would be very proud of Mayu and her accomplishments and of the entire 2022 BACS graduating class.