

best *in class*

After 10 years at FIU, Dr. Steven Heine still looks forward to being on campus every morning. “The students bring freshness and excitement to the classroom when they understand something for the first time.”

Faculty

My passion:

It's always the new ideas. My research deals with Japanese religion, culture and society. Whether it's traditional Japan or modern Japan or comparing it with the West, there's something intriguing and exciting about pursuing a new idea until the end.

On what he hopes to teach his students:

I'd like the students to understand what it is to be different from and similar to a foreign culture like Japan's. I think that in the 21st century, in dealing with the broad issue of East and West, it is helpful to understand the past if we are to understand one another moving forward.

On receiving a prestigious award from the government of Japan:

I'm very pleased and honored. The award is known as the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. It's the highest award given to a non-Japanese citizen in recognition of work that advances the study of Japanese culture.

My dream:

My dream, in part, has come true. I wanted to come to FIU and start an Asian Studies program – we now have undergraduate and master's programs and more than 300 students – so my dream now is to see it grow and flourish.



Steven Heine, Ph.D.

FIU Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Institute for Asian Studies
His work is his hobby. “I enjoy poring over medieval Japanese manuscripts, translating them and looking up the references.”

“FIU is one of the best kept secrets in Florida. We are a dynamic, growing institution.”



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