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CONTACT US
cosmos@coe.edu
Phone: 319-299-8646
Fax: 319-399-8031

Translation and creation

Rachel Deyoe
Editor-in-Chief

Poet and translator Sawako Nakayasu came to Coe's Stewart Memorial Library on Monday to present some of her own work as well as excerpted poems from her most recent work in translation.

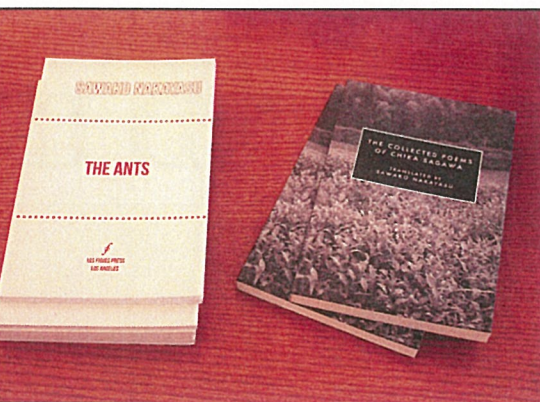
Born in Japan and raised in the U.S., Nakayasu has lived in Japan more or less continuously since 2009, and was back and forth since 2002. Asked about her work, she pointed out that "the act of translating poetry is also an act of writing poetry."

In the Perrine Gallery, she read from her trans-

lation of Chika Sagawa's collected poems.

While not well known in her native country, Sagawa was Japan's first female modernist poet.

Sagawa, as Nakayasu explained, wrote during a "moment in Japan when everything was shifting. They were eating hamburgers and...listening to jazz, and that shows up in her poetry."



Nakayasu's book, "The Ants," was on sale, as well as her translation of Sagawa's poems.

from sci-fi to local Japanese customs, Nakayasu's work was full of surreal images like "I crack an egg, and the moon comes out," alongside interesting oxymorons such as "the textures of things we can't touch."

Many of her witty lines had the audience chuckling. While she explained that she does not consider herself particularly funny, she said "the world is kind of a curious, funny place, and some of those elements seep into the work."

"Translating poetry is a huge commitment," she said. "It's kind of like falling in love with a person."

After reading some of Sagawa's translated works, Nakayasu presented some of her own poetry. Drawing on a range of influences



Nakayasu performs her poetry and translations on Monday, March 28. Photos by Rachel Deyoe.

POINT OF CONTENTION

Play Ball!

In this week's Point of Contention, professors Allison Carr and Steve Feller go head to head on who the ultimate baseball team really is.

Allison Carr

Steve Feller

It's not always clear why one would choose to cheer for the Royals. We haven't won eleven or twenty-seven World Series titles, only two, thirty years apart. Our managers have been mostly forgettable, as have the players. Across fifty-six seasons, only twenty have been winning ones. On the whole, the Royals franchise is basically mediocre.

As a team though, the core group of players from the 2014, 2015, and 2016 seasons are without a doubt the best and most exciting lineup in Major League Baseball. And what makes them so is that, individually, none of them are the best at their position, but together, they make magic. They hardly ever strike out; in 2015 they struck out less than every other team, posting the highest team batting average in the League (tied with the

Jays, whom they soundly defeated in the ALCS). And once they're on the bases, they run. They take big and sometimes stupid base-running risks that pan out more often than they should (see World Series game 5).

Defensively, they are unmatched. Much to the consternation of data geeks everywhere, the Royals seem to embody much of what SABR guys have rejected about baseball, given analysts' inability to aggregate data that might explain or predict "momentum," "luck," or, as they say in Kansas City, #royalsdevilmagic.

The Royals will never be a "great" franchise. But every couple of decades, they will field a great team who will put together a season for the ages. The circumstances of the game mean that it is not often probable, but it is the possibility of greatness that matters most.

The NY Yankees have won 27 of the 40 World Series they have played in. No team in professional baseball is even close to this dominant level of excellence. The next closest is the St. Louis Cardinals who have won 11 times.

For me personally they are the best because I grew up with them, my dad and I following their daily progress. I would watch them on a grainy, black-and-white TV on WPIX in New York, or listen to the several voices of the Yankees on radio



Professor Steve Feller with daughter Ray and son-in-law Michael at Fenway Park. Courtesy of Steve Feller.

station WMCA such as Mel Allen and Phil Rizzuto. I attended hundreds of Yankee games at "The Stadium" and at other venues including Fenway Park in Boston, Camden Yards in Baltimore, Target Field in Minneapolis, Royals Stadium in Kansas City, and more. Growing up over fifty years ago my baseball hero was Mickey Mantle, a person of enormous skill, strength, and competitive effort.

My memories of baseball bonding with my dad in those days and with my family of Barbara, Heidi, and Ray from the 80's onwards are an important part of my life.

Of course, I realize others are invested in their teams with passion as well. I say all power to you and good luck. I look forward to seeing the Yankees play against your team in upcoming World Series games.