



# ASIAN AMERICAN E-ZINE

WWW.AA2SBU.ORG/AAEZINE

## Tea Talks at Wang : Tea Whisk Japan

Tasting and Workshop on the Japanese Tea Ceremony

One of Many Interesting Workshops This Semester; Coffee Klatches in Future?

by May Hao Wang

The second Tea Talk workshop on Japanese tea was given by Souheki Mori in the Wang Asian/American Center on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Mori, who trained with the Japan Association of Tea Ceremony, performed one and gave an excellent talk about the history and symbolism of the practice. She created the organization **Tea Whisk** in 2011 to introduce the beauty of the Japanese Tea Ceremony to America.

The whole process is like a well-produced movie. This was my first time watching a live Japanese Tea Ceremony. It is fascinating and it makes participants want to learn more about the tea practice and Japanese culture.

Dressed in a kimono, the Japanese traditional dress, Mori started with the cleaning and preparation of the tea serving utensils. She prepared the tea by adding three scoops of matcha green tea powder to a tea bowl. Then, hot water is ladled into the bowl and whisked with a special bamboo whisk into a thin paste. The whole practice was really peaceful and involved her full concentration and graceful movements.

Mori said that the practice of the tea ceremony is a path of spiritual growth. "It gave me the chance, through quiet meditation, to re-discover and correct myself." She would like people to feel peace during her ceremony and hopes people can relate to the importance of it for relaxation.

She also introduced some Japanese tea rituals. When participants enter the tearoom, they have to purify their hands and mouth. Then, they come through a small entrance by bending their body, which signifies the equality of all the participants involved. She said, "There's no difference in race, gender, ethnicity or social rank in the tearoom. Everyone shares the moment in the tea ceremony as an equal."

I went to the tea ceremony by accident and I'm so glad I was there. I really regretted I did not go to the Chinese Tea Talk. On April 12th I went to the third Tea Talk, *The Korean Way of Tea*, and will



write about that in the next issue. It was also very entertaining. They were a good chance for guests to go to a peaceful and leisurely weekend event, sitting down to taste teas, and by the way, learn a bit of another culture, or even more of their own.

Check out my photos of the many faces of Tea Talk with Souheki Mori at [aasquared.org/gallery/sbu-wang-aac-tea-talk-japanese-2014](http://aasquared.org/gallery/sbu-wang-aac-tea-talk-japanese-2014) and check out Tea Whisk at [www.tea-whisk.com](http://www.tea-whisk.com)

Jinyoung Jin, Director of Asian / Asian American Programming at Wang, said if the Tea Talks went well, she was considering coffee. I brew my own every day so I definitely vote yes for that. While Asia makes some of the worst coffee, like Vietnam's bitter Robusta, used in cheap supermarket brands, India makes spicy coffees with names like Monsoon Malabar, and Indonesia gave us the alternative name not only for a specific kind of coffee but coffee in general - anyone for a cup of Java?

Other workshops this semester center around the Seas of Blue Indigo Fabric exhibit where you can learn to make your own. Check them out at [www.stonybrook.edu/wang](http://www.stonybrook.edu/wang)

# Michio Kaku

## SRO in Staller for Renowned Physicists Talk Sponsored by USG Lecture Series

by Brandon Loo

In the packed Staller Center Auditorium on March 26<sup>th</sup>, close to 1000 students waited in anticipation for Dr. Michio Kaku. People began lining up in the lobby as early as 5:30 P.M. to get the best seats. He came to the stage exactly at 8 to thunderous applause.

Michio Kaku, a professor of Theoretical Physics at CCNY, gave an astounding and interesting lecture on his views on physics, the world and the future. The author of many books on physics, including two *New York Times* Bestsellers, *Physics of the Impossible* (2008) and *Physics of the Future* (2011), he recently published another that is rising up on the charts, *The Future of the Mind* (2014).

Free tickets for the lecture, sponsored by USG, the Undergraduate Student Government, through the Student Activity Fee, went "on sale" with a student ID last Monday, March 24, at the USG ticket office. They were gone in 3 hours. Michio's rep for making physics understandable to the regular human, his personal accomplishments in the field (co-founder of String Theory, known as "the theory of everything"), his widespread media presence in TV shows, radio shows, blogs, and articles, and his critically acclaimed books and lectures, were all factors in his popularity among SBU students.

Freshman Eric Haviland, a longtime fan, said "Michio Kaku was fantastic! He was hilarious and the science he talked about was really cool and thought provoking."

Utilizing *The Future of the Mind*, he discussed one of the most misunderstood and understudied body parts – The Brain. Using his unforgettable wit and pop culture references, students eagerly listened and were left with an enhanced curiosity for science.

Kaku joked, "If we were to create a computer that can duplicate your brain, it would be one city block long. It would consume the energy of a nuclear power plant and require a river to cool it down. And what does it take to energize your brain? One hamburger."

From there he went on to describe what happens when you divide the brain in half. "It turns out that two distinct personalities begin to develop in the same brain," Kaku said. "This means that the left hand and the right hand don't communicate with each other. They actually fight for control...There was one man whose left brain was an atheist and his right brain was a believer.... In

the future, I'm sure we'll find somebody whose left brain is Republican and right brain is Democrat..."

Michio then noted the movies in the Sci-Fi genre are not entirely fiction, but rather quite possible. Imagine uploading an entire memory to your brain. What do you think happens? Using a poster of Arnold Schwarzenegger in the popular Sci-Fi movie, *Total Recall*, to demonstrate his idea, Michio joked, "Here is the former governor of California uploading the memory of being married to Sharon Stone into his mind... The brain is 'wetware' and the mind is software."

Although Michio noted that telepathy and telekinesis were not congenital traits, humans have developed technology that can analyze certain brain activities to correspond with thoughts, in the form of brain waves. Stephen Hawking's use of an infrared sensor embedded within his glasses that translates his facial expressions into words and ideas were noted as an example. Currently, scientists are experimenting with technology that will enable Stephen to communicate ideas and speech through brain waves.



AA E-Zine Photo Editor Eric Leung and Dr. Michio Kaku. Photo by Efal Sayed, USG

The connection between the human mind and robots was a large topic too. Michio used the humanoid robot, ASIMO or Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility, as an example. He noted that although we have made huge advances in robot technology, they "are as stupid as cockroaches." Robots are not extremely intelligent in the sense that they only know how to respond to certain situations programmed by humans. They can neither feel pain nor express emotion, much less think for themselves.

At the end Michio asked, "What is the best indicator for success? Is it father's income, is it race, is it social economic background? What is it? It is delayed gratification. Not taking the short-cut, holding out for the bigger reward, going to college, slugging it out because you know there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. It's seeing the future."

And what Michio said during his lecture was certainly true. The young generation is the future; we're responsible for what happens. Michio closed his lecture by saying, "Science is the engine of prosperity. I like to interact with young people because they are the future."

Mission accomplished by a physicist who wanted to enrich the minds of young people with the fascination of science and the technology around us.

**SBU AA E-Zine : Asian American Media : Meets every Friday @ 1:15 pm in Union 071, Media Wing**

A bi-weekly online news & events newspaper with articles printed bi-weekly in the SB Press. Join the 3000+ free subscribers by sending an email to [aaezine@gmail.com](mailto:aaezine@gmail.com), or if an SBU student, join at <https://stonybrook.collegiatelink.net/organization/aaezine> | 911: 631 831 6062

**For students: [www.aa2sbu.org/aaezine](http://www.aa2sbu.org/aaezine) | For faculty & staff: [www.aaezine.org](http://www.aaezine.org)**