

# 50TH ANNIVERSARY



## ALUMNI REUNION PRESENTATION

### GAVIN GREENE '07

Freelance Japanese to English Game Translator/Interpreter, Japan

#### STUDENT LIFE AT SUNY NEW PALTZ

When I first arrived at SUNY New Paltz, I had intended to major in computer science. I'd always loved video games and thought it would be fun to one day help create the fantastic worlds I adventured through on console and computer. That all changed in my sophomore year, when my Japanese professor Chris Robins introduced me to the study abroad program at Nagasaki.

*My studies at New Paltz—reinforced by the wonderful opportunity that was study abroad—kindled an interest that would last a lifetime.*

#### STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Although I'd always had a low-key curiosity about Japan, it had been eclipsed by other interests and hobbies. After I arrived in Nagasaki, however, I found myself captivated by the beautiful mountains and coasts of Kyushu, delighted by the incredible food, and content with the rhythm of life. By the end of my year there, I was convinced I wanted to spend my life involved in some way with Japan. I had the wild dream to translate games, but I knew I wasn't yet skilled enough.

#### WORKING IN THE VIDEO GAME INDUSTRY

Thus, I applied for the JET Program, hoping to hone my language skills in Japan. After two years in rural Yamagata as an English teacher, I felt I was ready and began my job search. Game companies at that time were looking for people who already had experience, but I managed to find a printing company that gave me a job translating software and manuals. Two years later, I went freelance in the hopes of finally breaking into the gaming industry. It took a year of learning business development while nervously watching my savings dwindle, but I finally snagged a few small gaming jobs. Like an extremely ponderous snowball, I slowly built up momentum. Now, six years later, I'm proud to say I've worked for a number of the largest Japanese game studios, translating flagship titles such as entries in the *Final Fantasy*, *Tales of*, and *Soulcalibur* series.

#### MY GRATITUDE

My studies at New Paltz—reinforced by the wonderful opportunity that was study abroad—kindled an interest that would last a lifetime. I'm eternally grateful to my teachers for giving me the nudge I needed, and never regret taking that initial leap into the unknown and studying in Nagasaki. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that if it wasn't for the Asian Studies Program at New Paltz, I wouldn't be living in Tokyo writing stories about wizards fighting heroes on top of exploding volcanoes. And that is, in my opinion, a very good thing.