

## Marchelo Vera – Lincoln University of Missouri Japan Studies Institute Fellow, 2013

Lincoln University of Missouri is a historically black land grant comprehensive institution in the state capital of Jefferson City.

In attending the Japan Studies Institute, one of my primary objectives is to develop and expand the opportunities of our study abroad program. LU has a great and diverse student population and the *International Steering Committee* continues its efforts to improve the global awareness of our students and their opportunities for obtaining a rich cultural exchange. My experiences at JSI and current travels to Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines will have a great influence in promoting study abroad opportunities, the building of a visiting scholars and exchange network, and in bringing back first hand experiences that will introduce and help form new projects for my courses in Graphic Design, 2D Foundations, Printmaking, and Intro to Art.

Japan is home to some of the oldest design traditions and most beautifully acclaimed artworks and fundamental design principles in the world. I wish to further study these very influential traditions that are incorporated in the everyday practices of Contemporary Art and Design. I plan on developing new projects for my courses *Art –100 Intro to Art* and *Art –104 Theory of Design & Color*, which will incorporate some of these Calligraphic and Japanese traditions of gestalt principles into my 2D foundations level courses. (I currently incorporate many aspects of national/world culture and politics as they relate to art and society; these new hands-on projects will greatly complement scheduled lectures, readings, and films.)

In order to stimulate students' interests in our Graphic Design program, I will continue to explore progressive techniques, established ideologies, and the current trends found within our global Art and Design community. On a more professional art related note, JSI has also really opened me up to new artist opportunities and grants that can potentially support some of the ongoing collaborative art projects that I currently participate in with artists from around the world, including Japan. In the future I would really like to work with my students on collaborative art projects and academic activities that include Japanese students abroad! Sponsoring an International student group would be a great supportive addition to our student community that currently participates in an international festival, fashion show, and other university sponsored activities that promote international awareness. I look forward to my continued research and developments that include Japanese culture! •

<http://vimeo.com/marchelovera/> (Art Collaborative)