

# 琉球大学学術リポジトリ

## From the Director

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## **From the Director**

The American Studies Center of the University of the Ryukyus (ASCUR) was established in October 2002. It consists of twelve concurrently appointed researchers from the six faculties of the University of the Ryukyus. This is the premiere issue of *The Okinawan Journal of American Studies (OJAS)*, which reflects the realization of the long-standing dream of Okinawan scholars to create a forum in which historians, literary critics, philosophers, political scientists, economists, natural scientists, and other analysts can present various perspectives on the nature, culture, and society of the United States of America. We herein present the description, by-laws, and organizational outline of ASCUR and hope that these documents will help the reader understand the goals of this newly established research center.

The Journal will also reflect the on-going discussion of the U.S. presence in Okinawa since 1945 and its strong influence not only on Okinawan society but also on Japan as a whole. As well, it will reflect the globalizing world in the first decade of the 21st century and will print studies of American civilization as it impacts such a world.

*OJAS* does not insist on a single ideological perspective. We will thus not only print articles written by researchers at ASCUR but will also invite articles from outside the Center and Okinawa. We would like to encourage dialogue and debate by academics across cultural and national lines.

We will issue *OJAS* once a year, and it is our strong desire to encourage multiple perspectives and thus promote serious discussion and debate in the Journal.