

JASC Journal

Fall 2013

On the Floor of the UN

Rachel Horton Lives out a Dream, Working for the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN

On June 3, 2013, people from all corners of the world gathered to the UN as the Arms Trade Treaty opened for signature, closing a period of seven years of negotiation to reduce arms flows to conflict regions. Rachel Horton, an alumna of JASC 63 & 64, was there on the UN floor taking it all in first-hand. She was not just a witness, but a part of the process as an assistant to the Political Section of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN. She watched as Ambassador Amano signed the treaty for Japan along with representatives from 66 other member nations and read his statement, which she had helped draft and edit. Later on, she attended the celebratory reception she helped plan along with many distinguished guests, including Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Rachel started working for the Japanese Mission in May of 2013, working closely with Japan's representatives



Rachel, second from left, with fellow delegates during the 63rd JASC in 2011

mainly on non-proliferation and disarmament issues. Her duties include editing letters, statements, and note verbales, and planning large-scale events, meetings and forums. She also attends Security Council briefings, taking notes and sending reports back to Tokyo.

Without JASC, Rachel likely wouldn't be there working for the UN. After completing JASC 64 as an American Executive Committee (AEC) member in 2012, Rachel came

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across a job posting from her JASC 63 colleague and friend, Ashley Hill on Facebook. The posting was for an assistant position at the Japan Mission, the kind of position that isn't posted publicly, but is filled through word of mouth and references. Rachel had studied mathematics at Villanova University, which did not perfectly fit the job description, but she applied anyways in pursuit of her dream to one day work at the UN.

Rachel, whose grandmother was Japanese, had always been curious about Japanese Culture, but it wasn't until she got to college that she decided to study Japanese language. During her third year of Japanese class, Yuri Hongo, an AEC from Bryn Mawr College, presented her experience attending JASC 62 and planning JASC 63 as an AEC. Rachel, struck by Yuri's passion and enthusiasm, applied to JASC without hesitation and in the spring got her acceptance letter. After attending JASC 63, she was elected to serve on the AEC for JASC 64.

Rachel obtained several skills from her experience as an AEC she uses in her current position, two have proven particularly useful. During JASC, Rachel and her fellow AECs planned every detail of each aspect of the program. Sites, lectures, seminars, events, and the arrival of students and guests had to be planned precisely, down to the minute. To describe this precision planning, the EC coined the term "micrologistics". This skill has proven extremely useful as Rachel plans events and arranges logistics for dignitaries and makes detailed schedules, booking venues, inviting guests and making sure things run smoothly.

The second skill Rachel is finding useful is the communication skill she honed during JASC. JASCers sometimes need a time-out to clarify what they are discussing, because of the language barrier between America Delegates and Japanese Delegates. So, they make T gesture,

meaning they need to translate and C gesture, meaning they'd like a clarification. While the UN hasn't employed this system of communication yet, Rachel finds herself urging her colleagues to clarify their points and call for a translation if they don't understand. She also takes care to speak slowly and clearly and formulate her ideas precisely.



Participating in two Roundtables, Interpretations of History in International Relations for JASC 63 and Human Rights and Responsibility for JASC 64, and the rest of the month-long conference with 70 fellow delegates gave Rachel a number of colorful memories and a wealth of new knowledge. Her experience has allowed her to better research disarmament, non-proliferation, foreign aid and counter terrorism under the Political Section. Furthermore, pursuing peace and mutual understanding through JASC aligns with the UN's permanent pursuits.

Rachel is now preparing for the next step in her life. She will continue working at the Mission while applying and pursuing a Master's degree in statistics, specializing in demography. Because she loves both math and international affairs, she would love to work for the UN Statistics Division one day, or, perhaps she will return to the UN Floor, not to witness a vote, but to cast her own.

Here at JASC we will be following Rachel to see how her story ends up. We wish the best for her and other young JASCers. Rachel has her own words for those currently participating in the program, "Do what you love to do in your life! Don't ever doubt yourself or be afraid to change what you are doing. JASC is very unique and it gives its students a broader perspective of the world and should not be taken for granted. After attending a couple of alumni events I have come to realize more than ever that JASC does not end in August when it's over. It remains with you everywhere, because it's a commonality for all who attend, no matter which year."



Rachel, front row far left, sings with fellow JASCers during the 63rd JASC Talent Show in Niigata, Japan.

This article was written by Sujin Lee, who is currently interning at International Student Conferences (ISC).



JASC 65 Recap

The 65th JASC was recently completed successfully in Japan. The conference brought 72 delegates to Kyoto, Nagasaki, Iwate, and Tokyo for a month of programming. Highlights from the conference included a visit to the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, a day in Miyako, Iwate Prefecture, and an intensive problem solving session at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

This year the delegates had the privilege of hearing from two well-known political figures. Shinjiro Koizumi, son of former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, spoke to the group at the Tokyo Olympic Youth Center and Senator John McCain took questions from the delegates at a special session before he addressed the press in Tokyo.



Pramodh Ganapathy of Duke University poses a question to Senator John McCain, who spoke to the delegates in Tokyo.

At the conclusion of the conference, delegates gave presentations to the public at the Final Forum.



JASCers plant a tree commemorating their visit to Miyako City which was devastated by the 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami.

For a Full Recap, Click Below



Berkeley



Kyoto



Nagasaki



Iwate



Tokyo



All Sets

Washington, D.C. Fundraiser

Come for a night out in gorgeous Georgetown to enjoy the view of Kennedy Center and the Potomac, meet our Board of Directors and prominent DC supporters.

The evening will feature sake, shochu, and makkoli tasting to offer a taste of traditional Japanese and Korean beverages. A tasting expert will be on hand to guide guests through the tasting. Live jazz will also be performed throughout the evening.

**More
Information**

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013
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JASC 66

Call for Applications



Roundtable Topics

- Art and Identity
- Environmental Initiatives for a Sustainable Future
- Immigration in the Modern Era
- Modern Consequences of Historical Education
- Morality and Justice
- Smart Power in US-Japan Relations
- Technological Advancements and Society



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第66回日米学生会議

AUGUST 2014 EARLY DEADLINE: JANUARY 31st, 2014
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The 66th JASC EC Wants Your Help.
Help recruit for this summer's conference!

**More
Information**

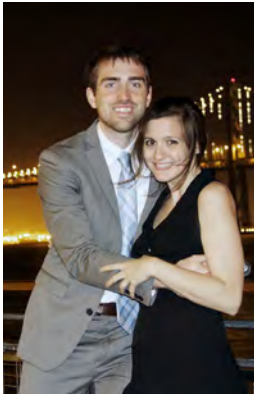




JASCer Notes

Kelly Cargos, JASC 65 (2013), accepted a position as an English teacher at Nichibei Kaiwa Gakuin in Tokyo, Japan. Nichibei Kaiwa Gakuin is a language school affiliated with the International Education Center (IEC), a parent organization of the JASC. She will be teaching a variety of upper level English courses as well as courses on American culture.

Leah Flake, JASC 61 & 62 (2009 & 2010), and **Dan Jodarski**, JASC 62 & 63 (2010 & 2011), are happy to announce their engagement. Plans are underway for a



celebration next summer, and they hope JASCers will be able to attend. In other news, Leah received her Master's Degree from the University of Maryland in May and recently began working for a transportation consulting firm in Arlington. Leah and Dan still live in DC and are always happy to host visiting JASCers.

Henry Luu, JASC 62 (2010), has enjoyed his nearly two years living in New York City and working in the airline industry. Currently a revenue analyst for domestic routes, he is ready to branch out internationally and would appreciate the advice and guidance of fellow JASC alumni that are also airline industry professionals, particularly at Japan Airlines, ANA, or other major US airlines.

Marie Watanabe, JASC 61 & 62 (2009 & 2010) recently moved to SF to start working for the Cleantech Group, a research/consulting company covering cleantech. So far she is loving the city and is hoping to connect with JASCers in the Bay area. (that includes Jon-Michael Durkin!)



Anthony Dowdell (pictured above), JASC 61 (2009), finished his year of study abroad at Keio University and returned back to Hawaii to complete his BBA in Management and International Business with a minor in Japanese. He was looking for what to do next and thought it would be fun to learn to fly so, two months after graduation, he went to flight school in Fort Rucker, Alabama. He graduated after a little over a year and a half as a CH47F (Chinook) Helicopter pilot. Two months after graduating flight school, he went to Fort Hood, Texas for training leading up to deployment. He is currently serving in Afghanistan. Upon leaving Afghanistan, he will be looking for his next adventure.

Morgan Swartz, JASC 58 & 59 (2006 & 2007) is now working as the Assistant Director of Study Abroad at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO (started August 28, 2013) and is living here with her partner, Dan Dethrow.

Michelle Lee Jones, JASC 56 & 57 (2004 & 2005), writes, "I have passed my qualification exams and am writing my thesis for Seoul Na-

tional University GSIS Korean Studies program on state policies to prevent sex trafficking and prohibit sex work. I hope to meet any JASCers visiting Korea and am happy to rejoin ISC as KASC Country Officer based in Seoul. Email me at mjones@iscdc.org when you are in town."

Holly (Drygas) Sears, JASC 51 (1999), and husband, Sam, are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Myla Anne Sears, born August 15, 2013. Myla joins her big sister, Claire.

During 2013-14, **Hiro Saito**, JASC 50 (1998) is affiliated with the Harvard U.S.-Japan Program as a postdoctoral fellow and teaching a course "Science, Technology, and Democracy." He is also participating in the Mansfield Foundation's Next Generation Japan Leadership Program.

Malik Rashid, JASC 47 & 48 (1995 & 1996), writes, "It's been just over a year since my family and I moved to Manila last year. It really does take a long time to adjust as a family to a new country. I'm liking my work ADB, with frequent travel. My wife Sheena is now back to working as a therapist, serving the expatriate community here. And our daughter Ariana is having a ball here. Please get in touch with us if business or vacation travel brings you to the Philippines. Malik, mmr20@columbia.edu"



John Harding, JASC 46 & 47 (1994 & 1995), and family (pictured above) continue to live in Canada, where he



works as a professor of East Asian religions at the University of Lethbridge in southern Alberta, not far from the border with Montana and Waterton Glacier International Peace Park. He is in the Department of Religious Studies, but this year he has also begun coordinating a new Asian Studies program. He has published a couple books in the last year or two: John S. Harding and Hillary P. Rodrigues, *The Study of Religion: A Reader* (London: Routledge, 2013). John S. Harding, ed., *Studying Buddhism in Practice* (London: Routledge, 2012).

He anticipates getting back to Japan in the near future as part of a five-year research project, "The modernization of Buddhism in global perspective," which he is leading along with Victor Horii (McGill University) and Alec Soucy (Saint Mary's University). The project is funded by a substantial Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant. This multi-year collaborative project relates to our 2010 book, *Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada* (McGill-Queens University Press), but explores Buddhist developments from a global perspective that happily will require research in Japan and opportunities to reconnect with JASC friends.

Sarah Miller, JASC 46 (1994), just started as Director of Senior Living and Community Services for Leading Age WA, where she will be working on Assisted Living and senior service issues for members. The organization serves nonprofit nursing and assisted living facilities across WA State, and works to provide the highest quality of services to seniors. It's a new policy area for Sarah, but an exciting opportunity to combine her legislative background with her education- MPA from the UW- and also great to work on issues that are impacting WA communities as the boomer generation ages.

Mitzi Hnizdil Carlin's, JASC 44 & 45 (1992 & 1993), husband finished his duty in the Seattle area, and this past summer the family took a 3-week "odyssey" across country and moved to Northern Virginia just outside DC. Mitzi has made a career shift to become a Certified Health Coach and says she's joined the bold mission to get America healthy. Mitzi personally guides and mentors people in a comprehensive health program that starts with reaching a healthy weight and continues with optimizing health by learning how to orientate daily choices toward what matters most.

Shigeru Endo, JASC 43 & 44 (1991 & 1992), held a reunion party in Tokyo this August with JASCers from JASC 43-45 (Pictures Right).

Akio Wada, JASC 25, 26, & 27 (1973, 1974, & 1975) has been on the Board of JASC Alumni Association of Japan the last several years. He became Deputy President and Representative Director of Mitsubishi Electric Credit Corporation, the captive finance company of Mitsubishi Electric, in June. He resides in Osaka, Tokyo with his wife **Noriko**, JASC 26 (1974). They get together with friends from JASCs 25-27 including those visiting from the U.S. several times a year.

Larry Ingraham, JASC 26 (1974), made a three week business trip to Japan and China in September 2013. While in Japan, he was part of a Hoosier delegation led by Indiana Governor Mike Pence that attended the 45th annual Midwest U.S.-Japan Association conference held at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo. This was the 28th consecutive Midwest conference that Larry has attended since he facilitated Indiana becoming an official state member at the 1986 conference in Tokyo.



A 44th and 45th JASC Reunion



Samara Villasenor, JASC 44 (1992), (2nd from right) came all the way from the U.S. for this izakaya gathering



Shigeru Endo and fellow 44th JASCers at the Salon de JASC



Larry Ingraham, 26th JASC, in the ancient water town of Xitang in Zhejiang Province, China, the sister-state of Indiana on 9/19/13. Scenes for Tom Cruise's "Mission Impossible III" were filmed here.



Japanese Alumni Organize at American Residence

Kurt Tong and **Mika Marumoto**, JASC 36 & 37 (1984 & 1985) hosted about 100 Japanese JASC alumni -- including many of the JEC chairpersons for the past 50 years -- for an October 10 reception at the U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission's residence in Tokyo. The event was a kick-off to prepare for the 80th anniversary of JASC next year, as well as a gathering of the regular Salon de JASC, and launched a redoubled effort to promote applications for lifetime membership to the Japan-side JASC alumni association. The lively party featured remarks by alumni leaders **Yoshinori Imai** JASC 17 (1965) and **Toru Hashimoto** JASC 14 (1953) and a presentation on JASC 65 and next year's JASC 66 by JEC members. **Shuji Tomikawa** JASC 32 & 33 (1980 & 1981) and **Naohisa Fukutani** JASC 36 & 37 (1984 & 1985) did a great job organizing the program.



Kurt and Mika (center) with Imai-san (left) and Tomikawa-san (right)



Imai-san (third from right, standing) with current and recent JEC students



Hashimoto-san (third from right, standing) and others enjoying the garden

JASC in the Family

Many people hear about JASC from those close to them, professors familiar with the program or friends who have participated. But for some JASCers, their familiarity with the program comes from someone much closer to home. Such is the case for **Ayaka Yoshida**, a Sophomore at Northwestern University and a member of the 66th JASC AEC. She is following in the footsteps of her brother **Naoki** who served as chair of the 62nd JASC AEC. "One of the reasons why being an EC is special to me is because my brother was an EC a few years ago," **Ayaka** says, "Since he is one of my role models, being able to share this common experience with him is very exciting." **Norihito Naka** has a similar story, his sister **Ikuno** served on the 62nd AEC with **Naoki** and he now serves on the 66th AEC with Ayaka.



Sisters Hitomi, left, JASC 65 (2013), and Kuniko, right, JASC 63 (2011), Uezo

At a reception in Tokyo last summer, family ties abounded. In addition to the father-son and sister pairs pictured in this article, several couples at the event had met their partners during



Hibiki Sekiguchi, left, JASC 65 & 66 (2013 & 2014), and father Waichi Sekiguchi, JASC 31 & 32 (1979 & 1980)

JASC, including **Waichi Sekiguchi**, pictured left, who is married to **Takako Sekiguchi**, JASC 31 & 32, (1979 & 1980). Too many family ties exist within JASC to mention all, and the tradition should continue on, creating even more in the future. If you have a family member who is a student, you can do your part and encourage them to apply for JASC 66.

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Office Notes

Michelle Lee Jones Back on Board!

We are excited to announce that Michelle Lee Jones has joined the ISC team as KASC Country Officer based in Seoul, Korea. Michelle will work in a part-time capacity to support Korean Executive Committee (KEC) members, expand relationships and partnerships with supporters and stakeholders, and also start preliminary work to establish a KASC Korea office. She is no stranger to ISC because she is an alumnus of the Japan-America Student Conference (JASC), was elected to JASC AEC in 2005, and also served as JASC Program Manager in DC from 2009-2010. Please feel free to contact Michelle at mjones@iscdc.org.



Michelle is currently completing her graduate degree in Korean Studies at Seoul National University. Michelle graduated in 2006 from the University of Chicago and was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) grant to South Korea. She lived in Gwangju, South Korea from 2006 to 2008 and taught at Chonnam National University. During the 6 years she has lived in Korea, Michelle has volunteered in outreach and public education for Korean NGOs.

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