



# JASC Journal

Summer 2013

## From Tennessee to Toyota City John Shook's JASC Story

Japan was never at the front of John Shook's mind during his college days at the University of Tennessee. But, when JASC held a homestay program in John's hometown of Kingston, TN, he was in for a life-changing experience. In the summer of 1976, John's family served as a host family for Japanese delegates to JASC. John was able to directly interact with the delegates, gaining his first exposure to Japanese culture. He found striking commonality between himself and his new Japanese friends, even though they came from vastly different backgrounds, and the experience left him wanting to learn more.

Next year, when JASC traveled to Japan, John joined the American delegation as a representative of the University of Tennessee. The conference lasted one month and traveled to Nagoya, Hachioji, Tokyo, Toyama, and Kanazawa. For John, the summer in Japan was an intense exercise in cultural exchange. Memorable moments from the con-



*John Shook, JASC 29 (1977) with his friend Ambassador Shigeyuki Hiroki, JASC 28 & 29 (1976 & 1977),*

ference for John include a slight miscommunication with his homestay mother about wearing shoes in the house, spending a night in Eihei-ji Zen Buddhist temple, and visiting geriatric hospitals as a member of the social welfare roundtable. The close interaction with people made the trip special, according to John. "You visit not just as a tourist, but engage in dialogue, and debate

Continued on page 4



### Inside...

- 2 2013 JASC Just around the Corner
- 5 KASC/JASC Trilateral Symposium in Washington, DC
- 6 JASCer Notes
- 7 Message from the Japan Alumni Association



# JASC 65, Coming to Japan Soon

By Paul Yarabe, Chair of 65th American Executive Committee

The 65th Executive Committee is hard at work planning this summer's conference, which will commence in less than one month. We have selected all of the American and Japanese delegates, who are now writing their roundtable essays and getting to know one another. The conference will begin with the American delegation gathering for American Orientation at the University of California, Berkeley. The highlight of orientation will be an afternoon with high school students from the earthquake and tsunami-affected areas of Tohoku, Japan. This is JASC's second year collaborating with the Tomodachi Softbank Leadership Program on the meeting. There will also be a reception on July 31st for alumni at the Ferry Building in San Francisco.

From San Francisco we will depart to Japan and after spending almost a year planning the activities for each of our four sites in Japan (Kyoto, Nagasaki, Iwate, and Tokyo), I am excited to provide a few highlights for each site.

## Kyoto

From August 2nd to August 6th, delegates will meet in Kyoto, where we will visit the Shimogamo Shrine, par-

## JASC Alumni Events - Join Us!

### San Francisco, California

July 31st: JASC Sendoff Event

### Kyoto, Japan

August 2nd: Opening Ceremony

August 3rd: Lunch Reception

### Nagasaki, Japan

August 11th: Dinner Reception

### Iwate, Japan

August 12th Dinner Welcome Reception

### Tokyo, Japan

August 22: Final Forum and Reception

*email [jasc@iscdc.org](mailto:jasc@iscdc.org) for information  
or call 202-289-9088*



*The 65th JASC Executive Committee Selects delegates for the 2013 conference during their spring meeting in March*

ticipate in tea ceremony, and hold discussions with high school students. JASC alumni are invited to a lunch reception August 3rd at 3 PM in Yamauchi Hall of Kyoto University.

## Nagasaki

From August 7th to August 12th, the delegation will travel to Nagasaki, where we will take a field trip to the theme park Huis Ten Bosch, visit the US Navy Base in Sasebo, and learn about the manufacturing industry at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. Alumni are invited to a dinner reception August 11 from 5-8 PM at Nagasaki Nisshokan Hotel.

## Iwate

On August 12th, the delegation will fly to Iwate, where we will attend a symposium on reconstruction in Miyako, visit a local farm to learn about economic recovery in the region, and spend a day living with a homestay family. On August 12th we will hold a dinner reception at 6:30 PM in at the Iwate International Exchange Centre in Morioka.

## Tokyo

Finally, the 65th JASC will come to a close in Tokyo, where delegates will visit a global consulting firm, listen to a lecture from son of former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Shinjiro Koizumi and attend receptions at the US Embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Final Forum is August 22 from 1-6 PM, and immediately following, alumni are welcome to attend the closing ceremony and alumni reception at Aoyama Gakuin University (6-9 PM).

If you would like more information about the plans for the 65th Conference, please let us know. We are excited for the conference this summer and we are looking forward to seeing you all in California and Japan!



# 65th JASC American Delegation



Name	School	Year	Major
Mr. Dylan Adelman	Skidmore College	4th	East Asian Studies & Religious Studies
Ms. Emily Aiken	University of Oklahoma	2nd	Biology
Mr. Cruz Arroyo*	Haverford College	2nd	English
Ms. Feruza Azimova	Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa	1st	Political Science & Japanese
Mr. Daniel Bateyko	Middlebury College	1st	Undeclared
Mr. Karim Boyd	Villanova University	1st	Physics
Mr. John Burke	University of Alabama	3rd	Accounting & Finance
Ms. Kelly Cargos	Macalester College	4th	Psychology & Japanese
Ms. Jee Eun Choi	Haverford College	2nd	Biology
Ms. Sora Choi	Michigan State University	3rd	English & Japanese
Mr. Santiago Cruz*	Cornell University	3rd	Government
Mr. Michael Fitzgerald	Florida State University	3rd	International Affairs
Mr. Pramodh Ganapathy	Duke University	3rd	Asian & Middle Eastern Studies
Ms. Katherine Jordan*	Wellesley College	2nd	French & Japanese
Mr. James Kashima	University of Washington	3rd	Neurobiology
Mr. Drew Korschun	Duke University	1st	Asian, Middle East. Studies & Linguistics
Ms. Pin-Pin Liao	Villanova University	1st	International Business & Management
Ms. Sharon Lu	Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison	3rd	Biology (Neurobiology)
Ms. Nobuko Masuno*	Univ. of California-Berkeley	3rd	Psychology
Mr. John McCallum	Harvard University	1st	Economics
Ms. Madison Mears*	Univ. of Wisconsin- Madison	2nd	Pre-Business & Japanese
Mr. Patrick Meuer*	Edgewood College	4th	History
Ms. Paxton Misra	Smith College	2nd	Economics
Mr. Norihito Naka	Tufts University	1st	International Relations & Economics
Mr. So Nakayama*	Macalester College	2nd	Int'l Studies, Economics, & Asian Studies
Ms. Bao-Quyen Nguyen	Smith College	1st	Psychology & Pre-Med
Ms. Brooke Nowakowski	Harvard University	1st	Undeclared
Ms. Yuki Numata	Pomona College	1st	Undeclared
Mr. Robert Panis	Villanova University	1st	Economics & Accounting
Ms. Miho Sakuma	Williams College	2nd	History
Mr. Ryota Sekine	University of Chicago	4th	Biology
Ms. Haley Sweeton	Univ. of Maryland-Baltimore	1st	Information Systems
Mr. Jeffrey Yamashita	Univ. of California-Berkeley	PHD	Ethnic Studies
Mr. Paul Yarabe**	Harvard University	4th	Molecular & Cellular Biology
Ms. Ayaka Yoshida	Northwestern University	1st	Clarinet Performance & Biology
Ms. Xiang Zeng	Johns Hopkins University	1st	International & East Asian Studies

\* Denotes AEC Member

\*\* Denotes AEC Chair

**Join us July 31st at the Ferry Building in San Francisco!**

RSVP at [www.iscdc.org/SF2013/](http://www.iscdc.org/SF2013/)



Continued from page 1

and that provides insights that stay with you for the rest of your life," he recalls.

*“Through my whole career, there’s nothing that has impacted me more profoundly than JASC...”*

Studies. As he pursued his degree, he stayed in close touch with his friends from JASC. With help from his Japanese friends, he practiced his language skills and learned about job hunting in Japan. The most valuable role the JASC network played for John was to clarify his career trajectory for him. “There were many late nights in Japan where we would talk about our futures and exchange ideas,” John remembers. These discussions were essential in John’s decision to pursue a career within a Japanese company, where he hoped to add value by sharing his perspective as an American as well as to help his own country by bringing lessons back from Japan.

John finally got the chance to realize this vision when he was offered a job for Toyota Motors working on the NUMMI project, a collaboration between Toyota and GM that aimed to bring the Toyota manufacturing process to the U.S. When he signed his contract, he became the first non-Japanese to work for Toyota as a regular employee in Toyota City.

JASC was the motivation for John to become a bridge between Japan and the U.S. In furthering his goal, he obtained a master’s degree from the University of Hawaii in Japanese



*John, back row center, with fellow JASCers at Bon Odori*

His role was to learn Japanese auto manufacturing inside and out, mastering the techniques that led to the booming success of Japanese manufacturers in the 1980’s and bringing those techniques back to the U.S. He started by moving to Toyota City Japan, a city in which, by John’s description, “all there is to do is work”. Every day John did just that, working diligently as the only non-Japanese employee in a sea of Japanese workers. He learned quickly, going through rotations that taught him each phase of the manufacturing process. When he had sufficiently shown his skill and integrity, he was given a promotion and named Toyota’s first non-Japanese kacho (manager).

From that point, John’s career took off, leading him to his present status as a respected thought leader on manufacturing best practices. His current title is President and CEO of the Lean Enterprise Institute, a non-profit education, publishing, research, and conference organization that carefully develops hypotheses about lean thinking and experiments to see which approaches work best in the real world. John has authored several books on manufacturing including, *Learning to See*, a guidebook that introduced the world to value-stream mapping.

John has certainly met and exceeded his goal of becoming a bridge between Japan and the U.S. His work has helped businesses on both sides of the Pacific and has encouraged greater collaboration between Japan and the U.S. Looking back, John says, “Through my whole career, there’s nothing that has impacted me more profoundly than JASC and there’s nothing that I can recommend more strongly for students interested in gaining a deep understanding of another culture”.



*John, far left, was dubbed the designated guitar player during JASC 29 (1977)*



# First JASC/KASC Trilateral Symposium a Success

On June 6th, 2013, ISC hosted a symposium on U.S.-Korea-Japan trilateral relations. The symposium included two panels, the first on regional security and the second on the economy, and a reception with brief addresses from representatives from the U.S. Department of State, the Korean Embassy, and the Japanese Embassy. The panels were moderated by student leaders of JASC and KASC. Questions from the moderators and audience were specifically geared towards the role of youth in the context of regional security and the economy.

Ambassador Thomas Hubbard, Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, and Grew-Bancroft Scholar and alumnus of JASC 62 & 63 (2010 & 2011) Kunihiro Shimoji sat on the regional security panel. The panel was moderated by KASC 6 (2013) America Executive Committee Chair Tiffany Vang of the College of Saint Benedict and JASC 65 (2013) Executive Committee Member Cruz Arroyo of Haverford College. Two focuses of the panel were the impact of history on trilateral relations and the role of youth in improving trilateral partnership.

Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and alumnus of JASC 22 & 23 (1970 & 1971) Glen S. Fukushima, Vice President for Asia at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Tami Overby, and Researcher at Mitsui and alumnus of JASC 61 (2009) & KASC 3 & 4 (2010 & 2011) Jose Pulido sat on the economic panel. The panel was moderated by JASC 65 (2013) America Executive Committee Chair Paul Yarabe of Harvard University and KASC 6 (2013) Executive Committee Member Marteka Fair of the University of North Carolina. The focus of the panel was the role of youth in the economy.

More about the outcomes of the symposium is available at [www.iscdc.org/symposium/](http://www.iscdc.org/symposium/).

## JASC is turning 80

Watch for information about the 80th Anniversary gala and mark your calendars for August, 2014!

Contact

[jasc@iscdc.org](mailto:jasc@iscdc.org)

if you have suggestions for locations, venues, or program content.



*Glen S. Fukushima, JASC 22 & 23 (1970 & 1971) answers a question from the audience during the economic panel*



*Susan Stevenson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Dept of State, addresses guests at the reception*



*Svetlana Ikononova, JASC 61 (2009), asks a question about lifetime employment in Japan and Korea*





# JAScer Notes

A small group of JASCers from JASC 61 – 64 gathered for a brief reunion in Boston, MA. Pictured below from left to right, **Marie Watanabe**, JASC 61 & 62 (2009 & 2010), **Jillian Anderson**, JASC 63 & 64 (2011 & 2012), **Leah Flake**, JASC 61 & 62 (2009 & 2010), **Dan Jodarski**, JASC 62 & 63 (2010 & 2011), **Danielle Wilson**, JASC 63 & 64 (2011 & 2012), and **Ryosuke Kobayashi**, JASC 62 (2010).



**Aya Nakanishi**, JASC 59 & 60 (2007 & 2008), would like to share an opportunity from her employer, Facebook, Inc., that may be of interest to JASCers. Facebook is currently seeking Japanese candidates to join the User Operations team in Dublin, Ireland. For more information Aya can be reached at [aya.nakanishi@fb.com](mailto:aya.nakanishi@fb.com).

**Alison Miller**, JASC 59 (2007) is currently a doctoral candidate in art history at the University of Kansas. She was awarded a Fulbright for the 2013-14 academic year and will be using the fellowship to conduct research on her dissertation, which addresses images of the Empress Teimei (1900-1930s). During the fellowship period she will be in residence at the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo (Tokyo Bunkazai

Kenkyusho).

**Sophia Yang**, JASC 59 (2007), recently became the program officer for the East Asia Pacific Fulbright Scholar Program at the Institute of International Education. JASCers who are interested in applying to a Fulbright Scholar Program are welcome to contact her at [syang@iie.org](mailto:syang@iie.org) or +1.202.686.4024.

**Stanton Lawyer**, JASC 57 & 58 (2005 & 2006), will be leaving his position with the American Bar Association Section of Taxation to attend Howard University School of Law as a member of the class of 2016.

**Michelle Lee Jones**, JASC 56 & 57 (2004 & 2005), Program Manager 2009-2010, welcomes JASCers and KASCers to her presentation on Single Moms' Day at the Gwangju International Center in Gwangju, South Korea on June 29, 2013. This talk will explore themes related to the stigmatization of unwed parents, their children's human rights, and the relationship between this stigma and adoption. More information is available at [http://eng.gic.or.kr/portal/board.php?board=notice\\_eng&wr\\_id=551](http://eng.gic.or.kr/portal/board.php?board=notice_eng&wr_id=551)

**Torin Martinez**, JASC 55 & 56 (2003 & 2004), is working as a Management Consultant for a company called Think, Leadership, Ideas. The company provides leadership training and strategic planning to the executives of medium-sized companies. While working for this firm, he launched a consulting group called THRIVE AGENTS ([www.thriveagents.com](http://www.thriveagents.com)) that is committed to improving organizational health. In August, Torin will start a full-time MBA program at Wake Forest University where he will focus on Consulting, Operations, and Social Entrepreneurship.

**Sophia Kan** and fellow JASC 53 & 54 (2001 & 2002) alumni got together for a reunion in Tokyo in late-May. It was wonderful getting to see old friends, and reminiscing about our experience during the conference. In the photos (next column, top): Sophia, Mio, Miho,



Hiromi, Fumaken, Chishi, Yasushi, and Rintaro, all JASC 53 & 54 alumni.

**Rajesh F. Krishnan**, JASC 44 (1992), continues to work for GroundWork, Inc. in San Francisco and is kept busy by his 2-year old Anoushka.

**Stanford Lin**, JASC 43 (1991) recently left Walmart China in Shenzhen, where he was Head of Financial Services, and relocated to Shanghai to start work as Head of Operations for Visa China.

**Kengo Yoshihara**, JASC 41 (1989), received a new assignment in New York and safely arrived from sleepless in Seattle. He happens to serve for Ambassador Hiroki, who is also a JAScer, and attended the charity dinner for the JASC of this summer on behalf of Japanese Consulate last May. He will be in New York for possibly two years from now, and expects to see you all for networking events.

**Madeleine Adkins**, JASC 40 & 41 (1988 & 1989) is very much enjoying being back in the San Francisco Bay Area, and hopes to get together with more Bay Area JASCers soon. She recently moved into a new job and career, having joined the succession planning team at Safeway's corporate headquarters.

**David (Gross) Jacobson**, JASC 36 & 37 (1984 & 1985) is a jack of all trades for two small press book publishers specializing in Japan and Asia: [Chin Music Press](#), and [Stone Bridge](#)



# An Update from the JASC Japan Alumni Association

Dear Fellow JASCers in the States,

The Board of JASC Alumni Association in Japan ("JASC Japan") started a new year under the same leadership with Chairman Toru Hashimoto (JASC 14) and Vice Chairmen Haruo Yamamoto (JASC 16 & 17), Tatsumi Otaka (JASC 16), Hideto Takemoto (JASC 16), Yoshinori Imai (JASC 17) and Masaru Yamada (JASC 18). Last year two of the Board members left for their new work / study positions in Europe. Masato Hiratake (JASC 44 & 45) now works in Dusseldorf and Ryoji Noritake (JASC 54 & 55) studies in Amsterdam.

JASC Japan elected Mr. Imai as the chairman of the executive committee for JASC's 80th anniversary event to be held in November, 2014. All of the JASC Japan Board members will participate in preparation for the event and hope to have good coordination between IEC and ISC.

JASC Japan held two Board meetings so far this year. Chairman Hashimoto and several other alumni attended "Yokoso Senpai" welcome reception hosted by 65th JASC delegation on Sunday, May 5 at Yoyogi National Olympic Memorial Youth Center. We were very pleased to meet the new and strong delegates selected by the 65th JASC JEC.

JASC Japan also held two Salon de JASC events this year and the third will be held on June 13. In our second Sa-

**Press.** In fact, the first book of which he was principle editor, [Yokohama Yankee](#), hit the market in March and sold out in less than 2 months! If you've got a book in you that you're eager to publish, drop him a line at [david.jacobson@earthlink.net](mailto:david.jacobson@earthlink.net). He lives with his partner and 2 fast growing kids in Seattle, WA. He recently narrowly missed meeting Yale classmate and JASC 37 attendee **Beth Gradison Lyon** on a visit to Philadelphia earlier this year, but caught up on the phone, after a lapse of nearly two decades.

In April, a small but exciting 36th JASC (1984) reunion took place in Okinawa's beautiful Ishigaki Island. **Jun Nishizawa**, **Ted Ktasuro**, and **Mika Marumoto** formed a relay team, JASC Express, competing at the 2013 Ishigaki Triathlon. JASC Express successfully finished the race, thanks to the enthusiastic cheerleader **Nao Fukutani**, JASC 36, and a long-time Ishigaki resident and medical doctor **Nozomi Kidokoro**, also JASC 36. A post-race celebration in Tokyo was joined by other 36th JASCers including **Kurt Tong**, **Atsushi Oka**, **Kyle Kohler**, as well as **John Rogers** and **Daisaku Fujikawa**, both of JASC 35 (1983).



*JASC Japan Vice Chairman  
Yoshinori Imai*



*Professor Emeritus  
Noritake Kobayashi*

lon de JASC held on Thursday, April 11 at Tokai University Alumni Club our guest speaker, Professor Emeritus Noritake Kobayashi (JASC 10, 11 & 12) of Keio University, gave a speech entitled, "Why are Japanese students studying in the United States decreasing?" The event was attended by 25 alumni and some JEC members. Kurt Tong (JASC 36 & 37), Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. diplomatic mission in Japan also attended the Salon.

We are looking forward to meeting the US delegation to 65th JASC at the opening ceremony on Friday, August 2 and continue to try to assist the 65th JASC JEC and participants in every way we can.

By Shuji Tomikawa, JASC 32 & 33  
Secretary General, JASC Japan



*Team JASC Express*

**Christopher Weaver**, JASC 27 (1975) was one of the featured subject experts in Gamers at Work and is in his twelfth year teaching engineering and game studies at MIT.

**Eenee Pflum Ferrano**, JASC 27 (1975) just moved from Atlanta Georgia to the East Bay area of San Francisco. She is hoping to connect with JASC' 1975 friends. JASC brings us together no matter how far the distance nor how many years in between!



# JASC

International Student Conferences  
1150 18th Street, NW, Suite LL2  
Washington, DC 20036  
*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Washington, DC  
Permit #494

## Final Push for Donations

### Closing the Gap

ISC set some ambitious fundraising goals for JASC 65 and for the most part, we've followed through. We raised over \$100,000 from foundations and corporations in support of this year's JASC.

We've also come very close, but haven't quite reached our \$40,000 goal in individual contributions. We are about \$5000 short. More importantly, we are 28 individuals short of reaching our goal of having 150 individuals contribute to ISC's 2013 JASC Campaign. Will you join us and help us close the remaining gap?

Your donation goes directly towards making the 65th JASC a productive and meaningful conference!

Thank you!

And be sure to ask your employer  
about matching gifts.

