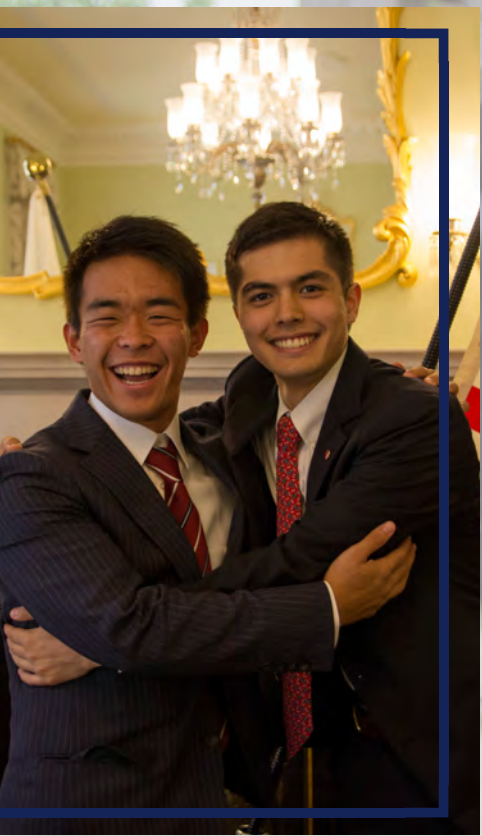


DECEMBER 2018

JASC

Journal

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JAPAN-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE



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Greetings from the *American Executive Committee*

Dear JASC Alumni,

It has been over three months since we were elected to serve as the Executive Committee of the 71st Japan-America Student Conference. With this great honor, comes great responsibility, and as a result, we did encounter some initial difficulties when creating our vision for next year's conference. We wanted to build a conference that would uphold the legacy of the countless generations of JASCers who have come before us. However, we can now proudly say with full confidence that the 71st JASC is on track. Now, we would like to take this opportunity to update you on our progress in planning the 71st JASC.

ROUNDTABLES:

- Environment and Technology: Ecological and Technical Solutions for a Sustainable Society
- Health and Exercise: Modern Fitness Trends and Their Effect on Physical and Mental Health
- Culture, Media and Soft Power: Examining U.S.-Japan Relations Through the Lens of Cultural Exchange
- Responsible Approaches to Population Issues: Evolving Technology, Law and Ethics
- U.S.-Japan Relations in the Context of East Asia: Change and Continuity in the 21st Century
- Diversity: Dissecting Human Rights Concerns within A Diversified Society
- Nationalism and Globalism: Shifting Paradigm in the Modern Era

RECRUITMENT:

- The AEC team has elected to review applications on a rolling basis to provide delegates with a final decision as early as possible. The application deadline is December 31st, 2018.

- We have already accepted our first few delegates to the 71st JASC, and have received numerous completed applications.
- We are looking forward to reviewing many more qualified applicants from a variety of schools, and have held two Facebook Live info sessions to provide potential applicants with more information.

SITES:

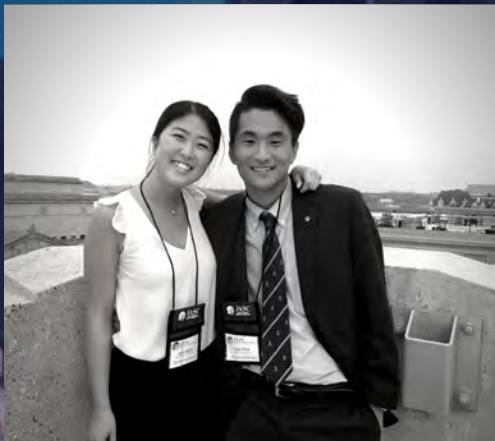
- We have confirmed the sites for the JASC71 as Kochi, Kyoto, Gifu and Tokyo.
- American Orientation will be held in Los Angeles.

The AEC team is currently busy finishing up the recruitment process, and working to select the U.S. delegation for the 71st Japan-America Student Conference. Much of our time and effort has been focused on planning for guest speakers, activities, meals, and lodging for American Orientation in Los Angeles. We would greatly appreciate the support of any JASCers kind enough to help us in any of these areas. If you are located in the Los Angeles and have any recommendations or advice for the AEC team, please reach out to us! We appreciate your continued support of JASC, and promise to commit ourselves to enriching the JASC legacy.

Happy Holidays from
the American Executive
Committee team!

INTERNATIONAL

Meet the American **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



How do you think JASC will impact you in your future career?

JAMIE MIURA



MCGILL UNIVERSITY
CHAIR

"Before my time as a delegate at JASC70, I had an academic interest in U.S.-Japan relations based on my passion for Japanese history and politics. My experience as a Japanese-American living in Bethesda, Maryland, furthered my dedication to this important relationship. However, I struggled to understand how to manifest this passion and academic interest into a long-term career. The opportunity to meet U.S.-Japan experts such as Julie Chung and interact with JASC alumni who pursued careers based on their passion for U.S.-Japan relations was extremely inspiring to me. The 70th Japan-America Student Conference solidified my determination to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Japan through my own hard work and dedication. Whether it is through the JET Program, pursuing a masters in Japan, working at an NGO, or a career at the State Department, I can truly say that a career in U.S.-Japan relations is my life objective. "

"JASC provided me with an opportunity to challenge my own opinions, and my interactions with fellow delegates as well as experts, really encouraged self-reflection and self-growth. As an aspiring lawyer, my JASC70 experience will help me to analyze each situation from multiple perspectives. I hope to continue, as I did during JASC70, to learn from others and use those lessons to formulate stronger opinions and arguments. Additionally, JASC 70 reaffirmed my desire to use my experiences to build a bridge between the two great countries with which I identify, the United States and Japan. Although I am not entirely sure in what form this will be, I am confident that my JASC70 experience will follow me through the years. Most importantly, the people I have met through JASC continue to inspire me to be a more ambitious and understanding person, and this will only make me better prepared for my future."

KAHO MAEDA



NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
VICE CHAIR

"The vast network that JASC has given me access to will likely be a massive boon when it is time for me to start looking for a career in either the U.S. or Japan. Already as a student in Osaka, the alumni network has enabled me to make valuable connections and explore the opportunities available in the Kansai area. As I look to work at a specific company or even in a specific role, previous JASC participants are eager to provide their insight, advice, and help which comforts me immensely. The experience of working with a group comprised of both American and Japanese delegates also taught me about the difficulties that arise, when communicating across cultures and languages. I had to learn to speak less and listen more, and as someone looking to bridge those barriers in the future, that was a lesson I am glad I got to learn at JASC in the company of likeminded individuals."

MASON WILLIAMS



UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

How did JASC contribute to your academic, professional, or personal growth?

TERESA

"I came into JASC not really knowing what to expect. I had always been interested in Japanese language and culture, but in the past few years of my college career I had strayed away from that, and started focusing more on the local political issues that surrounded me. When conference time rolled around, I had felt apprehensive, and wondered if this would really be a good fit for me. I was pleasantly and completely wrong, and I had found in JASC a renewal of not only my interests, but also my motivation in life. I feel that I had started to trap myself within the constraints of my university and immediate surrounding community; but there is a wide world open to all, and we should be excited and encouraged to explore it more."



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-ANCHORAGE

SHUNJI FUEKI



"JASC70 was a great opportunity for me to face and understand different perspectives. Discussing and living together with 70 other students from diverse backgrounds taught me to understand others by putting myself in their shoes. It sounds like a cliché, but I think that other than JASC, there are few circumstances in which you really have no option but to think about others. In my Identity Roundtable, it was exciting to hear how other delegates developed their own national identities, and I loved how everyone constructed their argument with appreciation of others' opinions and experiences."

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

"JASC pushed me to critically examine U.S.-Japan relations beyond the perspectives of politics and security. I gained the understanding of how religion, education, mental health, identity, gender equality, technology, and environment bind the two countries in many layers, from the personal to the global, and that gave me a more enriched and well-rounded understanding of U.S.-Japan relations. By engaging in deeply personal and sometimes controversial conversations with my roundtable, I have come to truly appreciate the value of critical listening/thinking and understanding what shapes people's opinions. Professionally, JASC70 has given me a valuable network of alumni and supporters who have given me astute insight, advice, and support. Activities such as the Six-Party Talks simulation and panel discussions allowed me to hone skills in leadership and public speaking further. With all that being said, one of the best takeaways from JASC70 was the people. I have made many of my life-long friends at JASC70, and now I know that I have an invaluable community in Japan, the U.S., and across the world. I cannot describe in words how much having that community means to me; for that I am grateful to JASC."

MAKIKO MIYAZAKI



WELLESLEY COLLEGE

How did JASC contribute to your academic, professional, or personal growth?

AIMEE RODRIGUEZ



WASHINGTON & LEE UNIVERSITY

"...the conference provided the means to develop critical work skills. This ranged from preparing a written piece related to a round table topic, to networking with professionals. I think what will stick with me most, however, is the care that everyone put into etiquette regarding professional presentation and interaction. I know now that while we may all come from different backgrounds, there is a professional standard that, if met, can increase anyone's chances for success in the work force."

"My career interests have become of topic of constant contemplation as I find myself on the doorstep of leaving the academic world and joining the professional one. Although I found the immense network of JASC alumni and their various life experiences and advice to be extremely helpful, I personally think JASC gave me direction for my career-related passions. The professional world is vast and I often found myself unable to settle on path that I wanted to follow, but JASC afforded my opportunity to meet a wide variety of people in different fields that all related to my desire to work in a field concerning the relationship between the Japan and the United States. In some ways, JASC broadened my perspective of how many careers there were that could serve this relationship. Above all, JASC helped me discover what path I wanted to take and what careers were available to me when I embark on my professional journey. I also really appreciate the international connections."

NATHANIEL CHUTE



WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY



Interview with **LARRY INGRAHAM**

JASC Alumnus & Recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun

Interviewed by Kaho Maeda, 71st Japan-America Student Conference American Executive Committee Vice Chair.



Above: Mr. Ingraham with Mr. Masanobu Ibe of the International Education Center in Tokyo.

On November 3rd 2018, Mr. Ingraham was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Government of Japan, for his work to support and strengthen the U.S.-Japan relationship. He will be conferred on January 29, 2019 in Indiana. The Order of the Rising Sun is awarded to those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations. These individuals have worked tirelessly to promote Japanese culture and have made significant advancements in their field. The badge consists of rays of sunlight from the rising sun. This design symbolizes the energy of the awarded individuals, that is as powerful as the rising sun and alludes to the “Land of the Rising Sun” spirit of Japan.

Mr. Ingraham has received this incredible honor due to his work to improve the economic relationship between Japan and the U.S. by promoting trade and investment activities. From 1983 to 1986, Mr. Ingraham served as the director of the State of Indiana Japan Office. Even after his time in the position, he has continued to support trade and investment missions to Japan sent by successive Governors of Indiana. Mr. Ingraham has filled the role of advisor to many Japanese companies and provided guidance to them as they were planning to expand their businesses to the U.S. As fellow JASC alumni, the 71st JASC AEC team is honored to have had the opportunity to speak with him about the future of JASC and U.S.-Japan relations.

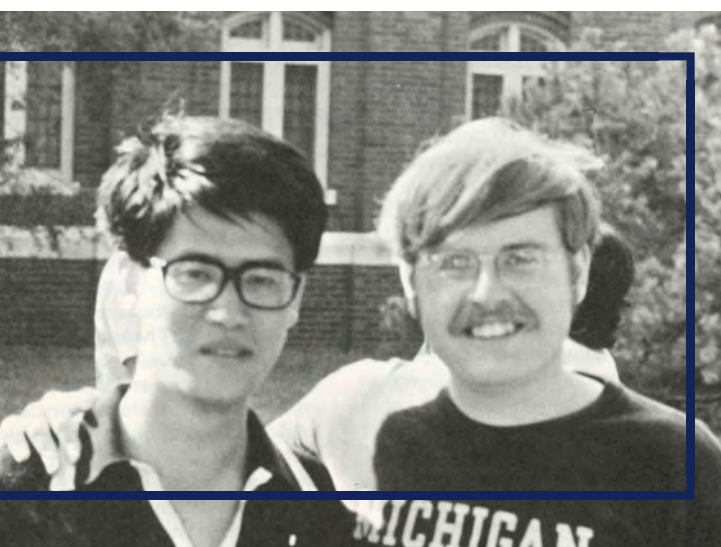
Q: What skills did you gain from your JASC experience, and how have those skills helped you in your career?

A: My JASC experience was the first time I began to develop some intercultural communication skills. Up until that point, my experiences had been exclusively in the U.S.; JASC was the first time that I was required to communicate to people of other cultures in English. JASC provided me with a wonderful starting point to learn how to do that. Not only did I learn to communicate with the Japanese delegates, but also some of the American delegates, who were Japanese-Americans. Although there was no language barrier, communication with these delegates who had different perspectives and ideas was a new situation for me. As some of you know, I have built a career on intercultural communication and JASC was the original foundation for that long career.

Q: What advice do you have for JASC 71 delegates?

A: My recommendation is that everyone try to maximize, to the best of their ability, their daily experiences they will have during the 71st JASC. As all JASC alumni know, JASC goes by very quickly; at the start, you think 3 or 4 weeks is a long time, but it flies by. I think it would be a good idea for

delegates to keep a journal. At the end of the day, they can write down one thing that they learned that day, or a question that they hope to answer the next day. They can use these daily self-reflections to get the most of their experience. Another piece of advice I have for future delegates is regarding intercultural communication. The main language of the conference is English, and so, all American delegates need to remember that we are speaking with non-native English speakers. Americans must be cautious with what they're saying; for example, not saying too much or avoiding the use of confusing idioms. In general, the Americans should be respectful of the Japanese and listen carefully.



Above: Mr. Ingraham as a delegate during the 26th JASC.

Additionally, I would like to strengthen and expand the JASC alumni network in the U.S. This has been difficult because of the geographical constraints, which have a less significant impact in Japan. I hope that young alumni, including the JASC71 Executive Committee, will try to find ways to improve the system in the U.S.; the interconnected society in which we live can provide us with more opportunities to do this than in the past.

Q: How do you think U.S.-Japan relations will continue to evolve, and how do you believe JASC can fit into this picture?

A: I believe that the U.S.-Japan relationship will continue to strengthen in the future. I mentioned this when I spoke to the JASC70 delegation in Madison, but former Ambassador Mike Mansfield always said that the U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important one in the world, bar none. This was 35 years ago and this remains true today. From here, I believe that it will just increase in significance, especially with the challenges posed by China and North Korea. It is of economic, social, cultural, and industrial importance; this can be seen in the Midwest region of the U.S. A great number of Japanese companies have created U.S. branch offices and employ a significant amount of U.S. workers. Likewise, many U.S. firms are using Japan as a base for expansion into the Asia region as a whole. I am confident that we will continue to be strong partners, and our annual JASC will help to ensure that.

Q: What do you hope for JASC in the future?

A: My future hope for JASC is that it will continue for many, many more years. I hope that we maximize on this momentum in growing JASC and maintain wonderful tradition. I believe that this is dependent upon all of the alumni, both in the U.S. and Japan, to continue to support JASC. Alumni can do their part by continuing to recommend JASC to students. I strongly believe that JASC is one of the most important events between the U.S. and Japan. It shapes the future leadership of both countries, and this extends its importance beyond its historical significance. It is my wish that JASC will continue to grow and prosper. But, it is important to note that JASC is not only important for the U.S.-Japan relationship; it is necessary for peace and stability in Asia, and even beyond.

INTERVIEW WITH JASC 70 AEC JACQUES CHAUMONT



Jacques Chaumont was a JASC 69 delegate and American Executive Committee member for JASC 70. He led the Technology roundtable and worked as one of the coordinators for the delegation's visit to Washington, D.C. He graduated from Williams College in 2018 with a double major in Statistics and Japanese.

Q. What are you currently focusing on, now that your time as an AEC has ended?

A. Having graduated this past June, my AEC year put me in a tricky spot for my job search. However, since the 70th JASC ended, I have submitted my application to become a Coordinator for International Relations through the JET Program. In the meantime, I have been working at a ramen restaurant in Seattle and self-studying Japanese with hopes of tackling the JLPT N1 Exam next year.

Q. What did you get out of JASC 69 and 70, and how did your experiences influence your academic and/or career aspirations? What are those academic and career aspirations?

A. My time as a delegate in JASC 69 awakened my interest in international relations and cultural exchange, as well as leadership and organization. Before JASC, I never imagined I would run to be an AEC, particularly for an American year. But following my JASC experience, it seemed like the most natural progression. I also realized that the mission of JASC—to create and strengthen bonds between the U.S. and



Above: Jacques in Madison, WI & Washington, D.C. for the 70th JASC.

Below: Jacques at the conclusion of JASC 69 with the newly elected 70th JASC Executive Committee.



Japan—was something worth pursuing my own career in. So, I am currently aiming to participate in the JET Program, in hopes of getting a better idea of how I will move forward and apply my experiences and skills to become a liaison between our two countries.

Q. Where do you see JASC headed in the future? What role do you envision yourself having in the future of the conference?

A. In our increasingly connected modern world, I envision JASC gaining more and more momentum, as people realize the importance of international cultural exchange. And as the network of JASCers becomes ever more diverse and widespread, exciting prospects open up as to where JASC connections can take you.

Regarding my own role in the future of JASC, I will likely end up working in the field of U.S.-Japan relations and would be happy to become a resource for the field that all JASC delegates share interest in. Whether my long-term career takes me to Japan or keeps me Stateside, I am excited for the future and what it holds.

Interviewed by Makiko Miyazaki, 71st Japan-America Student Conference Executive Committee Member.

Below: Mason during his time as a 70th JASC delegate in Portland, OR; Lexington, VA; and Washington, DC.



Reflections on the

70th Japan-America Student Conference

Mason Williams was a 70th JASC delegate, and is currently serving as an American Executive Committee member for the 71st JASC. He is a student at the University of St. Thomas, where he studies international business, and is currently completing a study abroad program in Osaka.

After becoming a TOMODACHI program alumnus in April of 2017 and realizing the myriad of opportunities available for those interested in U.S.-Japan relations, I became eager for more chances to explore the complexities of that relationship and further my own connection to it. JASC provided me with the opportunity to gain knowledge about the U.S.-Japan relationship and find what it meant to me. Although my career aspirations had been solidified prior to participating in JASC, the conference expanded my focus beyond just the business aspects of the bilateral relationship. At JASC, we discussed culture, education, and mental health, among other topics. All the discussions in which I had

the chance to participate in, will go on to define how I approach the U.S.-Japan relationship.

Looking to the future, I would like to work in advertising for the Sony Corporation; specifically, I would love to create ads that captivate consumers in both the United States and Japan. Sony was my first interaction with anything Japanese; my first pair of headphones, the portable CD player my father gave me, and my PlayStation systems. I want to apply my interests in music, film, and video games at a company that holds itself to high standards of quality.

I truly believe that JASC has unlimited potential in terms of its

future impact. Most importantly, JASC must continue to create a network of alumni who will take their JASC experiences and apply them to assist in the strengthening of U.S.-Japan relations. In addition to hopes for JASC, I would like to see similar conferences involving other countries and the United States. Both JASC and KASC should be used as models to promote cross-cultural exchange between students of diverse nations and ideologies. In the future, I hope to continue to show my support for JASC, and remain an active member of the JASC alumni network.

JAScer NOTES

Updates, big and small, from our diverse community of JASC alumni.

Submit a JAScer note for the next edition of the JASC Journal by emailing info@iscdc.org



65th Japan-America Student Conference

Sharon Lu, JASC 65 & 66

JASC inspired Alice and me to found the Taiwan-America Student Conference back in 2013. We are happy share that the 6th TASC will be held this coming summer and will be accepting applications soon!

I was fortunate to have been able to meet up with my dear JASC friends in Taipei, Tokyo, Chicago, Dallas, and the Bay Area this past year (see photo). No matter how long it has been since we last saw each other, we can always chat freely about anything as we did in JASC. I am truly grateful to have JASCers by my side as a constant source of inspiration and support.



Masahiro Miura, JASC 39

Elissa Leif (39th, 40th, and 42nd JASC), Makiko Toyoda (40th and 41st JASC), and I had lunch together in Washington, DC in October this year. We had a lot of catching up to do. I had not seen Elissa since March 1989. Makiko and Elissa had not seen each other since the 40th JASC in the summer of 1988. We all have been in the DC metropolitan area for a number of years. Three of us finally got together.

Liv Coleman, JASC 53 & 54

I recently ran for the Florida State House (but lost). I am an Associate Professor of Political Science & International Studies at the University of Tampa. I am also a member of the Maureen & Mike Mansfield Foundation US-Japan Network for the Future.

Kate Shields, JASC 24

A gentleman who was a nisei soldier for the U.S. in World War II spoke at a Veterans's Day observance in my apartment building this November. I was able to say "Domou arigatou gozaimasu" to him. I was glad to have the words to thank him. I also visited Madison, WI this year to meet the 70th JASC delegates

THANK YOU!

The success of our programs is made possible in large part to the generosity of alumni, corporate partners, and foundations. Our sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to all of our supporters for helping us continue to empower the next generation of US-Asia leaders!

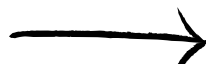


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