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*"Thirty intense days of travel and dialogue with each other foster better understanding and trust between the cultures, and, more importantly, friendship that endure for decades."*

The Honorable Daniel Inouye

United States Senator from Hawaii



64th American Executive Committee

### Message from Jillian Anderson, Chair of the 64th JASC AEC

Hello everyone!

The 64th Executive Committee is hard at work planning this summer's conference, which is approaching quickly. Currently, our main focus is recruitment. Our goal is to have a diverse applicant pool from which to select delegates. Thanks to everyone who has helped with recruitment so far, we appear to be approaching our goal. The due date for the application is **March 1, 2012**, and with even a short amount of time remaining we hope you can help us get as many applications as possible. Every poster and presentation makes a difference!

*continued on page 2...*

### JASC T-shirt day Unites JASCers around the Globe

Do you remember the last time you wore your JASC T-shirt? On December 2nd,

2011, JASCers all over the world dug out their T-shirts to show off their JASC pride. JASCers participated in this inaugural JASC T-shirt day by submitting photos of themselves with the most creative photo winning a prize. Mr. Steve Tsang (pictured on page 2) of JASC 53 (2001) was selected as the winner!

Steve participated in JASC 53 as a delegate and contributed to later conferences in various capacities from 2001 to 2005, assisting with planning and organizing as well as giving lectures. During the course of his involvement with JASC, Steve collected the five shirts pictured. He is now working as a senior scientist at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Maryland.

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### Upcoming Events

March 1st: Deadline for 2012 Applications

March 20-April 27: National Cherry Blossom Festival in DC

**Message from the Chair (continued from page 1)**

Our other focus right now is site planning. This year's sites include Dallas, TX, Madison, WI, San Francisco/Berkeley, CA, and Seattle, WA. One of our focus topics this year will be the immigrant experience in the United States. In Dallas, we will look at current immigration issues in the US, and on the West Coast we will be examining the Japanese-American experience in the 20th century. We are very excited for JASC to return to Seattle this summer, hosted by the University of Washington. The Final Forum will take place on Friday, August 17th in Seattle (venue TBD), followed by an alumni reception.

If you would like more information about the plans for the 64th Conference, please let us know!

All the best,

Jillian Anderson  
Chair, JASC 64 American Executive Committee  
[Jasc64.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:Jasc64.anderson@gmail.com)

**JASC T-shirt day Unites JASCers around the Globe (continued from page 1)**

You can check out the rest of the photos we received from JASC T-shirt day on the [JASC Flickr Page](#) or the [Facebook page](#) for the event. JASC Alumni are scattered throughout the globe, but we'd like to keep finding new ways to stay connected from year to year! Thanks to all who participated and especially to Leah Flake, JASC 61 & 62 (2009 & 2010) and Satoko Okutani, JASC 62 & 63 (2010 & 2011) who were instrumental in organizing the event!

Toshi Takeuchi



Grace Park and Yuri Hongo



Spencer Oscarson



Steve Tsang

# Alumni in Print

## James Hoyt, JASC 9 (1948) publishes book on insects in Haiku

James Hoyt, JASC 9 (1948), has recently authored the book [Silkworms and Silverfish. Creepers in Haiku](#). The book has more than 150 translations of haiku verses, all of which use insects as seasonal topics to set the scene in spring, summer or autumn.

James has served as special assistant for cultural affairs to the U.S. Ambassador in Tokyo, Chairman of the U.S. Educational Commission in Japan (Fulbright Program), and Cultural Attaché in Manila and Seoul. Since his retirement, he has devoted his time to his Oriental moss garden and to breeding *koi* (ornamental carp) on San Juan Island in the Puget Sound. His works on Far Eastern poetry include *Songs of the Dragons* (Korean Branch Royal Asiatic Society, 1979) and *Soaring Phoenixes and Prancing Dragons* (Jimoondang International, 2000).



John Shook

## John Shook, JASC 29 (1977) Honored Twice

John Shook, JASC 29 (1977) was recognized as the winner of the MIT *Sloan Management Review's* Best Article of 2010 Award. John's article, "How to Change a Culture: Lessons from NUMMI", tells the story of the changes that took place at General Motors when a partnership was formed with Toyota. The article is available in the Winter 2010 issue of the *Sloan Management Review*. Full citation: *Sloan Management Review*, Winter 2010, Volume 51, Number 2, pp. 63-68, Reprint 51211.

In addition to the MIT honor, John was recently inducted into the *Industry Week* Manufacturing Hall of Fame for his contributions to the magazine.

John spent nearly 11 years working for Toyota, where he helped transfer production, engineering, and management systems from Japan to the U. S. While at

Toyota's headquarters, he became the company's first American manager in Japan. His last position with Toyota was as senior manager with the Toyota Supplier Support Center in Lexington, KY, assisting implementation of the Toyota Production System in North American companies. He is now chairman and CEO of the [Lean Enterprise Institute](#) of Cambridge, MA, and is currently serving on the ISC board of directors.

## Sherry Weaver Smith publishes illustrated haiku poetry book, *Land Shapes*.

Sherry Weaver Smith, JASC 41 (1989) writes poems inspired by walking through grasslands of the American West, revisiting memories of Asian travels, and talking with her eight-year-old daughter, Laura.

Her poems have been published in the Arizona Literary Magazine, To Topos: Poetry International, California Quarterly, The Heron's Nest, and the Seventh Quarry (U.K.); one of her poems was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2008. Sherry is among those who responded to the paintings of Vietnamese children in the Speak Peace exhibit, a mixture of art and poems, which has been showcased at various universities in the United States, England, and ultimately in Vietnam.

For more information on her book, please visit the [Richer Resources Publications](#).

## Memories from the Inaugural JASC: Jay Wilson meets Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1934



Jay Wilson was one of four students chosen from the University of Oregon to attend the first JASC in Japan in 1934. Recently Jay's son, Pat Wilson Charles, was cleaning out his closet when he came across an article written by his father, entitled "A Visit with Yosuke Matsuoka". The article describes Jay's meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Empire of Japan, [Yosuke Matsuoka](#), in Tokyo shortly after JASC. Read the full account of this remarkable story here at [http://media.iscdc.org/images/JASC1\\_Story.pdf](http://media.iscdc.org/images/JASC1_Story.pdf).

# JASCer Notes

**Leah Flake JASC 61, 62 (2009, 2010)** is currently working towards a Master's degree in Engineering and Public Policy at the University of Maryland. In January, Leah spent time in Japan visiting JASCers, and returned to D. C. to welcome new JASC PM and roommate Dan Jodarski to the area. Leah and Dan invite all JASCers to visit their new D. C. residence if anyone is in the area!

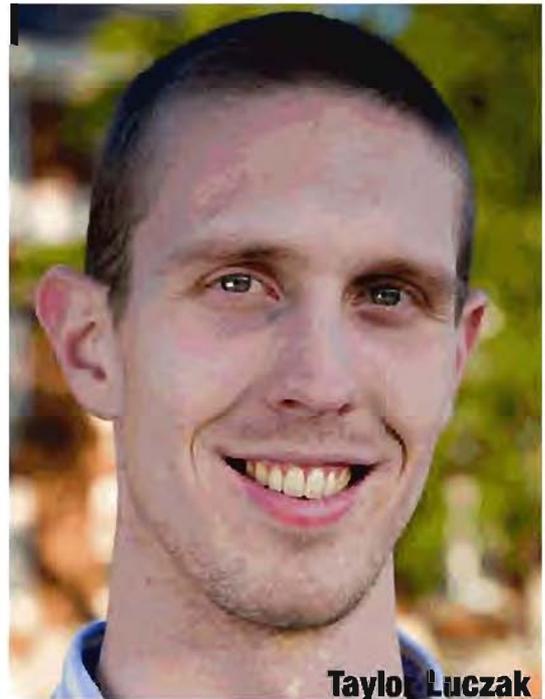
**Kira Bacal JASC 37 (1985)** now lives in Auckland, New Zealand, and recently moved to a new home surrounded by a nature preserve on 3 sides. She wakes up to beautiful native bird songs and has ferns that tower over her back yard. She enjoys this with her daughters - Harper who is 2, and Rowan who was just born on January 14, 2012. She says any JASCers from any year are more than welcome to visit!

**Robbi Miller Marmur JASC 47 (1995)** and Nathaniel Marmur welcomed a baby girl, Ellery Jessa, on August 27, 2011. Making a grand entrance, her arrival just happened to coincide with Hurricane Irene. She has begun attending the Yochi Yochi Japanese playgroup at the local YMCA, and her parents are proud to report that she speaks Japanese just as fluently as she does English!

**Todd Jay Leonard JASC 35 (1983)** was recently invited to teach in the graduate faculty in the English Department at Fukuoka University of Education, Kyushu. He is a tenured full-professor in the Education Faculty, teaching undergraduate courses in the International Language and Culture Section. For 20 years, Professor Leonard lived and taught in Hirosaki, Aomori-ken before accepting his current position in Kyushu in 2010. He has published numerous academic articles in the areas of language, culture and history and is the author of 20 books. His webpage is [www.toddjayleonard.com](http://www.toddjayleonard.com), and he can be reached by e-mail at [leonard@fukuoka-edu.ac.jp](mailto:leonard@fukuoka-edu.ac.jp).

**Robert Griffiths JASC 32 (1979)** is now serving as U.S. Consul General in Shanghai, China.

**Florence Maher JASC 57 (2005)** is now working in Monterrey, Mexico as a Foreign Service Officer at the US consulate. Any JASCers traveling to her corner of the world are welcome. Email: [florence.maher@gmail.com](mailto:florence.maher@gmail.com).



**Taylor Luczak**

**Taylor Luczak JASC 62 & 63 (2010 & 2011)** is currently finishing up at Mississippi State University and is planning to attend Indiana University in the fall in their Law & Democracy Program. Also, he is in the process of applying for the Rhodes Scholarship this fall. If awarded the scholarship, he would be in Oxford from the fall of 2013 through the spring of 2015. To prepare for that possibility he is taking classes at Oxford this summer. If anyone will be in England during May or June and wants to meet, let him know! Skype ([taylor.luczak](https://www.skype.com/user/taylor.luczak)).

**Sarah LeBaron von Baeyer JASC 55 (2003)** just spent eight months conducting dissertation research in Japan and is now headed to Brazil for the next leg of fieldwork (she is hoping to finish her PhD in 2014). If anyone is in Sao Paulo this year (March-December), please contact her. [sarah.lebaronvonbaeyer@yale.edu](mailto:sarah.lebaronvonbaeyer@yale.edu).

**Lynn Israel JASC 38 & 39 (1986 & 1987)** is one year into retirement as a former features editor and blogger on arts, family and religion at The Daily Tribune newspaper. He is training to become a master watchmaker and has a successful business selling vintage wristwatches. Lynn also is writing a novel, and is a caregiver and volunteer. Reach him at [hummelblue@netscape.net](mailto:hummelblue@netscape.net).

# JASCer Notes

**Nicholas David Perkel JASC 56 (2004)** has been focusing very strongly on his radio show and is hoping for employment in a music magazine in the coming year. He has had four of his interviews published on the heavy metal news site [blabbermouth.net](http://blabbermouth.net). In October of last year, he visited Texas, where he attended a concert by his favorite heavy metal band, Rigor Mortis, and conducted an on-site interview with the guitarist Mike Scaccia. You can read his interviews with musicians here: <http://soundcloud.com/japan-nick>.



Spencer and Sho Oscarson with JASCers and ISC Staff

**Spencer and Sho Oscarson** said goodbye to JASCers who gathered in Washington D.C. early February to bid farewell to former program manager Spencer Oscarson. He and his wife Sho are moving to Tokyo where Spencer will begin work as a management consultant. They are also expecting their first child, a girl, soon!

**Constantine Vaporis JASC 31 (1979)** just published a new book [\*Voice of Early Modern Japan\*](#) and this fall she became the Founding Director of Asian Studies at [UMBC](#).

**Ken Tadashi Oshima JASC 39 (1987)** has been in Tokyo as a Japan Foundation Fellow for the 2011-12 year on his sabbatical from the University of Washington researching his next book on "Metabolic Tokyo" and has just published the book *GLOBAL ENDS: Towards The Beginning* (Toto, 2012).

**Joyce Decker Wegner JASC 40 (1988)** will be traveling to several sites in Japan from March 17 to April 6, 2012 with her two grandsons. One of their stops will be Nagasaki where they hope to find the Memorial to Ranald MacDonald (1824-1892), who was

imprisoned in a shrine at Deshima for nearly a year in 1848. While there, he taught English to future Japanese reformers. That memorial is somewhere between Suwa and Matsu-no-mori Shrines, in a place called Daihan. They'd love some help with this from any JASCers in that area if they are available March 24 or 25. Also, if there are any JASCers who might like to meet with them in Tokyo, March 19 or March 20. You can contact Joyce through e-mail until March 16. ([giwegner@blackfoot.net](mailto:giwegner@blackfoot.net))

**Samantha Scully JASC 59 & 60 (2007 & 2008)** returned from JET last year and started her own consulting company called Dream Maker Consulting (website will be up soon). She is also the Director of Development at No Losing, an NPO based in Georgia that tours the country helping students become winners in life, and the Vice President of Goshop, a religious For-Profit business that uses art to minister to people. This year she became co-owner of Beautiful U Jewelry Inc. Last year, she moved to Georgia from New York. At the end of March she will visit NYC and hopes to meet up with JASCers (email: [sscullyiasc60@gmail.com](mailto:sscullyiasc60@gmail.com)). If anyone needs help creating or revamping their Non-Profit or For-Profit business, she's more than happy to lend a fellow JASCer a free helping hand. Also, if you ever are in Kyoto let her know, she has a directory of all the great restaurants, bars, and events online.

**Lauren Moss Showalter JASC 56 (2004)** and her husband, Will Showalter, recently had a baby! Her name is Kinsley Jane Showalter and she was born on January 11, 2012.

**Rajesh Krishnan JASC 44 (1992)** is working at Certain, Inc. in San Francisco. Also he welcomed a new baby last year. He and his wife recently met Sara Jobin (JASC 44) and sat down for some food and drinks.

**Earl Cook JASC 29 & 30 (1977 & 1978)** recently returned to Washington D.C. to work for the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development in the Office of Affordable Housing. He was born and raised in Prince George's County and graduated from the University of Maryland, so he feels it is good to be home!

# JASCer Notes Highlights



*JASCer (Yoko K) Performs at Kennedy Center*

On January 12, 2012, Yoko K, JASC 57 & 58 (2005 & 2006) performed in front of a packed house, including ISC staff, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Yoko was born and raised in Japan and classically trained in music since the age of three. Yoko learned to compose, arrange, mix, and perform electronic music in Washington D.C., where she currently resides. She is now working as an electronic musician, composer, producer, and vocalist. For more information about Yoko K, you can check out her official website, <http://aphrodizia.net/>.

Sarah Sze, JASC 41 & 42 (1989 & 1990) holds an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York and has exhibited her work in numerous international exhibitions in Kanazawa, Lyon, Venice, Melbourne, and Turin. Her notable solo exhibitions and projects include installations at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2003, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 2002, and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago in 1999. She is a 2003 MacArthur Fellow. Sarah is exhibiting her work at the Asia Society through March 25, 2012. For more information about Sarah and her work, you can visit her official website, <http://www.sarahsze.com/>.



*Sarah Sze/ Photograph by Sasha Nialla  
(<http://www.sashaniallalive.com/2010/08/art-auction-with-sarah-sze.html>)*

# Announcements



## JASC Welcomes New Program Manager Dan Jodarski

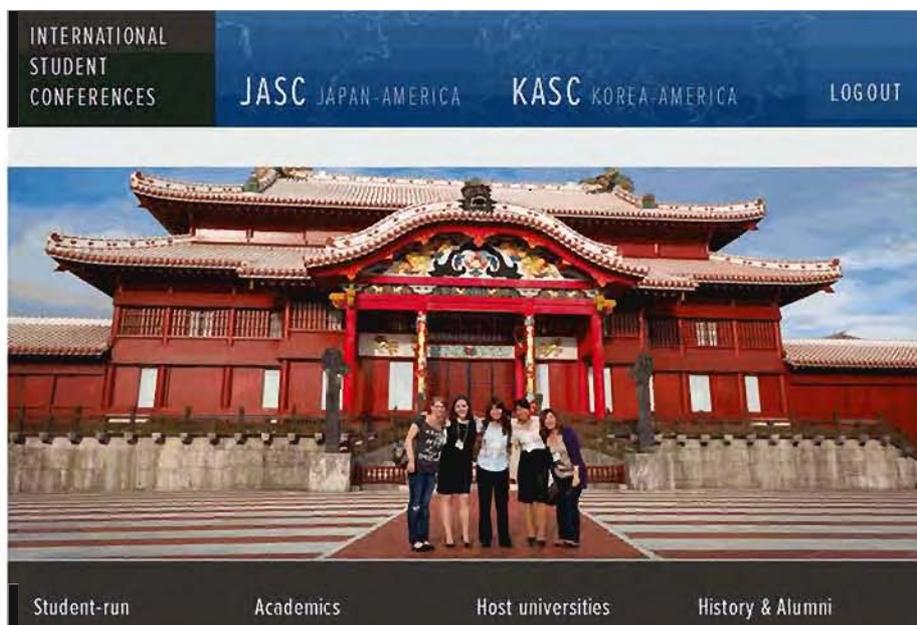
Dan Jodarski has joined ISC as the JASC program manager. Dan first became interested in Japan while living in an international dorm as an undergraduate. He spent a summer in Japan studying Japanese language and culture in Aomori, where he learned about JASC from an alumnus of the program. He later served as AEC Chair of JASC 63 (2011) and led JASC through a challenging period following the events of March 11, concluding with a successful and meaningful Conference in Japan.

Dan holds a B.S. in Economics with minors in Mathematics and International Studies from University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. He looks forward to his new role, providing support for participants and alumni of the JASC program.

## New Website Update

As you may have noticed, ISC has launched its redesigned website at [www.iscdc.org](http://www.iscdc.org). The new site features improved media as well as several new pages with information about past and current conferences.

When completed, the site will also function as a means to connect and involve alumni. The alumni portion of the site is still under construction and we will be in touch soon with information about this exciting new medium for connecting JASCers.





# JASC

Japan America Student Conference

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