

Greetings Mr. President, Hello Senator!

On April 1 Koji Murata (00) officially assumed his new role as President of his alma mater, Doshisha University. Founded in Kyoto in 1875, Doshisha is one of the leading private Japanese universities in Japan, with a student body of approximately 30,000. At the age of 48, Koji is one of Japan's top next-generation education leaders. Turn to page 2 to read a special Q&A with Koji about this exciting appointment.

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Koji Murata (00) is now "Mr. President" to all on campus at the prestigious Doshisha University in Kyoto.



Aaron Ford (12,13), left, shares a laugh with President Obama during his fall 2012 campaign for the Nevada State Senate. Congratulations to Aaron, USJLP's first senator!

This past November Aaron Ford (12,13) was elected to represent Nevada's 11th district, the Las Vegas area, in the state Senate. As a former teacher and coach, and a family man with three young boys, Aaron ran on a strong platform centering on investing in public schools and creating an environment that will nurture opportuni-

ties for the state's children. Now in his first term Aaron will be serving as Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, Vice Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. While serving his constituents Aaron continues to practice law as a partner at the Las Vegas firm Snell & Wilmer.

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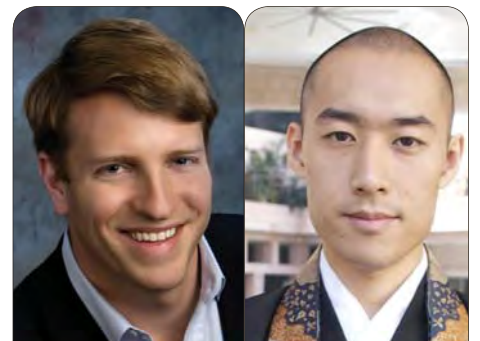
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USJLP Movers and Shakers Are Honored With "Young Global Leader" Status

Mark Vlastic (08,09) and Keisuke Matsumoto (11,12) have both been selected out of thousands of candidates by the World Economic Forum to be two of this year's 199 Young Global Leader honorees. Mark is a modern day polymath making a global impact via courtrooms, boardrooms and classrooms. Keisuke, a forerunner in temple management innovation, is using his MBA-generated ideas to revolutionize the way that modern Japanese interact with the Buddhist faith.



Mark Vlastic (08,09), left, and Keisuke Matsumoto (11,12), right, were honored in March by the World Economic Forum as Young Global Leaders.

Claire Chino (08,09) Breaks the Glass Ceiling in Her Industry

Claire Mitsuru Chino (08,09) made history on April 1st as she stepped into her new position as Executive Officer and General Manager of Itochu Corporation's legal division. Not only is Claire the first female to rise to an executive leadership position at Itochu, but she also has the distinction of being the youngest and first female executive at any major Japanese trading company.

After graduating from Cornell Law School, Claire became a partner at an American law firm before returning to Japan in 2000 to join Itochu. As Corporate Counsel for Itochu, Claire negotiated and supervised a wide breadth of multi-billion dollar, international projects and was instrumental in bridging the gender gap by being tapped early on to be part of Itochu's "Diversity Initiative" taskforce that worked to double



Claire Chino (08,09), the first female to ever rise to an Executive Officer position at a Japanese trading house!

the number of females in non-administrative positions in under five years.

Claire put her leadership skills to

work for the public sector when she helped establish Table for Two in 2006 and BEYOND Tomorrow in 2011. As many of you know, and may have even experienced, Claire also sings classical music semi-professionally. This past December she gave a recital at Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the proceeds of which were given to BEYOND Tomorrow.

Upon her recent appointment, Claire shared this message: "It is a tremendous privilege and honor to be appointed to this position. I believe what is important going forward is to have a calm state of mind. In order to achieve this, I believe that friends from outside my corporate life, such as those from the United States Japan Leadership Program, are so vital. I hope you will allow me to call upon you from time to time for your wisdom!"

Q&A with Doshisha University's New President Koji Murata (00)

Continued from cover page

USJLP: Congratulations on your appointment as the new President of Doshisha University. How do you feel and what are your thoughts as you assume the position?

Koji: Thank you very much. It will be great honor and challenge for me, indeed. I would like to do my best for my alma mater.

We understand that Doshisha's Founder Jo Nijjima had a strong will to internationalize then-closed Japan. Could you tell us about the uniqueness of Doshisha, and the university you would like Doshisha to become during your tenure?

Jo Nijjima was the first Japanese who graduated from a Western higher educational institution, Amherst College. He wanted to establish an Amherst College in Japan in order to "civilize" his country not only materially but also spiritually. Doshisha is a private, Christian university in a country where the ratio of Christian population is about 1% of en-

tire population. Diversity and tolerance to others are the most important values for us and I would like to promote these values further on our campus.

Could you tell us about the recent election process for presidency at Doshisha University? We understand that it is unique in utilizing the web.

My colleagues recommended that I run for the position to promote generational change in leadership. It was my idea to run my platform online for a more democratic and open election.

What kinds of changes do you envision during your tenure as President?

I would like to improve our university governance with better representation and efficiency and communications among the faculties, students, and graduates. Also, I would like to expand our international exchanges.

What are the expectations you have of Japanese students as they become

global leaders? What do you encourage in your students?

For becoming global leaders, you must learn about good followership in advance. In this sense, local viewpoints and citizenship education are of great value for global leadership, I believe.

What role does Doshisha University play in the national context, given its location in Kyoto?

In order to promote diversity and tolerance in Japanese society, we have to develop cooperation with local governing bodies and business and cultural communities in Kyoto. Also, we would like to promote academic and cultural ties with non-capital cities in the world, and facilitate religious dialogues among Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

Lastly, what message do you have for your fellow USJLPers?

Please come to Kyoto and visit Doshisha!

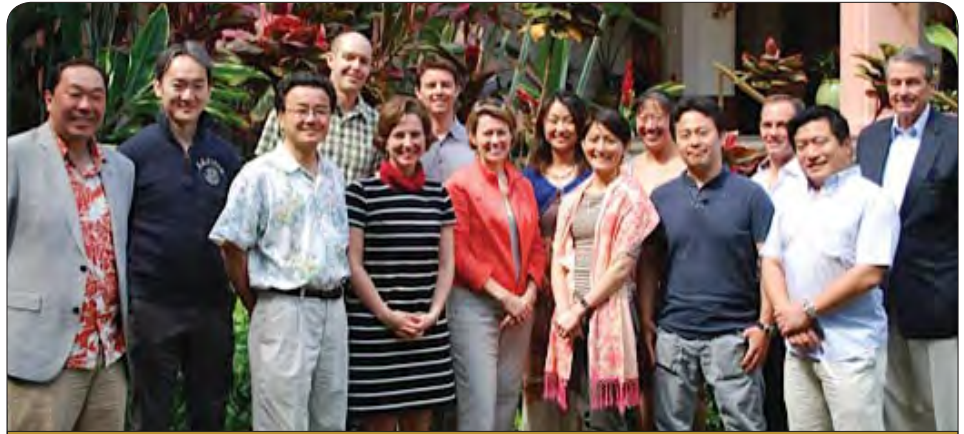
Report from the Executive Committee

By Kota Yamaguchi (07,10)

The Executive Committee (EC) met on February 8 and 9, 2013 at Royal Hawaiian Hotel in Honolulu. The EC first discussed the selection of the delegates for the 2013 program. The discussion extended to how to improve the quality of the applicants, and we agreed that it could be an excellent idea to provide the upcoming generation of leaders with opportunities to gain exposure to the Program by, for example, inviting them to a certain events during the Program.

Then, after approval of the 2012 meeting minutes, the committee went on to discuss the need to amend the USJLP bylaws in order to reflect its current structure, especially with regard to the entries on subcommittees and appointments.

The next topic was the renewal of USJLP's website. We had a preview of



EC members came together in Honolulu on February 8 and 9 to select the 2013 class and discuss Program matters. Pictured from left to right: Toshi Minohara (04,07), Kota Yamaguchi (07,10), Tomo Shinoda (00), Tim Punke (02,05), Kathleen Motzenbecker (08,09), Tom Prata (05,06), Heidi Brock (05,08), Nobuko Kato (05,06), Keiko Inoue (03,04), May Llang (04,05), Ken Yagi (08,09), Brent Sadler (07,10), Hideo Ohashi (08,09), George Packard (USJF).

the new website, which was made by the great effort of the USJLP secretariats. We thanked them for their tremendous work and made some comments to improve the site. (As you know, the new site has now launched to both the public and Fellows.)

The group then had a brainstorming session on how to improve the upcoming Programs in 2013 and 2014, includ-

ing sites to visit and speakers to invite at Fellows' Weekend.

Lastly, the group heard the latest Capital Campaign reports. We all agreed that the progress is satisfactory so far thanks to Fellows' support, but that more effort must be made in order to reach our fundraising goals.

Tokyo Benkyokai Focuses on Elections, Brings in USJLP Experts

By Hideo Ohashi (08,09)

For the past several years, USJLPers in Tokyo have gotten together a few times a year to hold a Benkyo-kai (study group session) on timely topics. Around 25 USJLPers gathered on January 31 for this year's first benkyokai held at, thanks to **Andrew Winden (00,01)**, Morrison Foerster's office in Marunouchi. Since it was just after the elections in both the US and Japan, I decided to this would be a topical theme for discussion.

Two panelists were from the House of Representatives: **Taro Kono (00)** from the LDP and **Motohisa Furukawa (05,06)** from the DPJ, and two from academia: **Toshihiro Nakayama (09,10)** and **Ryo Sakashi (10,11)**.

During the first half of the session, Toshihiko and Ryo discussed the results from the U.S. presidential election, the future of the Republican party, new U.S. diplomatic policy, national security

and the U.S.-Japan relationship. In the latter half, Mr. Kono and Mr. Furukawa discussed their analyses of the Japanese general election result and the current political situation including the revitalized LDP and the DPJ's loss of power.

The topics were discussed on an off-the-record basis and can not be elaborated on in this report, however, if there are any USJLPers who would like to know more please join the next Benkyokai (maybe in September or October)!

As the number of Scott Johnson Fellows is now close to 300 people, it is becoming more and more difficult to get to know fellows from other classes. Events like these Benkyo-kais are an important opportunity and forum for Fellows to coningle and exchange ideas with Fellows from different classes. We look forward to seeing more of you at future Benkyo-kais!



Panelists at the January 2013 election-themed benkyokai in Tokyo, from left to right: Taro Kono (00), Motohisa Furukawa (05,06), Toshihiro Nakayama (09,10) and Ryo Sahashi (10,11).

Welcome 2013 First Year Delegates!



Benjamin Allen President, Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education (Santa Monica, CA)

"I'm so excited to have been chosen to participate with USJLP. It will be an exciting and fascinating opportunity to interact with an accomplished group of peers while we grapple with the most important issues facing the vital US-Japan relationship. I really appreciate the hard work and support that has made this program possible!"

John Eligon Kansas City Correspondent, *The New York Times* (Kansas City, MO)

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to experience and learn about a different culture with like-minded, bright, young leaders. And being a foodie, I must admit that my stomach is already growling for new culinary adventures."



Tomo Honda Member, Fukushima General Parliament, Fukushima Government (Fukushima)

"I feel privileged to be part of USJLP. In a way, I feel that my student days in US (1993-1997) made me what I am now. As

a current Fukushima Government Official, I would like to thank all the support from the U.S. to my homeland throughout this difficult time."

Rui Kotani Specialist, Environment and Energy, Research and Development Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Tokyo)

"In today's world, every issue and every player is entangled in complicated ways. I believe in building bridges between a wide variety of issues and the isolated groups behind each of them, which is why I am truly excited to get to know USJLPers from all different fields."



Lawrence Cann Founder and CEO, Street Soccer USA (New York, NY)

"It's long been my intention to find ways to connect meaningfully back to Japan and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to be

part of this network. I look forward to connecting (and hopefully finding ways to collaborate) with everyone and doing my part help the network achieve its goals."

Takayuki Hayakawa Executive Producer and Deputy Director, Media Planning and Business Division, Fuji Media Holdings (Tokyo)

"I'm delighted to be a part of the US-Japan Leadership Program, and looking forward to meeting you all."



Mark Keegan Manager, Investor Relations Mitsubishi Corp. (Tokyo)

"Margaret Mead said, 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.' USJLP

is an opportunity to pool our diverse strengths for the betterment of international relations and I am honored to share the table with such an accomplished group of leaders."

Naoko Kumagai Assistant Professor, International University of Japan (Niigata)

"As a Delegate this year, I look forward to serving as a new communication channel of honest and respectful dialogue between Japan and the United States."





Westley Moore
CEO, FrontCort
(Baltimore, MD)

“It is an honor to be counted among this year’s USJLP delegates, and I look forward to the opportunity to learn and share with them, not only discussing

how Japan and the United States can grow its relationship through diplomacy and commerce, but also what we can share of each other’s cultures.”

Julia Neshiwat
Deputy Assistant Secretary,
U.S. Department of State
(Washington, DC)



“It is an honor to join USJLP at a time when the US and Japan are at the forefront of global economic security. I look forward to building relationships with new friends.”



BT Slingsby
Executive Director & CEO
Global Health Innovative
Technology Fund
(Tokyo)

“This is an opportunity to meet new friends, colleagues, and mentors who can create change globally and further strengthen the liaison between the U.S. and Japan.”

ally and further strengthen the liaison between the U.S. and Japan.”

Minami Tsubouchi
Executive Director, BEYOND
Tomorrow, Global Fund for
Education Assistance (Tokyo)



“I am honored to join the distinguished group of the USJLP participants. I am looking forward to the experience of learning from other participants’ activities and broadening my own perspectives through dialogue.”



Yo Nagami
Senior Associate, Carlyle
Group (Tokyo)

“Through participation in the USJLP conferences and involvement in its community, I hope to nurture my leadership and network to advance the Japanese private equity industry. Also, the USJLP

is the best way for me to share my experiences and ideas in private equity, and to discuss how the U.S. and Japan can leverage and learn from private equity for their mutual growth.”

Minoru Shiraishi
Staff Officer, International
Security Cooperation &
Policy Office, Policy and
Programs Division, Policy
and Programs Department,
Ground Staff Office, Ministry
of Defense (Tokyo)



Keisuke Suzuki
Member, House of
Representatives (Tokyo)



“It is a great pleasure for me to be a participant of USJLP this year. By joining this program, I want to become one of the “next-generation” leaders that can strengthen

the bilateral relationship between Japan and the U.S. in both context of politics and grass-rooted human relations.”

Yasumasa Yamamoto
Industry Analyst, Google
(Tokyo)

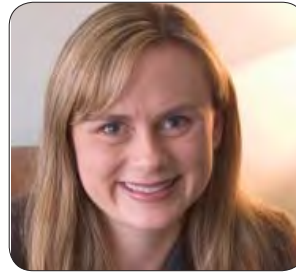


“I am honored to contribute to the USJLP community with my diversified experience. I am looking forward to sharing passion with all the USJLP Delegates and Fellows.”

First year Delegates will join returning Delegates (next pages) at the 2013 Japan Conference.



David Abraham
(2012)
Chief Executive Officer
ClearWater Initiative
(New York, NY)



Annalisa Barrett
(2010)
Lecturer in Finance
University of San Diego
(San Diego, CA)



C.B. Cain
(2012)
Lieutenant Colonel
United States Air Force
(Edwards, CA)



Jason Edgar
(2012)
Assistant Vice President
Office of the CEO
MetLife
(New York, NY)



Aaron Ford
(2012)
Nevada State Senator;
Partner, Snell & Wilmer LLP
(Las Vegas, NV)



Nicole Gibbs
(2012)
Independent Artist;
Archivist, Ann Hamilton
Studio; Instructor, Columbus
College of Art & Design
(Columbus, OH)



Tomohito Ihara
(2008)
General Manager
Green Earth Institute Co.,
Ltd. (Tokyo)



Ren Ito
(2012)
Advisor to the Executive
Director
The World Bank
(Washington, DC)



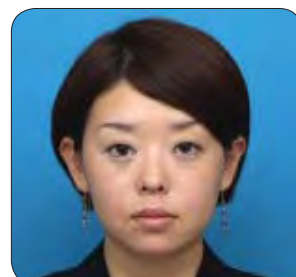
Osamu Kaneda
(2012)
Chief Executive Officer
Yo-ren Ltd.
(Shanghai, China)



Kentaro Katayama
(2012)
Deputy Director, Ministry of
Finance; currently seconded
to the International
Monetary Fund
(Washington, DC)



Kei Kitazawa
(2012)
Fellow
Rebuild Japan
Initiative Foundation
(Tokyo)



Takako Kubo
(2012)
Assistant Manager, Overseas
External Affairs Division
Toyota Motor Corporation
(Tokyo)

Erik Leklem
(2012)

Senior Advisor
Global Defense Reform
U.S. Office of the Secretary of
Defense (Policy)
(Washington, DC)



Benjamin Mazzotta
(2012)

Postdoctoral Research
Fellow for Inclusive Growth,
Center for Emerging Market
Enterprises, Tufts University
(Cambridge, MA)



Satoru Mori
(2012)

Professor, Hosei University;
Visiting Scholar at George
Washington University El-
liott School of International
Affairs [June '13 - March '15]
(Tokyo/Washington, DC)



Gohei Nishikawa
(2012)

Pianist;
Director, Greenwich Inter-
national Conservatory of
Music, JHC Foundation
(New York, NY)



Glenn Perkins
(2012)

Publisher, NEIGHBORISTA!
Freelance Writer
(Greensboro, NC)



Lori Otto Punke
(2012)

Director
Government Affairs
Starbucks Coffee Company
(Seattle, WA)



Debby Saito
(2012)

Senior Bank Examiner
Federal Reserve Bank
of New York
(New York, NY)



Keisuke Shirai
(2012)

Assistant Professor
Medical University of
South Carolina
(Charleston, SC)



Travis Sullivan
(2012)

Vice President, Strategy and
Business Capture
Boeing Defense, Space and
Security
(Washington, DC)



Kazuo Tase
(2010)

Acting Director
UN Information Center
(Islamabad, Pakistan)



Masaru Tsuchiya
(2012)

Vice President and
Co-Founder
SiEnergy Systems
(Brookline, MA)



Sarah White
(2010)

Visual Artist
(Durham, NC)



News & Updates

Mark Alexander (05,06)

Mark continues a strong campaign for New Jersey's 34th district (Essex County) seat in the state senate. Mark is running in the June 4, 2013 Democratic Primary against incumbent Senator Nia Gill. *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Star Ledger*, and the Huffington Post have all profiled the race. U.S. Senator Chris Coons and former White House Counsel Greg Craig generously hosted fundraisers in Washington D.C., and former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley has endorsed Mark as well. Follow Mark's progress at VoteMarkAlexander.com.

Yuka (Uchida) Ando (03,04)

Yuka and Toshi Ando had a wedding banquet in Tokyo on November 9, 2012 at the I-House, one of Yuka's grandfather's favorite venues. Toshi was assigned a new position last fall and the couple moved from Washington, D.C. to their new home in Singapore. They would love to welcome USJLP visitors to that part of the world.

Rachel Brunette-Chen (06,07)

This summer I'll complete my assignment as the Deputy in the Political-Military Affairs Unit at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. We'll sincerely miss our wonderful colleagues and friends, our weekend trips to the mountains, and the ease of daily life in one of the world's greatest cities. Our daughter, Erika, was born in Tokyo during our assignment,



Erika Chen learning about sea life during the Brunette-Chen's winter 2012 trip to the aquarium in Okinawa.

On November 9, 2012 Tokyo USJLPers were able to give a big "omedetou!" to the newly weds Yuka Uchida (03,04) and Toshi Ando.

Back row, left to right: Laura Abbot (11,12), Toshihide Ando, Yuka Ando, Akira Yoshida (05,06), Motohisa Furukawa (05,06), Keiichiro Asao (01,02), Mika Ohbayashi (05,06), Sohen Yamada (06,07), Hidetoshi Shibata (05,06)
Front, left to right: Yuuko Itzuka (00,09), Hideo Ohashi (08,09), Ryo Sahashi (10,11).



and she will most certainly miss the *konbu*, *nori*, and *hijiki* that complement her daily lunches. Our next assignment will take us to London, where my husband will work at the Embassy, and I'll take a leave of absence from the State Department to be a stay-at-home "mum" (although I can't imagine I'll be staying at home a whole lot in a city like London). I never expected in a million years that I'd exchange cable drafting and attending meetings for drawing pictures and arranging play dates, but I couldn't be more excited about this opportunity to further bond with my daughter while she still thinks I'm a cool and hip person. We're hopeful that we'll have many visitors, so please stop by our place for scones and tea if your travels take you to London! Cheers!

Kenn Cukier (09,10)

Kenn has co-authored a new book published this March called *Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work, and Think* that explains why the big data revolution is on par with the Internet (or perhaps even the printing press); how it will change the way we think about business, health, politics, education, and innovation; and how we can protect ourselves



from its hazards, from the end of privacy as we know it to the prospect of being penalized for things we haven't even done, based on big data's ability to predict our behavior.



On October 15, 2012 pianist Gohei Nishikawa (12,13) performed at Gracie Mansion, the residence of the Mayor in New York City, at an event hosted by the Bauckmann-Strauss Dystonia & Parkinson Disease Foundation. Above Gohei stands with Foundation Founder and President, Bonnie Strauss (on right).

Jason Edgar (12,13)

After seven years as a congressional aide in Washington, D.C., I moved to New York City this past fall to work for the CEO of MetLife. The U.S. and Japan are MetLife's leading markets, and I am enjoying the opportunity to follow developments in Japan from a new perspective.

Kate Hardin (03,06)

Kate sends a warm hello to USJLP friends from snowy Boston, where 25

inches of snow blanketed the city in late February. Kate is still at IHS CERA working on energy issues, and her two children (8 and 5) are finally in the same school and on the same schedule which is logistically wonderful. Kate and her family saw Tina Choi (03,04) and Christine Pilcavage (06,07) last month. Tina has moved to a new house outside of Boston and we all gathered with our families to eat well while the children played together.



Keiko Ihara (11,12), right, at the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile HQ in Paris, with the Women & Motorsport Commission President Michèle Mouton (center) and WMC Ambassador Susie Wolff (left).

Keiko Ihara (11,12)

Japanese high school text books for social studies and home economics issued this year will carry excerpts of a newspaper article written by **Yu Miyaji (10, 11)** to exemplify Keiko as someone striving in their work to go beyond the gender barrier. The original newspaper article was printed in the *Asahi GLOBE* dated February 9, 2012.

Keiko has also been appointed the first Asia Representative of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile's Women in Motorsport Commission and will assume the position of Special Visiting Associate Professor at Graduate School of Media Design, Keio University (Tokyo) in the 2013 academic year, where she will study and promote private-public initiatives in electric vehicles and urban planning.

Lolita Jackson (10,11)

This past December I was named a director of the NYC Special Initiative

for Rebuilding & Resiliency, a mayoral group tasked with producing a report that will outline ways for NYC to become more resilient in the future to deal with the effects of severe weather events and climate change. I am responsible for all outreach and communications, and am proud to be associated with such an important project.

Taka Kawakami (08,09)

In addition to my Zen meditation classes in English and co-organizing study abroad programs with U.S. universities, I opened a brand new temple accommodation facility on December 10th, 2012. My temple accommodation (*shukubo*) is the first one in Kyoto specializing in welcoming foreign visitors in Kyoto.

Leo Kosinski (05,08)

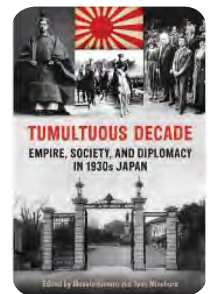
I have recently been selected as the next vice wing commander of Travis Air Force Base in Northern California. The base operates C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft and KC-10 Extender refueling aircraft as well as the 2nd largest hospital in the Air Force. The base also handles more cargo and passengers than any other military air terminal in the United States. Travis AFB is about 30 minutes from Napa Valley and about one hour from San Francisco or Sacramento. If you happen to be in the area after June 30th, please let me know and I'd be happy to give you a tour of the base and aircraft.



On December 2, 2012 Claire Chino (08,09; center), the "singing lawyer" performed at Suntory Hall in Tokyo. USJLPers Saiko Sugiyama (07,08), left, and Eriko Sase (08,09), right, were in attendance.

Tosh Minohara (04,07)

Tosh has co-edited the book *Tumultuous Decade: Empire, Society, and Diplomacy in 1930s Japan*, published in March 2013. Featuring an interdisciplinary and international group of scholars, *Tumultuous Decade* examines Japanese domestic and foreign affairs between 1931 and 1941. It looks at Japan in the context of changing approaches to global governance, the rise of the League of Nations, and attempts to understand the Japanese worldview as it stood in the 1930s, a crucial period for Japan and the wider world.



Yu Miyaji (10,11)

Yu and Jan Lammerding were married on May 13, 2013 in Tokyo. Yu and Jan



USJLPers came out to help ring the wedding bells for Yu Miyaji (10,11; center right) and Jan Lammerding (center left) on May 13, 2013 in Tokyo. USJLP family included, from left to right: Keiko Ihara (11,12; seated) and her spouse Gen Motojima, (standing rear), Kota Yamaguchi (07,10), Daisuke Iwase (11) and Akihisa Shiozaki (10,11).



In the largest known gathering of USJLP Fellows in the southern hemisphere, Koichi Sughimoto (10,11) and Lawrence Molloy (04,05) gathered for "Shrimp on the Barbie." Miyuki Yoshida (06,07) coordinated on the introduction. "You both are in Melbourne, and you are both very nice," she said.

first met as exchange students at Dartmouth College in 1996 and began dating in 2000, when Yu was pursuing a Master's degree in Political Science at Columbia University as part of a Fulbright Fellowship and Jan was working towards a PhD in Bioengineering at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology. Jan is originally from Germany and currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Yu and Jan frequently travel back and forth between Tokyo and Ithaca. They enjoy hiking, scuba diving, and exploring new places, or just kicking back and relaxing at home with a good book.

Lawrence Molloy (04,05)

Lawrence is now the Managing Director, Secretary and a shareholder in the newly registered Australian Company: The Heat Needle Pty Ltd. Capitalizing on new IP, the company is commercializing a 1 metre long needle probe capable of detecting gold, uranium, groundwater and geothermal resources deep within the earth's surface. They have just finished proving out the technology and are now starting the ever elusive hunt for capital to build the company.

Kathleen Motzenbecker (08,09)

I am happy to announce my new position as Executive Director, Minnesota Trade Office and Senior Advisor for International Affairs, working with our Governor Mark Dayton! I start in mid-March and will manage a 12 person staff of international trade experts. The new offices are based in St. Paul, our state capitol, so I am looking forward to getting to know the "other Twin City!"

Satoshi Okada (03,04)

From October 17-23, 2012, Architect Satoshi Okada was invited as a Visiting Professor to teach Architectural Design for the workshop studio at Ajman Uni-



Yayoi Shionoiri (10,11) shows off the original piece of Gutai artwork on a \$1 postcard from the "Gutai Card Box" at the Guggenheim's retrospective on the groundbreaking Japanese art movement.

versity of Science & Technology, UAE. The topic was "Thinking of Shadow."

Yayoi Shionoiri (10,11)

I served as legal counsel for *Gutai: Splendid Playground*, a retrospective of the Japanese Gutai art movement, on view until May 8, 2013 at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. This exhibition has been supported by the US-Japan Foundation, and I would like to thank George and David for their continued support of Japanese arts and culture in New York. I would also like to thank **James Kondo (05,06)**, who orchestrated the connection with Ashinaga, a Japanese charity building a care center for Tohoku orphans, to which the Guggenheim will donate proceeds from one of the art pieces, Gutai Card Box (an interactive vending machine that sells original \$1 postcards). With a NY-based USJLP Fellows visit planned for late-April, I look forward to seeing everyone at the exhibition!

Takashi Sakamoto (01,02)

My newspaper, the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, became the official partner of Tokyo's bid to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games at the end of last year. I have been closely watching the selection process by the IOC as Deputy Managing Editor in charge of the Olympics coverage. Tokyo lost the last bid for 2016 Games. I am hopeful that the IOC will select Tokyo and make me busier.



On March 2, USJLPers, along with family and friends gathered at Hakkaisan brewery in Niigata for a private tour and party hosted by Hakkaisan president Jiro Nagumo's home. Mr. Nagumo is a long-time friend of Tomohito Shinoda (00). Nearly 20 USJLPers enjoyed Niigata local food and Mr. Nagumo's private reserve sake, which is not available commercially.

Front row, left to right: Daisuke Takatsuki (09,10), Tomohito Shinoda (00), Jiro Nagumo, Satoshi Ikeuchi (06,07), Naoko Odaka (03,04) with Mari Ikeuchi, Saiko Sugiyama (07,08) with Inaho. 2nd row, left to right: Yuuko Iizuka (00,09), Keiko Ihara (11,12), non-USJLPer (Nori Shikata's wife?), Moriyasu Ito (05,06); back row: Kozue Yamaguchi with Takayoshi, Kota Yamaguchi (07,10) with Ikuko, Hideo Ohashi (08,09), Ganesh Mochida (09,10), Masahiro Hayafuji (01,02), Kaori Kono, Hidetoshi Shibata (05,06), Ryo Sahashi (01,11)



Erik Leklem became engaged to Morgan Courtney during an October 2012 trip to Europe. Pictured here, they practice playing the parts of Mr. and Mrs.!

Tomohito Shinoda (00)

My book, *Contemporary Japanese Politics: Institutional Changes and Power Shift*, will be published this summer by Columbia University Press. It is identified by the press as a successor of Prof. Gerald Curtis' long-time seller, *The Logic of Japanese Politics*. The book analyzes institutional changes introduced in the 1990s



which fundamentally altered Japan's modern political landscape, in the operation of and tensions between Japan's political parties and the public's behavior in Japanese elections, as well as in the government's ability to coordinate diverse policy preferences and respond to political crises.

Miyuki Yoshida (06,07)

Along with **Lynn Hashimoto (06,07)**, I was a member of the US-Japan Council 2012 Annual Conference Seattle Host Committee. I am also a member of US-JC's Clean Energy Strategic Working Group and am interested in promoting US-Japan geothermal energy relations. In addition, I have been appointed to the Oregon Governor's Tsunami Debris Task Force, created to focus state efforts on marine debris washing ashore from Japan's March 2011 tsunami.

Spotlight On: Our Growing USJLP Family!

Laura Winthrop Abbot (11,12) and Spencer Abbot (10,11)

Laura and Spencer recently shared the happy news of the arrival of a daughter, Eloise Arabella Abbot, born at Aiiku Hospital in Minami Azabu, Tokyo on December 12th, 2012.



Laura (11,12) and Spencer (10,11) Abbot celebrate the season with Yumiko Kusakabe (11,12) and their very special holiday delivery, baby Eloise Arabella.

John Blake (10,11)

John and Christine Blake were thrilled to welcome the newest member of their family on October 20, 2012. Sophie Knowles Chang Blake arrived a healthy 8 lbs 1.6 oz. John, Chris, Noah (10) and Avery (6) are all getting used to their new boss.



The "new boss" is in town - welcome Sophie Knowles Chang Blake!

Keisuke Matsumoto (11,12)

Last year on December 5th, our baby was born in Kyoto. Thank Buddha, she was a girl. We are very happy. Now I am a father of two kids: a boy, Kohga and girl, Kyoki, and they keep me very busy. If you have a chance to visit Kyoto, please let us know.



Koyuki Matsumoto is warmly welcomed by her big brother Kohga (4). See you both in 2040!

Ben Mazzotta (12,13)

Ben, Christiana Russ and big sister Emery Irene welcomed Colin Edward Mazzotta into the world on February 11, at 7 lbs 9 oz (3.4 kg) and 19.5 inches (50 cm). Colin and his mother are both in perfect health. Emery gives Colin kisses and talks about how her dolls need bottles and diapers. We are wishing lots of joy to the rest of the USJLP family.

Kota Yamaguchi (07,10)

We've got a lovely baby boy on December 2, 2012. He's name is Takayoshi, and he is already telling us that he can't wait to be a USJLP Fellow!



Two little future USJLPers: Colin Edward Mazzotta (above) and Takayoshi Yamaguchi (below).



Upcoming USJLP Gatherings

New York Pre-Conference Gathering
Tuesday, June 11, 2013
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
417 Park Avenue

D.C. Pre-Conference Gathering
Thursday, June 13, 2013
Details TBA

Tokyo Pre-Conference Gathering
Thursday, June 13, 2013
7:00 p.m.
International House of Japan, Roppongi

SAVE THE DATES!

USJLP THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Kyoto and Tokyo

*Sunday, July 21 -
Sunday, July 28, 2013*

FELLOWS WEEKEND
*Friday, July 26 -
Sunday, July 28, 2013*

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Stay Connected on USJLP.org

We are proud to announce the launch of the all-new USJLP website (usjlp.org), redesigned with a fresh new look, navigation, content and resources!



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The Program will transition from paper to online news in the near future. Keep up with the latest from USJLP by subscribing to our online mailing list via our homepage.

MEMBERS

With our exclusive members-only site, it is now easier than ever before to stay connected and maximize the benefits of our diverse and growing network. If you have not yet connected to the new site, please contact us at info@usjlp.org for assistance.