

# IUC Autumn 2016 Newsletter

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## IUC Web Links

Stay in touch with your former classmates and keep up with the latest happenings at the Center. Connect with IUC on Facebook and add us to your profile on LinkedIn!

- **IUC Website**
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## A Note from the Executive Director

This past June, I skipped graduation festivities at my home institution, Stanford University, to attend the IUC year-end *happyokai* (student presentations) and graduation ceremonies. What a privilege and joy it was to see what students are able to do at the end of their year at the IUC! It was also wonderful to see so many IUC alumni and supporters at these year-end events. If you have not yet participated, I encourage you to do so and guarantee that you will be just as inspired as I was.

IUC alumni are another source of inspiration that makes me grateful to be able to serve this venerable institution. On that point, I am delighted to report that Gerald L. Curtis (IUC '65, Burgess Professor of Emeritus of Political Science, Columbia University) has generously agreed to serve as Senior Advisor to the IUC. He has also donated his collection of Japanese books to the IUC, and we are deeply honored to become home to the Gerald L. Curtis collection. Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for pictures and more details about the collection. Thank you, Gerry!

*Indra Levy*

Executive Director, IUC

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## Greetings from the Resident Director

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Yokohama! The current ten-month program is already well underway, with students beginning their second term on November 6 after a brief autumn vacation. The class of 2016-17, like those in previous years, is a strong one, and it is a real pleasure to see the students conversing in Japanese in the hallways between class and otherwise making the most of the opportunities offered by the IUC. As someone who served as IUC Resident Director in the 1990s, one thing that has struck me is the diversity of the current student body. Now as then, it is an honor to be able to associate with so many bright young people and to observe their progress in mastering Japanese.

With very best wishes to all for the upcoming fall months,

***Bruce Batten***

Resident Director, IUC (Yokohama)



Class of 2016-2017

## The Nippon Foundation Fellows at the IUC

We are deeply grateful for support from The Nippon Foundation, which allows graduate students with Japan-focused careers to benefit from IUC training and to engage in rigorous intellectual exchange amongst themselves as well as with IUC alumni and experts in Japan. A conferment ceremony was held at the Nippon Foundation on October 3 for the twenty Nippon Foundation Fellows currently studying at the IUC. One of them, Sean Forté, a Ph.D. candidate in linguistics at

the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, gave a presentation in Japanese on his research. All the Fellows had an opportunity to meet with Chairman Yosuke Sasakawa and other officers of the Foundation, as well as with IUC Senior Advisor Gerald L. Curtis.



**2016-17 Nippon Foundation Fellows with Chairman Yohei Sasakawa and Dr. Gerald Curtis**



**Sean Forté (IUC '17)**

## IUC Extracurriculars: Calligraphy

IUC students have the option of participating in a calligraphy class in addition to language classes. This year's calligraphy class, taught by Hiroko Kobayashi, takes place once a week on Monday afternoons. Recently students have been practicing the basic strokes of calligraphy as well as kanji representing their names.



**IUC students have the option of participating in calligraphy class in addition to language classes**



**Camille Priebe (IUC '17) in calligraphy class**

## Alumni News

**A note from IUC Leadership Board member Oliver Chubb ('89):** Starting this academic year, we will get 2 newsletters out each year: one in late autumn after Thanksgiving and one after the IUC happyokai in May. As you can see below, we are also adding a section for alumni news and trying to strengthen our alumni network in general. If you have any news for the next newsletter, please share at [alum@iucjapan.org](mailto:alum@iucjapan.org); if you have any ideas to connect IUC Alums, feel free send them to me, **Oliver Chubb ('89)**, at [chubb@iucjapan.org](mailto:chubb@iucjapan.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

**Susan J. Pharr (IUC '71)** received the 2016 Japan Foundation Award on October 18 in recognition of her many contributions to promoting international understanding, especially between Japan and the U.S. Dr. Pharr has been a leader in Japanese studies in the United States for many years, mainly at Harvard University where she is currently Reischauer Professor of Japanese Politics and Director of the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. She has also worked to deepen intellectual exchanges between Japan and the U.S. through her service on the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, the U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), and other forums. The Japan Foundation Award is a fitting tribute to Professor Pharr's distinguished career and outstanding personal qualities. Congratulations to Susan!



**Susan J. Pharr received the Japan Foundation Award on October 18th**

**Stephen Alpert's (IUC '79)** book *Wagahai wa gaijin de aru: Jiburi wo Sekai ni utta otoko*, with translation by Atsuko Sakurauchi, was released on September 15th by Iwanami Shoten. An American animator and former Disney executive who headed the overseas division of Studio Ghibli from 2000 to 2011, Stephen is now semi-retired. Although he was not born in Japan, throughout his career Stephen advocated for the “*nihonrashisa*” of Ghibli movies and was instrumental in elevating the popularity of Ghibli films overseas.



**Right: *Wagahai wa gaijin de aru* by Stephen Alpert**



**Jason P. Hyland** (IUC '79), Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, participated in the annual “Japan through Diplomats’ Eyes” photo exhibition, which features the dynamic photo below taken in Asakusa. The show opened in Tokyo and will be traveling throughout Japan. (<http://www.diplomatseyes.com/>). Jason received a “Special Mention” for his photography. Thanks for sharing, Jason!

**Left: Jason Hyland’s photo received a “Special Mention” at the “Japan Through Diplomats’ Eyes” photo exhibition**

**Laurence W. Bates** (IUC ‘85) participated in a November panel co-hosted by Women in Law Japan (WILJ) and Japan In-house Lawyers Association (JILA), on the topic of General Counsels (GC) and Chief Legal Officers in Japanese publicly-listed companies. Larry noted in his remarks that when he first joined GE Medical Systems Asia in Japan as GC 25 years ago, there were no other lawyers in GE in Japan, and very few to be found in any other companies in Japan, either Japanese or foreign-owned. Today, JILA has 1300 members (40 percent women). Larry is Senior Managing Director, Executive Officer and Chief Legal Officer of LIXIL Group Corporation, prior to which he had a 22-year career at GE, mostly in Japan. He also served as President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan during 2013.

**Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu’s** (IUC ‘88) new book *Mindfulness Classroom*, with translation by Sumiko Sakai, was published by Kodansha and released on June 29th. *Mindfulness Classroom* explores the practice of mindfulness education that Dr. Murphy-Shigematsu pioneered at Stanford University, where he works as a consulting professor at the School of Medicine and the Center for Comparative Studies of Race and Ethnicity.



**Right: *Mindfulness Classroom* by Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu**

**Rachel Brunette-Chen (IUC '02)** began her assignment as Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Sapporo in August. Rachel graduated from IUC in 2002 after her attaining her master's in East Asian Studies at Stanford University. She then joined the Foreign Service and completed assignments in Taipei; Washington, D.C.; Beijing before returning to Japan, where worked for a year at the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo as part of a one-year diplomatic exchange fellowship. She was then assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo as Deputy Director of the Political and Military Affairs Unit. Congratulations to Rachel on her new post in Sapporo!



**Left: Principal Officer Rachel Brunette-Chen (IUC '02) (left) and her colleague at the United States Consulate General in Sapporo, Public Affairs Officer Harvey Beasley (IUC '07)**

**Angel Acosta (IUC '16)** is now working as an analyst for Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation in New York, alongside fellow alumnus Brett Buzzini (IUC summer '05). SMBC Global Foundation provided scholarship funds that enabled Angel to attend the IUC. We are delighted by this example of how IUC training benefits both our students and our sponsors!



**Right: Angel Acosta (IUC '16) (right) and colleague Brett Buzzini (IUC summer '05) at SMBC New York**



**Although they are not yet alumni**, we are also delighted to recognize Karin Tompkins (IUC '17) and Praditya Hargianto (IUC '17) as coordinators for our Facebook and LinkedIn pages, as well as this newsletter itself. They are part of a new initiative, spawned by the IUC Leadership Board, to keep our digital communications fresh and cool. Our heartfelt thanks to Karin, Praditya, and the IUC Leadership Board for your invaluable support!