

IUC Summer 2016 Newsletter

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A Note from the Executive Director

This past spring, Dr. James C. Baxter retired from the IUC after seven years of dedicated service as our Resident Director. Whether helping our students navigate the difficult days after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011 or forging strong relationships with IUC supporters new and old, Jim played a central role in leading the Center back to the state of health we see today. Many alumni and friends came to the IUC reception in Seattle in April to recognize his contributions and bid him a fond farewell, and this year's class gave him a rousing ovation at their graduation party in June. Thank you, Jim, for all that you did to nurture the Center and our students. We wish you great happiness in retirement!

While Jim will be sorely missed, the IUC is also extremely fortunate to have secured an able successor in Dr. Bruce L. Batten. Like Jim, Bruce is seconded to the IUC on a part-time basis by J. F. Oberlin University in Tokyo, where he concurrently serves as Dean of the School of Global Communications. Having served as IUC Director from 1991-95, Bruce is already a familiar face to many of us and we are delighted to welcome him back!

Indra Levy

Executive Director, IUC

Thanks to our generous sponsors:

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- » The Tosvizo Watanabe Foundation
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Greetings from the New Resident Director

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Yokohama! Thanks to your support, the IUC graduated an unusually large class of 53 in June. We are now in the midst of the seven-week summer program and looking forward to the arrival of 48 new regular students in September.

On a personal note, I succeeded Jim Baxter in April, returning to the IUC after more than twenty years' absence. It is a privilege and an honor to work once again with the Yokohama faculty and staff and with North American leadership in order to serve the always-amazing students at the Center.

Read on for a full report on the 2015-16 happyokai and graduation ceremony, new instructional materials published by IUC faculty, updates from alumni, and more.

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

Bruce Batten

Resident Director, IUC (Yokohama)



Resident Director Bruce Batten

2015-2016 Happyokai

The IUC's annual happyokai was held on June 7-8, 2016 at the Yokohama International Organizations Center. The fifty-three graduating members of the class of 2015-16 gave presentations that showcased not only their outstanding Japanese language skills, but also the results of their original research on topics ranging from premodern history, literature, art, and religion, to contemporary politics, business, economics, social issues, medicine, game culture, music, and film. Compared with what I remember from the 1990s, a relatively large number of presentations dealt with global or transnational issues.

For a closer look at the considerable breadth of the students' interests, feel free to **download the program**, which includes a complete abstract — in Japanese, of course! — of each of the presentations.

As is always the case, the happyokai was well attended by friends of the IUC, including representatives of sponsoring organizations such as (in alphabetical order) the City of Yokohama, the Mitsubishi UFJ Foundation, The Nippon Foundation, the Shoyu Club, the Tokyo Club, Toshiba International Foundation, and the Toshizo Watanabe Foundation. We are grateful to these and other attendees for their ongoing support and encouragement of the Center and its brilliant students.



New! IUC Faculty Publication

In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011, the IUC faculty have worked to promote awareness of and education about the disasters and their continuing impact. Earlier this year, they released a complete educational unit geared toward high school level Japanese language students in which students examine a *manga* about the crisis to learn about it while also improving their language skills.

These materials are available to all via free download, so if you or anyone you know are involved in Japanese language education, please feel free to use them and to spread the word widely. For that matter, don't hesitate to check them out to brush up on your own knowledge and language skills!



Excerpt from *Santetsu*
by Yoshimoto Koji

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; if you have any ideas to connect IUC Alums, feel free send them to me, **Oliver Chubb ('89)**, at chubb@iucjapan.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

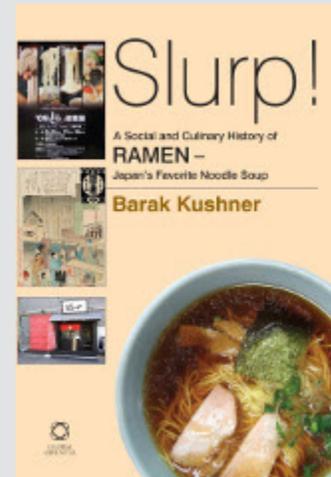
Kate Wildman Nakai (Spring '62, Professor Emerita, Sophia University) is preparing an abridged version of *Lust, Commerce, and Corruption: "An Account of What I Have Seen and Heard" by an Edo Samurai*, a translation of *Seji kenbunroku*, a well-known acerbic commentary on late Edo society. Columbia University Press published the full translation, by Kate and four colleagues, at the beginning of 2014 and will bring out the abridged paperback version over the coming year.

In February, Kate took part in a symposium on academic translation at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto, and she noted the participation of many Center alums: **Juliet Winters Carpenter ('70)**, distinguished translator of many modern literary works and professor at Doshisha Women's College; **David Noble ('80)**, a freelance translator and book designer based in Washington State who has translated a number of important books on Japanese history; and **Janet Ashby ('76)**, a translator and editor based in Tokyo.

On a much sadder note, the small cohort that made up the second class (**Spring '62**) at the Stanford Center (IUC's predecessor) lost one of its members at the beginning of July with the death of **G. Cameron (Cappy) Hurst III** after a long illness. After his time at the Center, Cappy went on to get his Ph.D. in Japanese history from Columbia. He was professor of premodern Japanese history at the University of Kansas and University of Pennsylvania and published on topics ranging from the late Heian-period rule by abdicated emperors (*insei*) to the armed martial arts. He, too, engaged in translation and is one of the translators of Fukuzawa Yukichi's *Outline of a Theory of Civilization*.

Lawrence Farrar ('68) has just finished teaching a timely course on "Okinawa in U.S.-Japan Relations" for the University of Minnesota's Lifelong Learning Program. Larry has been teaching for this program since retiring to Minnesota from the Foreign Service in 2000. During his time with the Foreign Service, Larry was assigned to Japan five times, including a stint as Consul General in Okinawa. In addition, he has published more than 50 short stories in literary magazines, many of which are related to Japan!

Slurp!, the sociocultural history of ramen by **Barak Kushner** ('95), has been a big hit on the **IUC Facebook page**. Definitely a must read!



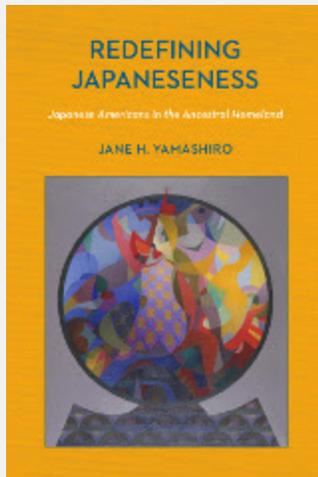
Brandon Marc Higa ('05) is currently attending law school at the University of Hawai'i, and this year he was appointed to the university's Board of Regents, on which he will be serving a two-year term helping provide leadership and oversight to the entire UH system.

Left: Brandon at his Board of Regents confirmation ceremony

Adam Steckler ('05) has been working for the Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer since 2012. Along with his wife and son, he just completed a tour in the Dominican Republic, and they are heading to Nairobi, Kenya this summer.



Right: Adam and his son get some beach time in the Dominican Republic



Jane Yamashiro ('05) has an upcoming book, titled *Redefining Japaneseess: Japanese Americans in the Ancestral Homeland*. In it, Jane examines the experiences of Japanese Americans - born and raised in the US - who migrate to Japan, and the ways that their experiences complicate the conceptions of “Japanese” and “foreign.” The book will be released by Rutgers University Press in January 2017. For more information, feel free check out the book’s [Rutgers University Press page](#) or [Facebook page](#). Congratulations to Jane!

After six years at Nintendo, **Alan Rogers ('08)** left last summer to join Google as a product manager, where he is contributing to building Duo, a new video calling app that was recently announced at Google I/O. He and his wife, Yuka (whom some former classmates might remember), have a son, Kent, who will soon be ten months old! Per Alan: “I didn’t visit Japan until I was 22, but he got to go at four months, so I’m pretty jealous.” Understandable, Alan. We should all be so lucky!

Molly Des Jardins ('08) earned her Ph.D. (2012) and MSI (2011) from the University of Michigan and then was a Reischauer Postdoctoral a Fellow at Harvard 2012-2013. She has been working at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries as the Japanese studies librarian and liaison for Korean studies for three years now. In the upcoming year, Molly will be a Price Lab Mellon Fellow at Penn to work on a Japanese digital humanities project, about which she’ll be presenting at a University of Chicago Japan Digital Humanities workshop in November. She’s also working on an academic article on *Saikaku zensh & umacr*; coming out soon, which represents the culmination of research she pursued at IUC!

Jay Starkey ('08) is now a neuroradiologist practicing at St. Luke’s International Hospital in Tsukiji, Tokyo. “If you need a CT or MRI while you are in Japan, come my way!” he sends. Perhaps we’ll take you up on that, Jay!

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On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IUCJapan>

On LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/edu/school?id=159022&trk=edu-cp-title>

