Press Release

Kevin Singleton Joins IUC as Managing Director

New role supports expanding alumni and student programs

Stanford, CA, July 11, 2017: The Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies announced today that it has hired Kevin Singleton for a new role of Managing Director, located in its Stanford office. Singleton will spearhead curricular innovation initiatives as well as efforts to enhance student support, alumni relations, and public outreach. He will meet regularly with alumni groups across the U.S. and in Japan, and develop new programs to connect alumni with students.

“With record admissions and a growing, active alumni body, the IUC needed to expand,” says Professor Indra Levy, Executive Director of the program. Now in its 54th year, the IUC is a collaborative venture of sixteen North American universities led by Stanford, and is recognized as the premier immersion program for those seeking to learn advanced Japanese. Among its 2000+ alumni, the IUC includes ten who have been awarded Japan’s prestigious Order of the Rising Sun. In the past few years the student body has seen steady growth, and the incoming 2017-18 class will set a new enrollment record at 65 students.

Singleton, who was awarded a PhD in Japanese literature from Stanford University this June, has a background in computer science and Japanese beginning with his undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado. Following graduation, he moved to Japan for 3 years for the JET program, later returning as a Fulbright Fellow. In 2008, he earned a Masters in Regional Studies – East Asia from Harvard University before entering Stanford’s doctorate program.

“For those of us who wish to pursue global careers,” he says, “the IUC is an exemplary model for education as it combines the most rigorous language preparation with specialized training attuned to the cultural, intellectual, and political life in Japan. The remarkable Japan-U.S. friendship over the past half-century is partly a product of IUC alumni and their contributions. I look forward to building on that tradition.”

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