



Celebrating US-Japan Friendship
and the
20th Anniversary
of the
New Orleans-Matsue Sister City Relationship

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Japan Society of New Orleans

WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF
National Association of Japan-America Societies
New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation
TOMODACHI Initiative

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM
City of Matsue
City of New Orleans
Honorary Consul General of Japan Donna Fraiche
Japan Club of New Orleans
Japanese Garden Foundation of New Orleans
jetaaNOLA (JET Program Alumni Association, N.O. Chapter)

INTRODUCTIONS-NEW ORLEANS MEMBERS

Ms. Gayle Dellinger

This is a photograph taken of Lauren Dellinger, my daughter, and me navigating the Tokyo subway system. We spent four days in Tokyo on our way to Truk and Palau for a dive trip. I am a new member of the Japan Society of New Orleans after being invited through the New Orleans Rotary Club to be a Host Family for a TOMODACHI Exchange Participant.



Ms. Romy Ellis



I moved to New Orleans from Nagoya, Japan in 2009 with my husband, Joe Ellis, a former JET Program participant. My real name is Hiromi, but everybody calls me "Romy". I am on the Program Committee and will be the Day Coordinator for Monday.

This photo of Joe and Romy is from last year's Red Dress Run, a local festival. This year, the event is taking place during the TOMODACHI Exchange on Saturday, 9 August.

Honorary Consul-General of Japan Donna Fraiche

Ms. Fraiche has been the Honorary Consul-General of Japan for New Orleans since 2008. Following the Great East Earthquake, she devoted considerable effort to organizing symposia in New Orleans for Japanese leaders and officials and to working with Baker Donelson's Japan Initiative to hold the Japan-United States Reconstruction Symposium for Eastern Japan, both which brought together resources and experts in Louisiana to help Japan. She also tirelessly dedicated herself to raising funds for disaster relief.



More recently, Ms. Fraiche has helped to spearhead the revival of the Sister City relationship between New Orleans and Matsue by hosting several delegations from Matsue in New Orleans and by serving on the New Orleans delegation that traveled to Matsue in October 2013.

Ms. Michelle Hansen



Michelle Hansen has worked at Bridge House / Grace House since July 2010. She is currently a Board Member of both the Japan Society of New Orleans and the Japan Club of New Orleans. Michelle has family in Yokosuka, Japan and the surrounding area. She is a member of the Program Committee and is a Day Coordinator for Sunday.

An assortment of Mardi Gras beads hang behind Michelle in this photo.

Ben and Flori Hicks

Flori and I have lived alone since our two sons moved out. We both work. She is a mortgage lender and I am a CPA working for a CPA firm. We enjoy music, travel, wine, food, cooking and new experiences. We have been married 31-1/2 years. Flori is Panamanian and I am Cajun. We met at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and have lived in New Orleans since 1983, in the same place since 1987. We love our neighborhood. We each speak English and Spanish, but I am sorry that we speak NOOOOOO Japanese. We look forward to the new experience and hope all of the visitors enjoy their stay in New Orleans.



Ms. Hiroko Kusuda and Mr. Brian O'Connell



Hiroko Kusuda is a Japanese national and resident of New Orleans since 1985. Hiroko is a lawyer and law school professor. She is married to Brian O'Connell who is a jazz clarinetist. They have two children, Yamato and Mika. Hiroko helped out on the TOMODACHI Exchange Host Committee and is a TOMODACHI Exchange Emergency Language Contact, and her family will serve as a Host Family. Her hobbies are tea ceremony and piano.

Brian O'Connell is a clarinetist with one of New Orleans' most famous and historical jazz bands, the Original Dixieland Jazz Band, which was formed 1916. He plays regularly at the Palm Court Jazz Cafe and is pictured performing there (second from the left).



Ms. Karen Trundle

Karen was born in Ireland, but is now a newly minted American citizen. She was a star intern at the World Affairs Council of New Orleans, where she assisted with several Japan-related programs. She is currently earning her graduate degree in Political Science at the University of New Orleans and works in their Office of International Students and Scholars. She is a member of the Program Committee and will be helping at several TOMODACHI Exchange events. You can find Karen playing the Irish fiddle and dancing jigs at various pubs around town.

**Mr. Mike Mitchell**

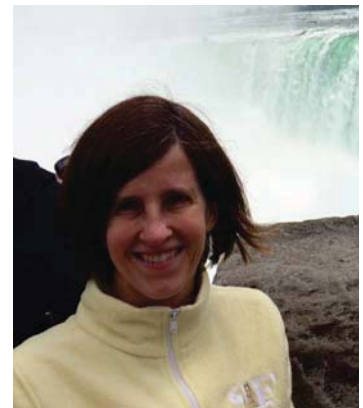
Mike Mitchell is an attorney with the Fisher & Phillips law firm representing employers. He serves on the TOMODACHI Exchange Steering Committee and is currently the President of the Japanese Garden Foundation (JGF). The JGF has built and now maintains the Yakumo Japanese Garden in New Orleans City Park.

Ms. Heidi Netherton and Ms. Sara Kaufman

(Heidi) I am a divorced mother of a 21-year old son who attends LSU and an 18-year old daughter, Sara, who lives with me. I have my RN/MSW but have not worked outside my home as I chose to be a stay at home mother. I have a strong interest in Asia since that is where my daughter is from. My daughter and I are delighted to host an exchange student.



(Sara) My name is Sara Jing Kaufman. I am 18 years old and was adopted from Suzhou, China at the age of 3. My mom and I are hosting an exchange student. Two years ago my brother, mom and I visited my orphanage in China and toured Tokyo, Japan.



Gordon and Josie Patton

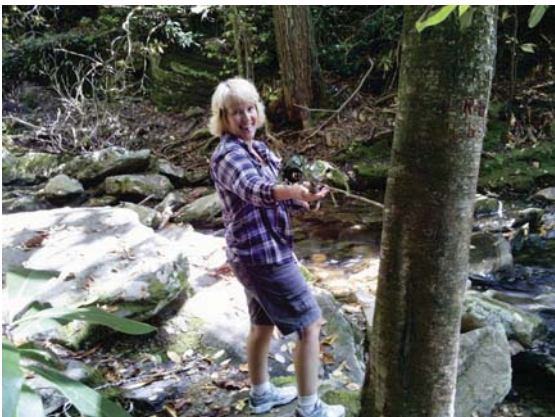
Gordon is from Alabama and Josie is from Cuba. We have two sons. Brian (30) has been living in Japan for the last 6 years and married his Japanese girlfriend, Yuko, works for Japan Steel Works. He is the first non-Asian employee at that company. Geoffrey (27) is working in Houston. We have visited Japan three times and will return again in the Spring. Gordon is an attorney and Josie works at Tulane Medical Library.

Gordon and Josie are pictured here sporting their TOMODACHI buttons.

Ms. Jennifer Prout

I am Jennifer Prout, Vice President of jetaaNOLA, the JET Program Alumni Association of New Orleans. From 2000 to 2003, I taught English in Miyazaki City at an agricultural high school as a member of the JET Program. During school vacations, I loved to explore the small villages of Japan, taking road trips as far north as Hokkaido and hopping ferries as far south as Iriomote, Okinawa. For the exchange, I am a member of the TOMODACHI Exchange Steering and Program Committees and will be Thursday's Day Coordinator.

(Jennifer's hair color is normally brown. This photograph was taken during Mardi Gras when things aren't always normal!)

**Ms. Leslie Runnels**

My name is Leslie Runnels, and I am from New Orleans. I am a new member to the Japan Society of New Orleans, and I am so excited to be a part of this exchange program as your Day Coordinator on Thursday. I am an artist, and I work for a bank in California. I love New Orleans, and I hope you will enjoy your stay here with us!

Ms. Julia Shreckengast

I am the marketing intern for New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation and a rising senior at Tulane University. I am originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but am so happy to be living in New Orleans. Although I have no previous experience in speaking Japanese, I am looking forward to learning from the exchange participants!

Julia is dressed for White Linen Night, a popular New Orleans event.



Mr. Simon Spadaro-Bliss



Simon taught English in Tochigi Prefecture, Japan for two years as a participant on the JET Program before moving to New Orleans in 2013. He now works with an education non-profit, Leading Educators, training teachers across America. His fondest memories of Japan include skiing the Tohoku region, hiking the forests of Yakushima, and exploring the different neighborhoods in Tokyo. He is a member of the Program Committee and Wednesday's Day Coordinator.

Simon hangs out at the Hokkaido Snow Festival with one of the Radish Boys.

Dr. Jack Perry Strong

Dr. Jack Strong is retired from LSU Health Sciences Center, where he was Head of the Department of Pathology. He also served as the Directory of Pathology at Charity Hospital. He is President Emeritus of the Japanese Garden Foundation of New Orleans and was a founding member of its predecessor organization, the Japanese Garden Society of New Orleans, which raised funds to create the Yakumo Nihon Teien, a Japanese Garden for New Orleans. For his distinguished contributions to US-Japan friendship, Dr. Strong holds the Order of the Rising Sun with Neck Ribbons awarded by the Emperor of Japan. He is a member of the TOMODACHI Exchange Steering Committee. Dr. Strong is pictured here second lining.



Mr. Doug Tassin

Hello. My name is Doug Tassin. Nice to meet you! I am from New Orleans. I like American Football, basketball, reading comic books, watching pro wrestling, working out, and eating pizza. I lived in Japan for 4 years (1 year as a Jouchi Daigaku student in Tokyo, 3 years on the JET Program as an elementary school Assistant Language Teacher in Iwaki City Fukushima Prefecture). I am an assistant day coordinator and will see you on Wednesday! I hope you enjoy New Orleans culture, food, music, and fun!

Doug gives a thumbs up to pro wrestling.

Ms. Ann Marshall Thomas

Ann Marshall Thomas, a graduate of the University of Virginia, is the Marketing Coordinator at the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation. In that capacity, she visited Matsue in 2013 as part of the City of New Orleans delegation. For this visit, she is assisting with logistics and public relations and is the Japan Society's TOMODACHI Exchange liaison with the City of New Orleans.

**Mr. Greg Tokuyama**

I am Greg Tokuyama, President, Japan Club of New Orleans and Board Member, Japan Society of New Orleans. I was serving in the Navy when I was transferred me to New Orleans from the Persian Gulf after the first Desert Storm. After 23 years of active duty, I retired here. I have been actively involved in the Japan Club, serving in various positions, including Board member, Treasurer, Secretary and President. Over the years, I have also become acquainted with the Japan Society through Mike Turner who I met overseas when we served together in the Persian Gulf. I recently joined the board of JSNO and was asked to serve as Transportation and Logistics Coordinator for the TOMODACHI Exchange.

Mr. Mike Turner

I am Mike Turner, President of the Japan Society of New Orleans. I have been involved with JSNO since 2001 when I joined the Board as Treasurer. My interest in Japan goes back to being born in Japan while my father served there in the US Army. I have also participated in foreign exchange with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force as a Midshipman while studying at Tulane University and as a member of the US Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Chair of the TOMODACHI Exchange and as a Host Family with my wife, Bonnie.

**Ms. Geri Waycie Vinson**

My name is Geri Waycie (Vinson), and I am part of the Program Committee. I am also the Tuesday Day Coordinator, where I will see you on a fun day of activities! I was a JET Program Assistant Language Teacher in Aizuwakamatsu-Shi, Fukushima-Ken for two years and I enjoyed it very much. The things I miss the most about Japan are the festivals and amazing fireworks.

Here is a photo of Geri modeling a Po' Boy before eating it.

Ms. Flora P. Williams

Konnichi wa! My Mom is from Tokyo, but I didn't know much about Japan until I participated on the JET Program and moved to Ibaraki-ken, which was life-changing! Since returning to New Orleans, I have volunteered with many Japan-related organizations in order to stay connected to Japan and return the hospitality I received there, as well as to increase the local community's interest in Japan. (In that area, my best success story is my husband, John Lyon, who insisted we honeymoon in Japan!) I am currently the Secretary of jetaaNOLA, the newsletter editor for the Japan Society of New Orleans, and the Program Chair for the TOMODACHI Exchange.



INTRODUCTIONS-MATSUE EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS



The Exchange Participants Departing from Yonago Kitaro Airport

Mika Miyamoto, Sachi Yamane, Yuka Ikejiri, Hitoshi Kashiwai, Toranosuke Mizumoto (Back, L to R)
Ayaka Notsu, Naoko Nagase, Hiroyuki Katayama (Front, L to R)

Ms. Yuka Ikejiri

I love the music of New Orleans. I'm very happy to create more opportunities in Matsue to listen to New Orleans music and to spread awareness about our Friendship City relationship. I'd like to work towards attracting more visitors to Matsue based on this relationship.

Mr. Hitoshi Kashiwai

I like talking about travels and cuisine, and being physically active, so I like taking a proactive role in conversation. I cannot speak much English, but I hope things will go well.

Mr. Hiroyuki Katayama

Throughout college and graduate school, I played bass in a jazz band. Although I am not currently involved in band activities, I still love listening to jazz, funk, soul, and other kinds of African-American music. Ever since I was a student I felt that I wanted to have ties all around the world, and during graduate school I took part in a JICA internship program, during which time I lived in Bolivia for half a year. In addition, I have had shorter stays in places like China, Cambodia, and Morocco.

Through my work, I have planned and reviewed projects geared towards interregional exchange with people who live in all areas of Shimane. I think this experience will be a great strength in planning and overseeing exchange activities following this program.

Ms. Mika Miyamoto

My specialty is playing the saxophone. I'd be very pleased to interact with the locals by performing together. I am cheerful and personable, so I hope to make a lot of friends in New Orleans. I'm looking forward to a great exchange through music that goes beyond borders.

Mr. Toranosuke Mizumoto

My name is Mizumoto Toranosuke, and I am from Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture. I was born in 1991 and am 23-years-old. I got married when I was 20, and I have a 2-year-old daughter. I work at a company that does general city development, and I currently focus on event and convention related matters. I like to spend time with my friends. Matsue has nice things to do in each season, so we make the most of nature here by doing things like flower viewing in spring, BBQing at the beach in summer, viewing leaves in fall, and going skiing and snowboarding in winter. I can't play any instruments, but I am a club DJ.

Ms. Naoko Nagase

I teach kendo for a club at the high school where I work, so I work up a sweat every day after class. I do daily yoga, and when the weather is nice I like to go jogging around Lake Shinji on the weekends, too. I am not very knowledgeable about jazz, but sometimes I sing some vocal jazz with the students, and we enjoy listening to jazz in the background while working on things in class.

Ms. Ayaka Notsu

I'm a very curious person, so I'm interested in many things. I'm looking forward to the things I'll discover in New Orleans, a city I so far only know through pictures and things I've heard. I like music, and I've practiced piano since I was very young. Thanks to my father I discovered jazz, which got me started on a continuing admiration for New Orleans. Furthermore, I really like going abroad, and I usually go once a year. Even if I can't communicate much through words, I always actively find ways to have communication with the people I meet.

Ms. Sachi Yamane

I like interacting with people. I have interests ranging from hand crafts, baking, and guitar to sports and athletic events, so I have active interaction with people across a wide age range.

INTRODUCTIONS-CITY OF MATSUE OFFICIAL DELEGATES**Ms. Satomi Miyazako**

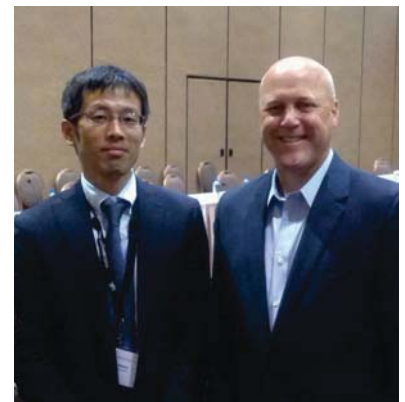
I am Satomi Miyazako, Head of the Matsue City International Tourism Division. The first time I was tasked with international relations work was in 1995, the year after New Orleans and Matsue became Friendship Cities. At that time, I got to work with the group from New Orleans that was visiting Matsue. Right now in Matsue, there is an increasing interest in New Orleans. I want to work towards building more ties between everyone in our cities and promote more exchange between them. This is my first time in New Orleans, and I am very excited.

**Ms. Brittany Partin**

I have been a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) in Matsue City on the JET Program since 2012, and I will be interpreting for the Official Delegation as well as for the Exchange Participants as needed. Matsue is a place where I can indulge in my passions for traditional Japanese culture, and I hope that everyone here will learn a lot about Matsue through this exchange. I am originally from Colorado Springs, and this is my first time in New Orleans. I might need some help with the NOLA localese, so feel free to correct me!

Mr. Yukio Yoshikawa

I have been dispatched from the Matsue City municipal government to the Japan Local Government Center in New York since April 2013. JLGC's main role is support for Japan's local government activity in North America. I am so excited to accompany the Matsue City Official Delegation and TOMODACHI Exchange Participants in New Orleans as a part of my job in the US!! This photo of me with the Mayor of New Orleans, the Honorable Mitch Landrieu, was taken last year at the United States Conference of Mayors.



THANKS

The Japan Society of New Orleans wishes to offer its heartfelt thanks to the organizations and individuals that made possible this inaugural TOMODACHI Exchange between New Orleans and Matsue!

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the following groups for their generous financial and logistical support!

National Association of Japan-America Societies
New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation
TOMODACHI Initiative

City of Matsue	Japan Club of New Orleans
City of New Orleans	Japanese Garden Foundation of New Orleans
Honorary Consul-General of Japan Donna Fraiche	jetaaNOLA, JET Program Alumni Association, N.O.

HOST FAMILIES

Thank you for opening your homes and for sharing your lives and love for New Orleans!

Gayle Dellinger	Heidi Netherton and Sara Kaufman
Ben and Flori Hicks	Gordon and Josie Patton
Hiroko Kusuda and Brian O'Connell	Mike and Bonnie Turner

MATSUE EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS

Thank you for joining the TOMODACHI Generation and for your efforts to strengthen US-Japan relations and promote an appreciation of each other's countries and cultures!

Yuka Ikejiri	Ayaka Notsu
Mika Miyamoto	Hitoshi Kashiwai
Toranosuke Mizumoto	Hiroyuki Katayama
Naoko Nagase	Sachi Yamane

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Thank you to the following area organizations and businesses that went above and beyond in their efforts to ensure our visitors had a true New Orleans experience.

Arc of Greater New Orleans	Yumi Mano
Galeria Alegria, Stephan Wagner	Mid-City Rock 'n' Bowl
Historic New Orleans Collection, Priscilla Lawrence and John Lawrence	New Orleans Botanical Garden, Paul Soniat
Houma Indian Community Center	Palace Cafe, Chef Brandon Muetzal
Ikebana International, New Orleans #97, Dr. Richard Cranford	Saenger Theater
International House New Orleans	Dr. Richard Scribner
Japanese Garden Foundation, Mike Mitchell, Dr. Jack Strong, Mihoko Strong	Tulane University Special Collections, Dr. Bruce Raeburn
Haruka Kikuchi	University of New Orleans, Division of International Education
	World Trade Center New Orleans, Dominik Knoll
	WWOZ

VOLUNTEERS AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our many volunteers, who devoted countless hours of their time!

TOMODACHI Exchange Steering Committee

Mike Turner, Chair
Hon. Donna Fraiche
Mary Hicks
Hiroko Kusuda
Mike Mitchell
Jennifer Prout
Dr. Jack P. Strong
Ann Marshall Thomas
Greg Tokuyama
Flora P. Williams
Saeko Yatsuka-Jensen

TOMODACHI Exchange Program Committee

Flora P. Williams, Chair
Lauren Brown
Nicolas Brown
Romy Ellis
Michelle Hansen
Jennifer Prout
Leslie Runnels
Simon Spadaro-Bliss
Doug Tassin
Karen Trundle
Geri Waycie Vinson

TOMODACHI Exchange Reception Committee

Dr. John and the Hon. Donna Fraiche, Hosts
Greg Tokuyama, Coordinator
Dr. Richard Cranford
Gina Farago
Hopper's Carte des Vins
Martin Wine Cellar

New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation

Mark Romig, President and CEO
Ann Marshall Thomas, Marketing Coordinator
Zack Brien, Intern
Julia Shreckengast, Intern

City of Matsue

Satomi Miyazako, Head of International Tourism
Brittany Partin
Yukio Yoshikawa

TOMODACHI Exchange Emergency Liaisons

Hiroko Kusuda
Dr. Masako Wakabayashi

City of New Orleans

Brooke Smith, Chief of Staff for Mayor Mitch Landrieu
Scott Hutcheson

TOMODACHI Exchange Assistants

Tanya Ferguson
James Brody Leblue
Shana Walton



TOMODACHI 世代へようこそ!

「我々は米日関係の未来に深いこだわりがある TOMODACHI 世代を作りたいと思います。」

～ヒラリー・クリントン元アメリカ合衆国国務長官



TOMODACHI のプログラムの参加によって、皆さんは TOMODACHI 世代の一員になります。TOMODACHI 世代は、日米関係の強化に深く関わり、互いの文化や国を理解し、より協調的で繁栄した安全な世界への貢献と、そうした世界での成功に必要な、世界中で通用する技能と国際的な視点を備えた日米の若いリーダーです。

TOMODACHI イニシアチブは、東日本大震災後の日本の復興支援から生まれ、教育・文化交流、指導者育成といったプログラムを通して、日米の次世代のリーダーに投資する官民パートナーシップです。

TOMODACHI と繋がろう!



TOMODACHI ウェブサイト: www.usjapantomodachi.org/index.html



TOMODACHI Facebook ページ: www.facebook.com/USJapanTOMODACHI

TOMODACHI フェイスブックページを「いいね」して下さい。TOMODACHI イニシアチブからの最新の情報、活動、様々な機会を知ることができます。プログラムでの写真や思い出もポストしてね。



ツイッター公式アカウント: www.twitter.com/TOMODACHI. アメリカ滞在時にツイートする場合、@TOMODACHI を入れると TOMODACHI もあなたのツイートを読むことができます。連絡をお待ちしています!



プログラム終了後も、上記の方法で TOMODACHI と繋がっているメリットはたくさんあります。TOMODACHI のプログラムを通して出会った仲間と連絡を取り合えるだけでなく、TOMODACHI の特別なイベントに招待されることもあります。例えば:

- 在日米国大使館で主催されるイベントに招待される
- TOMODACHI 世代のプログラムに参加できる
- 様々な VIP に出会える
- 米国国務省の国際交流アラムナイ・ネットワークにつながる

詳しくはアラムナイ・マネージャー 長尾純子にご連絡してください: jnagao@usjapancouncil.org

www.usjapantomodachi.org/ja | www.facebook.com/USJapanTOMODACHI | www.twitter.com/TOMODACHI



Welcome to the TOMODACHI Generation!

“Together we want to create a TOMODACHI Generation that is deeply committed to the future of our relationship.”

~ Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton



As a participant of a TOMODACHI program, you are now a member of the TOMODACHI Generation of young American and Japanese leaders. We are committed to and engaged in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations, appreciate each other's countries and cultures, and possess the global skills and mindsets needed to contribute to and thrive in a more cooperative, prosperous, and secure world.

The TOMODACHI Initiative is a public-private partnership, born out of support for Japan's recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, which invests in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges as well as leadership programs.

Stay Connected



TOMODACHI Website: <http://usjapantomodachi.org>



TOMODACHI Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/USJapanTOMODACHI>

“Like” our page and get the latest on programs and opportunities with TOMODACHI. We encourage you to submit your photos, blog entries, thoughts, and memories.



Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/TOMODACHI>

If you tweet during your program, please mention **@TOMODACHI** in your tweets so we can see it and share it! We would love to hear from you!



Staying connected with TOMODACHI after your program has ended can bring many benefits. Not only does it help you to stay in touch with all of the people you met, staying connected also provides information about exciting new opportunities available to you as a member of the TOMODACHI Generation. TOMODACHI Generation members have:

- Been invited to events at the US Embassy in Tokyo
- Participated in alumni exchanges and other programs
- Met with VIPs
- Invited to join the U.S. Department International Exchange Alumni Network

For more information, contact our Alumni Manager Junko Nagao at: jnagao@usjapancouncil.org

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