



JASCO

JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF CENTRAL OHIO

セントラルオハイオ日米協会

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2015 Year in Review



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JASCO MISSION STATEMENT

To enrich lives by bringing Ohio's Japanese and American communities together.

JASCO VISION STATEMENT

The Japan America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) is the premiere organization for deepening understanding of and appreciation for Ohio's Japanese and American cultures. Lives are changed for the better and businesses succeed when meaningful cross-cultural relationships are intentionally cultivated. Located centrally in the capital city of Ohio, Columbus, JASCO provides the gateway for connecting people and fostering friendships among those who are interested in the Japanese culture. By working collaboratively and leveraging relationships with state-level leaders, JASCO serves as a catalyst for helping Japanese-owned businesses succeed.

COMMUNICATE WITH JASCO



You can visit us online at [jas-co.org](https://www.facebook.com/JASCentralOhio), on Facebook at www.facebook.com/JASCentralOhio, or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/JASCO



ESL Classes

10 Week Sessions

JASCO Office Building in Dublin

As well as Japanese language classes, JASCO also offered English conversation classes. This very helpful program provides those new to America, as well as the English language, an opportunity to familiarize themselves with regularly used English phrases to begin students' progress towards proficiency in a number of settings. The course covers basic conversational English, grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, and also includes educational field trips during each session. The 2015 courses were led by *Mr. Harlan Schottenstein* and *Ms. Beverly Sylla*.



TOEIC Test Preparing Classes

10 Week Sessions

JASCO Office Building in Dublin



In September, JASCO began offering a class meant to prepare students for the Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC). The TOEIC is being used more and more by Japanese employers to determine the communication skills of their employees. The class is currently taught by bilingual instructor *Mr. Daniel Stone* of Two Birds One Stone Learning Center.



Language Classes

Japanese Language Classes

10 Week Sessions

JASCO Office Building in Dublin



One of the educational services that JASCO offers its members is the opportunity to learn the fundamental elements of the Japanese language. JASCO currently offers two different levels of classes that build upon the grammar, vocabulary, and context learned in previous sessions to develop a practical use of the language. These popular classes are currently offered quarterly on weekday evenings and are taught by *Ms. Jun Kawabe*, a part-time professor at Ohio Wesleyan University and director of Mirai InterCultural Language and Consulting.



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Baseball Event

January 30th
Huntington Park



JASCO held its Japan Update Baseball Event at Huntington Park on January 30, 2015. The event was part of the National Association of Japan America Societies' and the Sasakawa Peace Foundation's Japan Update grant, and was the first of its kind in JASCO's history.

Distinguished speakers for this event were *Mr. Nobby Ito* from Nippon Professional Baseball and Ohio University alumni, *Mr. Mikio Yoshimura* from Boston Red Sox, *Mr. Joe Santry* of the Columbus Clippers, and *Dr. William Farrell* of the US Naval War College. A VIP tour of the stadium and reception featuring ballpark themed food preceded the lecture, and was followed by a question and answer session.



The Sasakawa Peace Foundation



Book Club

Monthly (2014 through April 2015)

Through April, JASCO hosted a monthly Japanese literature book club that met on Saturday afternoons and was led by Denison University professor, *Michael Tangeman*. The book club focused on Japanese literature classics, popular contemporary works, as well as Japanese film classics. Attendees were exposed to a wide variety of Japanese classics ranging from works by *Kobo Abe* to *Ryunosuke Akutagawa*. The club also examined many prominent Japanese film classics such as *Rashomon* and *Spring and Chaos*.



History Club

Monthly (May 2015 to present)
JASCO Office Building in Dublin



After book club ended in April, JASCO began Japanese History Club. This club meets one Saturday a month from 10:30 am to Noon at JASCO's Dublin office. We will casually discuss an array of topics related to Japanese history with the enjoyment of Japanese lunchbox. Some

examples of topics covered are Mashiko ceramics, World War II, Noh play theater, Samurai culture and Japanese comic books/anime.



JASCO Women's Club Programs

Luncheon Seminar

June 15th
Wedgewood Golf and Country Club

On June 15th, JASCO hosted its first Women's Club Event focusing on the wellness of women in conjunction with the 2015 JASCO Golf Outing. The event was a luncheon featuring talks from *Mr. Isao Shoji* on financial planning and *Ms. Nori Shoji-Schaffner* on mental health and the importance of stress management.



Self-Defense Class

August 29th
Chushin Aikido Center



JASCO Women's Club hosted its second event, a Self-Defense Class, on Saturday, August 29th at JASCO member dojo, Chushin Center. The class was taught by Chushin instructor *Michael Carta*, with assistance from his wife *Tsuyako Carta*. The class included a brief introduction to Aikido, how to fall without injuring yourself, and

body awareness, movement, and control. All participants had a great time, while also learning valuable skills.



16th Annual Japanese Speech Contest & Career Expo

Speech Contest

March 7th
City of Dublin Recreational Center



The 16th Annual Japanese Speech Contest is an event that showcases the talent of Ohio students studying Japanese at the university and high school level. The event gives students the opportunity to be recognized for their academic efforts in attaining proficiency in Japanese in front of judges and the audience.

Ten finalists from high school and universities were invited to give their speeches in front of a panel of judges (*Mr. Isao Shoji* from JASCO, *Mr. Hiroshi Fukuda* from COJAC, *Dr. Deborah Solomon* of Otterbein University, *Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama*, Consul General of Japan in Detroit).

With the help of Ohio Association of Teachers of Japanese and JSO this year's Speech Contest was a great success. The event gave JASCO the opportunity to directly reward students for their efforts, and improvements from past applicants, in the Japanese language.

HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS

First Place - Christopher Cathis (Dublin Jerome High School)
Second Place - Gill Im (Dublin Scioto High School)
Third Place - Evan Seitz (Westerville High School)
Consul General Award - James Keleman (Kirtland High School)
Pronunciation Award - Jabreal Calis (Dublin Coffman High School)

UNIVERSITY WINNERS

First Place - Cong Li (The Ohio State University)
Second Place - Jon Foissotte (Case Western Reserve University)
Third Place - Nicholas Fleming (Ohio University)
Consul General Award - Pallavi Rao (The Ohio State University)
Pronunciation Award - Lindsay Bodi (University of Toledo)

Career Expo

March 7th

City of Dublin Recreational Center

Through our Speech Contest, JASCO introduced many of its corporate members and participating companies to students currently studying Japanese to give them the opportunity to converse with many local businesses involved with Japanese companies, while also giving JASCO corporate members the ability to find workers or interns with a specific skill set.

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- 📍 The Ohio State University, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures
- 📍 The Ohio State University, Fisher College of Business
- 📍 Wittenburg University
- 📍 Bowling Green State University
- 📍 The University of Findlay



Sister City/Friendship City

JASCO is fostering US-Japan Sister State/Friendship City relationship. Ohio has a Sister State relationship with Saitama Prefecture in Japan and JASCO supports their economic development effort by hosting Ohio-Saitama Career Fair connecting Japanese businesses and talented students in Ohio.



JASCO also supports Dublin-Mashiko Friendship City, Marysville-Yorii Friendship, as well as Friendship Initiatives for City of Columbus, City of Worthington and City of Delaware.

Dublin City Council Member and Former Mayor, Marilee Chinnici-Zuercher and Dublin City Administrator, Jeremiah Gracia, and JASCO Executive Director Akisa Fukuzawa visited Mashiko Mayor Otsuka and Town Council Members in September 2015



Economic Business Seminar and Engineering Career Fair

Economic Business Seminar “Technology Innovation in Ohio”

Dublin Recreation Center (November 13 - 5:00 -8:00 p.m.)

The 2015 Annual Economic Business Seminar and Career Fair was held on November 13th, 2015 at the City of Dublin Recreation Center. The focus for this year’s event was on “Technology Innovation in Ohio” and our featured speakers included *Dr. David Williams* from The Ohio State University College of



Engineering, *Mr. Ron Emerson* from Honda North America, *Mr. Matthew McCollister* from Columbus 2020, and *Mr. Glenn Richardson* from JobsOhio. The Economic Business Seminar speeches were followed by a Q&A session and panel discussion moderated by *Ms. Donna Goss*, Director of Development for the City of Dublin. *Mr. Mitsuhiro Wada*, the new Consul General of Japan in Detroit, was also introduced at the reception.

Engineering Career Fair

Dublin Recreation Ceter (November 13 - 3:00 -5:00 p.m.)

This year, a Career Fair was added to the day’s festivities. The fair was focused on engineering students and also had companies from the Saitama Prefecture in attendance. Students were invited to drop off a copy of their resume to the JASCO table in order to be distributed to JASCO’s corporate members. JASCO was able to introduce talented engineering students to the participating business with many exciting job openings.

Booth Sponsors:

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18th Anniversary Reception

April 15th

Vorys, Sater, Seymour, and Pease LLP



*Consul-General of Japan in Detroit,
Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama*



Board President, Allen Kinzer

This annual event is a celebration of the organization’s anniversary, as well as an opportunity for JASCO Executive Director, *Akisa Fukuzawa*, to discuss and evaluate the year’s past and upcoming programs. The event included many of JASCO’s current corporate and individual members, as well as its board and staff. The event was held on April 15th, 2015 and hosted by Vorys legal office in downtown Columbus.

The event included a number of special guests and visitors, such as Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, *Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama* and JobsOhio representatives *Kristi Tanner* and *Mindy McLaughlin*. JASCO was recognized by Ohio Governor *John Kasich* during this event for its efforts in bringing the Japanese and American communities together.



*Jobs Ohio Kristi Tanner and JASCO
Executive Director Akisa Fukuzawa*



Matsuyama Breakfast

On May 19th, 2015, JASCO partnered with the City of Dublin and the Memorial Tournament to celebrate the 2014 Memorial Tournament Championship of *Mr. Hideki Matsuyama*, a PGA Golfer from Japan. A breakfast in his honor was hosted at the Muirfield Village Golf Club and invited community guests enjoyed both American and Japanese breakfast foods. JASCO Board Member and Dublin business owner, *Mr. Yoshihiro Hidaka*, served as the moderator for the Q&A discussion for this event.



Mr. Allen Kinzer (JASCO Board President) and Mr. Tomomi Kosaka (President and CEO of Honda of America) present Mr. Hideki Matsuyama with JASCO's Cultural Bridge Award.

Mr. Yoshihiro Hidaka, JASCO Board Member, and Mr. Hideki Matsuyama, PGA Golfer, pose for a picture at the breakfast celebrating his 2014 Memorial Tournament win.

JASCO also presented with its first Annual Cultural Bridge Award to Mr. Matsuyama. This award honors a person who was exceptional at fulfilling JASCO's mission of bringing together Central Ohio's Japanese and American communities. Mr. Allen Kinzer, then JASCO Board President, and *Mr. Tomomi Kosaka*, President and CEO of Honda of America and Honorary Board Member, presented this award.



17th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser

June 15th
Wedgewood Golf and Country Club

The 17th Annual JASCO Golf Outing was held at Wedgewood Golf and Country Club on June 15th, 2015. Despite a rainy morning, the skies cleared prior to the event and each of the golfers were able to get out on the course and play a full round.

The Annual Golf Outing is one of JASCO's most important fundraising events as it provides the organization an opportunity to bring many of its corporate and individual members together for a round of golf. Through both golfing and raffles, including a round trip ticket to Japan by United Airlines, JASCO was able to have a successful fundraiser.



First Place Team: Rich Ireland, Bob Howe, Akihiko Nishimura, and John Lindtedt

Thank you very much for all of the sponsors and golfers!



PGA pro Alex Brickley offered lessons

