USJLP Turns 10!
The tenth anniversary conference of USJLP took place in Kyoto, Hiroshima and Tokyo this summer from July 26 to August 2, 2009. Discussion topics ranged from International Security to Education to Religion to China’s role in the global community. Discussion panels were followed by small group sessions, allowing Delegates to discuss topics of interest in depth in a more intimate setting. Highlights of the week included a traditional Japanese dance performance, a visit to a number of temples in Kyoto, a lecture by architect Tadao Ando, and a visit from former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. A record breaking 53 Fellows returned for a reunion at the end of the week!

“I remember looking around the room in my jetlagged haze and thinking, “I’m not accomplished enough to be here!” before nearly falling asleep in my chair” - Matt Orr (08, 09)

Tosh Minohara (04, 07) analyzes the US-Japan Relationship
In his recent article from the Mainichi Shimbun (September 4, 2009), Minohara comments about the future of the US-Japan Relationship.

“The ‘Political Dynasty,’ which was indicated this time in the same way their grandfathers, Yoshida and Hatoyama did it, has not been weakened. Our nation can be viewed as basically the same although the ruling party has shifted. When the Japanese politicians become fresher, we can then enter a new chapter of the US-Japan relationship.”
(trans. by USJF staff member Kanayo Schlumpf)
Former Prime Minister Koizumi Visits USJLP!

The tenth anniversary conference culminated in a celebration in Tokyo on July 31. Former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi attended the reception at Happo-en, along with other very distinguished guests including Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, Honorary Chairman of our Advisory Council for the past 10 years. Front row of each photo (from 2002 Class left to right): Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, Ms. Sadako Ogata, George Packard, Hon. Junichiro Koizumi, USJF Board Chairman Tom Johnson, USJF Vice Chairman Shinji Fukukawa, and USJF Trustee Yoriko Kawaguchi
Former Prime Minister Koizumi Visits USJLP!

The Class of 2005

The Class of 2006

The Class of 2007

The Class of 2008

The Class of 2009

A special thanks to all who attended the event. It was truly a wonderful evening.
Niko Canner (08, 09), Alexandra Harney (08, 09), Kohei Muramatsu (09), Tom Robertson (06, 09) and Brian Nelson (08, 09) discuss China’s role in the global community.

08, 09 Fellow Alexandra Harney with Hon. Junichiro Koizumi, after interpreting his speech at the Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

08, 09 Delegate Heather LaBarbara speaks with a student from Murasakino High School in Kyoto.

Above: 08, 09 Fellow Brian Nelson in discussion with 09 Delegate Jumpei Sasakawa; Right: Fellows and Delegates at the USJLP enjoy the farewell dinner at Ooedo Onsen Monogatari in Tokyo.

Delegates relax with a game of darts.
Tenth Anniversary Memories

08, 09 Fellows Makiko Nakayama and Kathleen Houlihan with 06, 09 Fellow Tom Robertson at Happo-en in Tokyo

Calligraphy Instructor at Murasakino High School in Kyoto demonstrates the character for yume or “dream”

Above (left to right): Ken Yagi (08, 09), Ganesh Mochida (09), Brian Rothberg (09) and Todd French (06, 09); Below: 08, 09 Fellow Mark Vlasic and 09 Delegate Bob Kayihura with a student at Murasakino High School in Kyoto

From left to right, Brett Sylvia (09), Mika Nabeshima (09), Scott Borgerson (08, 09) and Kenneth Cukier (09)

“As a first year Delegate, I did not quite know what to expect when I headed for the USJLP Conference in Kyoto this year...A week later, however, I came out with many new friends, new ideas, and a sense of hope and optimism for the US-Japan relationship. It felt like a whole new world opened up before me.” - Ganesh Mochida, 09 Delegate
There we were, celebrating the final night of an exciting week together in much the same way we began it six nights earlier, singing our hearts out. Inside a cramped karaoke room somewhere deep in Roppongi, two-dozen young leaders from Japan and the United States wore wigs and colorful costumes and toasted each other with beer, sake and Neil Diamond. A U.S. Army officer danced alongside a Japanese Air Force pilot. A Buddhist priest from Kyoto played bongo drums while a manager of Climate and Sustainability for the city of Seattle gave an off-key impersonation of Rod Stewart (ha, sorry Paul!). Later in the night, a professor in Psychiatry from the University of Colorado had us all singing along to his rendition of that classic 1989 rap song, Bust a Move. This is the kind of night that makes the US Japan Leadership Program very, very special.

Our conference began in Kyoto with a welcome dinner and self-introductions by the Delegates, an impressive group indeed. Among our ranks were brilliant entrepreneurs, business leaders, environmentalists and doctors. I remember looking around the room in my jetlagged haze and thinking, “I’m not accomplished enough to be here!” before nearly falling asleep in my chair.

The next morning, after many hours of much needed sleep, I was primed for the start of our conference. I must say, the Kyoto portion of our week together was my favorite part. We visited the city’s beautiful temples and shrines with University of Pennsylvania’s Professor Frank Chance as our guide. Fellow delegate Takafumi Kawakami was generous enough to give us a wonderful tour of his temple, the Shunkoin Temple, where he is deputy head priest. Additionally, we were fortunate enough to witness a beautiful, traditional Japanese performance of music and dance by two lovely Geishas.

I must not forget the great food as well. The highlight for me was a delicious meal at Hiroya, a Japanese style inn situated in a mountainous village in northern Kyoto. For a meat and potatoes westerner like myself, the meal was wonderfully exotic. It is not everyday I pop a miniature crab into my mouth and crunch down!

On Thursday, we left Kyoto and spent the day in Hiroshima. While exploring Miyajima, others, including myself, spent time at the Hiroshima Peace Park and Memorial Museum. It was a very moving experience for me. I should mention, this was not my first visit to the museum, but it is the first time I actually experienced it. My previous trip here was in 2007 when I was on assignment for the New York Times. At that time, I was far too busy conducting interviews and reporting to absorb the full emotional impact of the exhibits. They are deeply, deeply moving, as was the talk given to us by a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. These are memories I will not soon forget.

The final two days of our conference were spent in Tokyo, celebrating the 10th year anniversary of our program. On Friday evening we gathered at a garden restaurant to commemorate the USJLP.
Beyond Expectations
By Ganeshwaran H. Mochida (09)

As a first year delegate, I did not quite know what to expect when I headed for the USJLP Conference in Kyoto this year, even though my friend Takuji Makino (07, 08), who suggested I apply for USJLP, had told me about his wonderful experience with the Program. A week later, however, I came out with many new friends, new ideas, and a sense of hope and optimism for the U.S.-Japan relationship. It felt like a whole new world opened up before me.

The panel discussions at the Conference featured many young leaders in fields ranging from education to international security, and it was tremendously stimulating for me to hear first-hand from the leading experts about a wide range of topics outside my specialty. The ensuing discussions with my fellow delegates that often continued into late-night karaoke lounges were thoroughly enjoyable as well. While in Kyoto, we were fortunate to visit the historic and beautiful Shunkoin Temple, guided by its Vice-Abbott Rev. Taka Kawakami (08, 09). Such an opportunity is rare, even for a Japanese Delegate like myself.

The Fellows Weekend in Tokyo that followed was filled with inspiring lectures and downright fun activities. In his plenary presentation, Mr. Tadao Ando let us peek inside the architect's brain at work (and with a great sense of humor). Cheerleading students of Maki Nakayama (08, 09) gave a heart-warming performance. At the 10th Anniversary Celebration, the former Prime Minister Mr. Junichiro Koizumi challenged us to think of what we can do for the people around us and the community we belong to, and the evening of celebration was capped off by a superb vocal performance by Mitsuru Claire “the Singing Lawyer” Chino (08, 09) accompanied by Chris Theofanidis (02, 03).

Throughout these memorable events, I was amazed by the sense of camaraderie, dedication, and commitment that was palpable among everyone involved in the Program. I think this is what has made USJLP truly unique and successful for the past 10 years.

With recent major changes in the political leadership of the United States and Japan, there is a feeling of uncertainty as to the future of the U.S.-Japan relationship. In this time, I believe the role USJLP can play is bigger than ever. After my first USJLP Conference, I feel truly privileged to be part of this wonderful group, and look forward to working with my fellow members of the USJLP family toward building a better future for our countries.

[Orr, cont from page 6]
Among the many distinguished guests in attendance was former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. After a lovely introduction by George, Mr. Koizumi gave us a stirring talk about the importance of the US Japan relationship. “In the past, today, and in the future,” he said, “the U.S. Japan relationship is extremely important. I hope you will take what you have learned and experienced through this program and use it as an asset as you go out into the world.”

What wonderful words about a wonderful program. Thank you Mr. Johnson, George, Takeo, Elizabeth and Aya for a fantastic week.
USJLP 2009
By Eriko Sase, 08, 09

For the past year, I have been encouraged by the Delegates – sometimes just by seeing their names in the media or USJLP Newsletters, and surely by direct communication. Therefore, it was a great opportunity to meet with old and new faces at this summer’s conference. The Program was nicely planned for us to “think and act” for leadership, starting in Kyoto, continuing in Hiroshima, and ending in Tokyo.

The architect, Mr. Tadao Ando (the Pritzker Architecture Prize winner) taught us to be brave with conceited ideas. He also encouraged us to make mistakes – preferably earlier in the process. He shared his philosophy – “live with imagination not with money, and do not lose ideals from your heart.”

In the US-Japan Relations session, Professor Gerald Curtis (Columbia University), Dr. Yoichi Funabashi (Asahi Shimbun) and Mr. Masaru Tamamoto (World Policy Institute) exhibited the position of Japan with the administration change by sharing their broad view of Japanese politics, e.g. Six Party Talks on North Korea’s Nuclear Program, US-Japan-China Project, with specific action plans. We were highly privileged to be exposed to such discussions prior to an epoch-making election on August 30th. Mr. Thomas Johnson (Chairman of the USJF Board) shared how he has taken action based on foresight, and emphasized that education is the backbone of the future.

One of the most memorable events was listening to an Atomic-Bomb survivor at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, thanks to Delegate Professor Masanobu Akiyama’s arrangement. Mr. Shintaku (83 years old, male) was 20 years old in 1945. Given that he was inside his house, he was uninjured, but as he stepped out of the house, he saw a destroyed City of Hiroshima – the military factories and houses were all burnt out by the Bomb. Hundreds of wounded people begged for his help. Many were crying, “Help me,” showing their flesh hanging from their arms and hands, and black faces. There was a one-year-old boy, crying for his Mother and water. Mr. Shintaku felt sorry for this little boy and fed sludge water from a nearby tank – the only available liquid after thousands of people drunk from it. The boy smiled and thanked Mr. Shintaku and died. Mr. Shintaku spoke of many such deaths that occurred after the bomb in tears. In conclusion, he said; “I think Japan was wrong because it started the War. Today’s world stands because of the U.S.’s effort after WWII. I would like to thank the U.S. and ask them to continue that role.”

Mr. Shintaku spoke of his experiences emphasizing the significance of peace. From the perspective of Global Health (my specialty), all of the countries that achieved good health did not experience war in their homeland after WWII. I have re-learned; peace is indeed the foundation for happiness and prosperity of all humankind. Leaders of the 21st Century need to learn from the bitter lessons of the 20th Century and nurture partnership by taking action supported by ideals.
Reflections on USJLP 2009 in Japan
By Kenneth Cukier (2009-10)

A few hours after saying my farewells to USJLPers as they sped off into the Tokyo night for the final session of the 2009 program — karaoke, of course — I was airborne, flying to join my family on vacation. When I arrived, my wife noticed that I spoke about the people as if it had been a reunion among longtime friends.

The entire experience had been a collage of learning, friendships and at times emotional questionings that left a mark on all of us. There were a few moments of “satori,” or mini-enlightenments, along the way. A few that I appreciate the most:

** It is dinner after the first day. I intentionally avoid the Americans to sit down next to a seemingly interesting Japanese chap. He takes one look at me, and blurts out: “Don’t think that just because I speak English well that I’m Western in my beliefs — I’m very Japanese. In fact, maybe I’m even more Japanese than most Japanese.” I think to myself: “That’s a good opening line — I like this guy. This is going to be a fun evening.” Soon, he’s damning the Western ideal of individualism. I ask leading questions about how Japan can without the influence of Western relishes the friendly exchange. We sip, we share knowing glances: the friendship is forged.

** In Kyoto, I and two other Americans somehow lose the group leaving the restaurant. So we wander to the riverbank and find a pleasant restaurant/bar overlooking the water. Sitting next to us are three girls in their early 20s from a suburb about an hour away, who are dressed up in traditional kimono. We strike up a conversation and by the end of the evening, we are taking group pictures. I can’t help but think how different the Kyoto women are from the Shibuya and Harajuku girls that I see in Tokyo, who dress like vampires or Victorian dolls. There is a certain magic in seeing the young generation participate in traditions that are many centuries old — even if it is simply wearing the costumes of another era (and not such a bygone era, either).

** “I returned from hell, and although I have human form, I consider myself a monster.” So began our meeting with a nuclear bomb survivor in Hiroshima. There was a bright light. Wind. Dust. Fire. Skin melting like wax. A young girl begging for a drink and eventually slaking her thirst with a damp handkerchief of infested water before thanking him and passing on. “My heart was as if it were a refuge for those who were dying.” We were all deeply moved. I know that I will tell his story to my children someday, to keep the chain between us alive.

By the time the group got to Tokyo, we really did feel like a family. At the final dinner, after former Prime Minister Koizumi spoke (with Alexandra Harney’s (08, 09) expert translation), we were treated to a recital by Chris Theofanidis (02, 03) on piano and Claire Chino’s (08, 09) breathtaking singing. My mind wandered back to a conversation with a US-Japan Foundation board member earlier in the day. “Are you working hard — or enjoying yourself?” the professor asked. “I know the answer to that,” I replied, “only enjoying myself!”

“Reporting from Inside USJLP
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Americans somehow lose the group wander to the riverbank and find a
T.K. Nakagaki (02, 03) - Heather Harlan and I were married in Japan on June 30th. The ceremony took place at the Hojuji temple, next door to Tsukiji Honganji in Tokyo. It was performed by Reverend Ryogen Nanjo, a former Buddhist Church of America minister and current resident minister of Hojuji. A reception was held afterwards for about 30 friends and family at Tsukiji Honganji. We are happy to share our joyful news with all our friends.

David McCallum (02, 03) - After seven months in Australia for a work/study/retreat sabbatical, I am returning to the States with a new job. Beginning in the Fall '09, I will be serving as special assistant to the president and visiting professor of leadership at Le Moyne College, a Jesuit liberal arts college in Syracuse, NY.

Nori Shikata (01, 06) - I was appointed as Director of Economic Treaties Division, International Legal Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July. My responsibilities include legal issues involving Economic Partnership Agreements, WTO, and treaties/agreements concerning investment, tax, social security and economic cooperation. I am looking forward to working on possible U.S.-Japan FTA!

Mark Alexander (05, 06) - I am happy to announce the launching of a non-profit organization that I currently support as the President of the Board of Trustees. The Center for Collaborative Change is dedicated to engaging community and civic leadership in policy and program development in Newark, NJ.

Tatsuya Nishida (03, 04) - I have successfully finished defending my dissertation and completed the revision of my thesis! I went back to Japan this summer. Never having lived in Japan, Mei and Ryu are excited to go to a Japanese school and kindergarten with new challenges.

Steve Brock (06, 07) - My wife Melanie and I welcomed our beautiful baby daughter, Kaia Stephanie Bryce Brock, into the world on August 7! Also, my next job will be Director for East Asian Security Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC Staff). I will arrive at the White House in the late Oct/early Nov timeframe.

Esther Benjamin (02, 03) - I thought I’d share this photo with George Packard and Barrye Price (02, 03). The photo was taken on 16 April 2009 at the residence of Sri Lankan Ambassador Jaliya Wickramasuriya, at the awards ceremony for my selection as “Alumna of the Year” by American University’s School of International Service.

Fellows: Please see the back cover for information about 2009 annual contributions!
Charles Danziger (06, 07) created a 12-minute television pilot in English to introduce audiences to Japanese culture. It is called “Drawn to Japan - A Manga Adventure” and it first aired on Japan International Broadcasting (JIB TV) on October 4. It is available on internet streaming service on JIB TV’s website, http://jibtv.com, in any countries outside Japan. Charles wrote the show, appears in it, and animated it himself. Based on his recent book “Harvey and Etsuko’s Manga Guide to Japan,” it is the story of an American unemployed cartoon mouse named Harvey who travels to Japan in order to convince a famous manga artist (Mimei Sakamoto) to draw him in one of her comic strips.

Satoshi Ikeuchi (’05-’06) and Naoko Odaka (’03-04) held their long-awaited Wedding “Matsuri”(celebration) on September 5th with a ceremonial cutting of a whole maguro as their “first joint operation.” USJLPers gathered to celebrate and George Packard’s and Takeo Takuma’s messages were read. Along with delicious food at the Italian restaurant “L’Estasi” in Roppongi, we also enjoyed a shooting stand, cotton candy stand, and a ringtoss stand and Taro Kono and Hide Shitaba came with their whole family and their sons enjoyed the games the most! Congratulations, Satoshi and Naoko!

Satoshi Okada (03, 04) - The monograph book, called “Satoshi Okada” was published by Electa, Milano, Italy, in July 2009. The webpage introduces the book as follows: “Humility and purity, according to Francesco Dal Co, who wrote the introduction, are the characteristics of the designs and beautiful spaces created by Okada. This book enables us to appreciate their consistently high quality and originality.”

Niko Canner (08, 09) was married at the end of August in Big Sur, California to Uyen Tieu, a vice president for strategy and business development at MTV networks in New York. Niko, currently a senior vice president for Booz & Company, led the China panel during this summers conference.

Mary Sarotte (07) has a new book out this fall, entitled 1989: The Struggle to Create Post-Cold War Europe, from Princeton University Press. According the Princeton University Press website, the book “describes how Germany unified, NATO expansion began, and Russia got left on the periphery of the new Europe”
Important Dates

Fall Study Session (Benkyo-kai), Tokyo
In Tokyo, Akira Yoshida(’05 ’06) organizes bi-annual study sessions (BENKYO-KAI). Past topics include, Nuclear Recycling, China, Medicine, and Aging. We will have the next one in November. Hope to see you there.

Seattle 2010 Conference
The USJLP 2010 Conference will take place in Seattle, July 17 - July 24. The application deadline is January 15, 2010.

If you would like to nominate a young leader for membership in the program, please email info@us-jf.org for more information, or see our website www.usjlp.org.

FOR FELLOWS ONLY - 2009 CONTRIBUTIONS
2009 Contributions (Fellows only) will be collected this fall. Please submit your payment by December 15, 2009. Contributions are $100.00 or Y10,000. See payment methods below.

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