

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Foreign Affairs Oral History Project

**AN UNOFFICIAL HISTORY THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE JAPANESE
LANGUAGE AND AREA TRAINING CENTER IN YOKOHAMA, JAPAN:
1993 - 2022 (PART 2)¹**

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¹ Part 1 covers 1952 to 1992

² Assistant Director, Director, Assistant Dean for Overseas Programs, and Associate Dean

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

See Acknowledgements in Part I for recognition of some of the early pioneers in the history of the school, especially founder Dr. Eleanor Harz Jorden.

The dedicated instructors and staff of the US Department of State Foreign Service Institute Japanese Language and Area Training Center, from the very beginning and throughout the decades since.

Directors of FSI/Yokohama over the past thirty years, up to 2022. This history would not have been possible without the contributions of directors and/or their surviving spouses.

Chief Instructor Hajime Takamizawa, who contributed photos, names, and personal recollections on a wide variety of topics.

Alexei Kral, who became Director of FSI Yokohama in July 2021, for having all class photos on the walls of the school photographed for inclusion in the FSI Yokohama history.

Ms. Candice Hunt, Coordinator of External Programs for the School of Language Studies, FSI/Washington, who gave encouragement and support, provided information, and facilitated contact with former FSI/Yokohama directors.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Directors from 1993 through 2022	
1. 1993 Judson L. Bruns (Acting Director)	5
2. 1993-1998 Director: Edward M. Featherstone	6
3. 1998-2000 Hugo Carl Gettinger (student & Acting Director)	12
4. 2000-2002 Director: John O. Maher	14
5. 2001-2005 Director: Lawrence J. Mire	20
6. 2005-2007 Director: Robert R. Kuntz	25
7. 2007-2008 Director: Edward Dong	33
8. 2008-2011 Director: Darrell Jenks	35
9. 2011-2014 Director: John O. Maher	48
10. 2014 – 2018 Director: Gary Oba	51
11. 2018 – 2020 Director: Carmela Conroy	79
12. 2020 – 2021 Director: John Nylin	96
13. 2021 - 2024 Alexei Kral	115
14. Closing Remarks	123

Introduction

In January 2021, former FSI Yokohama student and director James McNaughton and I - John B. Ratliff III, decided to write a history of the first forty years of the US Department of State Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Japanese Language and Area Training Center in Yokohama, Japan. After completing the history in the summer of 2021, we decided to leave It to others to write the history of the school from 1993 to the present, whenever that was. However, after thinking further, I concluded that I had the time and the motivation to write Part 2 of the history, from 1993 to 2022, and so I did.

It is hoped that this seventy-year history will be only the beginning, and that FSI Yokohama will continue to prepare US Department of State Foreign Service Officers and other government personnel for the next seventy years and beyond.

By John B. Ratliff III, former Assistant Director; Director; Assistant Dean for Overseas Programs, and Associate Dean of the Foreign Service Language and Area Training Center in Arlington, Virginia

1. 1993 Judson L. Bruns, Acting Director

After the departure of Director Peter Skaer until the arrival of Director Edward Featherstone, FSI/Yokohama student Judson Bruns was asked to serve as Acting Director.



Student/Acting Director Bruns is seated second from right, with blond hair and black loafers

2. 1993-1998; Director: Edward M. Featherstone

Chief Instructor: Yukio Konno; Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Michiko Yoshizawa

Edward M. Featherstone was a student at FSI/Yokohama in 1964-65. Both he and his wife Katherine (Kathie) Briggs Featherstone attended high school in Yokohama, met there, and later married. Featherstone had a full career as a Foreign Service Officer with the US Department of State, including many assignments in Japan. After retirement from the service, he was asked to serve as Director at FSI Yokohama. He accepted and was director for five years.



Director Featherstone in director residence with Mrs. Konno (left, wife of Chief Instructor Yukio Konno); and Instructor Tashiro (right)



1993 Field Trip
Director Featherstone seated, fifth from left
Chief Instructor Konno seated, sixth from right



1993 Field Trip
Director Featherstone seated, fourth from right
Chief Instructor Konno, left of Featherstone

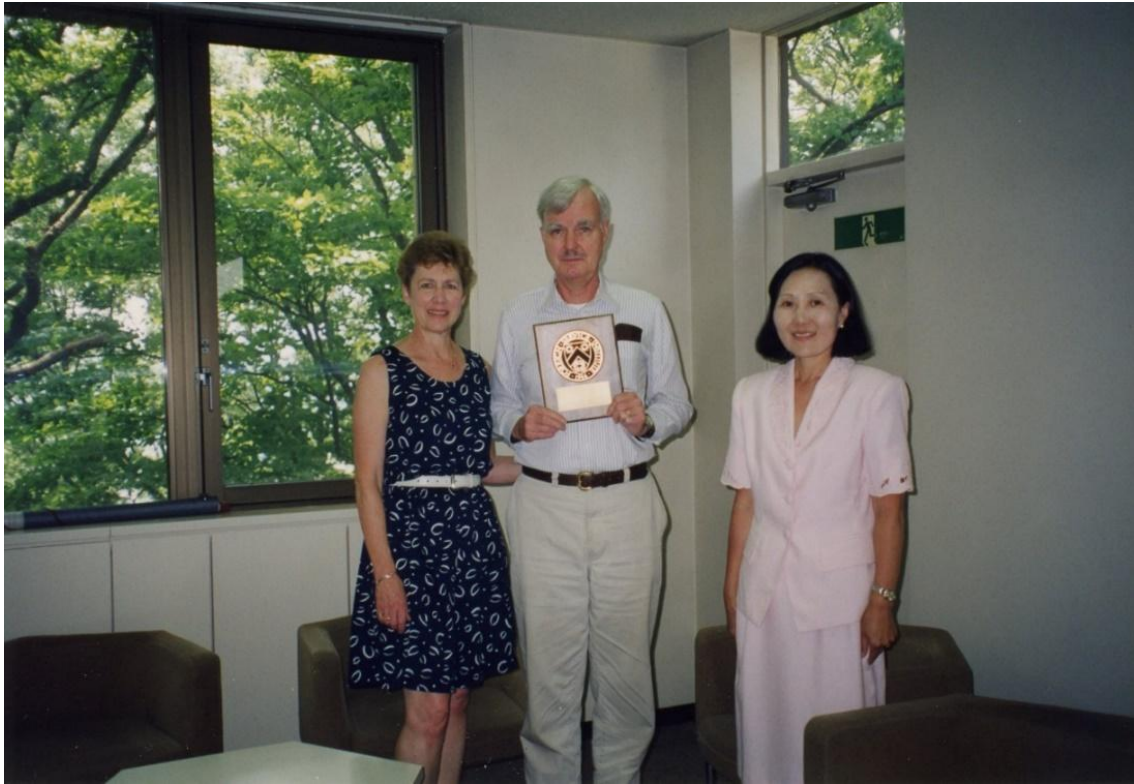


米国国務省日本語研修所夏期研修旅行記念(宮城 中新田町) 1995年9月28日

1995 Field Trip
Director Featherstone seated, center
Chief Instructor Konno seated, fifth from left



1996 Field Trip
Director Featherstone seated, fifth from left
Chief Instructor Konno seated, fifth from right



June 19, 1998

Director Featherstone holding FSI plaque recognizing his service upon his retirement, presented by Dr. Mary Kim (right - from FSI Washington). Featherstone's wife Kathie is on the left



June 12, 1998

Farewell for Director Featherstone and wife Kathie
at Queens East in Yokohama, with staff

From back: Miyawaki, Kobo, Konno, Enomoto, Kathie and Ed Featherstone, Ichikawa, Shinte
Front: Kakemoto, Ota, Yoshizawa, Yamaguchi, Ishihara

Director Featherstone left in 1998 and was replaced by Foreign Service Officer Hugo Carl Gettinger.

3. 1998-1999 Hugo Carl Gettinger (student & Acting Director)

1999-2000 Director: Hugo Carl Gettinger

Chief Instructor: Yukio Konno; Administrative Assistant: Ms. Michiko Yoshizawa

When Director Featherstone left in 1998, student Hugo Carl Gettinger was asked to be Acting Director until he graduated, then to become director through the first half of 2000. It has not been possible to reach Mr. Gettinger in hopes he could contribute to this chapter.

Below are two photos from the period when Mr. Gettinger was director.



米国国務省日本語研修所研修旅行記念98年度

1998 Field Trip

Director Gettinger seated in middle with white shirt and tie
Chief Instructor Konno is seated to the left of Gettinger



1999 Photo at FSI Yokohama
Ambassador Thomas S. Foley seated in center
Director Gettinger is to the left of Amb. Foley
Chief Instructor Konno is to the right of Amb. Foley

Mr. Gettinger was succeeded as director by John Maher in 2000.

4. 2000-2002; Director: John O. Maher

Chief Instructor: Ms. Masako Enomoto; Administrative Assistant: Ms. Michiko Yoshizawa

Early in Maher's directorship, in 2000, the school began various preparations for the possibility of a damaging earthquake.

U.S. Navy medics from Yokosuka Naval Station gave a first aid training course for all the students, faculty, and staff. Director Maher agreed to play a person with a serious injury as part of the training.



Director Maher on a stretcher in the parking lot, simulating a life-threatening injury to his abdomen

Director Maher writes:

“That year, in addition to the training, we created a disaster plan, stockpiled MREs and supplies, and had some earthquake-proofing work done on the school (e.g., bolting cabinets to the wall). At that time, our disaster concerns were very much focused on the likelihood of a major earthquake, but when 9/11 struck the following year, it was comforting that we at least had some preparations in place in case anything like that should manifest itself in Japan.”

9/11

One of the most shocking occurrences during Maher’s first directorship was 9/11 – September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked. Below is John Maher’s firsthand account of learning of the attack, and the impact on the school and its personnel:

“Given Japan's time zone, the first word of the 9/11 terrorist attacks hit the news in Tokyo around 9:00 pm on September 11. I had turned my TV off around 8:00, and in that pre-internet environment I went to bed blissfully unaware of what was going on. Around midnight a call from the Embassy roused me. The Assistant Regional Security Officer told me to reach out to the police and ask them to post an armed guard at FSI. Blinking against the lights I had just turned on, I said, "OK, I'll do that. Um, is there some new threat information or something?" He said, "Oh, you haven't heard..." and filled me in.

The local police station responded very promptly and helpfully, and in fact maintained a 24/7 presence in our parking lot beginning that night and lasting for a few months. I started calling students and teachers. Some were asleep and unaware, as I had been, and others were up

watching the news. The Embassy had not given any instructions yet, but I was sure they were going to close routine operations down at least for the next day, so I told the students and staff not to come to school until I got back to them with the all-clear. Then when another call came from the Embassy around 3:00 am saying, "Tell everyone not to come in tomorrow," I was able to say, "OK, will do" and rolled over and went back to sleep.

We got back to more or less our usual routine in the next few days. The biggest difference was a police van in our parking lot, and that we took down the exterior sign identifying the school. One or two field trip destinations asked us to put off visits for a while in the early days, but soon we were able to do almost everything we were used to doing. Access to the nearby U.S. military bases became considerably stricter, and we were all a lot more observant of anything unusual around the school."

TEXTBOOK DEVELOPMENT

CJ: Under Director Maher's direction, in 2001-2002 the staff finished a major revision to *Contemporary Japanese*, creating not only an updated text but a new method of drafting and updating teaching materials. Digital files of all the works were saved, and copies were printed and put in binders, to be handed out to students. This enabled the staff to easily update the text a chapter, or even a page, at a time, rather than having to do a huge rewrite every few decades.

MODERNIZING THE FACILITIES

The school also got funding to refurbish the language lab, which was still based on old cassette tape technology. The machines were wearing out and parts and service were no longer available for old technology. The room was redone with a raised floor for wiring underneath, and desktop computers at each station. These upgrades permitted periodic upgrades to hardware and teaching software as time went on and as the State Department went through regular IT replacement cycles.

RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

A few months later, the FSI courtyard acquired a new set of recreational equipment.



Slide for children of the director, and friends
With Aki, son of Director Maher

AN EXOTIC VISITOR

Director Maher reports:

“Another exotic visitor: a stray nihonzaru, a Japanese macaque, showed up in the neighborhood and seemed to be based somewhere in the wooded hillside behind FSI. The local authorities warned to watch out for it, as monkeys can be aggressive, and this one was big. I kept an eye out (and a nostril, as we could smell it when it was close) because I could just imagine my then toddler son seeing it and trying to play with it. We saw it several times. The consensus seemed to be that someone had probably tried to keep it as a pet and, after learning what a bad idea that was, just set it loose in the nearby woods. I think eventually it was captured and moved for release somewhere more remote.”



Monkey on top of FSI School Guard Booth



A visit from DCM Chris LaFleur - 2000
Front, from left: Chief Instructor Enomoto,
DCM La Fleur, Director Maher



A visit to the Diet – 2001
Chief Instructor Enomoto – front center
Director Maher – rear, far right



Class photo in school Main Lounge – March 13, 2002
 Director Maher in center, seated
 Chief Instructor Enomoto seated on the right

This completes the chapter on John Maher's time as director 2000 to 2002. See also his second period as director 2011 – 2014.

5. 2001 – 2005; Director: Lawrence J. Mire

Chief Instructor: Ms. Enomoto; followed by Ms. Tomoko Ichikawa

Administrative Assistant: Michiko Yoshizawa

Below is an edited report from Director Mire in his own words, of significant events and accomplishments during his tenure as director:

“MODERNIZING THE COMPUTER SYSTEM: My predecessor, John Maher modernized the language lab by replacing the old analog tape machines with a much more capable digital system. It was up and running by the time he left. I was duly impressed at how much more capable the new digital system was. I decided my goal would be to bring the classrooms into the digital age as well. Each teacher had an old, NEC computer which was out of date, isolated by its proprietary software and not linked together in a LAN. I arrived in late August, long after the next year's budget cycle had been completed. I began making plans to seek funding for new

computers for the next budget cycle with the hope of getting them installed before the end of my three-year tour.

As they say, the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, in this case serendipitously. After my first country team meeting at the Embassy, I was wandering through the halls trying to find my way out and saw dozens of computers laying around the hallways haphazardly. They were standard Department desktops but still more advanced than what we had at FSI. I immediately sought out the Embassy's IT boss and asked him what was going on. He said it was part of an Embassy upgrade installing new computers to replace the old ones, and they were just going to get rid of the old computers. My eyes lit up and we began to dicker.

He agreed to give us enough old computers to equip each teacher/classroom with a newer desktop running the standardized Windows operating system. If I (i.e., FSI) put up the money for the LAN hardware, he would link the computers into a local LAN system. FSI was able to reprogram that relatively small amount for the LAN hardware and we were able to get the new classroom computers installed in a couple of months instead of a couple of years. We had plenty of time to arrange funding to have FSI Yokohama included in the next Embassy upgrade, several years down the line so we would have brand new computers instead of hand-me-downs in future.

Getting computers into the classrooms was a big advance. Instead of lugging videotapes from classroom to classroom we could just log into the material uploaded onto the LAN. For the news comprehension classes, we could just click on the saved NHK links for the news stories selected for the class. Point and click was a lot easier than rewinding the tape to listen to the hard part again. This made it easier for students to study and review the material at home by clicking on the same links on their personal computers or smartphones.

DROP IN ENROLLMENT: During my tenure, FSI had priced itself out of the market for non-State students. The problem was the Congressional requirement that we charge full costs for any services provided, not just the incremental costs of additional students from other agencies or other countries. This meant that the total costs of the entire operating budget had to be divided up among the students. As the number of students shrank, the per student cost rose. During my tenure we saw our last DOD student and our last Commonwealth student, the incoming New Zealand Ambassador. Soon these agencies followed their Department of Commerce colleagues in finding other, commercial language schools which charged much less. By the end of my tour the student body had been reduced to a handful of State employees and we ended up having to RIF teachers because other Agency students could no longer afford paying the full recovery costs.

WE APPEAR ON TV: We became a fixture on morning TV. The local "Good Morning, Yokohama" show would make a point of inviting the Director and selected students on their show, from time-to-time to talk about their impressions of Yokohama and life in Japan. We tried to keep it light and fun. I think the biggest laugh we got was when they asked us what our favorite Japanese food was. Instead of the expected sushi, yakitori, or ramen, when they got to me, I blurted out gobou. You can find sushi or ramen just about anywhere in the world, but gobou (burdock root) was a lot harder to find outside of Japan.

STUDENT HOUSING: The apartment building where most of the students were housed had underground parking. The building also leased out a number of parking spaces to an exotic car dealership. So the students would often find their beat up used car parked next to a sparkling Maserati, a sleek Ferrari, a posh Jaguar or dignified Bentley.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: For students interested in the martial arts, the local staff would hook them up with local dojos or clubs. I made use of a nearby kyudo range to keep up with my practice of traditional Japanese archery.

I also made it a point to take students out to some of the local jazz clubs. Yokohama was a lively jazz scene during the occupation with lots of old, small (affordable) clubs still around the Chinatown area.

OFFSITE SEMINAR WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN: One of the more challenging opportunities we had was participating in an annual Government of Japan seminar in which they pulled together people from different agencies, e.g., Self Defense Forces, Finance, Justice, Agriculture, etc. to explore a subject in depth, for example Global Warming. The offsite seminar was conducted entirely in Japanese, but FSI students were able to make friends with many people scattered throughout the government of Japan well beyond our usual MOFA counterparts.”



Field Trip to Hiroshima - 2002
Director Mire seated in center



Visit to FSI Yokohama by Ambassador Howard Baker - 2003
Amb. Baker seated, in middle
Director Mire to the right of Amb. Baker



Visit to FSI Yokohama by DCM Mike Michalak - 2004

DCM Michalak seated, in center

Director Mire to the right of DCM Michalak

This completes an account of some representative activities and accomplishments during the tenure of Director Lawrence Mire.

6. 2005-2007 Director: Robert R. Kuntz

Chief Instructor: Ms. Shinya; followed by Ms. Tomoko Ichikawa and Mr. Yoshiaki Kobo, who shared Chief Instructor duties

Administrative Assistant: Michiko Yoshizawa

Here, in his own words, with minor adjustments, is Director Kuntz's report on his time as Director at FSI Yokohama:

“During my tenure at FSI, there were two overriding issues: 1) exploring options for bringing back Japanese language students from allied embassies such as the UK, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia. This effort also included attempting to bring back students from our own embassy’s Foreign Commercial Service and the military Foreign Area Officer program; and 2) major security renovations to the physical structure of the FSI Yokohama campus in the wake of 9/11.

Addressing the first issue, I met with representatives from all allied embassies as well as FCS and Defense Attaché Office officials at the U.S. Embassy. All recognized the value of the FSI Yokohama program but cited fiscal constraints - - renting apartments in Yokohama when embassy housing was available in Tokyo and the significant tuition difference between top Japanese language schools in Tokyo versus FSI (significantly higher at that time).

The security upgrades consumed an entire school year and, in my opinion, spoiled the academic atmosphere of the campus. You can see the grillwork added to the courtyard in one of the attached photos. The work was noisy and generally disruptive for the students and teachers.

For some time, Embassy Tokyo had participated in a two-day language immersion program with the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management in Kanagawa. MIGM selected a small number of students each year and provided them with a stipend and living expenses for two-year research on a chosen topic. Many MIGM graduates went on to elected offices in local and national politics. I was asked to take the lead in organizing the MIGM immersion program in 2005 and 2006. The U.S. participants were a mix of FSI Yokohama students and Embassy Tokyo officers. The attached photos show some of the activities at MIGM – presentations in Japanese by U.S. participants, meals together, a few beers afterwards and a meditative early morning cleaning of the school grounds followed by a jog/walk along the nearby beach.

In addition, I reached out to the Yokohama community as a resource for our students. The Yokohama Junior Chamber of Commerce was very receptive and invited all the FSI Yokohama students to their annual party. This was an opportunity to put the students into a diplomatic reception scenario where they could practice their language skills.”



Matsushita Institute Immersion Program - 2006



Matsushita Institute Tea Ceremony - 2006



Matsushita Institute Program – 2006



Matsushita Immersion Presentation



Matsushita Institute Immersion Program
Cleaning the grounds



Matsushita Institute Immersion Program
FBI Presentation



Matsushita Institute Immersion Program
Tea Ceremony



Matsushita Institute Immersion Program – Lunch



Matsushita Institute Immersion Program - Happy Hour



FSI Yokohama students and staff – 2006

Director Kuntz seated in middle

First Chief Instructor Shinya on second row, second from left in grey top

Subsequent Co-Chief Instructor Ms. Ishikawa is to the right of Director Kuntz in white outfit;

Co-Chief Instructor Kobo is directly behind Director Kuntz in a blue shirt

This concludes the chapter on Robert Kuntz as Director.

7. 2007 – 2008; Director Edward Dong

Edward Dong served for one year as FSI Yokohama Director. Reports from that year were not available.



2007 GRADUATES – Ed Dong is in the front row, in the middle, with the white shirt and navy pants

8. June 2008-2011; Director: Darrell Jenks

Many special events and programs took place under Director Darrell Jenks - Field trips, interaction with US Embassy officials, as well as local Kanagawa Prefecture, Yokohama City, and Diet members, etc. Below are some of them, taken from one of his performance evaluations from a high Embassy official.³

INTEGRATION OF FSI YOKOHAMA PROGRAM WITH POST LANGUAGE PROGRAM

“Darrell forged an effective team with the Embassy’s Post Language Program to make sure that Yokohama graduates receive appropriate Japanese training when they arrive at the Embassy. He has welcomed Embassy language teachers to observe his school and sent his teachers to the Embassy to discuss integrating our curriculum to provide a seamless language experience for our language learners.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

Darrell has energetically engaged the leaders of Japan’s second largest prefecture. He revived the school’s contacts with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party through the monthly Nagata-kai meetings, in the process helping the language students interact with Japanese politicians outside the classroom. Recently the Kanagawa Governor told me how impressed he was with Darrell’s volunteer work to help him promote the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Port of Yokohama. Darrell organized an Embassy brief for a select group of future Japanese leaders and also brought his students to a seminar in Tokyo to discuss exchange programs.

TAILORING THE STUDENT’S PROGRAM TO INDIVIDUAL NEEDS, AND IMMERSION OPPORTUNITIES

Darrell’s enthusiasm for language learning comes through in his energetic efforts to tailor the curriculum to each student’s individual needs and to organize immersion opportunities. He organized a visit to the national legislature and placed students in internships at the city government office and the Chinatown Historical Society. These activities enrich the student’s knowledge of Japanese history, culture, and politics, while providing language opportunities. Darrell devotes much time to teacher-student interaction and then provides customized feedback to help the students recalibrate their training.

He has worked with software vendors to identify new software that help students learn useful vocabulary and Chinese characters. His notice to Mission personnel on electronic dictionaries helped me select an improved model for my own use. His background in Japanese politics, history, and culture has enabled him to expand the opportunities for FSI students to find immersion opportunities. For example, he has intensified the school’s relationship with the Matsushita Training Institute and resulted in his students participating in short term intensive training sessions....

³ Thanks to Thelma Jenks, Candice Hunt, Coordinator of External Programs at FSI/W, and former FSI Yokohama student Jason Cubas for the photos in this chapter.



2008-2009 FSI Yokohama students' yearly field trip to the Diet at the invitation of Yokohama Representative Jun Matsumoto seated in center. Director Jenks immediately to the right



2009-2010 FSI students, staff, and spouses with Ambassador John Roos in white shirt, at center. Director Jenks on far right (Photo taken by Mrs. Jenks)



2010-2011 FSI students, staff, family members and friends-Director Jenks (right, front row) Ms. McConnell, right back row in white blazer (see page 51)



FSI/Y faculty with FSI School of Language Studies Coordinator of External Programs Candice Hunt (rear, 2nd from left), FSI SLS Dean, Ambassador Bill Eaton (rear center), EAP Department Chair Charlie Miracle (rear, second from right) and Director Jenks (rear right) 2008-2009



FSI students at Matsushita Institute – 2008-2009
Director Jenks is second from left in third row

According to Mrs. Jenks, Burt Sabin, head of the Office of Translation and Media Analysis at US Embassy Tokyo and author of "[A Historical Guide to Yokohama.](#)" was instrumental in helping Director Jenks with immersion and learning activities for students. Mr. Sabin lectured, and led field trips on Yokohama history. He has an encyclopedic memory of all things Yokohama and more.



Director Jenks (right) with Burt Sabin
Yokohama Expert



Port of Yokohama Tour, Director Jenks left, kneeling



Visit to the court February 2009-2010. Director Jenks on left, seated



Tokyo Edo Museum – 2009-2010 Students and Staff
 Director Jenks, front row, second from left
 (Photo taken by Mrs. Jenks)



HOME STAY/FIELD TRIP PROGRAM IWATE Prefecture

**November 2010
 Matthew O'Connor is
 pounding mochi, Director
 Jenks in the background.**

**In a 2011 notes of
 accomplishments
 document, Director
 Jenks writes:**

“The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce worked with me to create a field trip for the entire

student body. This trip was the first time that we had worked with them, and I developed an intensive program that involved faculty preparation of students to give formal remarks to local officials in a neighboring prefecture. This experience was crucial in exposing our trainees to professional diplomatic work and was also an excellent opportunity to reach out to the inhabitants of an important neighboring prefecture.”



Eliza Scidmore Tomb visit in 2011, Japanese American Society President & Mrs. Nishida, Mrs. Nishioka, with Director Jenks on left.

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/scidmore.htm>

As is referenced in Mr. Sabin’s letter below, Director Jenks was a key official in planning for the 100th year celebration of the gift of Yoshino cherry trees from Japan to the U.S., which were planted around the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC in 1912, and in the planning of subsequent US ceremonial tree-planting events, such as the planting of dogwood trees in a hilltop park that had once been a US military housing area – *See FSI Yokohama History of the First Forty Years, under Diplomacy in the Community.*



Director Jenks (left) carrying a Mikoshi (sacred palanquin) at a Shinto Shrine – 2011

**Director
Jenks at Port
of Yokohama
Celebration
2009**



Darrell Jenks on drums with Yokohama Jazz Band at FSI
July 4th Celebrations, 2010

MARCH 11, 2011

On March 11, an earthquake and tidal wave hit Japan, destroying a nuclear plant at Fukushima, and unleashing an unimaginably horrible series of events all over Japan. Darrell Jenks' wife Thelma recalls the first impact of the disaster:

"I was on the second floor of the residence when the building shook like I had never felt one shake before. It was a 9.0 quake at around 2:40 p.m. Aftershocks continued 24/7 endlessly and I found myself wearing a helmet every day for months, or at least until I began to feel less shaky!

Taken by Christopher Bishop on March 11, 2011, the picture below is of Kirin Bayside Village, Yokohama, where some of FSI students were housed at the time: no electricity, and smoke in the air from a fire at one of the refineries in Honmoku district. FSI is located up the hill from this location.



A note from FSI student Ms. McConnell at the time, reminds me of that evening. Dusk settled on March 11, 2011, as Darrell and Yamauchi sensei, grilled and served stinky fish to Ms. McConnell and others. I was glued to the radio. Believing to be the first to hear about the event at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, I ran to share the news with everyone. While outside, the barbecue grill kept us warm, and when inside, the candlelight helped us see the stinky fish we were eating as we kept abreast of the news.

Because of the extremely nerve wracking and dizzying aftershocks of the earthquake, and other dire news about the nuclear power plant, I think that students with families made a good decision to evacuate when the Embassy notified everyone of that option. Not long after, Darrell began to

show signs of prominent chest pain, cough, and fatigue. Even in that state, Darrell continued activities, including going on a trip with student Harry Sullivan, and keeping abreast of the triple disaster developments at the time.

On May 31, 2011, the Embassy Doctor requested lab tests for Darrell at St. Jude Hospital in Tokyo. On June 2, Mrs. Chiaki Umemoto and Mrs. Nishioka, members of the Japanese American Society, took Darrell to be seen by their family doctor in Yokohama. Dr. Toriyama advised that hospitalization was necessary. On July 3, Darrell barely made it to the Japanese Language Exam for foreigners site. On July 4, I checked him in at St. Jude Hospital in Tokyo. On July 6, doctors confirmed lung cancer. Medical evacuation to Maryland followed on July 13, 2011.

The events described above illustrate Darrell's sense of urgency to get things done, no excuses—like that of his 31 years of diplomatic service for the Department of State (1980-2011). A Life of involvement with people of all walks of life, and an in-depth attention to “every. word. you. said,” and “with the gift of intensely enjoying life within the moment,” according to Professor Randall Johnson, University of Cambridge, a college roommate--see www.reed.edu/reed_magazine/december2012/articles_letters/jenks.html

Continuing in that same spirit, in March 2012, family members requested permission from the hospital to take Darrell to view the Cherry Blossom Festival in D.C. He wanted to see the blossoms one more time. By chance--and a wonderful one that was--as we were passing by a booth on the festival grounds, someone handed me dozens of the 100th Anniversary metal pins, and postcards. I mailed these to FSI teachers, The Japan America Society, and the Mayor's Office in Yokohama.”

Darrell passed away on May 14, 2012. Thelma received messages in many formats, such as letters, notes of appreciation for Darrell, and condolences from officials and friends, including music groups he joined as a drummer in Japan and elsewhere. His fluency in many foreign languages, his performance as Director of FSI Yokohama, his stellar Foreign Service career, his humanity, and his love for his family, will never be forgotten.

Letter from Burt Sabin:

May 29, 2012
Dear Thelma,

I was deeply saddened to learn of Darrell's passing. You know his many virtues far better than me; suffice to say he was a dear friend, always ready to help, a soul mate ... I wonder about the good times that will not be.

Much was done here in remembrance of Darrell.

At the beginning of the Annual General Meeting of the Japan-American Society of Yokohama on May 23 President Nishida asked for a moment of silence for Darrell.

Then, last Friday, a group from the Embassy gathered in memory of Darrell at a Tokyo

restaurant. Messages from his friends at consulates throughout Japan were read. (Please find these attached.)

Two days later, on Sunday, a cherry tree that had “returned” from the Potomac Tidal Basin and a dogwood, a gift from the United States, were planted on Nogeyama hill in Yokohama in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the gift of cherry trees from Japan to America. It was a beautiful spring day. In attendance were the Cherry Blossom Princesses from the U.S. and Japan, city council members, Mayor Hayashi, JASY members, and many others.

The first speaker, an adviser to the committee on the “return” of the cherry tree, spoke at length of Darrell’s passionate contribution to building a framework for deepening U.S.-Japan friendship through a commemoration of the centennial of the gift of cherry trees to Washington D.C. He then asked for a moment of silence, whereupon all rose and stood with lowered heads for a minute.

Mayor Hayashi also spoke, and during her speech mentioned Darrell’s various contributions to U.S.-Japan friendship over the years.

Truly Darrell remains in the hearts of all who knew him in Japan.

Please take care of yourself and if there is anything at all I can do, please don’t hesitate to ask.

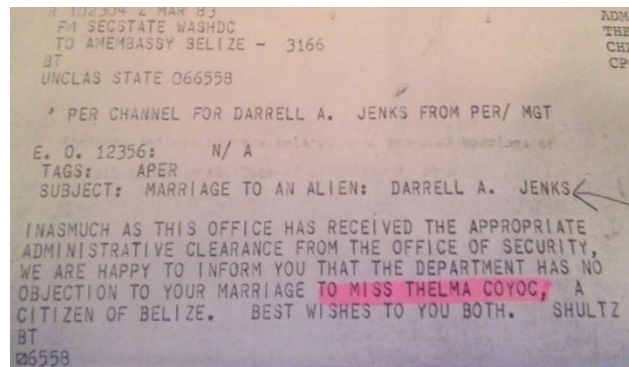
In mourning,

Burt



**Director
Jenks FSI
Yokohama
8/2008 to
7/2011**

**Marrying an “ALIEN”
The Department of State’s
approval for the marriage of
Darrell Jenks to Thelma Coyoc,
a citizen of Belize, before his
assignment at US Embassy,
Tokyo, Japan, in 1983**



Mrs. Jenks adds that on Darrell’s 2009-2010 EER, he is described as “One of the mission’s best linguists, Darrell seeks out opportunities himself for public speaking. He spoke at a seminar on U.S. Japan relations, at workshops at Yokohama National University, and many other events. After last using Japanese in 1985, he tested at the 4/4+ level in June of 2009. Well known in Yokohama as a leader in foreign language education, Darrell participated in a Japanese Ministry of Education project to develop Japanese language materials for foreigners. He collected information from Yokohama businesses and schools to design model courses. His resulting lecture in Japanese was published in the proceedings by the Ministry of Education.” See Director Jenks’ Communications and Foreign Language skills (See EER 2009-2010).

2011年第1回 日本語能力試験 合格結果通知書 The 2011 (July) Japanese-Language Proficiency Test Test Result														
受験日 Test Date	2011年 7月 3日 (日曜日) July 3, 2011 (Sunday)													
受験レベル Level	N1													
受験番号 Registration No.	140310253													
氏名 Name	JENKS DARRELL ALLAN													
生年月日 Date of Birth (y/m/d)	1958/05/09													
国・地域 Country / Region	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">得点区分別得点 Scores by Scoring Section</th> <th rowspan="2">総合得点 Total Score</th> </tr> <tr> <th>言語知識(文字・語彙・文法) Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar)</th> <th>読解 Reading</th> <th>聴解 Listening</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>56/60</td> <td>40/60</td> <td>52/60</td> <td>148/180</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			得点区分別得点 Scores by Scoring Section			総合得点 Total Score	言語知識(文字・語彙・文法) Language Knowledge (Vocabulary/Grammar)	読解 Reading	聴解 Listening	56/60	40/60	52/60	148/180	
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文字・語彙 Vocabulary	文法 Grammar													
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合格 Passed			2011年8月28日 August 28, 2011											
財団法人 日本国際教育支援協会 理事長 井上正樹 Masayuki Inoue President Japan Educational Exchanges and Services		独立行政法人 国際交流基金 理事長 小倉和夫 Kazuo Ogoura President The Japan Foundation												

日本語能力認定書 Certificate of Japanese-Language Proficiency	
受験レベル Level	N1
受験地 Test Site	日本 JAPAN
受験番号 Registration No.	140310253
生年月日 Date of Birth (y/m/d)	1958/05/09
氏名 Name	JENKS DARRELL ALLAN
<p>上記の者は2011年7月に財団法人日本国際教育支援協会および独立行政法人国際交流基金が実施した日本語能力試験に合格したことを証明します。 2011年8月28日</p> <p>This is to certify that the person named above has passed the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test given in July 2011, jointly administered by Japan Educational Exchanges and Services and the Japan Foundation.</p>	
財団法人 日本国際教育支援協会 理事長 井上正樹 Masayuki Inoue President Japan Educational Exchanges and Services	独立行政法人 国際交流基金 理事長 小倉和夫 Kazuo Ogoura President The Japan Foundation

Darrell Jenks' certificate of Japanese language (JLPT) a nationwide exam for foreigners at five levels: N1 is highest (<https://www.jlpt.jp>)



The Jenks Family: From left: Wife Thelma, daughter Desiree, Darrell, and son Christopher

With thanks and gratitude to the following individuals: Neil Kubler, who led Darrell into an immersion in all things FSI, and wife Jerling, who was exemplary in her many roles, including providing support to spouses in so many ways; Edward K. Dong, Darrell's FSI/Y predecessor; and our family of Japanese friends and acquaintances there, i.e.: Japanese American Society--thank you for your support, guidance, and participation; Candice and Charlie--I will never forget the last time Darrell and I saw you both--thank you for being there; John Ratliff who Darrell followed, years later, on the continued quest for Japanese Language mastery by all who set foot at FSI/Y. John, thank you for giving me another venue to reminisce about Darrell, and to John Hill who wrote Darrell's obituary--See The Foreign Service Journal July/August, 2012, pg. 69. Thelma

9. 2011-2014 Director: John O. Maher

Chief Instructor: There was no single instructor as Chief Instructor but instead several Senior Instructors with various responsibilities; Administrative Assistant: Naoko Chimaru.



2011 Students and Staff
Director Maher kneeling in front



2013, With Ambassador Caroline Kennedy
 Amb. Kennedy seated in middle
 Director Maher to the left of Amb. Kennedy

Director Maher was active in representing the US Embassy in various events, including the commemoration of the Yokohama port opening and “The Black Ships.”

Here, in his own words, is an account of Director Maher’s involvement in the commemoration of an historical event in the history of US/Japan relations:

“One special event I worked on was a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the donation of the cherry trees to Washington. The first batch of trees, in 1910, turned out to be infested with harmful insects and all had to be burned, so the commemoration was of the second, successful donation in 1912. The trees were donated in the name of the Mayor of Tokyo, but they had several Yokohama ties, including being supplied by a Yokohama nursery and shipped out of Yokohama Port. Also, a pioneering American woman journalist, Eliza Scidmore (1856-1928), was instrumental in promoting the project, persuading then-First Lady Helen Taft to lobby for planting the trees prominently in DC. Ms. Scidmore spent time in Yokohama while her brother was a U.S. Consul there, and she, her brother and her mother are buried in Yokohama's Foreigners' Cemetery.

A key event of the commemoration was the donation of dogwood trees from the United States to Japan. U.S. Ambassador John Roos visited Yokohama for a ceremonial planting in a hilltop park that had once been a U.S. military housing area. Credit should also go to my predecessor as FSI Director, Darrell Jenks (2008-2011). He put in a lot of work organizing the U.S. Government involvement in the commemoration.”



Japanese cherry trees in full bloom at the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC, with the Washington Monument in the background – April 2001

These are examples of the School's constant effort to maintain cordial relations with local organizations as well as with the local government. Being considered an integral part of the community was important to the School's ability to function properly.

TEXTBOOK DEVELOPMENT – FIRST USE OF VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

Director Maher reports:

“In the summer of 2012, the school did another major revision of *Contemporary Japanese*, and for the first time we conducted class by Skype for one of our students. This student was gradually returning from maternity leave after having a baby during her Yokohama year of language training. Also, because she was part of a tandem couple and her husband was already working at the Embassy in Tokyo, she was living in Tokyo and had a long commute to FSI

Yokohama. So, to help her ease back in while still getting the rest she needed, we started with just a couple of hours of class a day by Skype, and it worked out quite well.”

This concludes the coverage of John Maher’s second time as director – 2011 – 2014.

10. 2014 – 2018; Director: Gary Oba

Chief Instructor: Ms. Tomoko Ichikawa; followed by Ms. Yoko Odaka
Administrative Assistant: Tetsuji Tanaka

Over a four-year period, Director Oba directed a wide variety of activities designed to individualize coursework, improve training programs, and give the students a wide range of exposure to Japanese life and language - both every day and specialized. Many programs and events were carried over or continued from past years, while other activities and programs were initiated for the first time. This chapter is based on items listed in Director Oba’s monthly reports, plus an array of photos during his directorship.

A. COURSE DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

August – September 2014 - Faculty member Emi Nishiwaki introduced this year’s class to a newly developed course focused on listening comprehension. Daily listening comprehension classes continued throughout the year. Later in September, an optional, early morning Newspaper Headline Mini-Course was introduced that allowed interested students to look at the daily headlines and lead articles with the assistance of an instructor.

Early August 2015 – Our instructional staff created some new “survival” Japanese review modules that cover practical tasks including applying for a Japanese driver’s license, opening a postal bank account, and purchasing a cell phone. These modules are designed to help our students do two things: review basic grammar patterns and acquire the vocabulary they need to address initial “immersion” activities related to settling into life in Japan.

December 16, 2015 – At an embassy awards assembly, Odaka-sensei was recognized for her efforts in digitalizing FSI Yokohama’s course materials and making them available on a shared website, and Nishiwaki-sensei was recognized for her work in crafting a listening course for the FSI curriculum.

July 2016 – For two incoming FSI Yokohama student who will complete both the first and second year of study at FSI Yokohama, instructors Takayuki Kato and Masumi Kobayashi prepared a communication-focused curriculum that places a heavy emphasis on developing solid foundation of basic Japanese grammar skills and which introduces the student to the language skills required to do business as a diplomat. The curriculum also addresses reading and writing proficiency and incorporates several activities outside of the classroom including an immersion trip to Hiroshima.

August 30, 2016 – In an effort to implement a best practice highlighted by our colleagues at CLASS in Taiwan, we initiated a Culture Mini-Lecture series to be conducted by our instructors periodically throughout the year. Ichikawa-sensei presented his year’s first lecture focused on the Shinto creation myths and their connection to Japan’s Imperial Family.

September 20, 2016 – In an effort to implement a best practice highlighted by our colleagues at FSI in Arlington, we began an extensive reading program this year. On alternating weeks, students utilized part of the fifth instructional hour to read items they have selected from our small but growing collection of extensive reading materials.

November 15, 2016 – While students were off on immersion trips, Odaka-sensei and Kato-sensei visited the embassy where they interviewed officers and locally employed staff members in the POL and GSO sections about the officers’ use of Japanese on the job. This type of “needs” survey helps inform our instructional efforts—particularly as we consider curricular revisions and adjustments.

B. MODERNIZING/SECURING THE SCHOOL FACILITIES

October 27, 2014 – Taking a step forward into the modern age, Wi-Fi installation at FSI Yokohama was completed with assistance from the Embassy Tokyo’s IPC staff. For the first time, our students were able to access instructional materials and study applications on their own smartphones and tablets while at FSI Yokohama. Earlier in September, with helpful assistance provided by FSI Washington instructional staff, FSI Yokohama Instructor Yoko Odaka successfully uploaded FSI Yokohama instructional materials and resource materials to a limited access Google SharePoint site. The site provides ready access to the full range of FSI Yokohama instructional materials that were previously only available in our own language laboratory. The site also provided FSI students of Japanese with access to a wide range of very useful study tools, links, and applications.

June – August 2016 – Beginning in June and continuing through August, a joint venture contractor (Trison Construction and Desbuild Incorporated) carried out an OBO project to replace and update security doors and windows in the guard house, school, and Director’s residence. This major project turned most of our parking lot and courtyard areas into a busy construction zone during most of the summer. Once the work on the doors and windows was substantially completed, a separate local contractor began installing scaffolding required for repairing exterior concrete beams that serve as the skeletal structure of the FSI Yokohama facility. The work for this project was hampered by a series of typhoons that passed nearby in August.

C. PROFICIENCY TEST PREPARATION

Over a six-day period each year, we conducted individual progress assessments patterned on the FSI language proficiency test for each student. Although the assessments did not yield a numeric score, the results clearly demonstrated solid and steady progress on the part of each year’s class.

Every year in June, a testing team led by an examiner from FSI Arlington spent a week at FSI Yokohama conducting end-of-training tests. Many of our students then transitioned immediately to their follow-on assignments.

D. VISITORS FROM THE US EMBASSY

September 10, 2014 – DCM Jason Hyland visited FSI Yokohama, where he had lunch with the faculty, observed classes, and met with the Director.

February 6, 2015 – During an evening reception graciously hosted by the DCM at his residence, students were afforded an opportunity to practice both language and social skills while interacting with “real world” embassy and FSI Yokohama contacts.

January 3, 2018 – Charge Joseph Young made his first visit to FSI Yokohama since his return to Japan as the Deputy Chief of Mission. In addition to touring the FSI Yokohama facility, CDA Young presented a length-of-service award to Miyawaki sensei and listened to student presentations on recent immersion experiences.

E. ENHANCING CONTACT WITH FSI/ARLINGTON AND DEPARTMENT KEY PERSONNEL

April 29 – 30, 2015 – During a two-day visit by Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch (Dean of FSI’s School of Language Studies) and Candice Hunt focused on conducting a review of FSI Yokohama operations, the visitors met with DCM Hyland, other embassy officials, and FSI Yokohama graduates on April 29 and with FSI Yokohama faculty and students on April 30.

May 13, 2015 – Aimed at strengthening coordination and better integrating the first and second-year programs, FSI Washington Japanese/Korean Language Training Supervisor Steven Berbeco and Director Oba initiated the first of what were planned to be monthly telephone calls.

September 21 - 24, 2015 – To help build a bridge between the first and second-year Japanese language programs of FSI, two FSI Yokohama instructors, Takayuki Kato and Masum Kobayashi, visited FSI Arlington in mid-September to become better acquainted with the instructors in the first-year Japanese program and to observe and learn about language instruction methodologies and innovations at FSI. Drawing on fiscal year-end funding, the visit was made possible by the willingness of the two teachers to travel during the “Silver Week” holiday period—three consecutive Japanese holidays in mid-September. Later in October while in the DC area, Director Oba participated in meetings, consultations, and class observations at FSI Arlington. Primary areas of focus included development of an 88-week curriculum, discussions about proficiency testing and tester/examiner training, integrating social media, and the first-year extended reading program.

April 11-12, 2016 – Director Oba and Instructor Tomoko Ichikawa traveled to Taipei where they participated in an FSI Regional Meeting hosted by AIT’s Chinese Language and Area Studies School (CLASS) in Yangmingshan. Meeting discussions focused on the creation of unified

88-week programs for FSI students studying Chinese, Japanese, and Korean and issues related to FSI's language proficiency testing.

April 14-15, 2016 – A two-day visit by FSI School of Language Services Associate Dean Katherine Munchmeyer, Candice Hunt, and Steven Berbeco provided an opportunity to conduct a review of FSI Yokohama operations and to talk with current students and well as meet with DCM Hyland, other embassy officials, and FSI Yokohama graduates currently working at the embassy.

October 13, 2016 – FSI Yokohama was delighted to host a short visit by EAP/EX Executive Director Jennifer Bonner and embassy Management Counselor Larry Richter to FSI Yokohama. In addition to touring the school facilities and observing a class, the visitors were able to meet briefly with students and teachers over refreshments at the Director's residence. Later in the month on October 26, EAP/EX Post Management Officer Anne Wan made a short visit to FSI Yokohama during which she saw our school facility and attached Director's residence, visited the Saint Maur International School, and drove by a couple of student residences.

October 2, 2017 – While in the DC area for senior seminar training, Director Oba consulted with several School of Language Studies colleagues including Candice Hunt, Mary Kim, Andrea Wu, David Sawyer and others from the Language Testing Unit, the Japanese language teachers, and the first-year students who will transferring to FSI Yokohama next summer.

May 14 – 15, 2018 – A two-day visit by FSI School of Language Studies Dean Wanda Nesbitt and Candice Hunt provided an opportunity to conduct a review of FSI Yokohama operations, talk with students and observe cultural immersion activities, as well as meet with officials at the embassy.

F. STUDENTS AND STAFF RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

March 24, 2016 – Celebrating his selection as one of this year's AFSA Sinclair Language Award winners, Neil Gibson paid a visit to FSI Yokohama to thank the instructional staff for their role in facilitating his language study and progress in the language.

April 30, 2016 – FSI Student Jonas Stewart represented the Embassy and FSI Yokohama in delivering congratulatory remarks, alongside Yokosuka Mayor Yoshida, at Yokosuka's Kanrin-maru Memorial Festival. Japan's first Western-style naval vessel, the Kanrin-maru escorted Japan's delegation to the U.S. in 1860 to sign the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation.

June 1, 2016 – Two FSI Yokohama instructors, Kuniko Kondo, and Naomi Kawaguchi, were recognized at an Embassy award ceremony for their superb efforts in tailoring and customizing course materials to meet the specific needs of students.

June 10, 2016 – During a student-led teacher appreciation lunch, special recognition was provided to the three instructors, Misako Nakano, Kuniko Kondo, and Naomi Kawaguchi, who will not be returning during the next academic year due to reduced enrollment and to Yukari

Mogami who is retiring at the end of the current academic year. On June 29, the teaching staff hosted a farewell thank you luncheon for the departing teachers.

February 19, 2017 – FSI student Richard Roberts represented Mission Japan at a special event featuring the planting of the progeny of Tidal Basin cherry blossoms that were originally sent from Japan to Washington, DC over 100 years ago. The event took place in Haratsuka City in Kanagawa Prefecture and was hosted by former cabinet minister Taro Kono. After the event, Kono's office called the embassy to express appreciation for Richard's participation and speech which mentioned his childhood memories of the cherry blossom trees in the DC area.

June 2, 2017 – While attending our year-end garden party, CDA Hyland presented a group embassy award to our current teaching staff. Nominated by our students, the award recognized the outstanding efforts made throughout the year by Yoko Odaka, Kozue Miyawaki, Emi Nishiwaki, Masumi Kobayashi, Takayuki Kato, and Tomoko Ichikawa. Also recognized with an individual award was Tomoka Makaino for her outstanding "customer service."

November 30, 2017 – After 19 years of faithful service as a security guard at FSI Yokohama, Hiroshi Yamanoha completed his final day of work. Director Oba presented a certificate of appreciation signed by Ambassador Hagerty, and students presented several embassy logo gift items.

G. INDIVIDUAL/ GROUP FIELD TRIPS, DAY TRIPS, AND LECTURES

September 27, 2014 - FSI/Y student Neil Gibson departed for a one-week immersion program working on a dairy farm in Hokkaido. Fortunately, Neil's extra-large, special order work boots and overalls arrived via pouch the day before his departure, along with an oversized belt buckle and a cowboy hat for gifts. Neil returned from his immersion experience with the likely distinction of being the only diplomat in Japan with the experience of having helped a farmer deliver a calf.



Neil Gibson prepares for immersion study 2014.
With Chief Instructor Ichikawa

October 10, 2014 – Students spent the day participating in a variety of local tour immersion activities conducted by Japanese speaking guides. A week later, students delivered presentations on their respective experiences which included the Tsukiji Fish Market, Odawara Castle, Sankei-en Garden, and other locations in Tokyo and Kanagawa Prefecture.

November 11-20, 2014 – As part of his language immersion program, FSI Yokohama student Joel Ehrendreich spent several days working behind the scenes at a U.S.-Japan All-Star Baseball Series. Assisting in the scoreboard control room, Joel interacted with local Japanese organizers and at times interpreted for their Major League Baseball counterparts while getting a unique perspective on this unique U.S.-Japan tradition. A life-long die hard baseball fan, Joel called it a once in a lifetime opportunity, noting that being immersed in an environment that he loved greatly facilitated learning a whole new set of specialized vocabulary.

November 26, 2014 – Four FSI Yokohama students (Aaron Snipe, Dominic So, Joel Ehrendreich and Donn Yoo) volunteered in an activity at the Hodogaya Special Needs School during which they spoke to the students, had lunch together, and joined in a special program that the students put on for their parents. Around the same time, Aaron Snipe completed a four-week internship at the Yokohama City Government’s Central Ward Office. The internship introduced Snipe to a broad range of issues confronting the city’s civil servants and strategic planners including disaster preparedness, community outreach and polling, day care support for the children of working parents, and the city’s growing homeless population. Snipe reported that both the exposure to these important issues and to the civil servants in charge of these portfolios was of great benefit to his language learning and to deepening his understanding of Japanese society.



Exchange with residents of Naka-ku in January 2015

February 7, 2015 – FSI/Y student Jonathan Yoo ably represented FSI Yokohama at a unique exchange activity with students from the Inter University Center (former Stanford Center) and six area universities. Including a small-group break-out session, the activity featured a fascinating lecture on Japan’s indigenous creation myths delivered by Shouei Inoue, a Shinto expert.

March 15, 2015 – Three members of this year’s class (Aaron Snipe, Thomas Whitney, and Donny Yoo), joined more than 20,000 others in participating in—and completing—the

Yokohama Marathon, demonstrating the same kind of “grit” in completing the marathon that they displayed daily in their studies.

March 23-24, 2015 – FSI Yokohama student Thomas Whitney joined priests from the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine in traveling to Fukushima in Tochigi Prefecture to learn about rebuilding efforts—including the rebuilding of Shinto shrines—following the devastating earthquake of March 11, 2011, and to participate in a series of tree planting activities.

May 27, 2015 – During an open and candid exchange conducted over lunch with Yamate District Police Sgt. Masaki Aritomo, students were able to ask a variety of questions about the work and life of a police officer.

September 25, 2015 – Captain Hirokazu Niikura of the Kitakata Fire Substation of the Yokohama City Fire Bureau, accompanied by a couple of colleagues and a real-life fire truck, visited FSI Yokohama to provide our students and staff with an informative presentation on disaster—and in particular – earthquake preparation. Niikura’s presentation included hands-on practice applying the earthquake response skills summarized by the words “drop, cover, and hold on.”

On October 12, 15 and 22, 2015, groups of four, three, and three students, respectively, departed on a four-day immersion tour to Yamagata and Miyagi Prefectures. The culture/study tour included a visit with a “mountain priest” in a small shrine near the traditional hot springs town of Hijiori, an evening discussion with residents, a homestay in a traditional farmhouse near Onagawa, and an overnight stay and volunteer service at a Shinto Shrine on the island of Kinkasan. During the visit they visited and viewed areas devastated by the 3-11 tsunami.



Exchange with MOFA Trainees in November 2015



Exchange with Minato High School Students - November 2015

December 15, 2015 – In an embassy-led crisis management exercise involving an earthquake scenario, FSI Yokohama became the central point for fielding a series of simulated calls (in Japanese) from local authorities, U.S. Forces Japan, and local media. The exercise served as a useful learning tool and a good warm up for another exercise which would take place in February, and which would be led by a DC-based trainer.

December 16, 2015 – Resembling the set of a dark, futuristic, science fiction movie, Yokohama City's huge Kanazawa waste materials recycling facility served as the site of an interesting field trip that allowed FSI Yokohama students to study a variety of environment-related terminology—as well as see where their garbage goes.



Exchange with Nana Ward Residents in December 2015

December 16 and 18, 2015 – FSI students Jessica Berlow and Brook Spelman participated together with Matsushita Institute fellows in Institute-sponsored programs in Kamakura highlighting aspects of Japanese traditional culture.



Exchange with Kanagawa Prefecture Officials - January 2016

January 6, 2016 – Noting the differences in “high context” and “low context” cultures, a cross-cultural specialist from Asia University delivered an interesting lecture to our students and teachers on the potential pitfalls that can hamper communication between Americans and Japanese.

May 13, 2016 – Eurasia Group’s Japan Country Representative Kei Sakaguchi delivered, in Japanese, an interesting overview lecture on the key geopolitical issues being tracked by his organization. Student Samanthe Eulette heard Sakaguchi speak at a study group that she attended with local contacts and helped facilitate his coming to FSI Yokohama to do a similar presentation.

September 6, 2016 - Members of the newly created Yokohama-U.S. Japan Society’s “Youth Club” (very loosely defined as aimed at individuals aged 30 to 50+) welcomed our incoming students over an informal dinner exchange at an Italian restaurant.

September 13, 2016 – To promote the benefits of seeking a variety of immersion experiences during the academic year in Yokohama, recent FSI/Y graduate Jessica Below kindly led a brown bag lunch in which she described sports and cultural-related groups and activities, professional developments activities and immersion programs, and domestic discount travel options.

October 19, 2016 – Twelve officials from the Yokohama Water Bureau came to FSI Yokohama to field test and discuss materials that they have prepared to explain the steps the bureau will take in the event of a natural disaster or emergency.

November 9, 2016 – Approximately 20 local contacts, including conversation volunteers, local government officials, and members of the Yokohama-U.S. Japan Society, joined us for an Election Results Watch event during which our students delivered brief presentations on various aspects of the U.S. election. Afterwards, as the early results started to come in, our students endeavored to explain the electoral process.

November 14 – 18, 2016 – Our two first-year students accompanied by Nishiwaki-sensei and Director Oba traveled to Hiroshima for an immersion study/cultural experience facilitated by the Hiroshima International Center. The highlight of the trip was a two-night homestay with local families.

December 14, 2016 – Four of our students joined in a ground-breaking exchange activity hosted by Yokosuka City. The full day activity included a meeting with Yokosuka Mayor Uto Yoshida, a briefing and discussion with city officials, a tour of the city's disaster prevention training facility, a boat tour of the military harbor, and visits to several points of historical interest connected with Commodore Perry's initial visit to Japan.

December 21, 2016 – With the kind facilitation of the Yokohama Japan-U.S. Society, five of our students and several of our teachers and staff members attended an interesting and timely lecture delivered by Japan's former ambassador to the U.S., Ichiro Fujisaki, held at the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce. Fujisaki discussed prospects for U.S. policy under the incoming Trump Administration.

February 2, 2017 – Through arrangements facilitated by one of the members of the Yokohama Japan-U.S. Society, a professional tea ceremony instructor and two assistants visited FSI Yokohama to conduct an informative and participatory presentation on the art of the tea ceremony.

May 15, 2017 – Student Michael Cavanaugh shared experiences and observations related to his volunteer service in an after school activity program for the students at Yokohama's Honmoku Elementary School. On the last day of his volunteer work, the students put on a special program to thank Michael for his work (and, no doubt, for the Halloween, Christmas, and Easter treats that he provided throughout the year).

May 22 -26, 2017 – Student Richard Roberts spent the week in Okinawa where he was the featured speaker in a number of public affairs outreach programs conducted in Japanese with local schools.

June 5 – 7, 2017 – Student Richard Roberts participated in a public affairs-related immersion trip to Fukuoka during which he met with students and conducted presentations in Japanese at several schools. To keep on top of his coursework, Richard also had several classes conducted over Skype with his FSI Yokohama-based instructors.

July 5, 2017 – Student Michael Daschbach began a month-long internship at Keidanren (the Japanese Business Federation), one of Japan's leading economic organizations. During the

internship Michael participated in many seminars and meetings, an earthquake drill, and after-hours social events to strengthen his Japanese language skills and better understand Japanese work environments.

August 1 – 10, 2017 – Student Darin Phaovi participated in an immersion program with Special Olympics Nippon, an organization that provides sports training and competition programs for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. The immersion program included working in a Japanese-speaking office environment, participating in Special Olympic meetings and events, and traveling outside of Tokyo to engage with athletes and coaches at the prefectural level.

August 2, 2017 – In a very kind gesture aimed at helping our newly arrived students acclimate to Yokohama, Yasuharu Fujisawa, representative director of the historic Jazz Club Chigusa, organized “A Night Out in Noge District.”

November 28, 2017 – With the kind facilitation of the Yokohama Japan-America Society, two of our students, accompanied by Odaka-sensei, attended a lecture delivered by Tokyo University Professor Fumiaki Kubo at the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce in which he provided an overview of current U.S. administration policies that may impact the U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship.

January 15 – 19, 2018 – Three of our students participated in an intensive week-long seminar hosted by the Matsushita Institute focused on the theme of “The Internet of Things.” Including presentations by subject experts, intensive work group discussions, and an offsite company visit, the seminar provided an exceptionally challenging and stimulating immersion study experience.

Four student reporters from the Kanagawa Shimbun (the prefecture’s largest newspaper) quarterly publication, HIP, for are high school students (circulation 140,000) visited FSI Yokohama to conduct interviews and participate in an exchange with four of our students. To gather information for an article that they are writing, the high school student reporters asked our students about their careers as diplomats as well as for tips on studying a foreign language. This activity was cleared, in advance, with the Embassy Press Office.

April 12 – 13, 2018 – FSI student Ryan Ingrassia participated in a self-designed immersion program on the small Okinawa Island of Taketomijima working with elementary school students and participating in traditional school activities.

April 19 – 22, 2018 – FSI Student Melinda Pavek completed a four-day immersion trip during which she visited the nuclear power reactor decommissioning and cleanup operations at Fukushima, met with prefectural officials in charge of revitalizing and rebuilding cities in the area. She also met with former evacuees to learn about how they are rebuilding their businesses and communities.

May 10 – 12, 2018 – FSI student Michael Tapley completed an immersion trip centered on the traditional indigo dyeing culture of Tokushima. He visited dyeing and weaving facilities to learn

about the process from the harvesting of raw indigo, the fermentation of the dye, and the production of final products. He had an opportunity to help with a tea harvest and discussed the revitalization of tourism through farm-to-table experiences. He also had opportunities to learn about the challenges of rural life in Japan due to the aging population and the move of many young people to urban areas.

June 12 – 14, 2018 – FSI Student Yooyeon Allen participated in a self-designed immersion trip to Yamaguchi focused on learning about the prefecture’s historical contribution to cultivating many important political leaders before and during the Meiji period.

H. PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES HELD ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

Each year the academic year would begin with a program orientation, followed by placement assessments. Officials from Yokohama City Hall provided a presentation on life in Yokohama, including introducing the complex requirements of prepping and sorting garbage before placing it out on the correct day designated for each garbage. As part of orientation week, students participated in a half-day mini- immersion together with instructional staff, engaging in practical interactions that included working on opening bank accounts, obtaining library cards, and enrolling in cultural/karate classes. The activity was designed to highlight the importance of “getting out” and interacting within the community by utilizing Japanese.

The Yokohama City Port Promotion Bureau hosted students, and family members on a 90-minute harbor cruise with a descriptive commentary on harbor area points of interest and history provided in Japanese by two of the bureau’s representatives.

Structured as a “speed dating” event, a luncheon with conversation volunteers allowed each student five minutes to interact with each of 11 conversation volunteers. Afterwards, students were paired with conversation volunteers.



Speed dating with language volunteers 2014

During a visit to the Yokohama Municipal Disaster Preparation Center, students viewed a short film on fire, earthquake, and typhoon-related disasters. Afterwards, they were guided on an experiential tour of the facility that included an earthquake simulation room, a black-out room (simulating a power outage), and a smoke-filled room.

Each year, students had the opportunity to enjoy selections from our Cultural Movie Series that included films such as “From Up On Poppy Hill” (an animated work directed by Goro Miyazaki that features scenery based on locations in Yokohama), the Japanese documentary “The Campaign” filmed in nearby Kawasaki City, “Always” (a film conveying the sense of optimism and hope that emerged in Japan fifteen years after the end of WWII), “The Path I Walk” (a television drama that highlights the challenges faced by an autistic youth and his family), “Tokyo Story” by acclaimed director Yasujiro Ozu, as well as the newest Godzilla movie. The films reinforced vocabulary covered in recent classes and provided useful background for understanding cultural and current topics.

Each fall, FSI Yokohama hosted U.S.-bound diplomats from the Japanese Foreign Ministry’s training center for the first part of an annual two-way exchange. The Fall event was conducted in English while our return visit to their camps later in the year was conducted in Japanese.

Small group discussions followed by a social hour allowed for a lively exchange on a variety of topics ranging from policy issues to practical pointers on living in the U.S. and Japan.

Also, each Fall, approximately 30 members of the Yokohama-U.S. Japan Society gathered with our students at FSI Yokohama for a cocktail reception that provided an excellent opportunity to apply speech-making and other relevant Japanese language skills in a social setting.



Student Aisatsu at Opening Social with
Japan-America Society in September 2015

During the late Fall, in an exchange that helped boost confidence and self-awareness of the considerable progress that they have achieved over the past couple of months, students met with approximately 30 students at Minato High School in an exchange, conducted in Japanese, that involved both speech-making and small group discussions.

Each year, self-selecting students participated in intensive three-day training programs conducted by Japan's National Institute of Public Administration. The programs provided an ideal opportunity to actively interact with bureaucrats from several GOJ ministries through lectures and small group discussion break-out sessions. In some years, this included participation by some of our students in the Women's Executive Cadre course offered by the NIPA.

Each year, usually during late Fall, embassy senior supervisory translator and media analyst—and resident expert on Yokohama's history, Burt Sabin, conducted a history walking tour of Yokohama sites for interested students and spouses.

Each November, to help our students better prepare for our annual field trip to the Grand Sumo Tournament, Tatsuo Hayakawa, LES Cultural Affairs Assistant, provided a background lecture on how professional sumo is organized, how sumo “stables” operate, and what to look for during a sumo match. As a follow-up in subsequent years, Hayakawa-san helped arrange a visit for students to a sumo stable where they were able to observe an actual practice session and afterwards enjoy a meal of chanko-nabe prepared by young sumo wrestlers.



Sumo wrestler serves chanko-nabe to visiting FSI Y students and staff



Attending the Grand Sumo Tournament January 2015

Each year, faculty members, staff, students, and family members gathered at the Director's residence for a festive American-style holiday luncheon prepared by the students and the Director. In January, faculty members reciprocated by hosting a New Year's luncheon to introduce the special foods and customs associated with the New Year's period in Japan.



Faculty Staff Student Holiday Luncheon at the Director's Residence

Several times throughout the year, several FSI Yokohama students joined Yokohama City officials and businesspersons in informal after-hours exchanges held at local eateries.

In mid-January each year, students and family members enjoyed a field trip during which they toured the Tokyo-Edo Museum (where they were welcomed and briefed by museum officials) and then observed the “varsity” set of matches in the annual winter sumo tournament.

Each year, in a Saturday morning exchange facilitated by the Naka-ku International Lounge, students interacted individually with a variety of local residents. For the first two of three rounds, students talked about topics related to the U.S. and then answered questions. For the third session, our students asked questions about Japan.

Students also participated in an annual half-day exchange with officials from Kanagawa Prefecture. In addition to the customary exchange of more formal remarks, students exchanged views with prefectural officials on a variety of topics including attracting international business, disaster preparedness, relations with central authorities, regional development, human rights, and gender equality.

Each year in late January, one of FSI Yokohama students would represent the Embassy in offering congratulatory remarks at the formal New Year's reception hosted by the Yokohama Japan-America Society held at the New Grand Hotel.



Delivering Aisatsu at the Yokohama Japan-America Society New Year's Party

Each February, interested students accompanied by faculty members traveled to Shimoda where they had the opportunity to meet with chief priests at two temples closely connected with the history of America's presence in Japan: at Ryosenji, where in 1854 Commodore Perry signed an initial treaty opening Japan to contact with the U.S., they visited with Chief Priest Matsui, who provided a special viewing of part of the temple's collection of rare documents relating to the period around Perry's visit; at Gyokusenji, the site where Townsend Harris established the first U.S. diplomatic outpost in Japan, Chief Priest Murakami led the group on a tour of the graves of crew members of Commodore Perry's fleet and the temple's museum. While in Shimoda, students enjoyed the homestay hospitality of local hosts.



Shimoda Trip - February 2015



Priest at Shimoda - Perry Crew Member Tombstones

In March, students participated in an activity during which they arranged and then interviewed a native speaker of their choice. Afterwards, they made a presentation on their interview. Students interviewed a variety of individuals including the head of a group promoting awareness of transgender issues and an official with the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

When warmer weather and the cherry blossoms arrived, each Spring we conducted a culturally attuned cherry blossom viewing activity (minus strong libations) at a nearby park. Complete with haiku writing, historical references, and a seasonal bento, the annual event was enjoyed by both staff and students.



FSI Student-Staff Cherry Blossom Viewing Lunch



Cherry Blossom Viewing Bento

Each April or May, several students accompanied by a couple of instructors, went to the embassy to participate in an intense but well-conceived and executed media training session conducted in Japanese. Each session included live recording in the Embassy's media studio.



Embassy Studio Media Practice in April 2016

Each year in April, Yokohama-based Diet member Jun Matsumoto, invited FSI students to a special access tour of the Diet including a chance to observe the Diet while in session, as well as an opportunity to engage in a roundtable discussion with Diet member Mastumoto.



April 2018 Visit to the Diet

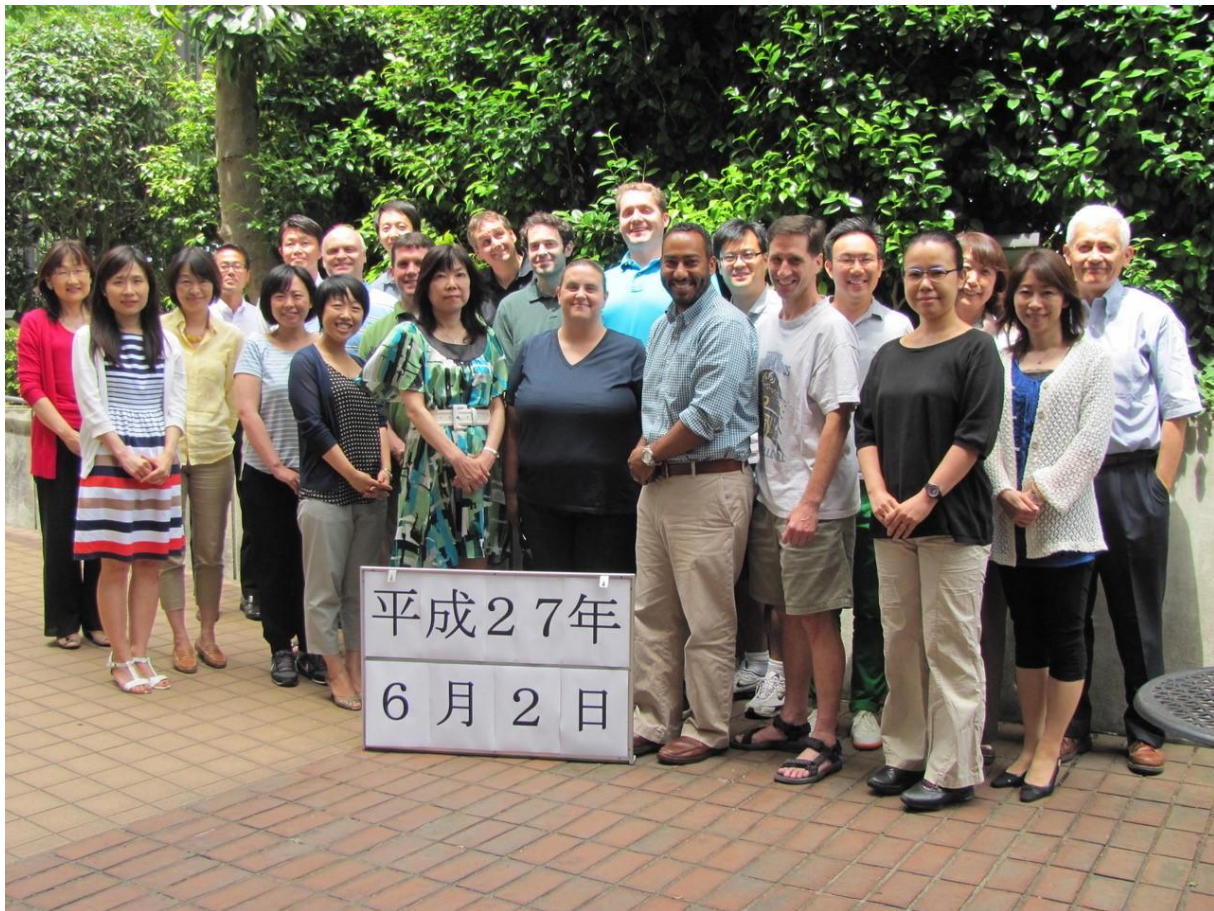
Each year several students would represent FSI Yokohama and Mission Japan in the extremely competitive annual Japanese Speech Contest for Foreign Diplomats. In 2014 and 2015, FSI/Y students Niel Gibson and Jeremy Edwards, respectively, brought home the prestigious Education Minister's Cup.

Each year, a number of our students would attend LDP-sponsored Nagata-kai lectures scheduled throughout the year on a variety of political and security-related topics.

In early May, the Director of the Lighthouse Center for Human Trafficking, conducted lunch roundtable sessions for our students during which she described the recruitment and subsequent trafficking of adolescents in Japan. Conducted entirely in Japanese, this session allowed students to gauge their listening comprehension skills and then actively participate in raising follow-up questions.

In late May, students and family members would join teachers and staff for an end-of-school year BBQ and pot-luck dinner hosted by Director Oba at his residence.

Also in late May, FSI Yokohama would host an annual graduation party attended by approximately 100 guests who would join to help our students celebrate the near completion of their course of studies in Yokohama and enjoy an impressive spread (especially considering our limited budget) assembled by our administrative staff. The DCM or another ranking Embassy Officer would usually represent the embassy. Students would serve as the event's Master of Ceremonies and offer toasts and concluding remarks.



Academic Year End picture June 2015
Director Oba at far right in back
Chief Instructor Ichikawa in front center in light blue/green/black dress



2015 Field Trip to Diet
Director Oba on back row on far right
Chief Instructor Ichikawa is on front row, far left



2017 Field Trip



2017 Christmas party at Director's residence
 Director Oba in far right on back row
 Chief Instructor Ichikawa in front, far left in red shirt

This concludes the chapter for the period 2014 – 2018, with Gary Oba as Director of FSI/Yokohama.

11. 2018 – 2020; Director: Carmela Conroy

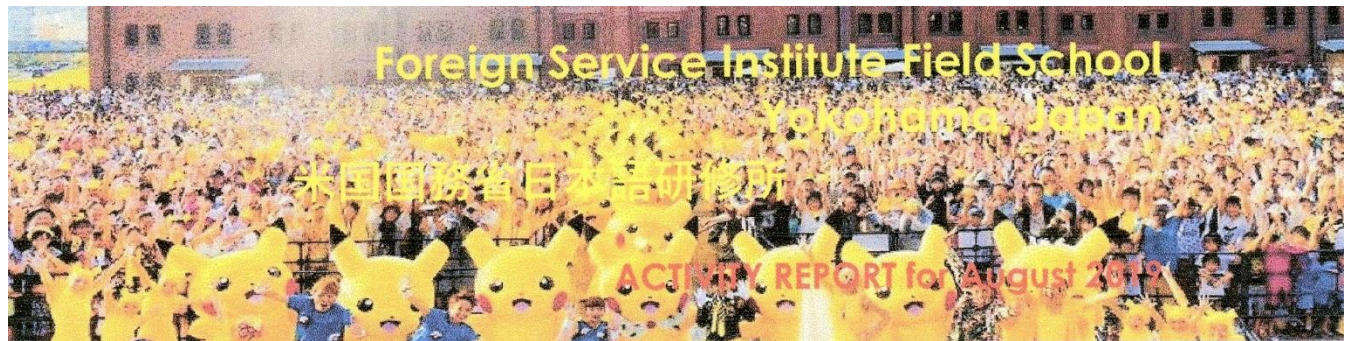
Chief Instructor: Ms. Yoko Odaka; Administrative Assistant: Ms. Tomoka Makaino

Director Carmela Conroy was the first woman to direct the Japanese language and area studies field school since Dr. Eleanor Harz Jorden founded the school at Embassy Tokyo in 1953.⁴ Below are three of Director Conroy's monthly reports to FSI Washington, Mission Japan

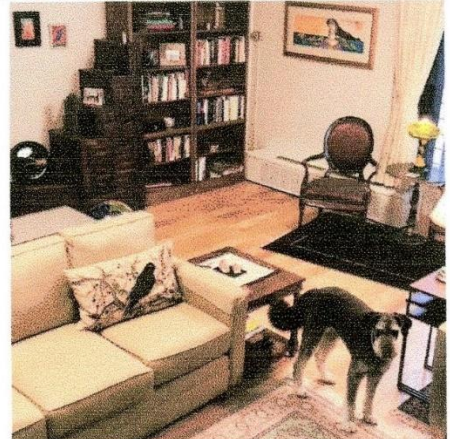
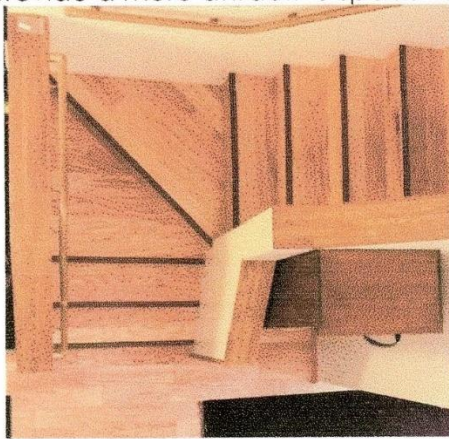
⁴ <https://vineyardgazette.com/obituaries/2009/03/06/eleanor-mudd-harz-jorden-dies-88>

leadership, and other field school directors, noting administrative and substantive activities of FSI Yokohama. Ms. Conroy noted that monthly reports were a team effort, and that Ms. Makaino (former administrative clerk, later administrative assistant) took the lead on drafting, photography, and soliciting contributions from staff and students.

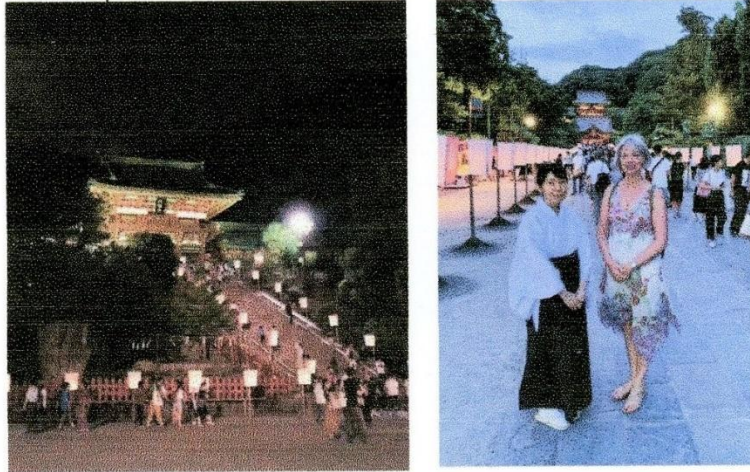
AUGUST 2019



August 4 contractors completed installation of engineered wood flooring throughout the Director's Residence, after removing the existing vinyl tile and acrylic wall-to-wall carpeting. In-floor heating was installed in the most-used rooms. This should save on winter electricity bills, provide a more attractive space for representational events, and be easier to clean.



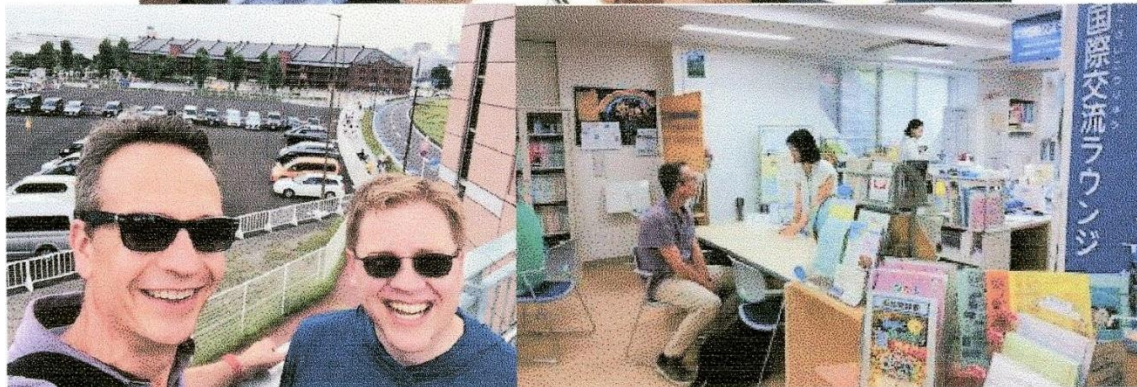
August 9 Director Conroy participated in the Lantern Festival at Tsurugaoka Hachimangu in Kamakura. The Shrine's International Affairs Office is a supportive partner of FSI/Y, hosting FSI/Y FSOs for tours and internships.



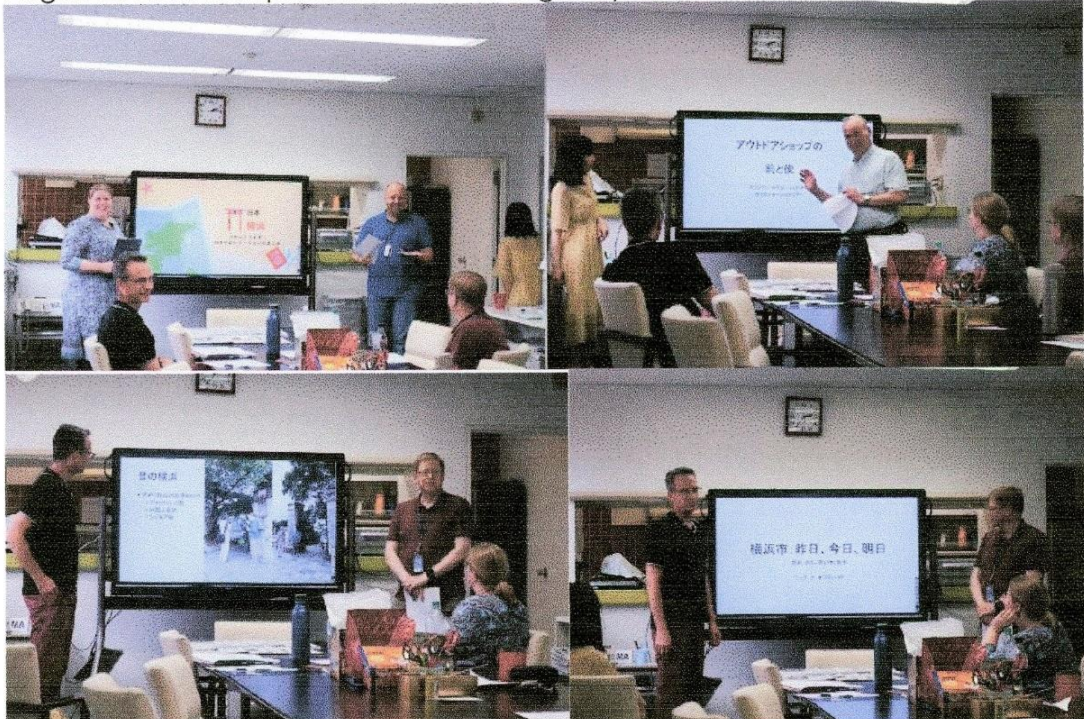
August 15 contractors completed the renovation of FSI/Y's second floor washrooms. The timely completion of the residence flooring and the school washrooms was possible because they worked seven days a week, starting early July. This is a significant improvement for daily quality of life, and when we welcome guests for representational events. We greatly appreciate Embassy Tokyo's Facilities Section for looking after us so well, and the Regional Security Office for providing guard coverage on weekends.



August 19 FSI/Y faculty and FSOs explored locales of personal and professional interest



August 20 FSOs took placement tests and gave presentations on their orientation tours.



August 21 FSOs participated in the Japanese Computerized Adoptive Test (J-CAT) and consulted with their instructors. Yokohama City official Masahiro Sakai briefed FSOs about Yokohama history, services for foreign residents, garbage and recycle rules, earthquake preparation, childcare, and transportation/entertainment.

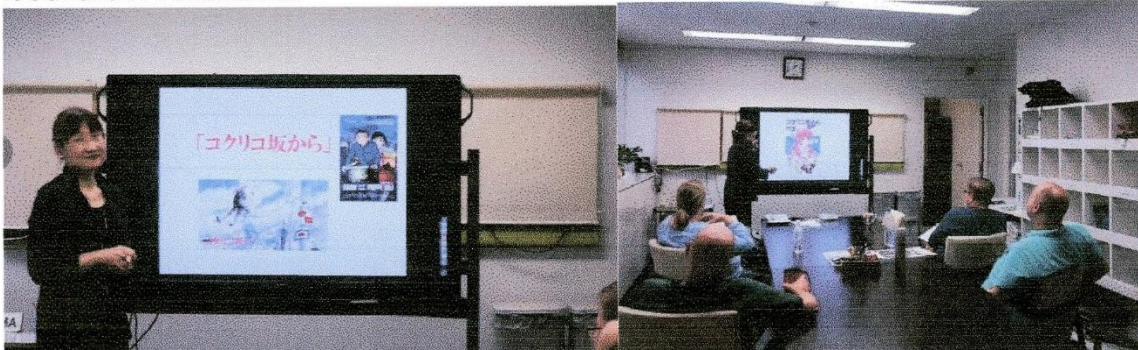


August 27 each FSO presented their first "3 minutes in Japanese," a weekly activity that will continue through the academic year, with increasingly complex topics.

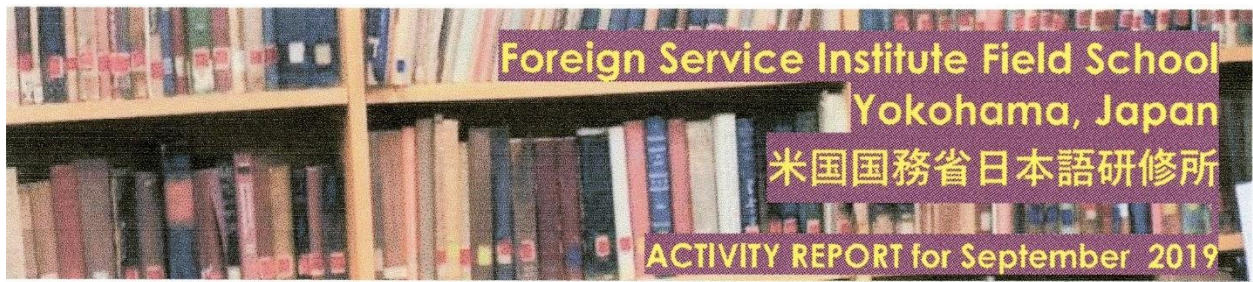


August 29, FSOs and Director participated Newcomers' Welcome Reception hosted by Charge d'Affaires Joe Young at the Chief of Mission Residence.

August 30 Instructor Kozue Miyawaki kicked off the Cultural Insights through Film series with a screening of Goro Miyazaki's "From up on Poppy Hill," an animated work that features locations in Yokohama.



SEPTEMBER 2019



August 31 – September 1, FSO Jessica Megill participated in a two day seminar organized by Kanagawa Prefecture's international tourism division. Megill, a Taiwanese diplomat, and a Vietnamese student participated in tourist activities and asked to give feedback. The activities and feedback were conducted in Japanese. The tour included the Shiseido museum, a Yokohama F-Marinis soccer game, a yakitori restaurant, and Yokohama's Chinatown. The seminar was a challenging experience that helped improve the fluency of our FSI Yokohama student.



September 6, FSI/Y hosted a reception for the Japan-America Society of Yokohama (JASY). JASY members include local government officials, a city council member, a member of the Yokohama City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and businesspeople keen to maintain links with the United States. Throughout the reception, conversation was carried out in Japanese only.



September 8, a destructive typhoon accompanied strong wind and rain hit the Kanto (Yokohama – Tokyo) region. Employees who were able to come in the next day swept all the FSI garden and parking space as well as the street outside of FSI with brooms.

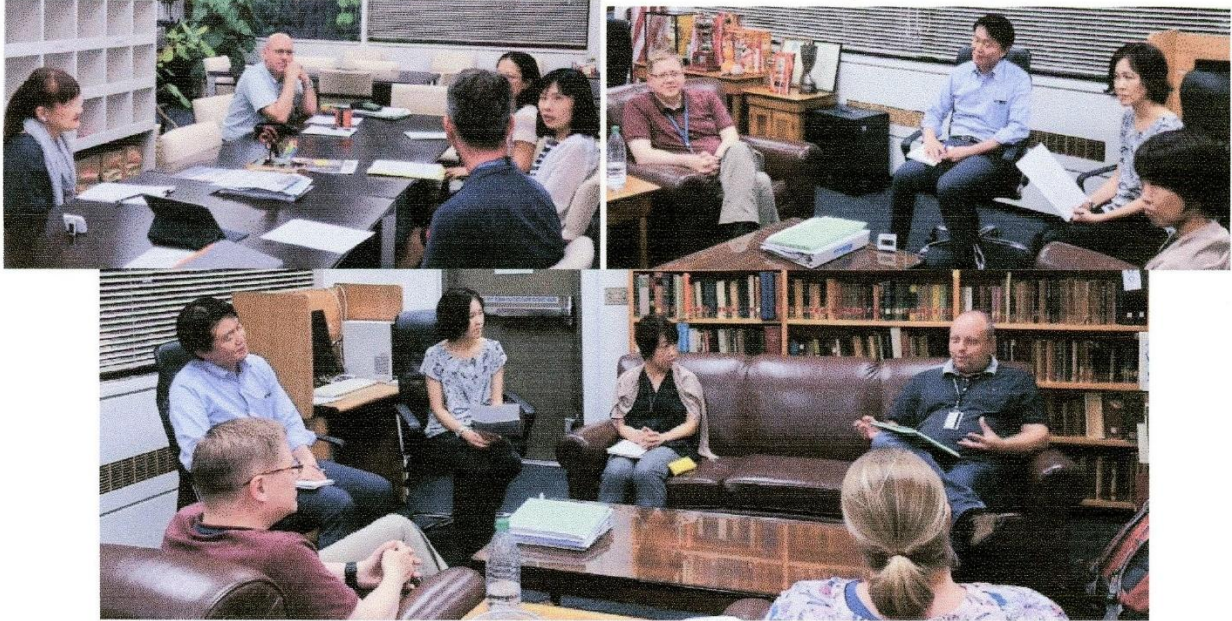


September 13 the Director General of Naka Ward, Mr. Takemae, hosted lunch for Director Conroy and Ms. Zhang, Director of Taipei Representative Office. Naka Ward includes FSI/Y and Yokohama Chinatown within its borders.

September 13, FSOs accompanied by Nishiwaki-sensei visited the Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Training Center where they learned about the types of natural disasters most likely to impact the Yokohama area and were briefed on appropriate coping strategies.



September 3, 10, and 18, FSOs delivered speeches about and discussed "What I Want to Experience in Japan", "Weekend", "Hometown", and "Media" in their "3 Minutes in Japanese" classes.



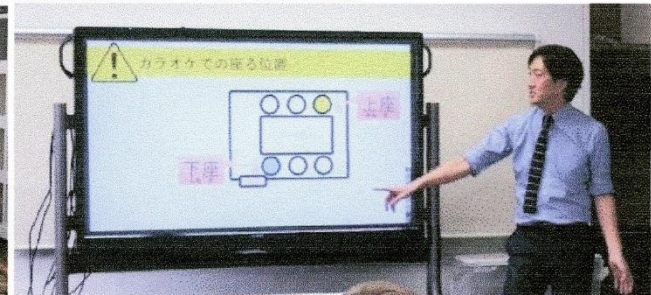
September 20, Minister Counselor for Public Affairs Glassman and Director Conroy in the 30th Anniversary of the Yokohama Museum of Art. Charge d'Affaires Young, MC for PA Glassman Director Conroy, FSOs and their EFMs, enjoyed watching a baseball game, Yokohama DeNA Baystars vs Tokyo Yomiuri Giants.



September 30, Director Conroy and Odaka-sensei hosted Yokohama City officials to lunch. Director General of the Culture and Tourism Bureau, Atsuko Ikeda, and Executive Director of International Affairs Bureau, Hiroyuki Okamoto, have helped arrange internships and FSO participation in cultural activities.



September 30, FSI/Y former instructor Yuki Mori delivered a cultural mini lecture on Karaoke history and manners. Karaoke often features in Japanese professional after-hours activities.



APRIL 2020



April 3 FSI/Y concluded the second round of informal progress assessments.

April 6 in accordance with Embassy guideline, FSI/Y instituted a disinfection cleaning service for one month. The service cleaned three times a day the common areas, with additional disinfection for each doorknob, light switch, computer keyboard, and telephone.



April 7, 14, 20, and 28 FSOs presented for 3 minutes in Japanese on assigned topics. From April 14 FSI/Y shifted to online presentations.

4月7日(火)
午後 1時35分から

はな じかん
話す時間: 3~5分

発表者	テーマ/タイトル	場所	3分間の発表
オプデハイトさん	ネット依存	図書館	英語
ナジリアンさん	アメリカの教育の現状	ラウンジ	英語
メギルさん	農業	図書館	英語
ラングさん	移民調査	ラウンジ	英語
レイダーさん	留学	ラウンジ	英語

1人の発表者に対して、少なくとも1回は質問しましょう!!!

次回の3分日本語は、4月14日(火)です。
前日までにテーマを送ってください。

A photograph showing two men sitting at a dark table. One man, wearing a light blue shirt, is looking towards the other man, who is wearing a grey patterned shirt and appears to be speaking or presenting. There are papers and a small bottle on the table.



The evening of April 7 Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared a state of emergency for Tokyo, Osaka, Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Hyogo, and Fukuoka for a period of one month. He outlined measures such as teleworking, social distancing, and e-learning to help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.



April 13-16 Academic advisors and Director Conroy provided FSOs feedback on informal progress assessments via online platforms.

April 16 Prime Minister Abe declared a nationwide state of emergency, with the aim of discouraging inter-prefectural travel over the Golden Week holidays (April 29, and May 3-6).



April 18, Yokohama City started sending messages of "Stay Home" via the Minato-Mirai Ferris Wheel. It has been lighting up in blue to show appreciation to medical practitioners. A total of 14 facilities in Yokohama City, including the Yokohama Bay Bridge, Yokohama Hammerhead, and Nissan Stadium are also illuminated in blue. Photo credit: Kanagawa Local News, Kanaroko.



You can see "ST" of "STAY HOME"



April 21 Director Conroy and some LE staff participate in Microsoft Teams training by Embassy GSO's Sho Mizushima.

April 22 Embassy Facilities personnel came with contractors to assess and plan to replace the leaking vents and rusted fans at the director's residence.

April 27 – 30 Director Conroy and instructors discussed and documented mid-year performance reviews.

April 29 Japanese students and faculty bridged the Yokohama – Arlington gap with a Virtual Round Table via Microsoft Teams. Field School Coordinator Candice Hunt was a special guest, and Director Conroy and FSO Aaron Rader MC'd the discussion.



Of note in April:

The planned April 13 visit to National Diet, April 20 visit of FSI/SLS Dean Michael Ratney, and April 28 media training by Embassy PAS were indefinitely postponed.

Embassy Tokyo shifted weekly Country Team meetings to on-line platforms. Embassy Tokyo's COVID19 Task Force hosted daily Mission-wide conference calls. Director Conroy participated in both sets of events.

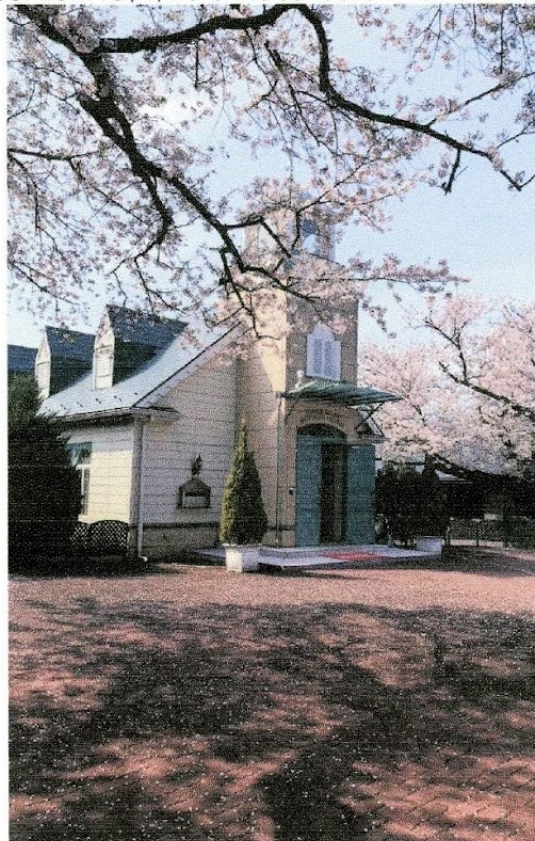
Embassy GSO arranged to provide cloth masks to all personnel at FSI/Y, and to FSOs' family members.

Embassy GSO supported planning for replacing furniture in the FSI/Y library, director's office, and the 3rd floor language lab.

Even though organizers minimized events associated with the annual Yokohama Garden Necklace Festival, the new coronavirus has not stopped the flowers from coming. We are enjoying the view—at safe social distances, of course.



View of tulips across the street from FSI/Y; note the school's third floor cameo in the top background.



Cherry blossoms falling at Yamate Helen church, one minute walk from FSI/Y.



United States Ambassador *to* Japan

2019 – With Ambassador Bill Hagerty
 Amb. Hagerty seated, center
 Director Conroy is seated to the left of Amb. Hagerty
 Chief Instructor Odaka is in back row, fourth from right



2020 Students with Charge D' Affaires Joseph Young
 Charge Young seated in middle
 Director Conroy to the left of Charge Young
 Chief Instructor Odaka is to the left of Director Conroy

This concludes the chapter on Carmela Conroy as Director. Although she and her staff, as well as students, were challenged by the conditions of the novel coronavirus, they were determined to continue the program of study, though remotely and without the field trips and other excursions that had been an essential part of the program before the covid restrictions.

12. 2020-2021; Director: John Nylin

Chief Instructor: Ms. Yoko Odaka

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Tomoka Makaino

Director Nylin was in the position of director for one academic year. During this time FSI Yokohama classes had been fully online - there were no classes held at the school the entire school term. As things progressed, they began to do a few partial day outings in Yokohama and there were some tourism type opportunities for some of the students. In addition, Director Nylin

and his staff arranged remote meetings with a wide variety of Japanese people in a variety of positions, and US Embassy officials

Director Nylin and his staff prepared monthly reports throughout his stay. This chapter contains four such reports: Early fall when classes had just begun, in February and March when the class was about at the halfway point, and finally in July, when the class had graduated, and Director Nylin had completed his assignment as director.



Greetings from FSI-Yokohama! While COVID-19 keeps us in a remote learning environment, the students are making excellent progress.



And though there are restrictions on what we can do, we have been able to structure beyond-the-classroom activities in a safe manner and use these to enhance students' language acquisition. Below you will find a review of our activities from September and October. All of these activities are only possible through the hard work of our faculty and staff, especially given the COVID-19 challenges, and I am deeply grateful to the team for that.

In late September, while it was unfortunate that we had to say goodbye to our colleague Kurosawa-san who was leaving her position at FSI-Y, it presented a great opportunity for a number of the students and teachers to meet each other for the first time.



In mid-October, a number of us visited the Yokohama City Disaster Prevention Center to learn not only how the city deals with natural disasters when they strike, but also how people can act to protect themselves and their families. In a country beset with frequent challenges from nature, this was a great opportunity for students.



In late October, some of our colleagues made a visit to a working farm in Fujino, Kanagawa Prefecture, as part of a series of Kanagawa Tourism Board outreach to the international community. Thrown into a Japanese-only environment, the students learned about farming, cooking traditional Japanese dishes, and life in the “inaka” (countryside) of Japa



Separately in late October, the Japan-America Society of Yokohama invited our students on a climb of Mt. Takao in western Tokyo. Not only was it a beautiful day with gorgeous views of Mt. Fuji, it was an excellent opportunity to build on already strong grassroots ties with this local friendship organization.



Finally in October, and with many thanks to our friends in Embassy Tokyo Public Affairs, a group of students, teachers, guards, Embassy Tokyo staff, and even DCM Nick Hill got to attend a Yokohama BayStars baseball game vs Osaka's Hanshin Tigers. While the weather was frigid, it was a great opportunity to experience America's national pastime in a different way than many ever had.





Beyond student activities, I have focused my efforts on engaging with community, civic, and political leaders in Yokohama and more broadly in Kanagawa Prefecture.. Having an official U.S. presence here gives us an incredible opportunity for contact with this important part of Japan.

In early September, I was pleased to meet with the President of the Japan-America Society of Yokohama as my first official meeting. This is an organization long connected with FSI-Y and one that we hope to engage with more this year as health conditions permit. Separately, I also had the opportunity to participate in the JASY Board of Directors meeting, where the FSI-Y Director always has a seat.

Also in September I paid a courtesy call on the Yokohama Deputy Mayor and on the head of the Yokohama City Council, with whom we plan to have an exchange event in the coming months.



In recent weeks I've also met with the ROK Consul General as well as the head of the Taiwanese Economic and Cultural Office of Yokohama.

In late October, I also paid a courtesy call on the long-serving governor of Kanagawa, who noted his strong desire to continue to build close ties between his prefecture and the United States.



I rounded out my outreach with a courtesy call on the Scidmore Society, a long-standing local U.S.-Japan friendship group, and the donors of the lovely sakura tree in the front yard of the Director's residence.

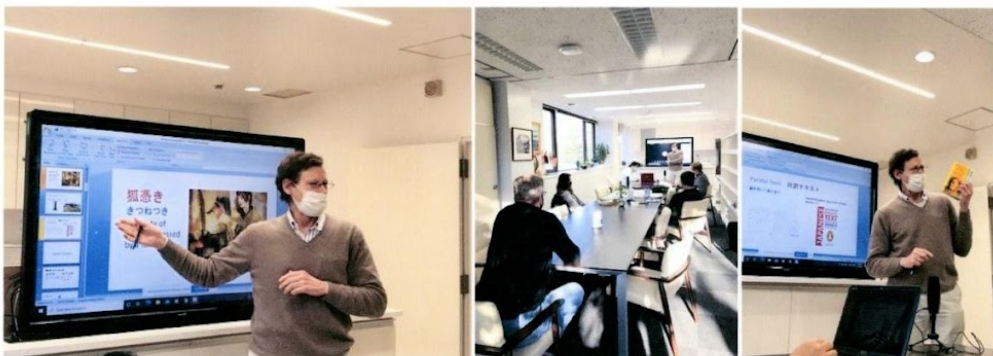
As we enjoy the typically beautiful fall weather in the Kanto region, all of us here in Yokohama are now largely settled into life in Japan and look forward to continuing our language learning progress.



Greetings once again from Yokohama! The first month of 2021 was marked with increasing COVID-related challenges and a Japanese government-declared state of emergency, but language acquisition continues apace. While the health situation in the country impacts our ability to get out and about, there was still plenty of online activity. Below is a review of some of what we were up to in January.



We started off 2021 with a lecture from our very own Burt Sabin, head of the Embassy's translation unit. While COVID restrictions kept us from gathering a large group in person, those who couldn't come to FSI joined online. Burt is a long-time resident of Japan (we won't say how long.....) who was kind enough to share his experiences in learning Japanese and the importance of always remaining curious. Many thanks Burt!



We also had an opportunity to have an online session (er, happy hour.....) with the Japan-America Society of Yokohama's Youth Club, something that in previous years we had done in

person. Even though we weren't together physically, it was a great chance to practice Japanese and meet some friends of the United States!



Later in January, we had another exchange session online, this time with officials from the Kanagawa prefectural government (Yokohama is the capital of Kanagawa prefecture). The students learned about the history of Yokohama and Kanagawa, and the close relationship that this area has had with the United States over the past century and a half. We also heard about the products for which this region is known as well as the work of the government and how it supports the residents, both Japanese and foreign.



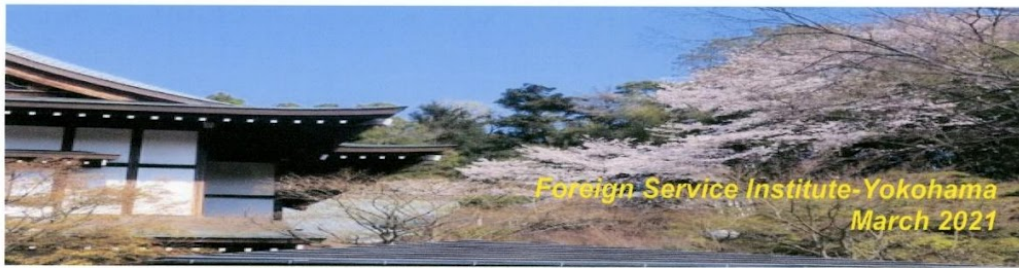
As for me, due to the health crisis, I've not been able to get out to connect as much as I would like. That said, I did have a great online opportunity to talk about careers in the State

Department and what it's like to be a Foreign Service Officer with students at IUC, the Inter-University Center for Japanese Studies, based here in Yokohama. Sadly, the students are mostly not in Japan, having to study remotely like so many of us. But it was exciting to see the interest in not only learning Japanese but in applying that knowledge at State!



This month we also had mini lectures from the teachers on religion in Japan as well as the use of the honorific form of speaking (known in Japanese as "keigo"). As our readers know, this is also the time of year for performance reviews and planning for the next academic year. Hard to believe, but we have just passed the halfway point in our year here in Yokohama and time is indeed flying. Summer and transfer season will be here before we realize it, so we are focused on trying to make that process as smooth as possible for those departing to posts around Japan as well as for those arriving this August.

Hoping this finds all of you doing well. Talk to you next month!



Greetings from Yokohama! While we currently remain under a COVID-19 state of emergency, there is some hope on the horizon as case numbers decline, the weather starts to warm up, and the earliest hints of the cherry blossoms are starting to appear. We remain fully online for our classes, but that hasn't impacted our ability to learn and to connect with each other. Following are some highlights from this past month.



We kicked off February with a celebration of "Setsubun," the tradition of throwing beans at masked monsters to symbolize getting rid of evil and bringing in good luck. Way more fun when you can actually hit someone with the beans (decidedly difficult online), but still a good time as the pictures show.



We continued our speaker series this month, welcoming Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs Steve Lang, who spoke with us about his section and promotion of U.S.-Japan economic and science ties.



Later in February, we welcomed (virtually) Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs Carolyn Glassman who spoke with us on a wide range of topics from public messaging to media relations, to education, and more.



Continuing on the theme of guests, FSI-Y also welcomed Chargé d’Affaires Joe Young who provided us with an update on Mission goals and vaccine-related matters.



One final round of greetings from Yokohama, where the students have all finished their studies and are preparing for or have already moved on to their onward assignments. This has been a decidedly challenging year for all – teachers, students, and staff – but I am a firm believer that we have all come out stronger for it. I know all of the students and I will deeply miss our time here in Yokohama and look back on it fondly, perhaps wishing only that we could have gotten out and about a bit more. As much as we may miss Yokohama, though, summers for FSOs often come with packing up and moving and it is no exception for me. This will be my last newsletter as director as I am also moving on to my own onward in the coming days. It has been a pleasure to lead this institution, one that truly serves a key role in helping build the future of “the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none.” I wish all of you a wonderful summer and look forward to meeting again. I leave you with the below, a collection of shots from the past month or so of our activities. Best regards, John

Seems appropriate to start out with the annual FSI-Y end-of-year group photo. Most of the photos over the past decades have been taken either here at the school, or someplace recognizable as Japan. The below pic, though, is more representative of how we spent our year here.



June was a month of farewells for many of us, as it often is in the Foreign Service. After Joe Young spent nearly two years as Chargé d’ Affaires, a.i., he spent time with all of us around the country to say goodbye. We wish Joe well and thank him for all his support for FSI-Y.



I spent a good portion of my time in June saying farewell and thanks to friends in the area who help support FSI-Y. The Yokohama City Council is a key element of that support and I will miss our interactions.



And in the vein of even MORE farewells, this month we bid adieu to Mori-sensei. We're very glad, though, that Mission Japan isn't losing him, as he has moved up to take the reins of lead instructor for the Post Language Program in Embassy Tokyo. Thanks for everything Mori-sensei!



And we closed out our year and our speaker series with a visit from Fuji TV's announcer Toshiyuki Matsuyama, who talked about his experiences in the U.S.-Japan relationship and his vision for the future.



I know all of us here look forward to an improving health situation in the coming months here in Japan and wish all the best to the arriving class and their families.

And, in the vein of stress relief (er.....happy hour.....), we all gathered for an online tippie as well. Was a first time for me, but was a lot of fun and really great to connect with each other!



Lastly, we are now in the mode of preparing for summer transition – travel orders, arrival and departure plans, housing (both new and old), updating of our informal guide to Yokohama, and the like. In short, we're entering a very busy season. Hard to believe, but the summer will be here very soon. We trust this finds all of you doing well and will talk to you next month!

Below is a photo of the 2021 graduating class with staff, prepared in an innovative way to avoid exposing students to Covid.



2021

Director Nylin is at the top, third from left

This concludes the chapter with John Nylin as Director. Despite restrictions imposed by Covid and the need to keep students and staff safe, Director Nylin and his staff were creative in exposing students to Japanese officials and citizens, resulting in the maximum possible exposure to culture and content, and speaking Japanese in a wide range of settings.

13. July 2021 - 2024; Alexei Kral

Director: Alexei Kral

Lead Instructor: Yoko Odaka

Admin Assistant: Tomoka Makaino

The chapter below was written by Director Kral, with only minor editing.

I arrived in July 2021, a month before the incoming class. The Japanese government had declared a State of Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic and was gearing up for the Tokyo Olympics after a yearlong delay. Many Japanese were worried about hosting a large international event, and precautionary measures affected our incoming students and their families. Japanese government requirements for pre-departure coronavirus testing and quarantine forms were strict. Upon arrival everyone went through additional saliva testing and a gauntlet of information stations. It took my family nearly five hours to get out of Narita Airport. Everyone went to quarantine at home as recent international arrivals. FSI Yokohama's administrative staff prepared groceries to stock refrigerators, and we were able to rely on Japan's excellent delivery services until we could go out.

In preparation for the new academic year, I worked with the Embassy Health Unit, FSI Arlington, and the Yokohama faculty to plan a locally appropriate "hybrid" model for instruction. The incoming 2021-22 class had been completely online for their entire first year in Arlington. Everyone worried about how that might affect their progress. To respect individual health concerns, we offered the flexibility of online classes or a mix of online and small in-person classes. The faculty became experts teaching online classes in an engaging manner with virtual blackboards where they could write vocabulary on the screen while looking at the students.

Everyone in the 2021-22 class was eager to have a more normal immersion experience. And as a graduate of the FSI Seoul Field School, I wanted to get the students out exploring that essential element of learning outside the classroom. As the coronavirus situation improved, we organized outdoor activities, such as hiking Kamakura with the Japan-American Society of Yokohama Youth Club. The Foreign Ministry's training center preferred meeting online for a program that brought together our FSO students and Japanese officials preparing for assignments across the United States. Through a long running FSI program, many students met with Japanese conversation volunteers at cafes, restaurants, and online. By the end of the year, one student was even jogging with a conversation volunteer.

The students were energetic and social, gathering for holidays, brunches, and celebrations for two FSI babies who joined the community during the year. Early on, one of the FSOs organized a team of students and teachers for the Yokohama Relay Marathon. The students' esprit de corps was a sustaining force all year long.

Studying a super-hard language is stressful at any time, let alone during a long pandemic. Our lead instructor, Odaka Sensei, and I made "student-centered learning" FSI Yokohama's mantra and teachers tailored instruction to each student's strengths and weaknesses. I met one-to-one with the students and teachers every other week to monitor progress and concerns. It became

clear we had to make sure cross-cultural differences, especially the Japanese teachers' desire to be polite and encouraging, did not leave American FSOs complacent about their language skills.

As some students expressed frustration with the curriculum's heavy focus on political topics, I arranged for each student to attend a faculty meeting to talk about how they previously used foreign languages in the various cones of Foreign Service work. The conversations inspired our teachers to update Yokohama training. We formed two faculty working groups, one to diversify the curriculum and one to propose improvements to FSI language testing. Teachers immediately responded, allowing students to request more material related to their future work and the full range of U.S. foreign policy goals. Following meetings with Washington on the interagency language proficiency scale, we designed a new speaking test with job specific tasks and a computer-based reading test that could be modified for any foreign language. FSI Arlington had put out a call for new test proposals and the Yokohama faculty was excited to be part of a worldwide effort.

Having spent three years in rural Gifu Prefecture after college, I was determined to get the students on study-trips to practice Japanese in the real world and learn about life beyond the capital's metropolitan area. In Tohoku, students observed areas hit by the 2011 tsunami. In Hiroshima, they met with prefectural university students. In Shimoda, site of the first U.S. Consulate in Japan, they engaged local scholars and museum curators who showed our group documents and maps from the time of Commodore Perry and Townsend Harris. We also sent students on solo studies without any teachers or classmates. Several went to a Zen training center where Japanese executives go to strengthen their concentration and mental toughness, while others went to a farming town in Saitama. In every case, the students returned with reports of new insights for their future assignments across Japan.

The Field School celebrated 70 years of FSI language training in Japan with a reception on June 6, 2022. It attracted seventy-five people despite strong winds and rain. Guests included US Ambassador Rahm Emanuel, New Zealand Ambassador Hamish Cooper (a 1988 alumnus), the Director-General of Japan's Foreign Service Training Institute, the Chairman of the Yokohama City Council, and other partners. In congratulatory remarks, US Ambassador Emanuel called the school "a linchpin" to everything the United States is doing in the Asia-Pacific region, and he tweeted, "This is our Alliance in action." He also honored Miyawaki Sensei, who was retiring after 37 years of service. The anniversary event illustrated how this very special school, FSI Yokohama, continues to build U.S.-Japan cooperation.



FSI Yokohama Class of 2021-22
Director Kral in front row, third from left



Students, teachers, and staff, autumn 2021
Director Kral on left



Field Trip to Yokosuka



Kamakura program with the Japan-America Society of Yokohama Youth Club



FSI students, teachers, and supporters at the Yokohama Relay Marathon



Learning about the 2011 tsunami on Tohoku study-trip



Talking with Hiroshima Prefectural University students



Shimoda study trip



Ambassador Rahm Emanuel presenting retirement award to Miyawaki Sensei



70th Anniversary reception
Amb. Emanuel to left of flag

This concludes the chapter of Alexei Kral's first year as Director.

14. CLOSING REMARKS

This concludes the unofficial history of the first seventy years of the US Department of State Japanese Language and Area Training Center.

As stated at the Closing Remarks of Part 1, the school obviously filled an urgent need when it was created in 1952. No other Japanese language school could have possibly met the language and cultural needs of western diplomats and other government employees. To meet those requirements, the school found itself creating one specialized course after another.

The fact that it is still around after seventy years as of this writing in 2022 points to the necessity of its existence and its history of its success. The essence of the school lies in the success of its graduates to understand Japan, its language and culture, and effectively represent the United States in advancing its interests, while gaining the interest and appreciation of both Japanese officials, and the people of Japan.