

# IUC NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023 Issue

## FROM OUR DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

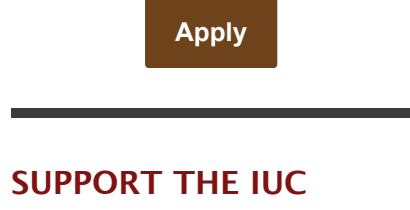
As 2023 draws to a close, we reflect upon another exciting year for the IUC.

With the COVID-19 pandemic over at last (fingers crossed), all classes are now being held in-person at our facilities at Pacifico Yokohama. The 10-Month Program began in September with 54 students; it is a joy to see them attending classes on campus every day!

The 2023–24 academic year marks the 60th anniversary of the IUC's founding. We celebrated our *kanreki* with events at Stanford in October and in Tokyo in December, with another coming up in Yokohama in March 2024. Fittingly for this anniversary year, both the IUC and its magnanimous donor Toshizo Watanabe were awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation in 2023.

At the start of the holiday season we would like to thank all members of the IUC community for their support in 2023 and wish everyone the very best for the new year!

Bruce Batten  
Indra Levy



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

We are currently accepting applications for the 2024–25 IUC 10-Month Program. The application deadline is **January 12, 2024 @ 11:59 p.m. EST**. Visit our website for more information about our programs, and application instructions!

Apply

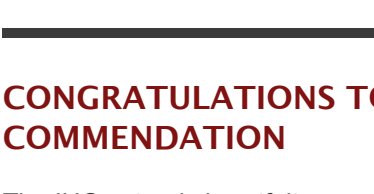
## SUPPORT THE IUC

Your support is critical to our students. To make your gift today, visit our [website](#). To find out how to make a planned gift, please email [wenachen@stanford.edu](mailto:wenachen@stanford.edu).

Donate Today

## CENTER NEWS

### IUC RECEIVES FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENDATION

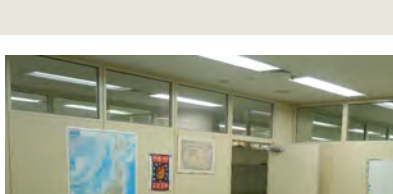


The IUC is humbled to have received the Foreign Minister's Commendation for Fiscal Year 2023 in recognition of its contribution to Japan Studies in the United States. We are so grateful for this recognition of our dedicated faculty, staff, and students as well as our highly accomplished alumni. Executive Director Indra Levy received the commendation letter from Yo Osumi, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco, on Friday, October 6th, at a special ceremony held at Consul General Osumi's official residence.

After the ceremony, guests were treated to a Japanese seafood and sake buffet provided in cooperation with **JETRO USA**. In particular, the buffet offered scallops from Hokkaido, yellowtail from Kagoshima, flatfish from Aomori, red sea bream from Ehime, and mackerel from Miyagi. Guests also enjoyed a selection of sake from Fukushima Prefecture and the surrounding Tohoku region. Consul General Osumi acknowledged the hard work of the fishermen and sake brewers in Japan that made the buffet possible.



### CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE CITY OF YOKOHAMA



In honor of the IUC's receipt of the Foreign Minister's Commendation, Mayor Takeharu Yamanaka of Yokohama sent a letter to Resident Director Batten. It reads, in part, "I would like to congratulate you on the recognition of the IUC's achievements . . . I strongly hope that the next generation of students who studied Japanese language and culture here in Yokohama will continue to deepen their attachment to the city and become bridges between the world and Japan, especially Yokohama."

We are grateful to Mayor Yamanaka for his kind words and his support of the IUC and its mission.

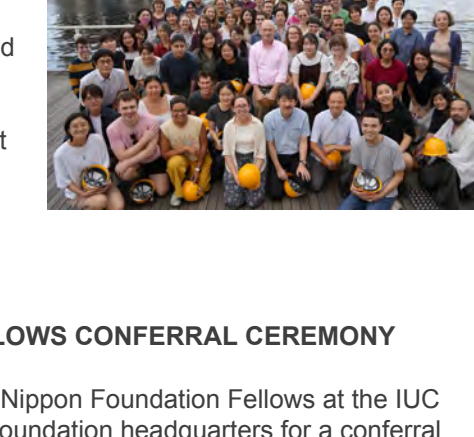
### CONGRATULATIONS TO TOSHIZO WATANABE ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENDATION

The IUC extends heartfelt congratulations to Toshizo Watanabe, one of the IUC's greatest benefactors, who also received the Foreign Minister's Commendation in 2023. Mr. Watanabe wrote an article describing his relationship to the IUC and his feelings upon receiving the commendation, which was published in the Watanabe Foundation newsletter, *Kenko to Kagaku* (Health and Science) on November 2.

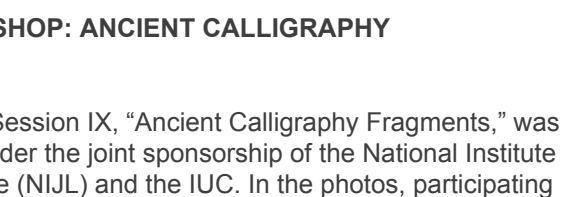
Read an English-language version of the full article [HERE](#).

### FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE VISIT

On July 3, Executive Director Indra Levy and Resident Director Bruce Batten visited the US Department of State's Foreign Service Institute in Yokohama (from left, FSI Director Alexei Kral, Dr. Levy, Dr. Batten). Fun fact: Dr. Levy's father, Howard Levy, was the director of FSI for a total of 12 years during the 1960s and 1970s.

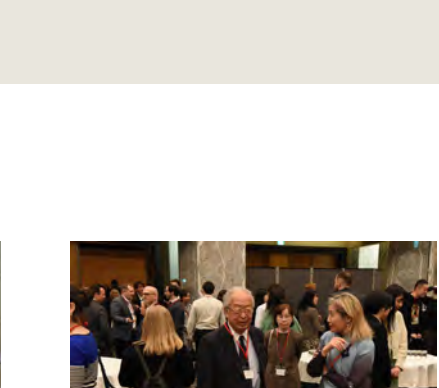


## STUDENT NEWS



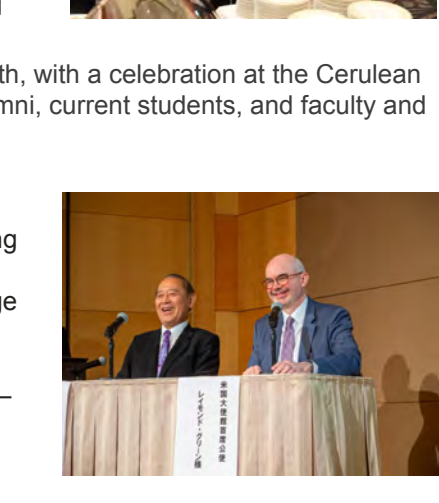
### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SUMMER CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations to the forty students who successfully completed the IUC's 2023 Summer Program (June 22–Aug 9, 2023) and the six who successfully completed its 2023 Summer Intensive Kanbun Program (June 23–July 13). Both programs were held in person for the first time in four years. Many thanks to the faculty and staff members who worked so hard to make the programs a success.



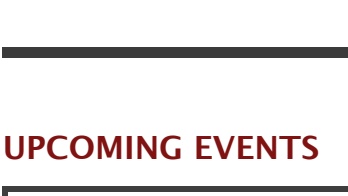
### WELCOME TO YOKOHAMA, CLASS OF 2024!

The 10-month regular program for 2023–24 began as scheduled on September 4. After three years of hybrid and online instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were thrilled to be able to welcome the incoming class in Yokohama at the start of this year. Thanks to renovations to the building and precautionary measures taken during the pandemic, all 54 students of the class of 2023–2024 have been able to take in-person classes together at the IUC campus in Yokohama.



### NIPPON FOUNDATION FELLOWS CONFERRAL CEREMONY

On September 27, the twenty Nippon Foundation Fellows at the IUC this year visited The Nippon Foundation headquarters for a conferral ceremony. A total of 204 IUC students over the course of twelve years have now received scholarships from the Foundation. We are deeply grateful to Chairman Yohei Sasakawa and his staff for their support! For more details about this year's Fellows and the conferral ceremony, see [Chairman Sasakawa's blog](#) for October 11.

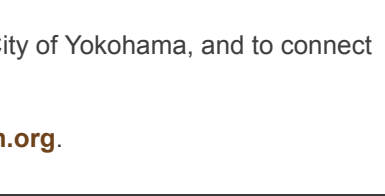
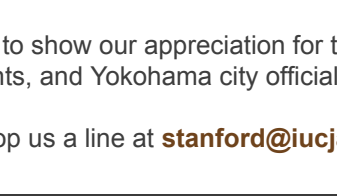
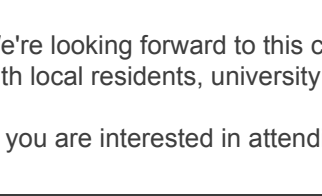


### MATERIALS WORKSHOP: ANCIENT CALLIGRAPHY FRAGMENTS

Materials Workshop Session IX, "Ancient Calligraphy Fragments," was held November 15 under the joint sponsorship of the National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL) and the IUC. In the photos, participating IUC students examine ancient calligraphy fragments under the direction of this session's lecturer, Prof. Kuboki Hideo of Nihon University.

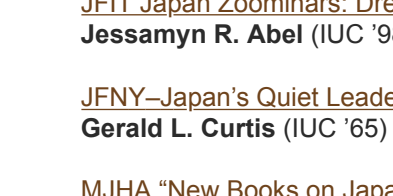
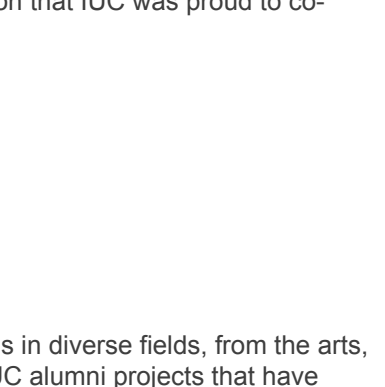
## EVENTS

### IUC 60th Anniversary Celebration in Tokyo



The IUC marked its 60th anniversary on Wednesday, December 6th, with a celebration at the Cerulean Tower Tokyo Hotel in Shibuya, Tokyo. Attendees included IUC alumni, current students, and faculty and staff, as well as other members of the greater IUC community.

The centerpiece of the evening was a panel discussion, "Navigating Forward: Charting the Course of US–Japan Relations," moderated by Seth Sulkin (IUC '91). Following a congratulatory video message by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kiyoto Tsuji, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Raymond Greene and former Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki discussed the US–Japan relationship and fielded questions from the audience.



At the subsequent reception, Resident Director Batten presented letters of appreciation to the IUC's institutional supporters in Japan. Chairman Yohei Sasakawa of The Nippon Foundation and Chairman Toshizo Watanabe of the Toshizo Watanabe Foundation then gave brief speeches (the former by prerecorded video), and Toru Hashimoto, Director General of the City of Yokohama's International Affairs Bureau, read a message from Yokohama Mayor Takeharu Yamanaka. Former IUC Associate Director Kikuko Tematsugu gave a toast to IUC and led the group to *kanpai*.

Many thanks to the more than 250 people who came together to celebrate this special moment for the IUC. We look forward to seeing you again at the 70th anniversary celebration!

For more photos, a video by Japanese State Minister Kiyoto Tsuji, and a full report by current student [Caralee Casto](#), click the button below.

Read More

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### IUC FEBRUARY HAPPY HOUR IN TOKYO

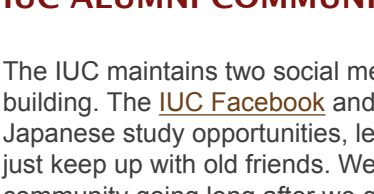
February 22, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. JST

2024 is coming, and with it, the revival of alumni happy hours! IUC Happy Hour Tokyo Committee invites you to grab a drink, shelter from the cold, and meet the current IUC Class of 2024. The **venue** is pay-as-you-go, so feel free to drop in late or leave early. The event is open to alumni, current students, family and friends. The address is available at the registration link below.

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Freedman (IUC '21): [benjamin.b.freedman@gmail.com](mailto:benjamin.b.freedman@gmail.com)

This event is organized by the IUC Happy Hour Tokyo Committee.

Register

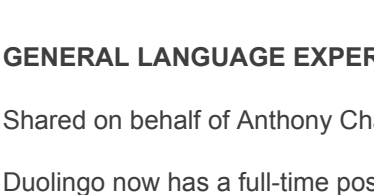


### IUC 60th ANNIVERSARY FINALE: "MY YOKOHAMA"

On March 29, 2024 the IUC will hold its final 60th Anniversary Event, "My Yokohama." In celebration of the IUC's long-standing relationship with the City of Yokohama, a number of current students will give presentations in Japanese detailing their experiences, observations, and research about the city. Afterward, students and attendees will have a chance to engage in a dialogue in Japanese with Yokohama residents.

We're looking forward to this change to show our appreciation for the City of Yokohama, and to connect with local residents, university students, and Yokohama city officials.

If you are interested in attending, drop us a line at [stanford@iucjapan.org](mailto:stanford@iucjapan.org).



### IUC AT THE AAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

The IUC is proud of its many alumni who will attend and present at the 2024 AAS Annual Conference. This year's conference will be held from Thursday, March 14th to Sunday, March 17th, at the Sheraton Grand Seattle and the Seattle Convention Center in Seattle, Washington.

Check out the "careers" section below for some late-breaking research and mentorship opportunities at the conference, and drop us a line at [stanford@iucjapan.org](mailto:stanford@iucjapan.org) if you plan on presenting or attending. We look forward to catching up with many of you there!

Above at left, AAS 2023 presenter [Samee Siddiqui](#) relaxes with IUC '20 classmates [Katie Reilly](#), [Emily Buttner](#), and [James McDonough](#) at the AAS Berkeley Reception that IUC was proud to co-sponsor last year.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### ALUMNI MEDIA APPEARANCES & ONLINE EVENTS

The IUC is proud to have so many alumni making valuable contributions in diverse fields, from the arts, to technology, to international relations. Below is a small sampling of IUC alumni projects that have appeared online in the latter half of 2023.

[JFIT Japan Zoominars: Dream Super-Express: A Cultural History of the World's First Bullet Train](#)  
[Jessamyn R. Abel](#) (IUC '98)

[JFNY–Japan's Quiet Leadership: Reshaping the Indo-Pacific](#)  
[Gerald L. Curtis](#) (IUC '65)

[MJHA "New Books on Japan" series \\*](#)  
In Close Association: Local Activist Networks in the Making of Japanese Modernity, 1868–1920  
[Marnie S. Anderson](#) (IUC '00)

[MJHA "New Books on Japan" series \\*](#)  
Oishii: The History of Sushi  
[Eric Rath](#) (IUC '94)

[MJHA Professional Development Series: "Job Hunting Outside North America, Part I: Asia" \\*](#)  
[Jeremy Yellen](#) (IUC Summer '04)

[Modern Japanese History Association Roundtable: "The State of Our Field"](#)  
[Andrew Gordon](#) (IUC '74)

[Okinawan Studies: Past, Present, and Future](#)  
[Brandon Marc Higa](#) (IUC '05)

\*video unavailable

### SHARE YOUR OWN ALUMNI NEWS

Are you working on a Japan-related, project, publication, opportunity or event? We'd love to feature you and your work in our next newsletter! Contact Emily Buttner to share your story: [buttner@iucjapan.org](mailto:buttner@iucjapan.org).

### OBITUARIES

We are sad to report the recent passing of the following members of our community.

[Carol Kimmel](#) (IUC '88)

[Michael Blaker](#) (IUC '65)

### HOT OFF THE PRESS

In the past half-year, IUC alumni have published intellectual and creative work on a vast array of topics, including [professional baseball](#) ([Paul Dunscomb](#), IUC '98), the Japanese general election of 2021 ([Robert J. Pekkanen](#), IUC '90), and [realisms in East Asian performance](#) ([Jessica Nakamura](#), IUC '12).

In *The Crisis in Pro Baseball and Japan's Lost Decade: The Curious Resilience of Heisei Japan* (left) Paul Dunscomb examines Japan's Heisei era through the lens of the crisis in Japanese professional baseball of 2004, challenging the narrative of decline that dominates the discourse on the period.

So many of our alumni have published books recently that we couldn't feature them all of them in our newsletter. If you don't see your book listed in our full list of recent publications (below), please let us know so we can add it.

Recent Publications

## ALUMNI BENEFITS & OPPORTUNITIES

### IUC ALUMNI COMMUNITY

The IUC maintains two social media accounts specifically for alumni networking and community-building. The IUC [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) groups are great places to look for or share career and Japanese study opportunities, let others know about your Japan-related projects or social events, and just keep up with old friends. We hope you'll join us on Facebook and LinkedIn, and keep the alumni community going long after we graduate!

### BENEFITS

#### IUC PROFESSIONAL TUTORIALS

The IUC offers a custom-designed tutorials program in advanced Japanese for scholars and professionals at a lower rate for graduates of the IUC. Visit our [program page](#) for more information.

#### MIIS SCHOLARSHIP

IUC alumni enrolling in degree programs at the [Middlebury Institute of International Studies](#) (MIIS) are eligible for a scholarship!

The Middlebury Institute educates professionals to advance understanding, promote peace, and drive change in pursuit of a more just world. For details, contact Jill Stoffers, Senior Director of Partnerships at MIIS, by email at [jstoffer@middlebury.edu](mailto:jstoffer@middlebury.edu) or by phone at (831) 647-6571.

### CAREER AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

#### GENERAL LANGUAGE EXPERT POSITION AT DUOLINGO

Shared on behalf of Anthony Chan (IUC '20), [anthony.zf.chan@gmail.com](mailto:anthony.zf.chan@gmail.com).

Duolingo now has a full-time posting for a general language expert. Japanese expertise is certainly a big plus, but the position also requires at least one of the following: Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, or Korean.

This one requires a MA or equivalent degree but no longer has any graduation timeline requirements. Please share if you know someone who is interested, and email me if you have any questions.

[View the post](#) to apply.

#### POSITION FOR CHINESE LOCALIZATION EXPERT AT CAPCOM

Capcom is hiring a Simplified Chinese expert. Come work in Osaka! Responsibilities include translating from both English and Japanese to produce top-quality localizations; proofreading and editing Simplified Chinese translations to ensure localization quality; providing feedback to Localization Directors on culturally sensitive issues.

[View the post](#) to apply.

#### CALL FOR MENTORS—AAS 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Shared on behalf of the AAS 2024 Annual Conference in Seattle (3/14–3/17)

During the AAS 2024 Annual Conference, do you have approximately 60 minutes for a group mentoring session?

The AAS Conference Mentor Program connects early-career Asianists with advanced scholars, teachers, and professionals to build their professional network and seek advice and informal guidance within a structured setting. Mentors will lead an open-ended discussion on a focused topic with a group of no more than nine individuals at the Annual Conference in Seattle.

Extended Submission Deadline:  
January 3, 2024, 11:59 p.m. (EST)

[View the call](#) for a list of suggested topics and details about becoming a mentor.

#### LATE-BREAKING SESSIONS—AAS 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Shared on behalf of the AAS 2024 Annual Conference in Seattle (3/14–3/17)

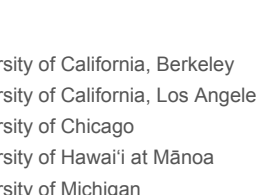
Do you have a session topic for a Late-Breaking Session to be presented at the AAS 2024 Annual Conference in Seattle?

We are also now accepting proposals for Late-Breaking Sessions. Organizers may indicate on the proposal application the preference for an in-person or virtual presentation format. All participants accepted to present on an in-person session must be physically present in Seattle.

We will consider only organized panels or roundtable sessions (no individual papers, please). All sessions will run 90 minutes in length. Organized panels should include no more than four papers, and roundtables should include no more than five discussants and a chair. Individuals already on the program are welcome to participate in a late-breaking session.

Proposal Submission Deadline:  
January 18, 2024, 11:59 p.m. (EST)

[View the call](#) for additional information and to submit your proposal.



#### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Shoyu Club  
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Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

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