Essay Contest Overflows With Entries

The JET Programme Essay Competition has been flooded with a total of fifty-four entries from current JETs and alumni. There are four topics which essays can focus on, all of which must be tied to the purposes of the JET Programme. The contest was announced in the summer JET Journal for current JETs and in the last JET Streams for alumni. Fifteen percent (eight of fifty-four) were from alumni. The competition was so successful, another competition is planned for next year as well, we encourage you to make submissions.

Judges for the essays include a junior team of three CLAIR Programme Coordinators and two Japanese staff. The final selection committee is headed by Mr. Yoshihiro Jibiki, Managing Director of CLAIR.

In trying to come to grips with the failures and successes of the programme, the writers explore the underlying motivations we all have for leaving the boundaries of our home countries to go abroad. And as alumni know, often one's experiences abroad come full circle after returning home, when facing the challenge of how to use them in one's future.

CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liaison's Note</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back to School</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Reports</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni News</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme News</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Representatives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Send all correspondence to:

CLAIR: JETAA Liaison
3-3-6 Kudan Minami
Chiyoda, Tokyo 102
JAPAN
Liaison’s Note

The JET Alumni Association grows every year. Without direction the association will lose its way quickly due to sheer numbers; one regional representative will be unable to coordinate a large number of people over a wide geographical area. While it is tempting to say each region should be allowed to go its own way as it sees fit, we stand more to gain by deciding on some clear, common goals.

An obvious role for alumni is in the recruitment and selection of new JETs, followed by a pre-departure meeting or orientation. The majority of regions are involved in this now, with the degree of involvement often depending on the nature of the local consulate. Another activity is helping JETs find employment upon returning home. Again, most regions are involved in this now, organizing résumé file services, setting up job fairs and establishing links with the Japanese business community.

These things are not enough to hold us together. The success of the above activities hinges upon support from a consulate, having an active membership, and an organized regional representative. Working against us is the fact that staff in the consulates changes every few years; alumni need leadership; turnover of representatives is high.

The one thing we all have in common is a desire to understand and sort out what we went through in Japan. Whether it was good or bad, we have the desire to understand our experience. This is why we are eager to involve ourselves in the selection and preparation of new JETs, to make sure they have the best chance possible, better than we ourselves did, of adapting to a different lifestyle. This is why we seek jobs that utilize our knowledge of Japan, to show ourselves we’ve understood things Japanese, and can now put that knowledge to use. In the long run, it is the fact that everyone who has been to Japan and come home again will feel this way, that will hold us together. As a group, we can start to understand. However, there must be the proper medium and tools for exchange.

I believe JET Streams can do more to contribute to this aim. JET Streams can be a source for analysis, and insight into our common experiences. I will start publishing essays or writings which explore this theme of analysis and insight. Some of us are publishing professionally. So that we are informed of the efforts others are making, please also send me any title of a book or publication written by an alumni. Keep in touch so I can anticipate your needs in producing the directory and newsletter.

Peter O’Meara Evans
JETAA Liaison
ALT Saitama 1989-1991
CIR Saitama 1991-1992

New Rules

As some of you may already know, there are new restrictions when applying to the JET programme. Since members of the JETAA are some of the biggest (and best!) promoters of the programme, JETAA should be an up to date and informed group as well. Please note the following! We appreciate all of your help with the programme!

This publication is printed on recycled paper.
SOAS
School of Oriental and African Studies
University of London

Clare Doran, BETS
Kitakyushu-shi, 1986-1988

Coming back from Japan with good social Japanese and a head full of real life experiences, the returnee JET once back on home territory faces a decision. The JET is left the choice of whether to pick up the pieces of a career pre-Japan and store the Japan memories for a more sympathetic audience, or to attempt to utilise the Japan experience and hopefully plunge into the Japan related job market.

The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) part of the University of London has been running courses to do with Asia and Africa since 1916. As well as running full undergraduate programmes in Japanese, SOAS has attracted a number of ex-JETs, both as students and employees through a variety of post graduate programmes.

One example is Dominic Hastings, who after spending two years as a JET in Okinawa has entered SOAS on the one year Diploma in Japanese and the Japanese Economy. He has just completed the initial six months and is heading back to Japan to continue language tuition at the Hokkaido University of Education in Sapporo and take part in a work placement with Hokkaido Denryoku and Marui Imai Department Store. On return to SOAS in January, he enters two months of intensive language study and completes courses in contemporary Japanese economy.

Another returnee JET is Cindy Daugherty [MEF, Sapporo-shi, 86-88] who currently works for the Research and Publications section of SOAS. She is doing a part-time Masters in Art & Archaeology specialising in Japanese art and Chinese ceramics. Clare Doran is currently doing the MA Area Studies (Japan) programme, where participants can choose a combination of three courses from the areas of Japanese politics, anthropology, law, economics, music, language, and history. Clare undertakes this study part-time while also working as the Centre Co-ordinator for the Japan Research Centre at SOAS, the organiser for the Japan Foundation's Language Proficiency Test, which is given in December of each year.

Course participants in past years have secured posts with a variety of organisations. One participant works for Daiwa Europe Strategic Advisors Limited. Another has become a Japan analyst for Volkswagen. One person even established his own company specialising in importing British goods into Japan. Dominick hopes with his Japanese language skills and expertise gained in Japanese business and economics, to join a multifinancial institution. The Deputy Director of Dominic's programme, Wendy Moor [BET, Osaka, 86-88] has been organising the programme for the last three years and is committed to the principle of creating a pool of Japanese speaking business people, well versed in Japanese business practice.

To many JETs the chance to further study is seen as not only a way of reflecting on their experience of living in Japan, but also of securing concrete language and business skills, or entering a new field of academic study. SOAS has recently established a Japan liaison office and any JETs interested in finding out information about courses at SOAS are invited to contact Dr. Kaoru Sugihara. Dr. Sugihara will be heading the SOAS Japan Liaison team while taking the post of Visiting Professor at the Department of Economics, Osaka University, from October 1992 to June 1993, and would be very happy to talk to any JETs interested in studying at SOAS.

For further information please contact:

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Osaka  560
TEL: +81-6-844-1151
FAX: +81-6-841-6631
Note: To those of you who want to take a more comprehensive look at what post graduate educational opportunities exist, the following two volume set is highly recommended:

JAPANESE STUDIES SERIES XVIII
Volume I
Japan Specialists

Volume II
Institutions and Indexes

A directory of Japan specialists and Japanese studies institutions in the United States and Canada

The Japan Foundation  
Park Bldg. 3-6 Kidoi-cho  
Chiyoda, Tokyo  102  
JAPAN

Association for Asian Studies, Inc.  
Ann Arbor, MI  48109  
USA

ISBN 0-924304-02-2 (set); ISBN 0-924304-00-6 (vol. 1); ISBN0-924304-01-4 (vol. 2)

Essay

The following essay was submitted for publication by an alumna. JET Streams wishes to maintain a high quality of insight and analysis of the JET experience when presenting essays such as this one. We appreciate Rasha’s work and submission, and wish to see much more. Please put your thoughts to paper, and send them in to the liaison for all to read and benefit from.

THE JET PROGRAMME AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE:
THE ALUMNI RIPPLE EFFECT

Rasha El Sissi, Canada 2--Toronto  
Participated in JET Programme in 1991-1992 in Neyagawa City, Osaka Prefecture

Japan tends to pervade the American consciousness as one thing: an economic threat. For years, the trade imbalance has leaned heavily in her favour, and the United States just can't seem to forget Pearl Harbour. Even recent legislation like the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Act, introduced this summer in the United States Senate to intensively train selected federal officials in Japanese, is couched in adversarial language. Proponents argue that Mansfield Fellows will "enable the U.S. government to respond more effectively to the Japanese challenge." The subtle resentment expressed in the Senate Act occasionally erupts in more violent Japan-bashing, which television beams

1As reported by Katztami, Nihon Keizei Shimbun. 11 July 1992, p. 7
here and abroad as the primal, cathartic destruction of a Honda Civic. Is something wrong with this picture?

From a year’s worth of faithful Japan Times readership, I gather that there are two competing solutions to this international public relations dilemma circulating in Tokyo. One emanates from the business community. Its basic premise is that the United States should remove its superpower blinkers and accept that other countries have risen to prominence and prosperity. For the advocates of this position, there is no such thing as unfair trade practices.

The second position is more compromising. It tries to take a modest bit out of Japan’s enormous trade surplus by spending millions on grassroots exchange programmes. For this position’s advocates, the dominant buzz-word is “internationalization.”

Without a doubt, one of the most fruitful examples of this is the ever-familiar Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme. CLAIR brochures trumpet the programme’s mission — “to deepen mutual understanding between Japanese and people of other countries” — with as much fervour as can be expected from Japan’s bureaucrats. After five years of operation, the results are impressive. This year the programme peaks at 3,325 participants, a four-fold increase from 1987. Nine countries are now represented, including new-comer China. There are 34 alumni chapters throughout the world, with over 2000 registered members.3

Are these numbers a real measure of the JET Programme’s success? As an Osaka Prefecture ALT alumna, I have vivid memories of countless “bitch sessions” in which well-educated, often qualified teachers, complained of having no real teaching responsibilities, of being shuttled between newspaper interviews and enkai, of living like fish in a fishbowl. Apparently, these are the staples of being a gaijin governmental employee in Japan.

On closer inspection then, the JET Programme’s role in radicalizing foreign language education in Japan seems like a flop. Once again, however, the Japanese have pulled a sleight-of-hand unforeseeable to most Westerners by leaving their real intentions unstated. In my opinion, the true measure of the programme’s success is its ability to position thousands of survivors of the Japan-experience throughout the Western world, where they hang a face of humanity on the robotic society that many people imagine exists under the rising sun. For better or for worse, JET alumni accomplish what hundreds of five-star hotel receptions and technology fairs will likely never do. They give Japan a little soul. I call this process the alumni ripple effect.

To be honest, when I left Japan last July I wasn’t exactly devastated. As I boarded the plane for home, my feelings were more akin to Dr. King’s enduring celebration of liberty in America, “Free at last, free at last! Thank God almighty, I’m free at last!” Now as the experience inexorably recedes and I resume my former lifestyle, a kind of temporal cleansing has banished all those petty aggravations that beset my daily life as a gaijin. A different picture of Japan has emerged. It is brighter, more sympathetic, probably more realistic, and I hope, enduring.

For example, I could have never predicted six months ago that I would regularly find myself writing about Japan, reciting Nippon-lore to people who probably do not want to hear it, spending exorbitant amounts at Japanese restaurants to eat inferior sushi, accosting Japanese students at the university to practise Nihongo, and seeking out just about anything and anyone with a similar bent. In other words, I’m not free at all. Japan is happily married to my personal and professional life with the result that I am doing as much here as an alumna to further the cause of internationalization as I ever did there as an ALT.

This phenomenon—the alumni ripple effect—manifested itself within a month of my touching down at Toronto’s Pearson International Airport. That August, my Japanese host family called to say that they and a delegation of thirty others, including a sizable gaggle of my former students, were coming on a sister-city mission to a nearby suburb. They wanted to catch me before I left for graduate school in the United States. Would I please participate? Of course, I responded, how sweet. Soon after this benign request came the real stuff: would I meet them at the airport? chauffeur the delegation around town? put some of them up? attend the community college barbecue? give them a tour of the SkyDome? accompany them to Niagara Falls? take them shopping?

My normal hesitation at this lengthy inventory dissipated for one good reason. This people’s unwavering kindness to me when I was functionally illiterate, desperately home sick, pursued by perverts, and in thousands other instances, motivated me to continue the process of international exchange on my home turf, where I could control the agenda and possibly make a difference. So we didn’t go to

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3 From the 1992 edition of the JET Programme application information brochure.
the SkyDome, we went to Georgian Bay National Park. Instead of going shopping, we visited Black Creek Pioneer Village. It must have worked—another delegation is due this summer.

To test the pervasiveness of the ripple effect among other alumni, I contacted four friends who braved last year with me in the Kinki district. I climbed Mount Fuji with two of them. The other two were veterans of the programme by the time I arrived naive and expectant from the Tokyo Orientation. All four of us helped bear a little of each other's frustrations, and shared exultations as they occurred too. Now we are flung randomly across the North American continent, held together only by an experiential thread. These women formed my sample of recent alumni as I embarked on a survey of life after JET. When I first asked Ingrid if the JET Programme was continuing to have an impact on her life, she blithely answered "Naw, not really. I'm the wrong person to interview." I was distressed. Ingrid was an involved, energetic and indefatigably optimistic teacher in Japan. Could the programme have had a reverse ripple effect on her? Had Ingrid renounced her dream to attend teacher's college in Canada because of a terrifying experience in the junior high schools of Kyoto Prefecture?

I pressed for an explanation. In fact, Ingrid tutors three Japanese exchange students who attend the School of English at Queen's University, in Kingston, Ontario. "I'm like their friend, because I can understand their problems and where they're coming from. They feel nobody understands them here, and I can sympathize with that." Easing Japanese into the wilds of Canadian culture sounds a lot like the first weeks of a typical JET's life in Japan. Ironically, Ingrid's transplanted version of internationalization accomplishes beautifully what the JET Programme pursues with qualified success at the local level in Japan. However, there is no chicken-and-the-egg conundrum here. Ingrid's good work exists because of her experience with the programme. Chalk one up for the alumni ripple effect.

My second friend Deborah4 quit her permanent position as a kindergarten teacher to broaden her professional experience in Japan. Meanwhile economic torpor crept into Canada, and one year later Deborah, like so many qualified teachers, was out of a job. However, the same optimism and ingenuity that brought her to Japan landed Deborah a new position in her old school district—as a high school Japanese teacher.

"I have to study every day, and I take Japanese lessons once a week," she explains when I ask how she parleyed survival Japanese into instruction-level ability. Deborah has also encountered many of the same frustrations teaching Japanese in Canada as ALTs routinely meet breaking new ground in the educational system in Japan. "I'm all alone, and they don't even have a curriculum. I'm making it up as I go." The kids, she adds, are lured into the class by the possibility of going on an exchange trip to Japan for 18 days. "They're mostly interested in the culture, which I am qualified to teach. I try to include it in the lessons as much as I can." The curiosity exhibited by these Canadian children is a universal trait—any ALT who has fielded questions, bizarre and perspicacious alike, from their well-intentioned but uninformed students, can testify to that. The Ministry of Education's real educational agenda for the JET Programme is as much to foster this process of cultural enlightenment as to increase strict language acquisition. It is one way to prevent a life-time of xenophobic hostility and even stymie more innocuous misconceptions among students that is clearly as effective in Canadian high schools as in the Japanese countryside.

When I inquire if Deborah wants to continue teaching Japanese, the answer is a definitive no. "It's too hard. Last week one kid asked me how to say 'my father is a biotechnologist' in Japanese." While her current teaching position is only a temporary economic necessity, Deborah is adamant about continuing to study the language. "I'm good at it," she states in her characteristically blunt way. Fortunately for the Japanese government, it looks as if Deborah will be an advocate of Nihongo for a long time to come, effectively working to bridge the language barrier from this side of the globe. Chalk two up for the alumni ripple effect.

The third friend I spoke to was Sherri, who spent two years teaching in Osaka, the latter year as an embattled AJET Prefectural Representative trying to wrest improvements in the programme from a band of tight-lipped local authorities. After that dispiriting year, I wondered how affable she would be about my ripple effect theory. When I left Japan, I toured Europe for three months before coming home. During that time, my feelings were still negative about the country and I complained a lot to people I met. I soon discovered that Sherri and I had something in common as alumni of the Japan experience. Time had helped focus some of our more cynical perceptions of that bewildering island. Now Sherri says that the biggest pay-off of her two year sojourn there has been personal. "Having the chance to live abroad and travel all over the world—I find people are actually envious."

The motivation that got Sherri involved in AJET continues to work on behalf of the programme at

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4 Not her real name
home. The Japanese consulate has closed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, but she wants to help keep the local alumni association alive. "They had an excellent send-off orientation for my group in 1989. I'd love to put together something as good in the nearest city with a consulate," she adds. Chalk three up for the alumni ripple effect.

Amid all these feel-good, do-good assessments of alumni, the last friend I spoke to reminded me that the enduring effect of repatriated JETs is not always to vaunt the programme and the country. Emmy says she wouldn't go back for a million bucks. "My branch office totally disowned me; no one spoke to me for the last fourteen months I was there. I worked hard to gain their respect, but their blatant disregard of my efforts and my problems soured the experience completely." Emmy does not hesitate to dispel what she considers to be the myths about Japan. "My family and close friends all know the truth about how foreigners are treated in work situations in Japan. And they are absolutely frank with whoever asks questions." However, Emmy makes a clear distinction between the Japanese she met in her branch office and those with whom she corresponds regularly and has hosted in her house in Edmonton, Alberta. "The best part of the experience for me was meeting people—Westerners and Japanese—whom I'll stay friends with forever."

Emmy's reaction to Japan may be more negative than Ingrid's, Deborah's and Sherri's, but most importantly, it is informed and honest. Like the legions of JETs who come home determined to banish the idealized image of perfectly behaved and unnaturally intelligent Japanese school children, Emmy's description of a gaijin's life in a Japanese office reveals one very human downside to Japan's mighty corporate culture. Ultimately, whatever alumni do or say concerning their experience, positive or negative, they contribute valuable insight to the global conversation about the Japanese enigma. To Western societies used to openness, this is probably the only way to breathe life into trite expressions like "mutual understanding" and "internationalization."

The alumni ripple effect sees its most formal actualization in any one of the 34 JET Alumni Association chapters scattered throughout the Western hemisphere. Not all chapters are equally endowed. Some chapters, such as those located in New York and Paris, enjoy the support and resources of nearby Japan Local Government Centres (the overseas equivalent of CLAIR). Suzette Brown who heads the New York JETAA can list a string of success stories that were facilitated in part by the Japanese diplomatic and business community clustered in the Big Apple: the annual softball game, the pre departure seminar, and so on. Brown also reports that two JETAA members in the Tri-State area have set up sister-city relationships, and that several members have volunteered to serve as guides and translators for Japan-America grassroots festivals. From a personal standpoint, Brown credits her own commitment to the New York Alumni Association to the kindness of her Tochigi Prefecture hosts. "After my experience in there, I wanted to build ties between Japan and this country and continue associating with JETs in the U.S."

Maintaining contacts with old programme compatriots is a priority most JETs share. As a result, it is often the force that brings and keeps alumni associations together.

Other JETAA chapters, such as those located on the Pacific Rim, benefit tremendously from their proximity to Japan and the interest this generates in their base community. Lenore Espanola, who spent two years in Shimane Prefecture and currently leads the San Francisco / Northern California JETAA, says that, people just think more about Japan here, it's a kind of fascination. This west coast chapter wants to tap into local awareness by applying for non-profit status. If they do so they can accept donations, and free their agenda of civic volunteerism from policy ties to the Ministry of Education. Espanola explains that the organization was catalysed by a common experience with the JET Programme, but its members "are eager to work with the community in a variety of ways—Japan doesn't have to dominate our activities."

The work going on at any one of these prominent chapters is not substantively different from the casual activities of individual alumni like Ingrid, Deborah, Sherri, Emmy and myself. Indeed, the ripple effect process means that all former JETs, whether through an isolated act or group endeavour, have the same potential to contribute to the ongoing process of international exchange. Alumni viewpoints are so authoritative (read influential) because they are authentic. So, whether a JET leaves the programme scarred for life or happily launched on a rewarding career, his or her opinions plant the seeds of intercultural relations for generations of fellow citizens to come. If this sounds farfetched, think of how long it took to weed out Second World War attitudes toward Japanese that were as bigoted as they were deep-rooted. Call me a conspiracy theorist, but I believe that the alumni ripple effect is an integral objective of the JET Programme. For once, it is something JETs themselves can completely control. Run with it.
Australia 2 Melbourne
Melbourne has about ten members in its group who are active on a regular basis, according to the representative, Elisa Groves. Melbourne also saw its first newsletter come into being in August of this year, and produced a second one in November. The JETAA were invited by the consulate to help in the pre-departure orientation for this year's (1992-1993) participants. From the November newsletter: “Our main project...will be to make contact with Japanese teaching in Australia on a temporary basis. We are aiming to provide a social and intercultural network.”

Australia 4 Perth
Representative Wendy Fletcher now works at the Hyogo Prefectural Government Cultural Centre which is the result of the Hyogo-Western Australia Sister-State realtionship. The centre held The Japan Festival '92 this year in October and November. Perth is beginning a Work Information Register for people who are looking for work. The representative Wendy Fletcher keeps people's CVs to refer a prospective employer to the person looking for work. Ms. Fletcher has also produced a comprehensive 24 page report on the current state of recruitment and selection for the JET Programme. If you would like a copy please contact her.

China
As China is a new participating member of the JET Programme, its alumni chapter will begin this April when its first group of participants return home. Currently the group enjoys 100% membership, with all four JET participants having signed up to join the association! We look forward to the contributions China will make to the association.

Canada 1 Ottawa
Ottawa has produced its second annual information package for Canadian participants on the JET Programme. For a copy please contact representative Janet Chater. With regards to pre-departure orientation, Janet stated in a letter to the JETAA Liaison: “The Embassy has shown their growing faith in the Ottawa JETAA by handing over the running of the Pre-departure Orientation to the alumni members. The sessions included two and a half days of EFL Training...followed by a Sunday session on the ‘Role of the AET and Life in Japan.' Several members were also asked to participate in the Sunday session on Culture Shock which was given by the Embassy.”

Canada 3 Montreal
The Montreal group headed by Anita Chandan has produced its first newsletter, listing the addresses of local Japanese companies for job-seekers. Members of the JETAA were also involved in question and answer sessions at the pre-departure orientation.

United Kingdom 1 London
Representative Kerry Barnett published London's first newsletter. The group held a reunion with about 70 in attendance, including representatives from the Embassy, Ministry of Home Affairs, CLAIR Tokyo, JETRO, and a few Japanese companies as well as JETs, BETS, and MEFs. The newsletter also published job-hunting ideas, and addresses and titles of institutions and publications useful to those seeking employment. Similar to many regions, JETAA members were also involved in this year's recruitment efforts in the UK, as well as the selection process.

United Kingdom 5 Edinburgh
The Edinburgh group is just starting its activities, with at least one JETAA member set to help out at the interviews of new applicants at Edinburgh's consulate. Thanks to Joan Kelly for getting the region started!
Regional Reports

United States 1 Washington DC
The Washington DC group, headed by Paige Cottingham, meets regularly to discuss how JETAA can contribute to the programme, and also fulfill the needs of people after leaving the programme. This year members helped review applications, interview applicants, and carry out pre-departure orientations in cooperation with Meridian House International. The group has also noted that there is noticeably less done to prepare JETs for leaving the programme, as opposed to when they were prepared for entering the programme.

United States 2 New York
Suzette Brown and the New York group have taken steps towards helping alumni find employment. As stated in a letter to prospective new members, they have created a “resume circulating service that sends a book of our resumes to companies that have responded to an advertisement we had placed in the current membership directory of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, Inc.” The group also meets once a month.

United States 4 Atlanta
The Atlanta group, like others, takes a strong interest in the programme’s recruitment, and its members are invited to sit on the interview panel, as well as helping out at university presentations together with the consulate and CLAIR. Representative Trina Kinjo would like to see the group’s activities expand.

United States 6 Miami
A consulate just opened in Miami in August. Currently we are looking for a representative to begin and coordinate activities for Florida alumni. The new consulate would probably welcome offers of assistance with the JET Programme as well!

United States 11 Seattle
Thanks to David Fordon and Christi Hanson (the latter the current representative), “JETAA US-11 is now in the provisional phase of 501 (c) (3) status. This entitles us to call ourselves a non-profit organization.” The Seattle group also has a Business Committee devoted to providing assistance to the business community, and to creating a Job Mart.

United States 13 San Francisco
Lenore Espanola and Natalie Kraft share duties running the San Francisco group, which is in the process of attaining non-profit organization status. In addition to its resume file service, San Francisco also provides its members with several service committees: for cultural readjustment, career and education, community contacts, and a consulate liaison committee. They also held their own pre-departure orientation for new JETs.

United States 14 Los Angeles
The Los Angeles group is in the midst of election of new officers--currently Nancy Kikuchi and Cynthia Leffler are the co-representatives. The group holds regular social gatherings and JETAA meetings. An effort to bring San Diego and Los Angeles alumni together at a social meeting was foiled in January due to rains and flooding. Other efforts include organizing a Jobs Seminar, and volunteering for community service through the Los Angeles Youth At Risk Foundation. Those who participate take part in a camp that helps one with personal development, followed by a year long Committed Partners programme, where an adult spends time with a youth three times a week. We hope other regions follow Los Angeles' example of community service!
Beginning with this issue, JET Streams devotes a section to the current activities of alumni. This page’s purpose is more than providing casual trivia about alumni. The selection of people highlighted here is meant to focus on those who are using their experiences in Japan to their advantage and enjoyment. Anyone whose work or volunteer activities fall into this category is strongly urged to send a description (photos welcome) to the liaison for inclusion in future issues. The people listed below are an example of the lasting, positive effect living in another culture can have on one’s life.

**Michael Betrue**  MEF / ALT Yamaguchi 1986-1988 Having completed an MA in Japanese Business Studies at Chaminade University of Honolulu, Michael now works in the International Public Relations Division of Fujitsu Limited...81-3-3215-5236

**Kevin Bergman**  MEF / ALT Tokushima 1986-1989 Kevin currently works as an English Language Teaching Consultant for Longman Japan, but plans to return to secondary education level teaching this year...81-3-3689-8098

**Charles Browne**  MEF / ALT Kumamoto 1985-1988 Well known for being the first chairperson of AJET, Charles is currently working on a TESL MA at Temple University while also teaching English at Bunkyo Women’s University...81-3-3869-4783

**Robert Juppé**  MEF / ALT Chiba 1986-1990 Bob has the singular distinction of being the only non-Japanese in the Japanese Ministry of Education as an ALT advisor three days a week, with the other days spent teaching English at Tsukuba University...81-3-3593-6263

**Austin Moore**  MEF Yamaguchi 1984-1987 Once Senior Programme Coordinator at CLAIR, Austin is now the Deputy Director of the Research Department (First Research Division) at the newly begun Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities in Shiga prefecture...81-775-78-5933

**Virginia Murray**  ALT Gifu 1988-1990 Having worked as editor of the national AJET Magazine in 1989 and 1990, Virginia is now an editorial assistant for Mangajin magazine in Atlanta, Georgia...1-404-590-0091

**Jason Neely**  ALT Yokohama 1989-1991 is the Editor in Chief of the magazine Tokyo Time Out...81-3-3460-8501

**Scott Olinger**  ALT Chiba 1988-1990 Scott also worked two years as a Programme Coordinator and JETAA Liaison at CLAIR and is now a lecturer of International Relations in the foreign language division of Hokuriku University in Kanazawa...81-762-29-1161 ext 766

**Bruce Rutledge**  MEF / ALT Chiba 1985-1987 Bruce is the vice-president of Universal News Japan in Tokyo, a desktop publishing, marketing, and public relations organization...81-3-3503-6476
Programme News

Chinese and Korean CIRS

This April twenty-three CIRs are coming on the JET Programme from both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea. Chinese CIRs first came on the programme in April of 1992, with four participants, making the number of countries on the programme nine. This year, with the inclusion of South Korea, the number of countries participating on the programme grows to ten.

That fact that the Chinese and Korean CIRs come in April instead of August shows us their participation in the programme is a little different. The Chinese CIRs and some Korean CIRs are civil servants before coming on the programme, and will return to those jobs after participating. These participants are not required to speak English.

CLAIR welcomes this move by the three ministries involved in running the JET Programme to expand its range and depth. With the inclusion of other Asian countries, the JET Programme continues to make great strides in laying the foundation for greater global understanding.

CLAIR Goes Macintosh

In June of last year CLAIR bought an all new Macintosh system. The office is now equipped with a Quadra 700, several Icici's, and a dozen or so Powerbooks (140 and 160). Most of the software is in Japanese and English, allowing us greater versatility in our publications. We hope you can see the difference, and enjoy the look.

Regional Representative Errata

Many regions have more than one representative running the chapter. For space and practicality's sake, only one representative is listed on the back page. However, please note that those listed below share responsibilities with their counterparts on the back cover.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CN-2 Toronto</th>
<th>IR-1 Dublin</th>
<th>US-13 San Francisco</th>
<th>US-14 Los Angeles</th>
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<tr>
<td>Earl Burt</td>
<td>Emer Leavy</td>
<td>Natalie Kraft</td>
<td>Cynthia Leffler</td>
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<tr>
<td>610-6 Assiniboine Rd</td>
<td>Ballagh, Millingar</td>
<td>50 Jersey Street</td>
<td>1216 Laguna Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>N York, ONT m3j 113</td>
<td>Co. Westmeath</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA 94114</td>
<td>Santa Barbara, CA 93103</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-416-661-2519</td>
<td>353-44-48823</td>
<td>1-415-821-7207</td>
<td>1-818-508-3125</td>
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</table>

There are no representatives for some regions in the UK, US, etc. That a region exists is no guarantee of activity. If your region becomes active, or if at any time a group of people organize themselves to the point of becoming a new group (i.e. there are probably enough alumni for another chapter in Japan), please notify the JETAA liaison at CLAIR so that a new group can be recognized in future newsletters and directories.
### JETAA REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

#### AUSTRALIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Rhonda Rickards</td>
<td>Brett Scoles, 284 Rouse St., Port Melbourne VIC 3207</td>
<td>61-3-646-1765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>Greg Lowe</td>
<td>45 Springbank Rd., Col. Light Gardens SA 5041</td>
<td>61-8-276-4194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>Wendy Fletcher</td>
<td>5 Plume Court, Lesmurdie WA 6076</td>
<td>61-9-291-9236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>Michele McAvoy</td>
<td>19 Julius St., Pearce ACT 2607</td>
<td>61-6-286-1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>Jane Doherty</td>
<td>187 Fernberg Rd., Paddington QLD 4064</td>
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#### CANADA

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<tr>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>Janet Chater</td>
<td>Adrienne Young, 604-4 Assiniboines N. York, ONT m5j 312</td>
<td>1-416-663-2112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>Anita Chandan</td>
<td>8-3435SruedePrudhomme PQ h4a 3h6</td>
<td>1-514-481-6642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winnipeg</td>
<td>Teresa Lee</td>
<td>545 Basswood Ave MB r3g 2t1</td>
<td>1-204-775-9993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edmonton</td>
<td>Stephen Haigh</td>
<td>20 Rosewood Rd NW Calgary, AB t2x 1n1</td>
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#### CHINA

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<tr>
<td>Bao Zhong Huang</td>
<td>Clarisse Carl</td>
<td>83, rue Fondary Paris 75015</td>
<td>33-40-59-43-12</td>
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#### FRANCE

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<tr>
<td>Jane McLoughlin</td>
<td>Flat 3, 42 Up. Dorset, Dublin 1</td>
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#### IRELAND

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<tr>
<td>Christoph Bohn</td>
<td>Burgstrasse 4</td>
<td>7833 Endingen</td>
<td>49-7642-6342</td>
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#### GERMANY

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<td>Robert Langridge</td>
<td>Shakujidai 8-10-34-205, Nerima, Tokyo 177</td>
<td>Belinda Rendell</td>
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#### JAPAN

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#### UNITED STATES

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<tr>
<td>Washington D.C.</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Paige Cottingham</td>
<td>Suzette Brown, 1884 Columbia Road NY #319, 20009</td>
<td>1-202-797-8651</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Box 1028 G.C.Station New York 10613-1028</td>
<td>1-212-691-7252</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>Susan Klaren, 116 S. Washington</td>
<td>Jami Phillips, 3903 Pleasant Street Des Moines, IA 50312</td>
<td>1-515-225-8823</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>Lenora Espanola, 2279 University Ave Palo Alto, CA 94303</td>
<td>Nancy Kikuchi, 11110 Camarillo St. 114 N. Hollywood, CA 91602</td>
<td>1-818-508-3125</td>
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#### U.K.

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Kerry Barnett</td>
<td>33 Seymour Place England w1l 6st</td>
<td>44-71-706-3008</td>
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#### K.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>Joan Kelly</td>
<td>7 The Lane, Skelmorlie Ayrshire, Scotland pa17 5ap</td>
<td>44-475-520739</td>
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