Greetings
Welcome to the first JET Streams of the new millennium! Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and helped in the production of this issue.

JETAA News
JETAA membership currently stands at 10080.

This year saw the addition of a new JETAA chapter, CN7 located in Southern Alberta. Congratulations to Allan Cooper and everyone in CN7! This brings the total number of JETAA chapters to 43 spread across 11 countries of the world.

If you would like to become more involved with your local JETAA group, please contact your regional representative. Names and contact details are listed on pages 7 and 8.

Updating Contact Information
If you have access to the Internet, it is possible to send address updates directly to CLAIR, Tokyo by e-mail at: jetaa@clair.or.jp. If you send contact information updates by e-mail, please make sure that you include your name, position on the Programme, host prefecture, when you were on the Programme, and your JET number if possible along with the new details which include what information you would like listed in the JETAA Directory, what chapter you would like to join, and what publications you would like to receive.

Sending complete information will help us keep our database order and eliminate cases of mistaken identity which arise when dealing with a large number of people.

Publications and Mailings
JET Streams and The JETAA Directory are produced at CLAIR in order to help JET alumni to keep in touch with the JET Programme and each other. According to the results of the survey conducted this year, over half of the respondents said that they would be willing to write something for JET Streams. If you would like to write an article or if you have any suggestions for future editions, please forward contributions by e-mail, if possible, to the address below. Articles on any subject that may be of interest to other alumni will be considered for publication. The deadline for contributions for the next edition of JET Streams is Friday May 12, 2000.

Each time publications are mailed out to members of JETAA, a large number of them are returned with notices stating "Address Unknown". If a member has their mail returned once, they will be filed under "Address Unknown" and will not be sent further publications until we receive an updated address.

Please be sure to send an address update to your local JETAA chapter as well as CLAIR so we can change your contact information and minimize the waste of paper and money that comes with sending materials to outdated addresses.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the CLAIR JETAA database current and operational.

Bilingual Website Introduced
The Eastern Japan chapter invites all JET Alumni to visit its newly established bilingual web site at <http://www.jetaa.com>. Created to serve as a resource for the worldwide JETAA community, the new site features information about our organization, its leadership, and upcoming events in Eastern Japan. Special features include continuously updated information about the upcoming 2000 JETAA International Conference as well as a wealth of travel and accommodation information for inbound travellers to Japan. With links to the three ministries, CLAIR, and the North American JETAA home page <www.jet.org>, the Eastern Japan site serves as a gateway for keeping abreast of issues affecting the worldwide JETAA community.

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Send all correspondence to: CLAIR: JETAA Liaison, Shin Kasumigaseki Building, 19F,

JET Streams is printed on 40% recycled paper
The JET Alumni Association of Southern California (JETAASC) hosted the 5th Annual JET Alumni Association International (JETAAI) Conference at the LAX Westin Hotel from November 19-21, 1999. Almost 50 delegates from North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia attended the conference and exchanged various ideas about their JETAAI chapters’ activities. This was the first year that many non-North American JETAAI chapters participated because of a generous travel subsidy offered by Gaimusho to non-North American chapters. Gaimusho and CLAIR were very generous in their financial support of the conference which allowed us to host a very successful conference.

The first day of the conference was mainly dedicated to hearing about each of the attending chapters and their activities. It gave everyone a chance to see who was attending and the strengths and weaknesses of the numerous chapters represented. After the first general meeting was over, there was a reception hosted by CLAIR New York at the hotel with keynote speeches by CLAIR New York’s Director Naohiro Ishida and Los Angeles Deputy Consul General Akio Egawa. The reception was a great opportunity for people to relax and get to know each other and discuss various issues affecting their JETAAI chapters.

The second day was filled with interactive workshops. The second general session was dedicated to JETAAI’s new role and how the voting procedure worked to create it. After these discussions, there were two keynote speakers before lunch. Linda Chenoweth Kennedy talked about Life After JET and how JETAAI chapters could help their members return to their home countries and assist them with employment opportunities. Michael McVey followed this speech and gave an entertaining presentation about the Internet and the benefits it offers for JETAAI chapters.

After a lunch break, there were three breakout sessions for the participants. Michelle Jones talked about JETAAI and the Community, Debbie Kirk and Tania Wilson lead a discussion on Small Chapter Issues, and Rebecca Peach and Ronn Patton gave a presentation on JETAAI Burnout. Following these breakout sessions, Yoshikio Kono and Kent Yocom lead an exchange on JET Recruitment.

The highlight of the JETAAI Conference was the reception hosted by the Consul General of Los Angeles at the Japanese American National Museum. All of the delegates were offered a special after-hours tour of the museum during cocktails. During dinner, Los Angeles Consul General Tsunoo Nishida and Director Ishida of CLAIR New York gave speeches about the importance of JETAAI chapters worldwide. There was a quartet performance by the Asian American Symphony following the speeches and dinner. After the magnificent reception was over, many people ventured over to Oiware Restaurant for a nijikai hosted by JETAAASC.

The last day of the conference centered on the next site of the JETAAI Conference during a breakfast meeting. In addition, there were presentations on a JETAA Photo Show and an English Video Message Project.

Despite cramming in many speeches and discussions during a short period of time, the participants of the JETAAI Conference came away with lots of new ideas and relationships with other JETAAI chapters. Overall, it was an insightful and fun weekend that will help JETAAI chapters continue to grow and be successful.

Instead of pieces of what is happening in each country, this issue’s JETAA Activities section will feature a detailed report on the workings of one chapter.

JET Programme

JETAAI Canberra continued to provide assistance and support for the JET Programme, as it has done for the last few years. Members participated in a range of activities relating to the publicity of the Programme, selection of candidates and pre-departure orientation and support of successful Programme applicants. Specific activities included:
* Involvement in the annual information session.
* Participating in the interview panel to select Canberra JETs
* Conducting a formal information evening for successful JET applicants, as well as an informal information afternoon
* Participating in the official Farewell reception, held at the Ambassador’s residence
* Running language and cultural classes for the JETs prior to their departure
* Hosting a farewell lunch for the departing JETs
* Being available as a source of advice and support both prior to departure and during the JETs’ stay in Japan

JETAA Activities

JETAAI Canberra once again held a number of social functions, including the dinner night (and welcome to 1999 JETS) in April. This year’s Ohanami was held in the newly-opened Canberra Nara Park which proved to be an ideal location for this perennially popular event.

Four meetings were held during the year, in April, July, September and November (AGM). Three editions of the JETAAI Canberra newsletter have been produced so far this year and sent out to current Canberra JETAAI members, as well as Canberra JETS in Japan and Embassy of Japan staff.

Two representatives from JETAAI Canberra represented Australia at the 5th JETAAI International Conference in Los Angeles, USA on 19-21 November. Our representatives presented an Australian country overview and workshops on ‘JETAAI and the Community’ and ‘The smaller JETAAI Chapter’. Informal feedback has indicated that this year’s conference was a great success, with our representatives’ presentations well received. The sharing of information and building of relationships between conference delegates will be of benefit to JETAAI Australia both now and in the future.

(Continued on page 3)
JETAA Canberra established its own internet site in November. The site has a wealth of information on the chapter for the benefit of JETAA members, current JETs and other interested persons. It is hosted by the JET internet site. The JETAA Canberra site was rated very highly by delegates at this year’s JETAA International Conference.

Regional Conference
It is hoped Australia’s first regional conference will be held later this year, in Canberra. The conference will include delegates from JETAA chapters around Australia, from New Zealand, and from sister chapters overseas (in Canberra’s case, we will invite a representative from our sister Chapter, Washington DC). JETAA Canberra has already drawn up a formal conference proposal, which is to be sent out to Japanese Embassies, Consulates and Chapters for their comment and endorsement. Embassies and Consulates have already expressed enthusiasm for the idea and have indicated their willingness to provide support, including financial, for the staging of the conference in Canberra. JETAA Canberra also has a number of initiatives planned to provide the necessary conference funding. It is hoped that the regional conference will become an annual event. It will also place Australia in a strong position to host a JETAA International conference in the future.

The Future
Although JETAA Canberra is a relatively small chapter, it is quite active and its achievements are in no small part due to the efforts of members. The coming year has an ambitious schedule, but holds the promise of valuable outcomes if those ambitions are realised. JETAA Canberra will, once again, aim to be an even more active organisation, encourage a strong, united national/regional identity for JETAA and act as an example to other chapters worldwide on what can be achieved by a small chapter.

Catherine Wallace
President, JETAA Canberra
January 2000

Your Resume/CV After JET

By Linda Chenoweth Kennedy, JETAA Job Guide Editor

There have been many trees felled and a lot of Internet bandwidth used to discuss how best to write a resume, and it turns out there are a number of approaches. The main point of most experts is that the resume is a marketing tool for getting an interview. I’ve reviewed quite a few resumes in my time, and armed with that experience plus feedback from numerous employers and employment agencies, I’d like to share my thoughts on four resume topics relevant to JETs. With the modern marvel of inexpensive electronics, you’ll be able - and expected - to tailor your resume specifically to the job you’re applying for.

Objective Statement. For many of us, the JET Program(me) was not an obvious step along our career path. To help ease a resume reviewer’s puzzlement over what you intend to do after JET, include a good objective statement. Alternatively, you can include this information in your cover letter. Either way, this will help you to focus on how to market yourself. You don’t need to use the same statement on each resume sent out. You can rewrite it to address a specific industry or position. If you draw a complete blank, it means you need to take a step back to the career planning stage.

Summary of Qualifications. In this section, you can distill all the things that make you the best candidate for the job. It can be useful for most JETs, since any previous work was probably quite different, so this is a good place to draw together all your relevant qualities that may be scattered throughout your work history. This is also a good place to mention those things that make most JETs stand out (if they apply to you and your desired job): good communication skills, overseas experience, and multicultural adaptability.

Describing JET Experience. It’s best to explicitly list either JET or your host institution, or both, as the employer (although your actual employer is the host institution). It’s OK to include a brief explanation of the Program(me) in case the human reviewer isn’t familiar with it. You don’t need to make a complete inventory of every JET activity; instead focus on what helps you market yourself for the job you’re going after. It’s more impressive to describe results (e.g., enhanced and publicized English Club curriculum, resulting in 75% increase in membership) rather than activities (taught English Club). However, if you must take the route of describing activities, make sure you use action words.

Associations. Any relevant skills or experiences - leadership, public relations, organizational, administrative, etc. - that you pick up from your volunteer activities with associations such as JETAA, AJET, JAS, and the like, can be included on your resume. Getting involved and making a difference will certainly help others, but it might help you, too!

Additional resources.
Here is an excellent overview article with links to other sites with reliable information:
-Resumes, Applications, and Cover Letters
  www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic/text/employ/resumes/resumes.htm
For advice on career planning and any aspect of the job hunt:
-The Riley Guide
  www.rileyguide.com
For JET-specific career advice and online job postings for JETs, visit:
-JETAA Job Guide and JETAA Job Bank
  cheno.com/job/
-Contact your local JETAA chapter for valuable job networking opportunities and a wealth of other job resources:
  www.jet.org, or
  www.clair.nippon-net.ne.jp

Linda Chenoweth Kennedy was an ALT in Gifu ('87-'90). Afterwards, she worked in Human Resources at a Japanese company in Los Angeles, and is the Editor/Webmaster for the unofficial JETAA Job Guide, which includes an online job bank for JETs. She can be reached at cheno@cheno.com.
Every year CLAIR sends out a survey to JETAA members who have left the JET Programme two years previously. This year 136 alumni responded and a selection of the results are given below. Thank you very much to all of those who took the time to complete the survey.

Reverse Culture Shock
62% of participants said they experienced reverse culture shock, 20% said they did not, 10% said they were not sure and 4% are still in Japan. The following question was answered by those who did experience it.

At what times did you experience reverse culture shock after leaving Japan?
(multiple answers given) %
*Within the first two months 39
*Within two to six months 40
*Within six months to one year 19
*After one year 8

*They don’t seem to have heard of it 15
*I don’t know 9

JETAA
Are you active in local JETAA?
*Yes, I am a member of the committee 13
*Yes, as a member 22
*I am a member but am not involved 43
*No, but I’d like to be 18
*No, I’m not interested 4

Interest in Japan
Apart from keeping in touch with people that you met on the JET Programme, how have you sustained your interest in Japan?
(multiple answers given) %
*Through Japanese study 50
*Through the study of a Japanese art or martial art 12
*By meeting the local Japanese community 37
*By working in a Japanese company 20
*Through JETAA events 47
*Not applicable 10
*Other 38

Has your perception of Japan changed as a result of you being on the JET Programme?
*Yes, positively 36
*Yes, negatively 1
*Yes, both positively and negatively 58
*I do not know 1
*No 2

Japanese Language Ability - Before and After the JET Programme.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Before %</th>
<th>After %</th>
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<tr>
<td>Semi-advanced</td>
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<td>32</td>
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<td>Elementary</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semi-advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPEAKING</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semi-advanced</td>
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<td>Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
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<td>Nil</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISTENING</td>
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<td>Elementary</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Are you studying Japanese now?
*Yes 30
*No 70

Did you pass any recognised Japanese Language Test whilst on the JET Programme?
*Japanese Language Proficiency Test
*Level One 3
*Level Two 13
*Level Three 13
*Level Four 11
*Other 3
*No 52

Employment
How long did it take to find satisfying employment?
% *I had it arranged already 25
*Within a month of starting looking 20
*Up to six months 18
*Six months to one year 14
*Up to two years 9
*Interim employment until something better comes along 7

How does the salary compare with that as a JET participant?
% *It is much higher 12
*It is slightly higher 9
*It is roughly the same 12
*It is slightly lower 17
*It is much lower 27

In your experience do employers look favourably on the JET Programme?
% *Yes 44
*No 1
*Only if you use JET to develop your skills 13
After the JET Programme

Has participation on the JET Programme contributed anything to your life? %
* Yes, a more open mind/international outlook 91
* Yes, a wider circle of friends, increased social skills 83
* Yes, better personal qualities 85
* Yes a hobby for life 42
* Other 20
* No 1

Would you recommend the JET Programme to a friend? %
* Yes, absolutely 86
* Probably 14
* Unlikely 0
* No, definitely not 0

Pension and Tax

Did you receive the lump-sum withdrawal payment for the pension scheme? %
* I applied and received the payment 93
* I applied but my application was refused 0
* I applied and am still waiting 3
* I did not apply 4
* I do not know to what you are referring 0

Did you apply for a refund on the tax that was withheld from the lump-sum withdrawal payment? %
* I applied and received the refund 66
* I applied but my application was refused 1
* I did not receive the lump-sum withdrawal payment and so was ineligible to apply 2
* I did not apply 20
* I do not know to what you are referring 6

PENSION AND TAX REFUNDS

A rate of 20% tax is levied on the Lump-Sum Withdrawal Payment (dattai ichijikkin). Once you have received the Lump Sum Withdrawal Payment you can apply to reclaim the tax. Applications must be made within 5 years of leaving Japan.

If you have not already claimed your tax back and you would like to do so, please contact your previous host institution. Your supervisor or the person in charge of the JET Programme at present should be able to assist you. If you have difficulty making yourself understood, ask the person to refer to pages 135-136 of the Host Institution Manual (Ukeire dantaiyou monzai).

You will need to fill out a declaration form naming a tax representative (Noozei kanrinin no Todokedesho) and provide your tax representative with the Notice of the Lump-Sum Withdrawal Payment (Dattai Ichijikkin Shikyu Keitai Tsuchisho). If you have any further questions regarding the pension or tax refunds, please contact the JETAA Liaison at CLAIR at the address on the front cover.

CONFERENCE FOR RETURNING JETS

On March 8-10 2000, CLAIR will be holding the 2000 Conference for Returning JETS in Shinjuku, Tokyo. The conference is open to 300 third-year JET Programme participants who are planning to return home in the summer of 2000. Through this conference we are hoping to provide participants with information and strategies for coping with future employment, ‘life path’ decisions and reverse culture shock. Presentations and workshops will be given by former JET participants, business professionals and representatives from chambers of commerce and embassies from various countries. One representative will be attending from each of Canada (Elizabeth Stephen, Vancouver JETAA), U.K. (Jonathan Fisher, London JETAA), U.S.A. (Kathy McDonough, New York JETAA) and Australia/New Zealand (Mathew Harris, Melbourne JETAA). Information you would like these people to pass on to conference participants should be directed to Dean Smith at CLAIR in Tokyo.

JAIMS SCHOLARSHIP

Earn an AASCB-accredited MBA in just over a year through the University of Hawaii College of Business Administration and the Japan-America Institute of Management Science (JAIMS). The Japan-focused MBA (JEMBA) program features 12 months of intensive MBA study in management in Hawaii followed by a challenging 3-month internship in Japan. Japanese language ability is not a prerequisite.

Generous scholarship packages are available to JET Programme alumni. Several U.S. $10,000 JET Scholarships are offered to qualified applicants. In addition, one 500,000-yen scholarship sponsored by the Foundation for International Information Processing Education (FINIPED) is designed for JET Programme alumni.

The program application deadline is July 1. However, applications received before March 1 may have an advantage when considered for scholarships and financial aid. For more information, please visit the JAIMS website at www.jaims.org, send an inquiry to info@jaims.org, or contact Ms. Hasegawa by phone at JAIMS Japan Office (toll free in Japan at 0120-22-2390), or by email at junkao@tokyo.se.fujitsu.co.jp for an information packet.

INTERNATIONAL CHARITY MARATHON

The Western Japan JETAA chapter is pleased to announce plans for the second annual International Charity Marathon in May 2000. Last year’s event was a 10km, 5km and 3km race beginning and ending at Naruto Educational University in Naruto City on the island of Shikoku. Over 160 runners, including many current and former JETS, participated in the event which received extensive media coverage.

This year’s event promises to be another huge success and our goal is to raise 300,000 yen for a local charity. Former JETS throughout Kansai are strongly encouraged to participate.

The entry fee is 2000 yen for adults, 1000 for students and free for kids. A JETAA bash featuring live music will be held after the run. For more information call Chris Unseth at 0888-699-8530 or e-mail <antiseth@gol.com>. 
By Daniel Lintz

Following the very successful and productive conference held in Los Angeles last year, the Eastern Japan chapter is moving forward with the planning and organization of the 6th annual JETAA conference. Each of the forty-three active JET Alumni chapters around the world will be invited to send two representatives to the three-day event, which is tentatively scheduled for November 9-12, 2000 at the Takanawa Prince Hotel in Shinagawa, Tokyo.

The goals of the event are threefold: to promote a sense of group identity and team spirit among the JETAA chapter representatives around the world, to provide a forum for sharing experiences related to local level JETAA activities in countries around the world, and to promote local level internationalization by deepening the participants’ understanding of Japan’s people, society, and culture. Eastern Japan hopes the event will solidify friendship and cooperation among all JETAA chapter representatives, particularly those separated by vast geographical and cultural boundaries.

Accordingly, this year’s conference will feature various workshops, lectures, and social activities, and Eastern Japan has asked the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, and Home Affairs to conduct a special session aimed at providing a deepened understanding of Japanese society, language, and culture and promoting greater local level international exchange between Japan and the participants’ home countries. Moreover, a special parliamentary session will be arranged to allow participants to discuss and debate issues of common concern in an efficient and orderly manner.

Moreover, the Japanese government ministries sponsoring the JET Programme have expressed an interest in offering participants the chance to participate in various optional activities, such as language training seminars or visits to their host prefectures, immediately following the close of the conference. The Eastern Japan chapter will work in close cooperation with the international leadership of JETAA to survey interest in these types of activities and work with the various ministries to plan and organize appropriate activities if enough delegates are interested.

All information about the upcoming conference will be continuously updated on our recently established biling home page at http://www.jetaa.com. JET Alumni are encouraged to visit the site for the latest information about the progress of the conference or to volunteer to assist in the planning, organization, or implementation of any of the various events. Those interested in attending are encouraged to contact their local JETAA Chapter Representatives and to get involved in local chapter activities. We look forward to seeing you all in Tokyo this November!!!

JETAA Homepage

Many JETAA Chapters maintain homepages. They are accessible from the JETAA homepage located at: http://www.jet.org

JETAA Member Count By Region

According to CLAIR Database, Feb 24, 2000

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</tbody>
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