TOMODACHI/NAJAS
Grassroots Exchange Program
2014
Tour Members
Tour members from Fukushima University

We were extremely pleased to be able to host the eight students and their professor for a week-long adventure throughout Seattle and the surrounding area. This experience not only brought much needed attention to the work we do to promote relationships between the US and Japan, but also gave these students experiences that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. In true meaning of the word grassroots, we hope these experiences will spread among those who come in contact with them, like grass over a rolling hill, strengthening the bond between our two cultures.

It is with great pride in these students that we hope to share the experiences they had while in Washington. From corporate tours to the wild excitement of a Mariners Baseball game, there were adventures for many different interests. Throughout the week, these young people demonstrated curiosity and ambition that inspires us all to be more engaged in the world around us. Thank you to all involved for helping make this possible. This project would not have been possible without considerable help from the US-Japan Council, the National Association of Japan-America Societies, our corporate sponsors, and the wonderful host families that took in our guests.

Friday, September 12
09:00  JASSW Office
09:50  Japan In the Schools Classroom Visit
14:00  Visiting NVC Memorial Hall
16:00  Densho at Panama Hotel
17:00  Meet Ambassador Michalak (Retired)
19:00  Mariners vs. Athletics at Safeco Field

Saturday, September 13
09:45  JASSW Office
11:00  Seattle Premium Outlet Mall
15:00  Boeing Factory Tour

Sunday, September 14
12:30 ~ 15:00  Sayonara Party at Salty’s on Alki Beach
15:00  Move to Holiday Inn Express Hotel

Monday, September 15
11:00  Check-Out of Holiday Inn Express
12:00  Check-In Delta Air Lines
14:21  Departure from Sea-Tac Airport

Tuesday, September 16
16:55  Arrive Narita International Airport

※Visit place and time may be subject to change.
Monday, September 8
15:55 Depart Narita International Airport
08:41 Arrive Sea-Tac Airport
09:30 Orientation at Beijing conference room at Sea-Tac Airport

Check-In: Roosevelt Hotel
13:00 Courtesy call to Consulate General of Japan
14:00 Seattle City Walking Tour, escorted by Japan Students Group

18:00 ~ 19:30
Welcome Party at O’Asian Kitchen

Tuesday, September 9
10:00 Ride the Ducks City Tour
12:30 Visiting Starbucks

Preparing Japan in the Schools Presentation at JASSW Office

Wednesday, September 10
09:00 Check-Out of Hotel
10:00 Campus Tour, escorted by UW Students
12:30 Visiting Microsoft
15:00 Meet with Host Family (Microsoft visitors center)

Thursday, September 11
09:00 Meet at JASSW Office
10:00 Japan in the Schools Classroom Visit
12:00 Dismissed from JASSW Office

Ryota Iijima
Associate Professor, Faculty of Human Development and Culture, English, Fukushima University, Japan. He is the chaperon of group. He teaches culture and science, fostering a broad knowledge about society and awareness of social problems, and an inquiring mind. He sometimes write a column to the cultural news in Los Angeles; For Appreciating Japanese Traditions about Nuclear accident.

Ryo Nakano
Graduate student majoring in Science and technology. His hobbies are listening to music and playing basketball. He is very interested in about American music, especially the blues. He likes B. B. King, Muddy Waters and Chuck berry. He would like to be a math teacher. He realized that he would need English which is a special qualification on a national teacher examination. He feels also grateful to have an opportunity on this foreign exchange student program in order to gain and learn global society as well as English.

Hitoshi Ichijo
He is a senior at the University of Fukushima and has a strong interest in English. He is planning to get a Master degree in Administration Policy next year. However, he is studying Language Culture now. He would like to be a researcher who is involved in English education and in pedagogies to support understanding of cultures in both America and Japan. He also would like to visit countries where English is a national language and to share culture background. He would like to work with the teachers using cooperative learning approaches.
Keisuke Nagashima
Sophomore, studying Human Develop Culture in Anthropology.
He is very interested in American food and sports culture. He would like to be an educator who understands cross culture management and value. As an experience, I want to tell firmly the reality of damage of the earthquake in 2011.

Yuya Miura
Sophomore, studying Human Develop Culture in Anthropology.
He want to improve his English that he can communicate and speak with his own intention and words. Through interaction with the US students, I want to feel how they think about the earthquake disaster and its radiation damage in Japan. He has been actively volunteering at the Kizuna Japan organization since August in 2013.

Mikako Kato
Sophomore, studying Human Development and Culture. Living in Fukushima City with her family she is in an English speaking club and perform dramas in English. Someday with hopes of attending a Broadway musical. In a previous visit to America she was surprised by so many things from the food, climate, industry and even the regional differences and characteristics. When not shopping, watching dramas or eating with family and friends she loves meeting new people and trying new things. She is looking forward to a lot during her stay.

Haruna Kaneko
She is currently a junior in Human development and culture who loves sports where she is a member of the swimming team and handball team. Reading educational books and ones about true life experiences is also a passion of hers and does it often in her free time. When not buried in a great novel she enjoys cooking dinner and experimenting with new taste and dishes.

Gaku Endo
He is currently a sophomore in Economics and Business Administration and usually either running, reading a book or watching a foreign movie in his free time.
With great interested in American jazz music and having the ability to play the piano he has hopes of someday playing and singing jazz music. Major league baseball and the American way of thinking are also two things he really appreciates.

Hiroki Yashima
His major is Economics Business Administration International Regional Economy, and he is very interested in the “Right of Self-Determination and discretion.” Especially, in the idea that children will do anything they can in America. Everyone’s human rights are respected. He is very interested in both Japanese and America’s different values on individuals. He has been volunteering in several organizations such as Fukushima Disaster Volunteer center, JANIC, Children Support Volunteer to help people who had victimized from the earthquake.