



JSPS US Fellows Alumni Association

First Issue, September 2006

Editor: Wael Zatar, PhD.

Associate Editor: Yoke Khin Yap, PhD.

Message from the Director of the JSPS Washington Office

Prof. Akira Masaïke

Director of Washington Office, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science

It is our great pleasure to have an opportunity to celebrate setting the newsletters afloat by JSPS Alumni Association.

JSPS Alumni Association was launched on September 25, 2004 through preparatory committee meetings. I appreciate very much the efforts of former JSPS fellows for setting up the association. I understand that it is not easy to put former JSPS fellows together to the alumni association in US, since all the former fellows spread over the large country to work in the different fields of science. Furthermore, the nationalities are of great variety. In these circumstances, issuing of the newsletters is of vital importance for the alumni in order to promote the communications among the members.

The newsletters will play a prominent role to provide the opportunity to communicate with each other among all the alumni members who have the common background in Japan. I believe the newsletter will be advantageous to scientific endeavors of the members and helpful to widen scientific horizons, since it can promote interactions among former JSPS fellows as well as between former fellows and Japanese researchers by developing opportunities to exchange information. It may be useful for studying new interdisciplinary field of science and also to promote new collaborative works among alumni members. In addition, it will cultivate the friendship among all the alumni members.

I hope that the newsletter will be successful in getting several creative inputs into future alumni activities. Last of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the executive committee of the alumni association for making every effort to start the newsletters.

Message from the Chair of the JSPS US Alumni Association

Blanca Chattin-Kacouris, DDS. PhD.

The First Issue of the JSPS Alumni Association Newsletters

In October 2005, the Newsletter Team formed by Wael, Yoke, Rezwanul and Thet met in Chicago to start drafting their plans for the very First Issue of the JSPS US Alumni Association. Yoke put a lot of efforts towards the promotion of the newsletters and made several calls through the Yahoo groups net looking for contributions. During a meeting that was held in Chicago in December 2005, Wael and Yoke had the opportunity to reach the fellows directly and encouraged them to send their articles. Contributions were received from our sister Associations in Sweden, Germany and England as well. In this issue, you will be able to learn about their activities.

There are about 800 JSPS fellows residing in the US, of which only 200 registered to join the Alumni Association. It is my hope that when receiving the newsletter, they will be encouraged to join us and participate actively in the activities. You could also join the net group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jspusa/>
Congratulations to the Newsletter Team on the first issue!

Our newsletter will serve as a link of communication for all the fellows.

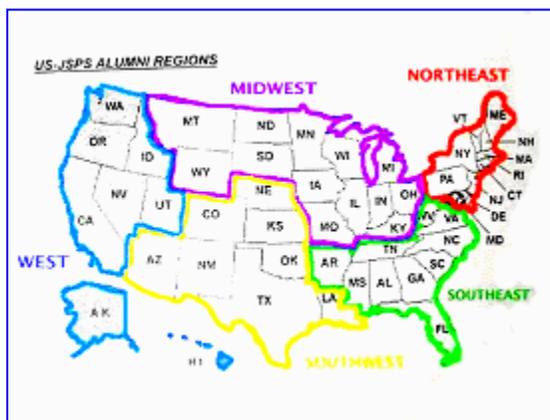
Message from the Editor of the JSPS US Alumni Association Newsletter

Wael Zatar, PhD

I am currently serving as the JSPS Alumni Association South East representative. I also serve as the JSPS Alumni Association Vice Chairperson. During my last term, I cooperated with the JSPS and other fellow representatives towards initiating the JSPS Alumni Association. Our efforts aimed at having an organization that attaches all JSPS fellows with the JSPS Washington DC and San Francisco offices. In order to jump-start the Alumni Association activities, a meeting was held at DC where the Bylaws have been established. The regional representatives met few other times during the past two years. The Preparatory or "Junbi-Iinkai" Meeting in Washington and a General Assembly in Chicago gave us the opportunity to interact and make new friends. Also, plans for an annual JSPS Alumni Association Symposium have been drafted. The regional representatives have been heavily involved in setting the rules that governs the relationships between the speakers, the host, the JSPS Washington office, and the JSPS Alumni Association. Also, as a board member, I was involved in initiating the JSPS Alumni Association Scientific Groups that are active right now. Another goal of the JSPS Alumni Association was to issue the JSPS Alumni Association Newsletters, for which I work as the current editor. The Newsletters are not only aimed at publishing and sharing our experiences and success, but also aimed at getting to know each other. Columns of the Newsletters will include: Messages from JSPS Washington Office; Messages from JSPS San Francisco Office; Message from the President of JSPS Alumni Association; JSPS Alumni Association News; Japan-US Collaborations News; Current Activities; Future Activities, Success Stories; Articles from Japanese Host Professors; Message from Editors; Job Opportunities; Awards Section; Publication Section; and other topics.

The Structure of the JSPS US Alumni Association

The JSPS US Alumni Association was formed on September 25, 2004 at the JSPS Washington Office. The Association is geographically divided in 5 regions: West, Midwest, Southwest, Northeast, and Southeast. These five regions are classified as shown in the map:



There is one representative per region. These 5 members form the Executive Committee. The first batch of regional representatives (term 2004-2006) was as follows,

West: Roger Jones until 8/05 and Hedong Niu (from 9/05~present)

Midwest: Blanca R. Chattin-Kacouris

Southwest: Daniel Weeks

Southeast: Rezwanul Wahid and Koji Lum (alternate)

Northeast: Wael Zatar

Chairperson (Blanca Chattin-Kacouris) and Vice-chairperson (Wael Zatar) were then selected among these representatives. Mr. Thet Win from JSPS Office serves as the Liaison for the Alumni.

The URL of the association (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jspssusa/>), the by-laws, and the Alumni Association Newsletter were then created under the leadership of Blanca and Wael.

Wael is now serving as the Editor of the Newsletter with the assistance of Yoke Khin Yap as his Associate Editor.

In February 2006, the second batch of regional representatives (term 2006-2008) was elected,

West - Hedong Niu

Midwest - Blanca Chattin-Kacouris

Southwest - Arup Neogi

Southeast - Wael Zatar

Northeast - Jan Zeserson

Soon this new team will gather to appoint the Chair and Vice-chairperson.

Closing the Gap through Scientific Groups



Scientific Groups Establishment Meeting, December 10 of 2005, Chicago, IL.

In December 2005, thirty fellows from all over the United States gathered in Chicago to establish the Scientific Groups (SGs). This event was honored by the presence of the Directors of the JSPS Office in Washington DC, Prof Akira Masaïke, and the Director the JSPS Office in San Francisco, Prof Seishi Takeda.

The Scientific Groups is one of the activity units of the Alumni. Fellows are guided to join the SGs of their preference according to their area of study/research. These groups were created to encourage fellows in close areas of research to know each other and establish collaborations.

In Chicago, the attendees had a *Meishi* exchange, introduced themselves, got acquainted and were warmly welcomed by the JSPS fellows who reside in Chicago Metropolitan area.

On that afternoon, the organization of these groups was explained and the participants actively provided their input. Some of the goals of the SGs are to: promote science among the fellows and the community, coordinate activities with the Executive Committee, collaborate with the newsletters' team, maintain communication among the members, guide members to create scientific sub-groups according to their fields of research, etc.

The Scientific Groups categories and their coordinators and alternates are as follows:

Biology and Medical Sciences: Amanda Persaad and Yurong Lai

Chemistry: Abhijit Sarkar and Chris Palmer

Engineering: Hui Hu and Guodong Zheng

Physics and Math: Arup Neogi and Anil Patnaik

Social Sciences and Humanities: Dajin Peng and Louis Esparza

Thanks to all of them for the great efforts and I wish you success in all your activities!

I would like to encourage all our members to join the SGs, Yahoo net group, and continue to send the contributions for the newsletters.

Hoping for your active participation, Thank you again!

Blanca Chattin-Kacouris

Chairperson, JSPS US Alumni Association

Message from the Chair of the JSPS UK Alumni Association Prof. Peter Sammonds

Greetings from the JSPS UK Alumni Association

We are also quite a young association. We held our inaugural meeting in the summer of 2004 at the Royal Society to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the opening of the JPSP London Office. Our Alumni Association aims to promote scientific exchange between the UK and Japan. We offer advice and ready networks to young researchers taking up fellowships in Japan and support Japanese researchers working in the UK. We also provide a forum for exchange of information amongst the Association members and to keep them in touch with developments in UK-Japan scientific collaboration. We have been keen not just to be a London organization, so we held a speaker reception in the Eastern Art Gallery of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and have another in Edinburgh this March themed around the Green Revolution in Africa, to be held at the Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre. We held an evening social event at the exhibition of ceramics by Tatsuzo Shimaoka, a living national treasure of Japan, at a gallery in Bond Street to coincide with young UK researchers going out to Japan on short-term fellowships. So we have been quite busy. Building active participation from a broad range of the alumni is a major challenge though. In future we will see joint events with alumni of the Daiwa Foundation and collaboration with the Japanese Embassy. We wish the JSPS USA Alumni Association all the best in your endeavors to build a successful and well-supported organization.

Message from the Chair of the JSPS Swedish Alumni Association Ma-Li Svensson, PhD

We are pleased to hear the news about your JSPS Alumni Association in the USA and congratulate you on issuing your first newsletter. Being blessed with the indispensable support from our JSPS Stockholm Office and we hope that you are as fortunate as we are. If we can be of any help please do not hesitate to contact us. We wish you great success and look forward to collaborating with you in the future.

Message from the Chair of the German JSPS Club Prof. Dr Heinrich Menkhaus

Deutsche Gesellschaft der JSPS-Stipendiaten e.V., also known as JSPS Club, was set up as a charitable association according to the German Civil Law in 1995. It now has about 150 members from all areas of science and features a number of activities. For example, we have an annual symposium on a special scientific topic attended by many German as Japanese scientists. As the lectures at the symposia are given in English and later published, the data is accessible even for people with insufficient knowledge of the German and Japanese languages. The club further organizes an annual event in which members of the club invite other members to their laboratories or places of work. The club is also assisting the members in finding suitable employment. For details please see the homepage: www.jsp-club.de.

If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us. We are looking forward to a close cooperation and surely hope that you and your colleagues will visit one of our activities in the near future.

Symposium Update

JSPS-UNT Joint Symposium on Nanoscale Materials for Optoelectronics and Biotechnology

The JSPS-UNT Joint Symposium on Nanoscale Materials for Optoelectronics and Biotechnology was organized at the University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, from February 2-3, 2006. Prof. Arup Neogi, who is also a JSPS Alumni, organized this stimulating inter-disciplinary conference with the support of the JSPS and the UNT. The other members of the organizing committee included Prof. Akira Msaïke, Prof. Zhibing Hu, Dr. Abhijit Sarkar, and Dr. Purnima Basu Neogi, whose relentless efforts made this meeting a great success. This two-day international conference was organized for providing information on the impact of nanoscale materials on research in the electronics, photonics and biotechnology. This conference included Physicists, Chemists, Biologists, Material Scientists, and Engineers with topics ranging from Nanomaterials, Polymers to Neural Networks.

Nanotechnology uses particles as small as one to 100 nanometers -- a unit of measure that is one-billionth of a meter. As scientists and engineers exploit the tools of nanotechnology to design closer to the molecular level, nanoscale materials engineering will have an increasingly important impact on a number of sectors, including biotechnology, electronics, energy, and industrial products. This joint Symposium on Nanoscale Materials for Optoelectronics and Biotechnology brought together renowned international researchers and junior academic faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students in a rich learning environment. There were about 120 participants in this international meeting, including many eminent researchers from Japan and the United States. The symposium was organized with an aim to capture the excitement of research on the rapidly growing number of optical and electronic phenomena in newly structured and disordered materials fashioned from sub-wavelength elements. The rapid advance of materials science makes it possible to design materials with tailored optical characteristics that will provide the basis for emerging photonic technologies. The format of the symposium was in a "school" format that provided both fundamental learning and promoted scientific discussions.

The conference was organized at the University of North Texas (UNT). UNT is in Denton; a friendly college town with of about 100,000 people located about 35 miles north of Dallas and Fort Worth. The University of North Texas is the largest and most comprehensive research and doctoral degree-granting institution in the North Texas area and the flagship of the UNT System. The Provost of the University of North Texas, Dr. Howard Johnson inaugurated the international meeting. Prof. Vladimir Agranovich from the University of Texas, Prof. Allan S. Hoffman from the University of Washington and Prof. Arup Neogi from the University of North Texas delivered *keynote* speeches in this meeting. Several JSPS Alumni also participated in this meeting and presented their research work.

The conference included four sessions or talks presented each day by eminent scientists as well as an afternoon poster session for contributed papers. There were 26 invited presentations and 32 contributed papers for this meeting. Presenters were from various Universities in the US, Los Alamos National Laboratory. In addition, scientists from four universities and national laboratories in Japan -- Shimane University in Matsue, the University of Tsukuba, the University of Tokyo, and AIST Laboratory, Tsukuba also attended the meeting and presented their research work. The meeting was capped of with a very entertaining Banquet for the participants. The meeting opened avenues for extensive research collaboration amongst various participants. A complete conference schedule is available at www.phys.unt.edu/events/jsp/program_final.pdf

Congratulations to Arup on organizing a successful international event!



Prof. Arup Neogi, Prof Akira Masaike and distinguish guests at the Symposium.

Updates from the JSPS Alumni

An Alumnus in Los Alamos National Laboratory

I was a JSPS Fellow at the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research (ICRR) in Tanashi, Japan in 1989/90. Tanashi is a small township about 20minutes East of Tokyo by Seibu Ikebukuro-sen. The ICRR shared research facilities with the Institute for Nuclear Studies, and both have since been relocated to Kashiwa, Japan. My research was with my host Dr. Tadashi Kifune, a renowned Gamma Ray Astrophysicist and Dr. Philip Edwards of the University of Adelaide, South Australia. While in Japan, I assisted with high energy physics observations of cosmic rays at the Akeno Air Shower Array, and spent many nights using their computers to analyze data. Our interest was to search for gamma rays from pulsars and X-ray binary stars, and if possible, to detect pulsations in the data indicative of the motion of these bodies. This research still continues with collaborative work using specialized detectors in Australia and the US. While in Japan, I also enjoyed learning about Japanese culture and making friends with my Japanese co-workers and their families. My first daughter, Sarah, was born at Seibu Byoin.

My career has changed, but I still keep in contact with my friends in Japan. In July of 2002, Sarah and I returned to Japan to visit friends and see the hospital where she was born. It was an excellent trip.

I was serving as the Southwest Region Representative to the US/JSPS Alumni Association in year 2004 and 2005. Our representative committee is the first to serve the JSPS in this capacity. We established the first bylaws. We look forward to alumni joining the association, especially those that are willing to volunteer to help coordinate the events of the next two years. We need fresh ideas and the program offers you the chance to make the most out of your past fellowship.

An Alumnus Received NSF CAREER Award

JSPS alumnus Yoke Khin Yap has received The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award from National Science Foundation (NSF) for his project, "Synthesis, Characterization and Discovery of Frontier Carbon Materials". The CAREER Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the NSF's most prestigious awards in support of the early career-development activities of those teachers-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization. Yoke Khin was a JSPS postdoctoral fellow at Osaka University (2000-2002) under the supervision of Prof. Takatoma Sasaki at the Department of Electrical Engineering. His is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics at Michigan Tech (<http://www.phy.mtu.edu/yap/index.html>). Recently, Yoke Khin has contributed a Chapter in *Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology* (foreword by Nobel Laureate R. E. Smalley, American Scientific Publishers, (www.aspbs.com/enn), and a CD-ROM based Encyclopedia: *Exploring Nanotechnology* (<http://nanotech.nanopolis.net/>).

Congratulations YOKE!! Yoke currently assists the Alumni as Associate Editor of the Newsletter.

An Alumnus Leads Nanotechnology Institute

Professor Yury Gogotsi, JSPS Fellow 1992/1993 - Tokyo Institute of Technology, started his academic career in the US in 1996. He is currently Professor of Materials Science and Engineering and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. He also holds courtesy appointments in Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering departments at Drexel and directs the A.J. Drexel Nanotechnology Institute. During the past year, Gogotsi was elected a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society and Academician of the World Academy of Ceramics, which is based in Italy. He also received a Roland B. Snow Award from the American Ceramic Society and an Outstanding Research Award from the Drexel University College of Engineering

An Alumnus Creates New Company

Gregory Haggquist, Ph.D. was a JSPS Fellow under [Prof Yamamoto at Kyoto University](#) (Polymer Sciences) in year 1991-1993. He is the Founder and Director of Technology of TRAPTEK, LLC. Gregory has a son (Jack Gregory Haggquist, born in 10/11/97) and a daughter (Isabelle Caterina Haggquist, born in 9/7/99). Gregory currently owns various Patents.

An Alumnus Received NSF Grant on Wireless Sensor Networks

Paul Flikkema is an Associate Professor of electrical engineering at Northern Arizona University. He was a JSPS Fellow in 1998, visiting the Kohno Laboratory at Yokohama National University. His current research interests include wireless sensor networks for environmental monitoring. Prof. Flikkema recently received a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation for research on dynamic sensor networks in collaboration with colleagues from Duke University. For the academic year 2005-2006, he is a Visiting Professor at the Control Engineering Laboratory, Helsinki University of Technology

An Alumnus Published Book on Political Science

Kathryn Ibata-Arens, Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the department of political science at DePaul University in Chicago. Her research interests are in Japanese political economy and innovation and technology policy. Ibata-Arens is currently an Abe Research Fellow, Faculty of Commerce, Doshisha University, Kyoto, (2005-2006). She was a JSPS post-doctoral fellow (2002-2003) at the Center for Advanced Economic Engineering (AEE), Tokyo University and was a fellow in the Alfred P. Sloan/Social Science Research Council Program on the Corporation as a Social Institution (2002). Her work has appeared in the Asian Wall Street Journal, Asian Business and Management, Asian Perspective, Review of International Political Economy, and Enterprise and Society. Recently, Kathryn published a book entitled, "Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Japan: Politics, Organizations and High Technology Firms, Cambridge University Press (2005). This book examines firm and region level strategies of innovation and includes comparisons to regions in the American Midwest. Her newest project compares emerging biotechnology clusters in six Japanese and American regions.

Congratulations Kathryn! Kathryn actively assisted the Alumni during the preparations and welcoming the fellows during the meetings in Chicago.

An Alumnus at Harvard Medical School

BingFen Liu was a JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow from 2000-2002. Her major was Pathological role of the apoptosis of mesangial cells in the development of diabetic nephropathy. After coming to the US, she worked at the Department of Ophthalmology at Case Western Reserve University. She researched on pathological changes of retina pericytes in the development of diabetic retinopathy. Then, she switched to the Department of Surgery/Ophthalmology, Brigham & Women's Hospital, and Harvard Medical School. Now, as a research fellow, BingFen focuses on research about cataract on interaction of protein – protein in Lens.

An Alumnus on Conservation Research

Ulrich (Uli) Reinhardt-Segawa is a fish scientist, but recently he has been involved in plant conservation research. The 1998-2000 JSPS Postdoctoral Fellow is an associate professor at Eastern Michigan University, where he conducts research on the ecology of Great Lakes fishes. However, Uli also regularly takes students on field trips to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador, a famous archipelago in the Pacific Ocean, where he used to work as a Naturalist Guide. Since 2005 he has been collaborating with the Charles Darwin Research Station of Galapagos Islands and the NGO Earthwatch Institute to manage a conservation research project that aims at protecting a unique forest ecosystem from invasive weeds. International volunteers from Japan, Europe and North America carry out much of the labor and provide all the funding for the project. The volunteers are engaged in two-week periods of mapping vegetation, establishing permanent plant monitoring plots, and experimentally removing invasive weeds. Details about the project can be found under www.earthwatch.org/expeditions/reinhardt.html.

An Alumnus at Cornell University

Ying Hu received his Ph.D. degree of Chemistry in 1997 from Kwansai Gakuin University, Japan (Supervisor, Prof. Yasushi Koyama), which was supported by Monbusho Scholarship. He did his JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship with Prof. Teizo Kitagawa at the Institute for Molecular Science from 1998 to 2000. He worked in The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center from 2001 to 2002 and Princeton University from 2002 to 2004. He currently works in Cornell University/USDA-ARS Federal Nutrition Lab as a postdoctoral associate in the field of nutrition science. His recent publications are included in *Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science* 44, 4522-4531 (2003), *Applied Spectroscopy* 59, 776-781 (2005) and *Biochemistry* 45, 34-41 (2006).

An Alumnus Serving NSF as a Program Director

Dr. K. Jimmy Hsia, a former JSPS Fellow and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has recently taken a rotating position at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Arlington, VA. He is now Director of Nano and Bio Mechanics & Materials Program in the Engineering Directorate at the NSF. This is a new program, which was established in 2005. Dr. Hsia is the inaugurating program director for this program. In addition to managing this program, he is also the cognizant program director for a Nanoscale Science & Engineering Center (NSEC), and is involved in establishing a new Cellular and BioMolecular Engineering thrust area for the new Office of Emerging Frontier in Research and Innovation

New Arrivals

Double JOY!!

Fellow chemist Elena Rozhkova from University of Chicago and husband Valentine received the arrival of their twins. Alexander (3.750 Kg. 52cm) and Mary-Grace (3.250 Kg. 51 cm) were born on April 4 at Northwestern University, Prentice Hospital. Congratulations to the new parents!

Elena was actively involved in welcoming the fellows during the meetings in Chicago



Important Announcement

JSPS USA Alumni Association Newsletter will be distributed electronically!

If you wish to continue receiving our newsletter, please subscribe by sending your information (name, email address and JSPS ID number) to Wael Zatar (Wael.Zatar@mail.wvu.edu) or to Yoke Khin Yap (ykyap@mtu.edu).

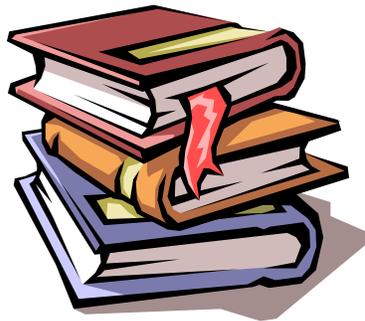
We want to thank former Executive Committee members -- Rezwan Wahid, Blanca Chattin-Kacouris, Daniel Weeks, Wael Zatar, and Hedong Niu -- for their committed service. We express special appreciation to Rezwan for his role in bringing our alumni association into existence; and to Blanca for her help with this inaugural issue of our newsletter.

Looking for Contributions

Your input is important

Please continue sending your articles for our second issue

Thank you



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