2015 ANNUAL REPORT
THE 23rd NATIONAL JAPAN BOWL®
第23回全米ジャパンボウル大会

Presented by

THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC
The 23rd National Japan Bowl

On April 9 and 10, 2015, the Japan-America Society of Washington DC held the 23rd National Japan Bowl® in Chevy Chase, Maryland. This year, 185 students from 67 teams came from all over the United States to compete: California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Guam, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Students competed at three levels in a total of three rounds (two written Preliminary Rounds and one oral Conversation Round.) In the Preliminary Rounds, the students were challenged by a total of 100 questions at each level, covering not just the Japanese language but also Tokugawa era history, geography and the environment, visual arts, pop culture, and current events. After the results of the preliminary rounds and conversation round were tallied, the top three teams at each level advanced to the National Championship Round for a live, on-stage competition to decide the top teams in the nation. The results are on page 4.

On the first night, all participants were welcomed at the Opening Ceremony, which included a taiko performance by Tamagawa University’s Dance and Taiko Group. On the second day, they had the chance to meet shogi master Madoka Kitao and Karuta player Mutsumi Stone. At the closing ceremony they enjoyed a rock performance by “HIDEKING project” from Tokyo.

The wife of the Japanese Ambassador, Nobuko Sasae, came to the Championship Rounds, spoke to the students, and presented prizes during the awards ceremony. Winners were awarded a trip to Japan, thanks to the generous support of the Mazda Foundation.

「ジャパン・ボウル」とは、全米各地で日本語を学んでいる高校生が日本語能力のみならず、日本の文化・習慣・歴史・地理・時事・日米関係など、幅広い分野について競い合う全米大会です。アメリカで日本語を学ぶ高校生を支援する教育活動の一環として毎年春に開催され、日本語学習を楽しくし、日本への関心を更に高め、大学においても日本語学習を継続してもらうことが目的です。

第23回ジャパン・ボウル全米大会は4月9・10日の2日間におわたって開催され、グアムからコネチカットまで67チーム・185名の生徒が参加しました。今年は玉川大学太鼓グループ、Hidekingプロジェクトによるパフォーマンス、北尾まどか氏の将棋やストーンむつみ氏の百人一首ワークショップなどが行われました。佐々江駐米大使夫人も訪れ、表彰授与式にて大使のメダルの授与を行いました。

レベル4で優勝した生徒を含む6名の入賞者には、Mazda Foundationの支援で、日本研修旅行が授与されました。
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36 Schools, 67 Teams, 185 Students
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We would like to thank this year’s teachers for their support of the Japan Bowl and their dedication to developing the “next generation” in the US-Japan relationship.

Keiko Abrams, Lake Braddock Secondary School
Marisa Bellini, American Fork High School
Mariko Sato-Berger, Townsend Harris High School
    Dan Carolin, Kennedy High School
William Collazo, Deerfield Beach High School
    Fumiko Harada, St. John’s School
Karen Hendrickson, Madison Country Day School
Elizabeth Hojo, The Woodlands College Park High School
Kyoko Yada-Horner, Westfield High School
Elena Kamenzky, Eastern High School
Richard Kania, Franklin High School
Yuko Kato, Liberal Arts and Science Academy
Jeremy Kitchen, Lynbrook High School
Kumi Kobayashi, Lynbrook High School
Jonathan Lawless, Oakton High School
Ann McCarthy, Eastview High School
Tomoko Moses, Murray High School
Yukiyo Moorman, Walt Whitman High School
Shinobu Nagashima, Robert Louis Stevenson School
Teresa O’Dell, Manitowoc Lincoln High School
Tetsuo Ogawa, Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Koji Otani, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Jeung-Hee Park, Northside College Preparatory High School
    Adam Podell, South Lakes High School
Masumi Reade, The Woodlands High School
Yukari Salazar, Cupertino High School
Naomi Satoh, Shakopee High School
Mariko Sato-Berger, Townsend Harris High School
    Andrew Scronce, Langley High School
Yoshiko Shakal, NOVA Classical Academy
Keiko Sigmund, Brien McMahon High School
Keiko Sigmund, Brien McMahon High School
    Tim Stout, Waterford School
Naomi Suzuki, New Trier High School
Mano Takegami, Silver Creek High School
Carole Terkula, Atherton High School
Yoko Thakur, Falls Church High School /West Springfield High School
Kyoko Vaughan, Hayfield Secondary School
Yoko Zoll, Montgomery Blair High School
Japan Bowl Sponsors and Supporters

The Japan Bowl is supported each year by many sources of funding. The major resources have been grants. The United States-Japan Foundation started its funding in 1996 and has played a major role in helping the Japan Bowl grow to become America’s premiere competition for high school learners of Japanese. The Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation has helped expand the Japan Bowl to many new locations across the nation. The Embassy of Japan also has been a great supporter over the years. The Hiroko Iwami Malott Memorial Fund also has supported the development of the Japan Bowl in recent years. JASW is grateful to the following sponsors and supporters who made this year’s competition possible.

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Nagoya University
The Secretariat of the “Global 30” Project
The University of Tokyo
Washington CORE

**Supporters**

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We would also like to thank all the wonderful guests at the 2015 National Japan Bowl, who came to share their knowledge of Japan with all of this year’s participants.

This year’s special guests included:

Tamagawa University
Dance and Taiko Group

Tamagawa University, located just outside of Tokyo, has been taking its taiko drumming and dance troupe on the road since 1961. One of the top taiko groups in Japan, they won third place in competition against 450 other groups at the Tokyo International Taiko Contest in 2006. The group is led by a great Kabuki-dance master, Isaburo Hanayagi.

Madoka Kitao

Ms. Madoka Kitao is a female professional shogi player who has 2-dan in shogi ranking and is the CEO of Nekomado Co., Ltd to promote Shogi as an enjoyable and player-friendly game. She invented dobutsu shogi, which is a shogi variant for children to learn shogi. She travels around the world to teach people about the world of shogi.

Mutsumi Stone

Ms. Mutsumi Stone is a 6-dan degree Kyogi Karuta player. Kyogi Karuta is a card game using 100 Japanese ancient poems, called Ogura Hyakunin-Isshu. She is also an instructor dedicated to introducing and promoting those poems and Karuta to non-Japanese people. From 2000 to 2012, she lived in England, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and China, where she promoted Karuta in those and surrounding countries. She returned to the United States in early 2013.
Vocalist Hideki Okubo and his HIDEKING project members, Nobu (guitar), Toru (base), Takeshi (drum), Migi (chorus), William (chorus) return to DC this year! Hideki was the vocalist and the guitarist for Spyralcall from 2006 to 2013. Two of their songs in their 4th Album, “Death Pop the Party” were chosen to be the theme songs for the movie. They have been performing at Sakura Matsuri—Street Festival—since 2012. They are performing at the National Japan Bowl for the first time. Their performance is guaranteed to make you smile and be happy!
Q29 Do you plan to continue studying Japanese in college?

Q31 Do you plan/would you like to study abroad in Japan during your college years?
Q32 Do you plan to major or minor in the Japanese language in college?

Answered: 93  Skipped: 18

I would like to work for a Japanese company or organization.
41.07%

I would like to work for an American company or organization that does business with Japan.
75.00%

I would like to work in Japan for a Japanese company or organization.
35.71%

I would like to work in Japan for an American company or organization.
51.79%

I would like to become a JET English language teacher in Japan.
32.14%

Q35 When you think about working after you graduate from college, which of the following is true? Check all that apply.

Answered: 56  Skipped: 25

I would like to work for a Japanese company or...

I would like to work for an American company or...

I would like to work in Japan for a Japanese...

I would like to work in Japan for an American...

I would like to become a JET English language...

I would like to work for an American company or organization that does business with Japan.
75.00%

I would like to work in Japan for a Japanese company or organization.
35.71%

I would like to become a JET English language teacher in Japan.
32.14%
The Japan-America Society of Washington DC

Honorary Patron of the Japan Bowl
Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado

Honorary Patron of the Japan-America Society
His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae
Ambassador of Japan to the United States of America

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Katsuhiko Ichikawa, Central Japan Railway Company

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