

# Japan ASCD

May 2007 Newsletter

## The 16th Annual Spring Conference

Thank you to all the Japan ASCD members for supporting our 16th Annual Spring Conference. We were filled to capacity and received such positive feedback as well as suggestions for next year. We always appreciate your remarks and try to act on them in order to improve.

We would like to thank our institutional members for once again supporting Japan ASCD throughout the year. Also, we are grateful for the support given by District Office of DoDDS Pacific for enabling us to host this conference at the New Sanno Hotel.

Mark these dates  
for 2008!

The Japan ASCD  
17th Annual  
Spring Conference  
will be held on  
Friday, February 29  
and Saturday, March 1

[www.jascd.org](http://www.jascd.org)

## Japan ASCD Scholarship 2007

One of the highlights of this year's Japan ASCD conference was the presentation of our first scholarships to two high school seniors living in the Tokyo area. High school seniors had the opportunity to write to a prompt for a chance to win one of two five-hundred dollar scholarships. This year's winners were **Harsh Sharma**, from St. Mary's International School and **Jimmy Threat**, from Yokota High School.

Japan ASCD made it a priority to reward two college bound seniors and this year's winners read their essays to an audience of over 200 educators and administrators. **Jimmy Threat**, the winner from Yokota High, maintains a 4.57 GPA, is the student council president, captain of the varsity soccer team, and is going to attend Stanford University after he graduates.

**Harsh Sharma**, from St. Mary's is the student council president and a member of the varsity tennis team. He gave a memora-



ble speech about how living in and attending school in Japan has impacted his education and life in general. Harsh plans to study Entrepreneurship with a minor in Economics at a college in India.

Approximately 20 essays were submitted by students from International and DoDDS schools. It was incredibly difficult for the Japan ASCD Board of Directors to choose the winners. Each essay described how living and being educated in Japan has been a positive and rewarding experience. Japan ASCD would again like to thank you for all of your continued support. These scholarships would not have been possible without your continued membership support and attendance at our events.



—by Kris Kwiatek, President-Elect



### The 16th Annual...

The members of the board met all the presenters as they came down to the quick kick-off reception with our roster of outstanding presenters. Last minute details were checked to make sure everyone was ready for the two-day event. The students were setting up the reception desk with name tags in order to greet everyone in the morning.

The photographs on the left show the participants as they queue in to be greeted by a student helper.

As they take their seats in the Ballroom of the New Sanno Hotel, they watch student entertainers, the Show Choir and tap dancers. During the Annual General Meeting, the treasurer's report is delivered to the membership and voting takes place for the new President-elect.

The audience is moved by the powerful essays by the two scholarship winners, Jimmy Threat and Harsh Sharma who look so confident and poised as they receive their 500-dollar scholarship.

The conference participants are excited after the inspirational keynote by Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs and everyone is sent off to a workshop by the beating of the taiko drums by another student, Nako.

During the lunches, col-

leagues share reports from their various workshops. They are again motivated by Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson's keynote on the second morning. After the performance by two tap dancers, the crowd is ready to go back to their workshops at the Sanno and ISSH.

After two days with their presenters, the crowd returns to the Sanno for time to network with colleagues from other schools and a chance to win prizes donated by Board members and book vendors.

In the evening, the presenters have a few hours to get a taste of Japanese food and a quick tour of the surrounding area of the hotel. The energy expelled at the 16th Annual Spring Conference showed no indication of jet-lag. We are grateful to the presenters and hope they will return one day soon.

—Newsletter Editor

### Lunchtime Panel Discussion

Jan Burreson from Rubicon-Atlas leads the panel discussion with leaders in curriculum from various schools. Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs articulated a summary at the end.



Panelists from ASIJ, Nishimachi, ISSH and Nagoya Int'l with Jan Burreson.

## Tomlinson's Impact

Have you ever heard a speech or a presentation so compelling that when it was over not only had the speaker changed your mind on the subject, but even left you wondering why you had ever thought anything else? And what if all this was done on a topic you knew (or at least thought you knew) a lot about? And what if all this was done without the speaker ever raising her voice or making any sort of controversial theoretical claims? Well, if you had that experience recently, then you were probably at the Japan ASCD 2007 Spring Conference listening to the keynote address given by Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson!

"There is an 'it'", Dr. Tomlinson calmly said in an easy southern voice that was made to be listened to. She went on to summarize traditional educational philosophy. "Students are supposed to get 'it', and we're supposed to teach 'it' and evaluate whether kids learned 'it'...and unless we are very careful, we end up teaching 'it' instead of teaching the kid!"

Within a few minutes, I realized I was listening to one of the most eminently sensible, exciting and totally authentic presentations on teaching kids I would hear...ever! There wasn't a single moment during the next hour or so of Dr. Tomlinson's address when I found myself provoked to mentally argue the way we all do when we're hearing a controversial perspective on

something important to us for the first time; or, frankly, when we're hearing a new perspective on something about which we consider ourselves an unofficial "expert". By contrast, Dr. Tomlinson was simply the most convincing person, yet at the same time the easiest to listen to, that I have ever heard on any topic. This is not to say I came to her address already in agreement with everything she was about to say. Quite the contrary, I did not know what she was about to say and my own views of education differed from the one she went on to present.

Until, that is, Dr. Tomlinson's address was over. Then I realized she not only had converted my mind over to her way of thinking, but had left me wondering why I ever thought anything else! Of course she was correct that we cannot radically separate the kid from the subject and still be effective in the classroom! Why had I ever thought we could? How did I drift into the idea that education was all about "it" and not about the student? I felt totally "checkmated" by Dr. Tomlinson's address yet I loved every minute of it!

During Dr. Tomlinson's keynote address at the Japan ASCD 2007 Spring Conference, I personally experienced what Socrates meant when he said, "To be proved wrong is one of the greatest blessings in life"!

—by Thomas Amend, Facilities and DoDDS Site Rep Liaison



## Thank you to All Administrators!

A large number of our past and new administrators and Japan ASCD board members was evident at this year's conference. Thank you to Sr. Egawa of ISSH for once again offering her premises. Thank you to Bruce Derr, Superintendent of DoDDS for coming to our Opening Ceremony and making all this possible with the venue provided. Steven Parr, Head of New Int'l School and former President of Japan ASCD; Terry Christian, Head of Nishimachi; Patty Butz, ASIJ; Julie Jackson-Jin, Nishimachi; Yvonne Hayes, ISSH; Judy Beneventi, ASIJ-ELC; Jim Wright and team, Aoba; Principal/faculty, Montessori School; Principal and team, Tohoku Int'l; as well as the many other Principals and Curriculum Coordinators from various schools in Japan were spotted in the crowd. Thank you for allowing your faculty to attend this year! Without your support and cooperation, such an event where all educators in our locale are able to network and share their many wonderful ideas would be difficult. Please let us know if you have any suggestions or questions. We are here to serve the whole educational community!

—Newsletter Editor

### Not Knowing What They're Doing!



Usually it's meant as a bad thing when it's said of someone or of some group, "they don't know what they're doing". But there are times and we can think of cases when "not knowing what they're doing" is actually a wonderful thing and even great compliment! In fact, there are many such cases and Japan ASCD is one of them!

Fleming, you could say, did "not know what he was doing" when he accidentally discovered penicillin which went on to save millions of lives and continues to do so today. Pavlov was doing completely unrelated work (and doing it well) when it caused him to stumble onto the entire scientific basis for modern behaviorism. Pavlov and Fleming, "didn't know what they were doing" but not because they were incompetent or negligent; quite the contrary. It was because they couldn't know the very great and important long term consequences of their endeavors.

Similarly, Japan ASCD certainly knows what it's doing in the important and positive sense of effectively organizing and sponsoring very valuable training workshops and professional development opportunities for both international schools and DoDDS. But I doubt whether even Japan ASCD (and this is a great compliment to them) fully realizes their role in the far larger movement of which they are a part and which they are actively furthering. I'm talking about the globalization of education.

I was struck by this recently when I was reading in a subject as far removed (or so I thought) from education as one could be; Robert Kiyosaki's "Guide to Investment". But near the end, Kiyosaki makes very crucial observations about the transition in education happening in America and the world, and I realized that Japan ASCD is truly at the cutting edge of it! Bringing together both international and American educators overseas, as Japan ASCD does, to be trained in the most recent findings of modern research and scholarship in education is marquee globalization and has the future written all over it!

—by Tom Watters

### Pioneers and Visionaries

This year's conference was a year of "firsts." The first year of student volunteers at registration and set up, first year of providing a lunch panel of administrators from around Japan, the first year of students reading scholarship essays to a diverse group of teachers for Japan ASCD, and the first year of presenting scholarships to seniors for the International and DoDDS schools. The vision of serving a diverse educational community enriching teaching, learning and cross-cultural communication could not have been built without past board members of the last fifteen years laying the first foundations for present and future conference-chairpersons and board members to build on. Without their vision for quality professional development, we would not be at the point of where we are today in our conference programs.

This year's conference was a tribute not only to the learners, both teachers and students but also a celebration of past board members and their vision of quality professional development. Without these pioneers, our spring conference could not have been built to the point of where it is today.

The planning of the Japan ASCD Spring conference continues to evolve and Japan ASCD will continue to strive to meet the needs of our constituency. We look forward to your continued support and participation with Japan ASCD. See you in the spring of 2008 on February 29th and March 1st!

—by Cris Lozon, Conference Chair

### Top Ten Consolations About Not Being Able to Attend A Single Workshop Session

10. All the sessions sounded appealing; therefore, I wouldn't have been able to choose just one.
9. Getting to write one letter from the president for the conference booklet and two speeches for the annual general meeting.
8. Still being able to partake of the New Sanno's fabulous lunch buffets!
7. Catching up with former colleagues, site reps (from my days as International School Site Representative Liaison) and familiar faces from our Try It on Monday (TIOM) workshops.
6. Being in the front row during the tap dancing presentation.
5. Testing my (nonwaterproof) mascara when introducing the scholarship winners.
4. Knowing I would be attending the ASCD Annual Conference in two weeks' time.
3. Getting to have dinner with several of the presenters and finding out they are 'real people', too!
2. Working with such a talented group of board members, each with unique strengths to ensure the success of the conference.

*And the top consolation for not being able to attend a single workshop session:*

1. Seeing all the enthusiastic faces and hearing all the positive comments from the participants who DID get to attend a workshop.

—by Susan Hagenson, President

*Ed.Note—Board members miss workshops to prepare for participants and presenters.*

### Our Incredible Students

At our 16th Annual Spring Conference, all who attended were able to go away from the conference with enthusiasm and inspiration for the jobs educators dedicate their lives to embrace. The great mentoring from our guest presenters who travelled halfway around the world to remind and confirm the latest in educational research so we could hear the experts and discuss with colleagues from various schools in the area.

The speeches and performances by students made everyone feel so proud of those who are nurtured in so many ways through academics and opportunities to reach out. This year, we also had students help organize and manage the handouts, reception tables, work at the check-in desk, and greet guests at both the new Sanno Hotel and the International School of the Sacred Heart. Student artwork from various schools kept flashing by on the large screen so again we could all see the final products of our creative students.

As educators, we are so fortunate to have a small part in the success of the learning of these wonderful students.

—by Marion Yanase, Past President

### From Katie's Corner....

### The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

By Kate DiCamillo

Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline

Edward Tulane, a very vain china rabbit, lives in a house on Egypt Street with a wonderful girl, Abilene. Edward does not move but his head is filled with thought! Abilene loves him dearly and treats him with the utmost care. Edward has had quite a wonderful life with Abilene. Being vain he believes he deserves all the attention he receives. Edward needs to learn a lesson. So...one day on a trip aboard a ship, Edward Tulane is thrown overboard by two raucous boys. He sinks to the very bottom of the ocean and into despair. He stays there for many years until he is fished from the sea and there he begins many adventures leading him towards the true meaning of love.

This is a wonderful read aloud book for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to adult. I originally chose the book because I like the illustrations and I am a doll collector. I like books in which the doll loves you as much as you love them.

—by Katie Straub, Membership Chair

## Congratulations to Japan ASCD—Recognition for Excellence

Japan ASCD was one of five affiliates honored at the recent Affiliate Recognition Luncheon during the ASCD Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. Our Area of Excellence Award was earned in the category of “Programs, Products and Services” and is truly a testament to our sixteen years of affiliate work. The most important criteria for selection was the key question, “Can this affiliate’s activity, impact and contribution to the ASCD community serve as a model of excellence for others?”

The awards committee commended Japan ASCD for responding proactively to the unique needs of our members, becoming the “go to” organization for professional development in Japan, extending beyond the traditional offerings to include our “Try-It-On-Monday” workshops and advancing ASCD’s mission, vision and goals by aligning our work closely with theirs. In addition, they noted that our attention to the depth and diversity of events reflected the progress and effort Japan ASCD has made over the years.



In our application letter, we stressed the internationally acclaimed presenters regularly featured at our Spring Conferences and Special Events. In addition, we shared how our members help shape our events as they are asked what presenters they would like to see or topics they would like us to address during the online registration through the Acteva system. Curriculum coordinators are also asked to share their school’s key areas of focus each year.

The Japan affiliate was well represented at the luncheon, as four of our board members were on hand as the award was presented. It truly was an honor to be included in the ‘best of the best’ that day.

A big thank you to all our members and others that attend our events, as you are the driving force behind our success. We are grateful for your support and look forward to continuing to bring high quality professional development to your doorstep here in Japan. Please look for our award to be displayed proudly at all our future events.

—by Susan Hagenon, President

### *"Japan ASCD serves a diverse educational community enriching teaching, learning and cross-cultural communication."* Japan ASCD Mission Statement

When we began meeting in the fall of 1993, who would have thought that each school year a group of volunteer educators from various corners of the world would remain focused on the mission of our affiliate - and still be going strong sixteen years later?

Each year when planning professional development opportunities we have had the unique opportunity to interact with many of the best and the brightest that our profession has to offer. As a third generation educator I find this one of the most exciting aspects of what we do as a Board. I remember being introduced to the ASCD Association by a mentor teacher early in my teaching career. However, when ASCD hosted the first Spring Conference in March of 1992 it was a great beginning for all that was to follow. There have been many talented, dedicated professionals who have given countless hours of their time to ensure that our mission statement goals are fulfilled.

**...but the consistently top-notch professional development offered to Japan ASCD members by its many volunteer board members over the years...**

This year as we received the Affiliate Excellence Award for Programs, Products and Services we were reminded that ASCD identifies an excellent affiliate as one that **“ensures that the mission and vision of the organization is the driving force behind a high-quality, valuable, and varied array of services informed by member needs. The attention to depth and diversity is a model for other affiliates.”**

—by MaryBeth Luttrell, Secretary

## Annual ASCD Conference in Anaheim, California

The main gates of the first Disneyland located in southern California were only steps away. It was a favorite spot for all of us but we didn't have time to stroll into the site of our childhood characters because the workshops, vendor displays and ASCD Leadership Council meetings kept every one of us too busy. We were there to represent our organization, find possible presenters for next year, attend the mandatory meetings for Executive Board members and to attend the Affiliate Luncheon where this year our affiliate was honored with an Award of Excellence.

Dr. Gene Carter addressed the affiliate representatives in his talk and affirmation of the ASCD mission to work towards more global education and education of the whole child. This thrust is one that educators in Japan are very much in tune with because we have had the opportunity to work towards these goals.

The Leadership Council meetings are truly professional with board members representing the largest organization for educators. All members ascribe to the Governance Principles adopted by the Association (1998) which are as follows:

**Collaborative**—individuals working together toward common goals in relationships that are mutually empowering, respectful, and responsive.

**Communicative**—providing multiple avenues for individuals to provide input into and receive information on issues and decisions.

**Democratic**—self-governance through representative involvement, sharing rights and responsibilities. Democratic governance is participatory and includes diverse voices.

**Effective**—efficient and responsible governance that exemplifies wise stewardship of ASCD's resources. Effective governance is accountable and trustworthy.

**Ethical**—reflecting integrity by operating from standards of conduct that support ASCD's beliefs and mission.

**Flexible**—the capacity to anticipate and adapt to change.

**Inclusive**—providing opportunities for all to engage meaningfully in ASCD. Inclusive governance recognizes and values differences in individuals and cultures.

**Learning-centered**—continuous improvement through proactive practice and reflection. Learning-centered governance recognizes the primacy of children in ASCD's programs, products, and services.

**Representative**—action is taken on behalf of ASCD, through the involvement of the diverse voices within our community.

We were able to attend the farewell speech of last year's president and heard the acceptance speech of the new president of the Executive Board, Nancy DeFord. Nancy is a former DoDDS teacher who has had a brilliant career where she worked in Texas, Virginia, England, France, and Utah. Her experience as an overseas teacher has given her the knowledge of working firsthand with global educators and she was voted to this position because her diverse experiences have been recognized.

At the conference, we could see room after room of eager teacher-learners wanting to hear the research-based data about the changes and trends in education. A neuroscientist talked about the brain research and stimulation with proper, guided instruction that could make a difference. Another talk was about active vocabulary necessary for the success of students in all subject areas. Along with the full-time educational researchers, classroom teachers shared their success stories and gave concrete examples of what worked for them.

Have you ever thought of attending an ASCD Conference? It's in New Orleans next year. Think about it! You will be inspired! *—by Marion Yanase, Past President*



**Next Year....**

The Japan ASCD Board will make way for its new President, Kris Kwiatek. He has been recognized as an emerging leader and now after his year as President-Elect, he will be taking office from July. On Susan's right is Cris Lozon who was voted in as the next President-Elect at our Annual General Meeting. Congratulations! We all look forward to 2007-2008!

**Appreciation and Gratitude  
to the Many Volunteer Board Members of Japan ASCD**

After another successful year, we look back to reflect how fortunate we have been to have our successful TIOM Workshops, Annual Conference and support from the many educators in our area who have joined Japan ASCD. We appreciate the schools who have joined as institutional members and support our events.

The Award of Excellence was accepted by this year's Board but was made possible due to the efforts of our past board members to whom we are most grateful.

**Dr. Richard Osner** submitted a proposal to establish an ASCD affiliate in Japan (1992) and ASCD flew to Japan to run our first conference.

Our past presidents from 1993 to the present: (www.jascd.org for more info) **Maria Rubio**—DoDDS Japan District Superintendent Office, **Judy Beneventi**—Elementary Principal at American School of Japan, **Maynard Yutzy**—Headmaster at Tohoku International School, **Linda Kidd**—DoDDS Assistant Principal, **Paul Raschke**—Curriculum Coordinator at St. Mary's International School, **Steven Middlebrook**—Headmaster at Osaka International School, **Esther Golde**—Educator at DoDDS, **Toni Bell**—Educator at Seisen International School, **Mary Beth Luttrell**—Educator at International School of the Sacred Heart, **Steven Parr**—Headmaster at New International School, **Stephen Dixon**—Educator at St. Mary's International School Educator, **Laurel Eisinger**—Assistant Principal at Yokota East Elementary School, **Marion Yanase**—Computer Coordinator at International School of the Sacred Heart, and **Susan Hagenson**—Educator at St. Mary's International School.

Thank you to all who worked on the Board of Directors under these presidents!  
*Note: All positions are those held at the time of presidency.* —Newsletter Editor



*Japan ASCD serves a diverse educational community enriching teaching, learning and cross-cultural communication.*

— Japan ASCD Mission Statement

The Japan ASCD Board of Directors will strive to do its utmost to serve the educational community in Japan. We would appreciate any suggestions or comments from you. Write to [info@jascd.org](mailto:info@jascd.org).

**The 2006-2007 Japan ASCD Board**

<b>President</b>	Susan Hagenson
<b>President Elect</b>	Kris Kwiatek
<b>Immediate Past President/PR</b>	Marion Yanase
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