



Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association



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Newsletter

July 2017

Meet the 2017 Trio Ambassadors

Every other year, the Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association (LBYSKA) selects a teacher, one male student and one female student for a three-week cultural visit.

Yokkaichi is the host city this year and a delegation of three Long Beach ambassadors will travel as a group and follow an itinerary developed by Yokkaichi officials. This is known as the Trio Exchange Program which was founded in 1964.

This year LBYSKA is sending **Marybeth Murray**, and two students, **Lily Brossus** and **Aidan Harper**. The trio will serve as ambassadors to Yokkaichi from July 22— August 10.



2017 Trio Members

(l-r) **Marybeth Murray**, **Lily Brossus**, & **Aidan Harper**.

—Photo by Bonnie Sharp Stoepelman

Marybeth Murray is an Assistant Principal at Barton Elementary and is looking forward to seeing Japan for the first time. Ms. Murray has worked with special needs students at Prisk Elementary School in Long Beach as well as supervising student teachers at Loyola Marymount University; and overseeing, guiding, and assisting aspiring teachers in their classrooms at various inner city schools in the Los Angeles area.

She is actively involved in the Long Beach community and has participated in civic events alongside the Long Beach Mayor including acting as Grand Marshall and announcer for the Martin Luther King Parade.

“Now more than ever, I think it’s so important that we as adult educators engage our students in peaceful relations between

(Continued on page 2)

2017 Environmental Summit Team

The formation of the Environmental Summit Program was the idea of former **Yokkaichi Mayor Tetsuo Inoue** in 2007 to bring together students from China, Japan and Long Beach to study the negative effects of pollution on the environment and discuss solutions. With the support of the **Port of Long Beach**, the program has been a success because it goes beyond the environmental study by implementing the sister city principle to create friendships and global relationships.



Four students and a chaperone/advisor from Long Beach are selected each summer to take part in this environmental summit. This year’s selections are Professor **Elaine Bernal, Ed.D.** and students **Cassidy Hunt**, **K.C. Hunt**, **Gisela Martinez**, and **Jason Sun**.

Dr. Elaine Villanueva Bernal is a Lecturer with an MS in Materials Science Engineering from the UCLA and an MA in Educational Technology and Media Leadership from CSULB. Dr. Bernal earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Higher Education at CSULB, and her research interest is in professional development for STEM faculty in higher education and K-12.

Dr. Bernal is an avid runner and has completed two marathons in the last two years, and she has also been an origami enthusiast since the age of 12. Dr. Bernal lives with her husband, **Derald John Tucker II**, and their two sons **Maxwell** and **Marshall**.

Cassidy Hunt was Freshman and Jr. Class President, Sophomore Secretary, Jr. VP, and ASB Secretary at LB Poly. She has been a Link Mentor for 2 years and an active member of the Poly Cross Country Track and Math teams. She was selected as a Poly International Ambassador and as an Ambassador Girl Scout, she earned her GS Gold Award and represented GSGLA as an Emerging Leader at their annual 'ToGetHerThere' Luncheon. She is also the top GS Cookie seller in LA County, 3 years running! Cassidy plays the flute and some piano.

KC Hunt, Cassidy’s twin brother, is in the Program of Additional Curricular Experiences (PACE) and his grade point average exceeds 4.0. He is the captain of his LB Poly Cross Country team and an active member of the school senate. Wrote the co-chair of the PACE program, “This young man has it all: intelligence,

(Continued on page 4)

2017 YEFs Off to Yokkaichi

The Yokkaichi English Fellows (YEF) Program began in 1986 by the Yokkaichi City Board of Education (BOE) to provide an opportunity for Long Beach teachers or CSULB graduates to serve as assistant language teachers at the elementary and middle school levels in Yokkaichi, Japan. Selected teachers or new graduates work at a paid position in the Yokkaichi School System for two years.

This year, two teachers were selected by the Yokkaichi City BOE: **Jessica Corrales** and **Sarah Davis**.



2017 Yokkaichi English Fellows
Sarah Davis and Jessica Corrales

Jessica Corrales received her BA in Linguistics from CSULB in May of 2017. In 2008 she was an exchange student in Fukuoka, Japan and has studied reading, writing and speaking Japanese for over two years. It has been her “dream of becoming a teacher in Japan to help improve students’ learning experiences by making it fun and memorable for them so that they truly enjoy learning English.”

Sarah Davis possesses an MFA degree in Poetry and a BA in Creative Writing from CSULB. She currently teaches poetry at CSULB and tutors engineering students on writing their Master’s theses. At the Learning Assistant Center, she helps ESL students practice their conversational skills. Sarah states that “Teaching has always been my passion and I hope to teach the kids that they can accomplish anything they set their minds to.”

Congratulations to our Yokkaichi English Fellows!

Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association Supporting Organizations



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Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at CSULB



California State University, Long Beach



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2017 Trio—*Cont'd from pg.1*

nations and foster understanding and mutual respect between people. I think that by participating in this program, I will be able to create lasting cross-cultural connections between myself and everyday citizens in this region. It will help me become a more effective leader and do my part to foster the creation of a more peaceful world.”

Student **Lily Brossus** is a junior at Long Beach Polytechnic High School. She is currently in 5-6 Honors Japanese at Poly and preparing to take AP Japanese Language and Culture in her senior year.

Lily plays the clarinet and alto saxophone in the Advanced Jazz Band at Poly and is on the Varsity Song Squad. She is also active as a Buddy Peer, President of the Breast Cancer Awareness Club; Member of the Jr. Class Senate, and Jr. Class Representative of the Assistance League of Long Beach which encourages and provides service opportunities to the Junior class students in the community.

States Lily, “The power of unity is a concept that I believe in. When we work together, regardless of our differences, wonderful things can come out of it. Above all, it is our differences in background and beliefs that create better relationships.”

Aidan Harper is also a student from Long Beach Poly and has completed Japanese 1-2, 3-4, and currently taking 5-6 Honors Japanese. He enjoys cooking, travel, history, business, and government.

He has served as Vice President of Poly’s Model United Nations Program. He was an Advanced Preparer for Long Beach Poly VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) which helps low income individuals in the community prepare their taxes. His U.S. AP History Teacher, Patrick Gillaroy, wrote: “Aidan is far more than just a warm, charismatic fellow, he is startlingly sharp with a very diverse range of interests and knowledge. His interest in politics and law will undoubtedly grow and I can’t wait to see what he gets involved in once he gets to college.”

Says Aidan, “I feel that being part of the Trio program will provide me with the insight to pursue several ideas that I have had previously such as developing an authentic Japanese Cooking Program at a local cooking school, and beginning collaboration between a Japanese Model United Nations group and the one at Poly.”

Congratulations to the LBYSKA Trio Cultural Exchange Program committee members (special recognition to Chair **Yoko Pusavat**) for selecting three exceptional ambassadors to Yokkaichi.

Cultural Exchange Welcome Reception—July 17, 2017

The 2017 Trio Ambassadors, 2017 Environmental Summit Team, and 2017 Yokkaichi English Fellows were introduced at a reception dinner held at the beautiful **Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, CSULB** on July 17, 2017.

Garden Director and LBYSCA past president **Jeanette Schelin** welcomed all to the reception and introduced current LBYSCA president, **Frank Tabar**. Frank delivered greetings and introduced special guests: **Tyler Curley**, Legislative Deputy from Mayor Robert Garcia's office, and **Terrence Graham**, Associate Dean and Executive Director for the Center for International Education, CSULB.

LBYSCA Committee members spoke briefly of the programs they chair.

Trio Exchange Program Chair, **Yoko Pusavat**, introduced the 2017 Trio Ambassadors: Educator **Marybeth Murray**, and students **Lily Brossus** and **Aidan Harper**.

Bonnie Sharp Stoepelman, Chair of the Environmental Summit Program, presented the 2017 team: CSULB Professor **Elaine Bernal** and students **KC Hunt**, **Gisela Martinez**, and **Jason Sun**. (Student **Cassidy Hunt** was in Europe and unable to attend).

Jeanette Schelin, YEF Program Co-chair, introduced the selected Yokkaichi English Fellows this year: **Jessica Corrales** and **Sarah Davis**.

Dr. James Well, Chair of the Physician's Program, spoke of the 3 physicians from Yokkaichi Municipal Hospital who were here in February to observe medical techniques at the Long Beach Memorial Medical Center (see pg.2).

Closing remarks were made by past LBYSCA president **Mike Vaughn** who acknowledged the dedication of the LBYSCA program committee members and the attentive staff of the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden for a wonderful event.

Special acknowledgement to the sponsors of this event:

Platinum: **Port of Long Beach, Harbor Commissioners**

Silver: **Masako and Victor Fukuhara, Jeanne and Hideo Karatsu, Janet and Pat Mullen, Jeanette and Lee Schelin, Mariko and Frank Tabar, Aki and Mike Vaughn, and Karen and Jim Wells.**

Bronze: **Thomas Jelenic and Yoko Pusavat.**



2017 Environmental Summit Team (l-r): Jason Sun, Gisela Martinez, Professor Elaine Bernal, Committee Chair Bonnie Stoepelman, and KC Hunt. Not pictured: Cassidy Hunt.



Trio Committee Chair Yoko Pusavat with 2017 Trio Ambassadors: Lily Brossus, Aidan Harper, and Marybeth Murray.



2017 YEFs (l-r): Jessica Corrales and Sarah Davis with Committee Co-Chairs Jeanne Karatsu and Jeanette Schelin.

2017 Summit Team—*Cont'd from pg. 1*

dedication, honesty, kindness, and the ability to see deeply into other people. Having taught for the past twenty-two years in the PACE program at Poly, I have known and taught some tremendously talented young people. KC occupies a very high echelon in this exceptional population. He is hard working, highly intelligent, dedicated to learning at profound levels, and to serving his community.”

Gisela Martinez is also enrolled in the PACE program at Long Beach Poly with a grade point average exceeding a 4.0. She is passionate about science, music, and learning about other cultures. For her senior year, she is taking three science classes, and will be part of the Poly Marching Unit for four years. She has been studying Japanese at Poly for 3 years and plans to take it in her senior year. Gisela plays the clarinet, bass clarinet, piano, and is learning the guitar.

Jason Sun, also a LB Poly HS student, has been studying Japanese for 4 years. He was introduced to the Japanese culture as a member of an origami/anime club. He will soon be competing in the Prosthetic Arm Competition where the task is to create a prosthetic arm under \$80 that will be able to perform three tasks. Jason loves to tinker, whether it is designing a robot to a 3D printer, and runs a YouTube Channel known as “localinventor”, a platform where he shares his vlogs. In addition, he is a worship leader in training. Jason plays the piano, flute, violin and trumpet. //

Prior to the team’s departure to Yokkaichi, the Environmental Summit team attended the Water Replenishment District (WRD) Groundwater Festival, toured Long Beach Harbor, visited Thums Island, the Covanta Waste Energy Plant, and Cabrillo Aquarium.

Thank you to the Environmental Summit Program Committee co-chairs **Bonnie Stoepelman** and **Scott Warren**, and committee member **Thomas Jelenic** for the many hours invested in planning and coordinating this successful program.

The Environmental Summit Team will depart for Yokkaichi on July 31st.



2017 Environmental Summit Students
(l to r): **Jason Sun, KC Hunt, Cassidy Hunt,**
and **Gisela Martinez.** See also photo on page 3.

2017 Doctors Program

In February 2017 three doctors from Yokkaichi, Japan arrived in Long Beach to participate in an intensive 2-week study program at the LB Memorial Medical Center. This program was established 15 years ago to enable doctors from Yokkaichi Municipal Hospital to study medical techniques and observe surgeries.

At a reception dinner, LBYSCA Board members welcomed Yokkaichi City Municipal Hospital Representative, **Dr. Hachisuka**, and the three visiting doctors:

Dr. Kei Fujii, Cardiovascular Surgeon
Dr. Wataru Suzuki, Cardiologist
Dr. Kousuke Mizutani, Neurosurgeon



—photo by Dr. James Wells



See MORE pictures on Facebook at
Yokkaichi-Long Beach Sister City.

Website: <http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org>



2017 Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association Board Directors & Associate Members

Joe Aihara	Janet Mullen	Mariko Tabar
Suzan Al Shammari	Devan Nielsen	Aki Vaughn
Will Cullen	Yoko Pusavat	Mike Vaughn
Masako Fukuhara	David Reinsvold	Janice Warren
Victor Fukuhara	Bobby Rose	Scott Warren
Thomas Jelenic	Jeanette Schelin	James Wells, MD
Jeanne Karatsu	Lee Schelin	Karen Wells
Jim Krug	Bonnie Stoepelman	Roy Wood
Trisha Krug	Frank Tabar	

— 2017 LBYSCA Officers —

Frank Tabar, President	Yoko Pusavat, Vice President
Mariko Tabar, Secretary	Victor Fukuhara, Treasurer