



20
YEARS

**CONNECTING CULTURES
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS**

A RETROSPECTIVE



JAPAN-AMERICA
SOCIETY OF
TENNESSEE, INC

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

JAST IS GRACIOUSLY SUPPORTED
BY THESE OUTSTANDING PATRONS



Austin Peay State University

Baker Donelson

BB&T now Truist

Jack and Barbara Bovender

DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc.

Humanities Tennessee

Clay and Cathy Jackson

Komatsu America Corp.

The Mitsui U.S.A. Foundation

T-Mobile

JAST'S MISSION

*To strengthen a vibrant bilateral economic future for Tennessee and Japan by building upon longstanding relationships and promoting mutual understanding and cultural awareness among Japanese and American communities in Tennessee.**

ESTABLISHED IN 2000 TO NURTURE GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING PRESENCE OF JOB-CREATING JAPANESE-OWNED FACILITIES IN TENNESSEE, THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE (JAST) HAS, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, EXCELLED IN ITS MISSION. SINCE INCEPTION, JAST HAS PROVIDED A GROUNDSWELL OF FORWARD-LOOKING LEADERSHIP TO BOLSTER JAPAN-TENNESSEE RELATIONS IN A MYRIAD OF WAYS.

The JAST Retrospective is presented as a recollection - using brief narrative and photographic references - of the people and ideas that have shaped JAST's identity, impact, and resilience over the last two decades. Further, it charts the Society's efforts to uphold the legacy of catalysts, founders, and supporters, while adapting to realities of a continuously changing world. Above all, it celebrates every remarkable individual who has given of their time, resources, and expertise to advance the evolution of our mission and guide the way ahead.

Generous grant funding for The JAST Retrospective has been made possible by:



The Japan Foundation
Center for Global Partnership

Compiled by Leigh Wieland for JAST, February 2021.

Graphic design by Christa Schoenbrodt, Studio Haus.

* As restated by the JAST Board of Directors, December 2020.

FOREWORD



The JAST Retrospective: Celebrating 20 Years of Service comes at a pivotal time in the history of our organization, as the entire world grapples with a pervasive and deadly pandemic. When the Japan-America Society of Tennessee (JAST) officially secured its status as a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation in 2000, circumstances here at home and abroad were altogether different than those we face today. Throughout its history, JAST has enjoyed successes far beyond the expectations of its visionary founders, having earned generous community support and attained an unrivaled and unique position in promoting friendly ties and collaboration between Tennessee and Japan.

Today, in planning for the next decade and beyond, JAST faces an era of unprecedented uncertainty. Open-ended disruption currently requires extraordinary reverence for safety and security protocols and the capacity to adapt quickly to the complexities of technology-propelled connectedness at work and in daily life. As these realities loom large for our small not-for-profit, we are optimistic that we will rise to meet the challenges they pose.

By no means exhaustive or complete, this small volume seeks simply to offer a concise record of the achievements of the past and to remind, inform, inspire, and guide JAST's stakeholders—past, present, and future—as they chart the way forward. It endeavors to celebrate the collective legacy and resilient spirit of a remarkable community of individuals, comprised of civic leaders, government officials, generous philanthropists, community volunteers, and longstanding representatives of corporate partners, all of whom have dramatically shaped the organization's identity, impact, and history over the last two decades. To them and to our hardworking staff and executive leadership, past and present, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

Personally, I consider my service to JAST on behalf of DENSO a tremendous privilege. As Board Chair, I have witnessed first-hand the outstanding capabilities and integrity of a dedicated staff and the enduring commitment of a resourceful and engaged Board of Directors. Our membership can count on their proven fiscal stewardship in service to statewide communities and the ongoing work of relationship building for years to come. Following the precedent set by esteemed colleagues whose leadership has served the very best interests of the organization, I trust that those who assume the role of Board Chair in future years will find in these pages insights and encouragement, along with a discerning call to action, toward a vibrant bilateral future for Japan and Tennessee.

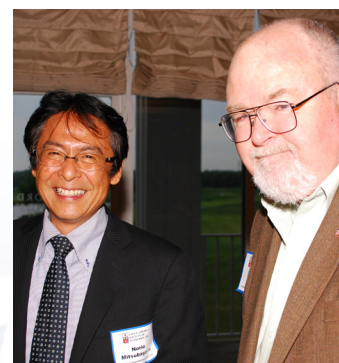
With gratitude and warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob". The script is fluid and cursive.

Bob Booker
Board Chair (June 2019 - June 2021)

TENNESSEE-JAPAN ANNUAL MEETINGS

Among the very first annual JAST events were a membership meeting and golf outing, enthusiastically supported by co-founders Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist and (then) Board President Arnold Perl. Since that time, although hosts, venues, and formats vary from year to year, standing the test of time are friendly social networking receptions, a program featuring notable speakers and timely topics, and presentation of JAST's Community Service Awards, in recognition of outstanding contributions by individuals and Japanese corporate interests in service to advancement of Japan-Tennessee relations.



THE EARLY YEARS

WITH GOALS OF NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN JAPAN AND TENNESSEE, GOVERNOR DON SUNDQUIST AND ARNOLD PERL, WITH LIKE-MINDED TENNESSEE BUSINESS LEADERS, FORM JAST IN RESPONSE TO THE SUCCESS OF THE ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE SOUTHEAST U.S./JAPAN AND JAPAN-U.S. SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATIONS HELD IN MEMPHIS IN 1996.



2002 U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard H. Baker, Jr. agrees to serve as Honorary Co-chair of JAST with Tennessee's Governor.



MARCH 2000 JAST attains 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit status with Memphis-based public relations executive Maury Bush as executive director. An inaugural newsletter reveals the excitement and activities that launch the organization.



2002 Leadership shifts to the mid-state as the JAST Board elects Lebanon-based Toshiba America Corporation executive Robert C. Arnett to serve as its President and hires consumer affairs advocate Elizabeth Owen as part-time executive director. The TN Dept. of Economic and Community Development provides shared office space on an in-kind basis.

2000

2001

2002

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE SOUTHEAST-U.S./ JAPAN AND THE JAPAN-U.S. SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATIONS

JAST proudly supports the State of Tennessee's involvement and leadership role in the Southeast-U.S./Japan Association, serving over the last two decades alongside the state coordinator to ensure success of this highly revered annual joint meeting, at which delegates from seven states and Japan renew longstanding relationships and spark new business collaborations. JAST's past and future are irrevocably intertwined with Tennessee's rotation as host state, for which residual private sector funding has provided financial underpinnings to launch JAST in 2000, and in 2010, to bring about an era of financial security and statewide community outreach.



INTEREST GROWS



2004 Sustaining Partnership is secured from TN Department of Economic & Community Development, signifying formalization of a relationship that will provide seamless continuity for Tennessee's leadership and involvement in the Southeast-U.S./Japan Association.

FEBRUARY 2003

Leigh Wieland, former policy advisor to Governor Sundquist, succeeds Elizabeth Owen as executive director; over the next 15 years, she will lead JAST through exponential growth and a multitude of structural, financial, and political transitions.



2004 The Mitsui USA Scholarships in Tennessee Program is established with New York-based Mitsui USA Foundation. Scholarship awards in excess of \$220,000 will defray tuition costs for 54 university freshmen in Tennessee over the next 16 years, with more expected in the years ahead.



2004 JAST affiliates with the National Association of Japan-America Societies and establishes an independent office staffed part-time by Executive Assistant Rita Reed.



2005 JAST establishes Community Service Awards to recognize annually those who make outstanding contributions in support of Tennessee-Japan relations.

2003

2004

2005

GAINING GROUND

AMID INEVITABLE POLITICAL TRANSITIONS, JAST'S NON-PARTISAN PLATFORM ENSURES CONTINUITY AND PROVIDES A REPOSITORY OF HISTORICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE. RELOCATION OF THE CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN TO NASHVILLE IN 2008 AND COORDINATION OF THE 34TH ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE SOUTHEAST U.S./JAPAN AND JAPAN-U.S. SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATIONS IN 2010 SIGNIFY MAJOR TURNING POINTS TO CATAPULT JAST INTO A PERIOD OF EXPONENTIAL GROWTH AND FUEL INTENSIFIED OUTREACH.



2006 JAST hosts the first official "Japan Speaker Caravan" in Tennessee with stops in Memphis and Nashville; this will signify the first of many such tours, but the 2008 tour will be the first supported by a new Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville.



2007 The Mitsui USA Foundation doubles from two to four and increases the number of scholarships awarded in Tennessee and stipend amounts from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per student; in 2008, it expands eligibility to applicants statewide.

2007 JAST retains consultant Mari Yamamoto to expand services to JAST members and Tennessee's Japanese-speaking residents.

2008 JAST is awarded two significant multi-year grants: the Japan Foundation New York's Center for Global Partnership funds establishment of "JAST West" at the University of Memphis, and Toshiba International Foundation supports an interactive e-learning tool "Things Japanese in Tennessee."

2008 JAST joins with Japan's newly established Consular Office in Nashville and Vanderbilt University to establish the Tennessee Area Japanese Speech Contest. The first annual day-long contest attracts 44 students, and grand prize winner Nova Skipper of East Tennessee State University is awarded a round-trip airline ticket to Japan, courtesy of American Airlines, and a cash prize.

2008 JAST organizes Japanese-language disaster preparedness seminars in Nashville and Memphis with the upgraded Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville and features experts on mitigating business risks related to weather-related disasters.

2008 Nashville's first Consul-General of Japan Hiroshi Sato agrees to serve as Honorary Co-chair of JAST with Gov. Phil Bredesen.

2006

2007

2008

2009 In partnership with Consul-General Sato and members of an Advisory Council and a Working Committee, JAST undertakes development of the inaugural Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival and Tree Planting Project, and quickly assumes primary ownership. Generous private and public sector partners enable JAST to grow the annual celebration from 300 guests in 2009 to an estimated 45,000 in 2017.



2009 Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States, His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki addresses JAST's annual membership meeting in Nashville to kick-off fundraising for the 34th Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan and Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations to be held in 2010.



2009 JAST manages a multi-state performance tour of a Noh theater troupe from Japan at the request of the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville.



2010 The 34th Annual Joint Meeting in Nashville concludes with much acclaim from more than 500 attendees from member states and Japan. Matching corporate sponsorships facilitate maximum grant funding, the careful stewardship of which yields a significant windfall for JAST's financial future.



2011 A prestigious Foreign Minister's Commendation is conferred upon JAST for its notable work as a trusted partner to strengthen and sustain favorable relations between Japan and Tennessee.



2011 In response to the 2011 Great Tohoku Earthquake, JAST transforms the annual Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival from celebration into a fundraiser and establishes the Tennessee Tomodachi Fund for Japan Relief. One hundred percent of nearly \$204,000 from Tennessee donors is sent directly to disaster relief agencies in Japan over the course of two years.

2009

2010

2011

ナッシュビル



日本まつり

NASHVILLE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING SPRING
& JAPANESE CULTURE

Symbolic of spring, new beginnings, and U.S.-Japan friendship, more than 1,000 Japanese cherry blossom trees now set the stage for the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival. Admission-free and family-friendly, this popular public celebration of Japanese culture with a Tennessee twist is frequented by residents and visitors alike and continues to attract local and international acclaim year after year.



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE

THROUGH OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES, JAST IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED FOR ENHANCING TENNESSEE'S REPUTATION AS A WELCOMING LOCATION FOR JAPANESE-OWNED COMPANIES. DIPLOMATIC ROTATIONS OF CONSULS GENERAL OF JAPAN IN NASHVILLE ADD YET ANOTHER DIMENSION TO JAST'S ROLE IN PROVIDING CONTINUITY AND STABILITY TO JAPAN-TENNESSEE RELATIONS.

2012 Executive Director Leigh Wieland receives a Foreign Minister's Commendation for leadership in disaster relief efforts and launching special celebrations and exhibits to promote and commemorate the National Cherry Blossom Centennial "Gift of the Trees."

2012 JAST hosts "The Mindset of Monozukuri: Enhancing US-Japan Collaboration Through Manufacturing Innovation & Japan Update: Beyond the Recovery of the Great East Japan Earthquake" in collaboration with JETRO Chicago and welcomes the region's newly arrived second Consul-General of Japan in Nashville Mr. Motohiko Kato.



2012



2013 JAST hires former American Airlines Account Executive Ginger Byrn as part-time Director of Programs and Membership Development to direct the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival and recruit new corporate members.

2013

2014 On the occasion of the Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan and the Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations in Tokyo, JAST facilitates with Sister Cities of Nashville representatives a delegation to witness the official signing ceremony between "friendship cities" Nashville and Kamakura, a union years in the making.



2014

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM & NETWORKING LUNCHEON

JAST's Women's Leadership Forum and Networking Luncheon brings greater awareness to gender disparity and the critical need to invest in the advancement of women everywhere, but specifically in the U.S. and Japan. Beautifully appointed annual programs attract a loyal following and feature women leaders who generously share insights from their own professional careers and personal experiences to inspire actionable change.



2015 JAST launches the First Annual Women's Leadership Forum and Networking Luncheon with guest host First Lady Chrissy Haslam at Tennessee's Executive Residence. The event becomes a highly-regarded member favorite of JAST's annual program calendar.



2016 JAST organizes its first "Study Mission to Japan" with stops in Nagoya, Kyoto, Yokohama, and Tokyo prior to the Annual Joint Meeting of the SEUS/Japan and Japan-U.S. Southeast Associations in Tokyo.



2017 JAST rebrands the Memphis Japan Festival at Memphis Botanic Garden, attracting thousands of visitors to the inaugural autumn festival and earning rave reviews from sponsors, volunteers, vendors, and festival-goers.

2015

2016

2017

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MEMPHIS JAPAN FESTIVAL

Fashioned along the lines of its spring counterpart in Nashville, the autumnal Memphis Japan Festival celebrates Japanese culture in the city that lays claim to being home to Tennessee's very first Japanese-owned enterprise; Datsun Forklift's decision to locate a sales office in Memphis in the mid-1970s, it is said, put the state "on the map" and started a trend that would boost the region's flagging economy in unprecedented and unimaginable ways by ushering in an era of new-found prosperity driven by job-creating investment from Japan.



CROSSROADS TO THE FUTURE

TO ENHANCE JAST'S VALUE AND FUTURE DIRECTION, PAYING FORWARD THE LEGACY OF THE PAST FINDS NEW RELEVANCE. ADVANCING BUSINESS AND CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN JAPAN AND TENNESSEE COMPELS US TO CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES, LOOKING BEYOND OUR RESPECTIVE BORDERS TO FOSTER SUCCESSFUL EXCHANGES.

2020 JAST's year-long 20th Anniversary celebration kicks off in January with recognition of longstanding members and patrons at its Annual Meeting.



2018 The Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville welcomes its fourth Consul-General, Mr. Hiroyuki Kobayashi. He will serve a brief 17 months before being promoted as Japan's Ambassador to Mongolia.

2018 The Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates its 10th Anniversary, bringing to successful conclusion a ten-year project to plant 1000 Japanese Cherry Blossom trees in Nashville parks and neighborhoods.

2018 JAST CEO Leigh Wieland retires at year-end and is duly elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors.



2020 CARES Act funding and generous grants from The Mitsui U.S.A. Foundation and the Japan Center for Global Partnership serve to mitigate a projected budget shortfall in a most challenging year.

2019 Donna Lee Siple begins her tenure as CEO; Maryville-based Bob Booker of DENSO is elected as JAST's first Board Chair from East Tennessee; and veteran staffer Rita Reed departs mid-year. Kentucky native and JET Program returnee Peyton Goodman joins JAST as operations and program coordinator in August.



2020 Donna Lee Siple resigns; Covid-19 begins to spread around the globe. JAST's Executive Committee enlists Leigh Wieland as Special Advisor; thereafter, a nimble and reconfigured staff actively shift programs and services for digital delivery and intensify online support to the Japanese-speaking community.



2020 Japan appoints Mrs. Kayoko Fukushima as fifth Consul-General in Nashville, heralding the arrival of the first woman in this role. In the tradition of her predecessors, she agrees to serve as Honorary Co-chair of JAST alongside Governor Bill Lee.

2020 The JAST Board of Directors at year-end reaffirms the organization's guiding principles in an updated mission statement: To strengthen a vibrant bilateral economic future for Tennessee and Japan by building upon longstanding relationships and promoting mutual understanding and cultural awareness among Japanese and American communities in Tennessee.

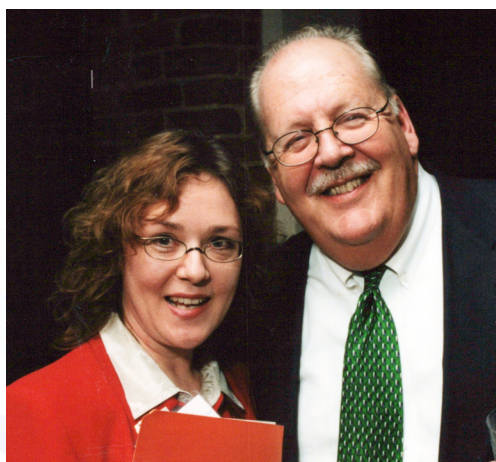
2018

2019

2020

INFLUENCERS, LEADERS & HONOREES

With gratitude, JAST recognizes the generosity and achievements of those who have made relations between Tennessee and Japan one of their highest priorities. The vibrant exchanges that we in Tennessee enjoy today are, in large measure, a testament to their collective legacy of community service and philanthropy.



HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

<i>The Honorable Donald K. Sundquist</i>	2000 - 2003
<i>The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr.</i>	2000 - 2014
<i>The Honorable Phil Bredesen</i>	2003 - 2011
<i>Consul-General of Japan Mr. Hiroshi Sato</i>	2008 - 2012
<i>Consul-General of Japan Mr. Motohiko Kato</i>	2012 - 2015
<i>The Honorable Bill Haslam</i>	2011 - 2019
<i>Consul-General of Japan Mr. Masami Kinefuchi</i>	2015 - 2018
<i>Consul-General of Japan Mr. Hiroyuki Kobayashi</i>	2018 - 2019
<i>The Honorable Bill Lee</i>	2019 - present
<i>Consul-General of Japan Mrs. Kayoko Fukushima</i>	2019 - present

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS & COUNSELOR

Arnold Perl

BOARD CHAIR (IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR)

<i>Arnold Perl</i>	2000 - 2003
<i>Bob Arnett</i>	2003 - 2010 (2010 - 2014)
<i>Chris Karbowiak</i>	2010 - 2014 (2014 - 2016)
<i>Ralph Schulz</i>	2014 - 2016 (2016 - 2019)
<i>John Scannapieco</i>	2016 - 2019 (2019 - 2021)
<i>Bob Booker</i>	2019 - 2021

VICE-CHAIR

<i>Ed Nelson</i>	2003 - 2010
<i>Celeste Wilson</i>	2010 - 2013
<i>Ralph Schulz</i>	2013 - 2014
<i>Stephanie Russell</i>	2014 - 2017
<i>Joe Durante</i>	2017 - 2021

TREASURER (ASSISTANT TREASURER)

<i>John Walker</i>	2000 - 2011
<i>Mike Fedele</i>	2011 - 2021 (2009 - 2011)

SECRETARY

<i>John Gregory</i>	2000 - 2006
<i>Phil Johnson</i>	2006
<i>Dennis Riddell</i>	2007 - 2013
<i>Cathy Holland</i>	2013 - 2021

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

<i>Maury Bush</i>	2000 - 2002
<i>Elizabeth Owen</i>	2002 - 2003
<i>Leigh Wieland</i>	2003 - 2010

CEO

<i>Leigh Wieland</i>	2011 - 2018
<i>Donna Lee Siple</i>	2019 - 2020

Note: in a document of this brevity, inadvertent omissions invariably occur; for such occurrences, the editors offer in advance sincere apologies.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

20+ YEARS

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc./Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc.

Kenji Shibata 2000 - 2001 | *Christine Karbowiak* 2002 - present

Brother Industries (U.S.A.), Inc. / Brother International Corporation

Bob Cooper 2000 - 2001 | *Toru Uchibayashi* 2009 - 2015
Jerry Dodds 2002 - 2008 | *Norio Mitsubayashi* 2015 - present

DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc.

Keith Kano 2000 - 2002 | *Hideo Sakai* 2008 - 2009
Tyler Yamanaka 2003 - 2005 | *Yasuhiro "Tyson" Toyama* 2009 - 2010
Nobuo Takeuchi/Eiji Tanaka 2005 - 2008 | *Bob Booker* 2010 - present

Komatsu America Corporation

Dennis Riddell 2000 - 2013 | *Walt Nichols* 2017 - present
Bruce Nelson 2013 - 2017

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

John Gregory 2000 - 2006 | *Randy Boyd* 2015
Lori Odom 2007 - 2013 | *Leslee Alexander* 2015 - 2018
Josh Helton 2013 - 2015 | *Masami Tyson* 2018 - present

15+ YEARS

Duthie Associates, Inc.

Bob Duthie 2003 - 2019

FDX Corporation/FedEx Services

Sandy Dickey 2000 - 2007
Hiro Ito 2007 - 2016/2018 - present

Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc.

Akira Ishikawa 2002 - 2004
Kazumoto Ohashi 2004 - 2007
Mike Fedele 2007 - present

Nissan North America, Inc.

Tom Groom 2003 - 2005
Mark Stout 2005 - 2015
Manabu Sakane 2015 - 2017
Hiroki Hasegawa 2017 - 2018
Andrew Tavi 2018 - present

Toshiba America Consumer Products, Inc./Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc.

Robert C. Arnett 2001 - 2003 | *Brian Pollack* 2009 - 2011
Kazuo Nishimura 2004 - 2006 | *Hiroki Zenda* 2011 - 2014
Manabu Sakai 2006 - 2007 | *Rich Huber* 2014 - 2017
Yukio Kikuda 2007 - 2009



10+ YEARS

American Airlines

Lisa Lobalzo 2004 - 2005 Dena Nessari 2005 - 2016

AmSouth Bank/Regions Financial Corporation

John Walker 2000 - 2007 / 2007 - 2012

Baker, Caldwell, Bearman & Berkowitz/Baker Donelson Law Firm

M. Kim Vance 2008 - 2014 John Scannapieco 2014 - present

First Tennessee Bank/First Horizon Corporation

Stephanie Russell 2011 - present

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce

John Butler 2007 - 2009 Lori Odom 2019 - present
Ralph Schulz 2009 - 2019

Nelson Capital Corporation

Edward G. Nelson 2002 - 2012

Waller Landsen Dortch & Davis, PLLC

Justin Wilson 2003 - 2005 Michael Stagg 2010 - 2013
Mike Mizell 2005 - 2010

5+ YEARS

Blount County Partnership

Fred Forster 2004 - 2010 Brian Daniels 2010 - 2012

BNA - Metro Nashville Airport Authority

Cathy Holland 2012 - present

Robert C. Arnett 2003 - 2012

Celeste Wilson 2009 - 2018

GOH America Corporation

Kanzi Takayama 2007 - 2016

Industrial Development Board of Morristown

R. Jack Fishman 2002 - 2011

Iris Management Support

Kenji Shibata 2002 - 2007

Lakeway Publishers

R. Jack Fishman 2013 - 2017

Marsh, Inc.

Patrick J. Higgins 2007 - 2016

United Recruiters / Mr. Japanese

Yukari Ishii 2012 - 2021



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NKC of America, Inc.*John Gorris2009 - 2018***Northwest Airlines***John W. Moore.....2000 - 2005***Sato America/Sato Global Solutions***Mike Beedles.....2008 - 2013**Jason Humphrey2015 - 2017***Sharp Manufacturing Company of America***Nobuo Harada2000 - 2002**T.C. Jones2003 - 2009***Tennessee Municipal League***Margaret Mahery2002 - 2007***VIAM Manufacturing. Inc.***Keith Hayes2012 - 2018***VIPPS U.S. - Japan Center***James Auer, Ph.D.....2004 - 2012***1 - 5 YEARS****Austin Peay State University***Dr. Alisa White2017 - 2020**Danielle Whiteside.....2020 - present***BB&T now Truist***Tom O'Connor2019 - present***Barge Waggoner Sumner & Cannon, Inc.***Ed Mahoney2013 - 2015**Michele Herlein2015 - 2017***Deloitte & Touche LLP***Kevin Hunsinger2016 - present***Calsonic North America, Inc.***Elton Coleman2000 - 2002***CCA of Tennessee, LLC***Tony Grande2013 - 2015***Ernst & Young, LLP***John Skelton2000 - 2002***Frost Brown Todd, LLC***John T. Baker2016 - 2020**Robert Sartin2020 - present***Hardaway Group, Inc.***Rance Bunn.....2000 - 2005*

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Jackson Energy Authority

John W. Williams 2002 - 2005

Jackson Chamber

Mandy White 2018 - present

Japanese Traders and Manufacturers Association of Memphis

Shinichi Okubo 2018 - 2019

Takashi Hoshino 2019 - 2020

Kanzi Takayama 2020 - present

Joe Durante 2020 - present

Leigh Wieland 2019 - present

Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce

Marc Jordan 2000 - 2002

Phil Johnson 2003 - 2006

Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc.

Joseph Durante/Thomas Shimizu 2016 - 2020

Nationwide Insurance

Jenné Dobard 2014 - 2015

Stephan Gaffney 2015

Tracey Mudd 2015 - 2016

Ron Sheth 2016

TBDN Tennessee Company

Bryan Everette 2016 - 2019

Brian Smith 2019 - present

United Airlines

Allen Richards 2017 - 2019

Yoshitaka Hamamoto 2019 - present

University of Memphis

Ralph Faudree 2000 - 2003

Venues by JFGIII

John Gregory 2006 - 2007

Young & Perl

Arnold Perl 2000 - 2003

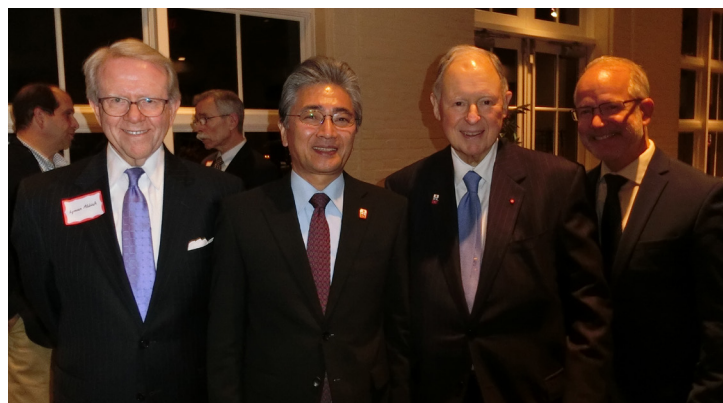
KEY STAFF, 2003 - PRESENT

Rita Reed 2003 - 2019

Mari Yamamoto 2007 - present

Ginger Byrn 2013 - present

Peyton Goodman 2019 - present



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COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD HONOREES

Community Service Award Honorees are recognized by JAST for outstanding leadership and accomplishments that have made substantial and enduring contributions to Japan-Tennessee relations, effectively improving public life and the well being of our mutual society. Through these awards, JAST strives to recognize and encourage excellence in community service by Japanese-resident companies, community leaders and volunteers, and to stimulate similar efforts by other companies and individuals in service to the longstanding and growing relationship between Japan and Tennessee.

CHRYSANTHEMUM AWARD

Chrysanthemum Award recognizes exceptional corporate citizenship by Japanese-owned companies which devote significant resources to serving their communities and involving employees at all levels in decisions about company support for community projects.

2005

*Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
DENSO Manufacturing
Tennessee, Inc
Nissan North America, Inc.*

2006

*JTEKT Vonore
Tennessee Koyo Steering, Inc.
VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.*

2007

*Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
Tuff Torq Corporation*

2008

*Brother Industries (U.S.A.), Inc. /
Brother International Corporation
PML, Inc.*

2009

*JTEKT Automotive Tennessee
Nissan North America, Inc.
Bridgestone Tire Operations
LaVergne Plant*

2010

*GOH America Corporation
VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.*

2011

VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.

2012

*Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
DENSO Manufacturing
Tennessee, Inc.
Nissan North America, Inc.*

2013

Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.

2014

VIAM Manufacturing, Inc.

2016

Komatsu America Corporation



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MARGARET G. DUFFY SAKURA AWARD

Margaret G. Duffy Sakura Award recognizes exceptional volunteer efforts by an individual toward the improvement and/or expansion of the relationship between Japan and Tennessee.

2005 Margaret G. Duffy	2008 Kenji Shibata	2011 Terry Vo	2013 Judy Henry
2006 Betsy Wedekind	2009 Kanji Takayama	2012 Jennifer Butler and Kei Takizawa	2014 Eko Ishii
2007 Kiyoshi Kawahito, Ph.D.	2010 Robert C. Arnett		

JOHN D. WALKER IRIS AWARD

John D. Walker Iris Award recognizes unique contributions to the enhancement of Japan-Tennessee relations as demonstrated by a company, organization or individual.

2005 Toshiba America Consumer Products	2009 Sachiko Matsushita, Ph.D.	2011 Mark Cleveland and Swiftwick Yuki Matsuda, Ph.D.	2013 The Honorable Don Sundquist
2006 Tennessee Meiji Gakuin	2010 Belmont University The Honorable Howard H. Baker, Jr. William H. Morris	2012 Hiroshi Sato, Consul- General of Japan in Nashville James E. Auer, Ph.D.	2014 The Honorable Karl Dean
2007 Edward G. Nelson			
2008 Masaru Sakato, Consul- General of Japan in New Orleans			

APPRECIATION AWARDS

In addition to recognition through Community Service Awards, JAST has in recent years presented Appreciation Awards to the following individuals and corporate members.

2019 Bob Duthie			
2020 Austin Peay State University Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC Brother Industries (U.S.A.), Inc. Bridgestone Americas City of McKenzie Center for U.S.-Japan Studies and Cooperation	DENSO Manufacturing Tennessee, Inc. Dickinson Wright, PLLC Komatsu America Corporation First Horizon Corporation Gresham, Smith & Partners Jackson Chamber Marsh USA, Inc.	Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association (MTIDA) Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc. Morristown Area Chamber of Commerce Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Nissan North America, Inc. NKC of America Inc.	Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) United Airlines United Recruiters/Mr. Japanese

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MITSUI & CO.

THE MITSUI U.S.A. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN TENNESSEE PROGRAM

In addition to sponsorship of this longstanding program which provides scholarship stipends for Tennessee undergraduates, The Mitsui U.S.A. Foundation and Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc., through generous funding, make possible a number of JAST annual programs and events; the company was honored with JAST's Chrysanthemum Award in 2013 in recognition of its outstanding contributions to Tennessee-Japan relations.



THE MITSUI U.S.A. FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN TENNESSEE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

2004 - 2005

David Elliot, Summertown, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
Zach Withers, Monterey, Tennessee Technological University

2005 - 2006

Jamie Price, Clarksville, Austin Peay State University
Allison Springer, Leoma, Tennessee Technological University

2006 - 2007

Mallory Carr, Baxter, East Tennessee State University
Shenouda Shehata, Antioch, Tennessee Technological University

2007 - 2008

Kevin Greiner, Brentwood, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Kyle Griffin, Cordova, University of Memphis
Nicole Martin, Baxter, Tennessee Technological University
Stephen Oi, Brentwood, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2008 - 2009

Chelsea Barnes, Shelbyville, Tennessee Technological University
Audrey Barnette, Greeneville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Aeron Glover, Memphis, University Of Tennessee, Knoxville
Chance Finegan, Cookeville, University of Tennessee, Martin

2009 - 2010

Morgan Jobe, Lake City, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Rudy Saliba, Germantown, Middle Tennessee State University
Halie Vannoy, Morristown, Middle Tennessee State University

2010 - 2011

Joanna Nyland, Smyrna, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Laura E. Bassett, Hixson, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Barbara Paschall, Bartlett, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2011 - 2012

Preston Williams, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Samantha Black, Cunningham, Austin Peay State University
William Carpenter, Clarksville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Alexis Wilson, Memphis, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

2012 - 2013

Brent Hopper, Trenton, University of Tennessee, Martin
Jessica Wauford, Dickson, Middle Tennessee State University
Lauren Nyland, Smyrna, Middle Tennessee State University
Elaine Hall, Kingston, East Tennessee State University
Krystal White, Alexandria, Middle Tennessee State University

Note: in a document of this brevity, inadvertent omissions invariably occur; for such occurrences, the editors offer in advance sincere apologies.



2013 - 2014

Grace Delanzo, Parrottville, University of Memphis
 Delaney Driscoll, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
 Scott Hickman, Nashville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Tyler Layne, Oneida, Tennessee Technological University

2014 - 2015

Kayleah, Bradley, Brentwood, Middle Tennessee State University
 Austin Jenkins, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Vipra Patel, Lexington, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Brianna Taylor, Crossville, East Tennessee State University

2015 - 2016

Celeste Greene, Harrison, East Tennessee State University
 Claire Martin, Petersburg, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Sullivan McInturff, Elizabethton, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Dailey Thompson, Cordova, University Of Memphis

2016 - 2017

David Gentry, Decatur, Tennessee Technological University
 Zari Malbacias, Columbia, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Riley Miller, Clarksville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Cameron Reid, Ashland City, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2017 - 2018

Chyna German, Nashville, University Of Tennessee, Chattanooga
 Cierra Roach, Franklin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Garrett Winget, Lexington, East Tennessee State University
 Benjamin Winiger, Johnson City, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2018 - 2019

Alisa Barbrie, Franklin, University Of Tennessee, Chattanooga
 Sarina Diebenow, Collierville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Katie Nyland, Murfreesboro, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Stephen Williams, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2019 - 2020

Elizabeth Brawner, Bartlett, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Tyler Carver, Jackson, Tennessee Technological University
 Stephen Ricketts, Chattanooga, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Daniel Zetterberg, Knoxville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

2020 - 2021

Stella Clymer, Franklin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Rachel Hodge, Franklin, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Seth Pierce, Greeneville, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Denton Stout, Livingston, Tennessee Technological University





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