



GO BLUE

JSA's *Go Blue* Newsletter

January 2022 Edition



Left: JSA general members chatting after mass meeting

Right (above): Our members playing the icebreaker, "Where the Wind Blows"

Right (below): **Emma Saito** posing with a new member

## WINTERFEST + MASS MEETING RECAP

By Seiji Hoshino

Welcome back! January is an exciting time for JSA: new members, new events, and a hot start to the semester despite the frigid temperatures.

We want to thank everyone that came to our Winterfest booth. While we hoped to have it in-person, it was still a pleasure sharing our club and mission with new members!

Luckily, we were able to host our mass meeting in-person, and it was great time! From board intros, the kazoku program, and our future events, we hope it was a great opportunity to get to know the club and each other. General members were able to play, "Where the Wind Blows", to break the ice. "I enjoyed learning about the new board members and seeing how similar everyone really is through the icebreaker we played," says **Hannah Nguyen**. "The mass meeting reaffirmed that the people are the reason I love JSA so much."

We are excited for everyone to get to know each other as the semester goes on!

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# GAME NIGHT

By Seiji Hoshino

To start off the winter semester, our first official event was Game Night! It was a great way to have fun while engaging in friendly competition. We offered a variety of games, including Euchre, Poker, Smash Bros, and others. Mario Golf was our favorite, but Poker seemed to be the fan favorite (not endorsing gambling but...). We had over 60 members show up at East Quad, and we were happy to see so many new faces in addition to the familiar faces.

"Game night was super fun! It was nice to see others learn games I grew up with, as well as learn some new card games from others," says **Rex Fung**. "I also hope I inspired some people to start playing Piranha Plant in Smash." From what I saw, Rex is cold with the sticks.

Overall, it was a fun way to officially get the semester started and get the competitive juices flowing (Especially with Undoukai coming up :O). We hope everyone had a good time playing games and chatting with others. Looking forward to seeing all of you at our future events!

## EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

- **February 3rd: SLG Origami Collab**
  - **Time:** 6-8pm
  - **Location:** Great Lakes Room @ Palmer Commons
- **February 10th: Sweet Soirée**
  - **Time:** 6:30-8:30pm
  - **Location:** Psych Atrium
- **February 17th: MiMSA Collab**
  - **Time:** 8:30-9:30pm
  - **Location:** East Quad 1405



Above: JSA members posing after game night (how is Praveen so tall...)

Left (Top): Our members playing cards

Left (Bottom): Abby Sypniewski talking to members  
Below: Two new members posing after playing Mario Golf



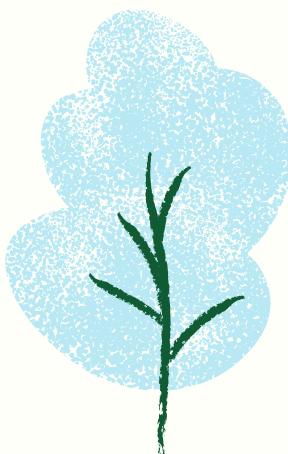
## KAZOKU UPDATE



Kazokus kicked off their 2022 this month with takoyaki parties, bowling, volleyball, and some study groups. We've also sprinkled in some never-before-seen pics from last semester in here as well!

We hope your year is starting off great and you're having fun in your kazokus. Also, a huge welcome to those that have just joined the program!

We'd also like to welcome our new Kazoku chairs:  
**Yuna and Trevor!**



## HUMANS OF JSA

By Tiger Hashikura

Welcome back to Humans of JSA! As usual, I have 2 amazing members of our community to show off to you all! Since they're both relatively new members to the org, I'm sure they'd love for you all to reach out to them after you give their entries a read :)



### Masashi Endo

**Tiger:** Hey Masashi, can you introduce yourself?

**Masashi:** Yeah, I'm a junior exchange student from Japan, studying Econ. I've been a part of JSA since I got here, which was at the beginning of last semester.

**Tiger:** So you said you're studying econ here, what are you studying back in Japan?

**Masashi:** I'm in the politics/econ major in Japan, where I've been focusing on developmental economics, which is related to helping out people in developing countries.

**Tiger:** Wow that's really cool, what made you interested in majoring in something like that?

**Masashi:** So during my freshman year I had the chance to study in Laos, where I got to learn how their country functions and the help that they need going forward. It really opened my eyes and I want to use my knowledge and abilities to help out those in need.

**Tiger:** Wow. such a beautiful story... how can somebody be so respectable AND handsome??? Blows my mind. So, I'm curious. As an exchange student from Japan, what have you liked about our JSA?

**Masashi:** The first thing that I found to be great was that more than half of the members aren't native Japanese people! This has given me so many opportunities to practice my English, while still feeling like I belong to a community. Since one of my goals coming here was to spend more time with non-Japanese people, JSA has been a great place for me!

**Tiger:** I'm super glad to hear that! I'll remember to speak to you in English so that you can practice as much as possible. Have you been able to find other communities outside JSA during your time here?

**Masashi:** Yeah, I also joined the Board Game Club! I've been able to learn so many different games and meet a bunch of people there. American board games are very different from what I know in Japan, so it's been very interesting learning the new games.

**Tiger:** There's a board game club here?? Wow, I'll definitely have to check it out sometime, let me know when you're going again. Okay so other than board games and practicing English, what do you like to do?

**Masashi:** I like to draw, cook, sew, and make custom jackets. I've actually been making custom jackets for a few years now. During high school I sewed a costume of Deadpool for a school festival and painted a duck onto a sweater. I really like being able to think of an idea and just make it instead of buying it.

**Tiger:** That sounds dope af. Honestly such a cool hobby that I never thought I'd ever hear haha. Alright we're a bit short on time so let's wrap it up with this: what's one thing you want to tell the rest of JSA?

**Masashi:** I might look unapproachable to some of you but please feel free to talk to me! One of the main reasons that I'm in the U.S. is to improve my English, and speaking with all of you gives me more opportunities to learn. I'll see you all at future events!

# HUMANS OF JSA

By Tiger Hashikura

## Mia Brooks

**Tiger:** Hey Mia! Can you tell me a bit about yourself?

**Mia:** Hey Tiger! I'm a freshman majoring in dance, with possibly a double major in engineering. I was born in Osaka but I've lived in Berkley, Michigan for most of my life.

**Tiger:** A double major with engineering? That sounds insane... I respect the grind though. How long have you been in JSA?

**Mia:** Yeah, it's pretty crazy but I've actually met a surprising amount of people doing something similar. I've been in JSA since the beginning of college!

**Tiger:** That's great! I remember seeing you at events earlier in the school year, I hope you've been liking the things that we do as an org.

**Mia:** For sure! At first I was a bit afraid of reaching out since I didn't know what kind of people were a part of JSA, but I've really grown to like the community. I've been having a great time going to the events and helping out!

**Tiger:** I'm really glad to hear that! Getting to college for the first time can be a pretty lonely experience so I'm happy that we could help you in that way. Just curious, which event did you help out at?

**Mia:** I volunteered to be in the decorations committee for Asia's Got Spice. I love helping out with events where I can see it grow into something great, and being able to show Japanese culture to other people is also something I enjoy. These events are such great experiences, but since my major requires a lot of rehearsal and class time I don't get to spend enough time with JSA. It's kind of a bummer but oh well.

**Tiger:** That is a bummer, I hope you get to attend more events in the future. So outside of school and JSA, what else are you involved in? Although I know you don't have much time to be doing anything haha.

**Mia:** I'm actually in a diversity dance group called Arts in Color! We explore things like intercultural dance, social justice, and other important topics and express them in dance.

**Tiger:** That's really cool! Using your skills to spread awareness for things like that is so great. What about when you have free time? What are some of your hobbies?

**Mia:** I've been drawing casually since I was pretty young, and I've also played the violin since the 5th grade. I went to a high school that was known for their orchestra program, so I got a lot of good experience playing for them. I don't play as much anymore but it's still something I enjoy doing!

**Tiger:** Damn, such respectable hobbies... (I would've answered watching YouTube ) Okay last question! What's one thing you want to tell the rest of JSA?

**Mia:** If you're new to the org, welcome to the Japanese community! I hope that you can find what you're looking for. If anyone wants to talk about Japanese culture or language, don't hesitate to reach out to me! I really like talking about these things so I hope to be able to talk with some of you!



# WINTER BREAK RECAP

By Nami Kaneko

Welcome back everyone! I hope you've been enjoying the first JSA newsletter issue of 2022! We asked you if you did anything fun over break and here were some of the responses:



This is **Madi** and **Abby**'s cat, Sumo! (and a painting hehe)



**William** went on a solo trip to the Balkans over break!



**Faiyaz** went to New York City!



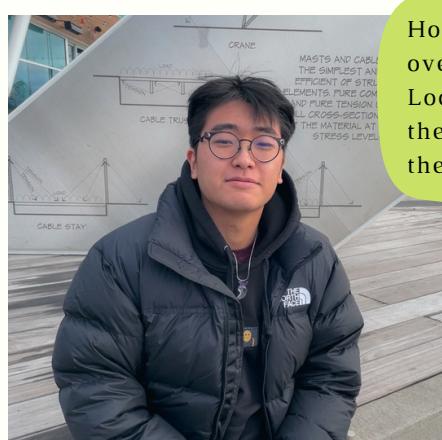
**Kai** went to the Knicks and Hawks game in New York!



**Raymond** cooked 30 plates of steak and lobster for his family, check out his instagram for cooking updates!

## New Editor Alert!

If you haven't noticed, we've got a new editor! He's our newsletter chair and you've probably seen him around taking pictures! Say hi to Seiji :)



Hola! I'm Seiji and I'm taking over as the newsletter lead. Looking forward to covering the memories we make during the semester!

