

ゴキウ 月刊 GO BLUE

The Monthly *Go Blue*

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Topics:

Novi Japan Festival
 JSA Game Night
 Movie Night/Mixer

Special Correspondent Report: MJSA
 Humans of JSA:
 Vivek Peri

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MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

Left: JSA members man and participate in booths at the Novi Japan Festival.

Right: JSA members pose for a group photo.

Photos Courtesy of K. Nomura, E. Carl and other JSA members

NOVI JAPAN FESTIVAL - Celebrating Japanese Culture - by Ellie Carl

On October 7th, over 30 JSA members volunteered for the annual Novi Japan Festival, which was jointly hosted by the Japan Business Society of Detroit and the JSD Women's Club at Novi High School.

JSA members manned the booths for a variety of games and activities, such as *wanage* (ring toss) and *yo-yo tsuri* (water balloon fishing). They also had an opportunity to interact with other volunteers, including students from Eastern Michigan University's Japanese Students Association.

Members also flocked to catch a glimpse of the Japan-themed performances in the school auditorium, including taiko (drums), *Bon Odori* (festival dance), kendo and *Sōran Bushi*, a modern rendition of a traditional fisherman's dance by the JSA E-Board. The crowd favorite, however, was

a performance by the JSD Women's Club and Kangaroo Club, a playgroup of infant to preschool aged children and their mothers. The audience was captivated by the children performing a dance from a popular Japanese TV show.

Ryo Tsunoda, an exchange student from Nagoya University, said he was impressed by the vitality of the Japanese community in Southeast Michigan. "I got to see Japanese culture being celebrated in America, which I thought was really cool and I realized how interested people really are in Japanese culture here in the United States," he said. Δ

Editor's Note

In October, I had the opportunity to attend an MJSA conference at Ohio State. I was able to learn how other JSAs operated, what works for them and what doesn't. I hope to share and apply the lessons I took away from the conference to make JSA at UM an event better place to be in! -IM



JAPAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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JSA GAME NIGHT by Maia Ohiro

JSA held a game night at the Math Atrium in East Hall on October 18th, where a variety of games welcomed members. Attendees enjoyed multiple rounds of giant jenga, ping pong and Cards Against Humanity.



One of the most popular games was the card game Speed, which, as the name suggests, is extremely fast-paced. At times, this game can be quite violent, with people slamming down as many cards as they can, as fast as they can. It was not uncommon to hear shrieks from across the room throughout the night. Δ

MOVIE NIGHT & MIXER by Maia Ohiro

JSA held its annual Halloween movie night at the theater room in Landmark Apartments on October 27th for those brave enough to spend their Friday night experiencing pure terror. Attending members were allowed to vote beforehand the film they wanted to see, and *The Grudge*, a Japanese horror classic, was selected by a majority. On the day of the screening, members huddled onto their friends' arms as a vengeful spirit wreaks havoc onto those who step into the house where she was murdered.

A JSA-Vietnamese Student Association mixer event immediately followed the scary movie event, where members had a chance to interact with VSA members and other members of UM's A/PIA community. Some even came in Halloween costumes like Waldo from *Where's Waldo?*, Alice from *Alice in Wonderland*, a zebra onesie and demons and angels. Δ

MJSA@OHIO STATE A Special Correspondent Report by Ishi Mori

I stepped into The Ohio State University campus with caution, fearful that I would be ambushed by wild Buckeyes lurking behind the bushes. But being the prideful Wolverine I am, I came decked out in Michigan gear—I did not betray my identity, even at risk of attack.

Jokes aside, the 4th annual conference of the Midwestern Japan Student Associations where JSAs from schools all over the Midwest gather, was an illuminating experience.

I spent some valuable time at a workshop on how to improve our respective schools' JSAs, and was both able to receive and give out great advice. I realized how lucky JSA at UM was in having a major Japanese business scene near us. The Japanese

business community graciously donates us funds for our annual Japan Culture Festival, but other schools' JSAs did not even have enough funding to consistently hold events; it was truly a perspective-changing moment. I am grateful for the MJSA Board and the Ohio State Japan Student Organization for hosting such a fantastic learning and networking experience, and I encourage others to join in for next year's conference. Δ

HUMANS OF JSA with Vivek "V-san" Peri

The Go Blue interviews members of JSA so we can learn more in depth about each other. This month features Engineering junior Vivek "V-san" Peri and his fascination with motorcycles.



Ellie: Tell me a little bit about your interest in Japanese culture and why you joined JSA.

Vivek: I was born in Tachikawa, Tokyo, but grew up in California and it's been a long time since I've been to Japan. I recently decided that I wanted to move back to Japan to work there. It was a sudden

interest, so I did my research and it's more viable than I thought it was. I like Japanese, I have a tie to the "motherland" if you can call it that, and I think Japanese culture is fascinating. Naturally I started looking for a Japanese club on campus and a friend referred me to JSA.

Ellie: I didn't know you wanted to work in Japan, why do you want to work there?

Vivek: I'm a mechanical engineer and it's been a pipe dream of mine to work for one of those well-known automotive companies because I'm a big automotive enthusiast. I would really either like to work for Toyota or Yamaha Motorcycle corporation. Turns out it's not really a pipe dream because I found out they hire foreign engineers. I would like to work for them because I think it's a really great way to get into innovation at the forefront of the automotive scene in Japan, and what better way to do that than work at the heart of these companies?

Ellie: So you're pretty new to JSA, you joined this semester, but you've been coming to a lot of the events. What do you think about JSA so far?

Vivek: My impression so far is that JSA is fascinating and all the people are very friendly. When I first came, I told people I was self-studying Japanese, which is pretty tough, and I've gotten a lot of helpful pointers. I've kept coming to more and more events and eventually I got to meet the whole board and then admitted to Ishi that I crashed the email list [earlier this year, somebody requested to be removed from the JSA listserv but hit "reply all"; V-san made this worse by sending another email to the entire listserv, creating a "storm" of emails].

Ellie: You're the one who did that? I don't think we can be friends anymore.

Vivek: Yeah that was me, I'm sorry.

Ellie: Maybe we'll repair our friendship eventually, haha. Well V-san this has been lovely, thank you again for agreeing to be interviewed! Δ