

THE ICLA OBENTO

DEC 2023 | ISSUE:7

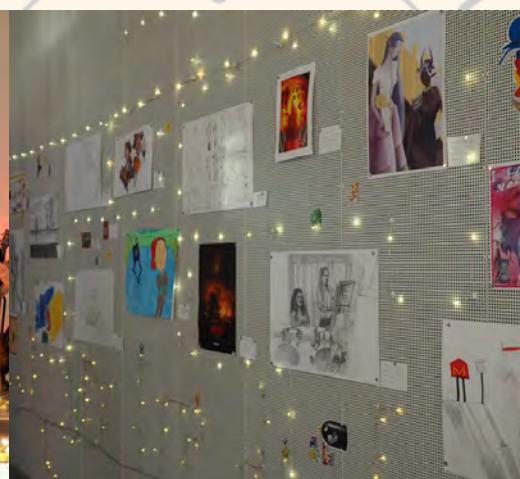
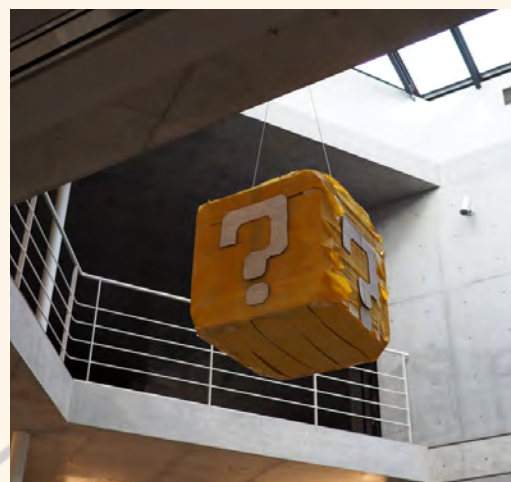
Winter Gala 2023 Held On December 1st!

The event filled with amazing talent from iCLA student community.

Thanks to the awesome work by students, Professor Mike Blow, and Professor Sam Stocker, another successful Winter Gala was held! The theme of this year's Winter Gala was Video Games, and the iCLA lobby was brilliantly decorated with impressive video game homages crafted by students. The lobby was filled with classic icons such as Super Mario Bros blocks and warp pipes, Minecraft creepers and enderman, and Pac Man and Ghosts. Many students also had fun with the theme by dressing up as their favorite video game characters.

Stage performances organized by Professor Mike Blow boasted 15 exciting acts that kept the audience captivated. The event opened with a koto performance, followed by bands, rapping, tap-dancing, hip-hop dance, and more. The exhibition organized by Professor Sam Stocker featured impressive student works from art courses such as Painting and Sculpting, Graphic Design, and Drawing but also some exhibiting works from Japanese calligraphy courses and Japanese language courses. In between the acts, delicious light snacks of pizza, crepes, samosas, falafels, Ras malai were served, a variety which were homemade by the food direction student team.

An amazing job to all students, faculty, and staff involved for another wonderful semester-end event!



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GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT COREY (USA)



Corey is an iCLA graduate of Spring 2020.

Currently, Corey is training in the United States' Navy to become a linguist at the Defense Language Institute.

We asked Corey a few questions about his journey since graduating from iCLA and finding his passion and career path working for the US government.

Q. Where are you currently employed?

The United States' Navy.

Q: Can you tell me about your job position and your work responsibilities?


I'm currently an unrated sailor with the rank of E-3, training to be a linguist at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. While training, I'm required to attend immersive language classes 6-7 hours a day Mon - Fri, attend physical training 3 days a week, and report for military duty once a week. I also have between 2-3 hours of language homework a night.

Q. What was your motivation to enter your current field of work?

You could say I'm a lover of humanity and technology. I want to see humanity, technology, and global civilization develop, to see what heights we can reach. On a more basic level, I love learning about other ways of thinking and working with groups motivated by the same things as me. Ultimately, I think the best way I can achieve this is by working for the US Department of State to help keep peace and foster international cooperation. I see myself as taking a step in that direction by enlisting in the US Navy to further develop my skills as a linguist, with the hopes of commissioning as a US Navy officer in the future.



A display dedicated to Lt. Col Richard Sakakida, 2nd generation Japanese-American. The Defense Language Institute started off as a secret language school with soldiers who were 2nd generation Japanese-American, called Nisei.



Q: In what ways has your academic experiences in your courses or skills you gained at iCLA been advantageous/applicable in your work?

I didn't know until I started training as a linguist here at the Defense Language Institute, but a liberal arts education is the best degree for a linguist. As a linguist, the more you know about various subjects, the better you can translate and interpret accurately. It also helps you pick up new vocabulary in other languages tremendously because you already have an idea of the concepts in the foreign language material. My academic experiences at iCLA, especially the culture and international-focused courses, have given me an advantage because they taught me how to see various things from the perspective of other cultures.

Q: Was there anything you were glad you accomplished during your time at iCLA (academic or extracurricular)?


Oh man, there's so much. There are many things I could list off here, like traveling Japan, studying abroad in Croatia, and learning martial arts like Kyudo, but I'll just talk about the those that have affected me the most. My experiences while attending iCLA really helped me mature and grow as a person. I learned from classmates, professors, and friends about the world's cultures, the problems they faced, and their perspectives on the world. They all helped me broaden my views and become a better person. Academically, I grew most as a writer, an economist, and a philosopher. I learned how to bring multiple subjects together to find a cohesive solution to political, economic, and social problems. Without the support of everyone at iCLA, from students, professors, and administration, I couldn't have grown so much, accomplished such things.

Q: What did you enjoy most as an iCLA student?

The community. 100%. Unlike any other place I know, students at iCLA essentially live in the same building as the classes and the professor's offices. This creates a very close, unique community which makes it easy to make new friends and become familiar with cultures other than your own. Sometimes it can amplify challenging social situations, but I think the good far outweighs the bad. It's so easy to get a study group together, engage in conversation with international students and professors, organize events like the art show and talent shows, or gather some friends to go out to town.

Q: What is your advice for current iCLA students?

Take advantage of the unique community you've become a part of. Make friends and develop connections with as many of yourselves as you can, because they could become some of the best friends you'll ever have. Learn from each other and lean on each other, because that's how you'll get stronger. You never know who'll be the one to give you the inspiration at a key moment in your life, but you're bound to find someone like that at iCLA. Lastly, don't be afraid to ask your professors for advice and help preparing for what you want to do after iCLA. They're there to help you succeed; all you need to do is ask and show them what you care about.



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

HANNAH CUNNINGHAM,
WINNER OF iCLA
MEMORABILIA CONTEST 2023

The iCLA Memorabilia Contest was held from September 14th to October 13th to encourage students to contribute to the iCLA community spirit in a creative way. The contest enticed creative minds with the opportunity for the winner of the contest to see their own work made into iCLA merchandise sold in the semesterly sale.



Hannah, an exchange student from The American University of Rome currently studying abroad at iCLA, won with her imaginative depiction of the iCLA logo with the iconic Mount Fuji. Hannah's design was chosen out of multiple impressive submissions as the winning design based on criteria such as feasibility, quality, and pertinence with iCLA. It was then decided that her logo design would be printed on t-shirts. Her signature was also added to the t-shirt to recognize her artistic work and contribution to the community.

Q: What is your inspiration for creating the design?

I see Mount Fuji from school every day, so I feel like I had to include that, and the cherry blossoms were to add pizzazz. I wanted to do something simple, and I wanted to make the iCLA logo big because I didn't want to take away from it - I just thought I'd add to it in a fun way. I wanted to capture the beauty of Yamanashi.

Q: People in the iCLA community will purchase and wear your design. How did that factor into what you decided to incorporate into your design?

I did want to do something that would be for boys and girls, something neutral and everybody would wear. I wanted to make it simple so more people could enjoy it and it wasn't too in-your-face.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

HANNAH CUNNINGHAM,
WINNER OF iCLA MEMORABILIA
CONTEST 2023



Q: Can you tell me about your artistic background?

I'm a fine arts major. I go to school in Rome and I'm in my 3rd year now. I started taking classes in art in high school and then I just kept doing it. I really like to draw and enjoy doing contests like this - I did one back in my previous school for a greeting card. I think it's fun. I don't usually do digital art, but it's nice to try once in a while.

Q: Are you thinking of going into art for your career?

Yeah, I'd love to. The dream would be to become a freelance artist and sell my own things. I would love to have a pottery wheel and a kiln, and have my own art studio.

Q: What is your message for those who see your design?

I want people to be reminded of their time here whether they're studying abroad or degree-seeking. It's just so beautiful and this is what I see every day, and so I feel like it's a reminder of time in Japan. I really like it here, and the culture and everything has been interesting and fun.



Q: Are you enjoying your time at iCLA?

Yes of course. I've always wanted to come to Japan. I came for a week before but it wasn't enough. I wanted to really experience it for a few months. I've gotten to travel a lot and it's been really nice. I've definitely been living the study abroad life, you know, trying to try everything within a few months. It's been a great experience and I love being immersed in the culture and Japan is beautiful. It's been very nice.



Alliance of Asian Liberal Arts Universities (AALAU) 6th Annual Presidents' Forum Hosted by iCLA

AALAU Member Institution Representatives gather to discuss liberal arts in forum held on November 24th

The Alliance of Asian Liberal Arts Universities (AALAU) 6th Presidents' Forum was hosted by iCLA on November 24th, 2023. A growing network of 29 liberal arts universities across 7 countries and regions in Asia, AALAU and its corresponding annual Presidents' Forum brings together representatives from member institutions to discuss crucial topics concerning the challenges of liberal arts education and the development of liberal arts in the higher education landscape.

The three main themes of this year's Presidents' Forum were:

- “Liberal Arts in a Fragile World;”
- “Liberal Arts in an Age of AI;” and
- “Towards an Employable Liberal Arts.”

iCLA was honored to have distinguished academics and administrators from liberal arts universities across Asia join the event in-person and online.

The event was kicked off with opening remarks by iCLA Dean Sanjay Jhingan, YGU Vice President Professor Yoshiki Takeda, and Professor S. Joe Qin, President and Wai Kee Kau Chair Professor of Data Science at Lingnan University. Keynote speakers included Professor Taisaku Ikeshima (Former Dean, School of International Liberal Studies, Waseda University), Professor Mark Williams (Vice President, International Exchange, International Christian University), and Professor Angela Yiu (Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Sophia University).

Professor Ikeshima's keynote speech, “Challenges and opportunities in a post COVID-19 era: From my experiences and perspectives at Waseda SILS,” detailed the challenges faced by SILS in face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessity for students to nurture what he calls “negative capability” in order to become more resilient and flexible in a society filled with volatility and uncertainty. Professor William's keynote speech, “Reconciling all Things: Towards a Peace-building Agenda in the Liberal Arts,” explored the role of universities and liberal arts in making a difference in a fragile world. By sharing the transnational initiatives in ICU, he emphasized the importance of reconciliation in an increasingly polarized world. Finally, Professor Angela Yiu in her keynote speech “Understanding the World in the Language of Liberal Arts” urged the participants to consider how the language of liberal arts can serve as a toolbox for students to be facilitators of communication and conversation across the often discrete fields of specialized knowledge in our world.

In the second half of the forum, panel discussions centered on each of the three themes brought about productive discussions on bettering liberal arts education in the rapidly changing world.

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SOCIAL MEDIA FEATURES



iCLA students participated and achieved top places in the Yamanashi International Student Speech Contest!



Another successful Winter Gala was held thanks to the efforts of students, faculty, and staff.



Students visited Lumiere Winery in Fuefuki City to learn about the wine industry in Yamanashi.



Diversity Day was held at iCLA with many booths organized by students showcasing their home country and culture.

