

Brian J. Kiracofe '81 outside Tokyo Station



I am a scrimshaw artist and one of my customers is from Japan. She invited me to demonstrate the art at an exposition she was holding in Kyoto. I was in Japan with my son for two weeks where we traveled to several cities just sightseeing before making our way to Kyoto for the show.

Tokyo station is the main rail station in Tokyo, much like Grand Central Station in NY, only much bigger. They have the Shinkansen (the bullet train) which reaches

speeds over 250 mph, twice the speed of our fastest train, it is incredible.

We went to Seki city for a few days, this is the knife making capital where the finest samurai sword and knife makers work. We spent some time in Osaka just eating and exploring, a very hip city then several days in Kyoto going to museums and temples in and around my scrimshaw demonstrations. Check out my website <https://scrimshanders.com/> for more information on scrimshaw - not many people know the art and its history.

My next overseas trip is to Bali in March so I'll be sure to bring my flag.

In response to a question from Alumni Director Susan Fitzpatrick about whether he had his life plan of pursuing scrimshaw in mind when he arrived at LSSU, Brian replied:

I started school taking accounting but soon switched to marketing my freshman year. Both of my brothers are scrimshaw artists, one in Boston and the other on Mackinac Island. My first summer I managed my brother's store on Mackinac and started learning scrimshaw from him. I continued making pieces all through school and still managed the Mackinac store in the summers. When I graduated and after spending the last summer on Mackinac I moved to Boston to work in my other brother's store. In January of 1982 we were approached by the owners of Harbor Place in Baltimore to see if we wanted to expand to their new inner harbor marketplace; they were the same landlord as my brother's store in Boston. So I jumped on that and opened my own store there in the spring of 1982. I relocated my store to Newport in 1986 and have been in the same location since.

I had a great experience at LSSC as it was when I was there and I still remember most of my business profs; as a matter of fact I read that Dr. Saluja received some award, I barely passed his class.