

Reflections on the September Board and Annual Meetings
by Sue Doffing, President of the Board

It is already one month since we held our Board meeting and the 89th Annual meeting of KCC-JEE. At this time I would like to share some thoughts of the September 12th events with you and add some additional insights that preceded and followed that day.

We were most fortunate to have **Dr. Robert Head**, President of Rockford College, and **Dr. Robin Percival**, Principal of Henry Sibley High School, join our Board meeting as their orientation. Rockford College, “The Jane Adams” college, has had a relationship with both Kobe College and Kobe College Corporation for many decades. Henry Sibley High School has long been a “sister school” to KCHS, participating in three of our programs. Dr. Head and Dr. Percival were unanimously supported and approved to become Board members. Dr. Head’s insight into the governance and operation of a small liberal arts college in the 21st century and his background in financial matters will be a tremendous asset to KCC-JEE’s future. Dr. Percival’s energy, talents and insight into the younger generation of students in US schools are most valuable to us, especially with any programs aimed at the high school students.

Dr. Matsuzawa, Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Kobe Jogakuin and **Dr. Ken Ii, President of the College Division of Kobe Jogakuin** joined us for both the Board and the Annual Meeting. Dr. Matsuzawa has come to our annual meeting in every single year of her chancellorship of eight years. She has participated in our discussions, gotten to know our Board members and renewed our ties of friendship. She inspires us all. This year, as in previous years, Dr. Matsuzawa’s schedule was extremely demanding. In the ten days prior to her departure for Chicago, she not only ran the entirety of Kobe College but also participated in and/or chaired various committees of Japanese universities/colleges and the Ministry of Education. She had meetings in Tokyo taking her back-and-forth three times during that time. Yet, she never lost her smile and she never boasted about her enormous responsibilities to KC and to the education in general. Dr. Matsuzawa’s humble and beautiful personality and her positive attitude impresses and inspires me. She has announced that she will be retiring from the KC Chancellor position and the Chair of the Board of Trustees as of March 31, 2010. Dr. Matsuzawa is making the transition to Dr. Mori, her successor, as smooth and beneficial to him as possible.



Dr. Kazuko Matsuzawa



Dr. Ken Ii

In my mind, there were two highlights of the Annual Meeting – *KC Girl* the story of Dr. Matsuzawa, created by Marnie Jorenby; and the Program “Higher education in digital age” moderated by Marjorie Kinsey.

Prior to the annual meeting when Dr. Matsuzawa’s retirement from KC became clear, I began seriously thinking of an appropriate gift to express KCC-JEE’s deep appreciation. It was Marnie Jorenby who took the idea and developed it into a wonderful gift to Dr. Matsuzawa, which was presented to her at the Annual Meeting. Marnie remembers hearing Dr. Matsuzawa tell a story about a “blue eyed doll” she owned as a child. KCC-JEE purchased an “**American Girl Doll**” named Ivy with long black hair, dressed as a typical American young women with mini skirt, etc. She then transformed the “American doll” into a “Kazuko doll” with short dark brown hair, glasses, and a woman’s suit. In addition to creating this doll, Marnie wrote a “fictional biography celebrating the life of Dr. Kazuko Matsuzawa.” For weeks, Marnie researched and collected anecdotes about Dr. Matsuzawa, gathering them together in a wonderful and humorous storybook. Dr. Matsuzawa was very much touched by the efforts put forth by Marnie and others to create this wonderful gift at her retirement. “No amount of money could buy this joy,” she said.



Another highlight of this year’s Annual Meeting was the Program “**Higher Education in a Digital Age**” moderated by Marjorie Kinsey. As KCC-JEE’s activities are closely connected in education in the US and in Japan, the Annual Meeting Committee last year decided that the theme of this year’s program would be college and university education. The panel consisted of **Dr. Matsuzawa and Dr. Ii** representing the Japanese perspective, Dr. Chan, who has taught in both cultures, and **Dr. Head, Dr. Mason, Dr. Wollon and Dr. Jorenby** of our Board representing the United States perspective. I was most pleased that Dr. Chan, the most recent Bryant Drake Guest Professor who just returned from Kobe College, came to join our Annual Meeting at his own expense.

Go and Kay Sugiura generously and graciously hosted all of us for dinner after the Annual Meeting. Not only were the food and wine excellent, the event created an opportunity for all of us to talk and get to know each other in the beautiful and relaxing setting of their home. The value of such an occasion is immeasurable, and I thank them sincerely.

Sue Doffing