

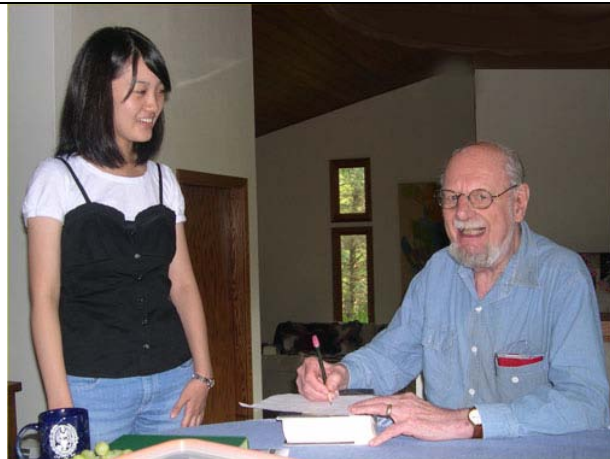
Mariko Tani recently completed a one month internship at the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM). At JASM, Mariko’s duties were to translate English documents into Japanese and assist with the editing of the monthly JASM web newspaper *Tsushin*. Mariko found the work enjoyable and challenging. She particularly enjoyed translating for an audience with a mixed level of Japanese abilities. “I had to keep it simple,” she said, “but I wanted members (of JASM) to know the correct Japanese. I was nervous at first, but I enjoyed it very much. I wanted (JASM) members to look forward to reading our magazine.”

Ms. Tani’s stay in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area was divided between two host families: the LeGeros family and the Sommers family. The LeGeros family “loved Japanese food and had Japanese seasonings (to work with),” so Mariko was able to share some of her favorite Japanese dishes with them, including *nikujaga* (meat and potato stew) and *okonomiyaki* (vegetable and seafood pancakes or “Japanese Pizza”). “It was my first time cooking for someone other than my family,” she said. “Since I was cooking for Americans, I got to learn some American cooking terms.”

Living in the Twin Cities for a month gave Mariko the opportunity to build on her already fluent English. “I learned how to send a polite business e-mail, which was very useful,” she said. Meanwhile, at the Sommers’ house she learned that speaking English to small children can be challenging. However, she says, “listening to children’s language is the best way to learn English!”



Mariko took a side trip to Carleton College. She is pictured standing with Larry Gould’s penguin at the Carleton College Library



In addition to her internship at JASM, Mariko also did cross-cultural research on the use of onomatopoeia in children’s literature in America and Japan. Here, she is shown conducting a survey. In the photo Russ Langworthy, a professor emeritus of Carleton College, answers her survey questions.