

Kobe College Corporation Japan Education Exchange

Newsletter



From the KCC-JEE Member



Cherry Blossoms in Washington D.C.
Photo by Mano Harada,
Granddaughter of Ms. Keiko
Harada, former KCHS Principal

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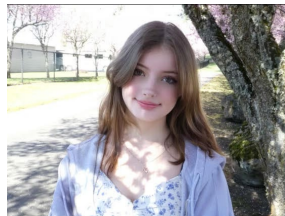
Northbrook, IL 60062

TEL (847) 386-7661

WEB www.kccjee.org

Email office@kccjee.org

Congratulations! Sedona Rain Smith 2024 High School Essay Contest Winner

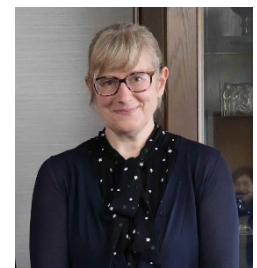


The 2024 High School Essay Contest received more submissions than in recent years with entries from 17 states, which shows the growing trend of interest in Japanese language and culture among young people.

The committee is proud to announce our new winner, Sedona Rain Smith from Vancouver, Washington. Due to lack of staffing at the Kyoto Japanese Language School, we had to locate a new school for our winner. She will be attending the Kyoto Institute of Culture and Language and staying with a homestay family this summer. Sedona's interests include languages and music. She hopes to study linguistics and continue to study Japanese in college. We wish her a wonderful experience in Japan this summer. Please see our website in September for her reflection.

Welcome to KCC-JEE Honorary Board Member!

Marnie Jorenby was born in Cannon Falls, Minnesota in 1968. She received a Ph.D. in Japanese literature in 2003 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since then, she has taught Japanese language at several institutions, including Grinnell College and St. Olaf College. She is currently a senior lecturer at the University



of Minnesota, where she has taught for seven years. Marnie was a KCC Graduate Fellow (2000-2001), joined the KCC Board in 2006, and was a Gottschalk Teacher from 2012 to 2014. She enjoys Japanese calligraphy, sketching, playing piano, reading, and writing novels in Japanese. Marnie Jorenby has recently published two novels in Japan.

Her interview is on the next page!

Publishing in Japan: An Interview with Marnie Jorenby on Her New Novel

How did you come to publish a book in Japan?

About five years ago, on a whim I sent a manuscript to a literary agent in Tokyo, Mr. Murakami Tatsuro of Boiled Eggs, Ltd. I expected no response, but Mr. Murakami wrote back, "Sounds interesting. Drop it in a text file and I'll take a look at it." After some major rewrites, *Bye-Bye, Bag Lady* was published by Hayakawa Shobō in the summer of 2021. It is a novel about a homeless woman who wears a mysterious stole with magical properties. *Bye-Bye, Bag Lady* was my first published novel in any language and was the culmination of several decades of consistent work. I currently have over seven unpublished manuscripts in Japanese!



What is your second book about?

It's called 「こんばんは、太陽の塔」 *Good Evening, Sun Tower* (Bungei-shunjū, 2023).

It's the story of Katia, a young American woman who flees to Japan to escape her past and pick up the pieces of her prematurely ended career as a potter. She gets a job teaching English at a fictional girls' school, Lily of the Valley Girls' High School. Yes, Kobe College High School was my inspiration, but the events and characters are completely fictional.

I heard you've also written a third book . . .

Mr. Murakami has sent my third novel, 「物理学者の心」 (*The Physicist's Heart*), to Shōdensha, where it is being considered for publication. Of the three it's my favorite. I have a crush on the protagonist (even though I made him up), so I really hope it is accepted.

What made you want to write books in Japanese?

One day I was working in a computer lab and didn't want anyone to see what I was writing, so I switched to Japanese. It felt secretive and fun. I have always loved Japanese characters and expressions, and enjoyed the many things you can do with Japanese that you can't do with English. To give just a little example, in Japanese you can write a word both in kanji AND in a katakana loan word or English at the same time. It's like a word-sandwich! In *The Physicist's Heart*, an Italian physicist makes fun of my hero by using unusual English words that he doesn't understand:

密会 – Assination

中断 - hiatus

If I had bilingual readers like many of the people at KC and KCC, I would play with this technique a lot more!

What type of audience is this book for (genre/age)?

It is for women in their 20s and 30s, I'm told. I hope to reach a wider audience, though, including young people.

What surprised you the most when writing your books?

It was that I could have two books published by major publishing companies and still not make any money!

By Sarah Vrtiska, Interviewer

Gottschalk Teacher Welcome and Update

By Elizabeth Hartung-Cole



Welcome to a new school year at KCHS and a new Gottschalk Teacher, Mr. Paul Ross Rodriguez! He graduated from the Elon University with a B.A. in history, has a Massachusetts Secondary Teaching Credential,

and has been teaching in Takamatsu since 2015. Mr. Rodriguez, who stated that “the campus is absolutely gorgeous,” is very enthusiastic about beginning his position at KCHS and has received generous support from the other Gottschalk Teachers and KCHS English Department.

Both Ms. Givens and Ms. Hoelker, who are now beginning their second year of KCHS classroom teaching, have commented about their “privilege of coaching girls for their speech and debate contests.” They both admire the students’ dedication to performing award-winning work and value being able to learn about the girls’ interests and to meet their parents through the process.

Ms. Newman, now beginning her third year as a classroom teacher, also contributed heavily to the High School English Department’s efforts to prepare two S1 (10th grade) students for interviews for UWC (United World College), a non-profit educational organization established for the purpose of cross-cultural understanding. Both students were able to pass, which is rare since it is quite difficult to be accepted to UWC.

The Gottschalk Teacher Committee is very gratified to have played a part in making this career opportunity possible for these teachers and for the support of the KCHS English Department. We are currently preparing for the next recruitment season.

Graduate Fellowship Program

By Liv Coleman

Our graduate fellowship application for the 2024-2025 cycle has been completed. We had many qualified applicants, so we are certain we will find a great candidate for the next school year.

Our current KCC-JEE Graduate Fellow is John Ostermiller, a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at the University of Nevada-



Reno. His dissertation investigates how a diverse community of Muslim migrant communities in Shizuoka, Japan work, worship, and thrive in Japanese society. He is affiliated with the University of Shizuoka during his stay in Japan.

Give your gift today!

Imagine students, researchers and educators in the US and Japan building lifelong connections and understanding each other's cultures!

Your donation makes our cultural and educational exchange programs possible.

<https://www.kccjee.org/support>

Congratulations! 2023- 2024 Hannah Gulick Suehiro Scholarship

It is with great pleasure that we announce this year's winner of the Hannah Gulick Suehiro Undergraduate/Graduate School scholarship, which is awarded each year to a talented Kobe College music student. Ms. Shiori Yamada, piano major, and Ms. Aguri Fukutome, piano major, are the winners for the undergraduate scholarship. Ms. Mizuho Hatano, a contrabass major in the Graduate School of Music, is the graduate winner. We are so proud of their accomplishments and wish them a very successful career in music. Congratulations to all!

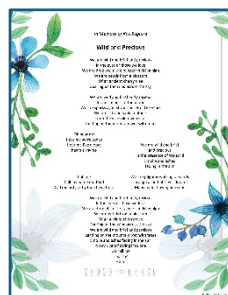


Ms. Shiori Yamada(C)
Ms. Aguri Fukutome (R)
With Tami Mizuno,
KCC-JEE Board Member



Ms. Mizuho Hatano

Honoring Kaoru (Kay) Sugiura with Music By Pat Gottschalk



'Wild and Precious' by Charles Betz, was commissioned to honor Kaoru (Kay) Sugiura, a lifelong Japanese-American singer and friend, who died suddenly on January 1, 2023. Six Minnesotans served with Kay on the Kobe College

Corporation Board of Trustees in Chicago for multiple years. We felt Kay's death so keenly that we honored our wise, generous and creative friend with this composition. We are grateful to Charlie for his compassionate guidance and fine composition. It was completed and presented privately by Zoom to Kay's family in August 2023.

<https://rb.gv/ube42s>

"Wild and Precious"
part is from 39:18 to
47:12



Kay & Go Sugiura

Congratulations, Misa Sugiura, on your new book! By Yuki Ohigashi

Misa Sugiura, a former missionary teacher at KCHS and a daughter of Go and Kay Sugiura, has released another book. It is the second book of a series called *Momo Arashima*. At the book launching event at a local bookstore in the Bay Area, she shared her thoughts on the story with many fans of her books.

You can read more about her new book at:
<https://misasugiura.com/book/momo-arashima-steals-the-sword-of-the-wind/>



Yuki Ohigashi
Misa Sugiura
Go Sugiura



Alumni Spotlight: Aika Tsuda

graduated from KCHS in 2018, and graduated from KC in 2022

Ten years of study at Kobe College taught me so many things and made me who I am today. I am a second-year MA Theatre Arts student at San Diego State University, a translator, an interpreter, and a dramaturg (a theatrical collaborator who helps deliver the message of the play to the audience). I have interests in theater and translation, and I am seeking to work as a translator in the theater field in the future.



I found my passion for both theater and translation at Kobe College. At KCHS, I was a member of the ESS club and performed musicals in English. While I performed on stage, I also worked on editing the script and directing the play, and gradually fell in love with theater. At KC, I majored in English with a focus on translation studies. Translation requires us to consider the cultural background of the reader, and I was captivated by that profoundness of translation.



Aika with
Professor Susan
Jones at her KC
graduation

Kobe College is a special place for me where I can feel safe and comfortable as a home away from home. All the teachers, professors, and staff members are so kind and supportive that students can have a close and amazing relationship with them. I have learned so many things not only in class but also from conversations outside of class. I learned not only English skills but also the cultures of English-speaking countries by talking with teachers and professors from different backgrounds. In addition, the three-week summer camp in Minnesota that I attended while at KCHS was my first visit to the U.S., which helped me understand and become interested in the cultural differences between the U.S. and Japan. All of these experiences at KC have led me to where I am today.

I truly appreciate KCC-JEE's support for providing these amazing opportunities and supporting our studies at KC. After graduating in May 2024, I hope to utilize these experiences to become a great artist/translator who can build a bridge between Japan and the U.S. through theater.



From Archive: Chapel Gathering

My History with KCC-JEE: An Interview with Pat Gottschalk

Most people know who you are and your incredible service to both KC and KCC-JEE, but for those new to the organization, could you explain how you first got involved?

Back in US and at the University of Chicago for graduate school, Margaret Nethercut, who ran the KCC office and lived in Hyde Park, found me and invited me to dinner and to KCC events. Dave Larson, who became president of the KCC board after Bryant Drake, realized I was a resource from KCHS, so he invited me to be on the board specifically to lead the Homestay Exchange Program. In the meantime, I had moved to Minneapolis with my husband and two young sons. The Homestay Program thrived because I chose host families with young children like ours. Sue Doffing and her family, who became very active in KCC and followed me as KCC Board President, was one of my first recruits. Our sons learned to host Japanese guests as more than 25 students and KCHS teachers stayed in our home. We are still in touch with 2 of those homestay students.

How long were you on the KCC-JEE board?

28 years. I resigned in 2005 because of family illness.

You served as a KC High School English teacher from 1959 to 1962. Can you talk about that experience?

I graduated from college looking for adventure – out in the world. I was lucky to connect with the KCC's urgent need for a replacement English teacher at KCHS. I applied in the summer and was on an American President Line ship out of San Francisco in October. (During a typhoon in the western Pacific.)



Things were confident and calm during those days at KCHS, not long after the end of the Occupation. The students were very serious because their families had just come through the ordeal of WW2. Kay Sugiura was a high school senior in my very first class. Her parents were forward looking and supported her going to Tokyo for music college. Even more unusual was that Kay went to Germany for a year to study voice. That was part of what made Kay so special.

I was considered a missionary. I was expected to teach an English Bible class in a local church. We were also expected to lead the morning chapel at KCHS twice each semester. These were definitely duties, but it was fun.

We lived in the Kenwood House. There were seven of us, with Angie Crew and others, who ate meals and taught together. We were a close community. As chair of the high school English Department, Angie was good natured and forward looking. She created the Oral English curriculum for the high school, but she also had a funny bone. The students LOVED her. She was a wonderful person and very engaged. (When I got bronchial pneumonia - part of my culture shock adjustment – Angie took a strong stand for me.)

The American Women's Mission Board (a subsidiary of the larger Congregational Board of World Missions) was revolutionary. They really championed single women such as Talcott and Dudley, founders of Kobe College, who sailed to Kobe right after Japan was opened to the west. When Dr. DeForest arrived as KC President, she wasn't just planning to educate women, she was also modeling a different lifestyle for Japanese women. She was committed to making that possible through education. Many women both married and single worked at Kobe College.

By Angie Gaspar, Interviewer

... to be continued to next issue

KCC-JEE Internship Reunion

Ken Tornheim, KCC-JEE Board Member



Ken & Naoko Tornheim
Tsubasa Eshima
Yuki Ota (L to R)

My wife Naoko and I experienced a joyful reunion during the last week of February. The reunion involved Yuki Ota, our former KC homestay student, and her college friend Tsubasa Eshima. Both Yuki and Tsubasa participated in the KCC-JEE Internship program while they were studying at Kobe College which brought them to Chicago and Minneapolis, respectively, in August 2018. This was the first time Naoko and I had volunteered to host KC students participating in the Internship program, and it was a wonderful experience for us. We got to know Yuki well during her homestay doing a lot of fun things. We only briefly met Tsubasa when she visited Chicago to attend the KCC-JEE annual meeting. Since their internship experience in 2018, Naoko and I have had the chance to visit both Yuki and Tsubasa in Tokyo, having visited in late December 2018 and again in late December 2022. Naoko had the coincidental opportunity to see Yuki in early 2020 when both of them were touring Italy at the same time.

On their recent visit to Chicago, Yuki and Tsubasa spent six nights at our home. We did a lot of talking and eating. The foods we enjoyed with them included big American-style pancakes, Chinese Dim Sum, Greek and Mexican food, Chicago-style deep-dish pizza, and a traditional Jewish breakfast of lox, bagels, and cream cheese. Yuki and Tsubasa had the chance to visit downtown Chicago during their stay, visiting the Chicago Art Institute and Starbucks Reserve Roastery, among other places. They told us the highlight of their visit was attending a Chicago Blackhawks NHL hockey game which had been on their wish list of things to do. Their visit was so much fun and went by so fast.



Naoko and I felt so very honored that Yuki and Tsubasa wanted to come back to Chicago to visit us, but most of all, we cherish the friendship we have developed with them over the past five years. We look forward to many more visits with them in the future, be it in Japan or the U.S. To close, I would be remiss not to mention how deeply we appreciate the over 100-year-old alliance between Kobe College and KCC-JEE that gave us the opportunity to meet both Yuki and Tsubasa in 2018.

NEW!

Thank you to all who assisted in the updating process.

Logo & Website Renewal



Kobe College Corporation
Japan Education Exchange

We have updated KCC-JEE's logo and an updated website will go live in May!