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Greetings from Dr. Roberta Wollons, President of KCC-JEE



Dear Friends and Members of KCC-JEE,

We are finally enjoying longer days, and signs of spring are everywhere from the bold daffodils to the cautious crocuses bringing color back into the world. It has been another long season of the pandemic, changing how we live our daily lives. We have been in masks for a

long time, doing what we can to keep each other safe and healthy. These inconveniences seem small, though, in the face of the anguish we are witnessing in Afghanistan and Ukraine. Our hearts go out to all who have been displaced.

At KCC-JEE, even with the difficulties of travel, we've been able to keep our programs going. The Gottschalk Teachers program is doing well. Soon the Gottschalk committee will begin to prepare for next year's recruitment. This year the KC High School students have taken top honors in three local and national speech contests. Congratulations to the teachers and students who have worked so hard! We are so proud of all of them. Our Graduate Fellow, Dylan Hallingstad O'Brien, has been delayed entering Japan, but we hope he will be able to begin his research soon. Mr. O'Brien will be studying macrobiotic practitioners in the Tokyo area. The essay contest winner is high school senior, Payton Shimizu from Hawaii. She, too, postponed her trip to next summer when she will be joined by the past three contest winners who have long been delayed. The Internship program is similarly on hold until the summer of 2023 when we hope travel in both directions will be easier. This year we congratulated Ms. Aya Imoto, a second year piano major in the Graduate School of Music; as well as, Ms. Yuki Kuroda and Ms. Ami Urabe, both piano majors from the Undergraduate School of Music, as the winners of the 2021 Hannah Gulick Suehiro Scholarship.

Please see program updates and our annual report at the website (www.kccjee.org). As always, we appreciate and value your commitment to KCC-JEE and invite you to support any program of your choice.

On behalf of the hard-working volunteer Board and administrator of KCC-JEE, I wish you all good health and a safer year to come.



A Big Thank You!

Abbi Mayland, board member and former Gottschalk teacher



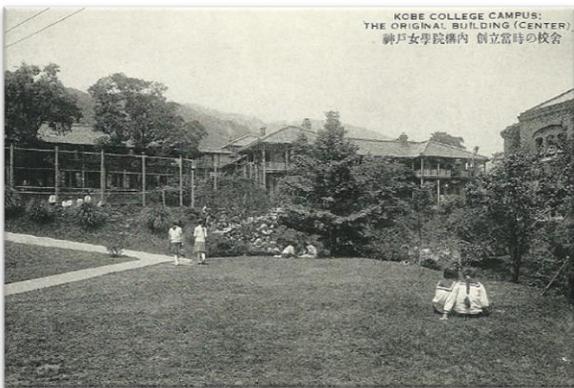
(L to R): Marnie Jorenby, Abbi Mayland, Sue Doffing, Dick Niemiec, Pat Gottschalk, Jeff Sommers, Angie Sommers, David Therkelsen

From the moment I accepted the Gottchalk Teacher position, the KCC-JEE and KC community have been welcoming and supportive. This was especially true this fall when honorary board member and friend, Dave Therkelsen, organized a welcome-to-the board party for me with everyone from the KCC-JEE community in Minnesota.

We met on a sunny day at the University Club on the University of Minnesota campus. We ate hor'dourves while enjoying the campus scenery. It was so nice to be able to converse with everyone face-to-face and to get to know each other better.

Surprisingly, there are a large number of us living here in Minnesota! This is most likely due to Kobe College and KCC-JEE's long relationship with schools and people here. KCC-JEE partnered with Henry Sibley High School in Saint Paul for many years as a teacher and student exchange program. Even now, KC senior high school students study English and learn about American culture in Saint Paul every other year.

Thank you so much to everyone for making me feel so welcome, and I hope we are able to get together again soon!



From Archive:
Kobe College Campus Original Building

Save-the-Date

We would like to invite you to the KCC-JEE
2022 Annual Meeting

*KCC-JEE
2022
Annual Meeting*

September 16th, 7:00pm CST
(September 17th, 9:00am JST)
Online through Zoom

Featuring the Graduate Fellowship Program!

More information to follow!



2022 High School Essay Contest

Congratulations to the 2022 Kobe College Corporation-Japan Education Exchange High School Essay winner, Payten Shimizu, a senior from Baldwin High School in Wailuki, Hawaii. Payten's essay outperformed sixty others from nineteen states in this year's contest about anime. The prompt was: In what way does anime reflect the culture of Japan? Why do you think anime has become so popular with American youth and what are its effects on its audience in general?



Unfortunately, due to Japan's restrictions and COVID, the Kyoto Japanese Language School will be online again this year. This means Payten will join the 2021 winner, Josephine Kwok and the 2020 winner, Jaden Martinez, next summer in Kyoto for a homestay and four weeks of language study.

Payten will attend Portland State University next school year and hopes to continue her Japanese studies and join the Japan Exchange and Teaching program after she graduates from college. We wish her the best of luck. Many thanks to the judges and Ms. Kanae Takenaka for helping with the essay contest.

To read the winning essay, please visit our website at <https://www.kccjee.org/high-school-essay-contest>

Gottschalk Teacher of English



We are pleased to welcome Jocelyn Amor N. Newman to the KCC-JEE community as a new Gottschalk Teacher! She has lived in Okayama since 2018 working for the JET Program and is, "looking forward to participating in the enriching activities at Kobe Jogakuin and helping its bright learners realize their full potential."

Also, for the first time, a former Gottschalk Teacher has now become a full-time faculty member of the KCHS!

The GT Committee is preparing for another busy summer of recruitment for April 2023. Information will be forthcoming at <https://www.kccjee.org/gottschalk-teachers>.

Please support KCC-JEE to continue with our mission and programs.

<https://kccjee.org/support>



The 70th Anniversary Concert of KC Music Alumni Association

Satomi Okumura, Chair of Club Fantasy



We held a memorial concert for the 70th anniversary of Club Fantasy, which is the alumni association of the KC Music Department. Although the concert was held during the pandemic, we were grateful to the audience for their attendance and their enthusiastic reception of the music. Many of the performers at the concert were former recipients of the Hannah Gulick Suehiro Scholarship. Please enjoy the DVD of the memorial concert as a token of our heartfelt thanks for your support for KC and its music students. *

* The KCC-JEE Office has received a DVD of their concert and we hope to have viewing opportunities in the future.

We plan to have a series of articles about former recipients of the Suehiro Scholarship in our future newsletters.

For more information about the Hannah Gulick Suehiro Scholarship, please visit:

<https://www.kccjee.org/merit-scholarship-program>

Satomi Okumura graduated from KC majoring in Music (piano). She then received a scholarship from Hyogo Prefecture to study at the Julliard School and graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma. She became a professor of Music at KC and continued to perform as well. In 2008, she received an award from Takarazuka City.

Congratulations!

2021- 2022 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. Yuki Kuroda and Ms. Ami Urabe, both piano majors, are the winners for the undergraduate scholarship. Ms. Aya Imoto, a second year piano 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!



(L to R): Yuki Kuroda, Ami Urabe, Aya Imoto



Memories of Kobe College: Atsuko Ide

It was a beautiful day! I was 12 years old and had just entered Kobe College Junior High School. I was standing in the south corridor of the auditorium, following with my eyes the shards of glittering light falling one after another from the skylight on the high ceiling. "What?" I didn't know what had really happened at that moment; however, I felt I had swallowed one of the fragments of light. Since then, I have occasionally heard His whisper, "I'm here," somewhere in my heart.



Looking back on my days at Okadayama, I realize there are so many things here that I have encountered thanks to His mischief. Each one of them seems to be unrelated and disconnected, but in fact they are all connected. I now see this is what Professor Masaie Matsumura, my former teacher, meant by the phrase, "Mutual Illumination of Arts".



For example, the reading room of the main library was usually deserted at the end of the 20th century. When I decided to include this reading room into the library guidance tour course, I was curious about the spiral staircase in the gallery. Mr. Harold Wallace Hackett *(1894-1958), then the chairman of the new Okadayama Campus Building Committee, had proposed this artistic staircase. Since then, I have come to know his various achievements.

From April 2019, I took on an unexpected role and spent these three years in the General Manager's office. That was Mr. Hackett's former office when he was the treasurer of Kobe College. The oversized wooden desk, which was designed to suit his large frame, is still in use today. When I adjusted the chair to fit the height of the desk, my heels did not reach the floor. I used an empty candy can as a footstool!

I hope to leave a record of Hackett's contribution to Kobe College and to have a chance to tell the story to you.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone at KCC-JEE.

Thank you so very much.

*Harold Wallace Hackett was a Christian layman and a businessman, who worked for 38 years as a missionary in Japan.

Atsuko Ide was General Manager at Kobe College. Prior to that, she had long overseen KCC-JEE related work as Manager of the Chancellor's Office.

She recently appeared on the radio broadcast at Sakura FM in Nishinomiya talking about Kobe College.

You can listen a recording at <https://www.nishi.or.jp/shisei/koho/sakuraFM/sanpomichi/2021shimoki.html>



KC Alumna Spotlight: Magokoro Yoshihira

(KCHS Class of 1992, KC Class of 1996)

“Love Your Neighbor”



I have been engaged in community development activities in Sanya, a poor district in Tokyo, for 20 years. In 2010, I established YUI Associates, a social enterprise to enable (former) homeless individuals to recover their dignity and live healthily in the neighborhood. Many of them have experienced being excluded from mainstream Japanese society, which is full of peer pressure and homogeneity.

I would have never achieved this life-long profession unless I had studied at Kobe College for 10 years, starting from junior high school. I met so many wonderful friends who are brilliant, diligent, and well-minded. Without the KC days, I would never have wished to study abroad and would not have thought women could accomplish anything they wished to do. Besides that, I would not have tried to explore how homeless people feel, or stood up for their rights and dignity, without the spirit of “Love your neighbor as yourself” (part of the school motto of KC).

In my senior year, I became an exchange student at a high school in Cincinnati, Ohio. I also attended the University of California at Davis for my graduate studies. These additional environments gave me the opportunity to have meaningful experiences that led to a deep understanding of culture and ethnicity.

In Sanya, we pursue advocacy planning as well as community development. We speak up for homeless people and plan for what they need. We also set up a positive physical and psychological environment so that they will be able to help themselves.

I often hear homeless people say, “I never thought there would be someone who would listen to what we have to say.” Most of them have experienced being out-of-control, losing their dignity, not being able to make their own choices, and ending up choosing homelessness to survive. Nonetheless, through developing mutual trust with our enterprise, these people are starting to regain their dignity and to begin new and better lives. We treasure these moments.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to KCC-JEE for its support for many learning opportunities at KC. KC definitely had a significant impact on my life.

<http://sanya-yui.net/urgent-support-during-the-winter-of-covid/>

She has recently been granted funding from Pfizer.

https://www.pfizer.co.jp/pfizer/company/philanthropy/2021/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3IcO4e7OgqdM72uragjWTZ6fvcq_q0OCgUtsv_tcWmWVDs-y1KbRaH-6s



Charlotte DeForest's Precious Treasure

Elizabeth (Pettus) Losa, Grandniece of Charlotte DeForest



Charlotte B. DeForest was my grandmother's sister. People loved her and gave her many treasures from Asia. After she was president of Kobe College, she had returned to help set up the Japanese school system after WWII.

While she and her sisters were aging in a community called Pilgrim Place, she began to thoughtfully disperse these treasures. One which I received was her autobiography as written for Kobe College alumnae. I recently turned to you and KCC-JEE to tell me in English what that Japanese essay said.

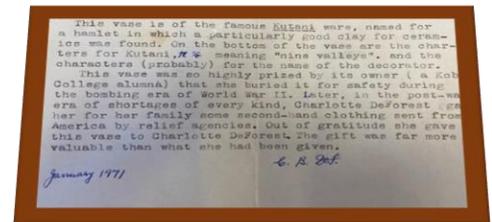
Why did I wait so long? I have been in contact with the organization for years — even before it had its present name. In fact, I had lent the biography to a Kobe alumna and she had returned with thanks and the remark that she now understood why a Christian college had had a Shinto Shrine during WWII.

Aunt Charlotte sent a number of other items like a scarf hand-painted with beautiful chrysanthemums and the souvenir fan she received while attending the Japanese surrender. For my wedding, I received a silk sheet embroidered all over with red storks. But the greatest treasure was the vase which I kept on display for over 20 years.

It came, as did all her gifts, with a written explanation of why she had treasured it:

“This vase is of the famous Kutani ware, named for a hamlet in which a particularly good clay for ceramics was found. On the bottom of the vase are the characters for Kutani 九谷 meaning ‘nine valleys’ and the characters (probably) for the name of the decorator.”

“This vase was so highly prized by its owner (a Kobe College alumna) that she buried it for safety during the bombing era of World War II. Later, in the post-war era of shortages of every kind, Charlotte DeForest gave her family some second-hand clothing sent from America by relief agencies. Out of gratitude she gave this vase to Charlotte DeForest. The gift was far more valuable than what she had been given. January 1971. C.B.DeF.”



I wanted the vase to survive in good hands and first thought to return it to the college; however, I feared to ship it so far to persons unknown. Then I realized KCC-JEE might also like it. It gave me great joy that it will again be connected with Kobe and that you would receive and share my great-aunt's gift with me.

Charlotte DeForest (1879-1973) was an American missionary, teacher, and president of Kobe College. She worked together with Japanese and Americans to raise funds for Kobe College's new home on Okadayama by founding Kobe College Corporation (KCC).

KCC – JEE

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