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Gottschalk Teacher Program Going Strong

By Yuki Ohigashi



As the new academic year approaches, the English Department of Kobe College High School (KCHS) had had to say a goodbye to two Gottschalk teachers (GTs) and are welcoming two new GTs. In March, Sassy Ma'at and Abbi Mayland finished their contracted terms, and have returned to the U.S.

Marina Powers and Crystal Tan continued to perform well in their classroom teaching. Some of other activities with which they were involved include:

- Helped with overseas college applications (application forms and essays for the students, and recommendations from teachers). A total of 4 KCHS students will be enrolling in universities overseas next fall.
- Coached English Speaking Society students for a presentation contest. As a result, students placed 2nd in the contest.
- Coached students for an essay contest, and a J3 student received the highest award at a national essay contest for junior and senior high school students. It is rare for a junior high school student to receive this award.
- Coached students for a speech contest and an S1 student advanced to the national contest by winning the Hyogo prefectural contest.
- Ran a workshop for new English teachers in Hyogo Prefecture, and received very good feedback from the Principal of Kwansei Gakuin Senior High School.
- Participated in a bible study for the parents of KCHS students, and spoke on the topic of "What I would like to teach KCHS students as a Gottschalk Teacher."

Two new GTs will be joining the English Department this year:

- **Nikki Brueggeman** is interested in global educational/cultural exchange and interested in pursuing a career in it at a government level in the future. She holds an MS in International Studies, has taught in South Korea as an Assistant Language Teacher, and was most recently working at World Affairs Council of Northern California as the Educational Program Officer.
- **Anna Engle** has recently finished her MA program in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). Her master's thesis topic was "Challenges for Japanese students studying abroad." Her interest in Japan began as she taught in Sapporo for a couple of years as a JET teacher. Since then she has taught in various settings, including in South Korea and Taiwan.



2019 KCC-JEE High School Essay/Logo Contest Winner

The 2019 Kobe College Corporation-Japan Education Exchange High School/Logo Contest winner this year is Kaila Nakamura. She is a graduating senior at Henry M. Gunn High School in Palo Alto, California. Kaila is interested in art, music, and languages.

Judges were impressed with her entry (see logo above), earning her a free trip to Japan this summer where she will study Japanese language and culture at the Kyoto Japanese Language Institute. Kaila will attend California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo in the fall where she will major in music. Congratulations, Kaila! Stay tuned for the 2020 contest that will be advertised in the fall!

About the Logo:

This logo was designed with the understanding that this organization strives to expand our knowledge of culture through cultural exchange and educational opportunities. . . I composed the two cranes facing each other to represent the harmony between our countries. The cranes' flight skyward depicts KCC-JEE's pursuit of greater heights in cultural polyphony. Lastly, the cranes carry a scholar's cap—an act which demonstrates their ability to grasp the importance of education.

I incorporated two images from nature to symbolize the organic relationship between Japan and the U.S. The cherry blossom symbolizes both the beauty and the transience of our lives in correlation to our ability to connect with each other. Associated with longevity, the ginkgo signifies the lasting nature of the relationship between countries.

The globe upon which the cranes stand provides an image of the geographical divide that our countries defy in accordance with KCC-JEE's mission—that is—KCC-JEE overcomes the boundaries that separate us through cultural exchange. In reference to the flags of each country, the 13 stripes and the star with the cherry blossom portrays the U.S., while the circle encompassing the logo characterizes Japan. Together, they embody the unity between the United States and Japan.



Reflections by Noriko Yoneji



When I came to America and was asked about Japan, I was not able to tell much. I felt ashamed and decided to study *ikebana* (flower arrangement), which led to opportunities to teach it. Although teaching floral art was enjoyable, I was not sure if it was meant for me. Then, a private Japanese school offered me a job to teach Japanese. It made me realize teaching Japanese suited me well. Through fortunate circumstances, I was offered a job to teach Japanese at Santa Clara University, where I taught for 32 years. In my 40s I went back to school to get a master's degree in Japanese Studies. Teaching and studying at the same time kept me very busy and it took four years to finish the program. I was happy to be chosen as an honor student.

Teaching Japanese to American students was a mission for me. I offered Japanese Cultural Night three times a year. One of the speakers was a great-grandchild of Commodore Perry. Through teaching Japanese, I met two Japanese instructors, who are also alumnae of Kobe College.

The campus of Santa Clara University is gorgeous with Santa Clara Mission on it. The bell tolled every day at noon and the mission had a service. I often dropped in there just to sit. The atmosphere of this school was similar to Kobe College.

When I became a student at Kobe College High School, I was so overwhelmed and felt miserable. While I was not interested in Christianity at the time, the words on the wall by the auditorium, "Love thy God and Love thy Neighbors," somehow struck me. I also found the door to Searle Chapel, the beauty of which fascinated me. It became my hiding place and, years later, I got married there.

Through the events after my husband's passing, I decided to attend a Japanese church in San Jose, where I was baptized by Rev. Yamamoto, who had visited Kobe College a few times to give a sermon. I believe that the seven years of experiences at Kobe College had prepared me for the decisions.

In my retirement, I am enjoying *haiku* poetry by joining a couple of groups, which I learned about in the Kobe College Alumnae magazine, "Megumi." Even so many years after graduation, my bonds to Kobe College continue and I am very grateful.

Suehiro Scholarship



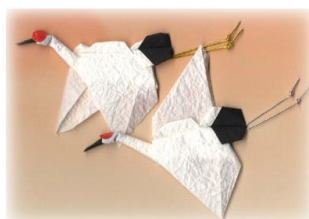
Ms. Kumiko Kashima, a second year piano major student at the Kobe College Graduate School of Music, was selected as 2018 Hannah Gulick SuehiroScholarship Graduate School recipient.



In Memorium ***Margaret Larson***



Margaret Larson passed away on March 11, 2019. She and her late husband David Larson were long-time supporters of Kobe College and KCC-JEE. In 1954, Margaret and David were sent to Kobe College by the American Board. Margaret taught in the English department for the next ten years. Upon their return to the U.S., Margaret and David became involved with KCC-JEE and stayed active for many years. Besides raising three children, Margaret was also engaged politically with her community and country, serving on her local schoolboard, being office manager for Congressman Abner Mikva, and also serving as an election judge. She loved singing and cooking and taught Thai, Vietnamese and Japanese cooking at her friend's cooking school. Margaret's long-term connection to both KC and KCC-JEE have contributed deeply to the spirit of this organization.



Takuzo Ishida



It is with great sorrow that we announce that long-time board member Takuzo Ishida passed away on April 25, 2019. He was diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma late this winter. In spring 2017, he was awarded the Spring Decorations "Grand Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" for his work in advancing Japan-America cross-cultural understanding as a board member of KCC-JEE and as the President of Japan American Society of Minnesota. In addition to his tireless work for KCC-JEE, the Japan America Society of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Japanese School, Takuzo Ishida was a distinguished chemist who held over 20 patents in the field of dry process imaging technology. His work was honored with a Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award from the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1997. He loved classical music, carpentry, bonsai, pottery, and working in his magnificent Japanese garden, which featured hand-picked pine trees from the Rocky Mountains.

Annual Meeting to Feature Former Essay Contest Winners



From the Archives:



Margaret Larson (right) pictured with Keiko Harada (left) and Chizuko Imayo (center) at the annual school bazaar.

KCC – JEE

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