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



Welcome, everyone, to the beginning of fall, bringing both bright autumn colors and sadly a new season circumscribed by the Covid19 global pandemic. One wonderful outcome of these limits, though, was our 100th Anniversary celebration which was unexpectedly joyous. As you know, we were scheduled to invite our friends and members to Chicago for an event that highlighted a

century of our programs, our program alumnae, and past members of our board and officers. When it became clear that we would have to cancel, we reinvented our anniversary as a Zoom meeting, with video presentations from across the country and Japan and from past and present members of the KCC-JEE family.

In all, 95 people joined the meeting and had the chance to see each other, some after many years. Many thanks go to the KCC-JEE board members who reached out to friends and alumnae to make videos; to those who made a photographic slide show of KC history; to our chief organizer Kanae Takenaka; and to Talia Padilla, the videographer who jumped in to create the seamless video production. Thanks to the 35 people who sent in a video expressing their experiences and commitment to the values and history of KCC-JEE and Kobe College. It was heartwarming to see the faces and hear the words of individuals whose lives have been changed through our programs of cultural and personal exchange. We are so proud to honor a hundred years of history with Kobe College.



Today, we look forward to a bright future of continuing our programs, buoyed by the support and friendship that we saw at the anniversary. Our current programs are still vibrant despite the limitations that have suspended or postponed some. Please take a moment to read our annual report on the KCC-JEE website for the details of each program, and donate to the program of your choice.

Going forward, seeing how “substitute” technologies have become a way of serving and sustaining our community, we are planning virtual presentations through the year that we hope will be of interest to members and friends.

On behalf of KCC-JEE, we wish you good health and great hope for a new century of our KCC-JEE/KC partnership.



Gottschalk Teacher of English at KC 2020



This year marked another busy year for recruitment for the Gottschalk Teacher of English position at Kobe College Junior and Senior High School. We received a total of 151 applications, and out of those applications, we had 31 competitive applicants that the committee chose to review. Although we aren't ready to share who the new teacher will be yet, we are happy to say that we think this new teacher will be a very positive addition to the KC English department.

The four current Gottschalk teachers are all staying well and working hard to teach now in-person classes and to serve as club advisors. The students had many school events cancelled this year, but they recently enjoyed a modified Cultural Festival day, which they were really happy about.

The Gottschalk Teacher program continues to be a strong KCC-JEE program, and we are so grateful for Kanae Takenaka and the recruitment committee for all of their hard work to make this program happen.

2021 High School Essay Contest coming soon!

The 2021 Kobe College Corporation-Japan Education Exchange High School Essay Contest will be accepting applications soon! Each year we send one winner to Japan to study Japanese for four weeks in the summer. Depending on COVID-19 and travel restrictions, the winner may choose to defer for a year as our 2020 winner, Jaden Martinez, opted to do.

Write an essay of 500 words or fewer in English on the following topic:

What are the inconveniences and challenges you are experiencing through today's living environment, such as online classes and limited social activities?

What are the benefits and advantages that you have found through your activities via today's advanced communication technologies, such as conferences via online, which we would not have found otherwise?

What would you expect to gain the most through traveling to Japan and by attending the language school in Kyoto?

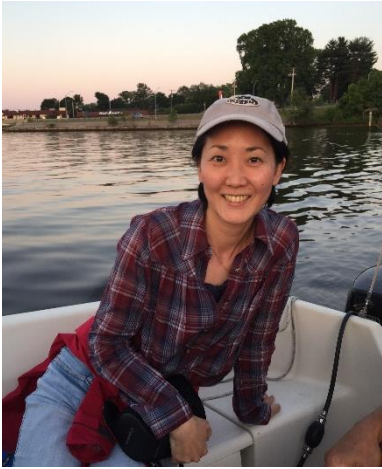
One winner will be selected to win a prize of roundtrip airfare to Japan, room and board with homestay with a Japanese family, and four weeks of Japanese language instruction at the Kyoto Japanese Language School. More information about the essay contest will be posted on the KCC-JEE website soon.

The deadline is **February 1, 2021**





KCC-JEE Welcomes New Board Member: Toyoko Kodama



Born and raised in Nishinomiya, Japan, Toyoko has lived in many places after she graduated from Kobe College. She continued her study at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and later obtained a Master's degree in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries at London School of Economics and Political Science. After coming back to Japan, she started her career at a private company. After four years, she decided to pursue her passion and work in development. She went to Vietnam and worked at the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for a year, and later came back to Tokyo to work at its headquarters for another two years. Currently, she is based in Washington D.C. and works at the World Bank. She manages infrastructure projects in the water sector, such as rural water supply and sanitation, and serves as a focal point for social inclusion and gender issues. She has worked in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Besides being a fourth-generation KC alumna, Toyoko has personal connections with KCC-JEE that go back well before she joined the Board. When she was 10 years old, she was acquainted with Mrs. Sue Doffing, who served on the KCC-JEE Board for more than 30 years, and her children, when they visited Japan. Mrs. Doffing's daughter went to Toyoko's elementary school for a week, and they attended the same classes. The experience had a lasting impression on both of them, as they could still talk about it when they saw each other after almost 10 years. This kind of cultural and educational exchange has a life-changing impact on children. She is motivated to contribute to the KCC-JEE so that more children in Japan as well as in the U.S.A. have the chance to have such experiences.

Toyoko is a person with many hobbies. She likes to jog, hike, play tennis and cook. She is an avid theatergoer and traveler. She is also a busy aunt of six nieces and a nephew, and she likes planning a big family trip with her 40+ extended family members.

From the Archives: KC Dormitory





Reflections on KCC-JEE's 100-year history: Pat Gottschalk

Singing, always singing. This is how I remember walking across the campus at KC – there was almost always singing from somewhere – the Alumni House, the HS, the Music Building, the sports field, or the auditorium.



Dr. Charlotte DeForest

What does that spirit of singing mean? I think it is the deep message of hope and opportunity for all and the affirmation of the belief in possibilities beyond our imagination. As I thought back over this spiritual message, my thoughts turned to the core of this school that nurtures hope so strongly – and I thought of Dr. Charlotte DeForest. Our pioneer leader and visionary.

In the face of animosity in the US toward Japan, Dr. DeForest moved forward with her vision of raising funds in the US to move the KC campus from Kobe to Nishinomiya. Those were not easy times; World War I was just over, the Spanish Flu epidemic had just killed 55 million people, and harsh immigration legislation against Asian immigrants in the US had just been passed.

Despite all of the barriers, Dr. DeForest was undaunted. She inspired her supporters in both Japan and the US to find property for the new campus. This inspired donors and dreamers alike to create the campus masterpiece of William Vories, stucco red-tiled Spanish mission-style buildings nestled in the contours of Okadayama.

To carry out this vision, Dr. DeForest needed creative solutions to many obstacles. When she faced the objection of Charles Hall, founder of Alcoa Aluminum Corp, of giving money directly to the Congregational Mission Board, Dr. DeForest created Kobe College Corporation in Chicago, an independent, legal entity to receive Hall's funds for the new Nishinomiya campus. But the transfer of these funds to Japan was not simple, given the anti-Asian bias in the US at that time. Without her clever establishment of KCC, the money would likely not have arrived in Kansai, and the remaining funds held in the US in KCC would not have found their use in the creative programs for educational exchange that we have today.

So now we celebrate 100 years of KCC service in spite of its initial and subsequent challenges; including World War II with its deathly cruelty between Japanese and Americans and the physical risk of the Okadayama campus during WWII bombing raids in Kansai.

That brings me to speculate about what this core attraction is that has pulsed in KCC for 100 years. Is it just the deeply positive vision of educating for international understanding? Is it the Christian generosity? Is it the open personalities of the people who have been shaped by study at KC? Is it the hospitality and deep cultural richness of Japan itself? Is it people, such as Dr. DeForest, who call us into our better selves by her unflinching example? Is it the commitment to women?



Music Building in 1933



In the high school teacher interviews, we always used to ask candidates to share with us a situation where they were without authority to make decisions and yet had the responsibility to resolve a possible conflict. Basic to a positive outcome in such a situation is a foundation of trust, of mutual commitment to a resolution, and of the belief that people genuinely want to work together.

And now, on to the next 100 years of Japan and the US, of KC and KCC-JEE working together!



***Dr. Patsy Gottschalk** started her relationship with Kobe College High School as an English teacher, and later became a longtime board member and friend of KCC-JEE. Because of her many accomplishments as the president of the board, the Gottschalk Teacher of English position was named after her. She has now been named an honorary board member.*

Shannon Welch, 2020- 2021 Graduate Fellowship



Ms. Shannon Welch is the 19th KCC-JEE Graduate Fellowship Awardee. Shannon is a doctoral candidate in Literature with a specialization in Critical Gender Studies at the University of California, San Diego. She earned her MA in Comparative Literature at Dartmouth College in 2016, and her BA in English and Spanish at Villanova University in 2013. Shannon has studied abroad on several occasions including at the University of Cadiz, Spain in 2011, Kansai Gaidai University, Japan in 2012, International Japanese Language School in Tokyo, Japan in 2015, and at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan from 2018-2019. She has advanced fluency in Japanese, Spanish, and Portuguese. She will spend her time as a KCC-JEE Graduate Fellow at Waseda University working with Dr. Atsukhiko Wada. Her dissertation project is entitled “Ambiguous Borders Between Immigration and Imperialism: Reconceptualizing Postcolonial Studies through Japanese-Brazilian Immigrant Literature.”

Ms. Welch research examines Japanese-Brazilian immigrant literature, which includes texts about both Japanese immigration to Brazil in the early twentieth century and return migration of Japanese-Brazilians to Japan since the late 1980s, within the context of postcolonial theory to consider how this unique case of circular migration can contribute to current understandings of diaspora, national identity, race, and gender. It seeks to expand these postcolonial concepts beyond their limited focus on former colonies of European nations by investigating Japanese colonization in East Asia and its relationship to immigration to the Americas.

New recruitment for the 2021-2022 Graduate Fellow will begin in December 2020.

KC Alumna Spotlight: Natsuko Furuya

From the moment I started KC Junior High School at age 12, KC became a part of my fabric. Every graduate of KC has the spirit of KC woven into her, and nobody can take it away.



*KCC-JEE Annual Meeting 2019
Natsuko Furuya (Back row, third from right)
with Dr. Ken Ii and KC alumnae*

My relationship with KCC-JEE started in the summer of 1957. I came to Rockford University to continue my studies, and very soon after I arrived at Rockford, I was introduced to KCC and its Board members. Dr. Glen and Mrs. Margaret Nethercutt hosted many KCC members and friends with warmth and love at their beautiful apartment overlooking Lake Michigan. My husband and I lived in a house owned by the Chicago Theological Seminary through arrangements made by the Nethercuts from 1961 to 1962. Through my graduate school years at the University of Chicago, I was so fortunate to have developed friendships with many KCC Board members, and I sincerely thank the Christian women missionaries who nurtured and developed Kobe College. Then, in 1997, Nancy Waichler, Nancy Rostowsky, and Pat Gottschalk invited Roberta Wollons and me to speak at the KCC annual meeting in Chicago.

Until 2010, I served on the KCC Board as well as on the KC board, first as the Counselor, and then as the "Gakuin Komon" (Advisor to Kobe Jogakuin).

It is hard to choose one memorable moment as there have been so many memorable moments in my "life with KCC". The highlights include: my conversation with Walter Mondale; music concerts by the KC Music Department; teachers and students in celebration of KC Music Department's 100th Anniversary; meetings with Carleton College President Dr. Robert Oden in celebration of a Carleton graduate Emily Brown (the third President of KC); in celebrating the completion of the Emily Brown Memorial Hall at KC; celebrations of the long friendship between the Office of the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago and KCC; tour of US liberal colleges by KC College Professors (Sonoko Harada, Kaoru Mizoguchi, Akira Ikemi, Takashi Furusho, and Ken Ii) together with a Trustee Dr. Masao Takenaka representing Chancellor Susumu Jozaki; and many more moments...

I hope we will maintain and enhance the KC/KCC-JEE relationships in the next 100 years; and always, always remember the beautiful friendship of the first 100 years. More than fifty thousand KC graduates will carry the Vision and the Spirit of "KC/KCC-JEE Together".

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Welcome! New KCC-JEE Honorary Board Members

Sue Doffing	1988-2011	Natsuko Furuya	1997-2011
Marjorie Kinsey	1987-2005, 2008-2014	Kay Sugiura	1984-2007
Dave Therkelsen	1996-2012	Nancy Waichler	1988-2007
Fumiyo Young	2005-2017		

* **KCC-JEE Honorary Board Member** - Honorary Board Members have served the Board for at least 10 years and are more than three years away from Board membership.



David Therkelsen and his family in Minneapolis became involved with KCC-JEE in 1987 when they hosted Kobe College High School students in the Homestay program; they continued to do this each cycle through 1995. Dave joined the KCC-JEE board in 1996, and over the next 16 years chaired several committees, was one of the founders of the Internship Program, and with Rob Mason, served as co-president. Now retired, Dave was an executive with American Red Cross over a 28-year career.



Marjorie Schreiber Kinsey was appointed as Bryant Drake Professor in Western Art History for 1986-87 and 1998-99. To probe the relation between modern Western Art and the art of Japan, she developed a course for KC in the now recognized field of Japonisme, a course which she has continued to teach and expand in America. She joined the board of KCC in 1987 and served in a number of capacities until 2005. She continues to contribute to committee work.



Natsuko Furuya was born and raised in Kobe, attended KCHS and KC before moving to the US. She graduated with honors from Rockford University and from The University of Chicago. Natsuko's career was spent in the field of research libraries for the digitization of bibliographic data and for sharing large databases world-wide. In 1957, Natsuko attended a KCC-JEE annual meeting for the first time. Since then, Dr. and Mrs. Nethercutt and other KCC Board members invited her to many KCC events and instilled KCC within her. Forty years afterwards, in 1997, she was invited to speak at the annual meeting, and from then on became a fully-engaged KCC board member. She represented KCC at KC Board of Councilors for 2 terms and also served as KC Gakuin-Komon.

... to be continued in the Spring 2021 Newsletter

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

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



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