



Kobe College Corporation
Japan Education Exchange

ANNUAL REPORT
2023

KCC Japan Education Exchange

Mission

To inspire positive relationships among Kobe College, Japan, and the United States by providing distinctive educational opportunities.

Vision

*Provide premier programs and services to enhance the participation of American and Japanese women and men in our global society.
Further, to continue our historical association with Kobe Jogakuin through mutual cooperation, recognizing a common interest in education and cross-cultural pursuits to empower faculty and student participation in a global society.*

Kobe College Corporation
Japan Education Exchange
Annual Report
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

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Message from the Chancellor of Kobe College
Dr. Ken Ii

For this KCC-JEE Annual Report, we would like to express our thanks for your continued support for Kobe College. We always pray for God's blessings and guidance for President Dr. Ohigashi and all the KCC-JEE members.

The disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in Japan has calmed down in recent months. I would like to give a report about our recent activity.

In March and April, we celebrated the Graduation and Entrance ceremonies for the Junior and Senior High School, College, and Graduate school with restrictions on the number of family members in attendance. Live and on-demand streaming were available for families unable to attend the ceremonies. In May, the Bazaar was held for the first time since 2019, and 5,000 participants gathered on Campus. On this occasion, we held an exhibition and a lecture on Dr. C.B. DeForest, the fifth Chancellor of KC, and learned about her thoughts, achievements, and educational philosophy of KC. This year marks the 50th anniversary of her death. We had her memorial service with thirty people, including Ms. Tami Mizuno, at her grave in Sendai on July 1st.

The reorganization of the College Departments was approved by the government in June. Our Department of Global Studies will start in April 2024. The pre-event has already started and we have received a good response. We are also proceeding with a plan to rebuild the Science Building Annex for Psychology Laboratory and to redevelop the western area of the campus, including the building. This is part of the large-scale campus redevelopment that we hope to make beneficial to our students.

Though the decline in the number of students in College may cause you worry, Kobe College is still highly rated in the university rankings in Japan. The educational journal Daigaku Tsushin (May 2023) has highly evaluated Kobe College, such as "Students make progress after enrollment" (first in women's universities and colleges in Japan) and "Focusing on global education" (fifth in the same as above). Based on the high level of confidence that both the Junior and Senior High Schools and College have placed on quality education, we intend to solidify our position toward the 150th anniversary of Kobe College's foundation. Thank you for your continued support.

Dr. Ken Ii
Chancellor & President of the Board of Trustees

Message from the President
Dr. Yuki Ohigashi

Thank you for your support for Kobe College Corporation - Japan Education Exchange (KCC-JEE), and for being a part of the KCC-JEE Community.

I hope this year's annual meeting finds all of you well as we face post-pandemic changes that seem to be happening at a fast pace.

Numerous changes also happened at KCC-JEE during the last fiscal year (April 2022 to March 2023). In June of 2022, our Board of Directors had our first in-person board meeting since March of 2020. For over two years, our board meetings were held via Zoom, and we were grateful for the technology. It was, however, rewarding to be together again after so many meetings of seeing each other only on the screen. Our programs, which involve international travel, also encountered some restrictions during the pandemic, but are currently resuming smoothly for the most part, as you can read in the program reports. Additionally, Dr. Roberta Wollons finished her term as the President of KCC-JEE in September. We are very appreciative of her many years of leadership.

We also had sad changes. We grieve with the families of the KCC-JEE Community who lost their loved ones. Some were former board members, some were family members of former board members, and some were long-time supporters of KCC-JEE. We are grateful for the various ways in which they each supported the mission of KCC-JEE. Georgine Corbitt and Kay Sugiura were our honorary board members. In March 2023, we held a memorial event in honor of Kay, who passed away suddenly in January.

This year (2023) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the passing of Dr. Charlotte DeForest, who was the fifth president of Kobe College (KC). She worked together with Japanese and Americans to raise funds for the new campus for KC by founding KCC in 1920. KC has now been on this Okadayama Campus for 90 years, sending out exemplary women to the world, and possibly to the space! (If you have not heard, a KC High School alumna was chosen to be an astronaut candidate in Japan last year.) The funds that were raised over a hundred years ago, together with generous gifts by others, have grown to what KCC-JEE now has as our endowment because of responsible management by our Board of Directors over the years. It is our hope that the vision of Dr. DeForest and the founding members of KCC will continue and expand.

I feel very blessed to be part of this rich history, and to be serving in this community. And I hope you can celebrate being part of it and will continue to support its mission. There are many ways to support KCC-JEE. Please contact our office if you would like to talk with us.

Dr. Yuki Ohigashi
President, KCC- JEE

Vice President of Finance & Treasurer
Ken Tornheim

KCC-JEE's financial position declined during fiscal year ended March 31, 2023 with a decrease in its net assets of approximately \$(573,000). As shown in the summarized financial results on page 5, the Organization had an overall investment loss for the year of approximately \$(314,000). The Organization ended the fiscal year with a net asset balance of approximately \$4.3 million. The Organization's investment portfolio suffered a significant decline in value as a result of the downturn in the stock market indexes during 2022. Since January 1, 2023, with the stock market indexes seeing a recovery of some of the losses in 2022, the Organization's investment portfolio has stabilized in value. The Organization remains reliant on strong stock market results in order to generate an increase in its net assets while maintaining its program at the current level. Although the Organization's investment portfolio is diversified to protect the overall value from significant volatility in the markets, the Finance Committee will continue to monitor the performance of the investment portfolio. The Organization remains in a healthy financial position in order to continue its program without interruption.

The Organization once again satisfied its 5% distribution rule as a private non-operating foundation whereby it must distribute 5% of the value of the net investment assets annually in the form of program and certain eligible administrative expenses.

The Organization received total contributions of approximately \$15,000 for the year. This includes approximately \$8,000 from KC graduates living in North America. We are most grateful for the generosity and support, which is essential for KCC-JEE to continue its programs and carryout its mission. Our most sincere "Thank you" to each and every supporter of the Organization.

The Organization's investment portfolio is managed by the investment management firm of William Blair. William Blair, founded in 1935 and based in Chicago, is a global investment banking and asset management firm. The Finance Committee has periodic meetings with the William Blair team as part of the ongoing monitoring of the investment portfolio.

The CPA firm of Desmond & Ahern, Ltd. was once again appointed as the accounting firm for the Organization. Desmond & Ahern performed the review of the Organization's annual financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2023 and prepared the related federal and state nonprofit organization information and tax filings.

To ensure future sustainability of the Organization, we remain committed to vigilant fiscal responsibility in both our spending on programs and administrative expenses while at the same time recognize that future investment gains are not guaranteed. We as a Board will continue to exercise prudent investment policies with the intent if possible, to produce long-term investment gains and have sufficient liquidity to appropriate funds for program and other expenses.

**KOBE COLLEGE CORPORATION-JAPAN EDUCATION EXCHANGE
SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL RESULTS**

	Years ended March 31,			
	2023	2022	2021	2020
Revenue:				
Investment income (loss)	\$ (314,104)	\$ 131,649	\$ 1,276,353	\$ (304,579)
Contributions	14,887	17,039	24,334	17,534
Total revenue	(299,217)	148,688	1,300,687	(287,045)
Expenses:				
Programs	193,040	233,897	230,990	236,135
Management & general	75,866	57,390	57,678	83,719
Private Foundation taxes (benefit)	5,079	1,571	14,122	(1,618)
Total expenses	273,985	292,858	302,790	318,236
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(573,202)	(144,170)	997,897	(605,281)
Net assets:				
Beginning of fiscal year	4,846,175	4,990,345	3,992,448	4,597,729
End of fiscal year	\$ 4,272,973	\$ 4,846,175	\$ 4,990,345	\$ 3,992,448

Vice President of Programs

Cindi SturtzSreetharan

The KCC-JEE Programs have had an excellent year fulfilling our mission to provide high quality, life-changing programs to many people. Japan re-opened its single-entry tourist visa doors to people in October 2022. KCC-JEE was delighted by this as some of our programs were either halted or slowed down given the closed borders for entering without a specific type of work or research visa.

You can read the details of each Program below, but in summary: The Bryant Drake Guest Professorship Program was excited to welcome Dr Mei-Jung Yang in April 2023 as part of the teaching faculty of dance in the Department of Music. The Essay Contest Committee awarded the prize to Eilis Frances Brannigan from Ardmore, Pennsylvania; if you scroll down, you can find the link to her winning essay. Gottschalk teacher Ms. Jocelyn Newman joined KC in April of 2022 and has completed her first year as a teacher in the KC High School. The Committee was busy this past year finding two more teachers to begin in April 2023. The Graduate Fellowship was awarded to Ms. Lillian Tsay, a doctoral candidate in History at Brown University. Her research project is titled, “The Sweetened Empire: The Making of Western-style Confectionary in Modern Japan (1868-1952).” She is affiliated with the University of Tokyo during her stay in Japan. Finally, the KCC-JEE Internship Program Committee continues to try to find a way to bring KC students to the US for internship experiences. Shifts in immigration law in the US have made it increasingly difficult to bring students into the US on a tourist visa if the experiences are described as “internship;” yet, the importance of this word to KC students cannot be understated. We are working with Rockford College among others to find a way forward

Gottschalk Teacher Program Report

Submitted by Elizabeth Hartung-Cole

The Gottschalk Teacher (GT) committee recruits, screens and recommends high-quality English-speaking teachers to become an integral part of Kobe College High School’s (KCHS) mission to provide a superlative English language education and a multicultural perspective to its junior and senior high school students. The students’ continued high in-class achievement of the English curriculum and on the TOEFL Junior exam, their enthusiastic participation in English-speaking extracurricular events (including English Clubs and local/national speech contests), and their interest in living-abroad experiences attest to the KCHS’s well-earned national reputation for excellence.

Ms. Jocelyn Newman (recruited Summer 2021 and began teaching at KCHS April 2022) has completed her first full year. She states, “with the support of my colleagues and the KC community, I have learned many things about myself and my students that have definitely contributed to making me a better teacher. I am excited to further hone my skills in the year ahead.” We invite you to see and hear her energetic contribution to the Question & Answer segment near the end of this year’s version of our Information Session by going to <https://www.kccjee.org/gottschalk-teachers-recruitment> and registering for the GOTTSCHALK TEACHER INFORMATION SESSION 2023. You will receive a password that will immediately provide access to the video.

The exceptionally dedicated volunteer members of the GT committee and the KCC-JEE office administrator worked long hours during the 2022 recruitment season to successfully fill two teacher positions. This intensive four-month procedure (June through September) involves the following major steps: refining/updating the documents (including interview questions, scoring sheets, legal guidelines); posting the position to various universities and professional educational organizations; conducting and recording an information session; screening the applications (in 2022 we received 64); selecting the semi-finalists and virtually conducting the first virtual interviews; selecting the finalists and conducting virtual recorded interviews and brief demonstration lessons; reading references and background checks; and writing/translating the committee’s candidate recommendations and sending them to Kobe College. The Kobe College Board then reviews the information and decides to whom it will offer a contract and visa.



Ebony Givens

The 2022 GT committee was pleased to learn in September that KC offered contracts (which were accepted) to both highly recommended candidates, Ebony Givens and Stephanie Hoelker, for the positions beginning in April 2023.



Stephanie Hoelker

The Gottschalk Teacher Program deeply values the on-going support we receive in several ways from former teachers, students, Rockford College, committee members, the KCC-JEE office administration, designated donations, and all others who help this cross-cultural educational endeavor. We hope to be able to fund this program for many years to come with your generous assistance.

Bryant Drake Guest Professorship Program
Submitted by Cindi SturtzSreetharan

The BDGP position for 2022-2023 was slated for the Department of Music, faculty of dance. Due to the way that courses are sequenced in this Department, the BDGP was requested to begin according to the Japanese academic calendar (beginning in April) rather than the US academic calendar (beginning in fall). An expert candidate was found in Dr Mei-Jung Yang. Dr Yang earned her MA in Fine Arts from the Taipei National University for the Arts and undertook specialized training in the Martha Graham technique/methodology from Ross Parkes, a former Associate Artistic Director of the Martha Graham Dance Company. We are excited that Dr Yang agreed to teach at KC for the academic year 2023.



Graduate Fellowship Program
Submitted by Liv Coleman

The Graduate Fellowship Program is a nationally distinctive fellowship program awarding one fellowship valued at \$30,000 per year for doctoral dissertation research in Japan. Applicants are selected through a competitive application process. Graduate Fellows may select Kobe College as a research affiliation site and several fellows have done so. All Graduate Fellows make a research presentation at Kobe College during their time in Japan. Graduate Fellows make contributions to the US-Japan relationship and intercultural understanding not only through their intellectual research contributions, but also through their career development into college and university educators about Japan, bringing their specialized knowledge of Japan to generations of students and the public audiences around their universities.

The Graduate Fellowship Program operates within the allocated budget. For transparency and efficiency purposes, the program publicizes due dates for applications, advertises the program widely, and communicates the names and project titles of fellowship winners. We also receive a mid-year report from the fellowship winner each year to hear about their research progress in Japan. We ask that Graduate Fellows who publish research based on their work funded by this fellowship include a statement mentioning our support in their publication.

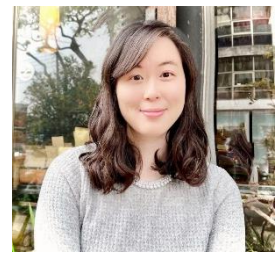
The Graduate Fellowship Program facilitates research in Japanese Studies that in many cases simply may not otherwise be possible, given the relatively small number of opportunities available for doctoral students to apply for funds supporting international travel and research abroad. This kind of financial support for doctoral research in Japan launches careers in Japanese

Studies that last lifetimes and offers funds for which there are no ready substitutes. The knowledge gained, new scholarship generated, and professional networks built are the very backbone on which US-Japan relations are built at the level of civil society. Graduate Fellows frequently report that KCC-JEE Graduate Fellowship support is career-making and life-affirming.

The Graduate Fellowship Program's fundraising is part of the overall fundraising program of the KCC-Japan Education Exchange. The program has received a modest amount of funds earmarked for this fellowship, as most Graduate Fellowship alumni who have contributed to KCC-JEE have made unrestricted donations. To ensure the sustained quality of our program and make sure it works as smoothly as possible, the program seeks feedback from Graduate Fellowship recipients through their mid-year progress reports to the organization and by open email communication with fellows throughout the year about how the travel arrangements and research experience are going. Fellows are often invited back to KCC-JEE events in Chicago later to give presentations on their research and chat about their experiences as well.

Current Graduate Fellowship Recipients

We were pleased to award the 2022-2023 Graduate Fellowship to Ms. Lillian Tsay, a doctoral candidate in History at Brown University. Her research project is titled, "The Sweetened Empire: The Making of Western-style Confectionary in Modern Japan (1868-1952)." She is affiliated with the University of Tokyo during her stay in Japan.



Internship Program

Submitted by Abigail Mayland

The internship committee has spent this past year exploring how to continue the Internship program by offering students J-1 visa sponsorship through Rockford University. We met a couple more times to identify potential internship sites in cities across the country but ultimately decided to keep the internships in Rockford.

We also talked about crafting the experience in a way that would allow the students to study English as a part of their internship program. We informed Kobe College of these ideas, and they were excited about the prospect of English classes as part of the program. Nothing definitive has been decided about the program package as of March 2023.

Essay Contest Program

Submitted by Angie Gaspar

Due to COVID 19, our essay winner decided to defer a year and will (attended) in the summer of 2023. The 2023 Annual Meeting will showcase the Essay Contest.

The 2023 Contest began in the fall with committee members, Go Suguira, Elizabeth Hartung-Cole, Verenice Alfaro Espinosa, and Angie Gaspar deciding on a prompt. Students responded in English in 500 words or fewer to the question: If you could go anywhere in Japan, where would you go and why?

We received 36 essays from 15 states and Eilis Frances Brannigan from Ardmore, Pennsylvania was the winner of this year's contest. She wrote about her love of nature and her fascination with natural places in Japan as depicted in Studio Ghibli's movies which she grew up watching. She spoke of shinrin-yoku, 'the practice of forest bathing and spending time in nature,' and discussed the health benefits and her desire to explore the Japanese countryside. You may read her essay on our website at <https://www.kccjee.org/high-school-essay-contest>. She will attend the Kyoto Japanese Language School and stay with a homestay family, along with the three previous essay winners, Payten Shimizu, Josephine Kwok, and Jaden Martinez.



Many thanks to Verenice and Elizabeth who designed the flyer for the contest and served as judges, to former essay winner, Zach Sebek, who also judged the contest, and to Kanae Takenaka for all her outstanding work organizing the logistics of the program as well as student travel to Japan.

Vice President of Administration
Tami Mizuno

1. KCC-JEE's 102nd Anniversary Celebration in 2022

We held the 102nd Annual Meeting by Zoom on September 16, 2022 with attendees from both the US and Japan. We appreciate the support of the entire KCC-JEE family and its relationship for over 100 years.

2. In Loving Memory of Kay (Kaoru) Sugiura

We held a memorial event for Kay Sugiura, a KC alumna, a former board member, and an honorary board member, after the March board meeting on March 11, 2023 at the Sheraton in Northbrook. There were nearly 70 people attending, including 36 joining via Zoom. We cannot thank her enough for her long-time dedication to KCC-JEE.



3. Office Administrator

Ms. Kanae Takenaka completed her eighth year as the KCC-JEE office administrator this past July 25, 2023. She has been coordinating the various programs, providing IT Network support, smoothly communicating between Kobe College in Japan and KCC-JEE in the US, and managing other duties with the difficult environment after the Covid-19 pandemic. KCC-JEE greatly appreciates Kanae's excellent work.

4. Office Lease End

KCC-JEE did not renew the office lease.

The lease ended June 30, 2023 and since then we have used the virtual address.

We now have a storage space near O'Hare Airport. If anyone needs to check KCC-JEE's archives, they are accessible at that location. Please contact the office for more information.

Our new mailing address is:

5 Revere Drive, Suite 200-#0024, Northbrook, IL 60062

5. Insurance Coverage/Commercial Package

KCC-JEE provided coverage for workers' compensation insurance policies in 2023.

Term: April 27, 2023 – April 27, 2024

TKM August 6, 2023

Vice President of Development Chiaki Nakajima

Thank you to all who donated during FY2023 (April 2022~March 2023)! KCC-JEE received \$14,987 in gifts during this period. Thanks to your financial support, we continued to sponsor our programs that promote educational and cross-cultural opportunities between Japan and America this past year.

Impact highlights from FY 2023:

- Gottschalk Teacher Program: Selected and sent two teachers to Kobe College High School in March.
- Bryant Drake Guest Professorship: Awarded the Professorship to Dr Mei-Jung Yang who will occupy the BDGP position as a faculty of dance in the Department of Music at Kobe College.
- Essay Contest: Hosted the 2023 Essay Contest in March and sending the winners to Japan this summer.
- KCC-JEE Graduate Fellowship: Awarded our annual Fellowship to Lillian Tsay who is affiliated with the University of Tokyo.

For more details, please see the updates from the Vice President of Programs in this report.

Gifting highlights from FY 2023:

- We ended the year at 88% of FY 2022 donation amount (\$14,987 vs \$17,040).
- In FY 2023, we have 12 first time donors (6 in FY 2022). Please welcome those new members to our community!
- 47% of the donation amount in FY 2023 was for a specific program. Gottschalk Teacher Program (\$2,918) and Bryan Drake Guest Professorship Program (\$1,904) had a high donation amount in both FY 2022 and 2023.
- Our biggest donor group is Kobe College alumni. 55% of the donation came from this group in FY 2023.

In FY 2024, we are hoping to get back the donation amount to the FY 2022 level, **\$17,000**. Please help us achieve this goal by making a gift using one of the following methods.

1. Give online – please go to <https://www.kccjee.org/support>
2. Send a check to the KCC-JEE office.

You may designate your gift to specific programs.

Please feel free to reach out to our office if you have any questions about gifting, programs or financial status. We are excited to speak with you.

Thanks again for your generosity and continuous support to KCC-JEE!

FY2023 Donor List

Diamond \$1,000 -

Ed	Grant		Ken	Tornheim	
Etsuko	Morris		Julia	Vassar	(BD)
Yasuko	Sanborn				

Gold \$500 - \$999

Fusako Joan	Aochi		Eiko	Meshii	
Lynn	Cohee		Kyoko	Morris	
Marjorie	Kinsey		N Cal Alumnae Assoc.		

Silver \$101 - \$499

Liv	Coleman	(BD)	Tami	Mizuno	(BD)
Reina	deYau		Hiroko	Nishimura	
Eric	Fulcomer		Mari	Noda	
Elizabeth	Hartung-Cole	(BD)	Yuki	Ohigashi	(BD)
Reiko	Horai		Irene	Osuga	
Yuko	Ishimori		Yoko	Sakata	
Terumi	Joki		Victor	Strandberg	
Manami	Kobayashi		Cindi	SturtzSreetharan	(BD)
Takako	Koplin		Makiko	Taya	
Abbi	Mayland	(BD)	David	Therkelsen	
Nan	McCoy		Roberta	Wollons	(BD)

Bronze - \$100

Staci	Ambrose		Mayumi	Naramura	
Cynthia	Behrens		Chiyako	Oka	
Maria	Diemer	(BD)	Michiko	Okazaki	
Sue	Doffing		Michie	Onoyama	
Carol	Edmonds		Elizabeth	Paxton	
Yumiko	Fujino		Kyoko	Sagawa	
Hiromi	Fujiwara		Midori	Sato	
Angie	Gaspar	(BD)	Makiko	Sato	
Kay	Hawbaker		Randall	Smith	
Margaret	Hsiao		Sachiko	Tanimoto	
Kyoko	Kimura		Natsuko	Tateishi	
Toyoko	Kodama	(BD)	Yasuko	Totonchi	
Sachiko	Matsumoto		Yoko	Yamatani	
Mutsumi	Moteki		Yuriko	Yanagisawa	
Chiaki	Nakajima	(BD)	Noriko	Yoneji	
Yuka	Nakata		Masako	Zapton	

(BD) KCC-JEE Board Members 2022-2023

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2022-2023

OFFICERS

Dr. Yuki Ohigashi (2013-) President
Ken Tornheim (2012-) Vice President, Finance & Treasurer
Tami Mizuno (2014-) Vice President, Administration & Secretary
Dr. Cindi SturtzSreetharan (2003-2008, 2012-) Vice President, Programs
Chiaki Nakajima (2021-) Vice President, Development

DIRECTORS

Dr. Liv Coleman (2019-)
Maria Diemer (2021-)
Angela Gaspar (2006-)
Elizabeth Hartung-Cole (2018-)
Toyoko Kodama (2019-)
Abbi Mayland (2019-)
Go Sugiura (2007-)
Dr. Roberta Wollons (1997-)

HONORARY MEMBERS

Georgene Corbitt
Sue Doffing
Masaru Funai
Natsuko Furuya
Dr. Pat Gottschalk
Dr. Marnie Jorenby
Marjorie Kinsey
Dave Therkelsen
Jeanne Sokolowski
Kay Sugiura
Fumiyo Young
Nancy Waichler

Kobe College Corporation
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