

Kobe College Corporation Japan Education Exchange

Scroll down for news of past program participants (Essay contest winner Bliss Coleman, 2008-09 DGP Ed Chan, and KC Intern Marie Tada) as well as a memorial to Tokiko Iwatani (1939), a memoir from outgoing KCHS teacher Marnie Jorenby, profiles of the incoming teachers, a message from Kurose-san on her retirement from KC, and other news of members and alumnae.

Spring 2014 Vol. 3

IMPORTANT LINKS

KCC-JEE

www.KCCJEE.org

Kobe College-College Div.

www.kobe-c.ac.jp

Kobe College-High School Div.

www.kobejogakuinh.ed.jp

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New Office Administrator

KCC-JEE bid farewell to

Barbara Pulsifer who retired

in February and welcomes

Ikuko O'Malley.

KCC-JEE

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ANNUAL MEETING: SAVE THE DATE!

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2014

Place: Union League Club (65 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60604)

Time: 1:00-5:00pm

Theme: Japanese Music: Tradition and Change.

Our program will look at how traditional Japanese music is changing to remain vibrant and relevant in contemporary times.

Musicians **Jeff Wichmann** and **Samuel Lilly** will discuss how Japanese music and instruments have inspired them and demonstrate their efforts to maintain, transform, and adapt traditional Japanese instruments, like the o-koto, to their musical visions.

Chicago native, Jeff Wichmann, has been performing contemporary and traditional music on the koto for 20+ years in local and international koto ensembles. He studied the koto under Dr. Jesse Evans at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and then attended the Sawai Koto Academy.



Samuel J. Lilly is an American composer, pianist, and instrument inventor based in Japan since 2006. Studies include a bachelor's degree from the Beklee College of Music and a master's from the University of Edinburgh.

Discounted hotel rooms are available at the Union League Club
Please contact the KCC-JEE office at kccjee@comcast.net

FROM THE KCC-JEE ARCHIVES

KCC Delegation 1997



Back Row from left:

Jerry McCoy, Dave Mrozik, Dick Waichler, Wendy Strom, Reiko Mrozik, Brad Lauman

Front Row from left:

Nan McCoy, Michelle Hobby, Kaoru Sugiura, Dr. Jozaki, Pat Gottschalk, Nancy Waichler, Angie Gaspar

Rockford Student Studies at KC by Brad Knotts



Ivy Hood is currently a sophomore at Rockford University in Rockford IL, studying Economics and

International Studies. After completing two academic semesters at Rockford University, she attended Kobe College in Spring and Fall semesters 2013.

Why did you want to study abroad?

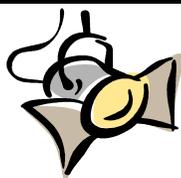
I was really encouraged by my stepfather to study abroad. He travels for various projects, and always encouraged me to take the chance to travel.

How are you different today as a result of your experience at Kobe College/Japan?

I've grown a lot as a person; I was in an environment where I could only depend on myself – and I mean that very positively because I was able to become very independent. I am much more culturally aware and my worldview has expanded beyond American centrism, and I am able to look at things more holistically.

What are your career goals after Rockford University?

I'm still a little unsure. Most importantly, I want to travel, so I want to find something that has a lot of opportunity and flexibility in that area. I'm also concerned with major problems in very poor countries where political corruption and a lack of systems to encourage economic development are perpetuating a variety of inhumane conditions. I want to use skills in the areas of international and economic development to help make the world a better place.



Spotlights on Former Program Participants

BLISS COLEMAN (High School Essay Contest)



Bliss Coleman was one of two Essay Contest winners in 2001. Read on to find out how Japanese has continued to play an important role in her life.

Q: Have you traveled back to Japan?

A: At age 29, I joined the JET Program and taught English for a year in Nagasaki prefecture.

Q: Where do you work now/what do you do? Are you using Japanese?

A: I wasn't able to improve my Japanese as I hoped while on JET, so in September of 2013, I moved to Osaka and I'm studying Japanese intensively at Kansai College of Business and Languages. I'm back in the neighborhood! And really happy to be back.

Bliss has just been accepted to Hitotsubashi University Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy (Hitotsubashi ICS). She will be starting an MBA program in International Business Strategy in September. She is pictured here last fall with her boyfriend Taka in Kyoto.

DR. EDWARD CHAN (Bryant Drake Guest Professorship)

Dr. Edward Chan, who received his PhD from the University of Rochester, was teaching at Kennesaw State University near Atlanta when he became the Bryant Drake Guest Professor in English for 2008-2009. He has been studying Japanese on his own since 2007 and has traveled back to Japan many times since he taught at KC. He has also brought American students for a 3-week study tour of Japan. In 2011, he took a job at Aichi University in Nagoya where he currently teaches English.

MARIE TADA (KC Intern)



Marie Tada worked as a KCC-JEE intern at Merryhill Elementary School in Davis, California for four weeks in 2008, assisting elementary school students in reading and math. She graduated from Kobe College in 2010 and attended Kobe University Graduate School of International Cooperative Studies where she studied international relations and transnational relations from a gender perspective. She went on to study Gender Analysis in International Development at the University of East Anglia. Ms. Tada currently works at a non-governmental agency called CODE (Citizens towards Overseas Disaster Management (<http://www.code-jp.org/>)) based in Kobe, Japan. CODE has worked on 53 disaster relief projects in the world since the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, focusing on long-term reconstruction assistance rather than emergency relief.

**"It's Not Just Dance!"
by Marnie Jorenby**



It has been about a month since my two-year contract with KCHS ended, and I want to tell you about the most important discovery I made about KCHS during my stay there, which was, by the way, fantastic, challenging and marvelous. . .But not at first.

When I first arrived at the high school, I was not prepared for the intense atmosphere. I had had a lazy dream that I could have a job in Japan and still do a lot of sight-seeing and creative work. Not so—I realized that teachers at KCHS are passionately committed to their jobs and to the students.

As for the students, their life centers around (their life almost *is*) KCHS.



I couldn't believe that the students were willing to put so much of what to me seemed like "misplaced" effort into mammoth, time-consuming events like Sports Day or Cultural Festival.

What I originally thought so frivolous are actually one of the main strengths of this school. They are almost completely organized and run by the students themselves.

It's not just a dance! Managing both events and academic schedule skills will ready them to be the best in whatever field they might choose: research, starting an NGO. . .or cheerleading.

**Memorial to Tokiko Iwatani
(March 28, 1916 - October 25, 2013)**

by Yako Sanborn

After the last KCC-JEE board meeting (March 2014), I was at the office helping Fumiyo Young and Marjorie Kinsey work on the archival project. My job that evening was to catalog Japanese books.

Most Japanese books list the publishing information on the last page. I was flipping through a book to the last page when a poem caught my eye. The book was *One Hundred Years of History of Kobe College*, and the poem, rather a lyric, was by Tokiko Iwatani.

Yoake-no uta yo (Oh, Song of a Dawn)

Watashi-no kokoro-no (Please wash away the sadness yesterday)

Kinou-no kanashimi nagashite okure (from my heart)

---the beginning of the first verse of "Yoake-no Uta."

I remembered the song from the 1960's. I was a Kobe College High School student then. In the KCC archive, there was also an article about Iwatani's lyrics and poetry, written by then KCHS teacher, Mr. Ibato. It was not a factual article, but more like a literary appreciation piece, I think.

Tokiko Iwatani was born in present-day Seoul, Korea in 1916, and moved to Nishinomiya with her family when she was 5. She graduated from Kobe College, English Literature Department, in 1939. After graduating from KC, she worked at the publishing department of the Takarazuka Revue, where she met Koshiji Fubuki (1924-1980) and became friends. (For those who may not know, the Takarazuka Revue is a Japanese all-female musical theater troupe, founded in 1913 by Ichizo Kobayashi, a politician and president of Hankyu Railways.)

Koshiji became well-known, a big star at Takarazuka, and when Koshiji moved to Tokyo, Iwatani also went as Koshiji's long time-manager. Koshiji, Fubuki was one of the most popular singers in Japan during the post-war era (1950's 60's). The Japanese lyrics of Koshiji's "Ai-no-sanka" ("Hymne a l'amour") were Iwatani's translation.

Not only Koshiji, but so many of the Japanese popular singers sang Iwatani's songs. Iwatani was a lyricist, poet, and translator. She wrote over 1300 songs, many of them well-known, about dreams and about love, performed by many popular singers of the era. She was recognized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, and Science as a Cultural Contributor, and was awarded various prizes.

She was very popular and well-known when I was a KCHS student, though I think I used to consider her "old" by then! I am happy to remember her as a KC graduate as well as for her contributions to Japanese culture.

Consulate General of Japan Award

Mieko Nasu who served as a board member at KCC-JEE was recognized by the Consulate General of Japan for her work in helping promote Japan-U.S. friendships over the years. Ms. Nasu attended graduate school at Kobe College and taught music there for 13 years. Congratulations on behalf of KCC-JEE for this most deserving honor.





Incoming Gottschalk Teachers

Dana Peinado

Dana first traveled to KCHS in 1996 as a missionary/English teacher and taught until 2000. She returned and taught from 2002 to 2004 and from 2008 to 2011. In the fall of 2011, when KCHS was caught in a bind with sudden departures of a couple of teachers, Dana returned and taught until March, 2012. She has BA degrees in English and in Radio/Television/Film, MA in Linguistics and additional graduate level work in Rhetoric and Composition.

Sarah Yokitis

Sarah has five years of English teaching experience in Japan and in Thailand, most recently at an all-girls junior-senior high school in Fukuoka. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Temple University, TESOL Certificate, and in 2011 achieved Level N3 of Japanese Language Proficiency Test. She enjoys yoga, surfing, cycling and reading, and states that volunteerism is a very important part of her life.



Program Report

The Drake Professorship

Our current Drake professor, Dr. Velma Grover, is at Kobe College, as part of the Department of Human Science, from 1 October 2013 through 30 September 2014. Velma reports that she is settled in at Kobe College and her new home. We have heard from both Velma and Dean Endo that she is off to a good start.

The Gottschalk Teachers

The Committee received word in late September that Kobe College Board of Trustees finalized the decision to hire **Dana Peinado** and **Sarah Yokitis** (see their profiles on the left column) as the 2014 – 2016 Gottschalk Teachers of English, as recommended by KCHS. Both candidates happily accepted the offer of employment and arrived at Okadayama in late March 2014 to join Alexis Franks and Jennifer Alpern to begin the 2014 school year.

The Essay Contest



This year's winner is Zachary Sebek, a sophomore at Whitney Young Magnet High School in Chicago, Illinois who wrote on Prime Minister Abe's visit to Yasukuni Shrine. His Japanese instructor at Whitney Young is Yukiko Schrock, who describes Zachary as a really motivated student who has been studying the language for one and a half years. Zach runs cross country and also plays tennis. When asked how he selected the topic, he said he spent 2-3 weeks just reading through the news from Japan about recent events and that Abe's visit to the shrine caused a lot of strong reactions, so he decided to write about that. Zachary will travel to Kyoto Japanese Language School in July. Since he is a Chicago native, we hope to have him speak at the Annual Meeting in September to tell us about his experiences in Kansai!

Reunion of Kaoru (Kay) Sugiura with 2012 and 2013 Interns



News about KC Alumnae

Midori Sato's essay titled "A Precious Life: Eulogy for the Poets of Sugamo" is the first article in the current issue (volume 35) of Impressions, the journal of Japanese Arts Society of America. [The Journal of the Japanese Art Society](http://www.jasoa.org/) Ms. Sato graduated from KCHS in 1954 (J71) and is a retired conservator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. You can watch a video of her work on "The Emperor's Carpet" at the website below.

<http://www.metmuseum.org/metmedia/video/collections/isl/conserving-the-emperors-carpet>

Dear friends at KCC-JEE

Thank you very much for always remembering Kobe College and supporting our growth.

I, Yuriko Kurose-Takenaka, am going to retire at the end of March, this year.

I have worked at Kobe College for 38 years, and I've had many occasions to work with the members of KCC.

During my time as secretary to the KC chancellor, I especially worked closely with KCC, and got to know many of you. I remember those occasions very fondly, and treasure those wonderful memories.

I never had a chance to visit Chicago, but my husband, Masao Takenaka, visited a few times. He spoke to you about C. B. De Forest (1915 KC Chancellor), and experienced KCC's hospitality firsthand. I also remember your warm congratulations when Takenaka and I married. Thank you.

I will always keep these memories and happy thoughts of KCC-JEE with me. I pray for happiness for every one of you, and long-lasting prosperity for the KCC-JEE organization, from the bottom of my heart. Thank you, always.

Yuriko Kurose-Takenaka

Farewell from Kobe College

We received a letter (see left column) back in February from Yuriko Kurose-Takenaka who started working at Kobe College in 1976.

She recalls the Hanshin Awaji Earthquake of 1/17/1995 as one of the events involving KCC during her years at the Chancellor's office.

“KCC quickly sent KC \$100,000 in February and, at the same time, started a donation and letter-writing campaign for us. The letters were written on paper with a crane illustration, and were therefore called the Crane Message. In April, we received \$30,000 from KCC, which was collected from KCC friends and KC alumnae, and a huge number of Crane Messages from all over the United States. We were so moved. We took out our (artificial) Christmas trees, hung all the messages, just like Tanabata Festival prayer papers, and put the trees up in front of the auditorium. Everyone saw them. They cheered us up and encouraged us.”

We all wish her a Happy Retirement!



Oliver Statler's Collection of Prints

Oliver Statler, a distinguished writer on Japanese art and history who spent his later years as a scholar at the East/West Center in Hawaii, was also a Board member back when we were just KCC.

When we celebrated the life and work of Oliver Statler at last September's Annual Meeting, a few members were able to go behind the scenes at the Art Institute to see selected pieces from his collection of Twentieth Century “Creative” woodblock prints. These prints were not a commercial collaboration of a designer, a cutter, and a printer under the direction of a publisher like the traditional Ukiyo-e prints.

Instead, they were very personal. One person executed the whole work. For many years there was no market for these works. It was Oliver Statler who introduced them to an international market and helped these artists achieve recognition at home and abroad in the field of fine art.

For those of you who could not share the adventure of the print cabinet at the AIC, we have links to a few works which indicate both the distinct variety of the work and, by including several blocks for the same work, the intricate layering involved in creating the surfaces and printing.

<http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/forward/emailref?path=node/24748>



We welcome your donations in support of the educational programs of KCC-JEE. Checks made out to KCC-JEE may be mailed to the office at 540 Frontage Road, Suite 3335, Northfield, Illinois 60093 or you may use PayPal from the www.KCCJEE.org website. Your gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

*Many thanks to the people who contributed to the newsletter:
Edward Chan, Bliss Coleman, Marjorie Kinsey, Brad Knotts,
Robert Mason, Yasuko Sanborn, Jeanne Sokolowski, Kay Sugiura,
Marie Tada, Roberta Wollons, and Fumiyo Young*