



Kobe College Corporation Japan Education Exchange

March 2013

2013 Vol. 1

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting: Sept. 21

IMPORTANT LINKS

KCC-JEE

www.KCCJEE.org

Kobe College-College Div.

www.kobe-c.ac.jp

Kobe College-High School Div

www.kobejogakuin-h.ed.jp

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Welcome to the new KCC-JEE electronic newsletter!

In an effort to keep members and friends of KCC-JEE informed about the educational programs we offer, we will send this newsletter several times throughout the year. Please let us know of any topics you would like to see included. Feel free to share this newsletter with friends interested in our programs. Be assured that KCC-JEE will use e-mail addresses only for newsletters and program announcements.

2012 Annual Meeting

The 92nd Kobe College Corporation annual meeting was held on Sept. 15, 2012, in Northbrook, IL. Go Sugiura was elected President for the final year of the unfinished 3-year term of Ed Grant. Newly elected Directors include Jeanne Sokolowski, Dr. Cindi Sturtz-Sreetharan, and Ken Tornheim. Reelected to 3-year terms were Angie Gaspar, Dr. Robert Head, and Dr. Roberta Wollons.

Go, head of Signa Group, Northfield, IL, is the son, grandson, and husband of Kobe College alumnae. Jeanne is Director of National and International Fellowships at the University of New Hampshire and formerly taught at Kobe College High School. Cindi, a past KCC-JEE Graduate Fellow, is an associate professor in the Anthropology Department (Asian Studies section) at California State University, Sacramento. Ken is a director with Ostrow, Reisin, Berk, Abrams CPA and audit firm in Chicago, and travels frequently to Japan.

Dr. Koichi Mori, Kobe College Chancellor, spoke of current enrollments and enrollment expectations and plans for a new program of English language studies.

Casey Farrington, the 2011 Essay Contest winner, talked about her experience learning Japanese at the Kyoto Language school. Not only did her skills improve, but she enjoyed meeting students from around the world. Currently, she is a sophomore at Indiana University where one of her majors is Japanese. She returned to Japan for further study during the summer of 2012 with a Temple University program. Casey expressed gratitude to KCC-JEE for the opportunities that have opened to her as a result of winning the contest. [Lynn Cohee, program liaison]

Dr. Cindi Sturtz-Sreetharan spoke about the Graduate Fellowship program and provided updates on the work, activities and continuing studies of past fellows.

Kay Sugiura introduced the four Kobe College students who had just completed their internships. Saori Ishizaki was at the Japan America

Society of Minnesota (site director Mr. Ben van Lierop, coordinator Tak Ishida, and the Nelson family hosted). Ayano Sakamoto was at The Sketchy Artist in Northfield, Minnesota (site director and coordinator April Ripka; host family coordinator Diana Burry was a former exchange student at KCHS, and Diana's mother and family were hosts. Honoka Maenaka was at Ten Thousand Villages in Evanston, Illinois (site director Cheryl Nester-Detweiler, coordinator Kay Sugiura, and the Mrozik family and the Bastian family hosted). Miki Takahashi was at Japan America Society of Chicago (site director Mitsukuni Baba, coordinator Kay Sugiura, and the Kath family hosted).

Programs

Drake Guest Professor

Marjorie Kinsey and Rob Mason interviewed candidates for the Drake professorship, commencing in September 2013, that will support the Graduate School of Human Sciences' "Education for Sustainable Development" Program. This program brings female leaders from East and Southeast Asian countries to Kobe College, where they take courses with Japanese students, engage in fieldwork, and complete internships. Rob and Marjorie have worked closely with committee member Natsuko Furuya and faculty from the Biosphere Sciences Department to put forward an outstanding candidate for the Drake Guest Professorship for 2013-14.

[Rob Mason, Chair]

Graduate Fellowships

The Graduate Fellowship Committee is pleased to report that the Fellowship is up and running again. This year, the Graduate Fellowship is offering travel grants in the amount of \$2,000 to up to five recipients. We are accepting applications now and should have designated recipients very soon. The criteria for the travel grants are the same as they were for the full Fellowships: graduate students must be doing dissertation research in Japan in any discipline, and the fellowship cannot be used for language instruction. These funds may be used for travel to, from and within Japan. We will report on the recipients of the travel grants upon completion of the competition.

[Roberta Wollons, Chair]

High School Essay Contest

2013 is the 19th year for the High School Essay Contest; our contest represents one of the few opportunities available for U.S. high school students to win an all-expenses paid trip to study in Japan. We were fortunate to receive funding from Omron Corporation this year, and we are grateful for their on-going support. In order to keep the contest fresh and relevant, as well as to encourage applicants to think seriously about cross-cultural communication, this year students were asked to reflect on how a recent Japanese news story might be used to open lines of communication between an exchange student and his or her host family. We received 35 entries this year, slightly down from previous years' numbers, but geographically diverse, with entrants from California, Illinois, Texas, New Jersey, Florida, Oregon, and New York. Our judges this year include former Kobe Jogakuin English teachers Erin Mickens Choi and Oleta Revzin, Board member Reiko Mrozik, and 2007 essay contest winner Jake Hawkesworth (also a distant relative of Lafcadio Hearn/Koizumi Yakumo). The judging is in progress and we hope to announce a winner in early March.

[Jeanne Sokolowski, Chair]

Gottschalk Teachers (High School Div. English Teachers)

As the end of the school year approaches at Kobe College High School,

all on campus are uplifted by the news of Emma Candon's progress as she recovers from a very serious illness. Emma, a bright, young Gottschalk teacher in her first year, has been hospitalized since September. The other Gottschalk teachers, Alexis Franks, Marnie Jorenby, and Shane Taber did an admirable job of filling in where needed until Jennifer Alpern was hired as a temporary replacement. Jennifer was recently appointed to fill the fourth Gottschalk teacher position effective April, 2013. We continue to pray for Emma's full recovery, and look forward to seeing her return to teach again at KCHS.

[Fumiyo Young, Chair]

Office Administrator

In 2012 Mika Mrozik was hired as the KCC-JEE Office Administrator. She is a former Essay Contest winner and Gottschalk teacher at Kobe College High School (2003-2006).

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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.