Community thankful for school’s presence

by JIU Times

Togane Mayor Naoharu Shiga expressed the appreciation the city of Togane has for Josai International University, the only comprehensive university in eastern Chiba Prefecture with so many different departments, culturally enriching the city.

“It’s very significant that the community has such an educational institution,” Shiga said in his office at city hall. “The university has a library and a museum that is open to everybody.

In the city of 60,000, the university has about 5,000 students, teachers and staff members. “It’s also significant to have so many young people, who contribute to the visualization of the community and the local businesses,” he said.

Shiga particularly appreciates JIU for opening the Faculty of Nursing as Chiba is the third-lowest prefecture in terms of the number of nurses per capita. In Chiba, Togane was one of the cities with fewer nurses than average, he added.

The Faculty of Nursing conferred diplomas to its first batch of students last year. Of them, 20 began work for the local community, “a remarkable feature of JIU,” said Shiga. “Such international diversity, and the city of Togane welcomes many Asians, Eastern Europeans and other people from the rest of the world,” Shiga said. “Studying international diversity is Togane’s treasure,” he said.

In an example of JIU luring international people, karate practitioners — both boys and girls — from Myanmar have visited JIU to participate in friendly tournaments between Myanmar and Japan. “It is very popular, appreciated by JIU, I hope Togane can host many more such people and hold various events,” he said.

Shiga also sent his congratulations in Princess Ayako for becoming a researcher at JIU’s Faculty of Social Work Studies. “The city of Togane is very delighted that Her Majesty Princess Ayako became a researcher at JIU’s Faculty of Social Work Studies. She also became a manager of the university’s soccer team, which makes us feel close to her, and that’s wonderful,” Shiga said.

Sagaru Toda, an assistant professor teaching media art at Josai International University, said he wants his students to have their work grab public attention.

Media art generally refers to artwork created with new media technologies, including digital art and computer graphics.

“I have been teaching media design classes for the past two years. The class is in line with the current trend as media artists, who used to be behind the scenes, are now in the spotlight. As such, I want my students’ works to get exposure in society,” Toda said at his lab at JIU in Togane, Chiba Prefecture.

“I began letting his students enter competitions about five years ago and they began winning prizes two years ago. His students won the Grand Prix Prize in the 2015 Smart Illumination Awards, the excellence prize in the 2016 Smart Illumination Awards and first prize in the 2016 International Students Creative Awards (ISCA). For ISCA, an international creative award for students, 50 domestic schools submitted 166 works, while 268 works were submitted from outside Japan. JIU students’ ‘Intentions 2,’ a 4-meter by 2-meter board with a number of feathers inserted into holes, won the first prize in a unanimous decision by the judges. The feathers moved in reaction to people approaching the board.

Some of his former students now work for famous media art companies such as Naked Inc., which gained fame for projection mapping on the JR Tokyo Station building.

“Web design, video and other creative arts are the sectors experiencing chronic shortages of human resources. Those are the areas we are targeting,” Toda said.

Looking at the works entered in the competitions, some overseas companies approached Toda for inquiries to let them borrow the technology used in his students’ works, he said. It is possible that his students may collaborate with overseas media art companies to showcase their works to a global audience.

“I want to encourage my students to put forward their best efforts every day, and take one step at a time. I want them to take advantage of every opportunity and keep challenging themselves,” he said.
Honorary doctorate for Czech prime minister

by JIU Times

Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka visited Josai University Educational Corporation’s Kioicho Campus in Tokyo’s Chiyoda Ward to receive an honorary doctorate from Josai University on June 28.

The Czech leader was in Tokyo on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Czech Republic.

In conferring the degree to Sobotka, Josai cited his “distin- guished contributions toward the promotion of international edu- cation” and his “leadership in en- hancing cooperative partnerships within and outside the European Union, bringing stability to its nation and its international rela- tions.”

Born in 1971, Sobotka has been prime minister since 2014 and was previously the deputy prime min- ister and finance minister of the Czech Republic, which joined the EU in 2004.

During his welcome address, professor Motoyuki Ono, the chancellor ad interim of Josai’s educa- tion corporation, was hope- ful that young Czech and Japanese “well someday be a bridge of good will” between the two nations. Josai University President Aki- ra Shirahata followed by saying it was a unanimous decision by the university council to propose conferring the honorary Doctor of Letters degree on the Czech prime minister.

The prime minister then gave a commemorative lecture in Czech on the “Future of Europe from the Perspective of the Czech Repub- lic.”

After the Czech Republic sepa- rated from Czechoslovakia in 1993, it had the aim of joining the EU and did so in 2004, together with the three other members of the Visegrad Group — Hungary, Po- land and Slovakia. Today, the EU is a crossroads, Sobotka said, having to deal with issues such as the global economy, the migration crisis, Brexit, terrorism and the gaps in Europe between north and south and east and west.

Strong ties with V4 universities

by JCPAS

On June 13, Josai University Edu- cational Corporation was visited by six members, including Rector Balazs Heide, from their university the Budapest Business School.

Led by Heide, Rector Emer- ita Eva Sándor-Krizt, Dean of the Faculty of International Manage- ment and Business Katinka Czech and Dean of the Faculty of Com- merce, Catering and Tourism An- drea Laszlo visited the 1st Build- ing of Josai’s Kioicho Campus in Tokyo. Hungary’s Ambassador Norbert Palanovics joined the group in meeting Josai University Educational Corporation’s Chan- cellor and international com- munities Professor Motoyuki Ono, President of Josai University Akira Shirahata and President of Josai International University Kenji Sa- ghopya.

Ono welcomed the guests saying: “The Budapest Business School is the first university in Hungary that we signed a partner- ship agreement with back in January 2007. Over the past 10 years, our partnership expanded and the relationship between our university and Hungary has become a leading one in Japan in terms of scale and content.” Heide thanked him for his warm welcome. During the visit, the two parties agreed to further deepen their collaboration regarding mutual student and faculty ex- change.

In order to educate internation- ally minded human resources, our university is strengthening its in- ternational activities and actively deepening its relations with many universities around the globe, especially institutions in central Europe. Some of the countries that our university is working with are the Czech Republic and Slovakia, otherwise known as the Visegrad Group (V4). In col- laboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the university is co-sponsoring an annual lecture series between Japan and the V4 countries.

Professor Heide said: “We will continue to develop relations around themes such as immigra- tion and security. There are cur- rently 41 students from V4 coun- tries studying either at JU or Josai. Many of our students study Hun- garian, Polish or Czech.

Objectives of this meeting were to exchange opinions on how our universities cooperate together. During the meeting, the university council to propose conferring the honorary Doctor of Letters degree on the Czech prime minister.

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Seven goals toward becoming a leading university in the world

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences

On March 22, the Department of Environmental and Social Studies organized a computer disassembly event for children at the Josai Inter- national Center for Admissions and Public Relations. This time, 10 children, 12 par- ents and 9 other adults participated.

Two adult students, one student and one graduate worked together to show the children how to take apart the computers. Everyday electronic equipment such as com- puters, cellphones, appliances, as well as cars, all contain rare metals. These machines all have mineral resources in great quantity, there- for rare are called “ore of the 21st century.”

Computers contain 20 of the 31 types of rare metals. If these com- puters go to waste, the amount of rare metals available will decrease. Rare metals cannot be mined in Ja- pan and must be imported.

This event allowed children aged from 3 to 8 years old to experience how fun it can be to take things apart. When they grow up and learn about natural resources, they will remember their experience of taking things apart.

This time, 10 children, 12 par- ents and 9 other adults participat- ed. Moving forward, the depart- ment plans on holding this event once every month or two.

Collaboration with Chiba education

by Mutsumi Nakamura

Center for Admissions and Public Relations

On May 15, Josai University Educational Corporation Chancel- lor ad interim Mototsuki Ozo, JIU President Kenji Sugihayashi and Admissions Office Director and pharmacy professor Michiyoshi Nukaga visited the Chiba Prefec- tural Government Superintendent of Education Toshiyuki Naito. After exchanging greetings, Ozo went on to explain the changes that have taken place in Josai University Educational Corporation’s Chancel- lor’s Office and the reform that is tak- ing place at JIU, saying, “The reform is advancing and strengthening our educational ability while we’re acting as an international university with a strong base in the local community. We’d like to continue contributing to the advancement of the location in Chiba Prefecture, making the most of JIU’s assets and strengths.”

In response, Naito requested JIU’s support, addressing the chal- lenge of establishing and further- ing English education in primary schools in Chiba Prefecture.

In 2011, the Ministry of Educa- tion, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology implemented the new curriculum guidelines calling for 500 hours per year of foreign language education for junior high and high school students across the country.

In 2013, the ministry announced a reform plan for English educa- tion aiming at the development of global human resources.

Chiba Prefecture cited the need for every pupil to become English primary school English educa- tion through learning activities imparted by English teachers. It also aimed at deep-
The JIU Times visited professor Masami Shimizu of the Faculty of Social and Economic Studies for an interview at her research laboratory on the Togane Campus. Professor Shi-
mizu specializes in social work studies and is currently researching the transition of elderly care facilities and the social work services for the elderly.

**Question:** Your academic research deals with the transition of social work services for the elderly and their historical status. You also wrote an academic paper titled, “The status of elderly care facilities in a transition period of social welfare programs.” Could you tell us the purpose of your research activities?

**Shimizu:** When we speak about aging care facilities, we are often referring to special facilities for el-
derly care today. But, I have been researching changes in the aging care facilities, which is a subcategory group with the long-
history among aged care facilities. After Japan entered the elderly care insurance programs, the eligibility of recipients of social welfare services attached the age 65 and over to today. Even so, there are always aged people who drop out of society, that drop out of society, or that cannot be covered by social wel-
fare programs. In order to support their lives.

**Q:** At Josai International University, the three faculties of social work studies, nursing and phar-
macological sciences are working with each other, and they are expected to develop human re-
sources that will be responsible for carrying out those services. Shimizu: Today, welfare and medical service providers are de-
manded to take broader points of view in order to understand the unique characteristics of recipients of social welfare services and the people living in society. To take such a broad perspective, it is im-
portant to take a team approach. Students studying at those three faculties could enjoy a great ad-
vantage of the research effort of coordination between welfare and medical sciences in classroom lec-
tures, as well as in fieldwork projects. It is also a great opportunity for students to learn high-level spe-
ialisations at these three faculties while in university.

**Q:** There are many opinions about the benefits of welfare assistance programs. What do you think about the programs?

**Shimizu:** Several years ago, Jap-
nese media reported on the illegal receipt of social welfare assistance services involving a celebrity. I am concerned that the media reports created a stigma among the public that many unqualified people are illegally receiving the services. Illegal receipt of services, of course, should not be happening. But we can say that welfare programs are pointing out a differ-
tent kind of problem. It is that those engaged in the welfare programs are reluctant to take advantage of the services, because of the negative impression. The welfare program is the last safety net to help such people live on their own. I think it is important to take an aggressive approach to

reach out to those who really are in need of the help, to make sure they are not missed.

**Q:** Can you please tell us about the themes and focus of your fu-
ture research?

**Shimizu:** I will be engaging in deeper research on specific mea-
rasures to further enhance elderly care facilities among local soci-
etes, examining how to contribute to the management and development of the infrastructure for a region-
al society. I have more opportu-
nities these days to make speeches at aged care facilities and their related organizations

**Preventing heat stroke**

1. Adjust salt and water intake, keep well hydrated and in case you sweat a lot, drink an oral re-
hydration solution.

2. Adjust to the environment: stay out of the sun, wear a hat or an air conditioner and lower the room temperature with

3. When going outside: wear a hat or an air conditioner and lower the room temperature with

First aid:

- Drink water or an oral rehydration solution, move to a cool place and elevate the veins located as
- Position the neck, arms, and legs. If the symptoms persist, call an ambulance.
Between May 10 and 18, the Malaysia World Heritage Study Tour for all first-year students was held at Tunu Abdul Rahim University (UTAR) in Malaysia. This was the fourth consecutive year for the study tour and was made possible with subsidies from the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

The main purpose of the tour is to give new students an appreciation of the importance of English in the tourism industry and to allow them to experience tourism as a guest early in their university lives. In order to provide a broad range of fieldwork experience, students were divided into study groups that conducted research and underwent training in heritage, gastronomy and hospitality. Research presentations relating to the visit will be made at the university festival in the autumn.

On the first full day of the weekend-long Faculty of Tourism 4th Malaysia World Heritage Study Tour, first-year students met and talked with local students at University Tunu Abdul Rahim at a welcome reception, and also received a detailed briefing on the responsibilities and duties relating to hotel operations at a typical city hotel in Malaysia. In contrast to hotels of similar grade in Japan, one of the keys to success in Malaysia is the existence of a wide range of events to encourage repeat guest visits.

Other featured works included a unique pop-up model of a scene in kabuki. Among some of the outstanding works featured was Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1798-1861), a pupil of Utagawa Hiroshige, who killed him and his family. Among the artists whose works were featured was Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1798-1861), a pupil of Utagawa Hiroshige, who killed him and his family. Among the artists whose works were featured was Utagawa Kuniyoshi, known for creating triptychs, which consist of three prints usually placed side by side and often portraying dramatic scenes in kabuki. The white painted faces of kabuki actors show dramatic expressions in different scenes. Developed in Japan in the 18th century, the technique allowed artists to create scenes in great detail. The artists preserved this technique, usually using a different color for each of the color blocks. The printers then applied black ink to the master block and then different-colored dyes to each of the color blocks. Using fine brushes, the carvers could replicate in great detail the finest lines of the artist’s original painting.

JIU operates three practical training programs, “International Business Internship”, “Career Education”, and “Character Building through Learning.”

JIU’s mission: Character building through learning

JIU pride itself on its youthfulness and energy, on its commitment to forming the characters of young people with dreams and noble visions of working for the benefit of both local and international communities. The university is guided by the slogan “We are JIU”, in which the Mission Statement is the centerpiece of “character building through learning” in helping students to make themselves responsible individuals and members of society who care.

JIU provides much more than specialized liberal education in the classroom. The university also offers three practical training programs that focus on the use of foreign language and information processing skills for planning and implementation, and on the development of the expertise of visiting an actual medical site, stimulating their interest in medicine and nursing. It also offers a unique pop-up model of a scene in kabuki. The shogun was punishable by death. As a result, not only the Sogoro, but also his wife and children, were executed. According to legend they were brutally tortured before being crucified.

The exhibition consisted in part of yakuza-e or actor prints, which showed Sogoro as a character on the kabuki stage, including as a ghost returning to take revenge on those who killed him and his family. Among the artists whose works were featured was Utagawa Kuniyoshi, known for creating triptychs, which consist of three prints usually placed side by side and often portraying dramatic scenes in kabuki. The white painted faces of kabuki actors show dramatic expressions in different scenes. Struggled in Japan in the 18th century, the technique allowed artists to create scenes in great detail. The artists preserved this technique, usually using a different color for each of the color blocks. The printers then applied black ink to the master block and then different-colored dyes to each of the color blocks. Using fine brushes, the carvers could replicate in great detail the finest lines of the artist’s original painting.

The Mizuta Art Museum on the campus of JIU’s Togane Campus held the exhibition Chiba history in ukiyo-e woodblock prints. The permanent display from May 6 to June 10 told the story of Sakuray Sogoro, whose heroic deeds in the 17th century on behalf of impoverished farmers in what is today Chiba Prefecture became the subject of Kabuki plays. To put death to his feud lord for having appealed directly to the shogun, according to legend Sogoro returned as a ghost to haunt his executioners.

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For the sixth time, the program in France was conducted by the Faculty of Management and Information Sciences of JIU and the University of the University of Paris Est-Creteil (UPEC), a partner university of Josai University (JU) in Japan, under the guidance of Eric Hertzler, a UPEC professor and JIU visiting professor.

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In the lectures, they learned that what is most important in nursing people from another culture is to respect and to try to understand their cultures. They were told that the students were asked to deepen their understanding of another culture by asking people “why” they do something that is unique to that culture.

Students said that they learned through the program “the importance of being genuine.”

“We need to hone the skill of active listening, as well as verbal and non-verbal communication,” one of the students said.

French culture and history and included visits to several UNESCO World Heritage sites. All of the participants made presentations at UPEC on the last day to conclude their studies in France. The program was very successful, and with the students having many experiences, leaving them very much satisfied.

The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) approved this program in France as their “Industrialised Countries Instrument — Education Cooperation Programme” and provided scholarships for most of the students who took part in the program.

This program, again with scholarships from JASSO, will be conducted for the second time in February 2018.

We would like to give special thanks to UPEC, professor Hertzler and his students in UPEC who escorted us in Paris. Also, special thanks to JETRO and professor Gisota Kume of the Josai Center for European Studies, who provided us with valuable advice about the program.

Students studied the history of Paris on weekend outings.

JIU’s mission: Character building through learning
by Damian Smechowicz

I am from Poland, and I major in international relations with a focus on international law. I am a student at Josai International University in the heart of Japan. Currently, I am an exchange student at Josai International University, and I am taking a scholarship from the Polish government. I have been in Japan for one year now, and during that time, I have had the opportunity to experience many different aspects of Japanese culture.

One of the most important things that I have learned is how important it is to communicate effectively in Japanese. I have found that by being able to communicate in Japanese, I am able to interact with people from all over the world, not just my fellow students.

In my free time, I like to travel and visit various places in Japan. I have been to Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka, and I have had the opportunity to experience different aspects of Japanese culture. I have also had the opportunity to meet many different people and learn about their lives.

Overall, my experience in Japan has been very rewarding, and I have learned so much about Japanese culture and the Japanese people. I am looking forward to continuing my studies in Japan and learning even more about Japanese culture in the future.
There were many opportunities Japanese classes every Tuesday in Norway after receiving a grant. Moreover, I supervised Japanese while gradually getting used to teaching. On Fridays, I taught grammar, essays and homework and Friday. In general, I taught exams, and checked students’ results of this experience and I am sure that these experiences gave me a unique opportunity for teaching. As a Canadian educator with decades of experience in teaching and leadership in kindergartens through grade 12 and post-secondary education, I have served as a teacher, university instructor, school principal and superintendent of schools. Now a college president, I have learned so much about the impact of education by interacting with people with different cultural backgrounds and lived experiences. And the chance meetings with former colleagues and students have often inspired me and reminded me of why I love being an educator.

At the end of May, I toured Jiosai International University (JIU), meeting with the president, students, faculty and administrators. The experience left me with a desire to find ways to expand the collaboration between Camosun and JIU. While focusing on the exciting possibilities of the future, I was also fortunate to experience a serendipitous connection to my past. Sixteen years ago, I served as principal of James Bay Community School, a public school that offers a comprehensive education to students in Victoria. During my years there, I met and worked with many wonderful students, parents and colleagues. As is the case in life and work, some individuals remain in your memory more than others. Renato was one such student. Enthusiastic, intelligent, well-mannered and motivated, Renato and his family came to Canada as immigrants. His parents were supportive and interested in education. Years later at a meeting in Japan, JIU administrators introduced me to his exchange student from Camosun College who loved studying in Japan so much that he stayed to complete his degree. When going through introductions, this young man explained that his ultimate goal was to return to his James Bay School and teach new Canadians how to speak English. At that moment we both realized our connection. We immediately shared a hug and Renato said, “I thought it was you, but your last name is different.” We chatted more throughout the day and committed to reconnect when he returns to Victoria.

The extraordinary thing about serendipity, is that it is so common — all around the world such stories of connection and reconnection are universal and very humbling. I vividly imagine everyone has their own story of a powerful reunion; one where you experience a connection you had on another person’s life. Former students often ask me, “Do you remember me?” Sometimes it takes me few moments, but looking at a name, I can usually see them as the eager students they were years ago. Truly, this doesn’t always happen. Former students brought me to Jiosai International University and reconnected me with my wonderful former student. It added a magical touch to what had already been a very rewarding and productive working visit to Japan. It showed the power of education by interacting with people together — often unexpectedly. And it demonstrated that sometimes you have to travel far in order to come “home”.

by Sheri Bell, President, Camosun College, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Serendipity | Pleasant reunions can happen far from home — Vol. 18

by Nagomi Desaki, Department of International Exchange Studies

KAMOGAWA CORNER

Thank you for your support

by Faculty of Tourism rubber baseball (nanshiki yakyu) club

The JIU Faculty of Tourism rubber-ball baseball (nanshiki yakyu) club

KAMOGAWA CORNER

The Roadside Station Project

by Faculty of Tourism

The JIU Faculty of Tourism established the “Michino-eki Project”, of Roadside Station Project in 2015. Roadside stations (“Michino-eki”) are public facilities designed to offer drivers places to rest while encouraging regional development through the sale of local produce and products. Roadside stations offer a unique opportunity for tourism-focused fieldwork and research into regional development. Faculty of Tourism students have taken advantage of this in studies aimed at understanding how human resources can engage better with the local community.

The Roadside Station Project is composed of two separate projects, the Narna Area Roadside Station Project and the Kamogawa Roadside Station Project, the latter being carried out at Ocean Park near the Faculty of Tourism. The Kamogawa Roadside Station Project has three key targets. These aims include understanding how tourist information about Kamogawa and its environs can be improved, profiling the local specialty produce and products offered and gaining knowledge about the needs of visitors to the Ocean Park location.

In March, students took part in the second exchange meeting with representatives from Ocean Park, and presented the results of their research under the title “Creating a Time and Place for Relaxation.” Of tourism team was well supported despite the players’ best efforts they were unable to advance to the national championship tournament as they went down 4-1 to a very strong Tokyo University squad. The JIU team would like to express their thanks to everyone who supported them throughout their campaign.

by Kenji Suzuki, a visiting professor at JIU.

“Movie Lecture” by Masahiro Shinoda, a research professor at Teikyo University, and “Media Representations of the Taisho Democratic Dream” by Masahiro Mahathir is a former prime minister of Malaysia. On May 21, 2013, Josai University Educational Corporation invited him to give a keynote lecture titled “Enhancing Knowledge for Peace: A Message to Future Leaders & Global Citizens” at the Tokyo Kioicho Campus as part of Josai’s 50th anniversary celebrations.

The press also published two books in the field of media: “Movie Lecture” by Masahiro Shinoda, a research professor at JIU, and “Media Representations of the Taisho Democratic Dream” by Kenji Suzuki, a visiting professor at JIU.

By Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

Josai University Educational Corporation University Press published The Wit and Wisdom of Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. Dr. Mahathir is a former prime minister of Malaysia. On May 21, 2013, Josai University Educational Corporation invited him to give a keynote lecture titled “Enhancing Knowledge for Peace: A Message to Future Leaders & Global Citizens” at the Tokyo Kioicho Campus as part of Josai’s 50th anniversary celebrations.

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Publications from the University Press

by Faculty of Tourism

Teaching overseas offers insights
Students volunteer to aid firefighters

Thirty-three members of the Josai University softball team, who are mostly from JU’s Faculty of Management, have recently joined the special forces of the Sakado city firefighter corps. The appointment ceremony took place on May 1. This is the first attempt in the prefecture at recruiting university students to the special firefighter forces, whose activities, such as providing evacuation guidance during large-scale disasters such as earthquakes, are mostly complementary to the main forces. At times of disasters, the students provide assistance in preparing the facilities and assembling the shelters, as well as distributing relief supplies. During times of peace, they participate in the firefighters’ PR activities such as fire prevention, as well as taking part in the New Year’s parade and disaster prevention practice.

Due to the aging population all around the country, the number of firefighters in many municipalities is decreasing. In Sakado, too, there is a shortage. As a result, the firefighter corps requested in-town ties is decreasing. In Sakado, too, there is a shortage. As a result, the firefighter corps requested in-town

death. At the appointment ceremony at the Sakado/Tsurugashima Fire Department Headquarters, representing a crowd of 40 people from four different universities (all wearing matching vests and baseball caps), the captain of the softball team, Terasaka Yuka swore they would “do their conscious best.”

Journalists provide current affairs talks

The Faculty of Contemporary Policy Studies, in collaboration with The Mainichi Shimbun is sponsoring a series of lectures called “Seminar on Current Affairs.” Veteran journalists, who combine both their knowledge and news coverage experience, are giving lectures that have so far impressed attendees. “The analyses and commentaries were genuine learning experiences that helped us better understand the way the world and Japan work,” said one attendee.

During the 15 lectures, exams are given on attendees’ knowledge of current issues. The first term’s lectures started on April 13 and covered a variety of topics.

Under the theme of politics, students heard lectures on giving 18-year-olds voting rights and the amendment of the constitution. During the 15 lectures, exams are given on attendees’ knowledge of current issues. The first term’s lectures started on April 13 and covered a variety of topics.

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The second term’s lectures will focus primarily on international relations.
New pharmaceutical MSc offered

by Han Liu

Josai University recently established a new master's course in pharmaceutical sciences, which is the JU version of the well-known MHA (Master of Science in health care administration) overseas. That's our basic plan at present. In the future, we plan to create a think tank composed of those professionals we have educated.

With the unprecedented rapid growth of the aging society, calls have been made to achieve effective administration and management from a perspective of reconstructing an integrated community care system in collaboration with various occupations in health insurance pharmacies and drugstores, together with the effective use of human resources in medical and nursing care.

However, the current situation is that even though most of the graduates of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and pharmaceutical universitites are working in the health insurance pharmacies and drugstores, at the forefront there is a lack of teachers in practical clinical education. Under these circumstances, Josai University is aware of society's needs and expectations with regard to local pharmacists.

In addition, the university has realized how necessary it is to have students master knowledge in the field of medical related policy, management and administration during their time at university. With the aim of enabling students to become more active after graduation, Josai University has established a medical policy and management field track, as well as a nutrition policy and management field track within the pharmaceutical and health sciences major in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Professor Kenji Sugabayashi, president of Josai International University (Josai University's sister school) said: "It is important for pharmacists to understand the needs and expectations that communities have, and also to comprehend medical policy, management and administration, to make their own businesses appealing and to be valued by the communities. It is necessary for students to acquire this knowledge at an early stage. I hope that the university will cultivate pharmacists who understand health policies drafted by civil servants and actively take part as new human resources in this area."

Ekiden team races to spot in national championships

A qualifying race for the All-Japan College Ekiden relay race was held on June 18. Josai University's men's placed ninth in the race with a finishing time of 3:59:34, making for the finals for the first time in three years. This is the sixth time the university has qualified for the finals of the race.

At the qualifier, each of the participating universities fielded eight runners, divided into four groups of two runners each. Each group of two runners 10,000 meters to come up with a cumulative time. Each group's time was added together to come up with a total accumulated time.

Josai University's team, which did not qualify for the finals. The team's accumulated total time was only 12 seconds faster than 10th-placed Kanto Gakuin University's team, which did not qualify for the finals. The time was also only 33 seconds faster than the 11th-place Soka University team.

At a post-race meeting, team captain Masaya Nakashiba, said: "It was the result of an all-out effort by the team." But he also said: "It was a very close race. For now, I don't think we can make even a decent showing in the finals." Manager Seiji Kushibe said: "It was a close race, but it went our way. The team will be in a good shape if each of you does what needs to be done."

The team will now begin preparing for a summer camp. The result of the qualifying race showed the potential of the team to have good showings at races in autumn and beyond.

The All-Japan College Ekiden started in 1970, as a nationwide ekiden relay race allowing all universities in Japan to participate to decide the nation's true No.1 team. It is one of Japan's three biggest college ekiden men's relay races along with the Intim Ekiden and Hakone Ekiden. This year, the 106-kilometer eight-section final will be held on Nov. 5, running from Asatsu-Inu shrine in Aichi Prefecture to Inu shrine in Mie Prefecture.

Tsurugashima aims to be Olympic ‘Host Town’

by Han Liu

With the aim of having Tsurugashima become a registered "Host Town" for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Myanmar's Ambassador to Japan, His Excellency Thura Myint Zin, together with Myanmar Yoshiro Fujinawa, paid a visit to Josai University's sports facilities on May 11. The Host Town program was established as one of the national projects to promote communications with the participating countries and regions. Once it is registered, the local government will receive subsidies from the national government to be spent on training camps and exchange programs ahead of the Olympics. During the visit, the ambassador and his companions also paid a visit to the Tsurugashima City Office. After a welcome speech by Fujinawa, President Akira Shira- hata delivered his remarks, saying: "Josai University has been working together with Tsurugashima for a long time. Taking this opportunity, our university would like to devote ourselves to supporting the construction of a good relationship between Myanmar and the town of Tsurugashima." Later they toured the grounds, stopping by the heated swimming pool and the judo dojo. The ambassador said: "The athletes will achieve good results if they practice here. I hope that Myanmar and Japan will deepen bilateral communications."

Tsurugashima has been maintaining closer ties with Myanmar through such things as the "Josi- zun Memorial Buuma Scholar- ship," which offers support to Myanmar students.