1,500 new students begin journey

by JIUTimes

Josai International University welcomed 1,500 new students, including foreign people from 18 countries, in a matriculation ceremony at its Togane Campus in Chiba Prefecture, on April 2. JIU, a comprehensive university with eight faculties and 10 departments, focuses on international education and is engaged in exchange programs with many universities and schools in Asia, Europe, particularly Eastern Europe, and the Americas. Of its approximately 6,000 students, 1,438 were non-Japanese from 24 countries last year.

In the matriculation ceremony, which took place at the Sports Culture Center, JIU President Kenji Sugibayashi greeted the new students, as well as other students, teachers and special guests, including Toyana Mayor Naoharu Shigato. “JIU has three campuses in Tokyo (Chiba Prefecture), and Kioicho (Tokyo’s Chiyoda Ward). We have undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as senior wellness. We are very rich in international initiatives. We have students making up more than 20 percent,” Sugibayashi said during the ceremony. “I would like you to pay attention to the world events and news and participate actively in local community activities to experience practical learning.”

He also encouraged new Japanese students to participate in exchange programs with overseas schools because studying different cultures is a good experience. Sugibayashi also stressed advancement of high technology and the importance of learning amid the current global environment.

“With globalization and rapid advancement of science and technology, existing things disappear or become completely different things. Science on the human body also advances very rapidly and it may be possible to create humane-like things through technology in the near future. Meanwhile, people’s attitude to learn never changes and I believe people can make innovation happen by learning sincerely,” he said.

The matriculation ceremony came a little over two weeks after JIU held the graduation ceremony at the same venue on March 15. In the address to graduating students, Josai University Educational Corporation Chancellor Akira Uehara said, “I believe it is important for you to have proactive attitudes and understand the ever-changing society and have your own viewpoints.”

Uehara shared his motto, saying, “What I will be tomorrow is the result of what I think and do today.” encouraging the graduating students to try their best to do jobs in front of their eyes, listen to others’ opinions, express their own opinions and create their own motto.

Interview with mayor of Kujukuri

by JIUTimes

Q: For the town of Kujukuri, what is the meaning of Josai International University?

A: I believe the meaning of Josai International University is very much the same for the town of Kujukuri.

Q: The establishment of the Faculty of Nursing at Josai International University aims to contribute to the community by collaborating on welfare, nursing and pharmacology by making full use of the features of the department. What sort of fields do you think we can contribute to the community through collaboration?

A: I believe the university’s contributions to the community through collaborations of welfare, nursing and pharmacology are very important for protecting both the mental and physical health of residents. We are particularly focused on improving the health of residents, and your contribution in this field is strongly anticipated. In Kujukuri, the Cancer Prevention Exhibition and Lecture was held on Feb. 12 and the head of the Faculty of Nursing, professor Kanae Iida of your university kindly collaborated. Furthermore, we have a plan to accept trainees from the Faculty of Nursing of your university. They are recognized as prospective human resources who will hopefully play a core role in community health care in the future.

Q: Please share your opinion with us on the relationship between the town of Kujukuri and Josai International University in the future.

A: We hope to cooperate with Josai International University in various fields. You have the “wisdom of the university” that can help our town. A population of about 16,000 and the size of Kujukuri make close communication and quick action possible. We believe that is the advantage of our town. In addition, we are working on the development of the town by making use of the brand value of the name Kujukuri and the coastline along the Pacific Ocean. I would like to ask to continue this kind collaboration with Josai International University.
Seven goals toward becoming a leading university in the world

«7 J-Vision» (2016-2020)

1. Expanding the capabilities of our students to serve society
2. Developing human resources with an international mindset and extensive knowledge of Japanese culture
3. Continuously improving the quality of our educational programs, in collaboration with local and international communities
4. Improving our research capabilities and promoting innovation
5. Enriching the campus environment through internationalization and networking
6. Establishing a stronger university governance system to support the dynamic development of teaching, research and contributions to the community
7. Strengthening the impact of our communication capabilities and social presence

About Josai University Educational Corporation’s Medium-Term Goals
The Josai University Educational Corporation Medium-Term Goals (2016-2020) are comprised of seven “J-Visions.” These seven visions are inter-related, multiplying their synergies, to further our commitment to becoming a leading university in Japan, Asia and the world.

The corporation established Josai University in 1965, and it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015. Josai International University was established in 1992, and will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2017. We are determined to bring to bear all of our mental energies, capabilities, accumulated knowledge and experience on the tasks that will define our future.
Chinese fossils on display at gallery

by Kun Takahashi, program director, Fossil Gallery of Josai University Educational Corporation

The Oishi Fossil Gallery on the Kicho Campus of Josai International University is showcasing the Oishi Collection and specimens from the Liaoning Paleontological Museum of Shenyang Normal University in China. The Oishi Collection consists of specimens of marine organisms mainly from the Cretaceous Period, which is the period following the Jurassic Period. The fossils include various species, such as the coelacanth, a fossil of a giant tyranosaurus that was found at the museum’s entrance. The Oishi Fossil Gallery was founded in affiliation with the Muota Memorial Museum of Josai University Educational Corporation in spring 2013. The objective of the gallery is to provide opportunities to evoke interest in the sciences among younger generations through the exhibitions and other educational programs on paleontology. The gallery is also open to the public, in line with Josai University Educational Corporation’s policy to contribute to society. In 2015, the gallery was awarded a research grant by a local government for the development of the Paleontological Study Workshop Program, and the workshops will be given in English upon request. Please call 026-843-8221, or visit the gallery’s website at http://www.joasi.jp/fossil_gallery/workshop/

Yomiuri Giants’ Usami speaks to students, faculty

by Mutsuo Nakamura, Admissions Office

On Dec. 18, Shingo Usami, a JIIFaculty of Social and Environmental Sciences graduate and current Yomiuri Giants baseball player, gave a talk at JII’s Chiba Fgguran Campus. Usami talked to the JII students about the experiences he had while he was in college and after advancing to a professional baseball career.

“i think that JII’s students should be successful in both sports and academics with a sense of gratitude for being able to play college sports,” said Usami at the end of his talk.

At JII, Usami played catcher from his first-year season and was team captain during his senior year. In 2015, he was selected for the Summer Universiaide National Team and won a gold medal at the international competition in South Korea. At the draft held the next year, he was chosen by the Yomiuri Giants in the fourth round, joining the team right after graduating in 2016. Last summer, Usami was added to the starting lineup and kicked off a successful run, resulting in a dramatic victory over the Yokohama DeNA BayStars.

Josai: A History

1995 Jan 25 Founding of Josai University Educational Corporation approved (First President: Mikio Mizuta)
Apr 1 Josai University with the Faculty of Economics, including the Department of Economics, and the Faculty of Science, including the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Chemistry, opened. First: JII President: Mikio Mizuta
1971 Apr 1 Department of Business Administration in the Faculty of Economics of Josai University opened
1973 Apr 1 Josai University: Departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences and of Pharmaceutical Technology in the Faculty of Pharmacy Sciences opened
1976 Dec 27 Seiko Mizuta appointed second Chancellor of the University
1977 Apr 1 Josai University: M.A. degree program inaugurated in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
1978 Apr 1 Josai University: M.A. degree in Economic Policy established in the Graduate School of Economics
1979 Mar 25 Mizuta Museum of Art of Josai University opened
1980 Apr 1 Josai University: Ph.D. program established in Pharmaceutical Sciences
1983 Apr 1 Josai Women’s Junior College opened Majors in Administration and Secretarial Services in the Department of Business Administration, and in Japanese Literature, and a campus landmark.
1985 Apr 1 Center for Intercultural Studies and Education established
1987 Apr 1 Major courses at the JII Women’s Junior College Major course in Japanese Literature, Major course in English Literature opened
1989 Apr 1 Major courses at the JII Women’s Junior College (Major course in Administration, Major course in Secretarial Services) opened
1990 Apr 1 Josai University: Japanese Studies Program established. Major courses in Japanese Culture and Japanese Language
1992 Mar 10 Completion ceremony of construction work for Josia University Educational Corporation
1994 Apr 1 Josai University Educational Corporation approved (President: President of Josai University
1995 Apr 1 Dr. Horo Mizuta appointed President of Josai University (International University of Josai University: International University of Josai University: Department of Welfare and Culture, and of International Exchange Studies established in the Graduate School of Humanities)
1995 Apr 1 Josia University: Ph.D. in Comparative Culture, Josia University: Graduate School of History, MA, in Management of Entrepreneurial Ventures (Graduate School of Management and Information Sciences) established. Affiliated Preparatory Courses in Japanese Culture and Japanese Language opened.
1998 Apr 1 Josia University: International University: Ph.D. in Comparative Culture, Josia University: Graduate School of History, MA, in Management of Entrepreneurial Ventures (Graduate School of Management and Information Sciences) established. Affiliated Preparatory Courses in Japanese Culture and Japanese Language opened.
1999 Apr 1 Josia University: International University: Departments of International Management Studies and of Information for Welfare and Environment established in the Faculty of Management and Information Sciences
2000 Apr 1 Josia International University: Ph.D. in Management of Entrepreneurial Ventures (Graduate School of Management and Information Sciences). President: Shuji Tanaka
2001 Apr 1 Josia International University: Department of Service Management, (Graduate School of Business and Management and Information Sciences), Department of Management and Information Sciences, Department of Media & Culture Studies, (Faculty of Cultural Studies), Special Course in Business and Information Science. Josia University: Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences established.
2002 Apr 1 Josia International University: M.A. in Welfare and Social Studies (Graduate School of Humanities) established. Josia University: Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences established
2003 Apr 1 Josia International University: M.A. in Business Innovation (Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences) established
2005 Jan 25 Restoration of Mizuta Mikio’s workplace completed, as Josia University’s 40th anniversary project
Apr 1 Josia University: M.A. in Business Innovation (Graduate School of Business Administration) established
2004 Apr 1 Josia University: Department of Management Studies (Faculty of Business Administration, MA, in Material Science, Graduate School of Sciences) established. Josia International University: Department of Medical Pharmacy (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences), Departments of Culture and Social Work Studies, and of Management and Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established
Apr 10 Kevin Seminar House completed. Apr 19 Josia Asia-Learning Center completed. May 20 Josia Asia-Learning Center completed. May 27 Notice of closure of Josia University Educational Corporation
2005 Apr 1 Josia University Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building No. 2 opened
2007 Apr 1 Josia International University: Department of Medical Pharmacy, six-year program (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences) inaugurated. Josia International University: Department of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) reorganized
Oct 30 Josia University: Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building No. 3 opened
2008 Feb 19：Mikio Mizuta Campus opened
Apr 1 Josia International University: Department of Inter-Cultural Studies and Department of International Exchange Studies established in the Faculty of Humanities
2009 Jun 30 Statement issued announcing the opening of the Department of Social and Environmental Studies in the Faculty of Social and Environmental Studies
2010 Apr 1 Josia International University: Department of Social and Environmental Studies established
Apr 10 Ceremony to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of Josia University Educational Corporation
2011 Apr 1 Course in Visual Arts established in the Faculty of Media Studies, Josia International University
Apr 1 Josia University Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building No. 4 opened
Jul 23 Josia University Educational Corporation Center for Cultural Innovation established
Oct Josia University Educational Corporation Center for Graduate Studies established
Dec 9 Josia University Mizuta Museum of Art (premises) opened
2012 Apr 1 Josia University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacy Graduate Course Pharmacy Specialty, latter doctoral course) established. Josia International University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (doctoral course) established.
2013 Apr 1 Josia International University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Pharmacy Graduate Course Pharmacy Specialty (latter doctoral course) established. Josia International University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (doctoral course) established.
2014 Apr 1 Josia University Graduate School of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established
May 2 Josia International University Graduate School of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established
2015 Apr 1 Josia University Graduate School of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established
May 21 Josia University Graduate School of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established
2015 Nat 1 Josia University Graduate School of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established
2016 May 21 Josia University Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building No. 5 opened
Nov 21 Institute for Central European Studies established
2017 Feb 2 Josia University Graduate School of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established
Nov 7 Josia University Graduate School of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established
2018 May 21 Campus Building No. 6 opened
2019 Nov 21 Institute for Central European Studies established
2021 Apr 1 Josia University: Graduate School of Social Work Studies: Department of Social Work Studies: English upon request. Please call 026-843-8221, or visit the gallery’s website at http://www.joasi.jp/fossil_gallery/workshop/
Undergrads to CPAs, before graduating
by Mutsuo Nakamura, Admissions Office

Tackling German forces' WWI loss
by JIU Times

Attention all heroes: Mascots gather for expo
by JIU Times

Tackling German international politics, offers a broad perspective on the German military. Was Defeated in 1918.

Attention all heroes: Mascots gather for expo
by JIU Times

Sri Lankan minister visits
by Mutsuo Nakamura, Admissions Office

I am very grateful to JIU and the all-powerful German Mili-
tary in a surfing competition. This agreement will be a great pleasure for JIU.

Ichinomiya partnership to organize volunteers for 2020
by Mutsuo Nakamura, Admissions Office

by JIU Times

To my second year. Thereafter, I took extra accounting and bookkeep-
ing classes in a specialized school. ‘Set realistic goals for what you really want to achieve in life, and never give up easily.’

Why the All-powerful German Mili-
tary was Naze Yaburetaka” in his latest book “1918 Nen Saikyo
veals his reasons the German mili-
tary was defeated in World War I in his latest book “1918 Nen Saikyo
By the all-powerful German Mili-
tary was defeated in 1918.

On Jan. 31, JIU established an agreement with Ichinomiya, an
iak who specializes in in-
ternational politics, offers a broad perspective on the German mili-
tary and government systems of the early 20th century in this nonfiction account, published in Japanese and released in December. He also analyzes the toughness and vulner-
ability of the highly disciplined and organized German troops.

Ichinomiya’s Mayor Masaya
Ichinomiya’s Mayor Masaya
Igarashi both passed the short
answer part of the examination
during their third year and scored
out their four years at JIU, without which my success would not have been possible. I aspire to become a public accountant, a role that one can think independently and make good judgments. My motto is that I think of my fellow students is, “Set realistic goals for what you really want to achieve in life, and never give up easily.”

by JIU Times

JIU’s mission: Character building through learning
by JIU Times

JIU Times Staff and Contributors
María Shiguemi Ichiyama
Hideo Usuki
Tim Wollaston
Steve Stalab

Josai International University Educational Corporation 50th Anniversary Project

“Kantsubashi” Mikio Mita’s Biography

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by Mutsuo Nakamura, Admissions Office

by JIU Times

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Tokyo embassies of the Visegrad Four (V4) countries (the Czech Repub-
lic, Hungary, Poland and Slov-
okia) and Josai University Education-
corporation hosted the V4 plus Japan Seminar in the hall of

Central European representatives attend Brexit seminar
by JIU Times

JIU prides itself on its youthful am-
tuition and energy, on its commitment to building the characters of young people with dreams and noble vi-
sions of working for the better of both local and international commu-
nities. The university is guided by the spirit of its founder, a mis-
ion of “character building through learning” in helping students to make themselves responsible individuals and members of society at large.

JIU provides much more than the regular university education in the classroom. The university also of-
fers three practical training programs that focus on the use of foreign lan-
guage and information processing skills for planning and implementa-
tion, and on the development of the

JOSAI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
1 Gumyo, Togane-shi, Chiba
http://www.jiu.ac.jp

japan Times
4-5-4, Togane-shi, Chiba
http://www.japantimes.co.jp

JIU TIMES | SPRING 2018
Serendipity in life

by Hiroko Ayabe, visiting professor, the Faculty of International Humanities

In my life, everything is joyfully connected, one thing leading to another. It all started when I was born, and I had an amazing woman as my mother (my first serendipity), who my father described as absolutely golden when she died.

Long story short, I was born, and I had an amazing woman as my mother (my first serendipity), who my father described as absolutely golden when she died.

When I was a junior in college, my Mary, my American mother, sent me a cardboard box full of used books, mostly written by Margaret Mead, Ruth Benedict and Edward Sapir. Books like “Male and Female, Patterns of Culture, and Language”. I read them, and I decided to write my graduation thesis on Margaret Mead.

Then, my friend, who was at a different college, introduced me to a young scholar who had written an article on Mead, and, somehow, he became my husband (my third serendipity). He was the source of the rest of my serendipities. When I was 30, after two children, he said I could resume my studies as a graduate student. I spent 10 years at Kyushu University studying linguistics. When I was a Joshu (assistant professor) at Kyushu University and my first child was born, I had to go as well (my fourth serendipity).

When he started teaching at Josai University (JIU), he again found me a post here (my fifth serendipity). I truly enjoyed being at JIU, both teaching and interacting with fellow professors. At the same time, I enjoyed associating with wonderful Chinese doctoral students and Chinese professors. I am deeply grateful to the former and present administration for letting me work until now. I even found my best friend here, a mature graduate student whom I still meet with almost every week.

I have one last serendipity. This is in response to the agreement with my JAS American family, the Smiths. Starting in 1955 and up to the present, for more than 60 years, we’ve kept close contact. I’ve taken my son to visit my American sisters in Washington, Oregon, Michigan and Florida, and I hope we can keep visiting each other, and the closeness will be passed down to our families’ next generation.

Students complete leadership program

by Thiti Lay
Josai Center for ASEAN Studies (JCAS)

The Yayasan Tuanku Fuziah Foundation (YTF) and the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Young Women Leadership Program’s graduation ceremony and farewell party was held at the Tokyo Kiiicho Campus on Feb. 27. Five graduate students from YTF Malaysia who attended the Global Young Women Leaders (JIU), he again found me a post here (my fifth serendipity). I truly enjoyed being at JIU, both teaching and interacting with fellow professors. At the same time, I enjoyed associating with wonderful Chinese doctoral students and Chinese professors. I am deeply grateful to the former and present administration for letting me work until now. I even found my best friend here, a mature graduate student whom I still meet with almost every week.

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Let's exchange!
by Kristyna Blahova

My name is Kristyna Blahova and I am an exchange student from Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. I am currently finishing my last year of my bachelor’s and I am going to Japan to continue on and receive a master’s in linguistics because of my ambition. That is why I decided to apply for the JIU Times. I wanted to improve the Japanese language which is a totally different writing system and is composed by completely different grammatical structures than any language I already know, is so interesting and beneficial for me and hopefully, for my future career.

Being enrolled at Josai International University has been a great opportunity to enrich my knowledge of the world and to gain new academic experiences. As a student in a foreign country, I’ve been able to experience a new life, a new world, and a new culture and language and make the best of this opportunity. This is something I am very grateful for and I am really grateful that I have an opportunity to experience Japan and its culture firsthand. Receiving a scholarship to Josai University and seeing students learning your language and having an interest in your culture is a very rewarding feeling.

Since I am enrolled in a scholarship program, I sometimes help with Czech language lectures. This has been a fruitful experience for me because it is a great opportunity to make more friends, it is a very good way to deepen your language proficiency in Japanese. It also made me realize many things I have not noticed as a native speaker. Seeing students learning your language and showing appreciation for language, culture and tradition. During my high school years, I already had many visits on Japanese studies and right now being able to study abroad for a year in Japan is something I am very grateful for.

So, for me, by trying to learn and improve my language skills, I have gained a lot of knowledge and understanding of the culture and traditions.

My name is Maria Fojtikova and I am from Slovakia. I study Japanese language and culture at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. Currently I am in my third year of bachelor studies. I have been studying Japanese language for about two and half years now, but my interest in Japan has developed much earlier. At first, as many others, I encountered animation. Over the years, my interest grew into an appreciation for language, culture, and tradition. During my high school years, I already had observed Japanese culture and language while I was living in Mongolia. I started to observe certain differences between cultures when I became acquainted with Hungarian and European people. Arriving in Japan I provided me with a great opportunity to deepen my knowledge of the language and culture.

Experiencing different mentalities across countries and getting acquainted with different societies has played a great role in accomplishing my dreams and plans. Of course, Japan has a rich history and many interesting locations; the country could mix its huge development with its traditional and modern cultures. In addition to the many wonderful locations, I feel the need to learn a lot from the Japanese from a personal development aspect on a daily basis. I can confidently say that the JIU Minuta Scholarship was a great investment for my future. The reason for this is that Japanese people are very hardworking and complete their tasks in a timely and organized manner. This approach taught me to remember my dreams every day. Also, I learned not only dream, but I should plan and work hard to accomplish my dreams in a detailed way. I would like to thank JIU for helping me toward accomplishing my dreams. One day, I will accomplish my dreams and will come to JIU in person and say thank you.

by Filip Grazejczczyk

My name is Filip Grazejczczyk. I came to Josia International University from Poland, where I study business management at the University of Lodz. I have developed a deep interest in the Japanese culture and language after my first trip to Asia in 2015. Since childhood, I’ve some knowledge of Eastem cultures, but it was mainly based on an image built by partial information from the Polish school curriculum and Western movie producers. This image was rather caricatured, created to entertain crowds. The first real impression of Japan exceeded my expectations. It was very different from what I saw before. People were very polite and respectful toward each other, the cities were highly developed, and clean, and additionally, I was able to experience something I could imagine in stories.

Later, during my studies, I became interested in Japanese language and market management prac- tices. I know Japanese management systems have many techniques that I’ve never seen before. I was very interested how it developed into one of the strongest economies in such a short period of time. All of this made me curious about the culture of this country, which is why I started to study the language. I believe understanding the language is the best way to get closer to under- standing the culture.

I am very grateful for the opportunity granted to me by JIU. I am able to develop my knowl- edge of Japanese and understand- ing of Japanese culture, I believe that this opportunity will be as great as the previous one and that I will be able to bring some value to the university en- vironment.

by Michal Niewiadomy

My name is Michal Niewia- adomy and I am from Poland. I study at the Faculty of Interna- tional and Political Studies at the University of Lodz. My spe- cialization is Asian studies. My first encounter with Japanese culture was through animation. It has become increasingly popular in Poland since the beginning of the 21st century. I got to liking Japanese so much that I started learning in a language school. Since then, I have been dreaming about visiting Japan and my dream finally came true. Getting a scholarship to Josia University was the first step towards my Japanese l- nese life and gain good insight into Japanese society. I took part in a variety of events and meetings that broadened my knowledge and perspective. I am really grateful that I have the opportunity to experience Japan, Japanese l- nese first-hand. I am able to boost my language skills not only during Japanese classes, but also when simply shopping or hanging out in Tokyo. During spring break I’m planning to go on a 10-day trip during which I am going to visit major sightsee- ing spots. I am more than sure that before my departure to Po- land in August, I will further ex- pand my grasp and knowledge of Japanese and its various cultural elements.

by Jiro Watanebe,
Graduate School of Humanities, Global Studies

IUJ has a practical internship program called The Overseas Japanese Language Teaching Internship Program granted by The Japan Foundation. The Japan Foundation is an institution that conducts various international language exchange programs throughout the world. Their programs help support Japanse language learners who are working overseas in Japanese language institutions and organizations.

During the March winter break, I had the opportunity to participate in an internship program to teach Japanese at North- eastern University in Shenyang, China.

Currently, I am studying in the Graduate School of Humanities, Global Studies Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages graduate pro- gram at IJU. My field of study is communicative language

by Enesmends Enkhbayar

My name is Enesmends Enkhbayar. But my foreign friends call me Sophia. I am from the University of Szeged in Hungary and I was born in Mongolia.

I went to Hungary to study pharmaceutical science upon completing my high school in Mongolia. In my third year, I received the Minuta Scholarship of Japan. I am grateful to JIU for granting me this chance.

Upon arrival in Japan, I start- ed to see things differently, im- proving my knowledge extensively and thinking practically. The reason for this is that because I was born in and grew up in Mongolia, I started to observe certain differ- ences between cultures when I became acquainted with Hungarian and European people. Arriving in Japan provided me with a great op- portunity.

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by Maria Fojtikova

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Since I am enrolled in a scholarship program, I sometimes help with Czech language lectures. This has been a fruitful experience for me because it is a great opportunity to make more friends, it is a very good way to deepen your language proficiency in Japanese. It also made me realize many things I have not noticed as a native speaker. Seeing students learning your language and having an interest in your culture is a very rewarding feeling.

In the half year I have been here, I have had many wonderful encounters with people from all around the world. I am able to learn a lot not only about Japanese culture, but also many different cultures. Re- cently, I also had the opportuni- ty to intern at The Japan Times. All I’ve mentioned above have been important experiences I could learn a lot from. With my remaining five months, I hope to see more friends and deepen my knowledge further.

My name is Filip Grazejczczyk. I came to Josia International University from Poland, where I study business management at the University of Lodz. I have developed a deep interest in the Japanese culture and language after my first trip to Asia in 2015. Since childhood, I’ve some knowledge of Eastem cultures, but it was mainly based on an image built by partial information from the Polish school curriculum and Western movie producers. This image was rather caricatured, created to entertain crowds. The first real impression of Japan exceeded my expectations. It was very different from what I saw before. People were very polite and respectful toward each other, the cities were highly developed and clean, and additionally, I was able to experience something I could imagine in stories.

Later, during my studies, I became interested in Japanese language and market management prac- tices. Many international management standards have been based on information from Japan. I was very im- pressed how it developed into one of the strongest economies in such a short period of time. All of this made me curious about the culture of this country, which is why I started to study the language. I believe understanding the language is the best way to get closer to un- derstanding the culture.

I am very grateful for the op- portunity granted to me by JIU. I am able to develop my knowl- edge of Japanese and under- standing of Japanese culture, I believe that this opportunity will be as great as the previous one and that I will be able to bring some value to the university en- vironment.

by Michal Niewiadomy

My name is Michal Niewia- adomy and I am from Poland. I study at the Faculty of Interna- tional and Political Studies at the University of Lodz. My spe- cialization is Asian studies. My first encounter with Japanese culture was through animation. It has become increasingly popular in Poland since the beginning of the 21st century. I got to liking Japanese so much that I started learning in a language school. Since then, I have been dreaming about visiting Japan and my dream finally came true. Getting a scholarship to Josia University was the first step towards my Japanese l- nese life and gain good insight into Japanese society. I took part in a variety of events and meetings that broadened my knowledge and perspective. I am really grateful that I have the opportunity to experience Japan, Japanese l- nese first-hand. I am able to boost my language skills not only during Japanese classes, but also when simply shopping or hanging out in Tokyo. During spring break I’m planning to go on a 10-day trip during which I am going to visit major sightsee- ing spots. I am more than sure that before my departure to Po- land in August, I will further ex- pand my grasp and knowledge of Japanese and its various cultural elements.
Ekiden Club claimed seventh place in its 14th year of participating after being absent for two years. This was the fourth time that the club was seeded after falling short the past three times they’ve participated.

At a meeting after the race, a cheerful mood was present not only in the ekiden runners, but in the faculty, alumni and parents association members who came to show their support. “I feel so grateful that the club has achieved such a great record at this turning point. I hope that all of you will do your best and improve your ranking in the coming year,” said President Akira Shirahata.

Moreover, club supervisor Seiji Kusuike stated: “It helps a lot that we have eight experienced runners staying with us for the coming year. I believe that it is possible to get third place if we simulate healthy competition and help runners to improve their levels. I believe in this possibility and will strive hard (to meet it).”

‘Ekiden’ relay team continues to make strides

by Han Liu

The “ekiden” long-distance relay race between Tokyo and Hakone was held on Jan. 2 and 3. The Josai University Men’s Ekiden Club claimed seventh place in its 14th year of participating after being absent for two years. This was the fourth time that the club was seeded after falling short the past three times they’ve participated.

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Let’s exchange!

by Zuzanna Bielecka

My name is Zuzanna Bielecka and I come from Poland. Three and a half years ago I started my Japanese studies at the University of Warsaw. At that time, I didn’t speak any Japanese or know much about Japan. But because I was interested in studying a foreign language and learning about another culture, I decided to give it a go and I’m glad I made that decision. Last year, an opportunity I longed for finally came to be — I got a chance to study in Japan. I enrolled in the Contemporary Policies Department at Josai University’s Sakado Campus. I came to Japan with the hopes that many other foreign students have; enhancing my language abilities, making many new friends, challenging myself in a completely new and unknown environment and, most of all, enjoying life during that one year of studying.

After one semester, I can certainly say that it was worth it. I am grateful to Josai University for giving me a unique opportunity of having a taste of living in Japan and getting to know people from other countries. I have learned that some things that I would take for granted in Poland, might be quite the opposite in Japan. Since much of verbal and non-verbal communication in Japan is shown differently than in my country, I had to pay much more attention to it to make friends with other students at Josai University. But perhaps what is extremely special about cultural exchange is that even though there is so much that differs from what you know — language, culture, life experiences — you are still able to find some common ground with people around you. This one semester at Josai University has definitely changed not only the way I view Japan, but also made me look from a higher perspective at my own culture and realize new things about myself as well. Even though I sometimes still struggle to find the correct words in Japanese, I see progress in my studies and I am looking forward to the next five months of my stay in Japan.

by Agnes Dalmadi

My name is Agnes Dalmadi and I am from Hungary. I came into contact with the Japanese language when I was still in high school, and it soon became apparent that I wanted to pursue an academic career in Japanese studies. Last year, I finished my first year of Eötvös Loránd University’s Japanology Master’s Program. As of now, I am studying under Josai University’s Faculty of Management as an exchange student.

I remember when I was still just a freshman in high school, my friend and I made a bucket list, and one of the entries was moving to Japan. I would have never thought that I would actually be able to cross out this entry, since it seemed so far away and impossible. But thanks to this scholarship, without any exaggeration, my childhood dream came true, and I will always be incredibly grateful for that.

I have already traveled to some beautiful locations in Japan, such as Sendai and Matsumoto, but I am a frequent visitor to Tokyo as well. One of the best experiences was resting in an onsen (hot spring) next to the ocean, and watching the night sky above me. All in all, any time I meet new people or visit new places, I feel enriched. Talking with locals, fellow classmates and other exchange students always changes me little by little. I have become more tolerant, accepting and open-minded — all thanks to meeting such interesting people. Even though we all come from different backgrounds, the respect I give is always given back, and it makes it possible to bring our cultures closer. As I am learning from others about their cultures, it always inspires me to learn more and more, and broaden my horizons.

Talking with native Japanese speakers on a daily basis is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so I would like to make the most of it. I have become more confident in my Japanese skills and will keep exploring this whole new world around me.

by Sang Chu

My name is Sang Chu, and I’m an exchange student from China. Before coming to Japan, I studied at the Dalian University of Foreign Languages where I first started my Japanese studies. Now, I am studying at Josai University.

Since I was a kid, I had great interest in foreign languages and I know how useful and important it is to learn foreign languages. I used to listen to Japanese music and watch Japanese dramas and I was also interested in Japan’s culture and history, so I decided to start learning Japanese at university.

I am honored and grateful to have such a good opportunity to be an exchange student in Japan. Here, I have met lots of friends from different countries and it is a precious opportunity to be able to communicate with people from all over the world. During this time, I have learned a lot about the history of different cultures.

As for school life, when I just arrived in Japan, I was nervous and afraid to communicate with others, but my teachers and friends here are all kind and friendly. They gave me lots of encouragement when I struggled and now I am becoming more and more confident.

The exchange student life is full of happiness, it not only helps you acquire academic knowledge, but it also makes me more and more independent. Now, I want to improve my Japanese speaking and writing capabilities and get a master’s degree. I know I still have a lot of difficulties to overcome, but I will do my best to work on this goal.

I am looking forward to the rest of my exchange life and no matter what difficulties I meet, I will stick to it. Being an exchange student in Japan has become one of the most cherished memories of my life.
Josai Kawagoe High School gave an excellent “keyaki” (zelkova tree) drum performance at the “ekiden” long-distance relay send-off party on Dec. 15. The Japanese drum team was established in 2005 initially as a volunteer activity held by student council. “We use Japanese drums, but it is basically for volunteer activities. The performance shows how strong an all-male school is,” said a student.

There are 29 members on the current team; 12 from the second grade and 17 from the first grade. The team practices for two hours from Monday to Saturday after school. Initially, there were only five drums, but there are currently over 30 and a far greater variety. The team performs 30 to 40 times annually, not only at school events and the Kawagoe Festival, but also at welfare facilities and other locations.

One team member shared their ambition: “Different from other musical instruments, the enchantment of the Japanese drum lies in its sound that echoes through the body. The Josai Kawagoe Japanese drum team wants to amaze the audience with great performances.”

Yukiko Akaba, a long-distance runner who represented Japan at the Beijing Olympics and won the Japan collegiate women’s “ekiden” long-distance relay race twice while studying at the university, has become the adviser and coach of the Women’s Ekiden Club. Additionally, her husband and former coach Shuhei Akaba became director on April 1.

Yukiko Akaba entered Josai University in 1998. She won the All-Japan Intercollegiate Women’s Ekiden Championship in her first and third years of university. Moreover, she received a personal performance reward for four consecutive years. After graduation, she played an active role as a runner for a corporate factory team. She competed in the 10,000-meter race in the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, then transitioned to marathons and retired after winning the International Women’s Marathon Championship in 2014.

“I remember clearly how excited I was when I won,” Yukiko said. Regarding her appointment as coach, “this time as staff, together with my husband, I will help the students to achieve their goals and experience that excitement.”

Shuhei Akaba formerly served as the manager of Josai University Track and Field Club, as well as the coach of a corporate team. “It is so impactful and great news that we have the Akabas to demonstrate their leadership to our university. I hope that you will create a new history for the club,” said President Akira Shirahata in his welcoming speech.