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Chancellor Noriko Mizuta (center) with presidents and vice presidents of 14 universities from around the world at the forum held in Tokyo.

JIU introduces 'Green Curtain' project in collaboration with Nomura Real Estate, Wago

by Hirotaka Suzuki
Professor, Faculty of Social and Environmental Studies



Green curtain at Togane Campus, July 2011.

Our society, faced with the problem of urban heat islands and other environmental phenomena, has been pressed to move toward a low-carbon social system, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and mitigating the burden on the environment.

One of the solutions suggested and recently reevaluated in Japan is the recovering of green space in urban areas. Increasing biomass in the form of plants and trees in city centers can absorb and fix CO₂, mitigate climate fluctuation and provide a good landscape, thus contributing to the greater goal of a sustainable society based on the cohabitation of man and nature.

Re-greening is not, however, an easy task. The main difficulty is the lack of space for planting trees and plants in highly developed urban areas. Establishing more public parks or widening street-side zones is impossible in most situations. One potential solution is the greening of roofs and walls of large and tall buildings in urban areas.

This year, the Department of Social and Environmental Studies at JIU, established in 2010, has committed to the goal of urban re-greening as one of the department's off-campus collaboration programs. The SES Department has previous experience in off-campus collaboration, having already built a database of the insectivorous

plants in the Naruto-Togane area of Chiba Prefecture, as well as leading other projects such as recycling plastic resources, making biodiesel fuel from rapeseed, and so on.

With this current project, JIU is collaborating with Nomura Real Estate, a nationwide real-estate company, and Wago, a farming and agricultural food product company from Chiba. Together, they have launched a project known as "Green Curtain" to improve the environmental quality in areas of urban high-rise housing.

In this project, the Department will contribute to verifying the effect of green curtains in residential zones, especially as it applies to altitude, the effectiveness of different plant species, and the physical, physiological and psychological degrees of mitigation achieved. ★

Forum looks at globally minded human resources

by The Japan Times

The presidents and vice presidents of 14 universities from 10 countries and areas in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia gathered in Tokyo on April 29 to discuss how to nurture globally minded human resources in today's changing world.

Of the various points on which the academicians agreed, key among them was the necessity of facilitating education for

liberal arts and intercultural communications so that their students could make due contributions to their local communities and the increasingly globalized society as well.

In an opening address before an audience of some 200 people at the Tokyo campus of Josai International University (JIU), Noriko Mizuta, chancellor of the university and organizer of the event, said that most issues facing the universities in Japan are precisely the same in nature

confronting the universities in the rest of the world.

"In order to open up new avenues in today's difficult times, nothing is more important than to promote inter-university cooperation and collaboration on a global scale," Mizuta emphasized.

The forum was organized to mark the 20th anniversary of JIU's founding. The 14 participating panelists were top administrators of JIU and its overseas sister schools, including Camosun College in

Canada, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in South Korea, University of Cologne in Germany and Northeastern University in China.

The academicians exchanged views on such issues as the qualities and qualifications of "human resources with global mindsets," the desired modality of inter-university collaboration on a global basis and education projects to connect local communities with the global community. ★



Freshmen in the Faculty of Nursing on their overseas trainee program in the U.S.

Faculty of Nursing brings new dimension to JIU

by Kanae Iida
Dean, Faculty of Nursing

In April this year, JIU established a Faculty of Nursing at the Togane Campus. The main mission of the faculty is "Developing nurses of a new era." Specifically:

- 1. Nurses who can play an active role in the international community
- 2. Nurses with pharmaceutical and welfare knowledge
- 3. Nurses who can contribute to the local health community

The enrollment number for this faculty is 100 students. About half of the students admitted this year come from Chiba Prefecture. Approximately 400 students applied, so many good students have joined us.

The nursing faculty will prioritize education leading to licensed positions such as "Nurse," "Public Health Nurse" and "School Nurse (category 1)." There are only three nursing universities in Chiba Prefecture that are able to provide all of these licenses. The faculty has also entered into cooperative educational agreements with the Japanese Red Cross Narita Hospital to enhance our Disaster Nursing course.

In March this year, the construction of the new building for nursing education was completed. This Clinical Nursing Simulation Learning Center is equipped with multimedia technology for viewing audiovisual learning and training materials. The building contains several laboratories, including:

- 1st floor: Nursing skills laboratory for home care
- 2nd floor: Nursing science laboratory for basic skills
- 3rd floor: Adult and Geriatric Nursing science laboratory
- 4th floor: Maternal and Pediatric Nursing science laboratory

Located next to the Piano Pond, the scenery from this new building is unrivaled on campus. As mentioned above, one of the main missions of the Faculty of Nursing is to develop nurses who can play an active role in the international community. To this end, JIU offers an overseas trainee program (two-step type). All freshmen are invited to the first step, which is a 9-day program that includes a visit to the Uni-

versity of California, Riverside (UCR) in the United States.

This year, all freshman students participated in the trip to UCR, where they attended lectures in English and visited hospitals and nursing homes. The students, who departed from Narita on May 12 and returned safe and sound on May 21, reported that they learned a great deal in the program and had a positive experience staying with homestay families in the U.S.

For students with further interest in the overseas program, JIU will be offering a 10-day trainee program in China for sophomores, while students in their senior year may join the one-month Overseas Education Project course in Norway, Canada, the U.S. or Australia. ★

Center for Language Education helps students make progress in various fields of study, careers

by Maria Shiguemi Ichiyama
Director, Center for Language Education

The role and achievements of the Center for Language Education can be explained best by looking at the paths of a few of our students.

We can start with Sho Watanabe, who was a student in the Department of International Exchange Studies some seven years ago. Sho entered JIU with the purpose of improving his English and of studying abroad. In his first year of studies, he received A's in all his required and elective English classes taught by faculty in the Center. (As a matter of interest, the Center administers and offers all the language courses at the university, a total of approximately 350 in 2012.) Sho was an outstanding student not only on account of his excellent marks, but also due to his positive attitude toward his studies.

Sho chose to study Spanish as a second required language, perhaps because of his love of soccer and his wish to be able to communicate with Spanish speak-

ers around the world. Unsurprisingly, he also received top grades in his Spanish courses. Our Spanish courses are taught by native speakers who are eager to share

"We strive to provide students with the language skills and the cultural understanding that are required for international communication and for a successful professional career outside the university."

their knowledge of both the languages as well as the fascinating cultures of the various Spanish-speaking countries around the world. In fact, students can opt to take Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Korean, or Hungarian classes, and then they may participate in short- or long-term programs at our sister universities in those countries where the languages are part of daily discourse. In line with our philoso-

phy of education, English is a required course in all departments at JIU.

On a more personal note, I re-read a short paragraph Sho had written during

his first semester at our university, when he was my advisee. He stated that, "My first aim here is to be able to go abroad and my second is to score 600 on the TOEIC." Sho traveled to the United States with me in his first year at JIU on the *Kokusai Koryu Kenshu* Program, and then, in his second year, he went to Camosun College as an exchange student. He returned from Canada a more confident and a more ambitious



Sho Watanabe studied Spanish at JIU and hopes to develop a career in teaching.

person. He graduated from the Department in March 2008, with a TOEIC score of 865. I would like to point out that after returning to Japan, he continued taking English courses, and he also chose to attend lectures in English. Furthermore, he wrote his graduation thesis entirely in English. We strongly recommended graduate school to him, but Sho was certain he needed to work. He did that for two years, yet, fortunately, returned to us, and he is now in our Graduate School working toward a Master's Degree in International Administration.

Sho aims to develop a career in teaching. So far, as a graduate student, he has taken advantage of the support offered by the Japan Foundation, and he went to California State University, Long Beach, as a Teaching Assistant in the Japanese Program there. In the Center for Language Education, we strive to provide students with the language skills and the cultural understanding that are required for international communication and for a successful professional career outside the university.

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Dignitaries attend opening of Prince Takamado Memorial Sports Park

by Hanako Nakayama
Senior, Department of International Exchange Studies

On May 22, Josai International University celebrated the opening of the Prince Takamado Memorial Sports Park.

Josai International University is a member of the Prince Takamado Memorial Foundation for Japan-Korea Exchange, and the university wishes to commemorate Prince Takamado's achievements when he was an honorary chairperson of the Japan Football Association (JFA). For example, he visited South Korea to participate in the opening of the 2002 FIFA World Cup, jointly hosted by South Korea and Japan, and built up a good relationship between the JFA and the South American soccer federation known as Conmebol (La Confederación Sudamericana de Fútbol).

Josai International University hopes that people from the next generation will remember that it is important to have good relationships among the countries of the world. Furthermore, Josai International University is proud that this is the first sports park in Japan to be named after the late Prince Takamado.

This sports park includes a 33,000 m² soccer ground made of artificial grass, which helps the field maintain a constant ground temperature. The facility also has floodlights, a clubhouse and spectator



seating for 60 people.

Josai International University invited important guests for the opening ceremony. Her Imperial Highness Princess Hisako Takamado, who is the honorary president of the Japan Football Association, Saburo Kawabuchi, who is the honorary chair-

person of the JFA, and JFA Vice President Kuniya Daini participated.

In addition, there was a soccer game between two teams comprised of members of the JFA Academy Fukushima women's team. This team consists of high school students who have been evacuated to Shi-

zuka Prefecture from Fukushima Prefecture because of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami.

Princess Takamado said that she would like this sports park to be a place where people gather to enjoy and celebrate sports. Noriko Mizuta, the chan-

cellor of Josai International University, also mentioned that she would like to see this park used as a place where both Japanese and people from other countries can come together in a spirit of friendship.

Josai International University uses this

park not only for its soccer club, but also allows local residents and international players to use the facility.

In the future, this sports park will be a place for the pursuit of excellence in sports as well as a place to foster international dialogue. ☆



JIU Brass Band celebrates its 20th anniversary

by Satoshi Yamada
Student, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

This year Josai International University has been celebrating its 20th anniversary. However, it is not only JIU that is 20 years old, but also the JIU Brass Band.

The band plays various types of music in concerts at college events, regular concerts, and social concerts for senior citizens. The JIU Brass Band is regarded with affection by many people around the university because its beautiful melodies bring a feeling of happiness.

The band also actively takes part in the Brass Band Competition hosted by the All Japan Band Association every year and has been awarded the gold prize for the last 11 years at the Brass Band Competition in Chiba. In 2008 the JIU Brass Band got the

chance to take part in the national competition for the first time. Also, the conductor of the band, Seiichi Yamaguchi, has been awarded the Conducting Prize many times.

There are about 40 members in this brass band. Members of the band who only started playing their instrument since they entered the university outnumber those who were already experienced at playing their instrument, meaning that more than half of the band could be said to be "amateur" musicians. Because of this, all members make the most of the opportunities to improve themselves, such as by taking part in practice every day after school and by playing as an ensemble in the Mizuta Memorial Hall every Sunday. Due to these efforts, the growth of the band's musical sensibilities has been remarkable.

Education at JIU is guided by the philosophy of "character building through learning,"

Similarly, the brass band believes in "character building through music." The band would admit that the music it plays is far from perfect yet, but every member has learned the importance of teamwork and regards it as a guiding principle in their daily lives. Also, students who have graduated from JIU continue to display this spirit of teamwork and continue to support the current brass band members. For example, they take part in social concerts for senior citizens with students, attend the ensemble on Sundays and provide student welfare facilities, helping the band when it needs to travel. In short, the JIU Brass Band is an extended family, the members of this family being the conductor, the current university students and alumni of JIU.

When this close-knit group meets, there is always laughter and enjoyment, together with the spirit of mutual trust and support. ☆

KAMOGAWA CORNER

Q & A
with Professor
Daniel Stuntz

by Chiharu Moriyama,
Kozue Suzuki and Ryo Yoshimoto

We are students in the Department of Wellness Tourism in the Faculty of Tourism located on the Awa Campus in the resort city of Kamogawa, in southern Chiba Prefecture. We interviewed Daniel Stuntz, an Assistant Professor in our Department, who has some very interesting things to say about traveling to Taiwan recently. Mr. Stuntz specializes in English and Japanese language pedagogy and is particularly interested in using computers, mobile devices and the Internet in teaching and learning languages.

Ryo: Good morning, Mr. Stuntz. How are you?

I'm good. Thank you. But I'm a little tired.

Kozue: You just got back from a conference, right?

That's right. I didn't sleep much.

Chiharu: Where did you go?

Last week I went to Taiwan for three nights and four days to attend a conference in the city of Taichung in west-central Taiwan. It's about an hour south of Taipei if you take the HSR, or High Speed Rail. It's like the *shinkansen* here in Japan.

R: Had you ever been to Taiwan before?

No. It was my first time. I was a little nervous because I don't know how to speak Taiwanese Chinese. The trip was great. The Taiwanese people are really friendly and helpful.

K: Could you please tell us more about your trip to Taiwan?

Sure. Taiwan was great, but much hotter than Kamogawa. When I left Kamogawa, it was about 23 degrees Celsius. When I arrived in Taipei and went down to Taichung City for the conference, the temperature hit 33 degrees. It was very hot, but I had a great time in Taiwan.

C: So, what was the conference about?

I wanted to attend a conference on CALL. Do you know what CALL is?

R: Yes, you've mentioned it before in class. Computer-Assisted Language Learning, right?

Yes! It sounds boring, but CALL is a field of language education I have been interested in for over a decade. Basically, it is using a computer to learn a language. It's a part of e-learning. It combines language, technology, education and communication all in one.

K: You were in Taiwan for four days. What did you learn at the conference?

Great question! I learned a lot of new

things and met many different people. There were actually a lot of instructors and professors from Japan presenting on various topics on CALL and MALL — Mobile-Assisted Language Learning. I went to about 10 different talks or presentations and learned about different ways to research and use computers, mobile devices and the Internet for language classes here in Kamogawa.

C: What was your favorite presentation?

I liked most of them, but the first one I attended was related to one of my own interests: using a tablet device — like the iPad — in a language class. The presenter gave a talk on how she used the iPad

and met many different people. I hope that our department can get tablet devices like the iPad for all classes, not just language classes. What would really be great is if we could have a CALL room — or room dedicated to mobile learning — where there are no fixed desks or computers, but you can access the Internet and communicate more easily in groups. We can do that already with smartphones — anytime, anywhere.

K: But some students don't have smartphones.

You're right. I think about 30% to 40% of our students have smartphones. But it's gone up from 20% about a year ago. People have different ones, too, like iPhones

or Android smartphones. Everyone is using something different.

R: That must make teaching very difficult.

D: Yes, it's very difficult, but it is a fun challenge. I love technology, but it's just a tool for teaching and learning. Giving students a choice is the most important. Providing them with a way to communicate using English or Japanese can be fun on smartphones and mobile devices like iPad tablets or even laptop computers, but it has to have real meaning to the students. I would like to have students use the technology outside of class more. It helps students improve their understanding and use of it more, and makes it personal. Now is the time to learn these computer skills and if you can do

“Giving students a choice is the most important. Providing them with a way to communicate using English or Japanese can be fun on smartphones and mobile devices, but it has to have real meaning to the students.”

to make videos in class at her university here in Japan. Her students made music videos introducing themselves. It was quite interesting and is an idea I have been thinking of doing in my English classes.

K: That would be great. How do you want to use technology more in classes here in the Faculty of Tourism?

Creating videos on iPads is just one way, but my research is on developing teaching and learning materials for English for Tourism Industry language classes. It's very important to me that students like yourself are engaged in your learning and enjoy it. I also want you to feel productive about how you are using your time and I think technology can help us better communicate and be produc-

cal learning environment that prepares students for the future.

K: Anything you would like to add?

Well, I think learning tourism here is one of the best ways to prepare for a future where you need to be globally minded and possess the necessary communication and IT skills. Learning English as well as another language like Chinese, Korean, Spanish or Hungarian is a great way to better understand the world and provide you with a richer life experience. Learning a language is about changing yourself. I've been learning Japanese for almost 20 years, but I still have a long way to go. It's a challenge, but I am reminded by the quote: "the journey is the reward" — that the objective or reward is not at some end destination. The real reward is the skills you develop and acquire — like time management, study skills, language skills ... and cooking! You have to do this through hard work and real effort. The real reward is meeting many different people and what you learn about yourself along the way. You will change. Who do you want to be?

About the interviewers: Chiharu, Kozue and Ryo are currently juniors in the Faculty of Tourism. They were participants in the 2011 6-month Disney College Internship and recipients of the Hospitality & Tourism Management Certificate from the University of California, Riverside. Please read more about their adventures at UCR and Disney World in Florida online at: http://jiu.ac.jp/tourism/internship/disney2011/disney11_index.html

About the interviewee: Mr. Stuntz is from the U.S. state of Wisconsin. His hometown of Manitowoc is Kamogawa's sister city. Next year, Manitowoc and Kamogawa will celebrate the 20th year of their sister-city relationship. Mr. Stuntz has been living in Kamogawa for six years. He can be contacted via email: d.stuntz@jiu.ac.jp

New JEWEL Dalian Studies Program for women a success

by Kenji Watanuki
Professor and Vice Director, Center for the Promotion of Arts and Science

Since Josai University Educational Corporation is celebrating the upcoming 50th anniversary of the foundation of Josai University and the 20th anniversary of the foundation of Josai International University, we have begun a new program this year: JEWEL Dalian Studies. JEWEL stands for the Josai Executive Program for Women's Empowerment and Leadership.

This program groups working women and female graduate students of Josai University and Josai International University to give them a chance to be active in a global society in order to develop their communication skills and further internationalize their mind-sets. Furthermore, this program provides training in work-life balance to better women's social advancement as well as to improve their status in an international setting.

This program is divided into three phases: the first part of this training is conducted in Japan for about a month, then students undergo training in Dalian (a city in northeast China with remarkable growth and with which our universities have a long-lasting relationship) and finally, students return to Japan where they present the results of their investigations.

We visited Dalian for five days from Thursday, May 3 to Monday, May 7. Owing to the cooperation of the Dalian Municipal People's Government, Dalian City Women's Alliance and Dalian University of Technology, we participated in an opinion exchange session with wom-



en executives and managers at the city government. We also joined a lecture on market trend surveys, youth culture and youth dressing/eating habits, as well as visited a beauty center and a supermarket to learn about the politics, economy and culture of Dalian from the point of view of working women.

We went as well to landmarks sig-

nificant to Sino-Japanese history, such as the 203 Hill, the Lushun Museum, and to the remnants of the headquarters of the Manchuria Railway. During our training in Dalian, we were blessed with a "passionate welcome" from other women and the local government. We were able to enjoy lively discussions between Japanese and Chinese

women.

Presentations of results from the Dalian trip were held on May 19. Working women who participated in this session came from very diverse fields, such as mass communications, education, law or business. We were all able to transcend our own positions as employees or graduate students, exchanging opin-

ions and looking at problems as "women," which made this training very successful.

From now on, the JEWEL Dalian Studies Program as well as exchanges between participants will continue. We are looking forward to a substantial expansion of women's participation into the making of our society. ★

Letter from JIU Student in Norway

by Moet Takahashi

It has been almost 10 months since I came to Norway. I have experienced the coldest weather I have ever been in, met many amazing people and learned many new things. Although there have been many rough times, I can say that my life here in Norway has been an unforgettable experience.

You have not experienced true winter unless you have experienced Norwegian winter. The snow and darkness of this country was a great shock to me. In December, the sun does not rise until around 9 a.m. and sets just after 3 p.m. I slipped a total of six times on the ice this winter, and broke the record of my friend's 7-year-old sister. It sounds quite tough, but on a positive note, the snow is beautiful and the northern lights were absolutely amazing.

With a population of only 5 million in Norway, you meet people that you would never expect to meet when in Japan. One night I found that, to my great surprise, the Prime Minister of Norway was sitting in the seat next to me at a pub. I also saw the Prince with his family on the streets, and I was even able to be in a commercial on national television with a Norwegian idol! You never know when things like this might happen to you in a small country like Norway.

I noticed that Norwegians study a lot. When I began my courses at the University of Oslo, I was a bit surprised at how much work is required for each class.

Unlike Japan, a full-time student takes three to four courses a semester. This may seem very little, but each course requires at least a thousand pages or more of reading per semester. To be honest, I do not think that I have ever struggled so much or read so many texts in my life. The exams are much more difficult, and the final grades were not as high as I had expected. It is a little embarrassing to talk about grades, but I am proud to say that I have matured a bit from studying at the Norwegian standard.

Although one year may be only a little while compared to one's entire life, I believe that it can make a significant difference. While studying abroad for a year in Norway, I have learned to speak and understand the language and have made many friends. There were times I struggled and times when I felt homesick. I feel that by living and experiencing life in Norway, I was able to see myself from a different perspective. I learned to recognize what I don't have and to appreciate what I do have. I hope that I can take this experience home with me and make use of it to make a positive difference for my future. ★

A Hungarian shares her lasting experiences of living in Japan

by Viktoria Tervey

It's a great honor for me to write to the JIU Times because I have so many wonderful memories about Japan and your university.

My first visit to Japan was one of the greatest journeys in my life. It was spring-time and cherry blossoms were blooming.

I like to read articles that are written by foreigners about my country, what they think about Hungary and Hungarian people. So I would like to write about my first impressions of Japan and Japanese people, and I hope you will be interested in it.

The first thing that I realized when I arrived in Japan is the kindness of people and the respect for each other, not to mention the cleanliness of the streets, railway stations, subways and everything. I think these are missing from most European countries.

I like the way Japanese people pay attention to details in every field of life. I

"The best way to know a country's culture and characteristics is to visit and stay there for a while."

could find a good solution for everything; for example, household problems (storage), office work (stationery — the Loft is one of my favorite places to shop), and I liked how if I bought something, the staff wrapped it perfectly.

It was also very interesting to see that from the vending machines I could also buy hot drinks, not only cold ones.

My favorite places are the temples with



The author (left) liked sushi so much while in Japan that her Japanese teacher taught her and her classmates how to make it.

their beautiful gardens, and I also like Kyoto very much.

I must admit, before my first trip to Japan, I was a bit afraid of Japanese food, but the first time I tasted real Japanese sushi, my fear went away. From that time I like

it very much and I even learned how to make it. I started to learn Japanese language and our Japanese teacher showed me and my classmates how to make sushi.

I think the best way to know a country's culture and characteristics is to visit and

stay there for a while, so you can experience its everyday life, which is full of treasures, especially in Japan. ★

The writer is the wife of Professor Laszlo Vasa of Szent Istvan University in Hungary.

Language

Continued from Page 1

Sho Watanabe is an excellent example of a student who has made the most of the opportunities that we are able to offer our students.

Another student we would like to introduce to you is Shuko Ujiie from Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture. Despite the sad and stressful events that affected the area in March of last year, she decided to enter JIU in April 2011 with the objective of obtaining a qualification to become an English teacher. Although she has been with us for only 14 months, she has worked steadily toward that goal. Not only did she receive superb evaluations from her language teachers, but she also improved her TOEIC score by almost 200 points in one academic year, starting her second year with a score of 585.

In the Weekend Intensive English Program that is conducted at our Awa Learning Center in Kamogawa, Shuko made the most of the opportunities that the program presents. For each weekend session a different combination of teachers are present, which means that participants have the opportunity to get to know all the teachers from the Center for Language Education during the program. They are exposed to Australian, American, Canadian and British English while spending the weekend in an English-only environment. Shuko has also regularly taken advantage of our English Café, where faculty members and stu-



Shuko Ujiie (front row, second from right) in Victoria, Canada, in September 2011.

dents of all ages and all majors have lunch together. We have two different spaces: the main one is on the second floor of the Fu Terrace and the English Café Annex is located on the 3rd floor of H Building. By taking part in all these different programs and maximizing the opportunities to use genuine English, Shuko and students like her have blossomed!

In their second year, students have the chance to join a long-term program of study and join a variety of internships that are on offer at our sister universities. Shuko has just received her visa to enter the United States where she will take part

in the University of California, Riverside (UCR) and Disney College Internship Program from June 30 to January 12, 2013. The Center provided substantial support for the group of students who applied for this program, giving them special intensive classes during the spring break. These classes are extremely important in helping students to pass the proficiency tests and interviews by both UCR and Disney, and also in preparing for their interviews at the American Embassy. This is the third group of JIU students who will be studying and working hard to secure a Certificate of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Disney

"The All-English BA Program allows students to learn more about Japanese culture, business, literature and arts in English."

World in Florida.

Shuko's first year at JIU has been demanding but fulfilling, with the weekend intensive English program, the daily English Café, and her two trips abroad — the U.S. (Scholarship Program) in June, and Canada in early September (Summer Seminar) — but we at the Center for Language Education hope that this coming year in Florida will be even more dynamic and full of valuable, useful experiences for her. Our door is always open to students who want to promote effective communication outside the classroom, and by knowing our students' goals we stand behind them encouraging them and listening to them, and developing more programs that will help them grow into good international citizens.

Patrik Martinsen from Norway is the final student we feel we should introduce to you. Patrik came to JIU for a six-month program in 2007. The following year he re-

turned to Japan and studied with us for a year. He registered for a large number of Japanese language courses taught by the 18 Japanese teachers associated with the Center for Language Education. He then went back to the University of Oslo where he graduated, and following that, applied to graduate school at JIU. Japanese courses at all levels are offered to our international students. Besides the language courses, they can also choose to take courses in the All-English BA Program and learn more about Japanese culture, business, literature and arts in English. In that environment, students with different levels of proficiency in Japanese can have discussions with Japanese and other international students, and therefore, they are not limited to hav-

ing the same classmates during their studies at JIU. You may notice that Patrik is the student interviewing Chancellor Mizuta in the story on page 4.

Our Center continues to strive to offer stimulating events to students. In closing, we'd like to tell you about our Culture Weeks that are currently being held in the Center in which the culture, language and arts of several countries, including Hungary, China, France, Germany and Spain, are featured. For each country, colorful and fascinating displays provide interesting background information on each country. More countries will be presented in the fall semester. Please drop by and sample the international flavor of the Center for Language Education. ★

JIU TIMES

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Interview with Chancellor Mizuta as JIU celebrates 20th anniversary

by Patrik Martinsen

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Josai International University and the reissuing of the *JIU Times*, I interviewed the Chancellor of Josai University Educational Corporation, Dr. Noriko Mizuta, to hear her thoughts on the anniversary, how JIU has become the university it is and the plans for the future of JIU.

I first asked the Chancellor about the history of JIU, how the university has come to be what it is and what the aims in the building of the university have been. She explained that the most important aim was to build a university that could educate and create human resources that can fulfill the roles that the society needs, be it in fields such as social welfare, tourism or media. She further emphasized the importance of education taking place among the local communities. As JIU received land from the community when constructing the Togane Campus, JIU has a responsibility for utilizing the land to the benefit of the local people. The land would have a different role than before. Instead of growing rice, it would now "grow people." Using JIU to promote local culture and the local society is something that the Chancellor values very much.

As the economic bubble burst and Japan was thrown into an economic drought, the roles of universities in the society became even more important than before. Because of a dramatic decrease in the birth rate and the population growing older, the need for higher educated people was evident. Also, for Japan to get back on safe financial ground, a different approach to economic policies was sought. Josai answered this need with the establishment of the Faculty of Tourism, the Faculty of Media Studies and the Faculty of Social Work Studies at the JIU Togane Campus.

As I asked about the achievements JIU has had over the course of its 20 years, Dr. Mizuta mentioned the effect of bringing higher education out of the big cities and into the local areas. Local politicians in Chiba Prefecture realized that they needed to step up their policies in order to continue economic growth. Residents of the Togane area wanted to invite big companies to the area and at one point in time even considered establishing an airport in Kujukuri. Josai managed to convince them that a university would be



Chancellor Noriko Mizuta is interviewed by JIU graduate student Patrik Martinsen.

the best choice. It is difficult calculating the economic and social gains of having a university as big as JIU in the area, but they must be considerable.

Cooperating with the local residents, JIU has received several fields in the vicinity where students can learn practical ecology and agriculture, such as rice planting and farming. Moreover, the Togane area is unique in the sense that it is rich in traditional, localized Japanese culture and still close to Tokyo. The Chancellor emphasizes this point and says it is JIU's responsibility to maintain this culture. The Mizuta Memorial Museum at the JIU Togane Campus contains a vast amount of local art for students and the local community to enjoy.

Starting off 20 years ago with the three faculties mentioned above, JIU has undergone rapid change, with eight faculties and nine specialized fields. This year,

the Faculty of Nursing and a brand-new soccer field will further expand and improve the quality of education at JIU.

I asked Dr. Mizuta what plans she had for strengthening JIU on the international stage. She said that JIU has had huge success internationally, now boasting exchange programs and close connections with universities all around the world. Hungary, Norway, Finland and France are only some of the countries JIU now has exchange programs with. JIU is expanding further, and in late June this year the Chancellor is going to Poland and the Czech Republic, looking for new possible universities to cooperate with.

She further explained that the beginning of the 21st century is the most important time for international universities. Countries and areas that have historically been geographically close but suffered from

wars and disputes, i.e. the west and east of Europe and so on, are mending their post-war wounds and looking for international cooperation and coexistence. Sending young students out in the world to learn about other nations and the international society is one of the most important things a university can do. Medical gaps between poor and rich in the U.S. or China, countries that have world-class medical technology at their disposal, are one of the issues that need to be taken care of.

The Chancellor explained that one of JIU's goals is to have 50% trilingual students. Language is the main factor for overcoming international and intercultural gaps, as well as being able to understand each other. The students need to get out in the world and learn how the international society works and bring that knowledge with them into working life.

Relating to the above-mentioned goal, I asked Dr. Mizuta to tell me a bit more about the short-term goals that JIU has. She said that even though JIU has seen tremendous progress in terms of size and student numbers over these past 20 years, one thing that JIU needs to be careful of is not to have too many students. Josai University Educational Corporation currently has about 13,000 students, making it a medium-sized university institution in Japan. Having too many students, the Chancellor said, is not good for the educational environment and the amount of attention each student gets is severely diminished. She said she is happy with the size of the university now, and that they do not need to expand much more. It is more important to improve the educational institution that is already in place.

Another important goal of the university is to be able to contribute to the society. Educating the students in fields that are highly relevant in today's society, such as

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environmental studies, green technology and ecological sustainability are all fields that the Chancellor wishes to focus more on. These points and the "7 J-Vision" serve as the basis for the managing of JIU in the near future.

I then asked Dr. Mizuta to talk about her own education and research. The chancellor said that when she began her university education in the mid-1950s, only 2.1% of Japanese women continued on to universities after finishing high school. The percentage for men was about 20%. Being one of so few women, she said, was a tremendous opportunity to be able to make a difference and to support women. During the mid- to late 1960s, the trend changed and there was a rising percentage of women obtaining higher education, as well as budget increases to get more women to study. That being said, the Japanese gender culture seemed hard to change, and men were still overrepresented in higher education.

Having the odds against her, she received her Ph.D. in American Literature from Yale University in the U.S. It was not easy being a woman studying in the U.S., let alone being a Japanese woman. There were still very few female doctors and scholars in the male-dominated academic world, and with the society still suffering from postwar trauma, there were indeed some cross-cultural episodes she could have been without. Being a foreigner in

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any country, she said, one has a certain perspective and view of things, but after marrying her American husband, her view of America, Japan and the world changed. One really learns a lot about the society living in a foreign country for so many years.

Throughout the 1970s she further broadened her expertise, venturing into the field of gender studies. The Chancellor specialized in gender criticism in a wide range of literature as far back as the mid-19th century. Using her expertise, she built the curriculum of the Women's Studies program at JIU and still teaches comparative literature to this day.

Being a great enthusiast and supporter of

culture and the arts, especially the Japanese art of poetry such as the well-known short poetry haiku and tanka, the Chancellor is proud of contributing to the foundation of an international short poetry discussion group. Comparing the Japanese poetry style with the Western poetry style, one clear difference between the two is the length. The Japanese seem to favor shorter poems of a couple of sentences, while Westerners tend to create longer poems. Japanese short poetry has been an "internal" process, meaning that the author relies solely on his thoughts and mind to create the poem. In the above-mentioned group, the participants take on an "external" approach, creating the poem one line each, in their own mother language (translation is only used to a certain extent). She explained that it could be difficult to link together a meaningful poem, but the pleasure of cooperating with art lovers from all around the world and contributing to mutual cross-cultural understanding made it worthwhile.

Speaking about her future research, Dr. Mizuta said she wants to study the phenomenon of "Japan-town." China-town is a widely known expression, but its Japanese counterpart is not. Tracking the history of Japanese traveling abroad, it was only as late as the latter half of the 19th century that the Japanese started going abroad. After some 300 years of isolation, it was during the Meiji Restoration that the Japanese sent people out to learn about the ways of the world, especially America and Western Europe. Sadly, during the wars in the early 20th century, Japanese emigrants were facing persecution in their new home countries, and the Japanese communities suffered. In the upcoming years, and still to this day, these events are treated with utmost carelessness to the extent that it has become a political taboo. Studying the history of Japanese societies in other countries is very important for the history of Japan itself, she said.

This point, the Chancellor explained, as well as the fact that the Japanese are good at assimilating, has contributed to the Japan-town phenomenon not being a target subject of scholars and researchers.

Lastly, I asked the Chancellor what her thoughts on JIU's 20th anniversary were. She said she was very happy and even more honored to be able to be a part of the Josai University Education Corporation for so long, and was privileged to help shape the future of both Japanese and international students. *

The interviewer is a student at the International Administration program in the Graduate School of Humanities at Josai International University. He is currently researching international communication and the ways people change their way of speaking in foreign languages.

Profile: Noriko Mizuta

The Chancellor of Josai University Educational Corporation, Dr. Noriko Mizuta graduated from Tokyo Woman's Christian University. She earned her Ph.D. in American Literature from Yale University, then taught as an Assistant Professor and then as an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California.

She was appointed President of Josai University in 1994 and President of Josai International University in 1996. Since 2004, she has held the post of Chancellor of Josai University Educational Corporation.

Dr. Mizuta's fields of research are in Comparative Literature and Women's Studies.



IGWS broadens worldviews while developing leaders in gender equality

by Saeko Miyazaki

Research Fellow, Institute for Gender and Women's Studies

Josai International University's Institute for Gender and Women's Studies (IGWS) has been supporting research projects in the field of women's studies since 1999. Josai International University was the first university in Japan to offer a graduate program in women's studies and has been doing so since 1996. Chancellor Noriko Mizuta is recognized as a pioneer in the field as she was one of the first to bring feminist criticism to women's literature and film.

IGWS has been active in 1) international conferences and symposia on women's studies, 2) the publication of journals and books, 3) the creation of grants and scholarships, and 4) providing workshops to the public in order to promote community support for gender equality in society.

IGWS has held the Japan-China Women's Studies International Conference

since 1995 and the Japan-Korea Women's Studies International Conference since 2001. These conferences have addressed the important issues of the aging population in Asia as well as women's welfare and health. The Symposium of Trendy Korean Dramas and Women's Culture in 2005 analyzed the cultural power women gained through this trend. This symposium succeeded in grabbing the audience's attention. IGWS continues to take aim at current and relevant issues in its symposiums.

IGWS' conferences, symposiums and research projects have given rise to several publications. The research project on elderly women who were abandoned in the mountains (山姥) brought about the publication of "Stories of Old Women in the Mountains" (Gakugei Shorin, 2002). Presentations at the symposium in 2005 were compiled into a book titled "Viewing the South Korean Cultural Movement from a Gender Perspective" (Gendaishokan, 2006). *RIM*, the periodical journal of the Pacific Rim Women's Studies Association, in print since 1994, reports on the research

projects and activities of IGWS (Volume 37, March 2012).

The Asia-Pacific Women's Studies Researchers' Award, given since 2002, encourages feminist researchers through calls for papers. The Noriko Mizuta Scholarship for Young Female Leaders, awarded since 2006, provides support to allow JIU students to take advantage of international internships and study abroad programs with the aim of broadening their worldview as well as career opportunities available to them. Recipients are expected to be leaders in gender equality in society.

The faculty members of IGWS have collaborated with local governments in sponsoring women's studies lectures in local cities and attending meetings for gender equality in Chiba Prefecture. Several workshops, including free screenings of films by women directors and the Women's Café, help foster relationships among scholars, students and citizens. The Lecture Series of Women's Studies in winter has proved motivational for prospective graduate students. *

Seven goals toward becoming a leading university in the world

"7 J-Vision"

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

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