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Josai, Swedish partner host women in literature forum

by JIU Times

Josai University Educational Corp. and Uppsala University, based in Sweden, held the first Uppsala-Josai Joint Symposium, which featured professors discussing female roles in society and literature, at Josai's Tokyo campus on March 30. The symposium, "Women's Studies and Literatures in Sweden and Japan," featured several speakers, including Josai University Educational Corp. Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, a renowned poet and expert in comparative literature and women's studies, and Josai International University professor Lars Vargö, who is the former Swedish ambassador to Japan.

In her opening remarks, Mizuta welcomed the attendees and expressed her hope that the symposium would provide information and insights on gender issues and literature.

"I hope today's symposium will make a significant contribution toward deepening the understanding between our countries," she said. After welcome remarks, Mizuta delivered a speech on female roles in Japanese literature.

She pointed out that men and women have had different styles of writing since medieval times and Japanese female writers do not generally mind being labeled "joryu bungaku" (female literature).

The second speaker, Uppsala University Department of Literature professor Anna Williams,

delivered a presentation, titled "Women Writers and Literary Canon Formation."

"Women are consistently being regarded as deviating or different," Williams said of female writers. "Unlike the case of male writers, a woman's gender is indicated in headings and characterizations."

JIU professor Ayumi Ishijima's presentation was "Current Gender Issues of Japan," in which she said Japan may have slowly changed its social system to offer women equal opportunities, but not people's mindsets, a major reason Japan's global gender equality ranking is very low. The symposium continued with four more



speeches by university professors: Vargö, JIU's Fukuko Kobayashi and Margaretha Fahlgren and Eva Heggstad, both of whom teach at Uppsala, followed by a panel discussion.

Mizuta visited Uppsala in October to discuss with Vargö and Uppsala University Vice Chancellor Eva Akesson possible exchange programs between Josai University, JIU and Uppsala.

In 2013, when Vargö was the Swedish ambassador, he presented Mizuta the Cikada Prize, an award for Asian poets to honor the Swedish Nobel Poet Laureate Harry Martinson.



Graduation ceremony at JIU

by Piotr Lewandowski
Faculty of Management and Information Science

On March 14, Josai International University held its graduation ceremony at the Togane Campus, sending forth 1,024 graduates, including 163 exchange students from 12 countries around the world.

During the ceremony, graduates received certificates and awards from Chancellor Noriko Mizuta and President Hakuo Yanagisawa. After the presentation of the diplomas, Chancellor Mizuta addressed the graduating students with a congratulatory speech.

"You entered the university just after the Great East Japan Earthquake, now you are graduates. I think the 4 years you spent studying at our university was precious time filled not only with hard work and determination, but also reflections that will be helpful in facing your future lives and careers. I hope that you are leaving the school feeling you received appropriate support and attention from the university," Mizuta said.

On behalf of the graduating students,

Sayo Miyazaki from Faculty of Media Studies spoke.

"We are aspiring to be people who play an active role in the global community embodying JIU's philosophy of 'Character Building Through Learning,'" Miyazaki said.

This year's award winners are:
Chancellor's Award: Tamaki Nakamura (Faculty of Social Work Studies)

President's Award:
Distinction — Yuta Watanabe (Faculty of Media Studies), Midori Hiruma (Faculty of Tourism)

International Student's Award — Yang Fei (Faculty of Social Work Studies)

Extracurricular Activities Award — Judo Club (Group Commendation), Women's Softball Club (Group Commendation), Hitotaka Nakagawa (Personal Commendation)
Outstanding Thesis Award — Liu Wen (Graduate School of Humanities, Doctorate Degree), Noriko Matsumaru (Graduate School of Humanities, Master's Degree), Naoki Sumi (Graduate School of Management and Information Sciences, Master's Degree), Wang Du (Graduate School of Business Design, Master's Degree).

New partnership with Lithuanian university

by JIU Times

At the auspicious JIU spring matriculation ceremony, Vice Rector Dr. Inga Zaleniene of Lithuania's Mykolas Romeris University addressed the new class of 2015. Her speech is below.

"It is an honor and pleasure for me to participate in the 2015 spring matriculation ceremony together with our strategic partners, the Josai International University Corporation academic community.

"Today is a time when higher education plays a crucial role for the flourishing of the economy, for the sustainability of society and for the welfare of people as we live in this globalized and competitive world. Seeking to stay on the wave, to create economic growth and welfare for society, countries all over the world aim to grow highly skilled human capital and it is higher education that holds the response to this target.

"In response to societal challenges, the higher education landscape is changing enormously, especially with emerging new technologies, which change the way we learn and teach. The expectations of students also have changed. They expect to choose what they learn, how they learn and when they learn, according to their individual needs and interests. They are ready to do it in their country of origin, going abroad, through open courses offered online or via blended forms of learning that combine all of these possibilities. It places a great responsibility on universities all over the globe.

"Internationalization of higher education is a great opportunity that brings significant benefits for universities and students all over the world. Internationalization is our

best response to globalization. According to the latest statistics, the number of higher education students in the world is expected to increase by over 300 percent, from around 100 million in 2000 to 400 million in 2030. By the end of the decade, the number of internationally mobile students will grow from 4 million today to 7 million.

"This means that universities should take the responsibility to prepare their students for the global, open and competitive labor market. It is not easy to face the challenges, and we need first of all a whole shift in our institutional mind-set as it is no longer enough simply to encourage students to study abroad. Universities need to have comprehensive strategies that go beyond mobility and encompass many other types of academic cooperation.

"We appreciate the fact that the cooperation agreement between Mykolas Romeris University and Josai University Educational Corporation was signed at the end of 2013 and our activities already started as Josai International University, together with other Asian and European partners, last year joined the newly established European-Asian Knowledge Consortium Social Technologies for Smart and Inclusive Society (SOCTECH), which aims to build bridges between innovative universities in European and Asian countries to better serve our students and researchers and to make a greater impact on society by fostering student and academic staff mobility, creating joint and double degree study programs, participating in educational and research projects, organizing joint scientific events, summer schools and other activities. There is no doubt that together we will reach those aims and make a real impact on our academic communities.



"I would like to close my address wishing that all of us face the challenges life brings us, look for the most efficient, common and goal-oriented solutions and together create a healthy society for us and for the generations to come.

"I wish you all a successful and inspiring academic year and take this occasion to invite you to use all the opportunities a globalized world of higher education offers you, by visiting different regions, including Europe, Lithuania and my own Mykolas Romeris University."

JIU welcomes students from around the world

by JIU Times

Josai International University's entrance ceremony was held on April 2, attended by 1,608 new undergraduate and graduate students.

Of the new students, 252 were foreigners hailing from 17 countries.

The ceremony had a very international atmosphere as many guests from JIU's overseas partner universities, as well as ambassadors and other diplomats of various countries in Japan were in attendance.

Among the guests were several representatives from foreign institutions that have sister ties with JIU: Professor Inga Žalėnienė, vice-rector of Lithuania's Mykolas Romeris University; professors Geoff Wilmshurst and Graham Knipfel from Canada's Camosun College; as well as professor Xú Guó Fāi, director of the School of Japanese Studies from the Dalian University of Foreign Languages in China. Also in attendance were Counsellor Györgyi Juhász from the Hungarian Embassy; Second Secretary Elliot Milton from the Irish Embassy; and Ewa Buczak from the Polish Embassy. JIU has also enjoyed support from many private companies for collaborative projects aimed at providing training and employment opportunities. Sun Music Production is one such supporter and President Masahisa Aizawa attended the ceremony.

Chancellor Noriko Mizuta welcomed the new students, saying, "I would like you to think how to achieve JIU's mission of 'Character Building Through Learning' and take a step forward day by day."

Shunsuke Uesugi of the Faculty of International Humanities, representing new students, said, "We pledge to become people who can make contributions in international society."

University of Limerick inks exchange deal

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences JICPAS

On March 18, faculties and students from Josai University and Josai International University welcomed Mr. Brendan Howlin (the Irish Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform) and Anne Barrington (Ambassador of Ireland to Japan) in the 1st building of our Tokyo Kioicho Campus for a signing ceremony held in the underground hall. With Minister Howlin and the former Chairman of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) Hiromasa Yonekura acting as witnesses, Josai and the University of Limerick signed an academic exchange agreement. Following Chancellor Noriko Mizuta's welcome words and the University of Limerick's Head of International Exchange, Dr. Patricia O'Flaherty's words of gratitude, Chancellor Mizuta, Dr. O'Flaherty, Minister Howlin and Mr. Yonekura signed the agreement. This agreement was first made between Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny and (at the time) Chairman of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) Hiromasa Yonekura when Prime Minister Kenny visited Japan in Dec. 2013. Both agreed that Ireland and Japan should mutually promote human develop-



From left, Ambassador of Ireland to Japan Anne Barrington, Brendan Howlin, Dr. Patricia O'Flaherty, Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, Hiromasa Yonekura and others

ment and selected the University of Limerick in Ireland and Josai University in Japan to carry out this project. Due to these circumstances, Mr. Kazuyuki Kinbara, the Director of the International Bureau of the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations and Ambassador Anne Barrington attended the signing ceremony as well.

Since this academic exchange agreement is supported by the Japanese Federation of Economic Organizations, one of its major characteristics is that students will be offered the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of internships in Japan. This agreement is the first one Josai signs with a university in Ireland.

Following the signing ceremony, Minister Howlin gave a 30 mins lecture entitled "The

Importance of Reform in Ireland's Economic Recovery." In spite of his busy schedule due to his office, Minister Howlin enthusiastically answered many student's questions and took the time to talk with exchange students before leaving our university.

Owing to this agreement and the special lecture by Minister Howlin, our university deepened international research exchange with Irish universities.

The University of Limerick is located in Limerick, Ireland. It was founded in 1972 and holds six departments including business and education. About 17,000 students are currently enrolled. The University of Limerick is known as one of the few universities in Ireland with a Japanese language department.

Asia Summer Program teaches other cultures

by Emellyn Yamamoto
Student, Department of International Exchange Studies

The Asia Summer Program (ASP) was created to give Asian students the opportunity to learn about the cultures and experiences of students from different countries and universities, and to share their own cultural experiences. The mission of this program is to offer innovative perspectives on Asia and allow participants to learn directly about the diverse cultures of Asia in a highly international environment. This program is usually held for a month between July and October. The ASP began through a shared sense of responsibility by the leaders of the five founding universities that, given the increasing global importance of Asia, institutions of higher education should strive to create future leaders with a strong understanding of Asian perspectives. The founding universities of the ASP are: Bangkok University; Korea's Dongseo University; Japan's Josai University; Indonesia's Petra Christian University; and Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

The ASP was first held at Petra Christian University in Surabaya, Indonesia in 2012. I was one of the first students to have the honor to participate in this program, which provided me with many unique and enriching experiences. I took a course focusing on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Indonesia

and studied the management, marketing and funding of SMEs and the role they will play in the future global economy. As a result of my studies, I was able to receive a diploma in recognition of my completion of the ASP program. The following year, the ASP was held at Dongseo University in Busan, Korea, and I was again extremely fortunate to have the privilege of participating. I took a course in tourism, culture and hospitality, receiving a diploma for the successful completion the course. Both Petra Christian University and Dongseo University are sister universities of Josai University and Josai International University.

This year Josai University and Josai International University are delighted to have the opportunity to host the ASP and to be able to welcome students from all around the world. The program will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the founding of Josai University Educational Corporation. The ASP 2015 will be conducted across three campuses: Sakado, Togane and Awa, and will offer courses in a wide range of specialist studies and feature an exciting variety of activities and events. The opening ceremony will take place at the Togane Campus of Josai International University on July 7, and the program will run until July 28.



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Reflecting on first 50 years, looking ahead to bright future

Josai University, an institution well-known for fostering an international atmosphere, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and The Japan Times Managing Editor Sayuri Daimon recently had the opportunity to speak with Chancellor Noriko Mizuta about the changes the university has seen in the past 50 years and discuss her vision for the next 50 and beyond.

Daimon: This year marks the 50th anniversary of Josai University. Looking back, what are your feelings on the university's growth?

Mizuta: Fifty years feels like a very short time, especially when compared with distinguished universities such as Waseda, Keio and others in Japan. Also, compared with universities in foreign countries, there are many, many universities with long histories. However, for us, this anniversary is the first opportunity for us to look back over the past 50 years and evaluate what we have accomplished, while at the same time, getting together and planning our vision for the future.

Not only are we examining what the university will be like, but also we are considering what contributions we can make to education as a whole in Japan. We have been working to establish a five-year plan to lay out what we should do in the very near future. To this end, we have come up with the "7-Vision," which is a list of seven goals we want to pursue with an eye toward becoming one of the world's leading universities. These were formulated by looking at what we have accomplished in the past, what is important now and what we want to accomplish in the coming five years.

Work began to establish the university two years prior to its establishment in 1965, which was of course around the time Japan hosted the Olympic Games in 1964. Our founder was a young Diet member, who was elected under the first Constitution of Japan in 1946 and he had to work through the nation's most difficult time as the country had suffered extensive damage in the war. In addition to physical damage, Japan had lost many resources, both human and natural, as well as our social and cultural systems that were created and built upon since the Meiji Period.

Although it was nearly complete devastation, at the same time it was a new start.

Our founder poured all of his energy and heart into establishing a new Japan after the war and restoring not only the political and economic power, but at the same time bringing back the respect Japan had in the world. He worked to be accepted by the international community and have Japan become a partner with the global community in an effort to maintain peace and prosperity.

By the early 1960s, when Japan had somewhat recovered, our founder believed very strongly that the future of Japan depended on the creation of valuable human resources. These people would not only contribute to the reconstruction of Japan, but also to the rebuilding of the world. This global effort was necessary because the damage was not only to the countries that lost the war such as Germany and Japan, but also to the victors such as the U.K. and France.

Our founder had strong aspirations and committed himself to this goal between 1946 and 1965 when the university was established.

I also think it is a happy coincidence that Japan will have another Olympic Games and between the two Olympics, we can consider what Japan has accomplished. Additionally, the people who have been working in Japan during this time include our graduates, the first batch of whom we sent out into the



Chancellor Noriko Mizuta

world in the late 60s.

The development of the country in the '60s, '70s and '80s was indeed remarkable, but at the same time, history has changed and Japan and the world have witnessed economic downturns over the past few decades.

With the coming of the 21st century, there has been extensive globalization and drastic changes in communications technologies and other areas. This marks the start of a new era and everyone should focus their efforts to better realize a bright future.

Prosperity is also something to be watched because if there are differences in social classes, there may not be war, but conflicts will arise. So the future should be geared more toward growth rather than prosperity.

To achieve growth, we need people who can further educational cooperation, especially in Japan where the birthrate has been decreasing, resulting in a shrinking labor force. We find ourselves at a very important time in terms of not only Japanese education, but of global education as well. We want our graduates to actively go out into the world to see and experience it for themselves. I would like them to learn how they can cooperate with other young people to reduce global economic divisions and overcome the language barriers and ideally take leadership roles in foreign countries together. Without those young people who are able to work with other youths around the world, I wonder where we can place our hope for the future. This is a very important mission for everyone involved in education and also for society at large.

Looking back over the last 50 years, we feel that although we have accomplished some important things, there is more to be done in the future.

Daimon: From the beginning, the university's focus has been on peaceful coexistence and the school has developed many unique programs to nurture people with this mindset. Could you explain what kind of unique programs the school has developed?

Mizuta: First, we introduced interdisciplinary programs; Japanese university education took its cues from the national universities, which were very much academic havens where professors' research came first and teaching came second.

From 1961 to 1967 or so, only 12 percent of people went to university and only 2.1 percent of women attended university. In the late '60s and early '70s, more private universities were established, allowing more people to attend university and by 1997, 37 percent of high school graduates went to university, while the number is close to 50 percent today.

Japan needs to look at universities such as those in the U.S., where campus life is very important and the students living together

contributes to the development of their character.

It's not as if Japan was neglecting higher education, but the baby boom ensured that universities didn't face much competition to get students and campuses became playgrounds, attracting many students. As the country was growing it was okay to look inward; we had a market, a labor force and we could sell our products at home and overseas, leading us to believe that Japanese was enough to get by. Obviously the situation has changed drastically with the aging society and the decreasing population and we are nearing a critical point where university education has almost become universal education.

Because world rankings are such an important tool in evaluating universities, it is natural that Japan has to compete in that arena as well, meaning we have to really change higher education to contend.

Previously, students only concentrated on their specific majors, leaving companies frustrated with human resources who had no ability to communicate, or work in non-typical conditions. This led us to believe that interdisciplinary courses would be very important to create people who could contribute to society. So we began offering minors so that, for example, a person in pharmaceutical studies can also take management courses. This allows someone graduating from pharmaceutical studies to work for a drug-maker with the ability not only to explain new drug developments, but also understand the business side of the company.

The second thing that we did was to introduce cross-cultural education. Japanese university education was structured such that a person studying French literature would not have to know anything about English literature and we thought it was important that our students know about other cultures and countries. Now that we are in the global arena, it has become very clear our students must learn how to coexist with other people and cultures.

Lastly, we introduced internships to allow students to not only study their field of study, but get off campus and have actual hands-on experience in a corporate environment both in Japan and overseas. We feel it is important for our students to experience the real corporate world as well as foreign countries. We've been very lucky and have had excellent support from the neighborhoods around our schools in helping to educate our students.

Japanese students have always been very comfortable in Japan and haven't felt the need to learn foreign languages and they have been happy to find jobs in secure companies and simply look forward to retirement. However, the situation has changed as international competition has become tougher. The standard career path has changed drastically as large companies diversify and old names disappear.

Daimon: Is the change in the standard career path the reason you introduced Josai International University?

Mizuta: Yes. In 1992, we decided to establish an international university where we could have a mix of Japanese and foreign students. We also wanted a mix of professors from Japan and overseas who could teach in Japanese, but also in English, Korean, Chinese, French and other languages. This was an important step as I think it is critical that Japanese work outside of Japan to take advantage of a larger job market and to learn the necessary skills demanded by many companies around the world. Basically, our higher education should not be geared only to Japan, but should also contribute to the

development of the world as well. There are so many job opportunities around the world, but I think Japanese education hasn't kept up to meet the HR demands and needs of the world. One big reason is the language; I can't think of any other advanced countries where students don't speak or use more than two languages, even though we have a system of teaching English at minimum from junior high school through high school. Japan is not globalized as a society. Although students study English there is no way to use it and they don't see the necessity of using it as long as they are comfortably situated in Japan.

Daimon: Is this also the reason you're building international dormitories?

Mizuta: It's not only us, as it's necessary to have dormitories to receive foreign students. However, what we are aggressively pursuing is having global college programs where the classes are taught in English. Not all the classes are in English, but enough are available for students to be able to graduate. So we have students from Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Norway, the Philippines and other countries. They have not studied Japanese to an extent that they can take high-level courses in Japanese, but we offer courses in English, something unique in Japan and I believe we are one of the first universities in Japan that offers credits for students taking subjects taught in English.

We also have the multilingual campus, where we teach Hungarian, Polish, Czech and we are starting Vietnamese and Swedish and other languages. Of course we have French, German, Chinese and Korean. For language study, we want to make it natural to be exposed to the language they are studying. Because we have students from many of those countries studying at JIU, coupled with the fact that almost 30 percent of the professors are foreign, we can create a good environment and build an excellent campus.

Daimon: Are you planning to expand your ties with ASEAN countries?

Mizuta: Yes, we already have very good relations with Malaysian universities; we send about 100 students to study English in Malaysia. It's a multiracial, multicultural and multilingual country and going there gives our students confidence that English is not just American or British and that it is a tool for communication and self-expression. We also send many students to Hungary and Poland and although Hungarian and Polish are the native languages, they also speak English, but without a British accent, giving Japanese confidence that English does not have to be perfect to be effective as a tool for communication.

Daimon: Where do you see the university in the future?

Mizuta: We are educating people who will be alive in a time when I will no longer be around and I don't know what will happen at the end of this century, so we should use our imagination to picture how it will be in the future.

I still think Japan has not yet fully embraced global education, something the rest of the world has done.

We've created the "Japan in the World" program and have placed it at the core of our humanities general education. In it, we look at Japan from a global point of view, allowing us to rediscover Japan and think of our tradition and culture, which we should maintain going forward. This program allows us to bring globalization together with the study of our own cultural history. I think



Akira Mizuta Lippit teaches Josai International University students.

some people think our efforts at globalization through foreign languages will be at the expense of Japanese reading and writing, but I don't think that's the case at all.

The program allows us to pursue globalization through studying in English, but at the same time look at Japan not from our own point of view, but from Japan as it's seen in the world, giving us a new way of seeing Japan. For example, we send our students to Hungary and let them study how traditional Japanese paintings have influenced European art. So the cultural development comes in terms of the influence -- not to look at Japanese Edo Period paintings, but to see how that art impacted other cultures. I think this will allow Japanese students to respect Japanese culture more.

We have many non-Japanese professors

come to our schools and teach Japanese culture and traditions, bucking the trend that Japanese scholars think that they know Japan the best and foreigners cannot understand Japanese culture. By publishing research only in Japanese and only in Japanese journals, we have been isolated and I think we should invite many foreign scholars to Japan to teach our students culture and traditions. The U.S. in particular has produced many great scholars and they have not had to give up their individuality and we should make our university more open to foreign teachers.

To be successful as a private university, we should have a solid financial structure, sound management and good governance. We also need to be very aware of how we are evaluated by society and conscious of our contributions to the country and the world.

Visionary statesman, educator creates Josai

Mikio Mizuta, Founder (1905~1976)

Mikio Mizuta was elected as a member of the Diet in the first post-war election for Japan's House of Representatives in 1946, and devoted himself to Japan's economic recovery and growth over 30 years by serving as the industry minister and finance minister for seven terms.

There are many anecdotes about Mizuta during Japan's postwar time. Once, in December 1971 during his third term as finance minister, the world's 10 leading countries' finance ministers were meeting at the Smithsonian Institution in the U.S. The dollar exchange rate at the time was ¥360, and the main focus of the meeting was yen appreciation. In the final stages of the discussions, Mizuta spoke with U.S. Treasury Secretary of Treasury John Connally, who was insisting on the yen's continued appreciation.

Mizuta explained his position to him, saying: "When Japan lifted its gold embargo before World War II, the effective appreciation rate of the yen reached 17 percent. Because of that, our economic recession worsened and the finance minister was assassinated. I'm not afraid of being assassinated, but Japan has had an aversion to the 17 percent mark ever since. I'm afraid I cannot bear the burden of responsibility for any consequences that come from going above that line."

The yen appreciation rate ended up at 16.88 percent, lower than the critical 17 percent mark, and setting the Smithsonian dollar rate to ¥308. It was the most noteworthy happening in Japan's economic history.



Mizuta also dedicated himself to education as well. He founded Josai University in 1965, based on his idea that "We have to nurture excellent human resources who are upstanding citizens. Japan's treasure is its people's excellent minds."

Josai University Educational Corp., the company overseeing the university, was passed down to Mizuta's wife, Seiko, and to his second daughter, Noriko, who presently serves as Chancellor. Josai University Educational Corp. has turned out 90,000 graduates from Josai University, Josai International University and Josai Base College. The schools have grown into a comprehensive university group that has relationships with about 140 universities in foreign countries.

The year 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the university's founding, and is also the 110th year of the founder's birth.

JIU's mission: Character building through learning

JIU prides itself on its youthful ambition and energy, on its commitment to forming the characters of young people with dreams and noble visions of working for the benefit of both local and international communities. The university is guided by the spiritual legacy of its founder, a mission of "character building through learning," in helping students to make themselves responsible individuals and members of society at large.

JIU provides much more than specialized and liberal education in the classroom. The university also offers three practical training programs that focus on the use of foreign language and information processing skills for planning and implementation, and on

the development of the abilities to take the initiative in their endeavors.

The first of these three programs, "field training," was first introduced in Japan by JIU and includes a variety of internships and on-the-job training. The second program is "project training," in which students undertake various projects that they have conceived and planned on their own. The third is "career education," in which students choose their future occupations and start to prepare for their careers by developing their own capabilities.

Through these and other training and education programs, JIU helps students to find their mission in life and offers them solid support with specific preparation and training.



Chancellor Noriko Mizuta

Profile of Chancellor 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.

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Students train at partner university in Hungary

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

From March 6 to 16, Mikio Mizuta Scholarship recipients, as well as Noriko Mizuta Scholarship for Young Women Leaders' recipients, from Josai and Josai International universities participated in a special training session at one of our Hungarian partner universities, the Budapest Business School (BBS). Ten Mikio Mizuta Scholarship recipients and eight students who received the Noriko Mizuta Scholarship for Young Women Leaders took part in the session. This training aims to nurture future leaders to be active in the 21st century's globalized society by helping students get an outside perspective on Japan as well as acquiring communication skills and cultural literacy outside of Japan. One of the main goals of this overseas study trip is to understand how Hungary's imperial cultural legacy, its socialist experience and the country's efforts to enter Western Europe capitalism have shaped its identity.

Mizuta scholarship students focused on two particular themes: "Aspects of art in everyday life" and "The role of art in shaping a country's image." In covering these two topics, the students visited buildings and monu-

ments built at the end of the 19th century in Budapest and Kecskemet. While there, they discovered that these buildings contain many examples of Zsolney porcelain, which were produced around the same time as the buildings.

Students awarded the Scholarship for Young Women Leaders also focused on two themes, "Businesses' corporate social responsibility," as well as "Women leaders in the fine arts," and conducted interviews of prominent women in Hungary. They interviewed a woman managing an auction house, one who works as a gallery curator and one who manages a hotel. Hungary and Japan have a number of similarities when it comes to gender issues as in both countries, as the status of women lags behind that of men. However, looking at the situation of women working in specialized fields was eye opening given that, in former socialist states, women working were considered normal. In this environment, students awarded the Scholarship for Young Women Leaders were able to find ways of comparing their career paths to those of Hungarian women.

During their training session, students carried out fieldwork, conducted interviews and attended lectures at the BBS. On the last



Scholarship recipients interview a female manager of an auction house.

day of their training they gave presentations outlining what they had learned in Hungary. A unique aspect of the presentations was that the Japanese students did not present alone but, from the preparatory phase onward, they worked with Hungarian students to make presentations together. This allowed

for a deeper interaction between the Japanese and Hungarian students. Many guests attended the presentations, including BBS Rector Eva Sandor-Kriszt, who is also the head of Women's Studies at BBS, as well as members from the Japan Foundation.

The interactions between Japanese and

Hungarian students were very lively and when the students left, the Hungarian students accompanied them to the boarding gate, making for a very moving moment. The university is now looking forward to seeing how the students will evolve after they return to Japan.

Chamber of commerce honors chancellor

by JIU Times

On Feb. 10, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented an award to Chancellor Noriko Mizuta. The award was given in recognition of Josai International University's broad range of contributions to the accounting and finance fields and their support of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. These include the university's work in organizing the first through 10th High School Accounting Competitions and their advanced studies of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which Japanese companies hope to incorporate into their systems in the near future.

In appreciation of Josai International University's consistent excellence of foresight and corresponding educational ideals, from their founding to the present day, and to thank Chancellor Mizuta for her leadership, the JCCI chose to award her this honor. Josai plans to continue to make further contributions to the field while continuing to cultivate student abilities.

The JCCI was created by and for the people working in the commercial and industrial fields. It has deep roots tracing back to Marseille, France in 1599, when the first such organization was formed. At present, there are 514 local chambers and more than 1.26 million members across Japan. The JCCI represents the chambers by presenting their suggestions to the government and other bodies and helping implement them. And while JCCI's undertakings span a wide range from individual policy proposals to the revitalization of local communities, its primary goal is to foster human resources, which it does through its qualifying examinations and other programs.

Honors Club visits museum, JICA

by Yuki Yabuta
Student, Faculty of International Humanities

On March 3, as part of the Honors Club Program, I visited The National Art Center and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The National Art Center was holding an exhibition of works on loan from the Louvre. The gallery was crowded with people admiring the masterpieces. Although I know some famous paintings, there was not one I knew at the exhibition. Nevertheless, these mysterious and unknown works mesmerized me. After reading explanations of the paintings, I wanted to examine them more carefully. I could look at them from two perspectives. Since I did not know these paintings, I could let my imagination run free. Knowing their history made it possible for me to better understand the art. I found both perspectives enjoyable.

At JICA, I learned about developing countries. The activities of international cooperation were introduced at JICA's "Chikyu-Hiroba" exhibition. Thanks to photographs and models I became aware that some countries are facing many problems. It was an interesting experi-



ence. We also attended a workshop on the development of Uganda in Africa. During the workshop I learned about many sad and horrifying things such as "child soldiers." I was disappointed with myself because I didn't know about it. Many Japanese children grow up not knowing these facts. Of course it is necessary to learn about one's own country, but I think knowing that on the same earth there are people who are suffering should lead to the creation of major international cooperation efforts.

At the end of the workshop we were told, "Your waste today could be valuable tomorrow for someone who died yesterday." When I thought about children who are dying in the same world where my friends and I are living in peace, I was deeply moved. I'm happy to be alive and I should not waste even a single day.

Working to become a better Japanese instructor

by Yui Nagasaki
Student, Faculty of International Humanities

I went to the University of Oslo (UIO) from Oct. 10 to Nov. 21 as part of a program supported by the Japan Foundation. I have been learning Japanese teaching methods at JIU since I was a freshman and have also participated in two-week internship programs in Taiwan and Hawaii. I have also taught Japanese at the Kansai Center of the Japan Foundation and at a Japanese school in Narita, Chiba Prefecture.

I had a great experience in this program, joining Japanese classes as a teaching assistant every day. As a teaching assistant I helped with oral practice and checked homework. At first, I was nervous and did not have confidence in my teaching plans. However, the teachers at UIO gave me a lot of advice and the students in the Japanese class were very friendly and serious about their studies. Thanks to them, I gained a lot from the teaching practice and improved as a teacher. While there, the students took me to various places in Oslo. I learned a lot about Norwegian culture and enjoyed my time with them.

In the program, I began to understand what it takes to become a Japanese teacher. There is a lot of work on top of actual lessons. For example, making teaching plans, teaching materials and checking homework takes a lot of time outside of the classroom. However, I think it's a worthwhile and fulfilling job. I was happy when the students' Japanese improved.

Many people are becoming interested in Japan and Japanese culture. Also, the number of people learning Japanese is increasing every year. My desire to become a Japanese teacher is stronger than before. To do so, I need to study Japanese grammar more to better teach students. I would like to share with many people the beauty of Japanese language and culture.



Learning innovative and interesting ways to teach Japanese language

by Zhang Yawei
Comparative Culture (Doctoral Program),
Department of Humanities Graduate School

There are many students at Josai International University studying Japanese. Those in charge of Japanese education, in order to cope with learners from a variety of backgrounds, work to learn innovative teaching methods from each other, as well as from Japanese teachers from overseas partner universities.

As part of improving Japanese language education, on Feb. 23, professor Seichi



Makino gave a lecture "Open A New Door of Japanese Language Education" on the reconstruction of Japanese Education at the

Kioicho Campus in Tokyo. Makino was a professor emeritus at Princeton University, teaching Japanese, Japanese Studies and Japanese Culture and greatly contributing to Japanese language education. From 2014, he was tapped to head global education and began teaching Comparative Culture (Doctoral Program) in the Department of Humanities Graduate School of Global College at Josai International University.

In his lecture, he proposed some unique ideas for Japanese education based on his many years of experience in the United States.

Josai Global College

All-English Undergraduate and Graduate Programs

nurturing knowledge, building character
providing human resources for global society

Graduate School of International Administration

Graduate School of Humanities

Doctorate in Comparative Culture

Master of Arts in Global Communication

Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies

Master of Arts in Women's Studies

Graduate School of Management & Information Sciences

Graduate School of Social Work Studies

Graduate School of Business Design

Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Certification

Translation / Interpretation

TESOL

Museum Curating

International Tourism

Japanese Teaching Methodology

Multicultural Studies

Art / Visual Studies

Literature

Media / Tourism

Entertainment

Gender Studies

Global and Local Studies

Innovation

Environment

Welfare

Diplomacy

Tourism

Agriculture

Technology

Information

Health

Medical Care

Welfare

Environment

Media

Projects

Project Based Learning

Overseas Seminars

Fieldwork

Field Trips

Research Projects

Presentation

Proposal Writing

Faculty of Nursing

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Faculty of Social Work Studies

Faculty of Social and Environmental Studies

Faculty of Management & Information Sciences

Faculty of Media Studies

Faculty of International Humanities

Faculty of Tourism

Japanese Language Program

- Cross-cultural competence through multilingual education
- Critical thinking and practical problem solving
- Certification in skills leading to international careers

International coordination of academic study and field work

Japan In The World

Overseas Seminars

127 affiliated universities in 25 countries

Center for Language Education

Center for Inter-Cultural Studies

DSES students travel to Britain for intensive English study

by Tim Woolstencroft
assistant professor

Feb. 17

Fourteen students from the Department of Social & Environmental Studies (DSES), together with Tim Woolstencroft, who is from the department and also a member of the Center for Language Education, departed Narita airport on Feb. 17. This year's study abroad program to the University of Essex in the south of England saw the students spend eight nights in Colchester. Leaving Japan on a cold and wet Tuesday morning, the flight to England took just over 12 hours. Because of the nine-hour time difference, we arrived in London in the mid-afternoon.

For the students, answering questions from immigration officials about their study program was their first taste of English in Britain. Having passed through passport control, we had officially arrived in the UK. Once we had collected our bags, we made our way outside into a beautifully sunny day and boarded the bus that would take us to our hotel in Colchester, Essex.

Feb. 18

The Rose and Crown Hotel was our base for our stay in England. It is a short walk from the town center of Colchester; the oldest recorded town in England (A.D. 77). The beautiful oak timber framed building was first used as a coaching inn in the 14th century. Many of the rooms in this very historic hotel still have the original beams, with the creaking floors and sloping ceilings making it a unique and atmospheric place to stay.

We all woke up early and enjoyed a traditional full English breakfast. This typical English breakfast of fried eggs, sausage, bacon, tomatoes, mushrooms, baked beans and black pudding provided the energy needed for the day ahead.

On arrival at the University of Essex, staff members from the International Academy were on hand to greet us. The first thing we had to do was register as students and complete all the necessary forms (in English, of course) so we could get our student cards. While we were waiting to have our photos taken, we were able to meet some of the English teachers and staff. The International Academy has a Social Space, this is the place where teachers and students meet, have a cup of coffee (or tea), hang out and chat.

During the lunch break we all had a chance to look around the main squares at the university. The main squares are the

center of social life on campus, with shops, banks, a post office, a wide range of restaurants and even a laundrette. There are outdoor stalls, like Japanese "yatai," cooking fresh food and there is a farmers market every Thursday. We took the opportunity to thoroughly research the various food options available, with some students choosing burgers from the American-style diner, some preferring Asian food in a restaurant called Fusion, while others decided to enjoy the weather and eat outside.

In the afternoon, we were given an in-depth guided tour of the Colchester campus by one of the students studying in the master's program at the University of Essex. The university is set in parkland with lakes and an abundance of wildlife. In the spring and summer, many of the grassy areas are filled with students relaxing and studying. The parks are also popular with dog walkers and families who come to this public university campus to enjoy the beautiful nature in this green environment.

Feb. 19

After a busy morning of lessons, we treated ourselves to a special Chinese lunch in celebration of the Chinese New Year. The university was hosting many Chinese events, and we were lucky enough to see a demonstration of tai chi. As it was a Thursday, we also looked around the farmers market.

Following lunch, we took the bus into the town center and visited the Colchester Castle Museum. The current castle, which was built in the 11th century, stands on the foundations of a Roman temple. There are many exhibits showing items that date back to Roman times. There are also plenty of interactive exhibitions that let you try on costumes and get a real feel for the history of Colchester.

Parks, ponds and lawns surround the castle. There is also a Roman wall and the remains of a Roman amphitheater. We were able to enjoy the greenery and watch the wildlife that lives near the castle. We had some free time to explore the town center, especially the Dutch Quarter. This area still has a lot of historical houses and buildings and is the part of Colchester where Dutch settlers first came to live.

Feb. 20

The students had lessons at the International Academy of the University of Essex every morning. As well as studying English, these lessons examined British culture in more detail. Topics covered in the lessons

included British sports and environmental issues in Britain. There were also opportunities to explain Japanese culture.

In addition to the English lessons, we were able to see some of the research being done in the Biology Department. Research is a key element of the university's work, and the University of Essex also carries out joint research projects with various local schools in Essex. Dr. David Smith, a professor in the Department of Biology, showed us the research being done into coral at the university. He explained that although Britain does not have any coral reefs of its own, the research is important because we live on one planet and what happens in one part of the world affects us all. He also explained that 10 percent of the world's population relies on coral for food, and if coral continues to disappear at the current rate, there might not be any remaining coral reefs by the year 2050.

We were then able to see some of the university's research into how different amounts and colors of light affect plants, as well as how plants react to changes in temperature and humidity. Various experiments were being conducted in carefully controlled environments using special equipment and greenhouses. The tour was extremely interesting and gave us all much to think about in relation to research we might like to conduct in the future.

We decided to celebrate the completion of the week's studies at the university by going out for a group meal at a popular Italian restaurant located in a historic building near the castle in the center of Colchester.

Feb. 21

Saturday was the first of our two research projects in London. We wanted to conduct research into the way London uses its green spaces and compare the number and use of these green spaces with those in Tokyo.

Our first stop was at Green Park, the smallest of the eight Royal Parks in London. This park is located close to Buckingham Palace and it gave us the opportunity to pay a quick visit to the Queen's residence. After that we walked to Hyde Park, one of the most famous parks in London. Along with the families, joggers, inline skaters and dog walkers, we also saw the Queen's Guards riding past.

The third park we visited was Regent's Park, which is also home to the London Zoo.

All the parks in London have a mixture of planted gardens and more wild areas. The ponds and lakes are populated by hundreds



The group that participated in the tour to Britain

of wild birds, while the trees provide homes to squirrels and other animals. On the day we visited, Regent's Park was alive with the sounds of rugby, soccer and tennis matches taking place.

After leaving Regent's Park we headed to the British Museum to see its amazing collection of world art and artifacts before heading back to Colchester.

Feb. 22

Our second in-depth research project took us to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in the southwest of London. Kew Gardens, which was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites in 2003, has the largest collection of living plants in the world. The gardens are famed for their large greenhouses and conservatories containing amazing collections of palm trees, alpine plants, water lilies and orchids. The most well-known greenhouse, the Palm

House, dates back to 1848 and also has an aquarium in the basement. We were able to enjoy a panoramic view of the gardens from the treetop walkway and although it was too early in the year for the rose gardens to be in bloom, the grass lawns were carpeted in the beautiful lilac flowers of crocuses.

We spent a fascinating day at the gardens, gaining a much greater insight into the importance of conserving the vast array of plant species that exist and the vital role they play in sustaining all manner of life.

Feb. 23

Monday was our final day at the University of Essex. The morning was spent in preparation for our research presentations. The students were split into two groups, with one group explaining what they had learned about London and its use of green spaces and the other group giving a pre-

sentation on the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The time spent editing the photographs and preparing the English content of the research projects was worthwhile, with both groups giving very informative English presentations.

After saying goodbye to everyone at the university, we took the bus from the campus back to Colchester for the last time. The final evening was spent on last-minute souvenir shopping and packing for the long journey home.

Feb. 24

We were up before sunrise as the study program to England came to an end. It had been a very fulfilling trip for everyone involved, with the participants now more equipped to take a global view of the environment and to put into practice the belief of the Faculty of Social and Environmental Studies that we should "think globally, act locally."



JU CORNER

JU softball team plays exhibition against UCR

by Nao Iwauchi
Josai University Faculty of Business Administration
Translation by Beata Barany, Josai University Faculty of Contemporary Policy Studies

On Feb. 6, the Josai University's women's softball team took part in an American sports management course at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). While there, the team participated in an exhibition game and, despite being physically outmatched by their opponents, was able to battle to a 3-0 victory.

Additionally, by watching games at UCLA, they were able to gain useful insights that will help them improve the overall performance of the team. Since UCR is one of JU's sister universities abroad, many students from Josai University and Josai International University are going there to study as exchange students.

Last year, the JU women's softball team won the Kanto region championship series and for 12 straight years they have competed at the All-Japan Championships. This spring, with 13 newcomers, the team boasts 32 members. Because of the large number of strong rookies, the competition for spots on the team is expected to intensify as the team aims to win the All-Japan Championship. Director Yoshie Nagasawa stated, "I want the players to strongly stand up for their views and embrace their individuality."

From now, they will work hard to reach their goal by practicing diligently every day.



JU CORNER

Josai opens "Fibers & Fragments Eva Vargo Selected Works 1998-2014" exhibition

by JIU Times

On Feb. 17, Josai held an opening ceremony for the exhibit "Fibers & Fragments Eva Vargo Selected Works 1998-2014." During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Chancellor Noriko Mizuta said: "We're overjoyed to present the Eva Vargo exhibit at the Mizuta Museum of Art. Please enjoy these works of art and all the feeling that was poured into their creation."

Vargo also spoke: "I'm very grateful to the Mizuta Museum of Art for putting on this exhibition. I hope that everyone who comes to see it will greatly enjoy the display."

The Vargo exhibit ran through March 14



and spanned works from 1998 to 2014, including one made from a book of Japanese folk songs. We hope visitors were able to enjoy the world of Vargo's artwork, whose twisting lines and torn fragments reveal new forms and meanings to the viewer.

Kioicho Bldg. 5 opens

by JIU Times

Josai University Educational Corporation, as part of the 50th anniversary of its founding, opened the newly completed Building 5 on its Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward.

On Feb. 12, Josai faculty, board members and alumni assembled for the ribbon-cutting.

Chancellor Noriko Mizuta said: "It's thanks to all of your great efforts that so many undergraduate and graduate students flock to our campus to study. We have many symposia and other events scheduled here as part of our university's 50th anniversary festivities. We also have numerous events planned around the entrance examination and job placement activities. I believe our new Building 5 will be of great use for these sorts of events, in addition to a home base for alumni activities."

Fumio Suzuki, president of the Josai Alumni Association, also gave a few words. "It is here, in what might be called the heart of Japan, that we hope to dispatch and receive information about Josai alumni. By making this building our office and home base, we would like to support the development of Josai University," he said.

Building 5 consists of five aboveground floors and one basement and has a total area of 1,400 sq. meters. The first floor houses the enrollment and public relations offices, as well as the parental support and alumni offices. The second through fourth floors house a mini-theater, seminar rooms, and study rooms. The fifth floor will have guest rooms for mid and long-term visitors from our sister institutions abroad.

The Kioicho Campus opened in 2005. Other Josai University campuses are the Josai Junior College Campus in Sakado, Saitama Prefecture, and the Josai International University campuses in Togane and Awa, Chiba Prefecture. The Kioicho Campus has many facilities to support learning and job placement such as the Josai International Center for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences and the International Conference Room, which function as places for research and international exchange. At present there are approximately 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at Josai University.

Students discuss V4 politics, economy and diplomacy

by JIU Times

Josai University Educational Corp. and the Josai Institute for Central European Studies hosted the second V4+Japan Student Conference, which saw students of Josai International University, Josai University and universities from the four Visegrad countries (V4) — Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia — discuss economics, politics, diplomacy and other issues in Tokyo on Feb. 10.

JIU and JU were joined by V4 universities: the Czech Republic's Masaryk University, Hungary's Eotvos Lorand University, the Warsaw School of Economics and Slovakia's Comenius University.

The conference, titled "Cross-Cultural Coexistence in an Era of Globalization," took place at Josai's Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward. The audience included ambassadors from the V4 countries.

"It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the second V4+Japan Student Conference," Josai University Educational Corp. Chancellor Noriko Mizuta said in her opening remarks.

Slovakian Ambassador Michal Kottman expressed his gratitude to Mizuta for hosting the event, saying, "The V4 and Japan's partnership has been developing rapidly."

The conference was divided into three sessions. In the first, titled "Economic Implications of Regional Integration: Contrasting Responses to Increased Contacts and Exchanges," four students delivered presentations.

Katarzyna Negacz, a Ph.D. candidate of the Warsaw School of Economics, gave a presentation, "Visegrad Group Sustainable Development — Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future."

Veronika Vagnerova, from Comenius University, discussed Slovakia's Generation Y, or

those people born between 1975 and 1989 and who were raised mostly after the Velvet Revolution of 1989, which signified the fall of communism and the beginning of democracy.

Adilan Abudurehman, from JIU's Graduate School of International Administration, explained in her presentation that Japanese should learn English to be more internationally successful. She said Japan is deceptively international because there are many multilingual signs on streets and elsewhere, but few people can speak English.

Akane Nohara, studying at JIU's Faculty of Tourism, talked about Japan's inbound tourism and research on Koreatown in Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward.

Similarly, in both the second and third sessions, four students gave presentations in each.

Speakers at the second and third sessions



were Andrea Boor and Eszter Kiss from Eotvos Lorand University; Stanislava Kovaceva and Gabor Olah from Masaryk University; and Miho Tajima, Takuya Kato, Daiki Katagiri

and Yumika Nishi from JIU and JU.

In a similar event, "The V4 Plus Japan Seminar on Science and Technology" was held at the Kioicho Campus on March 11.

The seminar included presentations such as "Experience from other multilateral collaboration" and "Best practices of cooperation in the field of science and technology."

Serendipity | Poetry, translation, and 'akai ito' — Vol. 10

by Jordan Smith
Associate professor, Faculty of International Humanities

Serendipity is best known subjectively, as a narrative of experiences that unfold over time. The rarity of each successive coincidence intensifies as one senses the odds multiplying; for two serendipities to occur in sequence feels odd and wonderful, but in connecting the dots between dozens of them over the years, the wonder of a human life begins to sink into your bones with miraculous force.



At present, my route to JIU is most visible on my map of serendipity that evolves as time unfolds and more is revealed. The simplest version of that story is as follows.

I translate poetry, and was invited to try translating a few works by Chancellor Noriko Mizuta. Following Mizuta's being awarded

the Cikada Prize, a symposium was held at JIU to celebrate and continue building bonds between past (and possibly future) recipients of the prize. My time at the symposium was splendid, and two short months later, I was packing up with my family to move to Japan to work with the vibrant scholars and poets I met that day.

But what put me in the position to translate Japanese poetry? In 2009, I sent out my first round of job applications for assistant professor positions. One application (as I found out years later) sat in the garbage can at an East Coast university, dismissed apparently because my Ph.D. was in comparative literature instead of English. A young professor wanted to see what kind of applications were dismissed, and he rescued my application from the garbage — I ended up receiving the job, and moved to Rhode Island. During my time there, I wanted to expose my students to Japanese literature, but opportunities were few. I took them to a poetry performance at Brown University, featuring poet Ki-

wao Nomura with Forrest Gander and Kyoko Yoshida, the translators of his excellent book *Spectacle and Pigsty*. I made friends with Nomura and his wife (who danced flamenco to his readings), and ended up translating several of his poems for Connotations Press — serendipity; my first chance to translate Japanese poetry. Though I was quite ignorant of Japanese poetry, Gander asked me to join a project in translating Gozo Yoshimasu using innovative translation techniques and writing individual essays about the translation process — the book will be coming out in 2016 as *Alice Iris Red Horse: Selected Poems of Gozo Yoshimasu*. A Book in and on Translation. And, of course, Yoshimasu is a professor here at JIU.

Coming to teach at JIU has felt like serendipity everyday. I constantly meet people with whom I have unexpected "akai ito," the red thread that binds people together in Japanese metaphor. I look forward to seeing what else is at the end of this akai ito and I am grateful for the serendipities that have led me here.

Lars Vargö gives 'Haiku in the World' lecture

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

On March 27, Josai held a special lecture by former Swedish Ambassador to Japan Lars Vargö titled "Haiku in the World" at Tokyo's Kioicho Campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Josai University.

Vargö graduated from Uppsala University's Department of Oriental Studies and, while serving as Sweden's Ambassador to Japan, he took classes in Kyoto University's Literature Department before receiving a Ph.D. in ancient Japanese history from the University of Stockholm. After serving as Swedish ambassador to Korea, he served as ambassador to Japan from 2011 to 2014. In addition to translations of Japanese literary works, Vargö has also published various collected works of haiku. After retiring from the embassy, he was offered a position as a specially appointed professor at Josai International University.

Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, who was appointed president of the Japan-Sweden So-

ciety last year, greeted the audience and welcomed Vargö, saying, "The culture of Japan and East Asia has expanded worldwide."

Vargö, who presented his lecture in Japanese, introduced to the audience a great number of western scholars who first brought Japanese haiku back to Europe, including English writer and Japanese culture specialist Reginald Horace Blyth (1898-1964). Vargö also noted "one can find a sense for haiku in Western poetry." He also gave numerous examples of haiku composed by Western writers and students, and explained that "haiku is taught in western schools and one can find the spirit and humor characteristic of haiku in poems written by children." About one hundred people, including students from JU and JIU, professors, Haiku fans and people from the neighborhood listened attentively to Vargö's lecture.

Chancellor Mizuta, who is also a poet, was awarded the Cikada Prize — an international poetry award administered by the Embassy



of Sweden in Japan to honor exceptional East Asian poets who are able to express the inviolability of life — in December 2013.

Following this achievement, Josai organized in June 2014 an international symposium on the theme of "Giving Words to the Inviolability of Life" to commemorate the winners of the Cikada Prize. Josai University Press also published a digest of this symposium entitled "International Symposium Commemorating the Winners of the Cikada Prize: Giving Word to the Inviolability of Life."

JIU sends record number of students overseas

by JIU Times

Between April 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014, Josai International University sent 524 Japanese students abroad for overseas study, ranking it 13th among universities nationwide according to the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

The university is steadily increasing the number of Japanese students it sends abroad, as the number was previously 422. The university offers not only short and mid-term overseas opportunities, but also offers long-term study abroad programs to meet more students' needs. This variety of options is thought to be contributing to the increase in the number of students traveling abroad.

The university has been engaged in promoting the development of global human resources since its 1992 founding and now enjoys tie-ups and partnerships with 140 universities in 27 countries and regions.

University students sent overseas	
(● National university)	
University	No. of students
Waseda University	1,719
Ritsumeikan University	1,337
Kansai Gaidai University	1,209
Keio University	870
Kwansei Gakuin University	810
Kansai University	699
Doshisha University	665
Nagoya University of Foreign Studies	652
Chuo University	644
Asia University	556
Chiba University	● 539
Kyoto University	● 531
JIU	524
Hosei University	519
Sophia University	518
Rikkyo University	513
Hokkaido University	● 500
Hiroshima University	● 475
J. F. Oberlin University	471
Nihon University	452

Japan Student Services Organization

Japan Times intern

by Shuko Ujije
Student, Graduate School of Global Communications

Josai International University has been publishing the quarterly JIU Times in cooperation with The Japan Times, Japan's leading English-language newspaper, since the summer of 2012.

JIU students write and edit articles about the university's global activities. The material is great English information for Japanese and foreign students alike. The JIU Times is also distributed to various embassies to spread the word about the school to other countries.

From April, JIU students are going to intern at the newspaper's office.

I am the first student in this program and it promises to be a great opportunity.

TEA TIME



Professors and other faculty members from Sweden's Uppsala University enjoy a tea ceremony outside the Multipurpose Hall, in the basement of Josai University's Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward on March 30.

KAMOGAWA CORNER

Vietnamese students conduct Akihabara fieldwork

by JIU Times

On Jan. 25, a group of Vietnamese students conducted fieldwork in Akihabara as part of their introduction to tourism course. Visiting the area on their own, they considered the question of why Akihabara is so popular with foreign tourists.

They noted the area is likely popular due to many duty-free shops, multilingual staff, free Wi-Fi and a variety of anime goods there.

The Faculty of Tourism had two Vietnamese students enroll last April, followed by eight more in October. The research was conducted by seven of the eight students who enrolled in October. They are taking classes on tourism in English as well as studying Japanese.



KAMOGAWA CORNER

Cherry Blossom Festival

by JIU Times

A cherry blossom festival was held on April 11 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the university's foundation at Soro Elementary School in Kamogawa, Chiba Prefecture, the hometown of university founder Mikio Mizuta. Due to a decrease of students, the school Mizuta graduated from was closed in an integration.

The Chancellor of Josai University Educational Corp. Noriko Mizuta; Kamogawa Mayor Takao Hasegawa; Dalian University of Foreign Languages professor Chen Yan; and Du Fenggang, a professor of the Dalian University of Technology, attended the festival, joining in the cherry tree planting.

After the tree-planting ceremony, students from the Awa High School brass band performed a concert in the school gymnasium, with students of the Japanese drum club from



Kisarazu Sogo High School giving a drum performance. Children from the Soro area also demonstrated a shishimai performance (lion dance).

Additionally, the members of our sister school — Josai University — "ekiden," or long-distance relay, team, who ran the Hakone Ekiden in January, were introduced. The audience cheered enthusiastically for the team, which earned automatic qualification for next year's race with its January result.

Since 2006, when the Faculty of Tourism was set up, the planting of cherry trees has been undertaken every year on the Mineoka trail, which runs in front of the house where founder Mizuta was born. At this year's festival, 50 cherry trees were planted.

城西大学創立50周年記念
Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Josai University

水田コレクション 浮世絵名品展
Mizuta Collection Ukiyo-e Exhibition

四季を愛でる
Celebrating the Four Seasons



2015
4/21 TUE - 5/16 SAT
※卒業式(3月20日)・入学式(4月4日)特別公開
※Open / The ceremony of graduation (3/20) and entrance (4/4)

◎開館時間 / 午前10時～午後4時
◎休館日 / 日曜日・月曜日・祝日
4月30日(木)～5月2日(土)(全学休講のため)
◎会場 / キャラリー1
◎観覧料 / 一般300円、本学学生・高校生以下無料

◎Open / 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
◎Closed / Sundays, Mondays, National Holidays
April 30 - May 2
◎Place / Gallery 1
◎Admission fee / Adult・Student 300yen
※Under 15, high school students and students of the Josai University are free

図版左 / Figure left: 丹阿彌左衛門(金太郎) / Tanihara Yoshitada "Kintaro-san"
右 / right: 藤田鳴鶴(御膳手入) / Hishikawa Mononobu "Banyari and an Insect Cage"

城西大学水田美術館
MIZUTA MUSEUM OF ART, JOSAI UNIVERSITY
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学校法人城西大学創立50周年記念 Josai University 50th Anniversary

水田コレクション 浮世絵展
UKIYO-E FROM
THE MIZUTA COLLECTION:
ACTOR PRINTS

2015
5.7 thu - 5.23 sat
+入学式 Entrance Ceremony 4.2 thu

開館時間 午前10時～午後4時
休館日 日曜・月曜日
入館料 一般300円、高校生以下無料

Open: 10:00~16:00
Closed: Sundays and Mondays
Admission: 300 yen (free for high school students and under)

チラシ制作 メディア学部メディア情報学科3年 三木雄馬
Flyer design by Yūma Miki, junior in the Faculty of Media Studies, Josai International University

図版 二代島村重信《坂東屋三郎と羽村宗十郎》部分、藤田鳴鶴、元文(1736~41)
Tani Hishikawa II, *Bandy Akasouchi and Ezomura Sōjūrō*, Hishikawa, hand-colored woodblock print, 1736-41

城西国際大学水田美術館
MIZUTA MUSEUM OF ART, JOSAI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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JIU art festival features film, music, dance and theatrical performances

by JIU Times

Students in Josai International University's Film & Performing Arts Course of the Faculty of Media Studies held an art festival at the Tokyo Metropolitan Theater from March 2 to 5.

The event featured film screenings, music,

dance and theatrical performances mainly by fourth-year students, who graduated in March. It marked the apotheosis of the skills the students had acquired at the university.

Films were shown on the first day of the festival and musical performances were given on the second day. The third and fourth days were devoted to theatrical performanc-

es. The results of research on sound, music, voice-over acting, filming, art seminars and a group doing research on graduation theses were also put on display at the theater.

As the performances at the festival were streamed over the Internet, a wide audience outside the theater was also able to view them.

Josai Hosts Special Lecture by Yoshiaki Shimizu

by JIU Times

On Feb. 24, as part of the 50th anniversary festivities, the Josai University Educational Corporation hosted a special lecture by Yoshiaki Shimizu on "The Works of Jakuchu Ito and Hongaku Thought in Buddhism" in Building 3 on the Tokyo Kioicho Campus. Shimizu, professor emeritus of art and archeology at Princeton University and one of the foremost scholars of Japanese art history, gave a talk on the art of Jakuchu Ito, who was active during the mid-Edo Period, analyzing his work from a religious perspective.

Jakuchu Ito (1716-1800) was the eldest son of a grocer whose shop was in the Nishiki district of Kyoto. Jakuchu ran the shop until he was 40 when he turned it over to one of his younger brothers to pursue a career in

painting. By incorporating elements of the Korin School of ornamental painting, Jakuchu developed his own unique approach to art. For his numerous paintings containing realistic depictions of plants and animals, Jakuchu became known as the "uncanny artist." "Hongaku" thought" is often translated as "innate enlightenment" and is based on the idea that all sentient beings are already enlightened; a notion that proliferated as a central tenet of Tendai Buddhism.

Chancellor Noriko Mizuta provided opening remarks at the lecture that was held in Josai's International Conference Room. "It's a great honor to have this lecture to commemorate Josai's 50th anniversary," she said.

Shimizu showed many examples of Jakuchu's work alongside paintings of the Buddha achieving enlightenment to demonstrate



Shimizu explains Jakuchu's work

the "incorporation of religious connotations in the artistic work of Jakuchu. This is one of the great merits of Jakuchu's paintings, thereby linking them with hongaku thought."

More than one hundred people, including Josai University and Josai International University faculty and extension students, listened with great attention to Shimizu's fascinating lecture.

Seven goals toward becoming a leading university in the world

JOSAI
20/50
ANNIVERSARY

"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