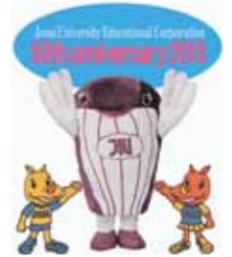




JIU TIMES



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SPRING 2018

1,500 new students begin journey

by JIU Times

Josai International University welcomed about 1,500 new students, including foreign people from 18 countries, in a matriculation ceremony at its Togane Campus in Chiba Prefecture, on April 2.

JIU, a comprehensive university with eight faculties and 10 departments, focuses on international education and is engaged in exchange programs with many universities and schools in Asia, Europe, particularly Eastern Europe, and the Americas. Of its approximately 6,000 students, 1,438 were non-Japanese from 24 countries last year.

In the matriculation ceremony, which took place at the Sports Culture Center, JIU President Kenji Sugibayashi greeted the new students, as well as other students, teachers and special guests, including Togane Mayor Naoharu Shiga.

"JIU has three campuses in Togane, Awa (Chiba Prefecture) and Kioicho (Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward). We have undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as senior wellness. We are very rich in international atmosphere with foreign students making up more than 20 percent," Sugibayashi said during the ceremony. "I would like you to



pay attention to the world events and news and participate actively in local community activities to experience practical learning."

He also encouraged new Japanese students to participate in exchange programs with overseas schools because studying different cultures is a good experience.

Sugibayashi also stressed advancement of high technology and the importance of learning amid the current global environment.

"With globalization and rapid advancement of science and technology, existing things disappear or become completely different things. Science on the human body also advances very rapidly and it may be possible to create humanlike things through technology in the near future. Meanwhile, people's attitude to learn never



changes and I believe people can make innovation happen by learning sincerely," he said.

The matriculation ceremony came a little over two weeks after JIU held the graduation ceremony at the same venue on March 15.

In the address to graduating stu-

dents, Josai University Educational Corporation Chancellor Akira Uehara said, "I believe it is important for you to have proactive attitudes to understand the ever-changing society and have your own viewpoints."

Uehara shared his motto, say-

ing, "What I will be tomorrow is the result of what I think and do today," encouraging the graduating students to try their best to do jobs in front of their eyes, listen to others' opinions, express their own opinions and create their own mottos.

Interview with mayor of Kujukuri

by JIU Times

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

A: I believe the meaning of Josai University for Kujukuri is a "university for (the) community" that serves as a base for solving and revitalizing regional problems. With the support of various local organizations and people, such as the town of Kujukuri, Josai International University celebrated its 25th anniversary. The university seems to pay more attention to the local community with the intention for further collaboration.

Q: Since its opening, Josai International University has been aiming to be "an international university that has a strong bond with the local community." For Kujukuri, is having one such academic institute in town a regional asset?

A: Josai International University has partnered and cooperated with more than 170 universities abroad, and there are many international students studying on campus. Our local community and the university have been having various international exchanges. From 2006, we have been organizing international exchange events at Katagai Elementary School in the town of Kujukuri, inviting foreign students from Josai International University.



In this modern world of globalization, it is really meaningful that the children in our community have many occasions to socialize with international students. It helps children understand the good points of Japan from a different point of view, as well as to realize the importance of communicating with people from all over the world as global citizens. I believe this kind of experience greatly contributes to the development of human resources with an excellent international mindset.

Q: The Faculty of Nursing at Josai International University was established with the support of local communities and government. Do you think it helped improve medical care and nursing in the community?

A: The establishment of the Faculty of Nursing has greatly contributed to the improvement of local medical care and nursing in the community. I understand that there are quite a few students who study at the Faculty of Nursing receiving scholarships from the school and the community. Many of them take jobs at Higashi Chiba Medical Center after graduating. This is a great contribution that is helping solve the shortage of nurses that has been a problem for Higashi Chiba Medical Center since its opening in April 2014.

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

A: I believe the university's contributions to the community through collaborations of welfare, nursing and pharmacology are very important for protecting both the mental and physical health of residents. We are particularly focused on improving the health of residents, and your contribution in this field is strongly anticipated. In Kujukuri, the Cancer Prevention Exhibition and Lecture was held on Feb. 12 and the head of the Faculty of Nursing, professor

Kanae Iida of your university kindly collaborated. Furthermore, we have a plan to accept trainees from the Faculty of Nursing of your university. They are recognized as prospective human resources who will hopefully play a core role in community health care in the future.

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

A: Revitalization and resolution of regional problems will not work only through the power of the municipality. For this reason, we need to cooperate with not only educational institutions such as universities, but also private enterprises and nonprofit organizations. I hope to cooperate with Josai International University in various fields. You have the "wisdom of the university" that can help our town. A population of about 16,000 and the size of Kujukuri make close communication and quick action possible. We believe that is the advantage of our town. In addition, we are working on the development of the town by making use of the brand value of the name Kujukuri and the coastline along the Pacific Ocean. I would like to ask to continue this kind collaboration with Josai International University.

Inside This Issue

[Scene on Campus](#)
Page 2

▶ Conference with V4 students

Page 3

▶ Usami, Yomiuri Giants player, gives talk

Page 4

▶ Students pass accountant exam

Page 5

▶ Exchange agreement with University of Alberta

Page 6

▶ Voices from exchange students

[JU Corner](#)

Page 7

▶ Hakone Ekiden team claims seventh place

Page 8

▶ Ekiden coaching couple

Students attend 4th JICES conference

by Attila Kiraly, assistant professor,
Department of International
Exchange Studies,
Josai Institute for Central
European Studies

Josai Institute for Central European Studies (JICES) which was established by Josai University Educational Corporation to promote Central European studies, hosted on Feb. 10. in the Building No. 3 of the Kioicho Campus its fourth Central Europe/Japan Student Conference.

The conference was organized with the generous financial support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), a German nonprofit foundation. FES launched its activities; its Tokyo office was founded in 1967; and the foundation is active in more than 100 countries worldwide. Its goal is to intensify international political, educational and scientific dialogue and cooperation through its activities.

The JICES student conferences have been held since 2014. While the panelists of previous conferences arrived solely from our partner universities in V4 countries, this year's conference offered further Central European insight with the participation of a German partner university, the University of Cologne.

"Growing Disparities In Wealth And Income In Industrialized Societies: Life And Work Challenges For Students" was chosen as the student conference's main theme. JICES choose a very present-day, high-profile problem which puts a cumbersome burden on many industrialized societies worldwide and jeopardize the potentially productive future of the current generation of university students in Japan and the Central European countries.

In his opening speech, Ambassador of Hungary Norbert Palanovics emphasized that nowadays, higher education provides various opportunities to students who want to learn in foreign countries, irrespective of their countries of origin and expressed his hopes that the panelists of the conference would further deepen the debate about international education. Following him, Sven Saaler, FES Japan representative and University of Sophia



professor, commented that social disparities are deep-seated problems for younger people. He also added that this kind of conference is highly significant in promoting international exchanges.

The conference was organized into panels and each one concluded with a Q&A session coordinated by V4 students who are both currently enrolled at Josai International University and Mizuta scholarship recipients. The presenters from Josai University, Josai International University and from our Central European partners — University of Economics, Prague (the Czech Republic), University of Cologne (Germany), University of Pecs (Hungary), University of Warsaw (Poland) and Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovakia) delivered their research presentations into several panels.

The three panels were titled "The Uneven Starting Line — The Impact Of Family Income And Status On Students' Educational Choices," "Some Are More Equal Than Others — Geography And Ethnicity As Factors In Educational

Opportunities" and "Social Inequality in Various Environments"

However knotty and ambitious the conference theme may have seemed at the beginning, the puzzle of growing social disparities and frustrating financial burdens in the global scene of higher education proved to have universal appeal, drawing in both Japanese and Central European students. As the inescapable, rich discussion during the Q&A session indicated, the issues brought up by the panelists were echoed in the hearts of many audience members.

Several presentations focused on the growing and traumatic financial costs of higher education. Kasimir Dederichs of University of Cologne gave a detailed account of the problem of the German higher education; to find an advantageous job placement, students all too often need to pay for extra training to acquire additional marketable skills. Zoltan Leczkési of the University of Economics in Prague gave a description on the limited opportunities most students have to come to terms with when they

want to participate in study abroad programs; these issues were also echoed by the Japanese panelists. Yuki Tanaka of JIU argued that most Japanese university students should work consistent part-time jobs to earn their living expenses and that the scholarships provided by the Japanese government are in most cases only long-term student loans. Shin Sato of Josai University pointed out that pursuing higher education is basically impossible for students from lower income backgrounds, provided the fact that the tuition fees and the widely popular extracurricular preparatory courses for high school students are expensive and therefore, not accessible for all.

The Slovak and Hungarian students shifted the focus to the Roma, an ethnic group that constitutes a minority in many Central European countries. Veronika Orlicka of Comenius University in Bratislava dealt with the relevancy of education of the Roma children, who are generally seen as children living in socially disadvantaged environment. Adrienn Ripp of the

University of Pecs discussed the palpably positive and negative effect of the state-sponsored compulsory public work program on young people in marginal Roma communities, especially in villages near the southern border of Hungary.

In the third panel, University of Warsaw representative Anna Skiba gave a painful description of "universituition," a situation where some female students are using prostitution to fund their university studies. Marina Suzuki, Yoshino Fujimori and Yumiko Kamiya of JIU introduced the scholarship system of JIU's Faculty of Nursing. In exchange for covering their tuition fees, students work at local hospitals in Chiba Prefecture after graduating. Shiori Ishida of Josai University introduced JU programs tackling gender inequality in university education, and as an addition to the original program, JIU's Ryo Yonekura gave a brief account on the projects developed at the Tourism Department of JIU to help the local tourism industry of the Boso Peninsula.

Seven goals toward becoming a leading university in the world

《7 J-Vision》 (2016-2020)

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

About Josai University Educational Corporation's Medium-Term Goals

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

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

JOSAI
25/50
ANNIVERSARY



Yomiuri Giants' Usami speaks to students, faculty

by Mutsuo Nakamura,
Admissions Office

On Dec. 18, Shingo Usami, a JIU Faculty of Social and Environmental Sciences graduate and current Yomiuri Giants baseball player, gave a talk at JIU's Chiba Togane Campus. Usami talked to the JIU audience that included student athletes about the experiences he had while he was in college and after advancing to a professional baseball career.

"It's my hope that JIU's student-athletes will be successful in both sports and academics with a sense of gratitude for being able to play college sports," said Usami at

the end of his talk.

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

Chinese fossils on display at gallery

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

The Oishi Fossils Gallery on the Kiocho Campus of Josai International University is showcasing the Oishi Collection and specimens from the Liaoning Paleontological Museum of Shenyang Normal University in China. The Oishi Collection consists of specimens of marine organisms mainly from the Cretaceous Period with some pieces, such as the coelacanth, from as far back as the Devonian

Period. The gallery also conducts workshops nurturing the thirst for knowledge and inquisitive spirit of elementary to junior high school students. The fossil of a giant tyrannosaurid at the museum's entrance was furnished by the Paleontological Museum of Liaoning and is a campus landmark.

The Oishi Fossils Gallery was founded in affiliation with the Mizuta Memorial Museum of Josai University Educational Corporation in spring 2013. The objective of the gallery is to provide opportunities to evoke interest in the sciences among younger generations

through the exhibitions and other educational programs on paleontology. The facility is located in the center of metropolitan Tokyo. The gallery is also open to the public, in line with Josai University Educational Corporation's policy to contribute to society. In 2015, the gallery was awarded a research grant by a local government for the development of the Paleontological Study Workshop Program.

The workshop will be given in English upon request. Please call 03-6238-1031, or visit http://www.josai.jp/fossil_gallery/workshop/



Josai: A History

- | | | | |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| 1965 Jan 25 | Founding of Josai University Educational Corporation approved (First Chancellor: Mikio Mizuta) | | |
| Apr 1 | Josai University with the Faculty of Economics, including the Department of Economics, and the Faculty of Science, including the Department of Mathematics and the Department of Chemistry, opened. First JU President is Mikio Mizuta | | |
| 1971 Apr 1 | Department of Business Administration in the Faculty of Economics of Josai University opened | | |
| 1973 Apr 1 | Josai University: Departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences and of Pharmaceutical Technochemistry in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences opened | | |
| 1976 Dec 27 | Seiko Mizuta appointed second Chancellor of the Corporation | | |
| 1977 Apr 1 | Josai University: M.A. degree program inaugurated in the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences | | |
| 1978 Apr 1 | Josai University: M.A. degree in Economic Policy established in the Graduate School of Economics | | |
| 1979 Mar 25 | Mizuta Museum of Art of Josai University opened | | |
| Apr 1 | Josai University: Ph.D. program established in Pharmaceutical Sciences | | |
| 1983 Apr 1 | Josai Women's Junior College opened Majors in Administration and Secretarial Services in the Department of Business Administration, and in Japanese Literature and English & American Literature in the Department of Literature | | |
| 1985 Apr 1 | Center for Inter-Cultural Studies and Education established | | |
| 1987 Apr 1 | Major courses at the JU Women's Junior College (Major course in Japanese Literature, Major course in English Literature) opened | | |
| 1989 Apr 1 | Major courses at the JU Women's Junior College (Major course in Administration, Major course in Secretarial Services) opened | | |
| 1990 Apr 1 | Josai University: Japanese Studies Program established. Major courses in Japanese Culture and Japanese Language | | |
| 1992 Mar 10 | Completion ceremony of construction work for Josai International University | | |
| 1994 Apr 1 | Dr. Noriko Mizuta appointed President of Josai University | | |
| 1996 Apr 1 | Dr. Noriko Mizuta appointed President of Josai International University Josai International University: Departments of Welfare and Culture, and of International Exchange Studies in the Faculty of Humanities opened M.A. degrees in Inter-Cultural Studies and in Women's Studies established in the Graduate School of Humanities | | |
| 1998 Apr 1 | Josai International University: Ph.D. in Comparative Culture, (Graduate School of Humanities), M.B.A. in Management of Entrepreneurial Ventures (Graduate School of Management and Information Sciences) and Affiliated Preparatory Courses in Japanese Culture and Japanese Language (Japanese Studies Program) established Josai University: M.A. in Mathematics (Graduate School of Sciences) and M.S. in Medical Pharmacy (Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences) established | | |
| 1999 Apr 1 | Josai International University: Departments of International | | |
| | Management Studies and of Information for Welfare and Environment established in the Faculty of Management and Information Sciences | | |
| 2000 Apr 1 | Josai International University: Ph.D. in Management of Entrepreneurial Ventures (Graduate School of Management and Information Sciences) established | | |
| 2001 Apr 1 | Josai International University: Department of Service Management Systems (Faculty of Management and Information Sciences), Department of Media & Culture Studies (Faculty of Humanities), Special Course in Business and Information Science (Japanese Studies Program) established Josai University: Department of Medical Nutrition (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences) established Josai Women's Junior College: Departments of Management and Information Administration and of Contemporary Culture opened (reorganized) | | |
| 2002 Apr 1 | Josai International University: M.A. in Welfare and Social Studies (Graduate School of Humanities), MBA in International Administration established lace of Mikio Mizuta as a project to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the foundation of Josai University | | |
| 2003 Jan 25 | Restoration of Mikio Mizuta's birthplace completed, as Josai University's 40th anniversary project | | |
| Apr 1 | Josai University: MBA in Business Innovation (Graduate School of Business Administration) established | | |
| 2004 Apr 1 | Josai University: Department of Management Studies (Faculty of Business Administration), M.A. in Material Science (Graduate School of Sciences) established Josai International University: Department of Medical Pharmacy (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences), Departments of Culture and Social Work Studies, and of Management and Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) established | | |
| Apr 10 | Kyonan Seminar House completed | | |
| Apr 19 | Josai Awa Learning Center completed | | |
| May 27 | Noriko Mizuta takes office as Chancellor of Josai University Educational Corporation | | |
| 2005 Jan 21 | Josai University Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building completed | | |
| Apr 1 | International Center for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences (JICPAS) established Josai University: M.A. in Medical Nutrition (Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences) established Josai International University: Department of Management Science (Faculty of Management and Information Sciences) reorganized; Department of Media and Information (Faculty of Media Studies), Business Design Program (Graduate School of Business Design, and Welfare and Social Studies Program (Graduate School of Social Work Studies) established | | |
| Apr 19 | Medicinal Plant Garden (Otaki City) opened | | |
| 2006 Apr 1 | Josai University: Department of Social and Economic Systems (Faculty of Contemporary Policy Studies), Departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences six-year and four-year programs (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences) established Josai Base College: Department of Business Studies established Josai International University: | | |
| | Department of Wellness Tourism (Faculty of Tourism), Department of Medical Pharmacy six-year program (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences) inaugurated | | |
| 2007 Apr 1 | Josai International University: Department of Social Work Studies (Faculty of Social Work Studies) reorganized | | |
| Oct 25 | Josai University Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building No. 2 opened | | |
| 2008 Feb 15 | Makuhari Campus opened | | |
| Apr 1 | Josai International University: Department of Inter-Cultural Studies and Department of International Exchange Studies opened in the Faculty of International Humanities | | |
| 2009 Jun 30 | Statement issued announcing the opening of the Department of Social and Environmental Studies in the Faculty of Social and Environmental Studies | | |
| 2010 Apr 1 | Josai International University: Department of Social and Environmental Studies opened in the Faculty of Social and Environmental Studies | | |
| Apr 16 | Ceremony to mark the 45th anniversary of the foundation of Josai University Educational Corporation | | |
| 2011 Apr 1 | Course in Visual Arts established in the Faculty of Media Studies, Josai International University | | |
| Apr | Josai University Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building No. 4 opened | | |
| Jul 22 | Josai University Educational Corporation Center for Innovation established | | |
| Oct | Josai University Educational Corporation Center for Graduate Studies established | | |
| Dec 9 | Josai University Mizuta Museum of Art (premises) opened | | |
| 2012 Apr 1 | Josai University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Pharmacy Graduate Course Pharmacy Specialty (latter doctoral course) and Pharmacy Specialty (doctoral course) established Josai International University Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (doctoral course) established Josai International University Faculty of Nursing, Department of Nursing established | | |
| Apr 28 | Ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of Josai International University | | |
| May 22 | Josai International University Prince Takamado Memorial Sports Park completed | | |
| 2013 Apr 1 | Josai International University: Master's degree program in International Administration established in the Graduate School of International Administration, and master's degree program in Global Communications established in the Graduate School of Humanities | | |
| Apr 12 | Josai University Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building No. 3 opened | | |
| Nov 21 | Institute for Central European Studies established | | |
| 2015 Feb 12 | Josai University Educational Corporation Tokyo Kioicho Campus Building No. 5 opened | | |
| May 21 | Josai Center for ASEAN Studies established | | |
| 2016 Sept 1 | Akira Shirahata appointed President of Josai University | | |
| 2017 Mar 28 | The Mizuta Mikio Memorial Hall, the new building for the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences opened | | |
| 2017 Apr 1 | Kenji Sugibayashi appointed President of Josai International University | | |

Undergrads to CPAs, before graduating

by Mutsuo Nakamura,
Admissions Office

Two JIU undergraduate students of the Faculty of Management and Information Sciences Accounting and Finance Course (Tokyo Kioicho Campus) have successfully passed the 2017 Certified Public Accountant Examination. This is the first time JIU undergraduates have obtained this highly competitive national qualification while they are still in col-

lege. Tomoya Akaishi and Toshiki Igarashi both passed the short answer part of the examination during their third year and the essay part during their fourth year. They have assured employment with well-established auditing firms and will begin their careers upon graduation in March 2018.

Tomoya Akaishi notes (right in the photo):

I am very grateful to JIU and especially to my professors who have guided me well through-

out my four years at JIU, without which my success would not have been possible. I aspire to become a public accountant who can think independently and make good judgments. My motto that I would like to share with my fellow students is, "Set realistic goals for what you really want to achieve in life, and never give up easily."

Toshiki Igarashi notes:
JIU introduced me to the world of accounting; I found my interest while taking accounting courses in



my second year. Thereafter, I took extra accounting and bookkeeping classes in a specialized school in addition to those offered by JIU. I am grateful of being inspired and supported by JIU to pass the

certified public accountant exam while still studying at the university. I would like to say to my fellow students, "The ability to think and act for yourself is of crucial importance."



Tackling German forces' WWI loss

by JIU Times

Akira Iikura, a professor and the Dean of the Faculty of International Humanities at Josai International University in Chiba Prefecture, reveals his reasons the German military was defeated in World War I in his latest book "1918 Nen Saikyo Doitsugun-wa Naze Yaburetaka" (Why the All-powerful German Military Was Defeated in 1918).

Iikura, who specializes in international politics, offers a broad perspective on the German military and government systems of the early 20th century in this nonfiction account, published in Japanese and released in December. He also analyzes the toughness and vulnerability of the highly disciplined and organized German troops.

Attention all heroes: Mascots gather for expo

by JIU Times

Josai University Educational Corporation hosted a lecture titled "Potential of Local Hero Diversity" on Feb. 24 at the Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward. The lecture was given by Faculty of Management assistant professor Ryota Ishii of Josai University.

Ishii specializes in cultural history research, archaeology and the role of local heroes in society and culture.

Approximately 90 people of widely varying ages listened attentively to the lecture given about a

new perspective on mask culture during ancient times and local heroes' social contributions to society.

Shin Izawa and Yoshifumi Kawai from Yatsurugi Tamashii, an independent studio that creates hero characters to serve as mascots and television characters, were interviewed at the end of the lecture about the origins of local heroes and their activities to the present day.

Additionally, a Local Hero Expo was held via the university's Extension Program. Sixteen local hero activity groups participated in the



exposition aimed at expanding marketing character development, collecting and exchanging information among groups and creating opportunities for collaboration. Visitors had the opportunity to explore informational exhibits and interact with heroes.

Around 130 attendees from the neighborhood and guests, who learned about the event through Twitter, took part in a photo session where heroes did their trademark poses and catchphrases.

Sri Lankan minister visits

by Mutsuo Nakamura,
Admissions Office

On March 19, Sri Lanka's Minister of Education Akila Viraj Kariyawasam visited JIU's Togane Campus in Chiba Prefecture. During his visit, the minister joined about a dozen of JIU's Sri Lankan students to learn about college life in Japan. Kariyawasam also met with JIU President Kenji Sugibayashi to strengthen ties between Sri Lanka and Japan through educational exchange. This visit was made possible by the city of Sanmu — adjacent to JIU's Togane Campus — which will host the Sri Lankan national team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

Ichinomiya partnership to organize volunteers for 2020

by Mutsuo Nakamura,
Admissions Office

On Jan. 31, JIU established an agreement with Ichinomiya, an oceanside town in Chiba Prefecture, to collaborate and partner on human and natural resource development. This agreement covers a wide range of activities, including JIU student involvement in a surfing competition

to be held in Ichinomiya as part of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Surfing team members and other JIU students will volunteer at the competition, attending to overseas guests and visitors, as well as facilitating communication for international exchanges.

Ichinomiya's Mayor Masaya Mabuchi and JIU President Kenji Sugibayashi both signed the

agreement. "The Olympic and Paralympic events will surely foster the local and regional development. I will highly appreciate JIU's quality support for our activities," said Mabuchi.

In reply, Sugibayashi said, "It will be a great pleasure for JIU to be able to support the town of Ichinomiya because we would like to continue growing as a university rooted in the local community."



Josai University Educational Corporation
50th Anniversary Project

"Kantsubaki"
Mikio Mizuta's Biography

A former journalist of Mainichi Shimbun, Akira Suzuki (Visiting Professor at Josai International University) gives a vivid account of Mikio Mizuta's life with his detailed coverage based on interviews with politicians and businessmen who knew Mizuta well. Suzuki was a reporter assigned to cover Mikio Mizuta, the founder of Josai University, when Mizuta was the Finance Minister of Japan.

Please contact us for inquiries or information regarding this upcoming book.

Josai University Educational Corporation University Press
2-3-20, Hirakawacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093, Japan
TEL : 03-6238-8457 FAX : 03-6238-1522 E-mail : jupress@jiu.ac.jp

Central European representatives attend Brexit seminar

by JIU Times

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Tokyo embassies of the Visegrad Four (V4) countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Josai University Educational Corporation jointly hosted the V4 plus Japan Seminar in the hall of the

Kioicho Campus on Feb. 9.

This is the sixth time Josai has jointly hosted this seminar. At the suggestion of Hungary, which holds the V4 presidency, "Brexit as Seen from Central Europe and Japan: Political and Economic Perspectives" was chosen as the theme of this year's seminar. Approximately

70 people, including officials of the ministry and embassy staff, participated in this seminar.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Hungary Norbert Palanovics gave the keynote speech, followed by speech by Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Manabu Hori.

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.

JIU TIMES Staff and Contributors

Maria Shiguemi Ichiyama
Hideo Usuki
Tim Woolstencroft
Steve Silsbee

JOSAI INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

1 Gumyo, Togane-shi, Chiba
<http://www.jiu.ac.jp>

the japan times

4-5-4 Shibaura, Minato-ku, Tokyo
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp>

Let's exchange!

Vol. 4

by **Kristyna Blahova**

My name is Kristyna Blahova and I'm an exchange student from Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. I'm currently finishing my last year of my bachelor's and to continue on and receive a master's in linguistics has been my big ambition. That is why studying the Japanese language, which uses a totally different writing system and is composed by completely different grammatical structures than any language I already know, is so interesting and beneficial for me and hopefully, for my future career.



Being enrolled at Josai International University has been a great opportunity to enrich my awareness of the world and to gain new academic experiences. As a student in a foreign country, I've made a big step forward in my life, and a whole new world full of fresh perspectives has been opened for me. JIU creates a very complex environment for its students to learn different languages, cultures and to make friends from all over the world. It doesn't matter which country you come from or what your needs are, you always can find somebody who understands you and is able to help.

Finally, I'm excited that my next semester in Japan is coming and I believe that I will make progress in my Japanese language skills, deepen my understanding of Asian culture and make the best of this unique opportunity at Josai International University.

by **Erdenesuvd Enkhbayar**

My name is Erdenesuvd Enkhbayar. But my foreign friends

call me Sophia. I am from the University of Szeged in Hungary and I was born in Mongolia.

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

Upon arrival in Japan, I started to see things differently, improve my knowledge extensively and think openly. The reason for this is that because I was born in and grew up in Mongolia, I started to observe certain differences between cultures when I became newly acquainted with Hungarian society and European people. Arriving in Japan provided me with a great opportunity.

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



plishing my dreams. One day, I will accomplish my dreams and will come to JIU in person and say thank you.

by **Maria Fojtikova**

My name is Maria Fojtikova and I am from Slovakia. I study Japanese language and culture at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. Currently I am in my third year of bachelor studies.

I have been studying Japanese language for about two and half years now, but my interest in Japan had developed much earlier. At first, as many others, I encountered animation. Over the years, the interest I had grew into an appreciation for language, culture and tradition. During my high school years, I already had my eyes set on Japanese studies and right now being able to study abroad for a year in Japan is something I am very grateful for.



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

In the half year I have been here, I have had many wonderful encounters with people from all around the world. I am able to learn a lot not only about Japanese culture, but also many different cultures firsthand. Recently, I also had the opportuni-

ty to intern at The Japan Times. All I've mentioned above have been important experiences I could learn a lot from. With my remaining five months, I hope to make more friends and deepen my knowledge further.

by **Filip Grzejszczyk**

My name is Filip Grzejszczyk. I came to Josai International University from Poland, where I study business management at the University of Lodz.

I have developed a deep interest in the Japanese culture and language after my first trip to Asia in 2015. Since childhood, I've some knowledge of Eastern cultures, but it was mainly based on an image built by partial information from the Polish school curriculum and Western movie producers. This image was rather caricaturish, created to entertain crowds.

My first real impression of Japan exceeded my expectations. It was very different from what I saw before. People were very polite and respectful toward each other, the cities were highly developed and clean, and additionally, I was able to buy whatever I could imagine in stores.

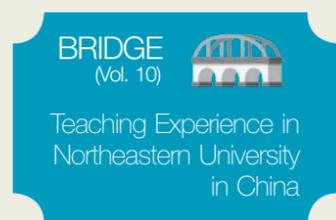
Later, during my studies, I became interested in Japanese market and management practices. Many international management standards have roots in Japan. I was very impressed how it developed into one of the strongest economies in such a short period of time. All of this made me curious about the culture of this country, which is why I started to study the language. I believe understanding the language is the best way to get closer to understanding the culture.



I am very grateful for the opportunity granted to me by JIU. I am able to develop my knowledge of Japanese and understanding of Japanese culture. I hope my next semester here will be as great as the previous one and that I will be able to bring some value to the university environment.

by **Michal Niewiadomy**

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



by **Jiro Watanabe, Graduate School of Humanities, Global Communications**

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

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

Currently, I am studying in the Global Communication Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages graduate program at JIU. My field of study is communicative language

teaching theory, methodology and practice in the concepts of second language acquisition. My objective for participating in this program was to learn more about teaching methodology by comparing how English and Japanese are taught.

The teaching experience for this program included teaching four Japanese conversation classes and two Japan-China cultural comparison classes. The tasks were to prepare lesson plans and teach each 100-minute class. The first-year students' Japanese speaking and listening abilities weren't very high, but the second-year students had good listening and speaking skills. I was impressed by the progress made in learning Japanese in such a short time, especially as I know how difficult foreign language learning can be from my experience teaching English to Japanese students.

I also conducted research into how to improve students' pronunciation by using the verbo-tonal method. The verbo-tonal method is a phonetic teaching method that emphasizes the importance of intonation and rhythm in pronunciation. My assumption was that first-year students would improve their pronunciation more, as their skills



Teaching a Japanese conversation class to second-year students.

were still basic and they had a larger capacity to improve. However, the results were quite astonishing in that the second-year

students improved more than the first-year students.

By taking part in this program, I was able to enhance my skills

in course design, as well as improve my material development skills and my actual classroom teaching.



'Ekiden' relay team continues to make strides

by Han Liu

The "ekiden" long-distance relay race between Tokyo and Hakone was held on Jan. 2 and 3. The Josai University Men's Ekiden Club claimed seventh

place in its 14th year of participating after being absent for two years. This was the fourth time that the club was seeded after falling short the past three times they've participated.

At a meeting after the race, a

cheerful mood was present not only in the ekiden runners, but in the faculty, alumni and parents association members who came to show their support.

"I feel so grateful that the club has achieved such a great record at

this turning point. I hope that all of you will do your best and improve your ranking in the coming year," said President Akira Shirahata.

Moreover, club supervisor Seiji Kushibe stated: "It helps a lot that we have eight experienced run-

ners staying with us for the coming year. I believe that it is possible to get third place if we stimulate healthy competition and help runners to improve their levels. I believe in this possibility and will strive hard (to meet it)."

Let's exchange!

Vol. 1

by Zuzanna Bielecka

My name is Zuzanna Bielecka and I come from Poland. Three and a half years ago I started my Japanese studies at the University of Warsaw. At that time, I didn't speak any Japanese or know much about Japan. But because I was interested in studying a foreign language and learning about another culture, I decided to give it a go and I'm glad I made that decision. Last

year, an opportunity I longed for finally came to be — I got a chance to study in Japan. I enrolled in the Contemporary Policies Department at Josai University's Sakado Campus. I came to Japan with the hopes that many other foreign students have; enhancing my language abilities, making many new friends, challenging myself in a completely new and unknown environment and, most of all, enjoying life during that one year of studying.

After one semester, I can certainly say that it was worth it. I am grateful to Josai University for giving me a unique opportunity of having a taste of living in Japan and getting to know people from other countries. I have learned that some things that I would

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

by Agnes Dalmadi

My name is Agnes Dalmadi and I am from Hungary. I came into contact with the Japanese language when I was still in high school, and it soon became apparent that I wanted to pursue an academic career in Japanese studies. Last year, I finished my first year of Eotvos Lorand Uni-

versity's Japanology Master's Program. As of now, I am studying under Josai University's Faculty of Management as an exchange student.

I remember when I was still 15, just a freshman in high school, my friend and I made a bucket list, and one of the entries was "moving to Japan." I would have never thought that I would actually be able to cross out this entry, since it seemed so far away and impossible. But thanks to this scholarship, without any exaggeration, my childhood dream came true, and I will always be incredibly grateful for that.

I have already traveled to some beautiful locations in Japan, such as Sendai and Matsushima, but I am a frequent visitor to Tokyo as well. One of the best experiences was resting in an onsen (hot spring) next to the ocean, and watching the night sky above me. All in all, any time I meet new people or visit new places, I feel enchanted. Talking with locals, fellow classmates and other exchange students always changes me little by little. I have become more tolerant, accepting and open-minded — all thanks to meeting such interesting people.

Even though we all come

from different backgrounds, the respect I give is always given back, and it makes it possible to bring our cultures closer. As I am learning from others about their cultures, it always inspires me to learn more and more, and broaden my horizons.

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

by Sang Chu

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

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

I am honored and grateful to have such a good opportunity to be an exchange student in

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

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

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

I am looking forward to the rest of my exchange life and no matter what difficulties I meet, I will stick to it. Being an exchange student in Japan has become one of the most cherished memories of my life.





‘Ekiden’ relay team aims to improve with coaching couple

by Han Liu

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

mer coach Shuhei Akaba became director on April 1.

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

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

Shuhei Akaba formerly served as the manager of Josai University Track and Field Club, as well as the coach of a corporate team.

“It is so impactful and great news that we have the Akabas to demonstrate their leadership to our university. I hope that you will create a new history for the club,” said President Akira Shirahata in his welcoming speech.

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Mizuta Museum of Art, Josai University



Drum beats grow louder as group expands

by Han Liu

Josai Kawagoe High School gave an excellent “keyaki” (zeldkova tree) drum performance at the “ekiden” long-distance relay send-off party on Dec. 15.

The Japanese drum team was established in 2005 initially as a volunteer activity held by student council. “We use Japanese drums, but it is basically for volunteer activities. The performance shows how strong an all-male school is,” said a student.

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

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



主催：愛媛県繊維染色工業組合 監修：辻智佐子(城西大学経営学部教授) 「今治の色」ディレクション：一般社団法人日本流行色協会(JAFCA)
会場設計・制作：株式会社NINO/NINO INC. 企画：スパイラル / 株式会社ワコールアートセンター

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