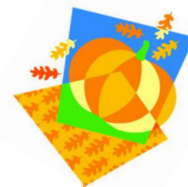




TAKING OFF

Vol. 14 Fall, 2011



The 50th Kishibe Festival – Kanade (Playing a tune)



<Team Names and Sold Items >

Genki: Tteokbokki and Hotteok

Inter-Food: Finish soup and German sausages

Yakitate! Europe & America:
French toasts and pancakes

Peace: Crepes



During the 50th Kishibe Festival held from October 21 to 23, international students set up four different booths on the “Kokusai Dori (International Street)”. It had been only two months since they came to Japan, but they spent about a month to prepare for this festival. Their great effort paid off, as they received the best award in the booth category. This issue features comments of two team leaders.

They have donated their proceeds to those who still suffer from the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Alexander T. Uder (Trier University)

During the preparation period, we had to think about a concept first, and then decide what and how many to sell, what we needed, how much of the ingredients we need to purchase, and so on. We had several meetings to find an answer to all of these questions, but it was sometimes difficult for everyone to be in the meeting because we have different class schedules. Thanks to everyone, they had been so flexible and cooperative to get ready before the festival started.

During the Kishibe Festival, we had a lot of different tasks: decorating and preparing our booth, cleaning, buying, cooking, selling, calling customers to our booth, and many more. All volunteer students were very flexible and did not only do what they were assigned, but they did what was needed. The

ISST (International Student Support Team) members and international students got along very well and cooperated to make this festival successful.

I would like to say that it is worth participating in the Kishibe Festival. Firstly, we could do something good for others by collecting money for the charity. Secondly, we learned many different things: planning, organizing, decorating, cooking, promoting, and so on. We also could become close friends with people you just knew before. I am sure this precious experience will be useful in our lives later on.

All in all, I would recommend all international students who will come to OGU in the future to participate in the Kishibe Festival! It is so much fun!

Martin Bureš (Metropolitan University Prague)

Ever since our arrival in Osaka until today, every International student has experienced Japanese culture, but probably nothing is closer to our experience of taking part in the Kishibe Festival. Although I am not the best writer in the first place, I know one thing for certain, our experience cannot be described - the atmosphere that was created by the collective effort of the OGU students, the ISST members, the International Center staff, the I-Chat Lounge staff and us, the international students from all corners of the world - in several sentences. We are glad



that we had a great opportunity to contribute to such an amazing event and to make it a great success. This Kishibe Festival will turn into a beautiful and unforgettable memory we will hold in our heart when we all go back to our home countries.

After being welcomed by the marvelous initial show of OGU's beautiful cheerleaders, the festival started. During the festival, many people visited our booths from the morning to the afternoon, and there were also at least two dozen booths and many different kinds of food were sold there. Therefore, I am sure everyone eventually found something that would make his/her stomach growl or was simply curious about.

Running a small business with the ISST members was enjoyable and somehow educational. How many people would say they have an experience of working with so many people side by side to make one thing happen? I assure you there are not so many. Every member of four booths

worked so hard that no single person just stood there and did nothing. In addition to this, we had many chances to talk with local people as well as other students. Although very few of us can speak Japanese fluently, all of us tried hard to communicate with them in limited Japanese.

At last, our hard work was rewarded by the OGU's best award on the final day of the festival. All international and OGU students at the closing ceremony shared our joy by big applause. However, I must say that without the support from the OGU personnel and everyone else, we would never have received this award. This is just a small part of the Kishibe Festival. If you want to hear more, please do not hesitate to talk to us, the international students.

* Comments of other two team leaders are featured in our blog, Taking Off. Please check it out as well. Thank you.

<http://inoffice.blog102.fc2.com/>



(Top) Kokusai Dori
(International
Street)
(Right) Leaders
(Jenni and Martin)
receiving an award
at the closing ceremony



Donate full proceeds to earthquake victims!



Message from international students: Don't give up, Tohoku

Helping hands are continuously left to victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake in Japan, but it is inevitable that it must be done on a long-term basis. OGU has tried to raise money

for the victims within the campus, and at the same time, many of our overseas partners have done the same. Some partner universities also gave us a donation. Showing our thanks to all of them, we asked international students to help us in raising money for Tohoku. They graciously agreed with our request and decided to donate all sales earnings at the Kishibe Festival. They with ISST members tried hard to sell as many meals as possible to raise money for three days and earned over 200,000 yen total. We were able to donate 207,506 yen to the Japan Red Cross as a charity for Tohoku.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped us at the Kishibe Festival. Thank you very much!

Fundraising for the Thai flood victims!

The International Center, working with the OGU Student Association, raised money for the Thai flood victims during the Kishibe Festival. OGU exchanges students with Bangkok University and Khon Kaen University in Thailand. We conducted the Thai Work Camp (volunteer work) in May and the Thai Hospitality Tourism Study Trip in September of this year, and sent total 14 students to Thailand this year. As shown here, we have built a close relationship with them. We would also like to comment that Bangkok University donated money for the earthquake and tsunami victims right after the Great East Japan Earthquake happened. Due to the close relationship with Thai partners, we did a fundraising for three days during the Kishibe Festival. Many people who stopped at our international students' booths helped us, so we will be able to donate total 79,752 yen to the flood victims through our partner universities.

OGU Graduate Now: Yujin Yamamoto, ESCE (France) (Class of 2011)

We featured new options for study abroad returnees and post-graduate programs at OGU in the previous issue. This issue features Yujin Yamamoto, who graduated from OGU in March of this year and started graduate school in August at ESCE, one of our overseas partners in France. During his four years at OGU, he participated in a short-term English program at University of Hawaii and The University of Mississippi, studied at University of St. Thomas for two semesters as an exchange student, joined the prestigious Cambridge University Queens College Study Program, and also had a good relationship with international students at OGU. He is now studying business in France to make his dream of working overseas come true.

Bonjour! I am now studying marketing and management at ESCE in Paris, France. Each class usually lasts for

three hours and consists of 20 to 40 students from all over the world. Each has different values and points of view, so

studying with them makes my view toward the world wider. Most of my classes are quite student-oriented, including presenta-



tions, group work, and case studies. However, some are just a regular lecture-type, so I sometimes feel bored with these classes. Here is one thing I was very impressed with after I came to France. European students speak English fluently no matter which country they come from. It is of course because their native tongue is close to English, but some students do not have even a slight foreign accent. I also realized once again the importance of mastering English after I came here.

ESCE is not like an American university campus. It does not have any on-campus dormitories, so I have fewer chances to interact with other students. However, going out for a cup of coffee or a drink with

my classmates helps me to create a good relationship with them and to know Paris more. Considering this, things are not bad.

I sometimes miss Japanese customer service. I study management at school, so even more so. But you cannot expect everything I had in Japan to happen here, so I decided to be more realistic about that. Friends around me often tell me that French are difficult to get along with, but I personally do not think so. They are always kind to me coming from Japan. I also felt many French are also interested in Japan. Regardless of fields they are interested in, Manga or traditional Japanese culture, I rather appreciate them for being interested in Japan and Japanese people.

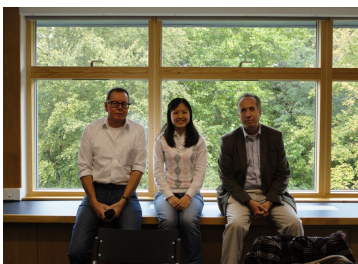


Visiting a German friend who used to study at OGU (Yujin at right)

Message from Yujin: If you have any questions or comments, please contact me anytime through the International Center!

Cambridge University Queens' College Study Program Luo Jing (Graduate School of Law)

I participated in the Cambridge University Queens' College Study Program in England for two weeks in September of this year. Anyone who participates in this program must take a special economics class taught by Dr. Murray Milgate of Cam-



(Top) At the Queens' College Campus
(Bottom) With Dr. Milgate and Mr. Shackleton in the classroom (Luo in the middle)

bridge University beforehand. I first decided to take this class because I want to acquire as much knowledge as possible while studying in the graduate school and to improve my English skills.

Before going to the U.K., I have never been to any other overseas countries besides Japan (She is originally from mainland China.). I learned in English in China. Therefore, the U.K. was the first English-speaking country I visited. Some people made a good comment on my English, but I was a little nervous to visit an unknown country.

Two weeks passed so quickly after my study at Cambridge University started, but I learned a lot for such a short period of time. Our group studied and lived on campus like regular Cambridge students. Almost all things were done on campus, so we were able to talk with our teachers even while having a meal. During the class time, we were able to exchange opinions freely. What a teacher tells us is not always absolutely right. If we have a different opinion, we could speak it out. If there is something we do not understand during

the class, we could ask our teachers anytime later. On some days, after long study hours, we all went to a pub together and talked about many different things while having beer. I really enjoyed the permissive atmosphere.

Riding a boat on the River Cam is also a part of our class time. We took turns rowing the boat enjoying beautiful sceneries, and listened to our teacher explaining the history of each college at Cambridge University. This is something I have never experienced before.

We also went on an extracurricular trip to London and visited the Bank of England Museum. We understood what we learned in the classroom better, such as inflation, deflation, etc., through movies and games there.

I adventurously traveled alone to Scotland, the Lake District, and many other places before and after the program. I met good people who became my friends and felt confident in my English skills through these trips. I would like to challenge new things from now on believing in my capability.

Kitayodo High School Visit by International Students: Nathalie Bresan

On October 26, we as a group of 9 people from different countries visited Kitayodo High School. We took a train to Kami-Shinjo Station and headed to the school on foot from there. OGU was not the only university that par-

ticipated in this event, so we met other international students from different schools in the library. Wearing slippers inside the school was quite a new experience for us. We do not have anything like that in Germany. After the head teacher

gave us a speech and thanked us for participating, we were divided into several groups. A group of four people including myself went to the third class of the second year. As we arrived in the classroom, the teacher introduced us to

the entire class, which was already divided into four. The group I joined was a really nice group. First, I taught them some words in my native language, German, and then we played a game and had a great time. After we spent 2 hours there, we moved to a big hall and watched shows students prepared for us.



A Taiko group performed first, and next a student showed us a performance with a Japanese toy called Kendama, which was really good. A Judo performance followed them. Four students taught us several Judo techniques. And then a Beatles copy band covered famous Beatles songs. They were one of the best Beatles copy bands I have ever seen. Finally, a much bigger band with two female vocalists performed on the stage. All of them were amazingly good and high quality. We all had a great time to know how the high school students' life goes in Japan.



9 international students who participated in the event (Nathalie, third from right)

Is English difficult!? Tips to improve your TOEIC score from 345 to 740: Asuka Hara (3rd year student, Economics)

When you start something new, often times you face challenge. It was also true in my case. I started studying English hard after about five months had passed since entering OGU. I was not really interested in English before that, so I was already far behind from other students then. My first TOEIC score was 345. This score clearly showed that I did not have sufficient grammatical knowledge and listening ability. I even did not know where to start. I encountered a big challenge.

However, when I set a future goal, it seemed everything had changed. My goal was to find a job in which I can use English. Once you set a goal, what you need is to find a shortest way to reach the goal. Many things related to English came up to my mind; when to get 900 on TOEIC, when to take TOEFL, when to go study abroad, and so on. I started studying basic English first, and then started going to the

I-Chat Lounge when I became a sophomore, where I tried to communicate with native English speakers and international students as often as possible. The more I spoke English at the I-Chat Lounge, the more I became motivated to improve my English communication skills because I always felt frustrated or disappointed with my own English. We are very lucky to have such an on-campus facility at OGU. In addition to this, whenever I had time, I studied English at home and at school; furthermore, I tried to read materials related to economics and international issues in English. I still continue doing all of these things.

My current TOEIC score is 740. It is not that high yet, but my English ability has improved comparing to the time when I did not know what to do. It is not only the matter of English. I always believe when I start something, I would like to be someone others look up to. This is very important. If

I make an utmost effort to become someone like that, it will be a great chance to overcome my inferiority complex and to be even more motivated to go forward

I focus on only English right now, but English is just another tool. Therefore, I believe I need to accumulate more knowledge on many other things. I will continuously endeavor to make my dream come true.



Talking with a friend (Asuka, right)

My Life at Medicine Hat College in Canada: Akane Watanabe (3rd year student, Hospitality Business Administration)

I came to Medicine Hat College in Canada in September of 2011. I am taking English classes here. My classmates in the ESL program (Intensive English Program) are mainly from Asia, but some are from Mexico and Columbia. Therefore, I have a chance to encounter different cultural aspects through them.

Mastering a language is one of my main goals to come to Canada, so I try to improve my English. During lunchtime, we set a rule that if we speak each other's

native tongue, we must pay 1 dollar. This is a fun way to speak English. Students from the same country tend to gather and speak their own language, so it is always a challenge for us to overcome the temptation. It has been almost two months since I came here, but I still do not understand or misunderstand what people tell me sometimes, or cannot communicate as well as I want. This type of incident happens almost everyday. I still cannot be confident in my English skills.

I am also often surprised at encountering different culture and customs. For example, not only a bus arrives late here, but also it leaves a bus stop earlier than scheduled, it does not stop even when I pressed a stop button, or it is suddenly cancelled without any notice. It goes on and on. If you live in Canada, you will definitely find the promptness of Japanese public transportation. Furthermore, I also feel how much Japanese have a sense of vulnerability for many different things.

There is a custom to a big celebration when there is a special holiday in Canada, so this is always interesting to me. Recently, we celebrated Halloween. I visited our neighbors' houses with my host brothers, who are 4, 7, and 10 years old, saying "Trick or Treat!" It was so much fun. I now look forward to the next big holiday, Christmas.

I occasionally feel like crying when I think that my English has not improved much since I came here, but I try to tell myself, "if I have time to cry over my shortcomings, I should use the time to study English." I still feel sad to face the reality, but I am not depressed because there are more fun things than hard ones

in my life here. I would like to think this study abroad experience is useful for me when I look back these days someday, so I will do my best to study hard and enjoy my life in Canada.

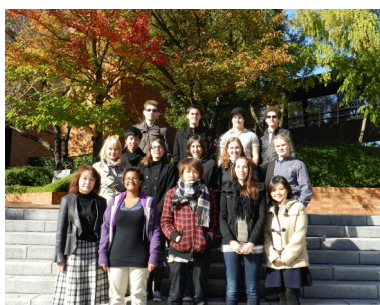


(Top) At the Halloween costume party
(Right) With ESL classmates
(Akane, second from left)



News in December

A completion ceremony and farewell lunch was held on December 21, 2011. 23 international students will leave OGU after this semester, but we will welcome another 10 students from Australia, China, France, Germany, Korea, and Taiwan in January!



Level 1



Level 2



Level 3



Students who completed the program

Level 4

Level 5



大阪学院大学／大阪学院短期大学 国際センター

〒564-8511 大阪府吹田市岸部南二丁目36番1号

TEL: 06-6381-8434 (代表)

FAX: 06-6381-8499

Email: inoffice@ogu.ac.jp

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