



TAKING OFF

Vol. 24 Fall, 2014



Hello from All Corners of the World!

The first student featured in this issue is Mr. Yuki Sagayama who studied abroad in Taiwan and the Netherlands. When he was in Taiwan, he mastered both Chinese and English, and taught Japanese to over 300 people as a volunteer. He is now in the Netherlands and still teaches Japanese to many students. He always looks for his own style of study abroad and challenges something new. We hope those who wish to study abroad in the future will learn something from his experiences and way of thinking.

Yuki Sagayama (Junior, Law)

I studied at Wenzao Ursuline University of Foreign Languages in 2013 as an exchange student, and I am now studying at Fontys University of Applied Sciences. I am writing this in the Netherlands.

I would like to tell you the greatness of studying abroad. Many students think that you go abroad to acquire a language, but I now know that it is only a part of it. For that matter, you can acquire a foreign language to some extent while you are in Japan if you try. Then, what more is there in studying abroad?

If I had to sum up studying abroad in one word, it is "challenge." This challenge starts before you go overseas. First of all, you have to prepare for study abroad for a long time to accomplish the goal. Even though you have decided to study abroad, you cannot leave Japan the next day. You study English and other subjects, submit your applications to OGU and your host university, have an interview, attend the pre-departure class, and do other preparations. This takes at least a year. In fact, you may need almost two years for all the preparations in order to accomplish your dream to study abroad.

Once your study abroad starts, you have to adjust to the new environment. When you are overseas, Japanese is not your main language anymore. Even if you are in a country where people understand some Japanese, the environment is not



Japanese classes (Top: Taiwan, Down: The Netherlands)



Yuki (Left) with international students studying at Fontys University of Applied Sciences

INDEX

Hello from All Corners of the World!	1-2
Kishibe Festival 2014: A Million Flowers are Blooming	3-4
Flavor in Hawaii: Hideaki Miyahara	4

exactly the same as in Japan. You have to communicate with people, take classes, and make friends in the local language. This is not easy to do, but by the end of your stay, you have overcome many difficulties, so you of course grow up as a person.

Study abroad also gives you many other challenges. My personal challenge is to teach Japanese and Japanese culture. I started this while I studied in Taiwan and continued doing it after I came back to Japan as a part-time job. I also have opportunities to teach Japanese in the Neth-



erlands and Belgium. I taught Japanese to students from Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. I use English and Chinese to do it. It was extremely difficult at the beginning, but after doing it for over a year, I really enjoy it now. I met many different people through this and it became a valuable asset in my life.

Another challenge I tackle in the Netherlands is taking a course on International Laws. This is a high-level class even for local students, so international students are usually not allowed to take it, but I asked the teacher to give me permission to take it. I am now sitting with Dutch and German students in the class. The content is extremely difficult and sometimes over my head, but I would like to make my utmost effort until

the end and gain something from the course.

I believe you can challenge many things in Japan. However, think about teaching Japanese overseas. You don't have enough materials to teach or even a classroom to use, but you think how you can deal with the situation and do your best. You face a completely different situation and you are the one who makes things work. Don't you think you can get much more from studying overseas? I think so.

The exchange program gives you a great chance to study abroad for a long period of time and at cheaper costs. Why don't you study abroad as your final challenge in the 16-year education that you started from elemen-

tary school? The OGU International Center will help you. If you are interested in studying abroad, please go there to talk to the staff. If you want to talk to me, I will talk to you as much as I can after I return to Japan.



At the Study Abroad Fair held at Fontys University of Applied Sciences with the director of the OGU International Center, Prof. Mike Matsuno (Yuki on the right)

The next student is Ms. Yuna Iwai who is currently studying at Wenzao Ursuline University of Foreign Languages in Taiwan. She took part in a short-term Chinese program in Taiwan when she was a freshman. She was greatly impressed with the warmth and kindness of Taiwanese people, and this experience made her want to study again in Taiwan. Her dream to be an exchange student came true this year. Yuma, as does Mr. Yuki Sagayama, proactively challenges many things and has strength to face difficulties. One of her goals in Taiwan is to make a guidebook of Kaohsiung where she lives now. It will be interesting to see what kind of guidebook she will make through her own experiences. Here is her essay about her exciting study abroad.

Yuna Iwai (Junior, Hospitality Business Administration)

My life in Taiwan started with many difficulties. I lived with two Chinese students and one Taiwanese in a dorm. They were so nice to me, but I always felt like an outsider because I could not communicate well with them in Chinese. It was also hard for me to adjust to the strict dorm rules and to accept that my common sense is not quite the same as that of the Taiwanese. The first couple of days here was harder than I expected. I was depressed with the situation without my parents, friends, and teachers who understand me well.

On the fourth day after I arrived in Taiwan, something happened to make me recover from my depression. It was



Yuna (Second from right) with other international students

my birthday that day. I received many presents from my friends and my roommates, and surprisingly, I received four whole cakes. I was so moved by that and almost cried. I was able to overcome the hard days surrounded by kind and warm people. After that, I myself was surprised how much I could become positive. I strongly hope to become fluent in Chinese and started to study much more than I ever thought I could when I was in Japan. I now am able to chat with my roommates in Chinese little by little. I truly appreciate them. They are so patient with me all the time. I hope one day I can communicate with them smoothly.

In the first week of my study abroad in Taiwan, I learned how difficult it is to study abroad, but I am so happy to find something I can be enthusiastic about like this. I am always surprised to see the motivation and aspiration the students have toward their study, so I will do my best to the end. I be-

lieve this is the only way for me to repay those who support my study abroad. I will make my study abroad the best experience ever!



Dance performance at the Culture Festival



Kishibe Festival 2014: A Million Flowers are Blooming

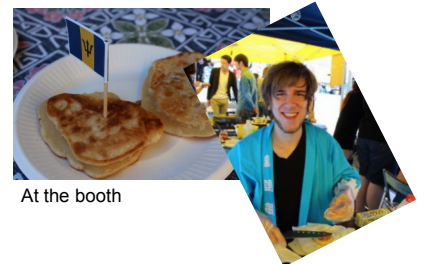
The Kishibe Festival: A Million Flowers are Blooming was held on October 18 and 19. International students from all over the world participated in the festival again this year. They sold many international foods, including the all time favorite "Gyoza" Chinese dumplings, and the very popular French donuts "Beignet", Belgium waffle, and traditional Bajan sweet "Bakes". It was a truly international event as students communicated with OGU students using both English and Japanese, and worked side by side to operate their booths. It was just like a multi-ethnic world. On both days, many teachers, homestay families and home visit families came to the students' booths. We would like to thank all of them for their cooperation and support. We were able to donate 55,000 yen to the Red Cross this year. Here is a short comment from one of the booth leaders, Mr. Felix Van Helden from Germany.

Felix Van Helden (University of Bayreuth)

For the first time I experienced the Kishibe Festival. I will keep the Kishibe Festival in mind as a very colorful, crowded and exciting festival full of friendly people and a variety of fun, interesting booths.

The Japanese university and students care a lot about the Festival and think of detailed preparations in advance which might be the secret behind this nice festival. I had a lot of fun during the preparations, especially while making and trying our special Barbados Bakes which we sold at our booth. The different booths selling

food, drinks or offering lotteries were very nicely designed and advertised their products through beautiful colored posters. The stage on which bands, singers, and great cheerleading groups performed was one of the main attractions of the festival. It offered a nice alternative to all the booths. When I look back now, I remember the preparation work which was fun as well as tiring at times, but I know it was worth the efforts as the festival was really great to experience. I am happy to have been part of that.



At the booth

Intercultural exchange starting from "What is YoYo?"



At the Kishibe Festival, international students at the International Center have their own booths, and additionally join the Yo-Yo booth managed by the seminar class of Professor Yoshio Shirai. Professor Shirai's seminar class is like a mock company in which students become a president, director in purchase, director in finance, and so on. This is a great way for students to get a simulated experience of corporate management.

What is Yo-Yo? Of course, International students know Yo-Yo that moves up and down with a string, but not the one we find at the festival. Seminar students came to the International Center to show the stu-

dents how to make Yo-Yo with water. They used as much English as they could plus gestures to communicate with overseas students who hardly speak Japanese. There were some happenings such as Yo-Yos that suddenly burst or water did not go into the Yo-Yos properly, but the international students really enjoyed seeing a new kind of Yo-Yo for the first time.

It was fine weather on both days of the Kishibe Festival. International students helped the booth making Yo-Yos and talking with customers in Japanese at the booth. Colorful Yo-Yos surely will remain part of their happy memories of Japan.

The Smell of Home-Baked Cookies: Susette Burton

This year, the smell of home baked cookies and brownies at the Shoin Sensei Sweet Shack added to the fun and excitement, as students, teachers, staff and the Kishibe community enjoyed the 53rd annual Osaka Gakuin Kishibe Festival on November 18, 19.

The warm sunny weather and enthusiasm of all involved made for a wonderful

two days of eating delicious foods, making new friends, raising money, and just having a good time.

As part of the festivities, for the past three years the Shoin Teachers who work at the Kokusai Center have had their own booth. The teachers sold nachos the first year and cookies the past two years. This year, the Shoin teachers mixed ingredients



At the booth operated by foreign teachers (Susette in the middle)



and baked about 300 cookies – chocolate chips, oatmeal raisin, brownies and other sweet delights to sell at their booth.

They reached their goal of selling 300 cookies over the two days with the help of some great student volunteers who helped staff their booth.

The Shoin teachers raised more than 20,000 yen, which will be donated to Minna no Te, a support group for the evacuees in Kyoto, who were forced to leave their homes in Fukushima following the March 11 earthquake and nuclear disaster. The donated funds will help pay for transportation to take the

evacuees back home to spend the New Year holidays with family members.

(OGU Lecturer)



Flavor in Hawaii~Hideaki Miyahara

One of the greatest resorts in the world, Hawaii has experienced historical hardships. However, Hawaii to me is a wonderful place with blue sea and sky, white sand beaches, and an abundance of colorful flowers. The beautiful warm weather there always makes me happy and excited. My favorite eating place in Hawaii is one of the most popular local hamburger chains, Teddy's Bigger Burgers. A shop was recently opened in Tokyo, but their Waikiki shop is worth a visit at least once because it is located near the beach and has a great view of Diamond Head. You can definitely feel that you are in Hawaii! Please go there when you are in Waikiki. (Staff at the General Affairs Office)



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