



Vol. 6

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## 1. Japanese Study Programs - Short-term

It is our pleasure to begin welcoming short-term study groups as of January 2009. The most recent guests include a ten-day stay by Pai Chai University in January and a well attended short term stay by the University of Mississippi for a month back in June. In 2010, groups of students from Soonchunhyang University and Pai Chai University came to study Japanese on campus.

### 【Soonchunhyang University】

Soonchunhyang University was established in 1978 as a medical university. They currently have many overseas partners and accept international students, not only from Asian countries, but also, from America and European nations. Once the agreement for "partner exchange" was solidified in 2006, we have actively exchanged students with this partner. Last year, Ms. Risa Narumi, an OGU sophomore majoring in International Studies studied at Soonchunhyang University for a semester while OGU welcomed five students from Korea in exchange.

History was made, when eleven Soonchunhyang University students visited OGU for the first time to study intensive Japanese. Although a very short stay, they enjoyed learning Japanese language, Japanese business and history instructed in Korean. Various cultural culture and field events were hosted during the afternoons. They especially enjoyed the J-Chat event, held at the I-Chat Lounge, in which they participated in games such as "Learning Japan

through food," enjoyed making Takoyaki, and mingled among other international and OGU students.

The weekend featured a visit to Kyoto with golden highlights such as a trek to the Kiyomizu Temple, Gion, and Kawaramachi. Students were lucky enough to even witness a wedding at Yasaka Shrine. They viewed Maiko wearing traditional kimonos on Sannenzaka and strolled tirelessly throughout the area while snacking on Japanese sweets and pickles. Luckily, all students were able to experience a home stay visit regardless of their level of Japanese. They greatly appreciated the warm welcomes they received from all their Japanese host families.

### 【Pai Chai University】

Pai Chai University, one of the oldest universities in South Korea, was founded by a missionary in 1885. The university currently has 44 departments and about 13,000 students. Since the agreement with OGU was only recently signed, our students have yet to study there. However, OGU welcomed two Pai Chai University students this past fall.

During January and February approximately 30 students came to OGU to study Japanese. It has been said, more than 100 students applied for this program and the selection process was competitive. Two Japanese teachers, Ms. Sinsun He and Ms. Keyongwha Park escorted the group and taught Japanese while in Japan. They visited the Asahi beer factory, the Instant Ramen Museum, Yuzen die factory, and NHK broadcasting station. They too, attended the J-Chat Event held at I-Chat Lounge. They stayed at the Senriyama Seminar House (OGU's accommodation facility) and commuted to OGU each day by train. Some of the OGU volunteer students stayed with them as well. Fondly,

the Pai Chai University students enjoyed sharing time with the OGU students, although, their late entertainment sometimes prevented them from getting enough sleep.



Pai Chai University students and ISST members at the Farewell Party

### Language Partner

The ISST (International Student Support Team), an OGU volunteer group, successfully served as language partners for students from both Soonchunhyang University and Pai Chai University. ISST students not only taught language to the exchange students, but also went out and dined with them. The Korean students learned authentic spoken Japanese and gained a deeper understanding of Japanese society and culture through this experience. Likewise, OGU students learned much about Korean culture and increased their interest in the Korean language. Mr. Keisuke Nitta, one of the ISST student leaders, has been generous enough to share his perspective in a summary of both events on the newsletter pages following.



(Top) Students at Kiyomizu Temple  
(Bottom) Soonchunhyang University students at the Farewell Party

## “Language Partner ~ My Newfound Knowledge!”

### Keisuke Nitta (Sophomore majoring in Foreign Languages)

I was recently fortunate enough to be selected as a language partner for the international students visiting OGU from both Soonchunhyang University and Pai Chai University.

Once the Soonchunhyang University students arrived in Osaka, we met at the Station and immediately visited Osaka Castle and enjoyed shopping at the mall. Throughout their stay, we studied language together and visited Kyoto for sightseeing. We actually became very good friends, and when I look back; I wish I could have had more time to speak with them and learn even more about Korea!

About a week later, the Pai Chai University students visited OGU and stayed at the Senriyama Seminar House, rather than with home stay families. I tried hard to communicate with them as much as

possible. We studied and played games together. I was happy to see that they started understanding some of what I said in Japanese as time went by. It was also a good opportunity for me to learn some Korean words.

Through this experience, I realized I knew very little about the history of my own country of Japan and the Korean people. While sightseeing together, the Korean students asked me many questions about Japan, but, regrettably, I failed to answer them. Each evening, at home, I would quickly research Japanese history in preparation for the following day. This helped me to become more proud of Japan and its history and culture. It was apparent that the Korean students always take great pride in their home country. Compared to them, it seems as if young Japanese people are



Keisuke with Soonchunhyang University students (Upper right)

totally uninterested in Japan. I also learned that Koreans have a much more strict hierarchical system than the Japanese. It was a valuable experience for me to interact authentically with Korean students and learn about the country of Korea. I hope to use this treasured experience in my volunteer activities and college life in the future!

In response to a request from Soonchunhyang University; their students had an opportunity to stay with host families while visiting Japan. Although, a very short stay, they learned a lot from their Japanese home stay families before returning to Korea. Having previously studied Korean through the OGU Extension Center, Mrs. Masako Tonai had the privilege of hosting an exchange student for the first time. As a result of her strong interest in other Asian cultures; she decided to welcome another Korean exchange student, currently studying at OGU, into her home.

### “Life with an exchange student from Soonchunhyang University” by: Host Mother Masako Tonai

Although Sohee Jang seemed a little nervous stepping off the airport bus, she graciously greeted me in Japanese. Filled with excitement; I forgot what I was supposed to say in



Korean, even though I had practiced it several times. The only greeting I could manage to say was, “An nyeong ha se yo (Hello!).” in Korean.

The next day, I decided to take Sohee to see her classmate who was staying in Namba. At the risk of being a hovering host mother, I wanted to escort her to Namba to ensure she arrived safely. It all turned out well, and she kindly said, “Thank you for bringing me. I will see you later.” What a nice host daughter!

Although I prepared some very simple dishes, we enjoyed meals with rice, miso soup, fish, vegetables, and also Korean

seaweed or food boiled in soy sauce. Sohee does not eat Kimchi, Korean spicy pickles.

Since I know Korean homes are built with central heating systems I asked Sohee to pack warm clothes for her stay in Japan. Even then, she wore the extra gown, socks, and a pair of slippers I brought out for her. I felt bad, my house was still too cold for her.

On the last day, I enjoyed time alone with Sohee. She kindly left me a thank you letter and she still emails me once every three days. I think of my daughter in Korea everyday!



### Ms. Miho Yuki: Japanese Instructor

I recently had the pleasure of teaching Japanese to a group of students from Soonchunhyang University. Each of them worked tirelessly to study, many with dictionaries in hand. I was very impressed with their positive attitudes and eagerness to learn. Although a short stay; I believe their attention and dedication

Ms. Yuki, an instructor at the International Center, shares a story about her exchange students and their dedicated efforts to study intensive Japanese under her direction. She recently had the pleasure of teaching a class visiting from Soonchunhyang University. She has also had the opportunity to teach exchange students from The University of Mississippi in the past and currently teaches a J-Bridge course offered to international students at OGU.

during class contributed to an improvement in their Japanese speaking level. Many also shared with me their wonderful experiences of living with a host family. Some were very fond of the culture; others loved the homemade Japanese dishes. Overall, the students left Japan with many good memories: life with a host family, engaging economic classes

instructed by Professor Park, various field trips, Kyoto sightseeing and several exchange activities hosted by the OGU volunteer student leaders. With huge smiles on their faces on the last day of class, some replied “We will come back to Osaka for sure!” I very much enjoyed teaching these students and look forward to seeing them again in the future!

## “Overcoming Challenges”

### Universite d'Orleans, Ryusuke Kajiya (Junior majoring in International Studies)

I currently study French at the Université d'Orleans. Both exchange students and students from various parts of France study at this university. I feel lucky because I can learn different styles of French from different points of view. Throughout France, language accents and dialects are quite different depending on the region you live in. Additionally, many immigrants from Africa and Asia speak French with distinctive accents and various styles.

In my classes, students often discuss ceremonial functions, manners and events in diversified countries and regions and later make presentations reflecting these topics. It took me awhile to feel comfortable with this style of classroom instruction. I also had a difficult time keeping up to speed with the other international students who spoke French more fluent than I. However, after several months, I was able to deal with it all and my language level surprisingly increased. I believe this happened because I got

used to the new environment, became more relaxed and began to think more naturally around others.

I also think that I am less afraid to fail, which enabled me to quickly grow more accustomed to my new environment. In the beginning, I was embarrassed to make mistakes, so I remained quiet and never tried to speak out or take a risk. Although, I naturally continue to make some language mistakes, I don't dwell on them and am more comfortable when I am corrected. Fortunately, none of my classmates judged me or made me feel uncomfortable when I said something incorrectly. This type of learning environment truly helped me to feel comfortable and become a meaningful part of the group.

When learning a language, it is crucial to try and speak, make natural mistakes and expect this will happen. No matter how much you study and how hard you try, it will be difficult to measure how

much your language ability has improved. You may feel frustrated and a little stressed when you don't understand what others are saying or what you are reading. This can be discouraging at times and may make you less motivated to continue studying. Rather than be disappointed, it is critical to be even more positive than usual. It helps me to tell myself “everyone makes mistakes” and it is quite all right! Be prepared to work hard and if you continue your efforts to study diligently, you will achieve your goal quite rapidly. This is the most valuable lesson I have learned thus far in France.

Thinking about studying abroad? Have concerns or worries about learning a foreign language? While, it is indeed important to acquire good study skills, more importantly, being consistent, proactive and willing to take a risk is the key. I hope my story will help you to dream for your future. Remember, whatever you do.....try your very best!

## “Taiwan and Me” – My Journey in Taiwan”

### Providence University, Erika Kojima (Junior majoring in International Studies)

Seven months have already passed since I began to study Chinese at Providence University. Time certainly flies and I am carefully contemplating how I will spend my last few months here. Taiwan is close to Japan and it is said that both countries are similar in culture. So it may be a familiar country for some Japanese. Some still believe Taiwan is a part of China, some are not sure where Taiwan is located, and others know nothing about Taiwan. I will share interesting points about Taiwan and its culture, and customs in hopes you will be as inspired by this lovely country as I am.

“Sweet!” One of the first and most impressive culture shocks for me was how sweet the tea is in Taiwan. The tea is the most common beverage, consumed, is dark black and tastes very sweet. For those who do not enjoy this strong flavor should be sure to mention

“without sugar” when placing their order. Summer is the longest season in Taiwan and the temperature goes up to 18 to 24 degrees. Drink stands and shops pop up everywhere beginning in the month of March.

One of the most famous events in Taiwanese culture is the popular night market. There, you can find cheap, rare and tasty foods of all types from various regions throughout the country. You can also enjoy shopping and playing games. Some of my favorites are the fruits and dumplings; they are both so delicious and are always a popular choice. Most Japanese people don't like the sticky, smelly tofu known as “chōudōfu.” It is similar to how some foreigners, who visit Japan, do not understand the fondness Japanese people have for natto. I found this an interesting cultural difference.

The Foreign Languages Department at Providence University is well known. Many international students study not only Chinese, but also English. You would be surprised to see how many students come here to study English. Each language class contains a small group of only 4 to 6 students. Teachers are active and cheerful, and give each student individual attention. Sometimes we learn culture by cooking dumplings or Onigiri in class. Exchange students are also provided with two tutors.

Taiwan is such a small island; visitors can travel the country quickly and efficiently with enough time. Trains, super express trains and highway buses are the most popular forms of transportation. Travel time between Taichung and Taipei in the north, and Taichung and Takao in the south is approximately two and a half hours. If you enjoy traveling, this is a place to do it! When the weather gets warmer, you can see beautiful flowers close to the mountains and near the ocean and learn about traditional festivals of indigenous groups in the eastern parts of Taiwan. Each region of Taiwan highlights different features, which enables visitors to see the country from various perspectives and never get bored.

Initially, I decided to study abroad to simply have a unique college experience, however, this experience has turned out to be very meaningful! With each passing day, my adventure becomes even more profound as I am constantly learning! If you too want a valuable life experience, your future depends on the initiative you take now for your future. While it is important to acquire the language when studying abroad, equally important, is discovering new things about yourself which will naturally boost your self-confidence. Try new things...you just may find yourself in a remarkable country like Taiwan or even somewhere else!



Erika with her friend and her family at Gaoxiong (4th from left)

## “My Four Years at OGU” by: Daichi Tanabe (Alumni- Class of 2008)

I believe my four years at OGU was a huge turning point in my life. Playing baseball was the only thing I really did throughout high school, so to be honest, I didn't like to study at all in college. I am now studying at graduate school in the US and I must study a lot! When I was in high school I rarely received above average grades on any of my English exams. My goal at OGU was to become proficient in English. Although, I still don't feel I have completely accomplished that goal, I have always thought studying abroad was a sure shortcut to achieving my dream. From the first day I set foot in the International Center; I was determined to attend the University of St. Thomas.” The reason I chose this university was because I could take undergraduate courses with American students, possibly become a scholarship recipient, and it required the highest TOEFL score criteria for admissions. I wanted to challenge myself as much as possible. I knew next to nothing about the TOEFL test, so naturally, I had no idea how difficult it would be to achieve a high enough score to be selected. Once I became a sophomore, I started studying for the TOEFL test in the library almost everyday. I also attended the I-Chat Lounge frequently to improve my English conversation skills. When I became a junior, my dream came true; I was accepted as an exchange student at the University of St. Thomas.

At first, life at St. Thomas was very challenging for me. I was required to converse with Americans, submit papers written in English and read many course materials and textbooks. I had the wonderful opportunity of experiencing many things I would never be able to in Japan. For example: I gave speeches and pres-

entation in English to American audiences. This experience gave me much more self-confidence. Besides taking courses, I participated in club activities, enjoyed snowboarding, and spent Christmas and Thanksgiving with my host family. At the same time, I was able to see Japan with an outside perspective and felt it was actually a very small place on earth. American students knew about Japanese automobiles and electronic brand names, but many didn't realize they were actually names for Japanese companies. This surprised me. I also realized the greatness of my own country's educational system. One day, I gave a speech on the Japanese education system. In mentioning to my classmates that the literacy rate in Japan neared 100%, some of my American classmates gasped with shock! Until then, I took it for granted that I could read and write without any problems. After my presentation, I realized it was because everyone in Japan had the opportunity to receive an equal education. Knowing this made me very proud of my home country of Japan. My year in Minnesota was an unforgettable memory for me. Looking back, I think my dream to study abroad and at a specific University all came true!

I am currently attending graduate school, majoring in TESOL, at The University of Mississippi in the US. You would not believe the amount of reading and homework required of my graduate program in comparison to an undergraduate level. However, due to my study abroad experience in St. Thomas, I was much more prepared for my life here in graduate school. My current goal is to graduate with my Masters degree on time. It takes much effort and commit-

ment to graduate from a US graduate school. After graduation, I would like to return to Japan and find a job in which I can make the most of my new skills and experiences I have here at the University of Mississippi.

It is up to you to decide how you spend your four years at OGU. If you have something in mind you would like to accomplish, please start now! Don't wait! Get started as soon as possible fulfilling your dream! Although it sounds easy, truly it is not. Make no mistake; it is extremely difficult to follow through on your dream and it requires hard work! At times, you may need to sacrifice other things along the way. However, the sense of fulfillment and the self-confidence you obtain when you accomplish your dream will greatly influence your life and shape the person you will become in the future. Four years may seem like a long time to you now, yet, it is actually a very short time and will pass by quickly! I hope you will not allow even one-minute to slip by, but rather, will use your college time effectively and work hard to make your dream come true. I wish you all good luck!



Daichi (Left) with his host family during his stay at University of St. Thomas

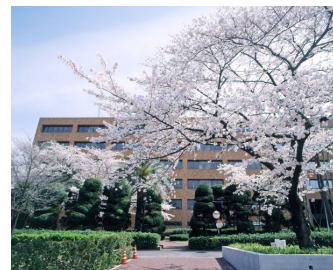
## The CET-OGU Signing Ceremony



President Shirai with Ms. Simpson from CET Academics

We are pleased to announce the signing of our first agreement with the independent study abroad agency CET Academic. In January we welcomed President Kate Simpson, Mr. Anthony Ogden and Ms. Kate Maruyama, from the United States, to OGU to discuss our new relationship and its promising future. The first group of students from the US will arrive in May of

this year. What is CET all about, you might ask? Since its foundation in 1982, CET has been offering innovative independent study abroad programs in China, Czech, Italy, Spain, Syria, and Vietnam. They currently dispatch approximately 1,000 students to these countries annually. After a competitive selection process, OGU was selected as their choice venue for their new Japanese studies program! Nearly all of the international students currently studying at OGU are from existing partner universities. Beginning in May, many American students will be enrolled by CET to study on our campus. Our tireless efforts to expand OGU's international outreach and to internationalize the campus continue to gain momentum. The International Center's long-term goals are moving even closer to reality!



OGU Campus

## Korean Speech Contest Recipient: Hidenori Matsutani, a Junior majoring in Foreign Languages

Hidenori, who you may remember was featured in a previous newsletter, is the honored recipient of the Grand Prix award in the "Let's Talk in Korean" speech contest sponsored by the Korean Consulate General of Osaka. Hidenori's winning speech was titled "The Reason I Started to Study Korean." The International Center wishes him congratulations and continued success at being a leader in building communication bridges between Japan and Korea!



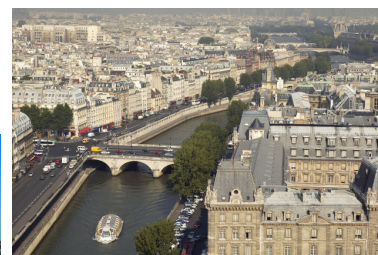
Hidenori (Center) with his prize



## New Partner Universities

We are pleased to announce our newest partnership with the Metropolitan University Prague (MUP), as of February 15, 2010. MUP, founded in 2001, is a rather young university, yet boasts many overseas partners with whom they exchange both inbound and outbound students. OGU students are eligible to study at MUP beginning this upcoming fall.

ESCE also joined the circle of OGU worldwide group in March. ESCE is a business school located in Paris, France. Wow! OGU now has 42 study abroad partner universities!



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