OGFA Collaborates on Pilot Summer Intensive Japanese Program

It was a year in the making, but the Japanese Language Departments at Obirin and the University of Memphis, together with OGFA and Obirin’s International Student Services Division, designed, promoted, and implemented a new pilot program for North American students from Obirin’s affiliated schools to study Japanese intensively for a month, learn Japanese culture, and discover Tokyo and Yokohama.

Memphis student playing the shamisen while UNC Charlotte student looks on.

New Summer Program To be Launched

The Colleges of Business Management and Health and Social Welfare will team up to launch a new summer program in 2013 at Kendal at Oberlin, a non-profit, Quaker-related retirement community. Accompanied by Fukuda-sensei and Eri Nakamura, about nine students will learn about senior care and administration in a U.S. retirement community.

Kendal band preparing for July 4th parade

Kendal is unique, as its seniors have annually won an award for volunteer hours serving the needy in Lorain County, Ohio. In addition to its retirement community, Kendal also has an intergenerational day-care where the seniors ‘adopt’ the children to nurture them like an old-fashioned extended family. Culturally, students will visit the Ohio Amish community and have fun on an island in Lake Erie.

Twelve students in all – ten from the University of Memphis and two from UNC Charlotte – participated in the pilot program. Students arrived on May 23 and departed on June 20. Students studied Japanese intensively in the mornings. In the afternoons they learned how to make wagashi, Japanese sweets; practiced the taiko; did calligraphy; learned the koto and shamisen; and participated in a tea ceremony. They took excursions to Tokyo, Kamakura, the ramen museum, and the Cup Noodle museum, and learned to navigate trains to set off on their own. Many Japanese students helped to make the Americans feel at home. Next summer, we hope to have a full contingent of 30 students from affiliated universities. Please let your colleagues know about this unique program.
From the Desk at OGFA:

In the dog days of summer, we often become lethargic and sluggish. This is especially true in Japan where our friends and colleagues are enduring their second summer with severe electricity shortages due to the disasters in Tohoku. Yet as Hatayama-sensei points out below, our youth must constantly challenge themselves and not be afraid of change or new encounters. To see the world beyond what we are used to is to grow and mature. Our relationship with the two affiliates we introduce in this newsletter has also grown over the years. UNC Charlotte is one of our oldest affiliates, yet the relationship continues to progress with new collaborations and programs. Vancouver Island University was the first affiliate overseas for Obirin’s junior college. Both schools represent a grounding in traditional values while espousing ongoing transformation – the goals we have at OGFA for the students that we serve on both sides of the Pacific.

Maria Domoto
OGFA Executive Director

My hope for the next generation: globally-minded innovators

Hiroaki ‘Henri’ Hatayama
OGFA Treasurer
Obirin Vice-President for Strategic Planning and International Relations

I was born in a small town in Kagoshima, Kyushu. I lived there until I became a third grader. My whole world existed within a radius of five kilometers. It was safe and comfortable, and none of my adventures had ever been dangerous. One day, however, my father announced he was being transferred and my family had to move to a different place far, far away from my hometown.

I remember I had a feeling of fear and anxiety, but also there was a kind of hope and expectation. By the time I got used to my new life, I could notice that I had changed a little. Now I believe that change was growth. One’s locality has its own culture, society, and people who represent new things to us. Understanding this by experiencing it and learning from it is always more valuable than simply being told. OGFA can provide enriching programs effectively structured on a global level. OGFA’s activities always remind me of the thrilling but exciting feelings I had when I was small. OGFA teaches me the importance of keeping the spirit of youth. I myself am an Obirin graduate. I want many, many students at Obirin to attend OGFA programs and see their own change and growth. I hope Obirin students will acquire a global mind, contribute to creating a global community, and nurture their own values to widen their perspective and their sphere of activities.

「グローバル・マインドを手に入れ、活躍してほしい」

畑山浩
OGFA 財務担当理事
桜美林大学 学長特別補佐

私は鹿児島の小さな町で生まれました。小学校3年生まで、その町で育ちました。半径5キロの世界が私の活動場所。そこは安全で、居心地がよく、ちょっとした冒険も、それほど危険なことではありませんでした。しかしある日、父が転勤することになり、その町を離れなければなりませんでした。引っ越しに対する不安や恐れともに、一種の期待や希望もありました。そして、新天地での生活に慣れてくるころには、自分自身の変化を感じ取ることができるようになりました。それは、変化であると同時に、成長だったと思っています。

土地にはそれぞれ、社会があり文化があり、自分にとって新しいことを教えてくれる人々がいます。これは説明されるよりもむしろ、経験としてわかる方が適切です。OGFAは、この経験を最も有効な形で、かつ、グローバルなレベルで、提供できる財団です。OGFAの活動はいつでも、私の子供の頃に感じた、あのスリリングな気持ちを、思い起こさせてくれます。OGFAは私に、若かった頃の気持ちを持ち続ける意義を教えてくれます。私自身も桜美林の卒業生ですが、できるだけ多くの学生さん達に、OGFAのプログラムに参加し、自分の「変化」や「成長」を実感して欲しいと願っています。

OGFAを通して桜美林の学生達がグローバルマイクンドを獲得し、その知識や技術で社会に貢献し、自分自身の価値を高め、活躍していくことを願っています。
In his senior year, Andy's plan was to take German, a prerequisite for graduate school. He also had to take an Asian art course to graduate. Due to a scheduling conflict, he couldn't take both. Andy asked his advisor, Dr. Hood, to exempt him from Asian Art, explaining it was irrelevant to his interests. Dr. Hood refused, questioning how he knew Asian art was irrelevant if he didn't know anything about it. Dr. Hood also refused to write graduate school recommendations for him. "My easy dismissal of Asian art apparently demonstrated my intellectual narrowness (and perhaps immaturity). He thought I would benefit from time to reflect," Andy said. Disappointed, Andy flippantly asked his advisor what he recommended after graduation. "Go to Asia?" Dr. Hood answered, "Well, it wouldn't be the worst thing in the world for you!"

So Andy decided to apply for a Shansi fellowship. If he was accepted, he would go to Asia and broaden his intellectual horizons. If he wasn't accepted, Dr. Hood agreed to write grad school recommendations the next year. Andy was sure he wouldn't be accepted, but to his surprise Shansi accepted him, so he committed himself to two years in Japan as a Shansi rep.

Of all his experiences in Japan, the one he especially treasures was having had the chance to meet President Yasuzo Shimizu, Obirin's founder. Andy recalls the incredibly warm welcome he received. Yasuzo-sensei was thrilled to have the bond between his alma mater Oberlin and his own college Obirin formalized with Andy's arrival. Andy was also inspired by the dedicated faculty at Obirin. "I was especially influenced by Maria Domoto, who seemed to be the ideal teacher, committed to her students and enthusiastic. She was a great role model on how I could become a caring and effective teacher myself," he said.

After Obirin, he returned to the U.S. and went to Princeton for his MA and PhD in Japanese Art History. After many years of teaching at Vassar College, he returned to Princeton, where he is currently Professor of Japanese art history. (continued on page 4)
Teruko Shapiro, 
Junior College, English major, 1964

Teruko grew up near the mountains in Hokkaido, Japan. As a child, she would look at the world map on the wall in her room and dream of traveling around the world one day. She thought that if she studied English in college, her dream might come true. She chose Obirin because she liked the name, the welcoming photo of the campus cherry trees, and the location in the Tokyo outskirts. However, her life at Obirin was much more than she had expected and even more beautiful than the photos. “My entering and studying at Obirin was like I had won the lottery! I couldn’t have found any other school as wonderful as Obirin,” she says.

When asked about her Obirin memories, her first thought was about the teacher she most admired: Yasuzo Shimizu, Obirin’s founder. She recalled that Yasuzo-sensei was always concerned about the students living on campus far from their homes. He would always visit Sutei dormitory to make sure everyone was adjusting to campus life. Moreover, he and his wife Ikuko-sensei would invite three or four students at a time to their home. Teruko still remembers how impressed she was, enjoying jasmine tea from China and the delightful conversations at their home.

Yasuzo-sensei once told her a story about when he bought the land for the Machida campus. The owner of the land had a rice field and no interest in selling his land. Yasuzo-sensei went to the field every morning and prayed that the owner would one day sell him the land. A month later, he heard a voice saying “Go right now,” so he ran over to see the landowner, and his dream came true. Teruko was impressed by his patience and devotion. “When I heard that story, I realized that creating his wonderful school was his enormous passion,” she said.

She enjoyed classes with many remarkable teachers at Obirin, especially her French language teacher, Yuasa-sensei. "He was a Sorbonne University graduate and had spent 16 years in the Netherlands. And although he was born in Japan, he seemed like a real European gentleman!" In Sutei dormitory, she enjoyed meeting her many friends, not just from Japan, but from all over the world, including Taiwan and Peru. Yasuzo-sensei welcomed students from everywhere without discrimination, uncommon in Japan at that time. Humble and very approachable, Yasuzo-sensei always reached out to people from different backgrounds.

Teruko has been living in Los Angeles with her family since 1982. Her advice for all Obiriners is: “Everyone has different life stories. Keep the journey going with your own unique way to pursue your own goals with a passion.”

Andy (cont’d. from p. 3) His research focuses on Japanese art of the 16th century. “Here we are 30+ plus years later, and my life is entirely intertwined with Japan. If I had not been a Shansi rep at Obirin, I wouldn’t have my present career, nor, for that matter, my present personal life. In teaching as a Shansi rep at Obirin, I discovered that the classroom was a place I enjoyed. I met art enthusiasts who tutored me in Japanese art, and my interest for it began to grow. I feel a deep gratitude to Shansi and Obirin for giving me the incredible opportunity to live and work in Japan right after college,” he said. Andy married an Obirin graduate, the former Chiharu Hori, and they have two lovely children. He hopes his children will also be fortunate to have an opportunity as eye-opening as his Oberlin Shansi experience was.

An Obirin student teaches Chinese Opera to Tongji Junior High students in Shanghai in May. Thirty-two students visited Shanghai to perform as part of celebrations on the 40th anniversary of the resumption of Japan-China diplomatic relations.
Over Two Decades of Exchange: The Creation of Global Citizens
Marian Beane, Director, International Student/Scholar Office
Joel Gallegos, Assistant Provost for International Programs
UNC Charlotte

J. F. Oberlin University and UNC Charlotte have had a long and fruitful exchange relationship over a period of 22 years. In 1990, Maria Domoto was hired to create the UNC Charlotte Japanese language program and the UNC Charlotte Japan Center. Soon thereafter, she was approached by four students, who insisted on studying in Japan.

Since she had previously created Obirin’s English Language Program and knew Obirin well, she introduced Dr. Harold Josephson, Director of UNC Charlotte’s International Studies Program, to Travis Venters, Obirin’s Director of the Center for International Studies, and from that encounter, our relationship began. In 1991 UNC Charlotte welcomed five Obirin students to study in its English Language Training Institute (ELTI), and the intrepid four Americans who started it all got to go to Japan. Also, in 1991 Takashi Okoshi, Obirin’s English Department faculty member and later Vice-President, came to UNC Charlotte as a visiting scholar.

In 1992 an exchange agreement was signed by Izo Shimzu, Obirin’s Chancellor, and J. H. Woodward, Chancellor of UNC Charlotte.

The rest is history. Dr. Boyd Davis, UNC Charlotte English Department faculty member, spent a year at Obirin, and Dr. Hiroaki Hata-yama, now Obirin vice-president, started his graduate career at UNC Charlotte. He and his wife Kaori, both Obirin graduates, were Japanese language teaching assistants at UNC Charlotte.

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Over the years Obirin students have been able to enroll in UNC Charlotte’s ESL Program until they became eligible for academic programs. In 2007 and again in 2011, exchange slots were added for ELTI students so that more UNC Charlotte students could study in Japan. In addition to English study, students have participated in various cultural activities and community outreach projects. In 2012, UNC Charlotte students joined Obirin’s pilot summer intensive Japanese program.

Our exchange partnership of 22 years continues to successfully carry out its purpose and goals. Students have arrived shy and anxious and have returned from their new second home with a greater sense of confidence, global consciousness, and life-long friendships with students from around the world. We anticipate that these experiences will continue to impact not only their lives but others that they touch to engender better understanding between citizens of Japan and the United States and other peoples of the world.
In the late 1980’s an exchange program was set up between Malaspina College (now Vancouver Island University) and the ladies in the Obirin Junior College. The original purpose of the program was to provide English language instruction and cultural activities to young Japanese college students as part of their university degree. When the young women from Obirin arrived at Malaspina, they were assessed with other international students and placed into appropriate levels in the E.S.L. program. This ensured being at a comfortable level and not all being together in one language grouping.

While attending Malaspina, the students lived with Canadian home-stay families in order to maximize their language immersion experience. Over the years, students benefited from both the immersion in the English language and the social and cultural activities they participated in.

Lucy Colby and Sheila Swanson, two ESL instructors, coordinated the original curriculum, which included four hours of English immersion in the morning and field trips in the afternoon. The students stayed for fall semester. They spent Christmas holidays with their host families before returning to Japan. Christmas was especially exciting for the young women because the Canadian celebration was so different from Christmas in Japan. Instructors would prepare the students for the event with lots of Christmas-themed activities.

Over the years, Stephanie J. Parker took over the coordination of the program. It was always very popular with the young women because they not only improved their English abilities but participated in in-depth cross-cultural events like doing presentations at retirement homes and elementary schools on Japanese culture; taking skiing trips to Banff, Alberta, and Mt. Washington on Vancouver Island; and taking shopping trips to Edmonton, Canada, and Seattle in the United States.

It was the goal of all of the dedicated managers and instructors at Malaspina to continue to come up with new, exciting ways to improve the content and delivery of this program.

Eventually, time passed into the 21st century. Malaspina became Vancouver Island University in 2008, and Obirin no longer has a Junior College. The nature of our relationship has been both constant and changing. Since 2008, 75 Obirin students have studied at VIU for a semester on the J. F. Oberlin Global Outreach Program for students in the College of Arts and Sciences while Vancouver Island students have also gone to study at JFOU on the Reconnaissance Japan program. Our initial one-way program has now become two-way. Vancouver Island has always enjoyed providing this challenging and dynamic opportunity to JFOU students for cross-cultural exchange, and we hope it continues in the future. Our students have certainly benefited from their exposure to Japanese culture and improved Japanese language ability while at JFOU in Japan.
News from Japan

地元のサッカーチーム「FC 町田ゼルビア」を応援します。
今年度から桜美林大学は玉川大学と連携し、COUMZ（Consortium of Universities in Machida ZELVIA として、J2 所属の FC 町田ゼルビア(http://www.zelvia.co.jp/news/news-16809/)をスポンサーとして応援します。サッカーを通じた地域貢献・スポーツ振興・教育連携を目的として活動します。7 月 8 日に行われた COUMZ マッチでは、試合前に学生によるイベントを実施しました。

フラッグペアラーはソングリーディング部 CREAM。

約 200 人の学生も誘導や応援にあたった。

応援にかけつけた佐藤理事長（中央）、三谷学長（右）と玉川大学の小原学長（左）。

エスコートキッズは桜美林と玉川の幼稚園児がつとめた。