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Symposium features experts on Chinese literature, poetry

by JIU Times

Josai University Educational Corporation held a Modern Poetry International Symposium on July 1 at its Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, in which Chinese and Japanese poets discussed their work experiences and philosophy.

The symposium, organized by the Josai University International Modern Poetry Center, featured a lecture by Gao Xu Dong, a professor of Chinese literature at Renmin University in Beijing, titled "Lu Xun: His First Novel and Its Connection with Japan," as well as readings by Chinese and Japanese poets and a panel discussion by six of the participants.

The panel discussion saw Chinese panelists Yang Ke, Hua Qing and Tian Yuan, who is a visiting professor at Josai International University, examine poetry with Japanese panelists Ken Niinobe, Kiwao Nomura and Josai University Educational Corporation Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, who is a poet herself.

They discussed, among other things, childhood experiences and their connection with their works.

"Childhood experiences are the basis for not just poets, but also creators of any kind. Sceneries and photos become triggers to speak about childhood," Mizuta said.

Yang has read many poems from the Tang Dynasty period and learned poems from his parents, while Niinobe said people could go back to their childhood by using the magic of poetry.



"Poetry expresses our minds. It expresses people's feelings, thoughts and hopes," Hua said.

Hearing Chinese poets' comments, Nomura said poetry and death sound like the same thing, as poetry (shi) and death (shi) are homophones in Japanese. "Maybe childhood and death, which comes at the last moment of human life, are the same thing," he said.

Tian wrapped up, saying childhood is the basis of every poet and must have a big impact on personality development.

The panel discussion followed readings by the six panelists, as well as Liang Xiao Ming, Shu Cai, Cong Rong, Koji Usami, Shin Takeuchi and Mizuki Misumi.

Before the readings, Gao discussed the work of famous Chinese novelist Lu Xun, who had close connections with Japan.

Lu Xun, a leading figure of Chinese modern literature, was born in Shaoxing, eastern China, in 1881 and came to Japan in 1902 to study for seven years. He wrote his first novel, "Soul of Sparta," in Tokyo in 1903.

Soul of Sparta is a story about Spartan warriors and the people around them in ancient Greece, and describes their sense of honor, duty and pride in their state, Gao said.

"Lu Xun included the idea of being willing to sacrifice oneself for one's country in Soul of Sparta. The book was a trigger to change the mindset of the Chinese," Gao said.

Soul of Sparta has deep associations with Japan such as bushido, or the samurai warrior code of honor, discipline and morality, is similar to the Spartan spirit, he said.

Gao also added that Japan and China have deep cultural ties that go back centuries, cit-



Left: An exhibition of ink wash paintings by Chinese calligrapher and painter Zhang Xiaoshen was held at the Mizuta Museum of Art at the Kioicho Campus of Josai University in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, from July 1 to 4; Right: Chinese and Japanese poets discussed their work at the same campus on July 1.

ing the example of world-famous Chinese poet Li Bai, who wrote in his work that he was wearing Japanese clothes, a gift from Japanese delegates at the time of the Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618 to 907).

Separately, Chancellor Noriko Mizuta announced the foundation of the Kiro (The Road Home) Award for the best Japanese poetry written by non-Japanese students. The award is co-sponsored by publisher Shichosha Co. and endorsed by The Mainichi Newspapers and The Japan Times.

Chinese ink wash paintings feature in exhibition

by JIU Times

To commemorate the Modern Poetry International Symposium, an exhibition of ink wash paintings by Chinese calligrapher and painter Zhang Xiaoshen was held at the Mizuta Museum of Art in the Third Building of the Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, from July 1 to 4.

Zhang, born in 1958, uses watery and blur-

ry lines to draw abstract images. Many of his works are in the collections of international art organizations or held by individuals. The gallery displayed 20 works, including a drawing of poet Shuntaro Tanikawa. An opening ceremony was held before the symposium.

"I am grateful to be given a place to realize my ideals. This exhibition was made possible by your support and will lead to my next step," Zhang said in a greeting.



A commemorative photo with meeting participants

Josai hosts visit from Czech politicians, education experts

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

On May 17, Josai University Educational Corporation hosted an honorary visit from a Czech Republic delegation that included members of the Upper House (Senate) and the Education and Human Rights Council. This event provided the precious opportunity to discuss the promotion of academic exchange and other important topics.

As part of Josai's midterm target of strengthening international exchange to cultivate global human resources, our university has concluded academic exchange agreements with a number of institutions worldwide, in particular those located in Central Europe. Josai has such agreements with three universities in the Czech Republic — the University of Economics, Prague; Charles University in Prague; and Masaryk University — with Josai and Josai International Universities hosting exchange students from the said institutions. To date, Josai has hosted five Czech exchange students and sent 14 Josai students to study abroad in the Czech Republic. Josai has also hosted yearly events with nations of the Visegrad group (V4, which includes the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and their respective embassies) in cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Senator Zdeněk Berka led the five-member Czech delegation. Their week-long stay in Japan included visits to the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the National Diet, NHK (the Japan Broadcasting Corporation), and elementary schools and universities, in the interest of

promoting student exchange at institutions of higher learning, and academic exchange as well as joint research in the fields of science and technology. With Josai having already developed a fruitful academic exchange with the Czech Republic, our campus was the first one that the delegation visited.

On the afternoon the Czech delegation visited the International Conference Room in the 3rd Building of Josai's Kioicho Campus in Tokyo, they engaged in an informal discussion with Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, Josai University President Hakuo Yanagisawa and other university representatives. In her introductory remarks, Chancellor Mizuta said: "This university has benefited greatly from Czech exchange students, some of whom now work as faculty at Josai. It is my wish that the young people of Japan, particularly the young people of Josai, will engage in an active exchange with your country, and so become vital human resources and leaders in this new century. I hope that this opportunity will lead to even more productive exchanges with the Czech Republic and its universities." Senator Berka added that he would do everything in his power to facilitate academic exchange. After Josai's video presentation, council member Zuzana Baudyšová, who has devoted her career to child protection, stated, "I believe children's rights to be of the utmost importance. All of you have made immense contributions to the protection of children's human rights." Chancellor Mizuta responded by saying that, "Our university has a Children's Welfare course and we'd appreciate any guidance you could provide."

Mizuta awarded UCR medallion

by JIU Times

The UCR Medallion was bestowed upon Chancellor Noriko Mizuta on May 9. The award was created on the UC Riverside campus to allow the University of California, Riverside, to honor friends and distinguished visitors — whether individuals or organizations — that have rendered distinguished and extraordinary service to UCR and to society.

The medallion was awarded to Chancellor Mizuta "in recognition of her deep commitment to educating future international leaders and her extraordinary contributions to international education at the University of California, Riverside." The text on the medallion also reads "Chancellor Mizuta's early investment in programs that prepare university students to live globally resulted in one of UCR's first international university partnership agreements in 1986. This relationship has continued to thrive and expand through

her exceptional leadership." The award ceremony was hosted by Chancellor Kim Wilcox and Dean Dr. Sharon Duffy, and attended by Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey and Consul General Harry H. Horinouchi among other guests.

More than 3,200 Josai University and Josai International University students have had the opportunity to participate in short- and long-term programs at UCR. All of them have stayed with local home stay families who so kindly opened their homes to our students sometimes for two weeks and sometimes for up to one year. UCR Extension's International Education Programs celebrated their 40th anniversary with a special dinner for a large number of host families May 10. We were very proud to represent all sister universities at the event. Josai was also proud to appoint Dean Duffy as the Honorary Dean of the Josai University Educational Corporation Lifelong Learning Center.



A very warm welcome from the administration and staff

A group of 21 UCR students led by Professor Setsu Shigematsu is at Josai International University and we are also looking forward to receiving the new exchange students from

the fall semester. It is our hope to further strengthen our relationship and to promote international education in the United States and Japan.

International prize to commemorate founder

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

In marking its 50th anniversary, Josai University Educational Corporation will create the Mikio Mizuta Commemorative International Prize.

Mizuta, the founder of Josai University who was born in 1905 and died in 1976, was a politician engaged in the revitalization of Japan after World War II, and worked tirelessly to achieve economic growth and improve Japan's status in the world.

He was known as a politician savvy in finance and economy as he had held several ministerial positions, including the economy and finance portfolios. He was called on during economic difficulties such as deterioration of the trade balance, economic slowdown and rapid changes in the exchange rate.

Also, he was passionately engaged in promoting education. He founded Josai University, with the motto "Character building through learning."

Josai University Educational Corporation admires the founder's efforts for Japan's revitalization and development, and thus has

decided to establish the Mikio Mizuta Commemorative International Prize for people who make remarkable contributions to improve and develop Japan's economy, society and culture.

Josai University Educational Corporation will select the first winner this fall. From next

Poetry prize established for foreign students

by Jordan Smith
Associate Professor
Faculty of International Humanities

The Josai University International Modern Poetry Center has created a new Japanese modern poetry prize for foreign exchange students in Japan. Foreign students residing in Japan and studying at any institution in the country may submit their original poetry in Japanese. Sponsored by publishing house Shichosha and supported by The Japan Times and Mainichi Newspapers, the prize is designed to build bridges between Japan and foreign students, foster the literary culture of exchange students and encourage exchange students to enrich their Japanese language studies with creative writing.

fiscal year, it will hold an awards ceremony in April, the anniversary month of the university's foundation.

Josai University Educational Corporation hopes the Mikio Mizuta Commemorative International Prize will contribute to the development of Japan's economy and society.

The prize is called "The Road Home Prize," in honor of Chancellor Noriko Mizuta's "Kiro" collection of poetry that treats the topic of international travel in a globalized world. Judges for the competition include poets Mutsuo Takahashi, Kiwao Nomura, Toshiko Hirata, Tian Yuan and Noriko Mizuta. The organizing committee includes Gozo Yoshimasu, Noriko Mizuta, Jordan Smith, and Tian Yuan. The winner will receive a ¥300,000 prize and three runners-up will receive ¥30,000 each. Selections will be announced in January 2017, with the winning entry to be published in the leading Japanese poetry journal, "Modern Poetry Handbook (Gendai Shi Techō)." Submissions for this year's prize will be accepted through Nov. 30 and all inquiries may be sent to kiro@jiu.ac.jp.

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Philosophical examination of evil and human nature

by JIU Times

Josai University Educational Corporation organized a lecture by renowned philosopher Richard Bernstein, who discussed the views of Hannah Arendt, another philosopher, on a philosophical analysis on how Nazis could carry out the Holocaust, at its Kioicho Campus, Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, on June 8.

Bernstein's lecture, titled "Hannah Arendt: Thought-Defying Evil," is one of a series of lectures being given in conjunction with Josai University's 50th anniversary. Arendt (October 1906 to December 1975) was a German-born Jewish philosopher who escaped the Holocaust and emigrated to the U.S.

"We are very honored to introduce to you the well-known philosopher Dr. Bernstein," Josai University Educational Corporation Chancellor Noriko Mizuta said of the professor from The New School in New York. It was the second time she invited him for a lecture since 2002, the 10th anniversary of Josai In-

ternational University.

Bernstein began his speech with some background information on Arendt. During the 1920s and 1930s, she grew concerned over what was happening in Germany amid the emergence of fascism. She was searched, arrested, interrogated and released by Nazis. However, by the time the Holocaust had intensified, she escaped Germany and later Europe.

Her study on Adolf Eichmann, who played a central role in killing millions of Jews during the Holocaust, stipulates that evil is nothing radical. Rather, evil is banal, merely a thoughtless action of following orders. She calls the mentality of Adolf Hitler's followers a state of "total domination."

"We tend to think there is good and evil, victims and villains. But it's not that simple," Bernstein said.

Bernstein also noted that Arendt's theory somewhat explains the mentality of Americans after 9/11.

"No one likes to believe the so-called Is-

lamic State is the result of U.S. policy," he said.

Arendt considered what causes evil, he said, adding that possible answers may be the inability to stop and think, as Eichmann was just a cog in a big machine.

To be sure, neither Arendt nor Bernstein denied that the Holocaust was a horrific, inhumane act. What's important is to study how and why Eichmann "became a cog and continued to be one," he said.

In a question and answer session following the talk, Bernstein said people are not born evil.

"One is educated into it. Most of the worst evil is done by people who don't think of it as such. It's a capacity all humans have," he said.

Following the event, Josai University students gave Bernstein a bouquet. Bernstein said with a smile, "I've taught many years and I've traveled around the world to give many lectures, but only at Josai have I ever received a bouquet."



Lecture on comparative literature held

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

On June 8, Dr. Carol L. Bernstein, who specializes in romantic and Victorian literature, as well as comparative literature and literary theory, gave a lecture in the 3rd Building of Josai's Tokyo Kioicho Campus to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the university's foundation. Josai University Educational Corporation's Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, who gave an opening address, as well as graduate

and international students, faculty and staff, attended her talk on "The Performing Cultural Memory." Drawing on numerous examples, including the performing arts, sculpture and film, Bernstein analyzed how traumatic cultural memories can find a surrogate form of expression in the visual arts. She found that these forms of expression allowed people to revisit, remember and share traumatic experiences, creating a visible form of suffering, as well as a new mode of seeing from the very site of the trauma.



Josai University Educational Corporation
50th Anniversary Project

"Kantsubaki"
Mikio Mizuta's Biography

A former journalist of Mainichi Shimbun, **Kenji 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.

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JIU begins program to teach history of Josai

by Center of Public Relations

A new program on the history of Josai University was introduced this academic year at Josai International University (JIU). The program was designed to focus on founder Mikio Mizuta so that students can learn what motivated him to set up the university and his ideals for it. The author of "Kantsubaki" Mikio Mizuta's Biography, is in charge of the course.

Similar programs have been introduced at other universities recently to learn about the motivations of their founders, and JIU launched its course in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of Josai University Educational Corporation. The classes are held at the Tokyo Kioicho Cam-

pus and are simultaneously satellite-linked to the Togane Campus.

When Josai University was established in Sakado, Saitama Prefecture, 50 years ago, there were more faculty than students, and the university faced closing many times. But no matter how serious the problems were that Mizuta faced, he never questioned his commitment "to create a new Japan that can be trusted by the whole world and to create independent Japanese citizens." His tenacity eventually convinced people around him and became the foundations of the prosperity of Josai University today. The provenance of the university can be attributed to his unshakable "spirit to challenge something in a new environment."

Founder Mizuta, who greatly admired

Greek philosopher Aristotle, was also a humanist, romanticist and reformer who always wished to help those at the bottom of the social ladder.

The course traces the life of Mizuta back to the origins of his passion, explaining why he was so determined to create a university. The purpose of this program is to explain his passion and share it with participating students. The course starts by describing his political career, as well as his agony and suffering as a politician, and follows him through to the founding of the university. The course also invites those who personally knew him as guest speakers.

There are 48 students taking the course and this is expected to increase in the next academic year.

Founder featured in Nihon Keizai Shimbun

by JIU Times

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Japan's most famous daily business newspaper, published an article on the late founder of Josai University, Mikio Mizuta, who was also a former finance minister, in its April 24 edition.

Mizuta had planned to implement a "value added tax," equivalent to a consumption tax. He believed in diversifying tax revenue sources as the Japanese economy was about to finish its boom phase and enter a mature, slow-growth phase. The government then relied heavily on income tax and corporate tax.

In June 1970, Mizuta was part of a mission that visited Europe to learn how society and economies had been affected soon after

European countries began implementing a value added tax.

After returning to Japan, Mizuta clarified his position that a value added tax was the most appropriate source of tax revenue to improve the lives of the Japanese. In 1976, he died without seeing the tax implemented.

Japan introduced a consumption tax in April 1989.

"Mr. Mizuta's visit to Europe was a big turning point for Japan on its way to implementing a consumption tax. Economic conditions change rapidly and a country cannot achieve decent social welfare without stable tax revenue sources like a consumption tax. Mr. Mizuta was a visionary," said Hirohisa Fujii, a former finance minister.

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.



Chancellor Noriko Mizuta

Profile of Chancellor Mizuta

The Chancellor of Josai University Educational Corporation, Dr. Noriko Mizuta graduated from Tokyo Woman's Christian University. She earned her Ph.D. in American Literature from Yale University, then taught as an Assistant Professor and then as an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California.

She was appointed President of Josai University in 1994 and President of Josai International University in 1996. Since 2004, she has held the post of Chancellor of Josai University Educational Corporation.

Dr. Mizuta's fields of research are in Comparative Literature and Women's Studies.

Students enjoy events, chatting at English Club

by Yudo Tsubouchi (student, junior) and Yutaro Abe, Faculty of Management and Information Sciences

The more than 40 Japanese members of the JIU Tokyo-Kioicho English Club enjoy monthly events with overseas students from around the world, including France, Hungary, Ireland, Malaysia, Myanmar, Poland and

the United States. They had a small party on campus in April and played badminton in Yoyogi Park in May. Members also had a small field trip with English professors and foreign students to the Oishi Fossils Gallery of Mizuta Memorial Museum on the Tokyo Kioicho Campus.

Those interested should come to a meeting or email jiukioicho@yahoo.co.jp.

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Benefits of technology need to be balanced with caution

by JIU Times

Josai University organized a lecture by Masanori Aoyagi to deliver the message of how people should be wary of the potentially negative effects of technology on the planet at its campus in Sakado, Saitama Prefecture, on June 15.

The lecture, titled "Nature, Humans and Scientific Technology," is part of the Global Lecture series commemorating the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the university.

Aoyagi is the director of the Institute of Advanced Science of Josai University Educational Corporation, former commissioner for cultural affairs and former director general of the National Museum of Western Art. An expert on Western art, he has published several books on the subject.

His lecture touched on both the positive

and negative impacts of advancing scientific technology. People tend to focus very much on the positive side as technology helps make things more convenient and prolongs life expectancies. But he cautioned people to remember that there is a flip side.

"As technology advances, we should always ask ourselves what the most important value for mankind is," Aoyagi said. "Right now, we are actually in a grave crisis. Technology has advanced markedly, but striking a good balance is hard. In fact, we are not really in control as it's in a God's hands."

The world's population has skyrocketed exponentially in a very short period of the Earth's existence, and the steepness of the curve is remarkable, compared with other living creatures.

"The question is; what preys on humans? Maybe environmental deterioration serves

as 'prey' for people. And maybe the human population curve doesn't move cyclically. We'll probably go extinct if the environment gets worse," he said.

As an example of the negative impact of beneficial technological advancement, noted that improvements in medicine and nutrition have increased the number of people in the world, but this has led to concern over a lack of natural resources to sustain them. Marie Curie's excellent research on radioactivity was an indirect cause of the mass killings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, while the invention of airplanes dramatically increased the chances of pandemics.

"The discovery of the human genome is probably the biggest discovery in mankind's history, but it may result in very strong viruses that are resistant to even the strongest medicines. It's possible that invincible mon-



sters will come to be in the future," he said.

There is no doubt scientific advancement of technology contributes to human happiness, but society really does need to be careful.

"We need to monitor advances in scientific

technology. There should be improvement in scientific journalism and ordinary people must also be vigilant. Focus should not only be on the accuracy of small details, but also on the balance in the big picture."

In a Q&A session, in response to the idea that humans can adapt and survive, Aoyagi said: "Humans can probably adjust, but it's not easy. We need to reduce the burden on the Earth."

Josai visits, deepens ties with schools in Shenyang, Dalian

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

On May 21, Josai Chancellor Noriko Mizuta was invited to deliver a keynote lecture on "University Education and Globalization" at the World University Presidents' Forum at Shenyang Normal University (SYNU), northeast China, to commemorate its 65th anniversary. More than 40 representatives from sister institutions around the world participated in the forum, making for a highly productive event.

Josai and SYNU first established an academic exchange agreement, with Professor Zhang Dexiang serving as liaison, and they have since collaborated on many programs, particularly related to the Museum of Paleontology, and in the field of Japanese language education and in the graduate program in art and design.

Josai also participated in a ceremony led by SYNU President Lin Qun to commemorate the installation of a new plaque in Shenyang's Friendship Forest that honors Josai's past tree donation.

Following the forum, the Josai delegation met Secretary Yu Wenming and Director Sun Ge to pledge their continued support in promoting the Museum of Paleontology. Afterward, the delegation was given a guided tour of the facilities at the School of Art and Design

by Zhang Peng, the director of the program, and, over tea discussed plans to begin faculty and student exchanges.

On May 22, the Josai University Educational Corporation, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, joined the fifth meeting of the Josai-Dalian/Northeastern Alumni Association at a downtown Dalian hotel. Assistant Director of the Dalian University of Technology and Dalian University of Foreign Languages (DUFL) You Zhishen, who is an alumnus, served as host for the evening.

Attendees also included current and former exchange students who studied at Josai and Josai International Universities, J MBA scholarship recipients, graduates of the joint education program, recipients of the "Takashi Mukaibo Memorial" Takashi Murai Scholarship, "Mikio Mizuta Memorial" Noriko Mizuta Scholarship and other private scholarships; in addition to representatives from the Dalian People's International Friendship Association, Dalian University of Technology, DUFL and China's Northeastern University.

Guests of honor included former secretary of Dalian University of Technology, and recipient of an honorary doctoral degree from Josai, Zhang Dexiang, Du Fenggang from the Dalian University of Technology and president of the China-Japan Alumni Association, Professor

Chen Yan of the DUFL and manager of the Dalian Foreign Affairs Office, Yu Tao (who made a surprise appearance), all of whom provided heartfelt words of greeting.

Alumni who assembled for this meeting expressed their gratitude to their mentors and home institutions, and pledged to continue working for the continued development of their universities and the fostering of China-Japan cultural understanding.

On May 23, the Josai University Educational Corporation delegation led by Chancellor Noriko Mizuta visited newly appointed Party Secretary Wang Hansong.

Secretary Wang, who is well aware of the details and accomplishments of Josai's academic exchanges with the Dalian University of Technology, expressed his appreciation for the scholarships, the Japan-China joint graduate program, the Mikio Mizuta Memorial Book Donation and research trips that have come as a result of this collaboration. He also stated that it was an honor for the Dalian University of Technology Press to publish the Chinese edition of Chancellor Mizuta's poetry collection, "Kiro," and presented Chancellor Mizuta with a special hardcover edition of the book.

The meeting was followed by a presentation for the Takashi Mukaibo Memorial Takashi Murai and Mikio Mizuta Memorial Noriko Mizuta

Scholarships, as well as the 12th Mikio Mizuta Book Donation.

The ceremony, which was attended by former University Vice President Jia Zhen and other Dalian faculty, began with the presentation of the Takashi Mukaibo Memorial Takashi Murai and Mikio Mizuta Memorial Noriko Mizuta Scholarships to 20 students by Chancellor Mizuta and Hiroyuki Murai (president of Baroque Japan, Ltd.), eldest son of Takashi Murai. We all expect outstanding achievements, in their respective research fields and as members of society, from the 20 Dalian master's and Ph.D. students chosen for the award. We are also pleased to see that Mr. Murai has taken up the same noble cause established by his father.

This was followed by the ceremony for the Mikio Mizuta Book Donation, during which Josai University Professor Kazunobu Fukushima presented a catalog of books to Dalian University of Technology Chair of Financial Management Su Jingqin. This collection is dedicated to the financial management department's MBA program, and caters specifically to researchers, postgraduate students and future exchange students enrolling in Josai's J MBA program who are interested in Japanese finance and business.

By meeting with Party Secretary Wang Hansong as well as University President Guo Dongming, this visit was an excellent oppor-

tunity to deepen the relationship between our two schools.

On May 23, the Josai delegation paid a visit to the DUFL where they had a meeting with newly appointed President Liu Hong, congratulating her on her achievement. Josai and DUFL have collaborated on many projects, including the promotion of graduate and Japanese language education, and hope to enjoy many more programs of exchange in future.

On May 23 the DUFL hosted a joint international symposium, co-organized by the university and Josai University/Josai International University, and the China-Japan Society for Short Poetry, titled "Expression Abroad: Contemporary Poetry in Japan and China."

With a keynote lecture on "Expression Abroad" by Chancellor Mizuta, the symposium was attended by Chen Yan, Du Fenggang, Liu Ligu and Tian Yuan, as well as He Zhiyong and Meng Haixia, recent Josai doctoral recipients who now work as assistant professors at DUFL. Lushun, Dalian, is home to a long-standing Japanese community and possesses its own unique brand of modernism, making it a particularly appropriate site for this symposium.

In the afternoon of May 23, Josai Chancellor Mizuta held a meeting with Huai Zhongmin, newly appointed chairperson of the Dalian



People's International Friendship Association. Huai, who took over from Li Yongjin, expressed his desire to continue their program of friendly exchange with Josai University.

On May 24, the Josai delegation, led by Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, met with President Xia Chunyu and other representatives of Dongbei University of Finance and Economics. Joining President Xia was Director of Academic Affairs Zhang Juntao, Director of the International Exchange Institute Zhang Yuci and Professor Fang Aixiang, among others.

Since forming their academic exchange agreement in 2015, their partnership has continued to progress with Josai accepting exchange students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels to their Faculty of Contemporary Policy Studies, as well as researchers from Dongbei. In future, the two schools have agreed to expand their exchanges by forming joint programs in the fields of management, welfare, media, tourism, humanities and environmental studies, in addition to exchanges at the junior college level.

JU CORNER

White coat ceremony

By Thithi Lay
Josai Center for ASEAN Studies (JCAS)

The traditional "white coat ceremony" for new students of Josai University's Pharmaceutical Department was held at Seiko Hall on the Sakado Campus in Saitama May 31.

After the department's director, Kazuhiko Junji, explained the meaning of the ceremony, Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, Vice President and Dean of the Pharmaceutical Department Kenji Sugibayashi, and the director awarded white coats to new students Mitsuko Hirose and Yuka Kurauchi by draping them on their shoulders. The ceremony was attended by the dean and professors of the Pharmaceutical Department, the University of Lodz, Poland, and the chairman of the Imaizumi Memorial Burmese Scholarship Foundation, Seiji Imaizumi, who has contributed to Myanmar students studying in Japan since 1988.

In her speech, Chancellor Mizuta said, "It is great to see all the students looking so dignified in their white coats, please, cherish this moment every day as you devote yourself to your studies and gain many experiences. By taking over the aspirations of the founder, I like to cultivate young generations who can contribute globally." In response to the chancellor's words, new student Minami Arai, gave a strong oath, "A compass needle emblem is embroidered at the heart of our white coat. We will become global human resources to support the health care of our country and the world."



Commemorative photo of the planting ceremony

JU CORNER

Ceremonial planting at the Seiko Mizuta Memorial Rose Garden

by JIU Times

On May 31, a ceremonial planting was held for three types of roses donated by sister school the University of Economics, Prague, at the Seiko Mizuta Memorial Rose Garden on Josai's Sakado Campus in Saitama. A four-member delegation from Polish sister school the University of Lodz led by Economics Department Chair Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski and former Chancellor Jan Rydz, who was in Japan for a visit, also

participated in the ceremony.

The three types of roses planted in the ceremony were the Seiko Mizuta rose, a new type named after the former Josai Honorary Chancellor, the Czech rose Gruss an Teplitz, donated by University of Economics, Prague, President Hana Machkova, and another new type of rose, the Hana Machkova, presented by Josai to the university president in return for her generous gift.

President Machkova attended the opening ceremony for the Josai International University Rose Garden, which took place in November 2015, following the World University Presidents' Forum as part of Josai's 50th anniversary festivities. It was President Machkova's deep appreciation for the garden that inspired this donation. The Seiko Mizuta and Hana Machkova roses were designed by renowned rose grower Toshio Tomiyoshi,

and received awards for Best New Rose at the International Rose Convention.

Chancellor Noriko Mizuta said in her introductory remarks, "This rose garden, which was founded to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Josai Junior College, has been the beneficiary of rose donations from around the world, and is maintained through the hard work of Josai staff and community members." Joking, she added, "Someday, we might even receive roses from Poland!" She continued, "I hope that all of you will continue to cherish this international rose garden and foster its beautiful flowers." Following the Chancellor's speech, participants, including local elected officials of the prefectural assembly, members of the alumni association, and student council and exchange student representatives, took turns unloading soil to cover the young rose bulbs.

BRIDGE

(Vol. 5)

Teaching in Thailand

by Saki Takeuchi
Student, Department of International Exchange Studies

When I entered Josai International University I chose International Exchange Studies as my major and later Japanese Teaching Methodology for my minor. Before I went to Thailand in my third year, I had participated in the Taiwan Communication Internship Program held in September. I was given the chance to teach elementary Japanese to Taiwanese university students. When I returned to Japan I continued my studies in Japanese teaching and I was able to go back to Taiwan to teach Japanese, this time to students at Taipei City University of Science & Technology with the support of the Japan Foundation.

In 2016, I participated in the Nihongo Partners program at the Japan Foundation. It is a program of language and cultural exchange with schools in Thailand. This year the Japan Foundation sent 50 interns to Thailand, all of whom receive a stipend, health insurance and transportation fees. I had previously applied for this program, but was not accepted, however, I did not give up. I applied again, and clearly stated my goals and desire to share my culture and language through the Nihongo Partners program. I was accepted and I am now teaching at the Uthaiwitayakom School in Uthai Thani, Thailand.

There are 15 Japanese classes a week. I work with a Thai teacher of Japanese for 12 of them as an assistant. I help with pronunciation and check students' homework. For the remaining three classes I teach Japanese culture and kanji on my

own. After school, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., I teach Japanese language and culture to the Thai faculty, other foreign teachers and some students.

I had never lived outside Japan alone before, so this experience has been quite difficult, especially in a place so different from where I lived in Japan. Uthai Thani is a rural province. There is no supermarket, but I can buy anything I need at the local market. It rains often and it is very hot. The average temperature is about 35 degrees Celsius, but on the hotter days it can reach 45 degrees Celsius. Although it is very different from where I have lived before, the teachers, students and local people of Uthai Thani are friendly, helpful and very supportive, which makes the difficult things a lot easier. I am very happy.

My job can be difficult at times as well, but I have no regrets about my decision to join this program. It is an invaluable experience to learn how to work and live in any country, and under difficult circumstances. As I learn about Thailand and the place I live, I also gain new insights about Japan.

When I return to Japan I will continue to study Japanese teaching at graduate school for a master's degree. I want to become a full-fledged Japanese language teacher and teach internationally. I will use my experiences from Taiwan and Thailand to guide my graduate studies, and adjust and adapt my teaching style.



UC students bear witness at Hiroshima

by Setsu Shigematsu
Professor University of California, Riverside

Thanks to a new study abroad program hosted by JIU, last summer, I began bringing University of California undergraduate students to Hiroshima. This four-week intensive course focuses on the intertwined history of U.S. and Japanese imperialism. Students learn how the clash of these two empires culminated in World War II in the Asia-Pacific region. Our collective pilgrimage to Hiroshima is the most meaningful part of our experience together in Japan. Students shared with me that they wept in their hotel rooms when they understood and felt the full impact of being so close to ground zero.

Last summer was also my first trip to Hiroshima. Although I spent years living in Japan as a researcher, going to Hiroshima required a kind of resolve. I grew up hearing stories about the war from my parents. My mother was 10 and my father was 13 when the war ended. They were among the fortunate children in Japan who survived the bombings of their cities, the burning of their homes and saying banzai to the emperor, not knowing at the time, the magnitude of the destruction and atrocities committed by the Imperial Japanese Army.

When I was an undergraduate student studying Japanese history, I questioned my father about the war he experienced and whether his father was a soldier. He became upset and would not speak about it. After a few minutes of silence he answered that the horrors were unspeakable. Traveling to Hiro-

shima with my students enables us to learn and face one unforgettable reminder of the past that continues into the present.

For more than half a century, the U.S. and Japanese governments have spun official narratives around the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The most rehearsed myth asserts that the atomic bombings saved lives by bringing a swift end to the war. But what is still being censored from the official histories of the war?

U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to Hiroshima represented the careful orchestration of a media spectacle to deflect the demand for an apology and control the discourse of nuclear warfare with images of diplomacy and symbols of peaceful reconciliation. Rather than celebrating Obama's gestures of reconciliation, or granting his contradictions as a pragmatic politician, we might question what is taking place before our eyes.

Given his doublespeak about a nuclear-free world while supporting a trillion dollar upgrade to U.S. nuclear weapons over the next thirty years, Obama's visit to Hiroshima was beyond hypocrisy. It was arguably a desecration of the sacred.

Hiroshima is a sacred place; a mecca for the millions who have traveled to its memorials to pray for peace and a symbolic meeting place for thousands around the world who have worked for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

We made origami peace cranes in anticipation of our visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Mu-



seum. We also visited the monument to the Koreans killed in Hiroshima and we stood together in front of the cenotaph, which is meant to shield the souls of those who were killed.

After visiting Hiroshima, my students shared the following:

Standing in front of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial cenotaph it finally hit me.

A flood of emotions ran through my body giving me chill.

A big inhale and exhale.

How could a nation do this to another?

I wish I could go back in time and warn everyone living there.

Upon leaving, I felt remorse and sorrow for the lives that were lost.

We have to, as a whole species, abolish nuclear weapons

to make the world a better and safer place.

~ Justin MacMillan

Reading history is one thing, but to have the privilege of experiencing it firsthand was a rude awakening. I do not know whether to feel anger or a sense of relief. My previous views on war were clouded with lies and built on fear, but I have been blessed enough to re-discover the truth, the pain and the horror. We need to search for love, not fear. I leave a part of me in Hiroshima and I promise to share with others the lessons that I gained on this trip.

~ Lorely Martinez

I believe that using the atomic bomb was unnecessary and unethical, and I truly wish it had not been used ... No one is truly a victim when they are an aggressor in war, but the lives lost on all sides in the process is the tragedy of war. Hopefully the love for other humans can overcome the love of power.

~ Brittany Bravo

It is my hope that what these students learn, experience and feel in Hiroshima will continue to impact and influence their views for the remainder of their lives, especially as Americans living in a nation that continues to wage war. Through these learning experiences, I believe that together we can create a future free from war.



JIU graduates to join Rio Olympics in triathlon, track

by Anna Jozwiak
Center for Admissions and Public Relations

Yurie Kato, a graduate of the Faculty of Social Work Studies, has been selected for the Japanese women's triathlon team for the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.

During her student years, Kato was a leading member of JIU's women's ekiden team, which came third at the 23rd All Japan University Women's Ekiden Championship in 2005. She has been an active triathlete since

graduation.

Let's cheer her to victory in Rio.

Also, Josai University alum Kota Murayama, who graduated from the Faculty of Business Administration in 2015, will run in the 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters at the Olympics. He is the Japanese 10,000-meter record holder, with a time of 27 minutes, 29.69 seconds



Serendipity | Fascinating choices of fate — Vol. 15

by SUDY Zoltan
Representative Director, Former Hungarian Ambassador

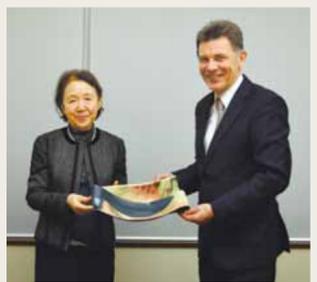
I made up my mind at the age of 14 to become a diplomat. Not for the parties and the attractive lifestyle, but for the purpose of trying to contribute to the cause of the prevention of wars. Hungary being — an albeit soft kind of — communist country, had a planned economy. This included HR planning. When I succeeded in getting the scholarship provided by the Hungarian Foreign Ministry to study at the Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in Moscow, I was called to the HR Department of the ministry, and told to specialize on Mongolia and the Mongolian language. Therefore, before the start of the academic year, during the summer, I started to read about Mongolia to get myself acquainted with this country.

Thus, when I arrived at the university in Moscow for the first time and saw a

black framed photo, telling everyone of the sudden death of one of the Mongolian language professors, and thereupon was informed that there would not be a Mongolian language course for freshmen, I felt somewhat disappointed. After informing the Hungarian Embassy, which passed on the news to the ministry, I got the instruction to start studying Japanese.

Naturally, being a student interested in the world, I knew a few things about Japan. As a kid, I was fascinated to watch the Tokyo Olympic Games of 1964 on TV. My first "made in Japan" product was a Sanyo portable tape recorder that I bought with my savings from a part-time job I had when I was a secondary school student. And I kept dreaming about buying a big reel-to-reel Akai recorder one day.

But this was another story: I was facing the task of becoming an expert on Japan. I started to learn the language, history, geography, culture, religion, economy and diplo-



macy of the country. This was a real challenge. I had time for some rest and a private life only on Sundays. Otherwise my days were full of learning. We did not have any modern tools. Even taped radio broadcasts in Japanese were rarely available to practice listening and pronunciation. Our teachers were all Russians (though I must add that they were excellent, except for some strong

Russian accents). Because none of us had real "kanji cards," I created some handwritten cards by myself. So I could utilize even the time spent commuting to the university from my dormitory to memorize a few kanji.

Because it is such a difficult and complicated language, Japanese had a reputation of driving some of the students simply crazy, and many gave up during the years. I stuck at it and the more I learned, the more motivated I became to meet this challenge. Just one year after my graduation my dream came true: I set foot in Japan! This happened exactly 40 years ago. Thanks to fate, my life became dedicated to Japan. If I could start again, I would not make a different choice! I am grateful to Josai University for offering me the opportunity to speak about my country and our region, and convey some of the lessons learned during my diplomatic and business career to the next generations, my students here.

Tufts professor Napier gives lecture on Studio Ghibli

by Josai International Center for the Promotion of Art & Sciences (JICPAS)

On June 17, Josai University Educational Corporation invited Susan Napier, a scholar of Japanese literature and professor at Tufts University, to give a special keynote lecture on "Here There Be Dragons: Legends and Legacies of Studio Ghibli" in the 1st Building Hall at the Tokyo Kioicho Campus. Some 200 people attended the lecture commemorating the university's 50th anniversary, including scholars, students of Josai International University Faculty of Media Studies and faculty members. The presentation by a leading expert on modern Japanese animation studies was also available in classrooms via a live link.

Chancellor Noriko Mizuta welcomed Professor Napier before her lecture. "We have a cinema studies program in the Faculty of Media Studies and a new animation studies course has just been introduced. Today, it's indeed a pleasure to invite the highly respected Professor Napier, a renowned scholar in the field, to give a lecture, which is also part of our university's e-learning program," Chancellor Mizuta said.

Professor Napier pointed out in her presentation, "In contrast to the Disney animation films that portray the world of fantasy brightly, Studio Ghibli's animation films depict a multilayered and multifaceted world."



She also said, while showing some fascinating scenes from "My Neighbor Totoro" and "Pom Poko" in the background, "Studio Ghibli's animation works are complicated. The major themes are loss and condolence, and the associated feelings and comforting." Finally, she referred to the "dragon" that made a symbolic showing in "Spirited Away," saying in conclusion, "The dragon will fly evermore in your memory and heart."

In the question-and-answer session, Professor Napier answered a student's question about Studio Ghibli's place in America, "Although hard to believe in the past, there is an amazing trend out there. Studio Ghibli's movies are now embedded in American culture," she said.

Susan Napier is a professor at Tufts Uni-

versity in Massachusetts. She obtained a Ph.D. from Harvard University's Department of East Asian Languages and Civilization. She then took a position as an assistant professor at the University of Texas and was later promoted to professor at the same institution. She is a recognized authority in the United States in the field of Japanese literature and culture. She has gained an international reputation through her outstanding achievements in the field of academic criticism and discussion of modern Japanese "anime" in English-speaking countries. Her works include "Anime from Akira to Spirited Away: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation," published by Chuko Susho, which won the Japan Society for Children's Literature Honor Award in 2003.

Eklund shares wisdom at Swedish Café

by Yasuko Wachi Ph.D.
JIU Visiting Professor

On June 7, Josai University Educational Corporation held the first "Swedish Café" with guest Carl-Gustav Eklund, president of both Volvo Group Japan and Hoggans Japan KK, as well as the former chair of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan.

Chancellor Noriko Mizuta, who serves as president of the Sweden-Japan Friendship Society, welcomed him in her opening address, and thanked him for taking the time to come to the event. This was the first of a series of Swedish Café gatherings commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Josai University Educational Corporation, and that will encourage our students to actively get inspired by the wisdom and high-level business achievements of Mr. Eklund.

Mr. Eklund gave a talk on "Cross-Cultural Management Between Sweden and Japan,"

First Irish Café held to celebrate exchange

by JIU Times

Josai University Educational Corporation's first "Irish Café" was held in the international conference room on the Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward on June 24, with guest lecturer Taketoshi Furomoto, a former professor at Kobe University.

Exchanges between Josai University and the University of Limerick in Ireland began in March last year, with the support of the Irish Embassy and Hiromasa Yonekura, honorary chairman of the Japan Business Federation.

The Irish Café marked the inauguration



Northeastern University executives visit Josai

by JIU Times

Sun Lei, vice president of Northeastern University in Shenyang, and Wan Qiuju, vice president of the university's Foreign Studies College, visited the Kioicho Campus in Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, and met Josai University Educational Corporation Chancellor Noriko Mizuta on June 13.

"Our universities have a deep connection with Northeastern University in graduate studies cooperation. We are impressed with the quality of education at Northeastern University and the ability of its teachers. I'd like to build a close relationship as if we were a family from now on," Mizuta said. I have the deep connection with Tohoku

University by cooperation of a graduate school. It's moved by the height of the educational level and the height of the humanity of the teachers of Tohoku University. I'd like also to complete a close relation like the family from now on

In response, Sun said, "We have built research and human resource exchanges with JIU and JU (Josai International University and Josai University). Let's try our best together to educate our students to become successful adults."

Northeastern University is a Chinese national university and is designated as a National Key University. It has various departments, including science, engineering, literature, economics, law and education.



drawing on his life experiences, including overseas internships in Italy, Germany, the U.S. and Brazil, as well as his more than 30-year business experience as a manager for various Swedish organizations in Japan.

He gave a very interactive presentation, starting by asking various questions to an audience of more than 70, consisting of various local and international business representatives, JU and JIU students and faculty members, and some local government representatives. He asked: "How many of you have

been to more than three foreign countries?" "How many of you have experienced business internship programs abroad?" "How many of you are interested in participating in international business internship programs in the near future?"

This prompted our students to interact directly with Mr. Eklund in English, asking questions such as: "What made Mr. Eklund come to Japan?" "What is the most important thing, in your opinion, to learn in the four years of university life?" "How high is the national election voter turnout among students in Sweden?" "Who are the members of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan?" "What are the cultural differences in management style between our two countries?" Mr. Eklund answered drawing on his experiences doing business, and connecting Sweden and Japan.

The presentation was followed by a reception with all the guests enjoying further discussions with Mr. Eklund.



of Irish Literature.

"Professor Furomoto is a very prominent English literature and Irish studies scholar. I think today's lecture may make us all fall in love with Ireland," said Chancellor Noriko Mizuta before the lecture.