

Face Off



By Super English Students, for Gaigo Students Issue 39 Spring 2015

ORIENTATION IN AKIU

On April 23rd and 24th, 101 new students went to the Iwanumaya Onsen in Akiu for orientation and some fun. They took a mini TOEIC test, played some games with teachers and 2nd year helpers, and of course relaxed in the hot spring. At night they enjoyed a traditional Japanese onsen dinner. Everyone looked tired and happy when they returned to Gaigo. The college hopes it will be a good memory for them. We asked one 1st Year student, Kana Aizawa (Airline), about the event: " All the 1st Year students were so excited! Before orientation they didn't know anything about Gaigo, but during the two days they could learn so much about studying and could also make many new friends"

George Macnaughton



Kana (right) and her friend Keyaki 'Key' Kanno, Gaigo's resident hula dancer.

Haruna Koizumi, Nami Kano and Risa Tanakadate enjoying dinner.

Yes, Gaigo has male students too! The guys had a great time.

TDS Recreation

On May 29th Gaigo went to Tokyo Disney Sea. There were eight buses with 274 students and 16 teachers. Unfortunately eight students didn't show up. Let's hope they don't also 'miss the bus' to their future. However, everyone who went had a great time. Gaigo's TDS chief Ryoko Sato (below left) said: " It was very smooth. The rain was disappointing, but really there were no big problems. I had a great dinner. It looked like everyone enjoyed the day"





New Comers to Sendai

Many students studying at Gaigo come from other prefectures. Some of them are living in Sendai and some do a long daily commute from their hometowns. We asked five students about their lives and what they think about Sendai and college life.



Youichi Sakuma (2nd Year Translation & Interpretation)

I am from Nihonmatsu city in Fukushima. I think Sendai is a very convenient city because you can finish all the stuff you need to do around Sendai Station. There's also not much litter on the streets. I often go to Kobo Stadium to see a baseball game. I like Gaigo because the students can improve their English speaking and listening ability thanks to many classes with foreign teachers. There's also a nice atmosphere so students can concentrate on studying.

Saori Fukuoka (2nd Year Global Education)

I am from Hachinohe in Aomori, famous for *Senbei Jiru* and delicious marine products. I live with my father now near Tomizawa. I share the housework with him. I make my own lunchbox everyday. After living in Sendai for a year, my impression has changed. At first, I thought Sendai was a busy city and difficult to live in. However, now I think Sendai is very cosmopolitan and has a lot of greenery. I will go back to my hometown to enter a university after graduation. I'd like to get a job related to solving environmental problems.



Ramu Masuya (1st Year Multi Purpose)

I am from Akita city in Akita. My first impression of Sendai is that it's comfortable to live in because there's not so many people like Tokyo. I like living alone, and I feel like I have become a little independent. However, sometimes I have trouble waking up on time, and I'm scared of earthquakes! I always walk to Gaigo every morning. The good points of Gaigo are that there are many computer rooms and there are lots of native teachers. All of them are so kind. They always adjust to the students' pace in classes. In the future, I want to be an interpreter.

Shizuka Tsukeyanagi (1st Year Multi Purpose)

I am from Hirono town in Iwate. My town is famous for *Ama Chan* and marine products. I live in the Gaigo dormitory by myself now. There are lots of things to do like cooking and laundry, so time management is difficult. I don't had a part-time job yet, but I want to be an event staff member. During lunch time, I always enjoy being with my friends in the student hall. I'm not good at asking questions, but teachers here give me opportunities to ask them, so I like this school. In the future, I want to get a job teaching English to children.



Hiromu Nagasawa (1st Year Multi Purpose)

I am from Fukushima city. I come to school from Fukushima using the Tohoku main line everyday and it's very tough, so I want to move to Sendai. I have a part-time job and work hard every weekend so I can have enough money to study abroad in the future. I've studied abroad alone in Hawaii before. I think the good point of Gaigo is that students are surrounded by English everyday, so it's easy to improve English skills. My dream is to work in a foreign country using English. To make my dream come true, I want to study abroad again in order to improve my English.



FAREWELL PARTY



Gaigo said farewell to several staff members in March. Ai Otake, Guen Koku Oai and Rebecca Daum are all enjoying their new lives in other parts of Japan. We asked Ai Otake (Monma before marriage) about her six years at Gaigo.

“I am from Kogota, north of Sendai. I was a Gaigo graduate from the Global Education Course (2007). After Gaigo I transferred to Tohoku Gakuin University, and when I graduated from there in 2009 I started working at Gaigo. It was very different from being a student! I was in charge of 1st Year Multi-Purpose English and 2nd Year Interpretation and Translation. When I was much younger, I was shy and thought life was boring. However as I became older, I found that life could be fun! Sometimes challenges can be enjoyable. I want to say to students that although you will face many problems in your school life such as exams, relationships, job hunting and fulfilling your dream, you should always rely on your friends and teachers to help you . Always look for a new challenge and make the best use of your time in Gaigo. Good luck to all of you ! I hope you have great success in the future. If you ever come to Osaka, please meet me and let's enjoy some takoyaki together!”



Ai Otake (right) with Ryoko Sato at her farewell party

Finally we have lockers!



Sawaki Emiri

Gaigo students have requested lockers for many years, and finally the college said OK! We asked two 2nd Year Global Education students, Kasumi Yoshida and Kohei Sakamoto about their brand new lockers.



New locker friends, Kasumi and Kohei. Let's hope they get along!

Kasumi: “The lockers are great! They are so convenient because I don't have to carry heavy books all day. Unfortunately my locker is on the bottom row! I also wish it were on the 1st floor, not the 6th.”

Kohei: “Before the lockers, I used to hide my books in the college and sometimes I would leave my bag in a classroom all day. Now I don't have to do that so I am very happy, and my books are safer. However, the locker is a little small.”

GAIGO Principal Hashimoto: “We are trying to make the facilities at the college better year by year, and by providing lockers we hope to make school life easier for students. I want all of the students to make the best use of them.”

Health Check

The annual student health check was done on May 20th. The inspection included an X-ray in addition to measuring height, weight and blood pressure. Some students commented that they were a little embarrassed by the on-the-spot urine analysis. However, the check did not take long and everybody was able to go home early.



1st Year Airline Course students, Ritsuki Takahashi and Miho Suzuki



New Staff Members



In April, Gaigo had some new faces: Ashley Cox, Makiko Iida and Chika Hosokawa. We had a chat with them to find out about their new jobs and other interesting stuff.

Ashley Cox (English Dept.)

Ashley comes from Iowa in the U.S. and now lives in Wakabayashi Ward, Sendai. She came to Japan three years ago. Her father gave her a good impression of Japan because he had visited Okinawa and Osaka as a member of the U.S. Navy. Her hobbies are making bracelets and sewing. Every year, she makes her own costume for Halloween. She loves her mom's original recipe apple pie. When she goes back to her hometown, it's always ready on the table. In her free time, she often goes to Tsutsujigaoka Park and sits on a bench to read a book. She also likes watching Rakuten games at Kobo stadium. She goes there three times a month. Her favorite player is Ginji. Now she is learning Japanese and this year she will take a Japanese proficiency test. She says "Believe in yourself, work hard and you can achieve anything."



Makiko Iida (Japanese Dept.)

Makiko comes from Miyagino Ward in Sendai. Before Gaigo, she worked for six years in South Korea as a Japanese language teacher at the Pusan Foreign Language University. She relaxes by driving her car, especially on the scenic Route 281 between Morioka and Kuji in Iwate. In Korea, she liked looking for nice cafés and walking along the beach, especially the beautiful and tranquil Gwang-anri beach. Her favorite foods are *gamjatan* in Korea and *hoya* in Japan, but the food she loves most is a traditional Chinese hotpot. In Gaigo, she teaches Japanese kanji, grammar and listening. She says "I like my classes because students say many interesting things." Her message to students is "Life has its ups and downs, but you need to focus on the big picture. Smiling is the most important thing you can do every day."



Chika Hosokawa (Public Relations Section)

Chika comes from Shiwa, near Morioka, but she has lived in Sendai since she was six. She was a 2003 graduate of the Travel Course in Gaigo. After she graduated she worked at the Matshushima Dai-Kanso Hotel. After that she worked at Tohoku University supporting foreign students. She joined the Public Relations Section of Gaigo in April this year. In her free time, Chika likes to watch western dramas like 'Desperate Housewives' and 'Friends' while eating her favorite food, chocolate. Her best memory of being a Gaigo student was the 3 week homestay program in Port Macquarie, Australia. She says "I want students to have an enjoyable time here and to cherish their two years of learning and friendship."



SCHEDULE

- ◆ Eiken Interview: July 5
- ◆ Marine Day: July 20
- ◆ Last Day of Class: July 22
- ◆ Starting Summer Vacation: July 23
- ◆ First Day Back: August 21



"An enjoyable school life all depends on your attitude!" ENA

