TUJ ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S FIRST EVENT HAILED AS A SUCCESS

Judging from the positive reactions of the attendees, the first alumni event entirely organized and hosted by the new TUJ Alumni Association was a clear winner. About 40 people came to the get-together at Café Pronto in Shibuya on Friday, March 17. The group—representing an impressive cross-section of TUJ's nationalities and academic specialties, and ranging from holders of undergraduate degrees to MBAs—truly embodied TUJ's unique international educational atmosphere.

The event's success was due largely to the efforts of the Alumni Association’s Executive Committee. The Association president is former TUJ student government president Yuichi Takahashi (B.A. ’04), who took the lead in forming the Alumni Association at last fall’s alumni event. Supporting Takahashi are vice presidents Michiyo Matsuoka (B.A. ’93) and Ayako Tada (B.A. ’05). Other Executive Committee members are Naoki Sakata (B.A. ’93), who is handling career development; Saki Kojima (B.A. ’05), heading up communications; and Jeffrey Tarlofsky (M.Ed. ’97), overseeing fund-raising and acting as subcommittee liaison.

The Executive Committee meets regularly and, in cooperation with other volunteers, is developing a website and planning various events. The next alumni party is scheduled for Friday, July 21. In the meantime, the Executive Committee will be working with TUJ’s Career Development Office on career development and networking sessions for TUJ alumni and students.

GRANTS HELP EXPAND TUJ PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Large contributions from Philip Morris Japan and Amway Japan are benefiting TUJ students and programs. TUJ will use the grants to expand and develop its curriculum related to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and to offer additional scholarships to students in its Undergraduate and Continuing Education programs.

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Philip Morris Japan, a TUJ financial supporter since 2003, generously contributed ¥5 million. The money will aid students earning NGO skills development training certificates through the Continuing Education Program at TUJ. It also covered all classroom and fieldwork expenses for the 12 students enrolled in a new TUJ undergraduate course, NGOs in International Development.

The NGO course provided an overview of development theory and the role of NGOs in development. The goal was to prepare students for fieldwork at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), an NGO in southern India. Students were selected for the course based on essay submissions and worked on an MSSRF project called “Mission 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre.” The project combines modern communication technology with grassroots-level training in impoverished and environmentally endangered areas.

“With this financial support,” said TUJ Dean Kirk R. Patterson, “TUJ is better able to prepare individuals for successful careers working at or with NGOs and, more broadly, to raise public awareness and support of such organizations.”

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ICJS FOSTERS DISCUSSION AND DEBATE IN THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

The Institute of Contemporary Japanese Studies (ICJS), dedicated to research related to contemporary Japan, is part of TUJ’s commitment to enhancing the understanding of this multifaceted country. The Institute hosts forums where Japan scholars present their work on Japanese social, cultural, and political issues.

An event in January, for example, addressed Japan’s resurgent nationalism and proposals to revise Article IX of the nation’s constitution. There was also a screening of the documentary Japan’s Peace Constitution, and talks by the film’s director, John Junkerman, and controversial performance artist Minoru Torihada.

In 2006, the ICJS has already hosted a series of seminars focused on Asian political alliances including, the Korea-Japan Study Group and the U.S.-Japan-China Study Group, both organized by visiting scholars through Japan’s Council of Foreign Relations. These graduate seminars featured area specialists, politicians, and journalists.

The ICJS has also expanded the Wakai Project, which started as student-organized symposia in collaboration with the United Nations University and Keio University. That project now encompasses events involving TUJ students and representatives from NGOs and other organizations.

The Institute is evolving as well, offering fellowships for visiting scholars and making plans to publish an academic journal. According to ICJS Director Kyle Cleveland, who is also a sociology professor at TUJ and the director of TUJ’s Office of International Students, the journal will be TUJ’s first new academic publication in many years. It will publish work by Japanese and international scholars on contemporary social and political issues related to Japan.

TEMPLE LAW PROFESSORS LEAD TRIAL ADVOCACY SEMINAR IN JAPAN

Last year, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (Nichibenren) invited Temple University to hold a trial advocacy training seminar in Japan. Professors Edward Ohlbaum and JoAnne Epps from Temple University’s Beasley School of Law, along with TUJ law professor Matthew Wilson in Tokyo, subsequently presented a seminar in November 2005 to help prepare Japanese lawyers for Japan’s introduction of the jury trial system.

More than 100 Nichibenren members attended the seminar, with another 200 attorneys following the proceedings via satellite at seven locations across Japan. The Temple professors trained the audience in oral advocacy methods before juries, opening statements, cross-examination, and closing arguments.

Temple’s Beasley School of Law is highly acclaimed among U.S. law schools for its training of trial attorneys. In 2006, U.S. News & World Report magazine ranked the school number two in trial advocacy.

NEW DIRECTOR EXCITED TO JOIN LAW PROGRAM

In February, June Kitagawa became the new Director of TUJ’s Law Program and an assistant professor of law. Prior to joining the faculty, June was an attorney in the corporate and finance groups of the Los Angeles and Tokyo offices of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Berkeley, June received her Juris Doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center. A licensed California attorney, she has lived in Tokyo since 2002.

“This is an exciting time for TUJ and the Law Program,” June said, adding that she is thrilled to be working with TUJ students and faculty. “We will continue to build upon our achievements to enhance our students’ experiences. I couldn’t ask for a more talented and enjoyable group of colleagues and students.”

ALUMNI NEWS

Undergraduate Program

Tomomi (Okawara) Cate (A.A. ’90), who used to be on staff at TUJ’s business office, IELP, the Law Program, EMBA and Continuing Education, now lives in a small town near Corpus Christi, Texas with her husband, Michael. Since November 2004, Tomomi has been working at a leading Internet travel destination marketing company in Corpus Christi, where she started a quality assurance department to ensure that client websites and campaigns are error-free. Tomomi and her husband were recently blessed with a healthy, happy baby girl, Megumi Ashlee Cate, born on October 19, 2005. Raising a child in the United States is a new and very challenging experience for her, but Tomomi is definitely enjoying being a working mother and staying busy. toe_more_me@hotmail.com

Megumi Fujii (B.A. ’04) has been working for a Japanese junior high school in Yokosuka, Kanagawa, for two years. Megumi believes that it is important to develop all four English-language skills, especially listening and reading. Using English with Japanese translations in her class, she works with assistant language teachers (ALTs), who give English lessons with Japanese language teachers. This provides a good opportunity for students to have native English speakers in the class. With the ALTs, Megumi often plans interview games, through which she hopes to encourage the fun of learning English. fujiimegumi@dolphin.ocn.ne.jp

College of Education

Dwight Atkinson (M.Ed. ’87) is both a TUJ graduate and a member of the graduate faculty in the College of Education at TUJ. After completing his M.Ed. degree at TUJ, Dr. Atkinson went on to earn a doctorate at the University of Southern California. He returned to TUJ as a member of the graduate faculty in 2000. Dr. Atkinson recently accepted a faculty position at Purdue University in Indiana, which will begin in the fall semester of 2006. Although Dr. Atkinson is leaving TUJ, he will return as often as possible to teach in the summer and to participate in the TUJ Lecture Series.
COLOR, LIGHT, AND DEPTH: THE UNIQUE STYLE OF KAZUTO FUJITA

Kazuto Fujita (B.A. ’04)

At first glance, Kazuto Fujita’s artworks look like drawings—detailed, subtly yet richly colored, but with a remarkable sense of layers and depth. This sense turns out to be spot on. His works are not prints or drawings but the result of a unique process Kazuto developed that merges multiple photographs using digital imaging techniques to create a single powerful image.

Although Kazuto was born in Tachikawa, he spent much of his childhood in Indonesia. He loves music, was involved in a band and other musical activities, as well as enjoying TV games, throughout his school years. Then he met a friend with an interest in 3D art and graphics and got hooked himself. “I knew Adobe Photoshop, and had been using it for about 12 years, but this was a completely new level.”

Realizing that his sparse background in art meant he would need to start with the basics, learning the principles of drawing and color, Kazuto applied to TUJ and later transferred to the main campus, which offers a Studio Art major.

In Philadelphia, Kazuto mastered the techniques of lithography, woodcuts, painting, and digital printmaking. In one computer imaging class, the students were asked to use any picture to create an image of a personal nightmare. Using a digital camera and Photoshop, Kazuto layered and merged 30 photographs to create a single image. This was the beginning of his unique style and method.

Philadelphia also provided him with the subjects for his first series of artworks. “The city isn’t old, compared with places in Japan or Europe, but it has a feeling of density and depth that I love,” he explains. “I tried to capture that feeling.”

His first exhibition was held at the Arai Gallery in Ginza in 2004. “I knew virtually nothing about the exhibition process,” Kazuto says. “Because money was tight, I used cheap frames that started to warp under the spotlights!” Despite that, the exhibition was a success. Among the visitors was the general manager of Nikon, who was impressed enough to advise Kazuto to make a website establishing him as the originator of the technique and to suggest that Kazuto apply to show his works at the prestigious Nikon Salon in Shinjuku.

Kazuto held his second exhibition in 2005 at the Asahi Gallery in his own neighborhood of Tachikawa, following that six months later with the Nikon Salon exhibition. The latter show was a tremendous success, seen by over 1,400 people in just one week and winning the 53rd Nikkor Photo Contest in the digital imaging category. Kazuto returned to the Arai Gallery for a fourth exhibition in March of this year.

So, where to go from here? “I'm thinking of new kinds of subjects, such as body parts, showing the interplay of light and shadow on someone’s hand, for example,” he says. “It gives you more control over the subject, lets you express more of your inner self.” He is also considering combining his artwork with his first love, music, and a Japanese friend whom he first met in Indonesia is thinking of composing music inspired by Kazuto’s works.

For more information, you can visit Kazuto Fujita’s website at http://www16.ocn.ne.jp/~kf-at212, or email him at arts_tower_212@nuins.ocn.ne.jp.

One of Kazuto’s works from a series focusing on buildings in Philadelphia. Six photographs were combined using an original technique to produce a rich, hand-drawn effect.
DR. SHIMADA HONORED AT MAIN CAMPUS CELEBRATION

TUJ's Dr. Koji Shimada (Ed.D. ’75) received a Distinguished Alumni Award on March 25, 2006, at the Temple main campus Founder's Celebration. A member of TUJ’s Board of Governors, Dr. Shimada was in Philadelphia to attend meetings of Temple’s presidential advisory board and the College of Education’s board of visitors the day before receiving his award.

The awards ceremony, attended by 740 people, was emceed by two local news anchors and followed a photo shoot of all 21 award recipients. Temple University President David Adamany congratulated those receiving awards on their accomplishments, and four of the recipients gave speeches. A dinner and dance reception in the great hall of the Philadelphia Convention Center took place after the ceremony.

Dr. Shimada has long been a Temple supporter. Through the Shimada Scholarship, he helps TUJ students study at main campus, and he has made many other noteworthy donations and pledges.

A NEW FACE IN CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Tomas Gistren is here to help! Tomas joined TUJ this past January as the Manager of Career Development. He enthusiastically embraces the task of helping students plan careers and find internships and jobs.

Tomas is fluent in Swedish, Japanese, and English. Born and raised in Japan, he is a graduate of California’s Menlo College. Before accepting the position at TUJ, Tomas worked for eight years as a corporate recruiting consultant, primarily for foreign corporations with operations in Tokyo.

“I want to meet every TUJ student and graduate who is serious about finding the best job out there,” Tomas states. Drop by his office on the fourth floor of TUJ and get to know him.

Tomas Gistren, the new Manager of Career Development, is fluent in Swedish, Japanese, and English.

TUJ AWARDS INAUGURAL TEACHING INTERNSHIP CERTIFICATE

Masakazu Motoki has received TUJ’s first-ever teaching internship certificate. TUJ Dean Kirk Patterson, Assistant Dean Patrick Rosenkjar, and other members of the TUJ faculty and staff honored his achievement at a presentation ceremony on March 15.

The ceremony marked the completion of Mr. Motoki’s yearlong teaching internship at TUJ. Mr. Motoki was on sabbatical from his position as an English teacher at Warabi High School in Saitama Prefecture. During his year at TUJ, he took TESOL graduate courses, worked as a teaching assistant in Academic Preparation Program (APP) classes, and received mentoring from APP instructors and Assistant Dean Rosenkjar.

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Note: We would like to apologize for leaving Mr. Yasunobu Arai (M.Ed. ’00) off the 2004-5 donor list in TUJ Times vol. 5. Mr. Arai was a Silver Owl Supporter in both 2003-4 and 2004-5.

As of April 7, 2006

EDITOR’S NOTES

Send your recent news to alumni@tuj.ac.jp! We’ll print it in the biannual newsletter and publish it on the TUJ alumni website, www.tuj.ac.jp. Please let us know when your mail and/or email address changes too, so that we can update the University’s alumni database and you can continue receiving the newsletter, email magazines, and other materials from both TUJ and TU.

Editors: Chie Kato, Nida Sophasarun

TOKYO AMERICAN CLUB OFFERS TRIAL PASS TO TEMPLE ALUMNI

Tokyo American Club (www.tokyoamericanclub.org) is offering Temple University alumni complimentary one-week trial passes that will enable alumni and their families to enjoy the full range of Club facilities. If you are interested in obtaining one, please contact the Club’s membership office directly at 03-3224-3687 or via e-mail at membership@tac-club.org. Be sure to identify yourself as an alumnus/alumna of Temple University. The offer is good until July 2006.

Mr. Masakazu Motoki received the internship certificate and the congratulations of TUJ faculty members.

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