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Greetings from Dr. Roberta Wollons, President of KCC-JEE



Dear Members and Friends of KCC-JEE,

Fall is fast approaching and we are marking another difficult year due to Covid19. We hoped to be back together again for our 101st annual meeting, but that was not to be. Instead, we held our meeting via zoom as we did last year and once again technology brought together members and friends from across the country

and in Japan. It was so gratifying to welcome so many old and new friends that we may continue our annual meetings via zoom from now on.

This year, we highlighted the Gottschalk Teacher's program, which for many decades has sent American teachers to teach oral English at KC High School. We brought together teachers and their students from different generations to share their experiences, with time for the members to meet in small groups sharing thoughtful and creative ideas for the program.



The programs are still strong, though we have had to make adjustments again this year. We have chosen an essay contest winner, Josephine Kwok, who will go to Japan next summer, joined by the past two winners whose trips were postponed. We have also awarded this year's Graduate Fellowship to Dylan Hallingstad O'Brien, and the Gottschalk teachers are all safely arrived and flourishing at the high school. We were unable to bring KC internship students to the States this summer due to travel restrictions but hope we will be able to resume that important program in 2022.

We said good-bye to Board member Eric Fulcomer, President of Rockford University, with great thanks for his service to the Board, and welcomed two new Board members, Maria Diemer and Chiaki Nakajima. We are delighted by the skills and enthusiasm they bring to the Board.

Please see program updates and our annual report at the website (kccjee.org). As always, we appreciate and value your commitment to KCC-JEE and invite you to support any program of your choice.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of KCC-JEE, we wish you all a safer, healthier, and easier year to come.

Gottschalk Teacher of English



We were honored to have the Gottschalk Teacher program as the focus of this year's KCC-JEE Annual Meeting. It was especially inspiring to see the video interviews of former teachers and their students sharing fond memories of teaching and learning at Kobe College High School.

We are pleased to state that the two Gottschalk teachers who began working virtually in April are now physically in Japan! They are actively engaged in teaching and participating in extracurricular activities with students such as the English Speaking Society Club and speech contests.

The recruitment committee spent another busy summer gathering and screening applications for a teacher for April 2022. To help candidates understand the expectations of the position, the committee and current Gottschalk teachers created videos depicting a day in the life of a Gottschalk teacher, outlined the curriculum, and showed the beauty of the Okadayama campus. All the interviews were done via Zoom, and we were able to present the Kobe College Board two highly qualified candidates to consider. The final decision will be made soon.

2022 High School Essay Contest

The 2022 High School Essay Contest is underway. This year's theme involves the popular phenomenon of anime.

High School students will respond in 500 words or fewer in English to the following prompt:

In what ways does anime reflect the culture of Japan? Why do you think anime has become so popular with American youth and what are its effects on its audience in general?



One winning essay will be selected and the winner will receive a prize of a four week scholarship to the Kyoto Japanese Language School as well as roundtrip airfare to Japan and room and board in a homestay.

Stay tuned for the announcement and more information about the contest on our website at <https://www.kccjee.org/high-school-essay-contest>.

Graduate Fellowship

New recruitment for the 2022-2023 Graduate Fellow will begin in December 2021



KCC-JEE Welcomes New Board Member: Maria Diemer



Maria earned her bachelor's degree at Knox College and her master's in teaching at Rockford University in Illinois.

Maria taught English as a second language (ESL) at Rockford University and then became the Coordinator of the ESL program and Assistant Director of Global Affairs. During her time as the Assistant Director, she helped many Kobe College students study at Rockford University as part of the RU-Kobe College exchange program. She also helped Rockford University students study at Kobe College and coordinated a Japanese Language Circle run by Kobe College students.

She lives in Rockford with her husband Mike. They have four children, three of whom studied at Rockford University. Maria enjoys spending time with her family, gardening, and cooking for the kids when they all come home.



KCC-JEE Welcomes New Board Member: Chiaki Nakajima



Chiaki is a KCHS alumna and joined the board in the fall of 2021.

Chiaki grew up in Hyogo, Japan, and spent six years at Kobe College Junior and Senior High School. She was a member of the tennis club and dance club while at KC, and still enjoys being active (running and tennis).

Chiaki moved to the US in 2005 as a graduate exchange student in architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle. After working in architecture for 8 years, she decided to pursue her MBA at UC Berkeley and transitioned to the technology industry.

Because of her bi-cultural background, Chiaki genuinely enjoys working and being friends with people from diverse backgrounds. She currently works as a Senior Manager at DoorDash in New York City, leading the growth of the company in the non-US markets including Australia and Japan.

At KCC-JEE, Chiaki serves on the Gottschalk Teacher recruitment committee. She is thrilled about the opportunity to be part of the board and give back to the KCC-JEE community.



Go for the Gold with KC Alumna: Eri Yonamine



Eri Yonamine graduated from Kobe College High School in 2010. She started cycling when she majored in sports at Tsukuba University. Her first road race was the 2012 Japan National Championship in which she won 2nd place.

First, I really appreciate everyone cheering for me at the Olympics. It was my second time participating in the Olympics, but it was much more special for me to participate in it in my home country.

I started living in Europe at the beginning of my professional cycling career in 2016. Now I live in the Netherlands, but I race all around Europe. Each country has different languages and cultures, so normally we communicate with each other in English even though it is a second language for most of us. Kobe College High School's English program helped me to feel confident using English. I did not encounter any barriers in speaking English even though I am not good enough at it to speak it fluently.

Not only the English education at KC, but also the mentality learned through KC is extremely useful for life in Europe. I developed a sense of what diversity is and how to be accepted as a foreigner in Europe. KC's mentality and mindset is definitely in my roots.

Living in Europe as a pro-cyclist is not always easy or fun and there is a lot to overcome. I am living my dream, but I am thinking of ending my athlete career in the near future. Drawing from my years at KC, I would like to share my experience as an athlete living in Europe to the next generation.

Finally, I am so proud of the education and spirit KC gave me. I greatly appreciate it. Thank you so much.

I will keep pursuing my dream a little bit more!

From the Archives: The Herald





KCC-JEE, Kobe College, and Rockford University

The relationship between Rockford University and Kobe College began with Julia Dudley's teacher training at Rockford Seminary. Rockford's president in 1922, William Arthur Maddox, became aware of Julia Dudley through KCC's fundraising and initiated a sister school relationship which has been important to both schools. Among the first three short-term English teachers KCC sent to KCHS in 1948 were two recent Rockford graduates. Rockford also began to offer a fellowship each year to a KC graduate which has been important to the career development of those KC students.

Because of this relationship, many Kobe College alumnae are familiar with the name, "Rockford University." One of them, Mrs. Motoko Okada, got a chance to visit Rockford University this summer, 60 years after graduating from KC. She and her husband, Mr. Toichi Okada, were visiting their son, Mr. Kenichi Okada, who was the Consul General of Japan in Chicago until very recently. The Okadas have many KC alumnae in the family - Motoko and Toichi's two daughters, and Kenichi's wife. But that is not all! Kenichi himself attended a Saturday English class taught by Belle Bogard, a missionary teacher at KC. This class was offered to children of KC alumnae so that the mothers could learn how to teach English. One of the mothers was Mrs. Keiko Harada, who became a KCHS English teacher and principal.



Dr. Eric Fulcomer, Toichi & Motoko Okada, Terri Pizzuto, Ed Grant at Rockford University. (August 20, '21)



More recently, Rockford University's president, Dr. Eric Fulcomer, served on the KCC-JEE board of directors. Unfortunately, after three years, he will be stepping down from the board. During his time on the board, he has further strengthened the relationship between KCC-JEE and Rockford University by serving as the board's Vice President of Development. The KCC-JEE community is very thankful for all the challenging work that Dr. Fulcomer has done on the board. He will be greatly missed.

(Written by Marjorie Kinsey, Yuki Ohigashi, Abbi Mayland)

Now open: KCC-JEE Video Gallery



- Annual Meeting 2021
- Ms. Joyce Hartman (Turner) Interview

Contact at office@kcciee.org for the password



Alumni Profile: Marnie Jorenby

“Bye-bye, Bag Lady”

-ばいばい、バッグレディー-

PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR NEW BOOK, "BYE-BYE, BAG LADY."

In my book, a mysterious "bag lady" carries twenty bags and has a very long scarf wrapped around her neck. She falls from the attic of a snack bar in Osaka and comes to live with Akebi, a high school student, and her father. Akebi's father is naive and wealthy and is easily fooled by con artists, so Akebi is very suspicious of Bag Lady. Akebi is sure that the key to Bag Lady's scheme can be found in her twenty bags, but Bag Lady carries them with her at all times so she cannot get a peek. When Akebi does find an answer by sneaking into Bag Lady's room at night, it is shocking and nothing like what she expected. . .



WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THIS BOOK?

The inspiration was my teacher in Japan, Kido Noriko. Kido-Sensei is a children's literature critic who makes great efforts to promote Chinese, Korean, and other Asian authors in Japan and champions several worthy political causes. She always carries several tote bags with her containing worthy books she wants to show to publishers and critics. At one time, she also carried my manuscript in her tote bag and did her best to bring it to the attention of someone who might publish it. Like my teacher, Bag Lady is someone who does not care about outward appearances but who works silently for those who do not have a voice.

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A GOTTSCHALK TEACHER AT KCHS?

I enjoyed my time at KCHS very much. I learned so much from the other teachers, especially Ms. Inagaki and Ms. Hayashi, and the more I learned about my students, the more I was in awe of them. Not only were they brilliant scholars, but through organizing the events, bazaar, and other festivals at the high school they learned to be powerful leaders, as well. Together they crafted seamlessly run events and delivered outstanding performances. Even playing just a small part in the hectic but thrilling school year was a precious experience and now, a beautiful memory.

DID ANY OF THE PERSONALITIES FROM YOUR TIME TEACHING AT KOBE COLLEGE OR WHILE LIVING IN JAPAN INFLUENCE ANY OF THE CHARACTERS IN YOUR BOOK?

The characters in my book represent no one in particular. However, the protagonist, Akebi, a strong student who passionately studies calligraphy, represents an amalgamation of the brilliant and passionate students I taught at the high school.



WHAT WAS THE WRITING PROCESS LIKE, ESPECIALLY AS AN AMERICAN WRITING A BOOK IN JAPANESE FOR A JAPANESE PUBLISHER?

Because I found a great literary agent (one of the few agents in Japan – likely the only one), I was professionally guided through the whole process. Hayakawa Shobo, my publisher, has exacting standards and asked me to do major rewrites of the manuscript three times. It was tough and I got frustrated at times, but I feel very privileged to have benefited from the guidance and experience of top-notch editors.

WHAT WAS YOUR JOURNEY LEARNING JAPANESE LIKE?

Long! I first studied Japanese as a freshman at Carleton College. During the thirty years since then, I have worked steadily to improve my language skills. I am a true otaku who lives and breathes Japanese literature. I try to read Japanese and listen to Japanese audio books almost every day, but even so it takes much effort to maintain what skill I have. As a writer of Japanese, I will always have limitations. It is intimidating, but also challenging and rewarding.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO WRITE ANY OTHER BOOKS IN THE FUTURE?

Yes! I am writing one now. I want to write novels about both Japanese characters and foreigners, and the interactions between them. The book I am writing now is set in Osaka. A major symbol in the book is the Sun Tower, a very large sculpture by artist Okamoto Taro. I never liked this sculpture, and my heroine dislikes it as well!

“Bye-bye, Bag Lady” is now on sale in Japan!



Marnie Jorenby was a Gottschalk Teacher of English at Kobe College High School from 2012-2014. She served on the KCC-JEE board for 12 years until 2019. She is currently teaching at University of Minnesota as a Japanese lecturer.

SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS: <https://www.kccjee.org/support>

- * [The Bryant and Alberta Drake Guest Professorship](#)
- * [The Graduate Fellowship for Research in Japan](#)
- * [The High School Essay Contest](#)
- * [The Gottschalk Teachers of English](#)
- * [The KCC-JEE Internship Program](#)
- * [The Hannah Gulick Suehiro Scholarship Program](#)

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