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



I hope this finds the friends of KCC-JEE healthy and enjoying the returning colors and birdsongs of spring. We have much to look forward to as more people are being vaccinated against the Coronavirus and, after long separations, we are able to come together with our friends and families.

Nevertheless, it has been a difficult year. Many of us in the US and Japan have lost loved ones to the pandemic and have seen others ill but thankfully recovering. We have also seen a rise in anti-Asian violence that has frightened Asian communities around the US, which we deplore. KCC-JEE is proud of its hundred-year collaboration with Kobe College and our deep commitment to US/Japan programs and friendships. We cannot accept anti-Asian hatred or the terrorizing of Asian Americans in their own neighborhoods and streets. We will speak out against these terrible acts wherever and however we can.

While we have had to suspend or postpone some of our programs, we were able to send new Gottschalk teachers to Kobe College High School, and our Drake Professor, Dr. Mariko Gakiya, is enjoying her time at KC in the Department of English. We were not able to send an Essay Contest winner last summer, but we are choosing a 2021 winner who will go next summer, together with next year's winner. We also suspended the Internship Program which brings KC students to the States for a summer experience. Please take a moment to read our annual report on the KCC-JEE website for the details of each program, and donate to the program of your choice. We are hopeful that by next summer life will be much more back to normal.

This May we had a lovely reunion with former Gottschalk teachers, 29 in all, two of whom taught at KCHS in the 1950s! It was wonderful to see familiar faces, and hear stories about their experiences and how much teaching at KCHS enriched their lives. It is these moments that confirm the value and lifetime benefits of what we do.

On behalf of the KCC-JEE Board of Directors, I wish you all good health and hope for a much brighter year to come.



KCC-JEE Welcomes New Board Member: Abbi Mayland



Abbi, a former Gottschalk teacher, joined the board in the fall of 2019.

After finishing her bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts, Abbi traveled to Italy where she taught English through Theatre at a summer camp for elementary students, inspiring Abbi to pursue a master's degree in Teaching English as a Second Language.

Abbi taught English at Kobe College Junior and Senior High School for two years where she served as a Senior English Speaking Society (SESS) advisor, international student advisor, and even played a part in the SESS production of *Aida* at the school's cultural festival.

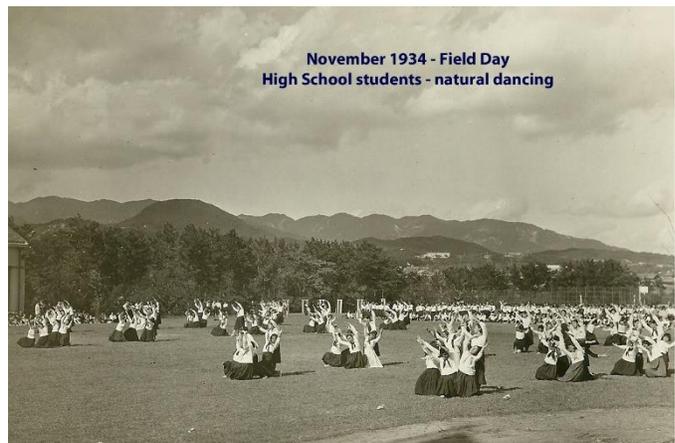
She currently works as the curriculum specialist for a small vocational school in Minneapolis. She lives with her husband, Anders; four-month-old son, Harvey; and cat, Frankie. Abbi enjoys spending time with her family, curling up with a good book, playing board games, traveling, singing, and learning new things.

Before formally joining the board, Abbi helped to arrange host families for KC senior high school students visiting Minnesota and served on the Gottschalk teacher recruitment committee. She is still serving on the Gottschalk teacher committee, but has added the internship and publicity committees to her board member responsibilities.

Teaching at KC was one of the most exciting and fulfilling experiences of Abbi's career, and she wants to give others the chance to learn about and experience a culture different from their own by serving on the KCC-JEE board.

From the Archives:

November 1934 Field Day -Kobe College High School-





Dylan Hallingstad O'Brien 2021 - 2022 Graduate Fellowship



The KCC-JEE Graduate Fellowship Committee is pleased to announce the selection of this year's graduate fellowship award winner, Mr. Dylan Hallingstad O'Brien, for his project, "The Work of Being Well: Macrobiotic Philosophy and the Politics of Life." O'Brien is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at the University of California, San Diego. During the 2021-2022 academic year, he plans to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in Tokyo in the macrobiotic community.

Our current KCC-JEE Graduate Fellow, Ms. Shannon Welch, is affiliated with Waseda University in Tokyo pursuing doctoral research on her project, "Ambiguous Borders Between Immigration and Imperialism: Reconceptualizing Postcolonial Studies through Japanese-Brazilian Immigrant Literature." Welch is a Ph.D. candidate in Literature with a specialization in Critical Gender Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

2021 High School Essay Contest

This year we received 36 essays from 14 states. The committee decided to extend the deadline until April 1 to allow teens more time to submit and based on the decision not to send a winner to Japan this summer because of the pandemic. We will now send Jade Martinez, the 2020 winner, and the 2021 AND 2022 winners together during the summer of 2022.

This year we have two former essay-contest winners as judges. Zachary Sebek and Ieisha Montgomery were both kind enough to volunteer as well as former Essay Contest chair and board member, Jeanne Sokolowski and current board member, Elizabeth Hartung-Cole. The judges are completing round 1 with round 2 of judging beginning in two weeks. A winner will be announced in mid-May.

As always, many thanks to the judges, committee members, and Kanae Takenaka for her incredible skills handling the logistics of the contest.

Please check our website in the fall for the winning essay and information about the 2022 Essay Contest.

After having to go through online classes, limited social activities, being stuck at home...

HOW ABOUT A MONTH IN JAPAN?

In 200 words or fewer, discuss your experiences during 2020-2021. What advantages did you discover through today's advanced communication technologies that you may have not found otherwise? What would you expect to gain from a homestay and language class in Japan?

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING A CENTENARY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE. VISIT WWW.KCCJEE.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST. Applicants must be 16 years of age by July 1, 2021 and have completed one year of Japanese study by June 2021. The winner will receive roundtrip airfare, a homestay in Kyoto and 4 weeks of Japanese language instruction. The deadline is February 1, 2021. Email programs@kccjee.org for any questions.

Please support KCC-JEE to continue with our mission and programs.

<https://kccjee.org/support>

Gottschalk Teacher of English



New Gottschalk Teachers:
S. Vrtiska
&
R. Young and his wife, Juliana

Kobe College Junior High and High School (KCHS) have begun their new school year. Fortunately, they are able to meet in person for their classes.

Unfortunately, the two new Gottschalk teachers have not arrived there due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Their classes are being covered by other teachers in the English Department while the new teachers are involved as much as possible by using their recorded voices and joining the classes remotely. They have been attending the department meetings using a video call, and they are trying to figure out how they can get involved with the English Speaking Society Clubs.

As mentioned in Dr. Wollons' greeting, on May 7th we hosted the first-time-ever reunion of Missionary and Gottschalk English Teachers of KCHS. We will provide a detailed report about it in the fall issue.

Congratulations Minami Yamauchi! 2020 - 2021 Hannah Gulick Suehiro Scholarship



It is with great pleasure that we announce this year's winner of the Hannah Gulick Suehiro Graduate School scholarship, which is awarded each year to a talented Kobe College music student. Ms. Minami Yamauchi, a second-year piano major in the Graduate School of Music, is this year's winner. We are so proud of her accomplishments and wish her a very successful career in music. Congratulations to Ms. Yamauchi!

Ms. Minami Yamauchi with Dr. Ken Ii and Dr. Kotoko Saito

Get Involved:

KCC-JEE offers four programs for American students and educators, as well as two programs for Kobe College students. We also host a variety of intercultural events including concerts, lectures and other entertainments.

Our Six Main Programs:

- * [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](#)



Congratulations to Ms. Sonoko Harada!

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon



Former Kobe College president, professor, and student, Sonoko Harada was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, a prestigious award given to scholars and school teachers, on November 3rd, 2020 for her dedication to collegiate women's education.

Inspired by her Kobe College Junior High School English program, Harada-sensei studied to be a teacher of English as a Foreign Language before starting her career as a professor at Kobe College. During this time, she helped hundreds of students learn and teach others English.

Harada-sensei first learned about KCC and its relationship with KC when she entered KC High School, and years later, as a college faculty member, had contact with its board members when they visited KC for occasional consultations.

Harada-sensei's closer experience with KCC-JEE occurred when her former missionary English teacher, Pat Gottschalk, as its board chairman, invited her, president elect, on a tour of American universities in a group of a few KC professors. As a part of this tour, the group visited six different campuses, including three women's colleges. The tour was planned and led by some of KCC-JEE's board members. Harada-sensei was then invited to the KCC-JEE annual meeting in Chicago, launching a life-long relationship with the organization. Her many accomplishments with KCC-JEE also include helping to start the internship program and the Japanese teacher program with Henry Sibley High School in Minnesota.

Harada-sensei says what she learned during the tour of American women's colleges was very valuable and helpful in making KC's up-to-date plan based on its founding spirit and educational goals.

Harada-sensei was appointed as the president of Kobe College in 2000 where she served for two terms. She has since been asked by the Japan Educational Bureau to join committees to assess new and existing educational departments in universities and to specifically look at women's education and Kobe College. Did you know Kobe College was one of the eleven universities first accredited in the new post-war Japanese university system in 1948? Out of the eleven, five were women's colleges, Kobe College being the only one outside of Tokyo.

There is no doubt that Harada-sensei has spent her career as a champion for women's education. Kobe College is very fortunate to have such a remarkable woman among their ranks!





KC Alumna Spotlight: Kaoru (Kay) Sugiura

A young mother gave birth to a baby girl. The moment she met the baby, she knew what the baby was going to do with her life. She would learn to play the piano, go to Kobe College junior high school, senior high school, and graduate from the college, then she would live in America, the land where her missionary teachers came from.

The girl became a junior high school student at Kobe College and even lived in the dormitory. However, the girl decided to go to a music college in Tokyo, and her desire to study German music led her to Germany.



“What if she marries there, and I cannot communicate with my German-speaking grandchildren,” became her mother’s concern. She talked to her Kobe College alumna friend. “I know someone whose son is in South America. He is a graduate of your husband’s college. Moreover, his grandmother, one of the first graduates of Kobe College, wants her son to marry a Kobe College graduate,” her friend said. The two mothers met and decided there is nothing better than for their children to marry each other.

Fast forward: the young man was offered a job in the US; thus, the young couple moved to Chicago and started a new life. There she was introduced to Mrs. Nethercutt, the business manager of KCC, by Mrs. Nasu, who chaired the Chicago Chapter of KC Alumnae Association.

Mrs. Nethercutt was not only involved with KCC, but she welcomed the KC faculty members and students who came to the US and needed help. Mrs. Nethercutt also invited her to KCC meetings and events. The young woman decided one day she would be like Mrs. Nethercutt supporting her Alma Mater that gave her so much.

Years later, Mrs. Nasu asked her to become a member of the KCC board telling her, “You don’t have to do anything. All you have to do is to come to the meetings and sit there.”

In 1990, Mrs. Pat Gottschalk, the young woman’s KCHS Missionary English Teacher and the president of KCC, asked her to chair the Education Committee which was responsible for the recruitment of college and high school English teachers. Then in the year 2000, as the Internship Program started, it became her pet project to introduce KC students to the American way of business and its families. Meanwhile, she tried to arouse the interest of KC alumnae in the US for KCC- JEE. Their daughter happened to become one of the Missionary English Teachers at KCHS sent by KCC.

Now that she is ready to retire from the tasks she has been lovingly doing with her husband, offering the KC students a well deserved school life that she had as a student, she is certain God’s hand guided her all the way. She is thankful to God and grateful to all who were involved in her life.



Kaoru & Go Sugiura (1967 & 2021)



Welcome New KCC-JEE Honorary Board Members!

(Continued from the Fall 2020 Newsletter)

Sue Doffing	1988-2011	Natsuko Furuya	1997-2011
Marjorie Kinsey	1987-2005, 2008-2014	Kay Sugiura	1984-2007
Dave Therkelsen	1996-2012	Nancy Waichler	1988-2007
Fumiyo Young	2005-2017		

* **KCC-JEE Honorary Board Member** - Honorary Board Members have served the Board for at least 10 years and are more than three years away from Board membership.



Fumiyo Young, having had the unique experience of living on the KC campus as a young child with the missionary/teachers as her neighbors in the post WWII years, and having been taught the 7th grade English by Miss Crew herself, Fumiyo was elated to be invited to be on the KCHS teacher selection committee (now the Gottschalk Teacher Committee) in 2005. She became a KCC board member in the same year. She chaired the Gottschalk Teacher Committee until 2019.



Sue Doffin's affiliation with the organizations of KCC-JEE and Kobe College has been a memorable experience for her. The amount of positive outcomes following the introduction of Japan, its people, and their culture to hundreds of American families has made being a part of this organization rewarding. She personally treasures the friendships and relationships developed during her 28 years as a facilitator of programs, Board Member and President of the Board from 2004 to 2010. As she takes on the responsibility of an Honorary Board member of KCC-JEE, she will continue to promote these organizations as they continue to show how developed relationships will build to world PEACE.



Kaoru (Kay) Sugiura was born in Osaka, Japan. She graduated from KCHS in 1959. She studied at Tokyo-Geijutu-Daigaku (National "University" of Arts) and at Staatliche Hochschule fur Musik Hamburg Germany on a scholarship. She married Go Sugiura in 1967, and moved to Chicago. She was a KCC Board member from 1984 - 2007. She is the Chicago Chapter Chair of the KC Alumnae Association. She taught music as a private teacher and worked at Carlton Washburne Jr. High School in Winnetka, IL as a tutor for Japanese and some ESL students. She has two grown daughters, a son, and five grandchildren.

...to be continued in the Fall 2021 Newsletter



Annual Meeting 2021 by Zoom

Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 Time: Evening (TBD)

KCC – JEE

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Kobe College Corporation-Japan Education Exchange

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