



The Ashishan Student

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Festivals in the World

Festivals are exciting, lively, and fun. In most countries, festivals are a time for friends and family to get together. We will introduce a variety of festivals from Spain, Poland, United States, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and China.

Spain: Pamplona Bull Run & La Tomatina

Christian Pedro Calero Mateo (Faculty of Letters, 3rd Year)

Spain is famous for its wild festivals, which captures the culture and essence of the Spanish people. The most famous and dangerous festival is probably the Pamplona Bull Run. It is held every morning from 8am between July 7th to the 14th.

It stretches from the corral at Santo Domingo, where the bulls are kept, to the bullring where they fight later in the afternoon. The length of the run is 825 meters long and the average time of the run (from start to finish) is about three minutes. The streets of the old town where the bull run is held are walled off to prevent the bulls from escaping. Each day, six fighting bulls run the route as well as two herds of bullocks.

The tension builds as the

bulls wait to be released, and a rocket is fired at 8am to confirm the opening of the gate at the Santo Domingo corral. Runners dressed in white with red handkerchiefs around their necks pray to San Fermin. Then a second rocket fires and announces that the bulls have left. The bulls and the runners then proceed along the route.

The first evidence of foreigners in Pamplona for San Fermin are recorded in chronicles from the 17th and 18th century. A reference was made to the local clergy being concerned about "the abuse of drink and the permissiveness of young men and women". By that point there was plenty music, dancing, drinking, street theatre and bull running as

the religious focus of the occasion took a back seat.

By the 19th century all kinds of fairground attractions were making their way to Pamplona including human cannonballs and circus animals. The actual route of the bull run didn't have a double security wall as is the case today so the bulls were able to escape, creating chaos in the streets of Pamplona.

Thanks to the writing of an American writer, Ernest Hemingway, San Fermin became infamous as it is today. The publication of his novel in 1926, "The Sun Also Rises" told the world about the Pamplona bull running festival, which attracted people from all over the world. Due to its popularity, overcrowding has been a

serious problem and anyone who wants to watch or is brave enough to take part have to book accommodation many months in advance.

Another festival I would like to introduce is just as crazy, not quite as dangerous, but even messier. The La Tomatina tomato fight in Bunyol near Valencia is held every year on the last Wednesday in August, though the partying starts earlier in the week. The highlight of the festival is the tomato fight, which takes place between 11am and 1pm.

The origins of La Tomatina are unclear due to several theories of how Bunyol became the world's biggest tomato fight. However, the most plausible suggests that the most likely explanation

dates back to 1945 when an annual parade of enormous figures with big heads (Gigantes y Cabezudos) was passing through the streets of Bunyol.

It seems that some youngsters tried to join in the parade and accidentally knocked over one of the giants who got to his feet and started swinging. In retaliation, the youngsters grabbed some tomatoes from a vegetable stall nearby and started throwing them at him until the police arrived to break things up.

The following year, on the same day, these young people returned to the town hall square and started another tomato fight using their own tomatoes. Again the police intervened and in subsequent years the local council tried

to ban the "El día de la tomatina" but failed as the event continued to grow year after year, reaching the ludicrous size it is today.

As long as you follow the rules, for example, all tomatoes must be crushed before throwing so nobody gets hurt, you can take part in La Tomatina, one of the most exciting experiences one can have in Spain. Don't forget to bring the french fries!



Poland: Polish Easter Traditions

Greg T. Sadownik (2009-2010 Center for Japanese Language & Culture, SOAS)

When I lived in Poland for the first eighteen years of my life, I often thought it was the most boring, obvious place on Earth. To my jaded, cynical teenage mind everything around seemed as plain as could be. But then I moved abroad for university, and living first in London and then in Kyoto gave me some perspective.

Polish people really love their tradition too. And so, some Easter customs may seem very bizarre when seen from the outside, mixing Christian and old folk elements.

For example, Easter. One week before Easter Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday, to

celebrate the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on his donkey, and was greeted by cheering crowds waving palm leaves and throwing them on his path. On this day, we take palmy, little bouquets of dry herbs, flowers, grass and reeds to church to get them consecrated, and when we return home we display them in a prominent spot as a symbol of peace. I said 'little', but some towns hold contests for the biggest palm, and for example, in 2008, the winning palm was 33 meters long!

My favourite Easter tradition is celebrated on Holy Saturday. On the morning of that day, whole families

prepare święconka, an Easter basket filled with samples of Easter foods, and bring it to church to have it blessed. Seeing other families' baskets and admiring their creativity is something I look forward to every year. The basket is lined with white linen or lace, decorated with ribbons and evergreen leaves of boxwood, always very beautiful, though simple and tasteful. Inside the basket, apart from food, there will always be at least one pisanka, which is a polish name for an ornamental easter egg, painted in bright colours, or with pictures or patterns scratched into its surface; making

pisanki is considered a folk art and contests are held to decide the most beautiful, intricate ones. Exchanging hand-made pisanki is an important part of the Easter Sunday ritual and a very beautiful gesture of peace and friendship between Poles.

For many young Poles, the most fun Easter tradition is that of Dyngus Day, or Smigus Dyngus, also known as Wet Monday. Traditionally on this day, boys would wake girls up by pouring buckets of water on their heads, and hitting them on the legs with thin willow twigs. Young girls would be repeatedly soaked, and if a

girl was still dry by the end of the day, it was thought she was unattractive and not likely to get married. In modern times the gender and age difference has disappeared and all people, old and young, boy and girl alike, spend the day plotting ambushes against each other and do not leave home without a water pistol for self-defense.

Maybe You, Gentle Reader, are like I used to be. Thinking your country boring, happy to travel the world and marvel at its exoticness. But I'm sure if you just take a closer look, you will find so, so much to love about

your cultural roots! I have just told you about some of my own favourite traditions. I invite you to tell me, what are yours?

*SOAS: School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London



U.S.A.: The Fourth of July

Elisse Kimie Ota (2009-2010 AKP, Middlebury College)

There is always a festival going on in Japan. Whether it is country-wide, city-wide or at the local neighborhood shrine, it seems as if you can always find the telltale signs of a festival somewhere: costumes, dancing, music, food... If it's one thing for sure, the Japanese really know how to party.

In comparison, festivals in America are few and far between, and I would hesitate to even say that there are festivals (the Japanese sense) in America; we call our celebrations holidays, not festivals. One of the biggest holidays - and perhaps the closest thing to a festival - in America is the Fourth of July, our Independence Day. On July 4, 1776, our founding fathers declared independence from Great Britain, thereby rendering this day forever after as a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. It is a country-wide holiday and is a time for remembrance of the birth of our nation, often accompanied with fireworks, barbecues, parades and concerts. It is a time for the country to come together, united under a banner of patriotism to celebrate the freedom that our forefathers won for us. Even before the great day, signs of patriotism crop up in the commercial aisles of

stores, imprinted in red white and blue on paper cups and plates, and on the front lawns and front porches around the neighborhoods in the form of banners and American flags flying gaily in the wind. Along the sidewalks (though because of fire concerns this has become less prevalent in recent days) there are often firework stands set up weeks before the actual date where people can get fireworks and stock up for the big day. I remember my brother as a little boy (and even now) looking forward to these fireworks every year, often going with my dad beforehand to pick out a packet of colorful poppers and sparklers and firecrackers with names like Purple Rain and Phantom and Glory Honor Power.

Every year, my family made it a ritual to go to my aunts' house in Huntington Beach, California. All the relatives would gather there in the afternoon, where we would feast on all food traditionally American: steak, mashed potatoes, hamburgers, hotdogs, potato fries, potato salad and red, white and blue ribbon jello. The men would gather around the barbecue grilling the burgers and steaks and the women chat inside while the kids played games or went to the beach. Though we never

went, in the morning on the Fourth of July, there is always a parade in Huntington Beach and at night there is a fireworks show over the ocean. Sometimes, we would be able to see the fireworks from the second story of my aunts' house or if we stood outside on the street. Then, once nighttime fell, there came the moment that all the children - the boys especially - would have waited for in anticipation since the last Fourth of July had ended the year before: the moment when we got to set off our own fireworks. This perhaps is my most vivid memory of the Fourth of July (though I must confess that I personally am not a fan of fire, though I like watching it, and only set off a few sparklers myself): going to the parks where other families had gathered and setting off firecrackers one after the other. The crackle and pop of firecrackers would come from all directions, with the occasional high-pitched whistle of a Piccolo Pete screaming through the clouds of smoke and the stench of sulfur wafting throughout the night air. All night long, the sound of fireworks would screech through the air, and even into the early morning hours you could still hear a crackle here and pop there. When we

went home around midnight, my mom would always have to drive real slow, because of all the fireworks that people set off in the middle of the street and in front of their houses - anywhere where there is not too much vegetation that would lend itself to a conflagration.

It's been a couple years since I last went to my aunts' house on Fourth of July (though I'll be going back this year!) because of college and such, but the upside to that was that last year I got to celebrate Fourth of July in Boston - the place where the action was originally carried out. I also got to get a taste of how small New England towns show their patriotic colors (I got to Middlebury College in Vermont and I was there last summer). I'll start with Vermont first.

Though the same holiday is being celebrated, there is a decidedly different feeling about the celebrations in Vermont than in California, they are slightly less beach-y and more...farm-y (Vermont is very much an agricultural state and if you live there your closest neighbors are most likely to be cows). Example: In the Vermont Fourth of July parades, you will often find tractors. You will also find races like outhouse races (don't worry,

these aren't real outhouses, but ones that were made and decorated especially for this purpose). And things like outdoor concerts (which if you go to, beware: the mosquitoes are merciless) and bands and food like corn on the cob and strawberry pies...and of course there are fireworks and a lot of patriotism in a quaint sort of way, a way that is magnified to stratospheric proportions in Boston.

While the celebrations in Vermont are extensive and are nothing to laugh at, celebrating the Fourth of July in Boston is no joke. It is, after all, where all the action happened. On the day of the Fourth of July, the city is awash in patriotic activity. Around the city there are reenactments of battles in this place and that cemetery, flag raising ceremonies, whale watching boats, parades, tours of the Freedom Trail (a trail of all the historically significant sites), chowder (a thick, creamy soup that often has clams in it) tasting, and many other events that ultimately culminate in a concert and the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular, an extravaganza of fireworks exploding across the night sky for thirty minutes straight in the most amazing patterns and colors and volume. In fact it is so

spectacular that I think everyone comes out of it slightly deaf and blind, due to the resounding noise of the fireworks and the brightness of the flares, and during it, I know for sure it renders people mute as well - speechless as they are at the spectacle before them...

The Boston celebrations are truly a masterpiece of grand proportions. But the most amazing thing about the Fourth of July in my opinion is not the fireworks, nor the food, nor the outhouse races nor the concerts. I'd have to say it is the shared feeling of camaraderie that permeates the whole holiday: the camaraderie of being American, of being of the same city or the same town or the same family, and the ability to take time out of our busy schedules to come together and appreciate these bonds of friendship and family and nationhood: these stars and stripes of freedom.



Korea: Mud Festival

Mud festival was chosen as the #1 festival that Korean's want to participate. It is held in Boryeong, where it's famous for their mud. Hence, that's how the festival was established.

Mud festival was first held in July 1998; therefore, it has a relatively short history. But it has continued to be chosen as the representative festival for Korea ever since 2008. Today, it is known as the greatest domestic festival and

is also considered as a global festival. It received 3 awards from the Pinnacle Awards at the International Festival Association in 2009.

Over a span of 12 years, there have been 15 million visitors (40 thousand of them being foreigners) with a profit of more than 370 billion dollars. The festival is held every year in mid July for 4 days.

One reason why the festival is popular lies among the

quality of the mud. Since there is a great amount of minerals, germanium, bentonite, it is highly effective for the skin. The quality of the mud from Boryeong is especially excellent because it is from one of the 5 biggest tidelands in the world.

The advantage of this festival is that people can enjoy various events that deal with mud. For instance, there are "mud contests" and "mud massages". The festival keeps

things fresh by changing up the games every year, which allow participants to discover new things every time. The simple and easy attractions draw many visitors.

There are also other enjoyable attractions that uses mud. For example, there are self-massages where you thinly apply mud on your body. There is something for everyone: kids, couples, family, and friends. For people who want a little

thrill, there's a mudslide that's 12 meters high and 44 meters long. It has become a popular spot for teenagers. But the most popular attraction is the large-scale mud house. You can play many games and it's a great way to exchange with new people.

The mud festival isn't just for watching but it's an event that you can actually participate. The rule to the festival is that you let loose and

enjoy playing with mud. It's a great way to forget about daily stress and release tension. I think mud festival would be perfect for someone that would like to have a unique experience.



Indonesia: Celebration of Buddha's Birthday at Borobudur Temple

Every year in May, the celebration of Buddha's birthday is held in Borobudur Temple, which is located in Central Java. In this

celebration, a Buddhist monk followed by the visitors, walk around the temple with lanterns and candles in hand. Afterwards, everyone engages

in the meditation session where they perform self-reflection. The lantern is a symbol of a man's soul. According to Buddhist

teachings, no flame is bigger than the flame of a man's soul. At the end of the ceremony, the visitors are allowed to perform medical

checkups by local physicians. Every year, there are approximately ten thousand visitors who attend this festival.



Japan: Gion Festival ①

Out of all the festivals in Japan, I would like to introduce the festivals in Kyoto. There is always some sort of festival or Shinto ritual going on in Kyoto. For instance, there is Aoi festival in May, Gion festival in July, and Jidai festival in October. These are known as the 3 largest festivals in Kyoto; hence, they are well known worldwide and attract tons of visitors every year. Gion festival is also known as the 3 largest festivals in Japan, along

with Tenjin festival in Osaka and Kanda festival in Tokyo.

First, I would like to introduce Gion festival, where the Yamaboko Junko (Hoko and Yama) makes its way through the center of Kyoto. Let me start off by discussing the origin and history of the festival. During the beginning of Heian Period (869), a plague was prevalent in Kyoto due to a curse by the vengeful spirit of the dead. The citizens built 66 hoko's, which was associated with

the number of countries. Then they prayed to Susano-no-mikoto to get rid of the misfortune and that was how the Gion festival started. The festival halted after the Onin War, but was revived by the merchants in 1500. Despite the hardships of Edo Period, the traditions of Gion festival were safely kept till today, due to the merchant's sweat and tears. Today, there are 9 Hoko's and 23 Yama's.

Next, I would like to introduce the chimaki's that are

sold at each Yamaboko during Yoiyama. These chimaki's are not the ones that you can eat, but they are lucky charms that are sold for 5 to 7 dollars each. You hang them on your front door until you replace it with a new one the next year. Each lucky charm holds a different meaning. For example, Naginataboko protects you from sicknesses and Kikusuiboko leads you to eternal success. The list of exciting facts and history of Gion festival is

endless. How about you go discover them for yourself!

When I first went to Gion festival 2 years ago, I was amazed by the beautiful Yoiyama, the size of the Yamaboko, and how striking the Yamaboko Junko was. I was also impressed how the people of Heian Period continuously worked hard to maintain the history and beauty of the festival. I wish for everyone to have a wonderful experience at Gion festival!



Japan: Gion Festival ②



(From Doshisha University Home Page)

When returning home, from a foreign country, a sense of success should exist if we grew intellectually while having simultaneously represented our country in a positive manner.

The week of July 12, 2010 provided me new knowledge with concerns to Japan's

Barden Smedberg, Jr. (U.S.A.) (Business School, 2nd Year)

history, traditions, business practices and language.

On Monday, July 12 I first experienced Gion Matsuri while watching colleagues volunteer at one of the 32 Hoko's (Shrine) that would eventually be paraded through the roads on the final day of Gion Matsuri.

On Thursday, July 15 I had the opportunity to learn while volunteering at Gion Matsuri's Minami Kanon Yamaboko (name of a Hoko). Music, craftsmanship and relationships were evident every direction I turned.

On Saturday, July 17th I learned it is hard work to

help pull a 12 ton shrine on wheels (Hoko)!

If my time in Japan were to conclude tomorrow, the sole experience of participating in Gion Matsuri, would provide me with the sense of a successful trip.

The great people of Japan extended a hand of friend-

ship, via their invitation to participate in Gion Matsuri. I certainly hope I provided a few laughs and a helping hand signifying the honor I had to participate. (Truly, great thanks).

China: Chinese Spring Festival (Chinese New Year)

Of all the world's great celebrations, the traditional Chinese New Year or spring festival is possibly the largest. One of the fascinating and unique aspects of the Chinese New Year is the time in which it is held. Unlike Japan, the coming of the New Year is traditionally celebrated in the spring. The reason for this is the ancient use of the Lunar Calendar, which continues to this day.

The Chinese culture truly blossoms during these celebrations. Traditional performances take place throughout the entire country. One of the most widely known performances is the Lion Dance. The Lion Dance has an incredibly long tradition dating back to ancient China. Students from various martial art schools from all over the country perform this historical dance. There are also many different kinds of performances all over the country. Some of the other events include Xinzi (standing

on stilts), carrying desks and other objects using only small pieces of bamboo.

On New Year's Eve, 60% to 70% of the Chinese population watch the New Year Special TV program. Much like the kouhaku in Japan, they use this time to get together with family. People who work outside of their hometown will come back to enjoy this moment with their loved ones. The New Year Special TV program starts at 8:00, and continues past 12:00. Chinese people who reside in other countries also get together to watch this cultural event and count down with the family.

After the countdown, celebrators shout a triumphant "Happy New Year!" to each other and light off firecrackers to welcome the New Year.

After the celebrations, people will usually go to sleep. But for children, it is really hard to sleep with the blasting sounds of firecrackers

going on all night. For those who wish to enjoy a little bit more of firecrackers, I recommend getting some sleep while thoughts of tomorrow dance in your head.

For children, Chinese New Year means getting new clothes from head to toe. It also means delicious food, and playing with other children without being scolded. New Years represent the beginning of everything and Chinese parents believe scolding is not auspicious for this time of the year. Younger mothers tend to put off punishments until the

observation of New Years is finished.

Another happy event for children is the Yasuqian (money given to children as a lunar New Year gift). It is given by the elder members of the family or a friend of an elder. A general rule of thumb for children is the more people they visit during the holidays, the higher the chance it is to receive more money. Youngsters are known to continually ask if there is anyone else to visit. Children receive this gift until they have children of their own.

Like many other countries, China too has its own traditional New Years food such as Nian gao. Nian gao can be translated to "higher year" and is one of the many dishes included in the ceremonies during the 15 days of New Years. The 15th is the last official day of the succession of celebration. On this final day, the Lantern festival or Chap Go Meh is held and families leave candles outside in order to guide spirits back to heaven. Families also stroll along the streets in honor of the auspicious day. All these

details are an incredible and vital part to China's wonder and beauty. Any opportunity to experience this should not be missed. That is the Chinese Spring Festival - the biggest festival in China.



Review: Festivals in the World

Zhou Weiwei (Business School, 1st Year)



I am really honored and in the best of spirits to give

some of my thoughts in regard to this special piece—Festivals In The World. I have read the articles several times and each time I seem to discover something new. Reading these articles gave me a great sense of what this special time for celebration and family might be like in other countries. I began to question myself as to why I haven't developed a deeper interest in my own home country, China.

Please take the time to read some of these experiences, not only mine but also of other foreign students at Doshisha University.

Festivals in countries with a long history and strong beliefs have some common points; their celebrations are filled with traditions. Aside from that, new festivals are being held in several countries like the Bull Run and Tomato Fight in Spain and the Mud Festival in

Korea. All of them have the common themes of enjoying the holidays, enjoying time with family and friends, and having a unique and memorable experience.

All of the writers are proud of their own festivals, even when comparing to others. Read their diverse essays, compare the different festivals in the world, and discover some of the fascinations in your own country.

EDITORS & REPORTERS WANTED

The Doshisha Student is now looking for new members who are willing to join the club. Please e-mail at the.doshisha.student@gmail.com

International Exchanges

As most people know, stepping out of your comfort zone can be frightening. But it can also be the perfect opportunity for a new beginning. 3 courageous individuals share their memorable experience overseas.

Frontier of International Exchange

Mygdalsky Volodymyr (Faculty of Law, Part-time Lecturer, Doshisha University)

Born in Odessa, Ukraine, Doctor of Informatics at Kyoto University, Part-time lecturer for the Faculty of Law (Russian law systems and politics, Differential and Integral Calculus, Linear Algebra, Probability and Statistics) at Doshisha University, acquired JLPT 1, Member of the Russian Interpreter Association, and a freelance interpreter.

To many young people,

Japan is a "Dream Country" by being economically developed and politically stable. As myself being one of them, I still cannot forget the feeling when I first stepped into Japan as a "Monbusho" sponsored as a foreign student about ten years ago. Being in an era of global mobility, it is very important to ponder over the issue of education for international students. Not only to support

their academic success, but to also deepen the understanding of Japanese history and culture and to promote international exchange.

Looking back at my own experience as an international student in Japan, I remember the bewildered feeling when I found a big difference between the "image of Japan" and the "real Japan." I was disappointed as I found a huge shadow of American

culture here and there; however, I was impressed to find "good-old-Japanese taste" in refined and modest expressions and carriage such as an "apologetic attitude." It took me a while to rebuild the image of Japan but I was able to accept the modern Japan after being with Japanese people and discussing my honest impressions of Japan. I am sure that most international

students in Japan have their own image and expectations of Japan and will go through the lag-time to accept the reality. In that case, they should find someone who will stand in the middle to listen and to give advice.

Once I accepted the gap between my image and the reality of Japan, I became more enthusiastic and wanted to know more about Japan. At the same time, I wanted

to people know me better too.



Reprinted from the Cross Culture News No. 10 on May 14.

My Hometown's International Exchange-Inner Mongol, China: A Miracle in a Desert

Liu Cheng (Faculty of Economics, 3rd Year)

My hometown is Ordos, which is located in Inner Mongolia, China. In Mongolian, Ordos means palace. A long time ago, Genghis Khan went on an expedition to North Asia and he was so impressed with the beautiful landscape that he chose to build his own Imperial Mausoleum in Ordos.

But as it hit the modern era, the ecological environment of Ordos was demolished due to war and a change in climate. The advancing desertification is becoming critical. There are 3600 million hectares of land, 25% of the entire world, which is under the influence. 900 million people, or one out

of six people worldwide are affected. Desertification impacts farmlands and pastures, causing a reduction in food production.

The deterioration of food supply led to starvation and poverty, outbreak of refugees, and political unrest. For planet earth to retain as the star that holds life, we must prevent desertification and the forest from vanishing. Kubuqi, the biggest desert of Inner Mongolia, crossed the Ordos region and the desert of Ordos castle was known as Onkakubai.

In Mongolian, it holds a meaning of happiness and security. In 1950, Seiji Toyama, Professor Emeritus

of Tottori University, Doctor of Agriculture, visited China as an exchange student. At the time, Ordos was very poor and desertification was serious. After seeing this, Professor Toyama planted plants and vegetables. Not only did he want to help the natives he promised to regain a better environment for the world. Later, the tree-planting activity in China stood still due to the government. After forming a diplomatic Japanese-Chinese relationship, Professor Toyama played an active part in newspapers, magazine interviews, television appearances, and seminars. He also conducted PR activities for desert develop-

ments, maintenance work, and vigorously spread a fundraising campaign to be able to plant trees in deserts. In 1990, Professor Toyama visited the desert of Inner Mongolia once again. He brought candidates and planted trees everyday for ten hours. There were one million Populus tomentosa planted in 1995, two million Populus tomentosa planted in 1998, and surprisingly three million Populus tomentosa planted in 2001. Due to Professor Toyama's invitation, 335 teams with more than 6600 people from Japan have proceeded to Onkakubai over a span of 10 years. They planted about 300 plants,

which symbolizes the Chinese-Japanese friendship. Today, we have reached up to 3 million and 400 thousand Populus tomentosa. Professor Toyama received the title of honorable citizen from the Inner Mongolia government and a civic award of consideration towards mankind from the United Nation. He also met with the Prime Minister of China, Jiang Zemin, and Li Peng.

Professor Toyama's spirit touched many people's heart, and he was able to achieve respect from a great number of people. Though he is 90 years old, he has not stopped to think that desertification prevention will lead to world

peace. Hopefully his spirit and the desert will never disappear. As long as there are people who grapple with the world environment, the mind and spirit of Professor Toyama will remain. But the desert will vanish someday...



Toyama, right (from <http://okinawaking.ti-da.net/d2009-02.html>)

Los Angeles Seminar Report Sponsored by the Kansai Club

Megumi Kawa (Faculty of Social Studies, 3rd Year)

When we consider the basic notion of American people, its evident that it is based on the Bible, which is different from the Japanese.

For example, there's a system of tax exemption for companies who contribute to

various social activities, including the NPO. Thanks to this system, there are companies that are willing to donate to social activities. I think this type of establishment accelerates in supplying money to organizations that

are needed and is based on the respect of the Bible.

One thing I was surprised about was that American people think its natural for wealthy people to contribute to the poor.

When I saw people playing

games, I couldn't help but to wonder if they really needed the service. American volunteers tend to think its natural to contribute to services and a lot of them seemed like they were doing it because they truly wanted to and not

because they wanted a pat on the back.

After these experiences, I felt the most crucial matter for us Japanese is to establish ones identity based on the solid and stable stone of mind.



At Orange County, California.

Essays

Here are 4 essays based on a wide-range of topics. The first essay will allow you to feel the changing seasons of Kyoto. The second essay will show you a glimpse of an intercultural relationship. The third essay is an award-winning essay written about the beauty of kimono. The last essay is a little treat and may help you realize something about yourself that you never knew before.

The Colors of Kyoto

Spring.

It's the time of the year when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom. Just imagine how many times the trees have blossomed up to today. Spring shows itself in every corner of Kyoto. To list a few, there is the calm and elegant Ginkakuji, the peaceful Tetsugaku no michi, the well-balanced Nanzenji, and the heroic bridge of Suikokaku which harmonizes well with nature and was built to gather water from the biwako. Cherry blossoms, the representative flower of Japan, fills Kyoto, the city that best represents Japan.

Summer.

The lively green trees reminds us of a cool summer. One of the 3 largest festivals in Japan, also known as Gion festival, is held in the center of Kyoto. You will see people dressed up in traditional yukata's strolling down the modern buildings in the city. I am sure everyone, including foreigners, will have an enjoyable time in the hot summer of Kyoto. This is one of the reasons that make Kyoto a charming historical city. It simply displays a harmony of modernization and the vigor of traditions.

Autumn.

The temperature gradually winds down and the leaves begin to change colors. As most people know, Arashiyama is a famous spot for checking out autumn leaves. The autumn leaves is what makes Kyoto graceful. The bridge, Togetsukyo, completes the scenery of Arashiyama. Another beautiful spot for autumn leaves would have to be Kurama. The view of Kifune shrine and Kurama temple perfectly displays autumn. If you take the Eizan railway on the Kurama line, there is a great spot where they light up in the evening. The illumination

makes it seem like you're in an illusion.

Winter.

It somehow reminds me of Kinkakuji, which is known for its extraordinary beauty. The temple covered in snow is an all-time favorite scenery. It's not as mysterious as explained in books, but the structure made of gold foil itself gives enough of unreal vibe. You can also enjoy the beauty of the flower arrangements that accentuates the essence of flowers. I get a feeling that the stories of Kinkakuji were referring to the winter season.

The old traditions remain

the same in the historical city of Kyoto. The city is almost like a chameleon because it holds different traits based on spring, summer, autumn, and winter. The countless temples and shrines is what makes Kyoto an elegant city. Since it was the capital for more than 1000 years, it is packed with history. It has also been the center of politics and culture; therefore, traces of history have been left in various places around the city. Its fascinating just to think that samurai's too walked along these same streets. You can feel the history with every step you take. Did you know



Ginkakuji Temple

that there are 17 World Heritages in Kyoto? Some people may think it's a sightseeing city, but it's actually a city that is constantly working hard to preserve traditions. Its amazing how the old spirits still lives through the changing times and surroundings. Kyoto is the perfect example of a cultural city that is constantly thinking of ways to live in symbiosis with the modern world without keeping the relics of the past.

International Dating

Confession is an important step when you start a relationship. However, ways of confessing love is different depending on countries. Nowadays in Japan, texting is becoming a typical way to ask someone out and even for confession. They first exchange numbers and then send a greeting email like, "Hi! It was nice meeting you. Hope to see you soon." Even if both of them are interested in each other, they will continue to text each other to see how things go. Several

weeks later, the guy will ask the girl out and continues to use the cell phone as a tool to express his feelings.

This must be unbelievable for foreign girls. As far as I know, texting is a common way to ask someone to hang out in the United States, not for confessing love. American guys are affectionate when it comes to showing interest in a girl. When a girl accepts a confession, it must mean that she feels some kind of affection towards them. Since foreign girls are used to

aggressive actions, they may be disappointed in Japanese guys. This may be one of the reasons why interracial couples are rare to see. How can Japanese men attract foreign girls?

I interviewed a Japanese guy that has an American girlfriend who came to Doshisha University as an exchange student. How did you meet your girlfriend?—I met her at the welcoming party. She was sitting alone so I went over to talk to her. How did you make a

Ruriko Mitsuishi (Faculty of Law, 2nd Year)

move?—I asked her out to the movies. Then, I confessed my love to her on the way home. She accepted. What do you usually do on a date?—Go to the movies, zoo, and Internet café. We recently went on a night hike at Mt. Daimonji. What about Internet café?—I wanted to introduce her to Japanese pop culture. So you guys are going to be in a long distance relationship?—How do you feel about it?—I think I can handle it. As long as both of us stays busy, we

won't have time to feel lonely. Or I can imagine that she's going to the moon. I heard that when an astronaut heads to the moon, they can't come back for at least a year. It's like a long distant relationship. Do you have any advice for Japanese guys?—I think Japanese guys should be more kind to girls. When I went to the U.S., I saw a guy opening the door for a girl at school. I've never seen that in Japan. "Lady's first" is common abroad and the Japanese should learn from it



and be gentlemen's too. Overall, couples from all over the nation have their difficulties. Japanese guys can change by broadening their viewpoints on love and relationships. So get going guys!

Essay Contest: Kimono Belt

I wrote an essay about kimono belts (obi) under the sponsor of Nishijin Maizuru Co., Ltd. and was given an honorable mention.

The reason why I wrote the essay on kimono belts is because I love Japanese traditional clothing. When I was a sophomore in high school, my Japanese friend gave me

a handmade yukata (bath robe) with a belt. To be honest, it was really difficult. I have many Japanese friends who think western clothes from famous brands are more attractive than kimonos and yukatas. But for me, there are no famous western brands that can compete with a yukata or kimono.

When I visited the obi-manufacturing company headquarters for the award ceremony, I was amazed by all the beautiful handmade obi's that were decorated in the ceremony hall. I felt like I was in a magical world. I remember the first time I attempted to wear a yukata by myself. It was hard work

Peggy Iida (Graduate of 2008)

indeed, but when I saw myself in the mirror, I felt very happy and accomplished. I wear a yukata whenever I get a chance to go to the summer festival in Japan. I was surprised when I found out that many of my Japanese friends in college didn't know how to wear a yukata or kimono.

As you probably already know, I really enjoy wearing Japanese traditional clothes. I wore a hakama for my college graduation, a furisode for my grad school graduation, and a shiromuku for my wedding ceremony. I hope Japanese people, especially the young generation, pay more attention to the beauty



Peggy, center, back row

of yukata and kimono. It has almost been ten years since I've been in Japan and the only thing that has not changed is my affection toward yukata and kimonos.

Astrology ~ 120 Degree Aspect

Yu Jinshen (Graduate School of Commerce, 1st Year)



This time I would like to talk about the basic relations of the stars.

The cycle goes through the 12 constellations by starting off with Capricorn and Aquarius in January, Sagittarius in December, and then goes back to Capricorn once again. The stars include Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, and

Sagittarius. If you line them up in a circle, you can see the distance between each constellation is 30 degrees. (360 degrees divide 12 constellations = 30 degrees) There are also compatible stars, which are placed 120 degrees from each other. For example, Pisces, Scorpio, Cancer & Aquarius, Libra, Gemini & Leo, Sagittarius, Aries & Capricorn, Virgo, Taurus gets along well.

The 12 stars can be divided into 4 major groups: water, air, fire, and earth.

Water sign Pisces Leo Cancer

Air sign Aquarius Libra Gemini

Fire sign Scorpio Sagittarius Aries

Earth sign Capricorn Virgo Taurus

Characteristics of signs

Water signs are shy, gentle, and thinks about others. Air signs is affable to everybody, loves change, and flexible when dealing with things. Fire signs are hasty, passionate, trusts people easily, and kind to strangers. Earth signs are conservative, cautious, realistic, and tends to hide emotions.

When a Capricorn and a Virgo becomes a couple, they will feel a sense of security because of their similar values. Therefore, people with same signs can easily get along because the aspects within the constellations take action. The 120-degree aspect holds great power, also known as a trine. This holds a meaning of satisfaction and harmony. There is a good

chance for love relationships between people with same signs because of tacit understanding. For instance, a water sign and an earth sign would be a great match because water can be absorbed into soil. A fire sign and an air sign would also be compatible because fire becomes bigger when blown by air. It may differ for each individual, but most likely it will be a fulfilling and positive relationship. Also, a water sign and an earth sign and an air sign and a fire sign would be a great combination for love. The following are only general theories, but no matter friendship or love, it's important to fully understand each other's personality before behaving a certain way.

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Introduction of Club Activities

AFS: Hiroshima Peace Study Association 2010

Miki Maki (Faculty of Letters, 2nd Year)

"Hiroshima Peace Study Association in Kyoto" was held at Kyoto Campus Plaza on July 18th. The association is composed of the "Pre-study Association", "Hiroshima Peace Study Association", and the

"Hiroshima Tour" as the core, where exchange students of AFS head to Hiroshima to trace the historical sites where atomic bombs were dropped. The students deepened their knowledge on war

and Hiroshima beforehand and later discussed how war was perceived in their home country at the "Pre-study Association". "Hiroshima Peace Study Association" included a clip of the tour, presenta-

tions by exchange students, panel discussions, and a lecture by Peace Activist, Feanna Ishii. We had a lively time with 13 exchange students and guests and approximately 60 other participants.

There were many productive students who participated in international exchanges during summer break. Here are some club updates from AFS, SIVIO, DESA, Habitat for Humanity, and the Chinese Student Association.

SIVIO: A Token of My Appreciation

Ranko Fujiwara (Faculty of Economics, 3rd Year)

SIVIO's goal is to support the education in Laos and to spread the word about charities in Japan.

Two years ago, we successfully built an elementary

school in Laos and were able to make an additional building the year after. This year, we held charity events, street fund-raising, and produced novelty items for

charity goods for our second elementary school.

At last, we have gathered enough funds for the construction, thanks to everyone's cooperation. Approxi-

mately 50 members from SIVIO visited Wanhin Village, Laos during summer break and signed the contract for the construction of our second elementary school. It's

One student stated, "Before I went to Hiroshima, I only knew the fact that an atomic bomb was dropped in Japan. Now, I understand within the heart. There's only little power individually, but I wish to settle the disputes by combining everyone's strength." Through the "Hiroshima Peace Study Association", a great number of people learned about war in various countries. I believe



that if you take a moment to think about peace, we will be able to step closer to a peaceful world. I hope this opportunity led people to think about peace.

DESA: International Exchange

Ruriko Mitsuishi (Faculty of Law, 2nd Year)

Last spring semester, we had a welcoming party for the Stanford students. We introduced the newcomers by having a nomikai, also known as a Japanese drink-

ing party. Then afterwards, we went to Maruyama Park for a hanami. Both Japanese and Stanford students enjoyed being surrounded by thousands of beautiful cherry

blossoms, and were astonished by the booths and its crowdedness. Besides the hanami, we went sightseeing at Kiyomizu, Ginkaku, Kinkaku temple and other

famous shrines. Later, we ate Kyoto sweets, which became our habitual activity. We promised to keep in touch and the Stanford students returned to the U.S. in the

middle of June. In the fall, other exchange student programs from AKP and KCJS (Kyoto Consulting Japanese Study) are coming. We are planning on having a welcome party for them too. In addition, we are planning on making Churros, a Spanish doughnut covered in sugar, which are sold in movie theatres, at the school festival. Thankfully, we'll have



Fujiwara in Laos

and I cannot express enough appreciation for all the people who have helped us with this project. Thank you very much!

Habitat for Humanity

Kaori Sawada (Faculty of Economics, 4th Year)

Kokusaikyoyuukyukai is a campus branch of a NGO called Habitat for Humanity. Every summer and spring holiday, members participate in the Global Village (GV) program where we build houses as a volunteer with the homeowners. The vision for Habitat for Humanity is "a world where people have a decent place to live". GV program aims to support building houses for people who cannot manage to buy houses by themselves.

value working as a team. There are 28 members in total and 27 people who actually went to India. We held 16 meetings before going to India and got to know each other. It's important to be able to express one's feelings with others so we took a lot of time communicating before heading to India. Our team goal was to "catch the ball", which means to accept others and to speak out when you disagree or have something that you want to share.

is my first GV and I decided to go because the leader approached me if I was interested. There were many meetings and since some were serious, it was a little tiring. But from tomorrow, I will start building houses. We held so many meetings for this and they were worth it because it all connected to this moment. I am very excited and I will do my best during my stay in India!

in one house. They wanted to reform their house so they asked Habitat for Humanity for some help. Our job is to bring heavy bricks and cement to the house. It was fun to work in a place surrounded by lots of animals! It was like a zoo. My goal is to stay motivated so I can enjoy working with everyone!"

This summer, our campus branch members went to Philippines and India. I was a member of the India GV 2010 and I would like to introduce some activities we performed this summer.

The team stayed at Bangalore India from August 29th to September 15th. The following are some comments by a member of the team. A member who participated in the GV program stated, "This

September 1st: "There was a welcoming ceremony yesterday and today we had work in the morning so I was a little tired. But I was happy that a boy remembered my name from the day before. Today, I interviewed my homeowner and I was surprised to hear that 15 people lived

September 7th: "Today, we had to carry sand. At lunchtime, we played Indian games with the children and people sang songs to us. Children have such beautiful eyes and they are really cute. They taught me how to speak Kannada. I want to do as well as I did today tomorrow!"

we dug a big hole. We also learned how to count in Kannada. After work, the people in the village put on a Sari to all the girl members. I don't think I will ever have a chance to wear a Sari again. The homeowners were all happy to see us and I had a wonderful time. I was so happy!



Mitsuishi, left

some help from several Spanish students. Last spring in DESA was fantastic and I am looking forward to next fall.

Establishment Meeting for Chinese Exchange

Personnel Fine Art Association of Western Japan

Zhou Weiwei (Business School, 1st Year)

On June 12th, an establishment meeting for the Chinese Exchange Personnel Fine Arts Association of Western Japan was held at the Ikeda public hall in Osaka. It is the first organization in history that is relative to fine arts. It was founded by Chinese exchange students that reside in Japan. Approximately 60 people participated in the establishment meeting, which included Zhang Xin (Vice-Consul General, Consulate General of Osaka in China), Liu Zhanshan (Head of the Education Board), and Lee Zhe (Head of the Executive Council). There

were also other members of the consulate, representatives of Overseas Chinese in Kansai, exchange students from every district in Western Japan, and the Kansai media. Bao feng, the head leader of the Chinese Exchange Personnel Fine Arts Association of Western Japan, discussed the details about the establishment, the main purpose of the project, and plans for the future. The Fine Arts Association is a private, non-profit friendship organization that advertises Chinese art and culture. Bao feng stated that his mission was to

contribute to the Japanese-Chinese friendship and to actively plan an exchange for fine arts and culture. He also stated that it would be even better if they could unite the Chinese exchange students in Japan, lead them to have a fulfilling life, and to create a better image.

the Consulate General of Osaka in China was held at the Ikeda public hall in Osaka. It celebrated the opening of the Shanghai Expo, along with commemorating the 40th anniversary of Osaka Expo, which is known as the first expo in Asia. There were 900 participants, which included parties related to the Consulate General of Osaka in China, representatives of the Chinese exchange students in Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe, Wakayama, Nara, Hiroshima, Mie, Overseas Chinese Association in Kansai, Japanese-Chinese Friendship

Society of Western Japan (Osaka, Kyoto, etc.), representatives of universities, teachers of the Japanese Language School, and students.

We received many congratulatory calls about the event from Toru Hashimoto (Governor of Osaka), Kunio Hiramatsu (Mayor of Osaka), Yoshio Sakaguchi (Mayor of Suita, Osaka), Kansei Nakano (member of the House of Representatives), Naomi Tokashiki (former House of Representative), Tetsuya Inoue (member of the Osaka assembly) and many others.

The Chinese Exchange Personnel Fine Arts Association of Western Japan announced traditional music and dance for approximately an hour and a half. In the afternoon, there was a small party to express our appreciation to all the people who cooperated in the event at the public hall. A total of 250 people participated, which



Commemorative photo



The reception for the traditional Chinese music and dance.

consisted of parties concerned with the Consulate, Japanese-Chinese Friendship Association, performers and staffs, and representatives of the Chinese exchange students. Kaoru Kurata, Mayor of Ikeda, wrapped up the event and was able to end the eventful day peacefully.