



THE HOSEI HERALD

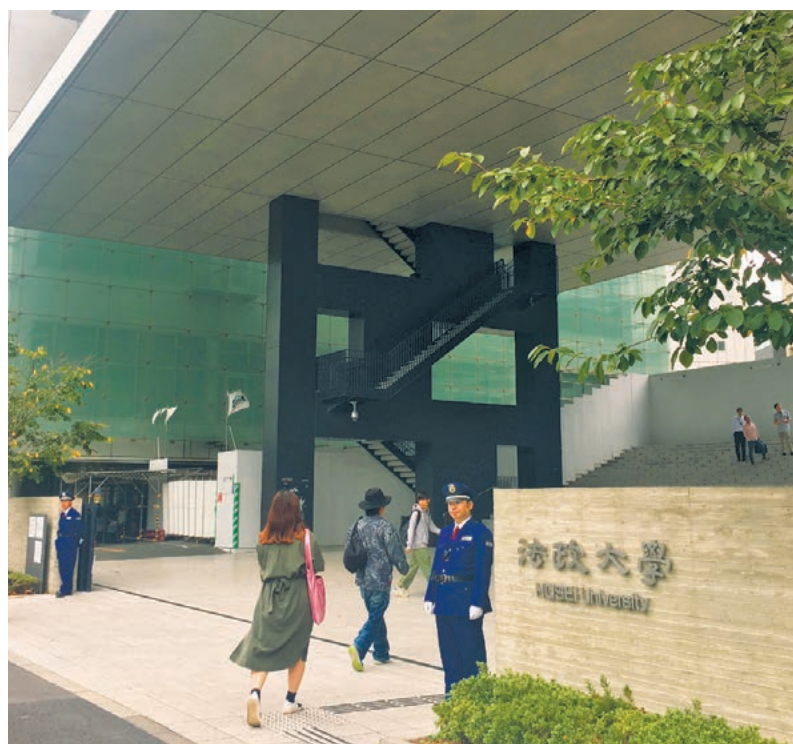
NOTICE TO READERS

The Hosei Herald is a publication produced by a group of selected students of Hosei University as part of the university's Global Human Resources Development programs.

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FREE



Clockwise from left, Shota Muta smiles in the Support Administrative Office (story on page 3); Fujimi Gate Building at Ichigaya Campus; Soccer player Ayase Ueda focuses on scoring (story page 4); A symposium on SDGs is held at the top of Boissonade Tower (story on page 2); The Hosei Herald visits Google Japan headquarters in Tokyo (story page 3); "Aguri" agriculture club members work in the field (story page 2); New York based manga artist Misako Rocks! releases her new work "Bounce Back" (story page 4); Hosei University Career Center offers support to students (story on page 2).

MIO HATAI, TOMOYA ONUKI, SPORTS HOSEI SHIMBUNKAI, SHUN YABATA, CHIHO IUCHI, SAKI UCHIDA, MISAKO ROCKS!, YUNA OBA PHOTOS

Education expert 'Ogi Mama' on changing students

STAFF WRITERS

Renowned education critic Naoki Ogi, a specially appointed professor at Hosei University, believes that change in the Japanese education system is inevitable. He points out that Japanese education does not put emphasis on encouraging individuality among students, but rather plants the idea of "follow-the-others" equality, suppressing any unique characteristics that may exist.

"All of you are victims of the Japanese education! And for that, I apologize," the professor, better known as "Ogi Mama" for his motherlike gentle way of talking, said during an interview with The Hosei Herald.

However, despite most Hosei students being "victims" of Japanese education, Ogi believes that Hosei University is a culturally diversified university and a great environment for students to study.

As a specially appointed professor since 2017, Ogi has played a role in the university's public relations activities, as well as lectures to support Hosei students and graduates.

It is clear that Ogi is a proud professor of Hosei University, but what is it about this university that has seen the education critic evaluate it in such a positive way? Ogi shared with us his past experiences as a high school teacher, and how they shaped his way of teaching and evaluating Hosei University.

Before becoming a professor at Hosei University, he taught at junior and senior high schools for 22 years. When he was working at a junior high school in Tokyo, he did everything he thought was good for the students. He created opportunities to build ties among students, using various strategies to make this happen.

He tried to bring the students who were poor at communicating with others into contact with their classmates through hobbies.

"For example, those students had a lot of knowledge of what they were interested in, such as manga, animals and bird watching," Ogi said. "So I made time for them to talk to their classmates freely about their passion for those hobbies, and allowed them to make clubs if they wanted to."

In the end, there were nine clubs in the class, and each club was very active.

Those students became positive in all activities, and the classroom became energized. The students voluntarily started to publish newspapers about their activities, including keeping goldfish in the classroom and placing various manga on classroom shelves to read.

"All of these were signs that each student became independent," Ogi said. "It is important for adults to understand children's needs and support them."

That will eventually encourage their independence. In all matters, it is important that children voluntarily do something that they are interested in.

"There is no progress without freedom," Ogi added.

While teaching junior high school students, Ogi also taught at the University of Tokyo as a part-time lecturer.

"I was interested in university students, because they look like adults on the outside, but on the inside, they are still immature," Ogi said.

When he taught students at the University of Tokyo, there were so many students who were questioning Japanese education. Those students were forced to study very hard to go to the highest educational institutions, and were successful in entering the university. However, in the end, they had no idea what they truly wanted to do.

"I realized that university students have lots of inner problems, but professors don't see that," Ogi said.

This made him realize that he wanted to become a sort of bridge between people or organizations such as students and professors, or research institutions and professors. "I wanted to be a part of improving Japanese education," Ogi said.

That is why he left junior high school teaching in 1994, and continued teaching at universities as a part-time lecturer.

In 2003, Hosei University established the Faculty of Lifelong Learning and Career Studies, and a year later, Ogi was invited to the faculty as a professor specialized in practical research on human development and education.

When choosing students for his seminars at Hosei University, Ogi's policy was to include at least one student who appeared to have difficulties in communicating with others or seemed to be suffering from self-harming behaviors.

At first, these students suffering from anxiety found it difficult to be a part of the seminar. However, after spending some time at the seminar with professor Ogi, these students started to open up more, realizing how much the professor cared for them. Eventually, these students drastically improved to the point where they presented outstanding research they did throughout the year.

"I learned that university students can still change and grow as people even though they already look like grown-ups," Ogi said. "It is amazing to see how much a student can grow within a short period of time."

Students are able to learn from each other, especially when there are diverse members.

"Students should not compare their GPAs with one another. Instead, universities should give students an environment where they can learn from students of other faculties," Ogi said.

Fortunately, it is possible in universities that have many faculties and departments like Hosei University. For example, papers written by law students and those written by literature students are very different. The subjects, viewpoints and writing styles themselves may be quite different. So, students are able to find something new every time they get feedback from the professors and their peers. This is one of the greatest advantages of universities like Hosei.

"Hosei University need to invite more students from all over the world



Specially appointed professor Naoki Ogi

to promote a further diversified environment," Ogi said.

The number of international students who attend Hosei University has increased from 682 in 2013 to 1,306 in 2017, but it is still not enough. If there are more international students they can learn more from each other. For example, student's attitudes toward their academic life is very different in other countries. Japanese students may become aware that they study much less compared to students from other countries, and they may come to realize that they need to study harder.

However, not only should Hosei University invite students from abroad, but Japanese students should go and study

abroad as well. Even if they cannot understand or communicate well in English, it will work out in the end, and most importantly, their ways of thinking will change.

When students of Hosei University become more diverse, ultimately, Hosei students could become more aware of different ways of thinking.

"This is extremely important, because these students will create the future," Ogi said.

Ayumi Harada, Mio Hatai, Yuna Oba and Saki Uchida contributed to this article. The article was produced based on information as of December 2018.



Professor Naoki Ogi speaks to the Hosei Herald in an interview in Tokyo on Nov. 17.

AYUMI HARADA PHOTOS

ACTIVE LEARNING

Holistic approach helpful in resolving global issues

By Shun Yabata

At the top of Boissonade Tower, central and local government officials gathered on Nov. 14 to attend a symposium titled "Regional Revitalization and SDGs for Our Town."

SDGs stands for Sustainable Development Goals, a set of international development goals adopted by all of the United Nations' member states. While these issues are also discussed in the Department of Global Politics in the Faculty of Law, the symposium was organized by Kawakubo Laboratory in the Faculty of Engineering and Design, a unique faculty at Hosei University.

With the progress of globalization, we are living in a more and more complicated world. Overfishing by fisher-

men in one country to make money could endanger the ecology of the ocean and people who live in the next country could not be able to fish. One action may have global repercussions. Therefore it is beneficial and useful to study a wide range of disciplines in resolving problems.

Established in 2007, the Faculty of Engineering and Design pursues sustainable technologies in harmony with society and the environment. There are three departments: Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering and System Design. Kawakubo Laboratory, which is led by associate professor Shun Kawakubo, is one of the laboratories within the Department of Architecture.

"We explore holistic design that

meets demands of human society. Even though you may invent high-spec products, they don't make sense without meeting people's needs," Kawakubo said. Therefore, we study not only engineering, but also design and humanities."

According to Kawakubo, one of the unique features of the design study at the faculty lies in Project Based Learning (PBL). In PBL, students are given a task, for example, to design a house within six months.

"It's interesting to make a model with our hands in the studio," said Ryoma Arafuka, a master's degree student at the Kawakubo Laboratory. "Also, we need to study the background of the architecture through field research," Arafuka said.

Finally, students create an original design with support from their professors. "There is more than one right answer in design," Kawakubo said. "So, it is important for the students to consider an idea through investigating the history of the area and communicating with people of the local community."

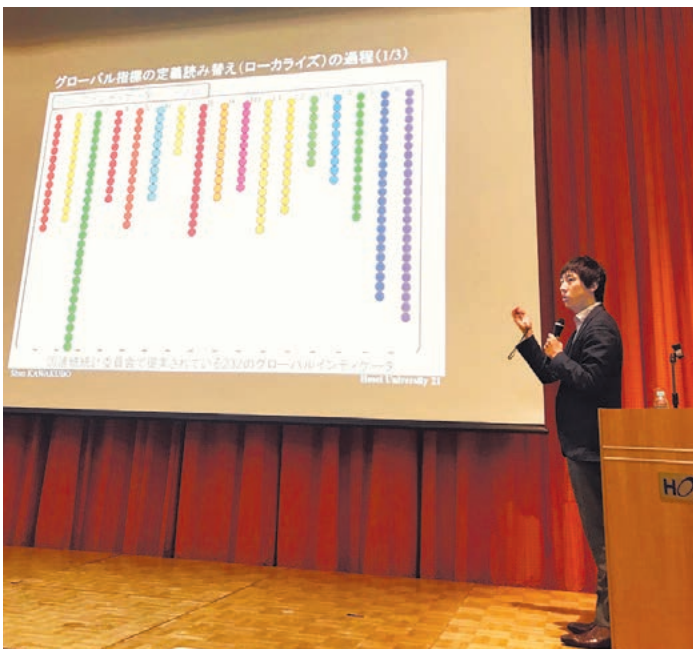
PBL is an effective way to study design and people's needs. In order to suggest practical solutions to society, consideration from a cross-cutting perspective is needed.

Another feature that makes the faculty attractive is its location: The Ichigaya campus is in the center of Tokyo.

"Many foreigners and Japanese gather in Ichigaya. Taking part in workshops and discussing things with such people may expand our viewpoint," Kawakubo said. "For example,



Above: Seventeen icons and the logo of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations. Right: Associate professor Shun Kawakubo makes a presentation on SDGs during a symposium held on Nov. 14 at Boissonade Tower.



Associate professor Shun Kawakubo (left) discusses various issues with master's degree students Akiko Chujo (center) and Ryoma Arafuka in his laboratory.

I once thought that Tokyo was too crowded and messy, but talking with foreigners, they said that Tokyo was dynamic and charming. I was surprised at their ways of seeing Tokyo."

Kawakubo laboratory is working on ways of advancing the SDGs in urban planning and architecture. Listed by the U.N., there are 17 different goals such as good health and well-being (goal 3), affordable and clean energy (goal 7) and climate action (goal 13). Countries around the world are endeavoring to accomplish the goals. In Japan, more and more local governments are implementing the SDGs in policymaking.

"Our laboratory has developed a platform to promote SDGs for local

governments. By collecting data from relevant institutions, the platform visualizes the attainment level of each government and offers information such as successful models of town planning," Kawakubo said.

"The SDGs and our faculty share a common way of thinking. Both of them place more importance to multiple points of view that may generate synergy effect, rather than single point of view," Kawakubo said. "For example, if someone wants to lose weight, he may commute by bicycle, and that may lead to good health, energy saving, being environmentally friendly, and eventually meet the related SDGs," Kawakubo explained.

Another master's degree student,

Akiko Chujo, referred to the dynamics of the laboratory.

"We work hard and encourage each other. From the lab members' diverse points of view and opinions, we can learn many things," Chujo said. "What's difficult is to summarize the discussion and decide our directions."

The Faculty of Engineering and Design focuses on both engineering and aesthetics to reflect human society in design. Of course, it is important to study in our specialized field. When we face a real problem, however, it may include various issues, such as politics, the economy, culture and the environment.

"Wide-ranging study is indispensable in the future," Kawakubo said.

Program supports future professional accountants

By Yuna Oba

In the 1950's, a group of students founded a club to self-study bookkeeping and accounting. Today, the club has developed into the Hosei Accounting Profession Program (HAPP) and is open to all of the university's students.

"I want students to discover the joy and importance of learning bookkeeping," said Hiroshi Kitada, a staff member in charge at the Advanced Accounting Human Resource Center. Originated from a students' activity, the former Accounting Course that had been conducted mainly by the Faculty of Business Administration since 1967 was reorganized as the brand-new HAPP in 2014.

HAPP is a program to cultivate the knowledge and skills needed for the accounting professions. Qualified accountants are professionals who are able to tell whether corporate financial information is correct or not, and bookkeeping is one of the foundations for an understanding of corporate

accounting. In HAPP, students learn bookkeeping from the ground up, and then, they can further train themselves at a special course for becoming professional accountants with support of the university.

However, there are many accounting schools outside the campus. Why do most Hosei students who are interested in accounting attend the HAPP, rather than going to those schools? According to Kitada, there are several merits for Hosei students in attending HAPP.

First, the program is offered for a more moderate fee compared to that of outside accounting schools.

Second, there is a study room exclusively for HAPP students both in the Ichigaya and Tama campuses. The study rooms are equipped with lockers so that the HAPP students can keep their things, including textbooks.

Third, the students can attend HAPP without going to outside schools. The lectures are given at Hosei campuses, which is convenient and timesaving.

Last but not least, most of the HAPP instructors are Hosei graduates, who can give good advice to their students.

One of the HAPP instructors Kazuki Maki, a Hosei graduate, tells of the appealing points of being a

qualified accountant.

"Of course, high salary is great, but there are other good points," Maki said. "For example, once you get qualified as an accountant, you can use that qualification all your life. So even when you take a leave of absence from your job, you can return to your job as an accountant without any trouble."

Besides, qualified accountants can take enough holidays except for the peak period, according to Maki.

"Because of this, there are a lot of women who balance work and family," Maki said.

These days, work-life balance is one of the popular topics in Japan. In this sense, a certified accountant may be an ideal job.

"Another merit of the qualification of accountant is to have many career options," Maki said. That means accountants can apply the knowledge of accounting to other jobs such as tax accountant, administrative scrivener and consulting work in business. Some people open their own account-

ing firms.

Since 2014, when the brand-new HAPP was launched, the number of participants has stayed stable with over 200 at the Ichigaya Campus and over 100 at the Tama Campus. Furthermore, in recent years, there are also foreign students who attend the HAPP.

One of the participants Yuki Nohira, a freshman in the Faculty of Business Administration, is interested in the professions using the knowledge of bookkeeping and accounting, and weighs the advantage of the HAPP.

"To those HAPP instructors from Hosei, I can casually ask questions about which classes to take and how to balance the classes at the university and the HAPP," Nohira said. "I can focus on doing one thing at the HAPP and that helps me to have a more fulfilling student life," he added.

"The program is not only for students of the faculties of business administration or economics, but also for students in various faculties," Kitada said. "I hope as many students as possible will discover how interesting and useful it is to learn about bookkeeping, and I want them to try really hard to achieve a higher goal," Kitada said.



Hiroshi Kitada



Kazuki Maki



Over 200 students attend the Hosei Accounting Profession Program (HAPP) class at the Ichigaya Campus.



'Aguri' agriculture club members work in the fields near the Koganei Campus.

'Aguri' agriculture club works with area farmers

By Saki Uchida

One fine day in November, seven Hosei students and an older farmer were doing farm work in the field, 10 minutes from the Koganei Campus. They swept up hay with a broom and harvested crops while chatting with one another.

This is one of the typical activities of the "Aguri" agriculture club. Organized by the students in the Koganei Campus, the club takes part in activities with the local community. Club members do farm work in the fields near the Koganei Campus with farmers. Former leader of the club Toshiki Kuno, a junior in the Faculty of Bioscience and Applied Chemistry, said, "I'm glad that I can have good relationships with the local community and talk with people there."

In 2008, Hosei student Gen Yamanaka, who majored in architecture at the Koganei Campus, visited a neighboring farm as part of the faculty's agriculture class. It was the first time that he met a farmer.

After the class, Yamanaka told the farmer that he wanted to take part in agriculture work, because he wanted to offer fresh vegetables to the cafeteria on the Koganei Campus and convey the appeal of the Edo Tokyo Vegetables as the local specialty of the Koganei area.

Yamanaka was the first student that stepped into the local community through growing vegetables in the fields. He founded the agriculture club Aguri in 2009 with a dozen peers under the concept of "Wanting to eat delicious vegetables that make us feel warm inside."

Today, the club has developed into a large group of about 80 members. They

offer vegetables to the cafeteria and propose ideas for dishes using them. In 2018, they offered a cucumber and harusame (cellophane noodles) salad and fried kidney beans.

The Aguri members learn from the farmers how to grow vegetables, sow seeds, get rid of weeds and prepare for shipment throughout the year. The club has activity groups that handle such tasks as cooking, planning and more. Each of the 80 members is given a role to play, and that helps to make their activities efficient. Most of the students in the Koganei Campus major in science and they have a lot of classes. But they divide work properly so that they can continuously offer farm work for the farmers.

One of the farmers, Kohei Ohori gave his impressions of the Aguri students.

"I could see the growth of the students throughout their four-year student days," he said. "In recent years, the number of members is increasing, and it is not easy to divide work and teach how to harvest vegetables, but I am helped by the students, especially when I cut grass with a sickle."

He added, "The good thing about this activity is that we can let young people discover the finer points of Edo Tokyo Vegetables."

Yoshino Minakawa, a freshman in the Faculty of Computer and Information Sciences, joined the club when she entered the university.

"I learned the difficulties of agriculture through this activity," Minakawa said. "So, I have become more appreciative of the farmers and vegetables than before when I eat vegetables, and I have developed more respect for farmers through actually doing farm work."

DIVERSITY

Diverse staff generates ideas for diverse users

STAFF WRITERS

Before the internet, things were more inconvenient. If people wanted to do research, they had to go to the library or bookstore. If they wanted to exchange letters, they had to wait several days for replies. If they got lost, they had to use a big paper map. With the coming of age of the internet, Google has made everything more convenient, speedy and simple. People can use Google's search engine, Gmail, Google Maps and many more services.

Google has become part of our daily lives, and so many people use Google's services. How was the company able to create such services? Some of the reasons behind the company's creativity may lie in the playful office environment and diverse people working there.

Located on the upper floors of the Mori Tower Building in the Roppongi Hills complex in Tokyo's Minato Ward, the headquarters of Google Japan LLC is designed under the concept of modern and traditional Japan.

Each floor has a themed design and the rooms on the floor are named

accordingly. On the 26th floor, for example, each room is named after the stations on the JR Yamanote Line, including Ebisu, Shibuya and some other locational names such as Mount Fuji. Playful themes on other floors include flowers, star signs, filmmaking terms and place names from ancient Japan.

Each room in the office has different purpose and the size of the rooms varies. One room is for one person arranged like private library and another room for teleconferences is equipped with monitors. Additionally, there are shower rooms, nap rooms, massage rooms and even a Japanese-inn-style space. It may appear that the employees can feel free to stay overnight in the office, but it's prohibited.

Google values creative and innovative ideas. There are many things in the office that show the playful spirit of the Googlers, as Google staff members are known. On April 1, 2010, a group of Googlers played an April Fools' joke by creating a drum set made entirely of keyboards.

Some of Google's services such as Google Maps, Google Hangouts, Quick

Draw and applications for voice recognition are on display in the office. Additionally, part of the office space serves as an entertainment showcase.

There are three company cafeterias in Google Japan offices. The employees can cut the time to go to outside restaurants at lunch. Instead, they can enjoy meals at the cafeteria three times a day. The cafeterias offer cuisines from many regions of the world on a buffet, including dishes that meet diverse dietary needs.

Additionally, there is a small kitchen where everyone can have drinks and snacks. The kitchen is open to all employees and is popular as a place for encounters and communication that may lead to a new business idea.

Another reason why Google is able to create services that anyone can use is the diversity of its workforce. Diversity is a keyword that is getting more attention in our daily lives and our workplaces. In Japan, people often consider diversity as enhancement of women's positions and women's increased employment opportunities. However, Google sees diversity in a broader sense.

"For Google, diversity means every person who uses Google's products and services. Googlers must be diverse, because all people can use our products and services," said Ayako Kono, head of communications at Google Japan.

Google's products and services such as Android smartphones and Chrome are used by more than 1 billion people around the world. Of course, Google users include the elderly, children, the LGBTQ community and people with disabilities.

"For example, we have to listen to blind people to make sure our products work for them," Kono said. "For such situations, we should be comprised of diverse members."

That's why Google is making efforts to achieve diversity and inclusion in the office. The company should be about their services and these should reflect social conditions.

Then, how does Google improve workforce representation in the office? Contrary to expectations, the company doesn't consciously employ diverse people, but Google is a group of diverse people.

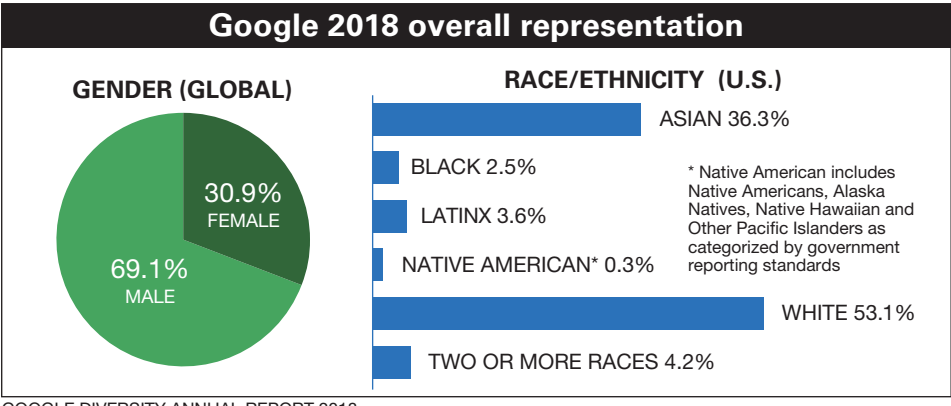
"Google only employs people who fit our corporate philosophy and culture," Kono explained. "If they don't, both Google and the employee will have a hard time."

Google does not set out to employ people with disabilities, either.

"Google employs anyone based on our global standards. Every employee in Google can be in charge of any project. Googlers with disabilities can handle Google Chrome or other projects. They are not necessarily in charge of products for people with disabilities,"



Google Japan's head of communications Ayako Kono speaks on how the company promotes diversity in the office to generate ideas for diverse users of their products and services such as Google Earth (top) and Google Maps (below). SHUN YABATA PHOTOS



GOOGLE DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2018



she said. "Google considers all employees fairly and equally."

In August 2017, Google fired a senior male employee who criticized the company's policies of promoting diversity. His discriminative text and his firing received international attention. It implies that every effort for diversity is all right and Google is still struggling to achieve its desired diversity and inclusion.

According to the Google's annual diversity report 2018, women make up 30.9 % of the company's global workforce, and men 69.1%. In terms of race and ethnicity in the U.S., 2.5 % of Google's workforce is black; 3.6 % is Latinx; 36.3 % is Asian; and 53.1 % is white.

"Respecting each other is important for diverse human resources. We cannot understand all of what others may think and we cannot eliminate all disabilities, either," Kono said. "So we live in a culture where everyone respects each other and where information is transparent."

For instance, national holidays are different in other countries. When fixing a date for an important global meeting, some of the members whose holidays are coming in a few days propose alternative dates, and they exchange opinions to fix a convenient date for everyone.

According to the Google Code of Conduct, "three respects" are fundamental at Google: respect for their users, respect for the opportunity and respect for each other. These respects are foundational to success and something Google needs to support every day.

To promote diversity in the office, Google conducts programs of unconscious bias training.

"Bias exists everywhere, and we cannot eliminate it. What is needed is making people aware of it," Kono said.

In the company's unconscious bias training, they often conduct case-study discussions. The employees are given questions such as whether they have to decrease the workload for pregnant women or not. Of course, there is not a single answer to these kinds of questions, because they relate to the perspectives and cultural backgrounds of each person.

"Therefore, we need to exchange our opinions to enhance transparency of information, and to agree on a reasonable plan," she said.

Although people may have disabilities, be LGBTQ and practice different religions, it is necessary for us to be aware of our unconscious bias and respect each other.

Supported by a comfortable environment and the company's efforts in "improving workforce representation and creating an inclusive culture for everyone," as the annual report says, diverse Googlers are expected to generate innovative and creative ideas. And Google continues to be home to eight (and counting) products with more than one billion users throughout the world.

Mayuko Nakamura, Tomoya Onuki, Norimasa Tsuchiya and Shun Yabata contributed to this article.

Support Administrative Office assists students in need

By Mio Hatai

Kindergarten teaches us to put ourselves in other peoples' shoes when interacting with them. But how many of us actually still do this?

"I wish people would look around more and offer help, if someone seems to be struggling. It actually feels good to be offered help whether I accept it or not," said Shota Muta, a senior in the Faculty of Sustainability Studies.

Muta has been paralyzed from the waist down after having a spinal cord injury in a traffic accident during his freshman year in 2016, and he has lived out of a wheelchair ever since. Simple things like commuting to university and changing classrooms can be very difficult, especially when there are lots of hills and staircases. However, Muta said that Hosei University's Support Administrative Office (Shogai Gakusei Shienshitsu) is a place he can truly rely on, even when things are quite tough.

Since 2008, the office has been supporting students like Muta, who have more difficulty in attending classes than do those who are not physically impaired. Not only does the office help students who are physically challenged, but it also provides



The Support Administrative Office is on the first floor of the Sotobori Building on the Ichigaya Campus.

help to those who are in poor mental health. Tomoki Yano, chief of the Support Administrative Office, is taking care of students, and is proud of his job. The best part of it all is when he can feel that the students actually appreciate him. However, giving a helping hand may not be so easy as it sounds.

"One of the most difficult things about taking care of students with disabilities, is that no matter how sympathetic you try to be with each individual, one can only understand a person to a certain extent," Yano said. "Whether it be a student with physical

or mental health problems, every day I do my best to understand them, but I also fear that I may be subconsciously hurting them with my words or actions."

Despite his fears, he continues to do the most he can for each student, and he believes that every Hosei student can contribute to the office if they are willing to.

Every year, the office recruits student staff members that can help others who are unable to receive education in the "normal" way. Specifically, most of these volunteers are expected to be "note-takers," who take notes instead for students with hearing difficulties. These volunteers receive a month of training before they perform the actual service. Besides note-taking, some students may help people like Muta who are in a wheelchair, to get to another classroom on a different floor or in a different building.

The Support Administrative Office always welcomes volunteer students who want to use their free time in an effective and meaningful way. Not only would it help students with disabilities, but it also helps volunteer students to be more open-minded, and understand that everyone is unique in their own way and having a disability is just one

characteristic of an individual.

One main characteristic that defines Muta is that he is an athlete despite his lower-body paralysis. He is a wheelchair rugby player, and even when he is not playing rugby, he works out at the gym. Besides enjoying sports, he also loves travelling.

"My dream is to travel around the world, and specifically, I really want to revisit Germany because that's where I was born," Muta said.

He also added that he hopes to bring back the know-how of European countries that are more advanced in terms of being barrier-free to Japan to make it an easier place to live in for those with disabilities.

Despite the lack of barrier-free facilities in Japan, Hosei University strives to change that.

"The main purpose of the Support Administrative Office is to make sure that, with our help, students with disabilities can function in the real world," Yano said.

Being different from others is nothing to be ashamed of, and the most important thing is to get the "different people" integrated into society, and give a helping hand to those in need. The Support Administrative Office is working to help us do that.



Shota Muta (left) visits Tomoki Yano at the Support Administrative Office on Nov. 21.

MIO HATAI PHOTOS

TOWARD THE WORLD

NY manga artist Misako Rocks! keeps imagining

By Ayumi Harada

Many people may give up their childhood dreams because they may find these dreams unrealistic. However, manga artist Misako Rocks!, a graduate of Hosei University, is different.

The artist better known as Misako has lived in the U.S. for about 20 years. Based in New York now, she works actively as a manga artist with her infinite fighting spirit.

"I had wanted to go to the U.S. since I was 11 years old," she said in an interview with The Hosei Herald via Skype. "My parents didn't interfere with nor support me very much. So I had a burning desire to succeed and get recognition from them someday."

She studied very hard to enter Hosei University and was awarded a scholarship from the university to study in the U.S. for a year. She graduated in 2001 and decided to go to the U.S. again.

Things were not so easy as she experienced many failures and setbacks. She even became homeless once and was driven to the depths of despair. In such a dramatic life, one day, a boy told her of the popularity of Japanese comics. Thanks to his hint, Misako started writing comics. After presenting her work to a number of publishers in vain, she was finally able to publish her debut comic "Biker Girl" in 2006. Then, her autobiographical comic "Rock and Roll Love"



An illustration from the new work "Bounce Back" by Misako Rocks!

in 2007 made her a famous manga artist.

Her comics target teenage girls. In Japan, teenage girls tend to like typical drawings seen in the Japanese girls' comics, in which characters have big and shining eyes.

"Such Japanese girls' comics won't gain popularity in the U.S. Comics like Japanese shonen (boys) manga are more popular," Misako said.

So she shows her originality by drawing with thick lines like American action comics. Although Japanese and American children have different tastes, both like kawaii things. Misako feels that American people are exposed to Japanese culture more than most Japanese imagine.

The world is becoming more globalized and today, people from all over the world can easily connect.

"However, Japan is a comfortable place for Japanese people to live in," Misako pointed out. "Japanese people should experience life abroad, even if only for a week or two. In a different culture, it will be difficult to guess what people think and express yourself."

Misako's American friends told her that talking with Asian people is scary because they show little expression. Misako agreed with that opinion so she trained herself to show more expressions and make more gestures by watching American movies and TV shows.

Also, Misako pays attention to her appearance to connect with American people. "While I was studying abroad, my favorite clothes were '70's vintage jeans that I found from rubbish and arranged by myself," she said. She wore fluorescent-colored jeans and changed her hair color once every two weeks. Some American students called her "Crazy Japanese Punk Girl."

Moreover, she always tries not to have superficial relationships. She said people need to get along with each other seriously from the beginning in American culture.

Misako continues to take on new challenges in various genres. As a manga artist, she is attracting more attention and is scheduled to publish a



New York-based Misako Rocks! speaks about her work at the Manga Mania Art Show in Manhattan.

new comic titled "Bounce Back" in 2020. Making good use of her experience, she is writing a story of a Japanese girl on the issue of bullying.

Besides her work, she also enjoys doing martial arts such as muay thai.

"Many Americans do things such as yoga to refresh themselves. But yoga doesn't satisfy me. Personally, I prefer martial arts" Misako said.

In the ups and downs of life, taking on new challenges will take you to a new world.

"Every morning, I appreciate that I'm in New York even now after 20 years," Misako said. "I was right to have hung in there."



Professor Hirofumi Emura calls on students, who translate sentences from a Swahili textbook during an Introduction of Afro-Asian class.

Third language lineup helps university globalize

By Mayuko Nakamura

There are various languages that students can study at Hosei University. Besides English and the second foreign languages, students are able to learn many other languages, from Arabic and Swahili to Latin and even ancient Greek. But what is the purpose of studying languages?

"Language limits our way of thinking on one hand, but on the other, language leads us to our dreams or something to live for," said professor Hirofumi Emura in the Faculty of Intercultural Communication. The professor teaches Arabic and Swahili to Japanese students, and also teaches Japanese to international students.

Born in Kyoto, Emura got his education in Japan. English was not his favorite subject when he was a high school student. However, he gradually began to appreciate what studying language is all about. He majored in linguistics at Kyoto Sangyo University. Since he had a strong interest in the Bible, he was curious about biblical Hebrew.

"Also, I thought that studying Chris-

tianity would lead to a better understanding of Europe," Emura said.

Amazingly, he studied five languages — German, Arabic, French, Greek and Hebrew — in his university days. After graduating from the university, he continued to study Arabic, as well as Turkish and Latin. One day, he got a part-time job to teach Japanese to an Egyptian scholar, who was invited to Japan as a guest professor to teach Arabic.

"I knew nothing about Japanese language teaching, but I thought it would be interesting to compare the structure of Japanese language and that of Arabic," Emura said.

He decided to become qualified as a Japanese-language teacher. After working as a teacher for several years at an institution for war-displaced orphans who returned from China and the University of Tsukuba, Emura started teaching at Hosei University in 1990.

In the Introduction of Afro-Asian class led by Emura, students can learn Swahili. During the spring semester they study basic grammar intensively, and in the fall semester they become able to read passages in a textbook.

One day in November, the students were reading about African wedding ceremonies in class. According to the text, traditions of wedding ceremonies and marriage vary and depend on religions and tribes. By reading textbooks, the students can also learn about African culture.

The class was small, comprised of eight students. The participants, most of whom majored in English literature, had strong interest in languages. Most of them studied French or Spanish as their second foreign language, and they thought Swahili might be a relatively easier-to-learn language compared to these Latin languages.

What other languages would Hosei students like to learn?

According to Emura, professors took a survey in 1992, aiming to improve the curriculum of the university, asking what other languages students wanted to take. The most common answers were Korean, Italian and Arabic. Italian was not included as a second foreign language class at Hosei, despite its popularity, and Korean is now one of the choices for the second foreign language.

Following the survey, Emura started teaching Arabic language and culture.

Small classes like Afro-Asian culture are held only biennially or could be eliminated.

"If this situation continues, Hosei University will have lost diversity as a learning forum," Emura said. Other universities, including the University of Tokyo, Keio University, Meiji University, provide a wide variety of foreign language classes.

As one of the "Top Global Universities," Hosei University has launched English degree programs in recent years. Non-English native students have also been encouraged to speak English.

"But I don't think English is the only language for a globalized university. To make the university more globalized, we should incorporate diverse languages that exist around the world," Emura said. "Language is a living creature. If you want to acquire a foreign language, always keep the language in mind and treat it like your lover," he said. "You may get tired of hanging with it, then you can give up. But the most important thing is to love the language," he said.

Two Hosei athletes look ahead to Olympic Games

By Tomoya Onuki

Imagine top athletes marching into the New National Stadium in Tokyo filled with 68,000 spectators from around the world at the opening ceremony of the 2020 Summer Olympics. Only a handful of athletes are able to participate in the Olympic Games, and there is a chance we may see some of our fellow Hosei University students.

The Hosei Herald had the privilege to interview soccer player Ayase Ueda and fencer Toshiya Saito, two such internationally active top athletes from Hosei. The Olympic hopefuls shared their thoughts and passion toward international sporting events.

Ueda, a sophomore in the Faculty of Sports and Health Studies, is a member of the soccer club at Hosei. He has been selected as a member of Japan's Under-21 national team.

Ueda started playing soccer when he was six years old.

"When I went to soccer matches and watched my father score, I got to thinking that I'd like to be a forward and score like him," Ueda said.

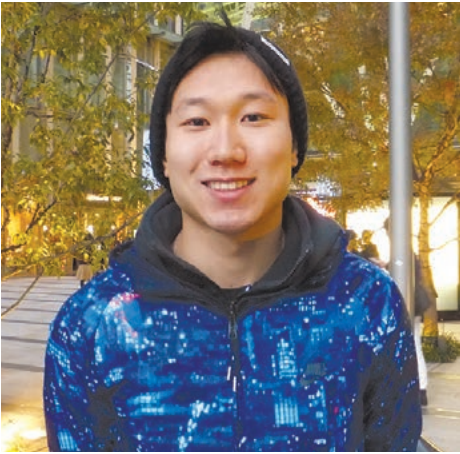
That's why he is particularly focused on scoring.

"Since I started playing, I've thought that scoring is the most important thing in soccer," he said.

Although he is an U-21 national team



Soccer player Ayase Ueda



Fencer Toshiya Saito

player today, his life as a soccer player was not smooth sailing. He was not so famous before he was selected for the first time last year.

"International games are a chance to build our value" Ueda said. "I have become well-known today by succeeding continuously. It's very important for me to get more recognition so that I can get to a bigger stage moving forward."

Ueda's immediate goal is to become a professional.

"I aim for more growth and abilities in the Hosei club in order to succeed as professional," he said.

He mentioned the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

"It is clear that the Olympics will be

a great chance if I am selected as a national team member," he said. "Participation and a good performance in the Olympics may pave the way to playing abroad at a young age."

However, he doesn't lose sight of the game's essence.

"Playing forward, all that matters is the result. I must get goals every game," he said.

Another possible Olympic athlete from Hosei, fencer Saito is a junior in the Faculty of Law. He belongs to the fencing club at Hosei and has been selected as one of the fencers representing Japan.

The reason why Saito started fencing is a bit different.

"My father teaches fencing in my

hometown," Saito said. "Also, I liked heroes in the TV programs when I was a child."

He yearned to be like those heroes who punish villains with their swords. So he started fencing at his father's club.

His career as a fencer representing Japan started when he was an elementary school student. However, he is not satisfied with being a fencer representing Japan and participating in international competitions. In the process of realizing his dream, these are "nothing but checkpoints," he said.

"Moreover, a gold medal is also a checkpoint. It is not the end of my dream," Saito said. "If I get a medal, I will be able to reach a new stage that I have never seen." He said that he had many things that he wanted to do with his experience as a fencer.

"I will never end up as a fencer who just achieved results," he said.

His immediate goal is to win a gold medal at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. "I will change my life with the medal," Saito said.

To realize his dream, a gold medal is like a ticket, but it is very difficult to win a medal.

"So the Olympic Games in 2020 is the biggest bet in my life," Saito said. "My passion toward the Olympics is as strong as anyone's."

The competition that he bet his life



Toshiya Saito (right) contributes to the Hosei University fencing club's fifth championship win, and third consecutive, in the team competition of the men's foil at the All-Japan Fencing Championships on Dec. 22.

on has already started.

Although the two athletes have different attitudes toward international competition, they share a strong will in com-

mon. Looking resolutely toward the future, Ueda keeps on kicking a ball through goalposts and Saito continues his training with the foil.

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