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Global Village

At the start of the first term, 1 April 2016, OCU opened the Global Village, a space where international and local students can freely get together, interact, organize events and study. In the first six months since the opening countless events have taken place and we wanted to give you a small impression of what has been going on and what you can expect in the future.



SETTING UP



Scale model

The interior and concept was developed by Momoko Seta, a student of the Housing and Environmental Design department of the Faculty of Human Life Science, with the active support of other OCU students. The theme of the design is 'Airport'.



Construction

Construction started from December, the entire space was stripped and then fitted with woodgrain-style floor, kitchen equipment, whiteboard wall, world map, automatic doors, etc.



Ready for landing!

The Global Village was finished right in time for the start of the new academic year in April and looked fabulous. Above is the runway design, part of the airport theme symbolizing the Global Village as a hub for international exchange.

OPENING



The official opening, by OCU President Tetsuo Arakawa, took place on 11 April 2016 with many students wearing traditional dress from countries all over the world.

EVENTS

COUNTRY SERIES

During the Country Series events international students from OCU explain about their country's culture, food, attractions and background. So far we have had events on India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.



India



Vietnam



Sri Lanka



COOKING EVENTS

Great food to share from all countries of the world and a special cooking series presented by the President himself!



Gyoza



Takoyaki



Cooking with the President!

VISITING UNIVERSITIES



Music from Thailand



Tea Ceremony for French students

Exchange events with visiting students and scholars from universities abroad



Presentation about Chicago

LANGUAGE EVENTS



Italian class

English Café

And many more events coming up!
For the full agenda, see:



International Lectures for High School Students & Citizens

Quantum and Information

The much awaited “International Lectures for High School Students & Citizens” was held on Saturday September 3rd, 2016, at the 25th floor Conference Room of the Abeno Harukas Building. This was the first ever large-scale international lecture planned and held by OCU which was targeted at high school students and citizens. The conference room was filled with an audience of many students wearing high school uniforms, listening to the lectures attentively.

The lectures were broadcast via a live-streaming system and accessed by many viewers on the Internet.

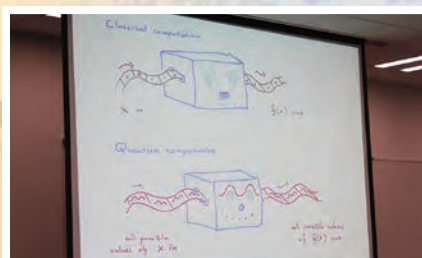


Lecture 1

Quantum Computers and Information Processing: Quantum Computer Reality

Professor Seth Lloyd, MIT

Professor Lloyd, who confessed that he “does not” use sophisticated PowerPoint presentation slides so often, prepared many slides with hand-drawn funny (but strongly appealing) pictures for this lecture. Empowered by those pictures and gesturing, he explained why quantum computers were conceived and how disruptively they are different from current classical computers. Prof. Lloyd referred to upcoming machine-learning models in ordinary life, and importantly to how big data can be processed with quantum computers in plain words so that the young audience could easily understand.



"Messages for High School Students in Japan"

Professor Michael Nobel, Nobel Sustainability Trust
(OCU's Distinguished Visiting Professor)

Professor Michael Nobel presented a special message for Japanese high school students. From the historical perspective, he examined Japanese economic progress especially in the rapid growth era, symbolized by the reliability of Japanese car-industrial technology. However, now we live in a different phase, he emphasized what the world seeks now is innovation in science and technology.

Professor Nobel urged high school students to show interest in science in order to make our world a better place. He also emphasized that it is important to follow your intuition and try new things accordingly. He closed his speech with the following advice: firstly, read books, which is a "man-made great machine", secondly, study English to gain various kinds of information via other countries and the Internet.



Lecture 2

Quantum Mechanics and Bird Migration: Making the Invisible Visible-Shedding Light on the Mystery of Magnetoreception

Professor Christiane Timmel,
Oxford University

Professor Timmel introduced what magnetoreception looks like, exemplifying many living bodies which are capable of responding to static magnetic field. It has been a long standing puzzle by what some birds navigate distances of thousands kilometers day and night. Prof. Timmel solved this puzzle, explaining the quantum mechanical and molecular mechanism of how migratory birds find the correct direction by sensing the tiny Earth's magnetic field. Her presentation included many colorful graphics and the audience attentively listened to her powerful lecture.





RESEARCH

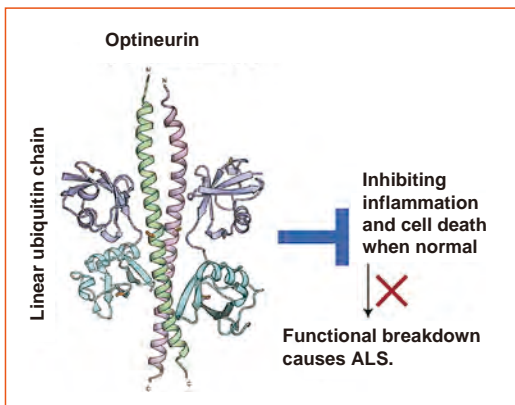
A Step Toward Overcoming Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), an Intractable Neurological Disease



Professor Fuminori Tokunaga

A research group led by Professor Fuminori Tokunaga of the Department of Pathobiochemistry found a part of the pathogenic mechanism of ALS, in collaboration with the Graduate School of Science, the University of Tokyo and the Department of Neurology,

Wakayama Medical University. ALS is an intractable disease which causes amyotrophy due to motor neuron degeneration and brings difficulties in walking, speaking, and breathing within a few years. No effective therapy for ALS has been established. Therefore, studies that aim to find the pathogenic mechanism and its therapeutic target have been advanced by focusing on familial ALS, which has evident gene mutations. In this study, molecular, cellular, and histopathological analyses were performed by using optineurin mutants, which were originally identified from Japanese familial ALS patients. The results revealed that optineurin binds to a specific protein called the linear ubiquitin chain and controls intracellular signaling involved in inflammation, cell death, and the dysfunction causing ALS. In the future, targeting the linear ubiquitin chain and inhibiting nerve inflammation may lead to an ALS therapy.



The linear ubiquitin chain binding of optineurin and its pathophysiological function

Researchers in Focus



Professor Fuminori Tokunaga, Graduate School of Medicine

The course of Pathobiochemistry led by Dr. Tokunaga from Amami-Oshima, is intended to elucidate the mechanism of diseases with inflammation and help finding therapeutic agents for them. Now he is preoccupied with finding members for his laboratory. He said with a smile, "We have a lot of subjects to study, though we have few members. Come visit us if you are an interested undergraduate or graduate student."



Scientifically Demonstrating the Anti-Fatigue Effect of Japanese Food



Director Yasuyoshi Watanabe

A research group of Director Yasuyoshi Watanabe of the Center for Health Science Innovation conducted a study elucidating the improvement of stress and brain function through intake of Japanese food*1 to scientifically demonstrate why Japanese food is good for health and successfully demonstrated the anti-fatigue effect of Japanese food in terms of subjective fatigue and autonomic nerve functions.

Since Japanese food has been named to the UNESCO list of intangible cultural heritage, the research group developed a Japanese food menu that used many anti-fatigue ingredients in conjunction with Suisan Iwakawa, a kappo restaurant in Kitashinchi, Osaka as one of the attempts to evaluate the effect of Japanese food on health.

The results of the intervention study on the anti-fatigue effect of the developed Japanese food showed that the intake of anti-fatigue Japanese food leads to a fatigue-relieving effect and improvement of autonomic nerve functions at rest and some components in the blood.

The results of this study revealed that, from an anti-fatigue viewpoint, the improvement of diet reduces feelings of tiredness and fatigue or fatigue itself, prevents falling into a state of chronic fatigue and is expected to lead to improvements in efficiency of daily work and study.

*1 Hokkaido University is the principal research institute for this study.



The study results published as an anti-fatigue recipe book

Researchers in Focus



Director Yasuyoshi Watanabe, Center for Health Science Innovation

What is fatigue? Director Watanabe, who directly challenges the things often forgotten by medicine and elucidated the mechanism of fatigue at the molecular and neurological levels, started conducting this study because he was overworked. He became a leader of a research project for brain science in his mid-forties. After maintaining an exhausting schedule for about a year, he finally collapsed. He was astonished that there were no sections on disease-causing fatigue in medical books at the time and decided his pursuit in life would be the desire to eliminate the fatigue he had experienced.



EDUCATION

Visiting Exchange Students from the University of Le Havre, France

On Tuesday, July 5, 2016, four exchange students from the University of Le Havre's Faculty of International Affairs, which has concluded an inter-faculty agreement with the Faculty of Business, paid a courtesy visit to Vice president Sakuragi. Vice president Sakuragi had the following message for the exchange students: "I am hopeful that this exchange will help you further your study of the Japanese language and gain a deeper understanding of the Japanese culture. Apart from Osaka, you will also be visiting areas of Kyoto, Nara, Kobe, and other cities. Please make it a meaningful experience for yourselves."

A program of activities, which include Japanese language studies, sightseeing, and visits to nearby high schools, has been planned over the course of about one month to allow the exchange students to experience various aspects of the Japanese culture.

The Osaka City University's Faculty of Business and the Le Havre's Faculty of International Affairs have concluded an inter-faculty agreement in 1990 as a result of the sisterhood partnership between the Port of Osaka and the Port of Le Havre. Ever since, annual exchange programs for periods of about one month have continued with the objectives to expand the circle of international exchange and nurture a greater international mindset among the students.



Commemorative picture taken during the courtesy visit



Cooking takoyaki at Matsubara Senior High School



Tea ceremony at the Global Village

@CAMPUS

One-Day Study Tour for International Students

The annual "One-Day Study Tour for International Students" was held on Friday, September 30, 2016. The students visited Ise Grand Shrine in Mie Prefecture as well as Ise Sea Paradise, which is well-known for its marine mammals. At Ise Grand Shrine, the bus guide explained the origins of the shrine as well as the official way to cleanse one's hands and perform worshipping. All participants solemnly took part in the rituals. At Ise Sea Paradise, the students could relive their innocent young days while enjoying the walrus and sea lion shows. This study tour received assistance from the Education Supporters Association.

Students listen to information about Ise Grand Shrine from a tour guide.



Highly Cited Researcher 2015 Award

On Thursday, June 2, 2016, Graduate School of Science Professor Tetsuya Satoh was presented with the Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher 2015 award at Sugimoto Campus. The Highly Cited Researcher 2015 for which Professor Satoh was selected is awarded to highly influential scientists in various fields of scientific research based on an analysis of citation trends in these. This year, about 3,000 scientists were selected worldwide, with a total of only about 80 for Japan.

David Pendlebury of Thomson Reuters presents Tetsuya Satoh with the Highly Cited Researcher 2015 award.



Urban Research Plaza Tenth Anniversary International Symposium

For three days between Thursday, September 22 (national holiday) and Saturday, September 24, 2016, the Urban Research Plaza Tenth Anniversary International Symposium "Towards a Resilient City: Bridging Urban Theories between Asia and Europe" was held. During the symposium, the latest efforts of 21st century cities in dealing with the increase in urban problems such as disparities and poverty, minority discrimination, and decreasing birthrate combined with aging population were discussed under the "resilience" banner.

Opening speech by President Arakawa



OCU student wins 'Tobitate! Study Abroad' First Prize

Engineering student Taiki Giga was awarded with the First Prize of the 'Tobitate! Study Abroad' program of the Japanese Ministry of Education. Taiki went to Turkey for 9 months to do an internship at the Izmit Bay bridge construction project and was involved as an engineer in design and quality control. The Izmit Bay Bridge was finished on 30 June and is now the 4th longest suspension bridge in the world.

Taiki Giga, winner of the Tobitate! Study Abroad prize, on top of the Izmit Bay Bridge



International Student Profiles



Elias Kania

Nationality: Germany

Exchange Student from
the University of Hamburg, Germany

Elias is on a one-year exchange program at OCU. At his home university, the University of Hamburg in Germany, he is in his 4th year of the Asian Studies program. As part of their degree students need to spend one or two terms studying at one of their partner universities in Japan. Elias chose to come to OCU after hearing that exchange students here can choose from a wide variety of classes, including classes at the Faculty of Literature and Human Sciences, but also university-wide classes, for example about Osaka and Osaka culture. One of the classes he took was on Rakugo, a form of Japanese comedy, taught by an actual Rakugo player. 'It was really interesting because it taught us about rakugo very directly and

from the player's point of view'. Elias is also preparing his graduation thesis, doing research on kabuki and making the most of his stay in Osaka by attending as many kabuki and bunraku plays as he can. His cultural interests are even wider than Japan. In Germany he already started to play gamelan and at OCU he joined the gamelan music group of one his professors, practicing in the weekends. As a word of advice to future exchange students he says: 'OCU is a small university, so it is easy to get to know other students and to have contact with your professors. You should take as much classes as you can, even if they might seem hard at first.'



Xu Yunjia

Nationality: China

Exchange Student from
Shanghai University, China

Xu is a Master student at Shanghai University, studying Japanese Culture. She is now at OCU for one year as an exchange student working on her Master thesis on the Takarazuka Revue in which she investigates the similarities and differences with a similar theater group in China. She has already seen 5 or 6 shows of which 'One Night of Stars' was her favorite because it touches upon Edo-period history and politics more than other plays. OCU was of course a good choice for an exchange year given the easy access to the Takarazuka theater (and you can get student discount tickets available at the OCU Co-Op shop!) but Xu also says she 'loves Osaka'. Her interest in Osaka's culture and history led

her to take a part-time job at the Osaka Museum for Housing and Living where she uses her Japanese, English and Chinese language skills to help visitors. 'Doing a part-time job is a really good way to get to know local people and it has also taught me to understand the strong Osaka dialect that some of the museum's more elderly staff speaks'. As if all those languages aren't enough already, she also started a language exchange with a Korean friend and attended the English Café right after the interview, following her own advice to 'make the most of your time and take every opportunity that comes your way'.



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