President’s Message

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.” - Theodore Roosevelt

Bradley J. Wilson

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第27回アリゾナ日本語弁論大会
The 27th Annual Arizona Japanese Speech Contest

２０１６年４月１７日 ギルバート高校にて第２７回アリゾナ日本語弁論大会が開催されました。今年度の参加者は４９名、そして「おいし賞」という賞を加えての大会となりました。また、北アリゾナ大学の大久保知恵先生の参加する最後の大会ということで、大会後に先生方での集合写真の撮影も行われました。入賞者は以下の通りです。

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Arizona Japanese Speech Contest Winners

Grand Prize
Emma Devane
Arizona State University

Category A
First Place
Richard Rodriguez
Pima Community College, West Campus
Second Place
Scarlet Shearin
Gilbert High School
Third Place
Saif McPherson
Arcadia High School

Category B
First Place
Itzae Blanco-Diaz
Arcadia High School
Second Place
Jacqueline Marquez
Gilbert High School
Third Place
Carine Jackson
Glendale Community College
Third Place
Gina Sleeper
Desert Ridge High School

Category C
First Place
Emma Devane
Arizona State University
Second Place
Zhaoyuan Cui
University of Arizona
Third Place
Alex Peters
Northern Arizona University
Third Place
Miguel Rodriguez
Mesa Community College

Category D
First Place
Richard Santa Cruz
Arizona State University
Second Place
Sarah Atchison
Arizona State University
Third Place
Tiffany O'Barr
Arizona State University

Best Effort
Hayden Champion
Pima Community College, West Campus

Most Creative
Emily Chase
Mesa Community College

Judges' Special
Timothy Harmon
Arizona State University
Oishisho
Guo Jiawei
Arizona State University
Penmanship
Caitlin Houghton
Arizona State University

おめでとうございます!!
Congratulations!
Japan Trip

During December 2015, my twin sister and I embarked on a trip to a place we’ve only ever dreamed of visiting one day. We were fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to travel around Japan this past winter break, making it one of the most unforgettable breaks of our lives.

Our trip started at 5am in the morning, when we were taken to Phoenix Sky Harbor to wait for our 8:35am flight to Los Angeles. We took American Airlines to fly to LA, and then Japan Airlines to travel from Los Angeles to Osaka, and then from Osaka to finally Tokyo. Being able to experience airlines from two different countries was an eye-opening experience by itself. The conduct of the flight
attendants from each airline reflected the cultural differences of Japan and America.

*They seemed to be conscious of their actions, emanating grace in every step and every gesture.*

The first thing I noticed was the politeness of the flight attendants from Japan Airlines. It wasn’t that the flight attendants from American Airlines weren’t polite. In my experience, the staff from any American airline company are polite toward customers in their speech, but it seemed to me that for Japan Airlines, the staff extended their polite mannerism to the way they moved around. As expected, the Japan Airlines flight attendants used elevated polite speech when addressing any of the customers. In my observation, they seemed to be conscious of their actions, emanating grace in every step and every gesture. As long as they were in the customer’s view, they kept their polite character up.

Once we landed in Tokyo, it was already past 11pm, and my sister and I were exhausted from the flights. We spent the first night in a hotel near Haneda Airport, around a five-minute bus drive. I was impressed by how well the desk attendants were able to accommodate for foreigners, as the lady that took care of me spoke English very well. The hotel itself was one of the nicest hotels I’ve ever stayed in. Despite the room being much smaller than the motels I’ve stayed in, the space was clean and modern, and everything was provided. Unlike toilets in America, some toilets in Japan, especially in airports and hotels in my observation, have several additions, including bidets, dryers, seat warmers, and music. All of the airport bathrooms included all of these features, but the hotel only provided the bidet and dryer, which is still much more than toilets in America. There was also a water boiler and tea on the counter, but we were unsure of where to get water, so we stopped by a Sunkus convenience store.

I’ve been told that convenience stores in Japan catered toward convenience far better than American convenience stores did. From the countless times my sister and I had gone in and out of convenience stores since then, I can confidently say that is the case. Most every store we visited, whether it was a Family Mart or a Seven Eleven, all had the same basics: packaged food, prepared foods, fresh baked goods, daily necessities, ATM’s, and more that I can’t even remember. The prepared foods included rice balls, salads, noodles, tonkatsu, curry, and side dishes. If my sister and I were too tired to go out to eat, we would stop by at the nearest convenience store for delicious snacks and hearty meals. I appreciated that most of the food selection was relatively healthy, unlike prepared food you could find in American convenience stores, like hot dogs or burritos. Because we stayed during New Years, we also were able to see stores selling prepared お節料理 (osechi ryori – traditional Japanese New Year food) in 重箱 (jubako – stacked bento boxes). Although we wanted to try it, the price went a little over our budget, and there was too much food for the two of us to finish.

*I was aware that Japan had a much more complex waste disposal system than the United States did, but I was not aware of how difficult it would be to adapt to it.*

While we would have loved to stay at the first hotel, we opted to stay at smaller hostel-like place for the rest of the trip to accommodate to our budget. Once we entered, there were two pairs of slippers for each guest, and I am still unsure which pair of slippers was meant for which occasion. We each rented a small room, the size slightly larger than the twin bed provided. The bed was elevated, and a small desk and chair was furnished below. There were three trash bins: a PET bottle bin, a
combustible bin, and an aluminum cans bin. For the entire time we were there, I have to admit that categorizing my trash was one of the hardest tasks to accomplish. Most of the time, my sister and I felt that our waste fit into none of the categories, so we could only helplessly guess. I was aware that Japan had a much more complex waste disposal system than the United States did, but I was not aware of how difficult it would be to adapt to it.

Of course, my sister and I visited all of the popular tourist destinations. Throughout our stay we went to Harajuku and tried Japanese crepes for the first time. We visited the Hachiko statue in Shibuya and crossed the world-famous Shibuya Crossing. We explored the shopping districts in Shinjuku and explored the electronic and anime-centered Akihabara and stuffed ourselves with honey brick toast. We also made sure to take a trip to Tokyo Tower to see the night view of the city. The places we visited were all exciting and fascinating, but the last few places we visited were the most memorable.

My sister and I decided that on New Year’s Eve, we would go visit shrines in Kyoto. Although we planned to spend the entire day exploring several shrines, we only ended up going to the most iconic shrine in Kyoto, 伏見稲荷大社 (Fushimi Inari Taisha Shrine). To get there, we took a bullet train at around 7 in the morning. It was about a two and a half hour ride, so we spent most of the time catching up on sleep. The entrance to the shrine was right by the Inari station, and all we had to do was follow the crowd. I wasn’t sure whether the place was crowded because it was so close to New Year’s Day, or if it were always that crowded, but nevertheless, there were a lot of people there. There were many tourists there, as indicated by foreign tongues speaking all around us and phone cameras clicking left and right. At the front was a large video screen advertising the beauty of the shrine dusted with snow. I was slightly disappointed at the sight, as I thought the large electronic screen took away from the historic beauty of the area itself. The first thing my sister and I did was wash our hands and mouth at the purification fountain at the front. We then took our first steps toward the path of vibrant orange Torii gates.

My sister and I knew that the trek up Inari Mountain would be an exhausting activity, but we were both up to the challenge. Because neither of us were very physically active people, we agreed to push ourselves to climb as high as we could before quitting and returning down to the base of the mountain. The first part of the climb wasn’t too difficult. In little time, we reached the Senbon Torri, the parallel path of smaller gates clustered closely together. Several tourists stopped to take pictures, while most of the crowd walked past them. We at least wanted to climb up to the point where most of the others would have quit the hike and descended down, so we continued to climb the seemingly endless slope. Hiking up the mountain was a challenge to say the least. Every so often, there was a resting area with vending machines that had a variety of cold or warm drinks available. At around every three resting stops, my sister and I took a much needed break to catch
our breaths, and we debated on whether to continue or head back at every resting point. We kept telling ourselves, “we’re almost there,” and would will ourselves to climb just a little more. After a little less than two hours from the base of the mountain, we were proud to finally reach the top. We cheered to ourselves and felt proud of taking on the challenge of climbing to the top. We made an offering to the Inari gods at the shrine there before starting our journey back down. Though it didn’t take nearly as long as the way up, it was still challenging, as the mountains were never a consistent downward slope. By the time we finished our hike, a little over three and a half hours had elapsed, and our legs were shaking from exhaustion. It was definitely challenging, but we came out of it feeling accomplished.

_A fascinating learning experience, where we learned a lot about Japanese cuisine, social expectations, and culture in general_

The day after on New Year’s Day, we decided it was the perfected day to do as the Japanese would do and visit a shrine. This time, we stayed in Tokyo and visited one of the most famous temples in Japan: the Meiji Temple. After eating breakfast, we took the train to the Harajuku stop, where a large mass of people were getting off. Unlike from when we went to Harajuku before, there were officials guiding the crowd with signs, leading them to the entrance of Meiji Temple. We followed the crowd, through a long dirt path surrounded by large trees. It was fascinating to see such spacious land of forest right in the middle of such a dense urban city. Once we reached the entrance, we stopped by the purification fountains and cleansed our hands as we did at the Fushimi Inari Shrine. It was much harder to move along the crowd because of the sheer density of people, but my sister and I made sure to stick together as we traveled. We each received a fortune, but the words written on the fortune were too challenging for either of us to fully understand the context of what was written.

Visiting Japan with my sister ended up not only being a fun vacation for winter break, but also a fascinating learning experience, where we learned a lot about Japanese cuisine, social expectations, and culture in general. Going during one of the most important holidays in Japan ended up being the best decision, as we got to experience so much more than if we had gone any other time of year. I am truly thankful for being able to have gone on this trip and shared the experience with the most important person to me. For that, I would like to thank all who have made this trip possible.
心引かれる （第2回前編）

Andrew Chang

ユニークな日本的美学—心引かれる日本人の美的意識と情操

ある世代の台湾人の見た日本美：

最近友人からメールで京都平安神宮、醍醐寺、など名所の桜満開の写真をもらった。胸のときめくばかりの美しさ。これが美の極致—ぱっと咲いてぱっと散る瞬間の美、その潔さ—これが日本を代表するユニークな美学ではないか。その友人から時折日本の名園の写真をも寄らす。それを見る度にうっとりした気持ちになる。特に京都の名苑はいつ見ても飽きない。いつか別のメールの友人が日本の美と美的感受にはこよなく心を惹かれるものだと漏らした事を思い出す。実はその気持ちは筆者もかねてから感じていたものでそれに同感するところがある。

その友人も筆者と同様幼時に戦前日本文化に接したことのある者で、特に戦後文化のアイデンティを失った台湾人の我々の世代が感傷的に昔を偲ぶ情緒的懐旧の念、それで空想を馳せたロマンチシズムでもないと思う。

勿論幼き時に馴染んだ事物に対する懐旧の念（或いは美化）が手伝って余計愛しく感じるとは否めない、が実際日本の美的観念は優れたものであり、東洋独特の簡素、優雅、静謐を表す日本人の独特の美意識と審美観の表したものである。

広く親しめられる日本の美的伝統と美的情操：

これに類似した見解を持つ西洋の有名人もかなりいる。
例えば明治初頭の小泉八雲（本名：ラファデオ・ホーン。1850－1904）は“飾り気のない美しさ”と評し、アメリカの有名な日本研究者・動物学者E.S.モー（1838－1925）は“日本の美は世界でも比類のない繊細、優雅なものである”と指摘し“日本人は造園芸術にかけては世界一”とコメントした。又ドイツの有名な建築家B.・タウト（1880－1938）は“日本人の趣味は高尚で古い雅致があり、生活の凡ある事象のうちに今尚生きている日本の伝統に強く心を引かれる”と叙懐した。

また日本の美を深く愛し、理解している東西両洋の学者も一般現代人も数多くいる。その一例を挙げて見よう。

もう二年前になるがシアトルの新聞か雑誌かで見た－北日本のある企業家の御曹子と結婚した若いアメリカ人女性が和服にまとい、つつましく膝をついているしとやかな姿で生け花、その姿が今でも忘れられない。

日本の伝統的美が失いつつあり、日常生活が伝統美から遠ざかりつつあることを嘆いて、それを取り戻そうとする彼女の気持ちを表している。彼女が日本美を愛する気持ちは一時的気まぐれや物好きではなく、実際日本文化には世界に比類の無い独特の美的観念があることを語っていた。

機能と能率を重んじる現代生活も悪くはないが、芸術を生活から切り離すのはなんとなくさ
びしい。やはり美を生活に入れ、ゆっくり玩味できるゆとりも望ましいものだと思う。

自然と文化の融合－日常生活に沁み込んだ自然美とその伝統：

実際日本人ほど美的感受性に富み、自然を愛し、自然に美を見出す心情と美意識は世界広しとはいえども比類が無いと言っても過言ではない。そしてそれを芸化しほとんどが広く日常生活にも沁み込んでいる。食べ物芸術もその一例である。又文化生活で見られる芸術・芸能、或いは自然・季節から取材しまたは主題にする詩歌、俳諧は四季の移り変わりを敏感に感触し、自然の風物に感懷し美的意識に強い日本人気質を存分に表している。

日本文化の有名な権威学者ライシャワーリ氏は日本美につき次のように語った：
“日本の伝統的美学は、、、、こまやかなもの、ささやかなもの、小さな物に美を見出し、或いは自然なものに美を見出す、、”まことにその通りである。

例えば日本式庭園は自然の姿－山野の自然風景を目の前に縮図にし、具体像として実現したもの。小山、流水、植木、そして園内を縫って流れるせせらぎなどは自然の風物をミニュチュライ化したものですで自然ながらの風情を与え、心を惑わされるものである。これは西洋の幾何学的に均斎の取れた広大で壮麗な庭園と強烈な対照をなしている。

日本式庭園（特に枯山水）を散策する時によく目を惹かれるのは「石」が大事な構成要素になっていることである。例えば木陰に敷かれた石の道、砂利の小径、庭や池を跳び越す飛石、皆美的に優れ象徴性があり、日本人が自然に存在して飾り気のない物の中から不均斎、非相称の「美」を見出す洗練された審美感が覗える。

“これが日本文化の自然風物の美術的価値を見出す「発見の美学」で日本庭園はアジア人が求める自然との融合一致”“生の文化の極致”にある韓国生まれの日本研究者が指摘した。（呉善花：日本が嫌いな日本人へ＝PHP）

自然の素材を生かす“生（き）の文化”は庭園だけでなく建築にもよく見られる。例えば白木で造られる神社・仏閣。そこに又建築物が自然と融合しているところから生じる自然に対する理解をはっきりと表している。

また日本式家屋の調度や掛け物は日本の清純を存分に表している。趣味が高尚で雅緻あり、簡素ではあるがそこに日本人の纏細な人間的感情を十分に流露している。そして美的調和を保っている室内装飾は小さな空間でも巧みに使いこなす。 （坪庭もその好例）

調度品として邸宅を飾るもの、凡てが小奇麗で日本芸術の特徴である。たとえば陶磁器、葉子箱、硯箱、、、など日本人の精神活動の営みが見、様々な日本文化がせめぎあってのものが見逃せない。人工的創造美といえばそれも又格別なもの。（続く）

Professional Development Corner!

L2DL & AZCALL: A joint conference on digital literacy and computer assisted language learning will take place in Tucson and online on October 3-8th, 2016. For more information: https://cerclldiglit.wordpress.com/

JLPT: The 2016 Japanese Language Proficiency Test will be held on Sunday, December 4th 2016. For more information and a list of test sites: [http://www.jlpt.jp/e/index.cgi](http://www.jlpt.jp/e/index.cgi)

熊本地震募金のご報告

第27回アリゾナ日本語弁論大会の開催時に、2016年4月16日に起きた熊本地震による災害への義援金を募りました。皆様のご協力のおかげで合計410ドルを集めることができました。いただいた義援金はJapan Business Association of Arizona (JBAA)のBeverly Washichekさんに送金し熊本に寄付していただきました。ご協力ありがとうございました。
編集後記:
２０１６年も始まったばかりと思いきや、残り４ヶ月程度となりました。このニュースレターが皆様に届く頃には秋学期が始まり、徐々に先生も学生もエンジンがかかけて来ていることと思います。

私事ですが、夏は石川県・金沢の夏期日本語プログラムで教える機会をいただいております。参加する留学生からよく聞く声に「日本のゴミの分別のシステム」があります。今号にも含まれているDavin Kimさんからのレポートでも言及されていました。私自身、日本に帰るとあまり考えることなくゴミの分別を行いますが、日本の外から見るとゴミの分別は不思議で、時には従うのが難しい習慣のようです（「日本人のご近所さんとの信頼関係を築くにはゴミ出しのルールを覚えること」といった内容のレッスンを扱う教科書もあるのだとか）。学生が実際に日本に行って、生活内で観察することをこれから教えてくれると、教師側も改めて日本の様々な面に気付かされます。

今号からProfessional Development Cornerというものをニュースレターに入れることになりました。日々の仕事で時間の制約等ありますが、ぜひ機会を見つけてここで紹介されるワークショップや学会への参加をご検討ください。また、アリゾナ日本語教師協会のFacebookページもスタートしました（リンクは1ページ目にあり）。そちらも最新の学会情報やリソースを得るのにご活用ください。それでは、また次の号、もしくは近々ワークショップ/学会でお会いしましょう！

根岸 慎