

東洋大学の思いで

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岩本 一

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It has been more than thirty years since I obtained a post in Toyo University. First, I taught at the English department in Toyo University's Toyo Junior College. At that time, the Junior college was having a boom. It had a lot of candidates for entrance examinations, so the quality of the students was very high. Our college was ranked seventh among Junior colleges in Tokyo. Its students were better at English than the students of Toyo University. I had the fullest day since I worked in Toyo University and was proud of teaching students. We had a seminar trip with a few clerical staff and enjoyed a training trip. Also, we were on friendly terms with the staff of our department and participated together in a learned society and trips. At this time, we established a language center and a center for study abroad. After students who wanted to study abroad graduated, they aimed for admission into the junior class in the University of Missouri which was cooperating with our college. Every year a few students enrolled, while a few staff at that time had already retired. Now, a few staff are teachers at other departments. For example, Ms. Hiroyo Yoshida who was a graduate student in the English department and an assistant of the language center is now an English professor in the Engineering department and an important teacher of English. Also, clerical chief Chiba was a promising young clerk and working vigorously. It seems to have been a dream as time goes on.

Soon, the world changed and students intended to advance into University not Junior college, so the Junior college entered into a decline. Then, Toyo University abolished its Junior college. Each staff transferred into a department as they wished. I was assigned to English Communication of the Department of Literature. In English Communication, the staff were a mix from all the departments. We could not concentrate with our power as a single body. Students had a lot of complaints about courses and academic staff. Discord among staff grew serious. The relationship between staff became weak, so staff withdrew into their shell and didn't communicate with each other. As if to attack our staff, students didn't want a seminar trip or a thank-you party. But the quality of students was very high and there were a lot of students who could become important in the future. I helped my seminar students graduate twice and helped graduate students finish, too. I still keep communicating with them now. When four years passed from the foundation of the Department of English Communication, impulsively, I wished to engage in an intercultural communication experience with foreign countries. Just at that moment, there was talk about the Department

of Human Life Design to be established in Asaka, my home town. I thought it a splendid chance to do my 'life work'. Nick Lambert who was a colleague at the Junior college and I transferred to the Department of Human Life Design.

In the new department, we were surprised at the lower English ability of students. English class is only once a week and according to many academic staff, they had various reasons for accepting that student ability is lower, such as students having to get a lot of qualifications and so had no interest in English education. So we consulted with clerk Atsumi (presently working in the President's Office) and made English courses that aimed at progress in student's English ability. But we could not arouse students' will and had a feeling of frustration because we could not make students progress in English. Last year, at last, by cooperation with a lot of teachers, it was agreed that from next year, students of the Department of Health Care and Sports and Human Environmental Design are to take English courses twice a week. Moreover, classes in SKAT (courses of studying abroad) and TOEIC training (tested twice a year) have started. Also, our department is offering courses in Chinese, Korean, German, and French. Students of Human Life Design begin to walk the way of Internationalization. International exchange programs are becoming more common in Human Life Design, so many students can visit foreign countries every year. It was a hard journey for long, but thanks to academic teachers and clerical staff, students will be able to take fulfilling courses from next year,

Thank you very much for supporting and caring for my needs both officially and privately.