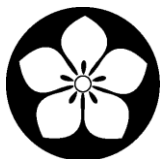


# Five College Center for East Asian Studies 2009 Study Tour of Korea & Japan



Participants' Journal



## Five College Center for East Asian Studies

---

September 2009

Greetings and thank you!

For eleven years, the Five College Center for East Asian Studies has offered—throughout New England and upstate New York—National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) 30-hour seminars on China, Japan, and Korea. Hundreds of teachers in this region—and many thousands of their students—have benefited from the seminar program, which offers background materials, stipends for teachers, materials for school libraries, and new ideas for incorporating East Asia into the curriculum. Teachers who successfully complete the two-year seminar program become eligible to apply for the Center's NCTA study tours.

“Korea and Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” is the eighth NCTA study tour program conducted by the Center in as many years. Each year, the teacher-participants are selected from large pools of well-qualified applicants. They make financial and professional commitments to the program, which is funded by the Freeman Foundation and supported by the Academy for Korean Studies.

In addition to the eighteen-day study tour in Korea and Japan, the 2008 program has required both a pre-departure orientation and a post-study tour debriefing weekend. Moreover, the program requires that the teachers not only include Korea and Japan in their curriculum, but that they also disseminate information about Korea and Japan to their colleagues during the coming academic year.

The teachers in this year's study tour program—along with study-tour leader Maureen (Mimi) Stephens (assistant director of the Center), Korea scholar Mark Peterson (Brigham Young University), Japan scholar Merry (Corky) White (Boston University), Web master Theodore (Ted) Mitchell, and curriculum advisor Blanche Milligan—have made the 2009 experience a meaningful one. This journal, an informal record of the in-country component of the program provided by the teachers, offers good reading and fond memories. My congratulations go to the “authors”! The entries are based on the theme of the study tour program, “Korea and Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

What follows includes photographs at different sites during the program, a list of participants in the program, a calendar identifying those who wrote the entries for each day, and the final itinerary.

On behalf of the Five College Center for East Asian Studies, I thank everyone for their contributions to successful orientation, on-site, debriefing, and—in advance—dissemination, activities. I look forward to reporting to the Foundation and the Academy on the exciting dissemination efforts that the teachers will be making during the coming year.

All good wishes,

*Kathy*

Kathleen Woods Masalski, Director  
Five College Center for East Asian Studies  
Co-director, National Consortium for Teaching about Asia





# The Academy of Korean Studies





June 29 - July 1, 2009

Let the adventure begin...

I was excited to wake up and meet everyone at the airport. After being up for 30+ hours, we arrived at the Academy of Korean Studies. Everyone seemed ready to crash. After a night of sleep we ate breakfast at AKS. I was able to try a few new foods, but am more excited to go outside the academy and get a real taste of Seoul. After breakfast a few of us took a walk around the campus. I love the trees and wonder if they are all trimmed or actually grow that way.

The lunch today was amazing. Everytime I thought we were done more food would come our way. I loved it. The presentation of the food is undescrivable. It was simply beautiful. I loved trying new foods and experiencing new tastes. Lunch made me more excited to get out and see Korea.

The two lectures were interesting. Joo-kyung Kim's lecture on the Korean Economy amazed me at how rapidly the S. Korean economy has changed in 40-50 years. I also liked learning about the Vietnam War and how S. Korea sent soldiers so that the USA would not withdraw USA troops from Korea. Also the pictures of the S. Koreans demonstrating against the normalization of relations with Japan reminded me of the Civil Rights Movement in the USA. I think my students would love to see these photos and maybe it would help them understand how in many countries citizens can protest. Christian J. Park's lecture was also interesting. I am very interested in family life and the stereotypical roles of men v. women in any society. It is scary to think that there is almost a 40% gap (2004) in the amount of wages a man earns compared to a woman in the same job. Thinking about how much S. Korea's economy has changed, I wonder how long it will take for this gap to shrink drastically.

Overall, it has been a great start. I think the towels in our bathroom ~~were~~ couldn't be any smaller! How nice that they had snacks waiting in our room!

Can't wait to see what else the Study Tour has in store...

Rebecca

"





Professor Mark  
Peterson



Lectures at the Academy of  
Korean Studies



Cheonggyecheon in Seoul



Thursday, July 2nd ...

Wowee -- the thunderstorms this morning were crazy! Most of us well actually all of us, were rather soaked! After breakfast we began another lecture on the Korean Peninsula and North/South Korea relations. We also met Mark Peterson, our Korean scholar, who arrived last night. I think he may be god-what Knowledge and Humility. I'm glad he is here to provide more information and facts for us, as well as give better perspective to the lectures we've gotten the last two days.

Mr. Hwang's lecture this morning was interesting. Many of us were looking forward to this presentation on North and South Korean relations, especially in light of the recent weapons testing. The presentation was a basic overview of the conflict and division of the peninsula, though did not really teach us anything we didn't already know. This is where Mark really comes in handy. On our bus rides he is able to provide more information, details, and perspectives on the topics presented that day. I enjoyed the deeper details!

The food has been first rate. Today's lunch was also wonderful. We ate at a Korean place outside the academy at low tables. It was a faster lunch than the day



before as we were headed to Jump! and the Samsung factory.

Samsung was really interesting and so high tech. Anything you could imagine was there from ovens that did the cooking and preparation for you to TVs that were  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick. There was even a wall of water and synthetic grass. It really pushed my mind to think outside the box. Though I hope we do not replace a beautiful hike outdoors with a grass wall, the concept was still interesting.

Jump was rather funny and nothing at all like stomp. An hour and a half of martial arts with a thin plot line/story. Very cool!

The best part of the day for me was walking in downtown Seoul. It felt like any other modern city -- Starbucks, Baskin Robins, Dunkin Doughnuts, mixed with stores that are unique to Korea. The stream that runs through the city is beautiful and lush - a perfect spot for an evening walk with friends. Can't wait to see what adventures are in store for tomorrow. -ERICA





## The Academy of Korean Studies Presidential Welcome

## Yongin High School Visit



Gyeongbokgung



"All streams flow to  
the ocean"

Friday July 3

Quoted from President Kim Jung Bae's  
favorite poem

We had a busy day today! It started out with a morning meeting with the Academy of Korean Studies - President Kim Jung Bae. He was very welcoming. He had a translator though I think he could speak English since he studied in the states. I wonder why this is? He hoped we were enjoying our time here, he spoke about his good memories of American soldiers, he apologized for the weather and construction going on, on campus, he wants us to tell people back in the states that you have friends in Korea, and he left us with a thought - He wants us to know the 'true' Korea and hopes our students will as well. Well I want to know what the true Korea is but how can that be when they bring or show us certain things? What is this telling us?

Our group then moved on to a lecture on the Korean War in U.S. textbooks given by Wonsuk Chang a senior researcher at AKS. He told us about his research on the way the Korean war is told in American, Chinese and Korean textbooks, and how narratives take sides. Great discussion took place afterwards with great questions posed by Jeremy - What is the view of America in Korean textbooks? Anne asked about different perspectives, Amy asked for a North Korean excerpt on the war from a North Korean text.



And Rachael asked who won? Well china, USA, South Korea say its a draw and North Korea thinks they won because they kept the American soldiers out!

The next group activity took us to Yongin High School, where we were welcomed by a big banner at the school gate - "Welcome Professor Peterson and his group"!! The Principal and Vice Principal greeted and welcomed us to their school. We then got tours of the classrooms and got to interact and talk with students. In science class they were conducting an experiment on ions, English class students were learning about how to order food in a restaurant - Amy tested one group! What was your favorite food? Who had the best service? In computer class students were creating a computer program and the young boys really took a liking to Brett. In social studies class students were learning about the Korean independence movement through a powerpoint and lecture. Most classes had between 40 and 50 students! Can you imagine this in America? After classroom visits we had a lavish snack time with many sweets, fruits and veggies. After this we had a presentation on the school which many of us found fascinating.



School motto: sincerity, cheerfulness, cooperation

Education Goals: service minded people, cultured person  
creative people, global person

Teacher's Effort

Emphasis: reading, foreign language, humanity education

School symbols: juniper, rose, dove

School population: Total 1,644  
in grades 10, 11, 12 - girls out number boys  
by at least 3 girls to every 1 boy

School day: start 8:10 am (Reading)

really start 8:40 am - 1<sup>st</sup> class

50 minute classes with 10 minute break in between each

last class 16:20 pm

most students take part in this

After School	16:40 - 17:30 (complimentary learning)
Dinner	17:30 - 18:40
After School	18:40 - 22:00 (self learning)

School year March 1<sup>st</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> - 1 month summer vacation (mid July)  
1 month winter vacation

I would say that this is going to be one of the highlights on our tour. After our group picture our bus took us across town to Gyeongbokgung Palace which was glimpse at traditional architecture among the highrise buildings of Seoul. Professor Peterson told us many interesting facts about this complex and we got to walk through a small portion of this vast palace. It was built in 1395 during the Joseon Dynasty and today is a national symbol. Our group then headed to Insa-Dong a region of ~~Seoul~~ Seoul city where we shopped strolling the streets and shops for pottery, chopsticks, fans, brushes and trinkets. Some of us were very successful! We then sat down for another feast for dinner! All of us left feeling full and satisfied. Now it's time to pack and move to Chengju. Sarah





Cheongju Home Stay Welcome Ceremony



Korean Barbeque  
Dinner with  
families

Cheongju Early  
Printing Museum





July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

I don't know if my homestay experience was an exception, but if everyone had as unforgettable of a day as me than this is certainly one for the record books. My sequential order of this day will be a tad bit screwed but I wanted to talk about what was freshest in my mind first. The Kim family were all such memorable people. Both parents were alive with energy. We had the obvious language barrier but somehow were still able to laugh and joke about almost everything. Their kindness was remarkable and each person left me with both tangible and intangible gifts that will last a lifetime. Mrs. Kim actually gave me a han-bok after I mentioned that they were gorgeous & that I wanted to buy one for myself. She taught me how to tie it correctly and wrote down the name (in Korean) of the undergarment that I would need to complete the dress. Teddy (the son) gave me my own Korean name - Chi Young Kim - that included the family surname. Angela (the <sup>daughter</sup> ~~son~~) created a welcome poster that was simply gorgeous, as well as sketching a portrait of me sitting in the Kim home with a lovely message in both English & Korean. The gifts given to me certainly made me feel like I would want to send something more to them other than the homestay gift I had given them. We made such a connection that I truly felt ~~as~~ like one of the family when it was time to leave.

We had Korean barbeque for dinner. It was a pork based meal that fried on a skillet at the table. At first, the teenagers were too shy to speak to me. Apparently, in other homestays they've



hosted, the ~~first~~ guest stayed for more than 1 night. I think the kids thought they would have more of a chance to speak to me at another time. The Kim's and I sipped on so-ju and giggled away the time at the restaurant. After dinner, Jeremy & Deb's homestay families and mine met at an apartment for even more (!!!) food. I feel like a big portion of this trip has been devoted to sampling native cuisine. It's all so flavorful, but also incredibly quantitative. How do such a lean population stay so trim when they eat as much as they do!?! It's one thing that I am tremendously grateful to the AKS & NCTA for supplying us with these culinary delights. One neat little tidbit that I will remember about Korea is that this restaurant actually had bells on the table (buzzers) that you would press when you needed a waitress. We pressed that button often tonight as we cheered on each new friend with a glass of so-ju. ☺

The printing museum was also quite memorable as well. I felt I learned a lot and it was very helpful having Mark Peterson there. He really broke the region's claim to fame down into intelligible parts. I loved making my own journal and using various techniques to create my finished product. I can't wait to tell my students all about how I made paper and then bound it into a book... including pages with rubbings made from metal moveable type!!!

What an amazing day!!

Jenise

→ → →



O.K. I'm not done! I forgot to mention one of the most wonderful parts of the day! When we arrived ~~at~~ the welcome reception, the families had made these beautiful posters for us all. The congressman was there to welcome us. It was so well organized. We learned how to use Korean percussion instruments and were taught the national song "Arrirang". The smile committee did such a tremendous job planning this event & making us feel welcome throughout this somewhat ~~awkward~~ <sup>un-</sup> awkward occasion. Most of the group had very memorable experiences & highly recommend this experience for NCTA tours!

---



# Haeinsa Temple

Buddhist Monk's Tomb



Buddha Statue

The Tripitaka Koreana






July 5, 2009

## Good Morning Cheonju!

This morning we all woke up to the sights and sounds of our host family's homes. We were anticipating a traditional, family-style Korean breakfast. Though our meals were different and our experiences were diverse, when all was said and done, we had a great time. At 9:00 our host



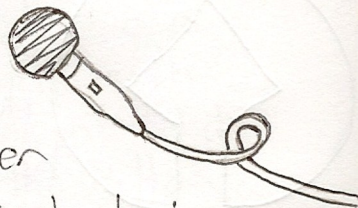
 Families brought us back to meet the bus. We came to the parking lot one by one carrying gifts, posters and food from our host families. The atmosphere was exciting as conversations in English and Korean started up here and there about our previous night's homestay. The Korean families formed a receiving line and we shook each person's hand as we loaded the bus.

Annyeong-hi gaseyo  
안녕하세요

Good-bye!

## Traveling to Haeinsa

The first moments on the bus were exciting as we opened our gifts and exchanged some quick stories. Mimi had the idea to pass the microphone around the bus to tell each other about our homestays. We described awkward moments trying to speak with our host families, of charming children performing taekwondo, and of elderly grandmothers sitting on the floors of their rooms smoking. Some of us went to the fortress or the smoke signals. Some of us went







Some of us went to the neighbor's apartments. Some of us went for a walk or out for a drink. Others tried on traditional costumes or discussed international fishing techniques. Jeremy was even interviewed by a local TV station! It was interesting to learn about each other's homestays.

After almost all of us had told our stories, it was time for a rest stop. Mark introduced us to pancakes filled with brown sugar and nuts and many of us made a stop at the Maxwell House stand for a nice cup of coffee.



## Our Haeinsa Adventure

On our approach to Haeinsa some of us were a little bit nervous because of the steep banks on the side of the road and the fact that our driver hit a pedestrian less than two days ago, but we made it up safely. We had a quick lunch and then started our short hike up to Haeinsa.

The path wound up a mountainside forest with stone bridges and tall trees. We stopped to look at a monument erected for a soldier who disobeyed orders to bomb Haeinsa and was locked in jail.

The soldier was later released and decorated for having the sense and bravery to leave Haeinsa standing. We later stopped at some monuments that house the jewels found upon the cremation of the monks.

When we reached our destination we were overwhelmed by the colorful halls and elaborate architecture. We crossed over the three thresholds gates and found ourselves at a maze on the





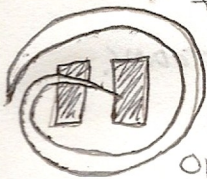
ground in front of the main hall. The maze on the floor was actually a one-way path that people walk while saying a buddhist poem. We walked up farther until we got to the Janggyong Pango that houses over 80,000 carved wood blocks. The blocks are made of birch and soaked in brine before being dried and carved. The blocks are called the Tripitaka Koreana. The Janggyong Pango was also impressive because of how well it was built to preserve the Tripitaka Koreana. The floor is made of charcoal and clay and the different sized windows (small on top, big on bottom) help keep the texts well ventilated. We had some free time to explore on our own and then we made our way back down the mountain pass. Mimi treated us to ice cream when we got close to the bottom.



We all got onto the bus and Mark told us some anecdotes about Shamanism including the story of some shamens blessing their truck in front of Marks house and a time when he went to a shamen to have his friend's exam blessed. After the shamanism talk we had some quiet time on the bus.

### The Gyeongju Hilton

As weary travelers with sleepy eyes we arrived at our hotel. We were overjoyed to have gorgeous, single rooms with full sized beds and towels and other American-style comforts. I was happy to see that the Hilton hadn't lost all of its Korean charm however when I opened the desk drawer and found the "Teachings of the Buddha" next to the new testament. We ate lavishly at the international buffet (complete with a soft serve machine!) After dinner we had some free time to walk the lake, go for a drink, or just relax. Overall, perhaps the best day yet!



- Kelly O'Brien



Silla King's  
'Heavenly Horse'  
Tomb



Cheomseongdae –  
Observatory



Bulguksa Temple



July 6<sup>th</sup> GYEONGJU

THIS IS DEDICATED TO BARBARA WHO WAS SICK AND COULD NOT BE WITH US.

VISIT: Included historical sites: BULGUksA TEMPLE, SUKGULAM GROTTO, ROYAL TOMBS AND astroLOGICAL observatory, as well as ORUNG NAJBONG WELL. LECTURES BY MARK ILLUMINATED EACH SITE AS WE PROCEEDED THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND BROUGHT THE SITES "ALIVE" IN OUR IMAGINATIONS.

Myths, mounds, tiered pagodas, a flying horse, miraculous births and a beheading complete with a stream of exploding milk SENDING ITS VICTIM'S HEAD FLYING OVER THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS, THESE WERE THE ENCHANTING FAIRYTALES WE HEARD TODAY AND WANT TO BELIEVE TODAY ARE TRUE.

FOR EXAMPLE, LEGEND TELLS US THAT ONE DAY IN 69 BC, A VILLAGE CHIEFTAIN SAW A WHITE HORSE ON ITS KNEES BY A WELL. SUDDENLY THE HORSE DISAPPEARED. THE CHIEF CONTINUED TO EXPLORE. HE CAME UPON A LARGE EGG. OUT OF THE EGG, CAME A BABY BOY. AT AGE 13, THE REIGNING CHIEFTAINS ELECTED THIS BOY THE SHINING PRINCE WHO BECAME KING OF THE FUTURE KINGDOM OF SILLA.

THE ASTROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY, ORDERED TO BE BUILT BY A QUEEN, REQUIRED COURT OFFICIALS TO LAY ON THE FLOOR ONCE A YEAR AND OBSERVE THE HEAVEN'S ABOVE. THE CONJECTURE IS THAT THIS WAS USED FOR PLANNING - A CALENDAR IN EFFECT, USING THE STARS/PLANETS TO PREDICT WHEN TO PLANT CROPS. IF THE KING WANTED TO STAY IN POWER IT WAS CRUCIAL HE PLEASED THE PEOPLE JUST AS ANY WORLD LEADER TODAY. WAS THE TOWER REALLY AN OBSERVATORY? TRUTH OR MYTH? SOME BELIEVE IT WAS A CREMATORIUM.



AS WE TOURED TEMPLE AFTER TEMPLE, SIMILAR THEMES APPEARED. BEAUTIFUL TILED ROOFS, ROUND CARVED END CAPS WITH DESIGNS, PAINTED RAFTERS ALL IN THE SAME PATTERNS AND DESIGNS, INCLUDING PAINTED DRAGON HEADS. THE MINT GREEN BACKGROUND COLOR WHICH PREVAILED THROUGHOUT WAS A MIXTURE OF GREEN + VERMILLION RED, WHICH IS A PART OF MY OWN PAINT PALETTE.

MAGNIFICANT BUDDHAS, GOLD GILDED, AWAITED US INSIDE EACH TEMPLE AS PRAYER CARDS FLUTTERED OVERHEAD. OUTSIDE ONE COULD BUY A "ROOF" TILE. THAT WOULD BE PROPPED AROUND THE STAIRS TO THE TEMPLE. THE TILES WERE WRITTEN IN LANGUAGES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CONVEYING MESSAGES + PRAYERS.

MOST IMPRESSIVE WAS THE TOMB THAT WAS EXCAVATED AND WHICH WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. CRUSHED CROWNS, BELTS AND FOOD JARS WERE ALL THAT REMAINED IN THE ORIGINAL BURIAL PIT. DISPLAYS SHOWED REPLICAS OF GOLD CROWNS, BELTS AND OTHER ADORNMENTS. COMMA-SHAPED PIECES OF POLISHED JADE WERE ATTACHED TO FILIGREE BELTS. SOME BELIEVE THEM TO BE BEAR CLAWS; OTHERS SEE THEM AS EMBRYOS. THE BEAUTIFUL CROWNS ARE SO LIGHT THEY CAN NOT BALANCE ON ANYONE'S HEAD. SCHOLARS THINK THESE CROWNS WERE MADE FOR BURIAL PURPOSES.

THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO TELL BUT I AM OUT OF TIME AND SO THIS WILL HAVE TO SERVE AS A STARTING POINT FOR YOU TO RECALL YOUR OWN MEMORIES OF THIS EXQUISITE AND SUNNY DAY.

KATHLEEN

P.S. Barbara, we have many pictures for you, and Amy WHILE MAKING A RUBBING OF AN END CAP FOR YOU, ENDED UP WITH THE TILE HERSELF WHEN A VILLAGE GENTLEMAN TOLD HER TO KEEP IT.





Yangdong  
Confucian  
Village

Oksan Seowon  
Confucian  
Academy



AKS  
Farewell  
Dinner



July 7, 2009

- "Confucius talked about preserving each moment and getting the most out of each moment. Like water flows by because once it flows by it never comes back again - you don't get a second chance."

- Lee Ji Rak

(translated by Mark Peterson)

- ~ It was a little disappointing to leave the comfort of the Hilton in the pouring rain, but not nearly as frustrating as hiking up to Yangdong in medium dress! But it was all worth it! Another interesting encounter. This time discussing the history and dynamics of a working Confucian village. Mr. Lee was very easy going and with the help of Mark we were able to ask a lot of good questions. His parting words, although scientifically inaccurate, were very prophetic. Down the road at the Oksan Seowon Confucian School we enjoyed the lecture and architecture, but not as much as "discovering" the Confucian tablets of Lee Eon Jeok, Mr. Lee's 17<sup>th</sup> generation great grandfather.
- ~ Off to Seoul on a long bus ride in the rain - buckle up! Lunch buffet, Korean robot service women, gelato, coffee, a visit from grandpa jump and a quick kiss between Anne and Brett made for a quick pit stop and an even quicker trip to Seoul.
- ~ Another beautiful hotel (Ibis) with great rooms and



a spectacular view of the city. We all cleaned up very nicely to head out for our final dinner in Korea. I don't think anyone expected the lavish dinner and gifts bestowed upon us by AKS. I think the personal comments from each group member really allowed Dr. Lee to see how much we appreciated the opportunity to be here - I hope he can relay the sentiment to the academy president.

- It will be with a heavy heart that we will leave Korea, Sharon, Mark and Mr. Kim, but the excitement of a new journey awaits in Japan.

- Rachel Killion





Tokyo at Night

Zojo-ji Shrine in  
Shiba Park



Tokyo Through Zojo-ji Gate



July 8, 2009

I will start this entry with a sigh of relief:

I have clean clothes! Thanks to Erica's guidance and contributions, I had the will power and patience to complete a load of laundry on our last night in Seoul. It was no easy task. The small room was hot, crowded, and the object of intense competition. Together, our powers of persistence have made the rest of our time in Asia far more comfortable.

The real topic of this journal is our first day in Tokyo! There is much that I am already pleased with:

1. Everything is not in English.
2. Shinto shrines pop up everywhere.
3. Our resident scholar, Corky, has already made a strong impression.

On the first point, I have to say that the added challenge of decoding makes the city feel, as rightfully so, more foreign than Seoul. Tonight, I attended a dinner where the entire menu was in Japanese. This caused for a greater interaction between our eating party and the restaurant's staff. We had a meal that was truly different as a result. In Seoul, every menu was translated for us, and there was (so far in comparison) a stronger presence of American fast food franchises. The second point, that of the Shinto palaces, will aid in my classroom instruction.



The blend of historical and modern aspects in Tokyo speaks for the balance that people ~~the~~ must strike on a daily basis. All over the world societies struggle with how to retain a distinct identity in the face of greater globalization and industrialization. Tokyo, as advanced as it is, merges ancient religious practice with towering skyscrapers. Around any corner you may find a *toji*, a marker for a holy place. My own students would find this blend exceptionally interesting, and it may be something they can relate to. ~~as they relate~~ the spiritual demands of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim ideologies.

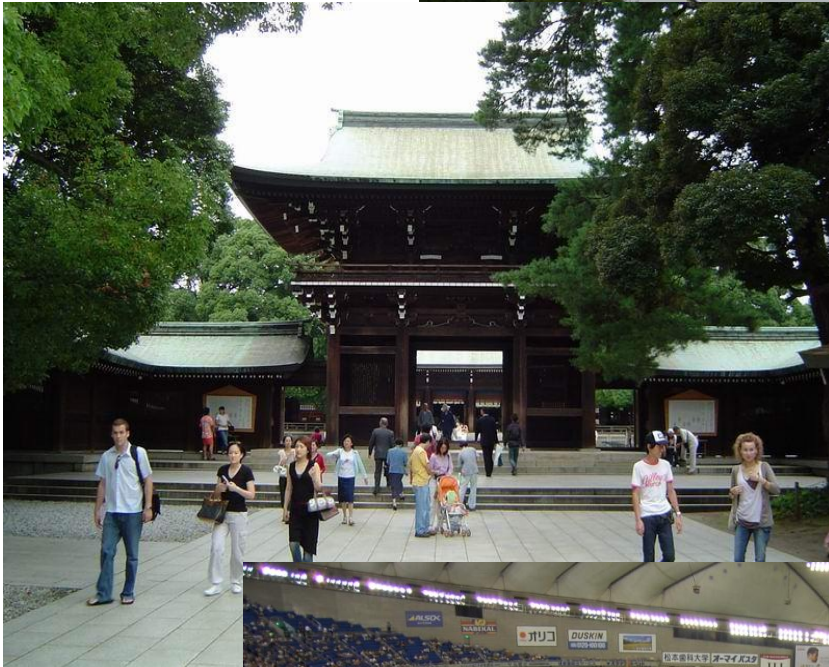
On a final point, Rocky is amazing! Unfortunately I cannot replicate her sake activity with my own students; I can, however, see the immense value of her method. It was impossible to not have an opinion on our sight or another. Everyone of us was actively participating, taking notes, and having a springboard for new learning. I was so excited for my day in Tokyo tomorrow that I just spent an hour looking at my options and planning my day.

Hoory for Japan!

- Lu Tiedu



Tokyo Tower



Meiji Shrine



Tokyo Giants Game



9th July 2009

First full day in Tokyo. Breakfast foods from the convenience store are particularly good and allow some frugality (more to spend on books and classroom materials!).

Today the group split into smaller groups with local guides for the morning. It was hard to know which tour would be most interesting but in retrospect each tour seems to have had its own merits and strengths.

I was on a tour which started by ascending the municipal tower to an observatory. I had heard that the city was big but the view from the top more than confirmed that. Tightly packed high rises and multifamily houses stretched to the horizon in every direction. Very little green, few parks and trees in evidence just vast conurbation. Later on I noticed that despite the bustle of the urban jungle there are places of great serenity and beauty tucked away here and there. Traffic noise vanishes in parks. The most striking scene was a man with a very long handled corn broom sweeping the gravel path to the Meiji shrine. Despite being in the center of the city the swish swish of his broom was an almost mesmerizing sound. This is a land of contrasts. Very low tech (ecologically friendly) ways of doing many things coupled with cutting edge technology.

This would make a great Compare/Contrast essay lesson plan





Another similar compare contrast struck me when we visited a museum ~~of~~ of Japan during WWII. The suffering of the general population and especially those troops held by the Russians was huge. We spoke with the guides about the bombing of Tokyo. She said that she has visited Dresden and London both of which were similarly devastated during the war. I am thinking about the effects of war, especially in countries which experience the fighting intimately on home soil is never positive even if they are victorious. I find it almost impossible to think that someone wins in war. I suppose stockholders, generals and politicians may benefit financially or in terms of ego but...

The Meiji shrine was an experience! The guides explained that on New Years there are about three million visitors that day. Each goes to the shrine to pay respects and ask for a wish to be granted. I made a wish there to see whether it is true. I think if you believe strongly enough then almost anything is possible and likely.

Looking around the "fashionable teenage shopping streets" was very interesting. I saw teens who looked very familiar in their ways to many of my students. I have lots of pictures and may develop a lesson plan for psychology class in some way.

Baseball in Japan is not like the Red Sox, sorry but it just isn't :)

Peace   
Jeremy 





Kanegasaki Sister City  
Amherst Mural at the  
Town Hall

U.S. Teachers Singing  
to Host Families



Anne Singing with the  
Kanegasaki Junior High Choir



July 10 - Kanegasaki! We ~~the~~ departed from the Shiba Park Hotel and went to the train station. Corky advised us to peruse the bento lunch options in the station which was a real delight. It was difficult to choose from the vast array of offerings, but I ended up with a delicious meal. Waiting ~~on~~ by the track, I saw my first double decker train. I did not even know these existed. When our train came, before we boarded it, personnel swept through, clearing out any debris, which Corky informed me they do at every stop. So we stepped onto an immaculate train, and I luckily slept on the ride.

We were met by Mr. Takahashi and Myuko, from the Life Long Learning Center, who were our guide/hosts during our stay in Kanegasaki. There was a brief reception with a welcome by the assistant Mayor of the town, and then we joined our host families for a brief snack and then departed for our homestays. (Following a tour of the impressive Town Hall: ~~The~~ The Town Assembly Hall room was like a mini-U.N. hall, and the Confucian hierarchical tradition was clearly manifested here. The



Mayor sits on a raised dais almost like a Pulpit in an Episcopal Church, and is flanked on either side by lower seats for the next tier of command. Facing them in lower seats are the rest of the assembly, and behind them, behind a waist-high partition, are seats for the public.)

Rebecca and I stayed with the family of Fumijiro Takahashi. He had his home built the previous year, and it was designed in the traditional Japanese style, with tatami rooms, sliding panel doors, beautiful carved wood panelling, and paper screens. Mr. Takahashi invited us to view his shrine room which was very elaborate. The shrine had intricate carvings, painted in gold, rich brocade cloth, and pictures of his ancestors. He demonstrated his daily ~~of~~ prayer ritual to honor his ancestors, and explained that each member of his family does this ritual each morning.

Whoops! Now I know I'm truly sleep deprived because I skipped over a truly essential part of the day → Our visit



to the Kanegasaki Middle School! We got to tour the entire school while it was in session. I was especially pleased that we got to hear their middle school choir rehearse. They were singing a very complex modern ~~piece~~ piece with 4 part harmony and countermelodies that went in and out of one another. Very impressive. There was no side-talking or goofing off during the rehearsal. The students were totally focused and engaged. Actually, I was impressed by the ~~low~~ high level of focused attention at both the Korean highschool and Kanegasaki Middle School. The students seem to really appreciate their education. A very different social environment from schools in the U.S.

Rebecca and I truly enjoyed our homestay. The grandmother and mother taught us how to tie the "obis" which they had given to us. And in the morning, our host took us for a walk to tour his property and view his farm. Very beautiful. It is nice to take a break from the large cities and to spend some time in a rural area. — Anne Louise



Hiraizumi  
Temple



Historic Samurai  
House in  
Kanegasaki

The Farewell  
Dinner in  
Kanegasaki





(M)(H) Saturday July 11

I did not think that my Korean homestay could be surpassed until spending the evening with Jeremy and "Take" Suzuki. A Summer BBQ that would beat any in the states gave both of us a wonderful entry into Japanese family/friend culture. Both of us highly enjoyed this homestay!

All of us returned to the Hotel Midori No Sato around 9am to prepare for a full day of activities. All of us were thrilled to hear the news that the day had become a majority (M) day! ☺ We took a scenic bus ride through town, then we enjoyed a rural tour along the backroads of Kanegasaki... which reminded many of us of the White Mountains in NH. The rolling fields with the majestic mountains in the distance gave us an alternative look at Japan's geography... having spent our time prior to this in the Tokyo metro area. Very beautiful! We made a short stop at the Senganishi Forest Park that allowed us to take in the view of a lake backdropped by tall mountains and deep green forests. It was a relaxing place to enjoy the view and walk. Our bus tour continued through the backroads, passing rice Paddies, vegetable gardens, larger farms, and huge tracts of forest land. On the far end of Kanegasaki we drove through the industrial "park" area that included several companies employing nearly 5,000 people each day. This increases the daytime population of Kanegasaki to around ~~22,000~~ 21,000 (16,000 @ night). Some companies included a pharmaceutical company, a Toyota electric parts plant, a Fujitsu computers, a Toyota car factory, and Mitsubishi Paper Company. Industry was moved to more rural Japan in the past 20 years after the national government made a decision to spread industry throughout the country. We then viewed the Kanegasaki train station enroute to the historical houses tour (this was in the neighborhood Jeremy and I stayed overnight in). We



were escorted to various historical sites on a walking tour which was both very beautiful as well as informative. The rich history of the town and Japan as a whole will make a great component to existing curricula. We especially enjoyed visiting the former home of a Samurai and learning about daily life. Many children were also visiting and provided the group of us many wonderful views of relationships between friends and mothers/child(ren). We were able to interact with some as well. We then returned to the bus and went for a group lunch at Sakura. A traditional Japanese meal was served at this new (open 1 1/2 yrs) restaurant which offered both traditional seating as well as tables. The food included chicken (though some thought it was duck), green beans, onions, miso soup, and cantelope... and of course RICE! During lunch we were treated to a Kamishibai demonstration too. After filling our stomachs we departed for a 45-50 minute bus ride to the cultural area known as Hiraizumi. This is a vast area sitting among some small hills overlooking the land below. We toured several temple sites as well as a small museum. The true highlight was the national treasure Chuson-ji temple shining bright as it is fully adorned in gold. We listened to the explanation over the speakers too. Overall, we came away once again amazed by the beautiful scenery, architecture, and serenity of these places. Standing among 400 year old trees as the sun filtered its rays through its upper reaches provided necessary shade as well as a reminder that nature and beauty surround this place. We departed with many pictures, memories, and for Anne a fortune card that may or may not have said she would have good or bad luck. Returned to Kanegasaki and visited the Lifelong Learning Center... saw many adult ed classes in session. Visited the public library which was VERY impressive in terms of size and resources. A special section dedicated to Emily Dickenson and Amherst, MA was



Shown to our group... only 10,000 miles away! Many of us took some time there to check out the facility... look at magazine/newspaper section, checkout computers, and view books on the shelves. Our final stop was at a street festival we were personally invited to by the mayor of Kanegasaki, we sat @ tables and enjoyed some snacks and beverages while taking in the late afternoon air. Our short stay at the festival was due to our scheduled arrival @ a reception held in our honor at the hotel. We very quickly spruced up into (H) dress and assembled in the hall. We were actually taken by surprise by the level of importance the reception became upon our arrival. We were treated like true V.I.P.'s and entered into the reception similar to how a wedding party enters (minus the individual intro's) we sat @ our tables with our host families as well as important town + school officials. After some opening remarks by the mayor we were ushered to the stage to introduce ourselves. This was met with much applause. Dinner was served as other remarks and gift exchanges took place. A variety of Japanese delicacies (sp?) were available on our tables along with many varieties of beverages. We conversed with our host families and many others as we mingled around the room.

After saying our goodbyes we all retired to our rooms and socialized, showered, fell asleep, or enjoyed the onsen. Most of us went and used the Onsen, the spa area where a communal bath of hot and cold water await



a tired traveler. I highly enjoyed the experience! Many of us enjoyed sleeping in a traditional Japanese room as well. After an exciting day touring the beautiful town of Kanegasaki as well as a wonderful reception we finally called it a night and slept... thinking of the next stage of our study tour... on to Hiroshima and Kyoto! Goodnight!

— BRETT ☺

P.S. I apologize for the writing... portions of this were written on a bus, a train, and laying in bed.





Kanegasaki Tour Bus

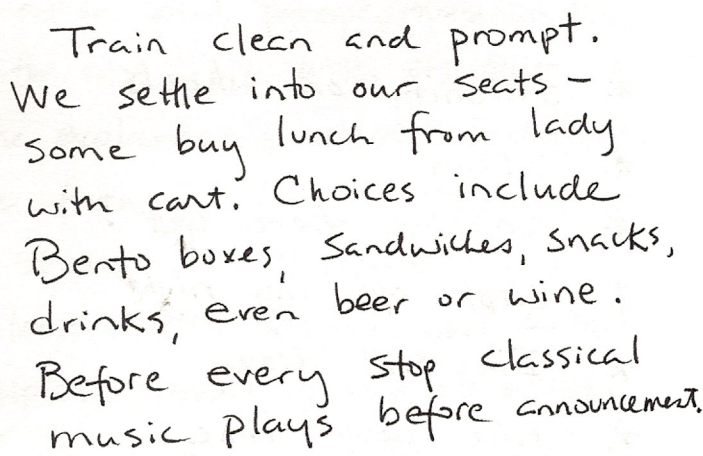


Kanegasaki Train Station – Host Family Good-Bye



Travel Day. Up early, bus to train station. Host families (some, anyway) come to give us a send off. Hugs, final good-byes, wave to the left, and off we go to the station.

chug... chug...



新幹線指定券  
RESERVED SEAT TICKET

東京 → 大阪  
TOKYO SHIN-OSAKA

JUL 12 (11:33発) (14:30着) C56  
HIKARI 511 CAR. 6 SEAT. 4-C

\*\*\*  
日本レールパス

21-7-90東京MR24 (3- ) 60041-03

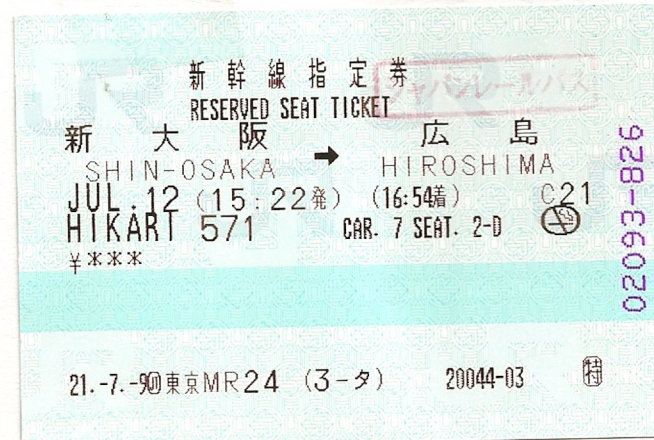
Easy but quick transfer to next train. We don't lose anyone and all get to our new seats.

Nap time, or talk time, or  
computer time.  
(Thanks to Ian + Ted for  
baggage lifting.)

50 minute break between trains 2 + 3. Platform hot so people take turns going down into air-conditioning to get drinks + snacks.

Uneventful ride - taxi  
ride to Youth Hostel Hotel.

Debriefing... →





A few reports on homestays - positive experience for most, exceptional for some. Barbara and I will watch our DVD of our entertaining evening and might let you see some of it. How can ~~we~~ not share our hula in Kimonos?

Comments from our train adventure include:

- \* serenity on wheels
- \* sleepy
- \* are we there yet?
- \* slept off my night
- \* I'm still dizzy
- \* nice down time
- \* good time for writing reflection paper
- \* wish the Japanese would spend more on air-conditioning for trains and platforms
- \* my bento was a culinary and aesthetic delight

After debriefing, people split up for dinner. 8 of us went to have one of Hiroshima's specialities, Okonomiyaki. (spelling?) What fun to watch them cook it on a big grill then bring it over to the table's small grill. Delicious.

Good night. Oh. How could I forget... we delivered our paper cranes to the Memorial Cenotaph and took pictures. Very good to see this monument in person. More tomorrow. Peace to all. ☺ Blanche





Surviving Tricycle of Hiroshima



Steven Leeper Lecture



Mr. Matsushima (Hibakusha)



Dinner at Ryokan Karaku



July 13 Hiroshima

Our day began with a walk to Hiroshima's peace park with our small group guide from Tokyo, Tamiko Nishijima, who helped set up our guest speakers. We visited the museum and Mimi provided us with English-language audioguides to gain greater insights into the exhibits. I spent a lot of time on the first floor, absorbing information and perspectives on the war that will be very helpful for my work with students on World War II. I thought the explanations about Japanese aggression during the war were frank and honest, and I recorded much of the text to share with students. The dioramas of what Hiroshima looked like before and after the bomb blast provided a helpful visual of the devastation.

I also learned that people in Hiroshima anticipated an Allied air attack, clearing fire lanes and evacuating more than 20,000 children. Tragically, many children who had been evacuated lost their parents in the atomic bomb blast. One question came up several times in the exhibit area: why choose Hiroshima for the atomic bomb? I learned that Hiroshima had been an education and military center, with heavy industry beginning in the 1920s. Hiroshima also was an important base for supplying the military because of its port and rail lines. It also was thought to have no Allied prisoner of war camps, making it a key target.

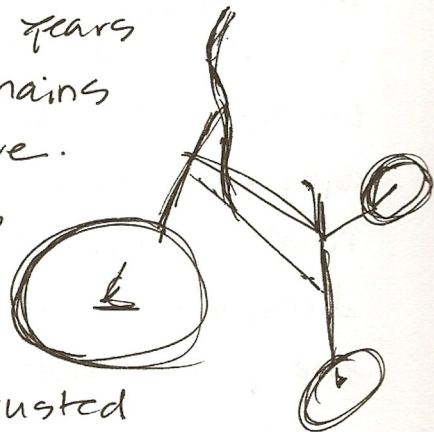
The second floor of the museum contained incredibly moving stories of families affected by the bomb. Two that stood out for me were those of Moto Mosoro and Shimichi Tetsutani.



Moto Morori was exposed to the bomb's blast at her house. Her body, found a month later, contained her glasses which were warped from the heat.

Shinichi Tetsutani's story broke my heart. He was almost 4 years old and was out riding his tricycle when the bomb exploded. His father thought he was too young to be buried in a lonely grave, so he buried both his son and the tricycle in the back yard. Forty years passed before his father dug up his remains and transferred them to the family grave.

I wept quietly as I read that Shinichi's father said the tricycle had slept with his son for forty years, and he wanted to donate it to the museum. The rusted tricycle stood in the museum as a poignant reminder of the loss of life and innocence as a result of this tragedy.



The museum also did a very good job of detailing reconstruction efforts after the war. I learned that makeshift barracks were built to house the homeless, but it was lost in a typhoon that fall. I can't imagine the effort and courage it would take to rebuild again. Eighteen months after the bomb was dropped, there were strong signs of recovery. Photos taken from the same vantage point from 1945-53 showed the reconstruction of the city, and I can imagine building these into a lesson plan. In the past, I've ended our study of Hiroshima with the dropping of the bomb, but the knowledge gained from the museum visit and our guest lecturer, Mr. Matsushima, will help to extend our study of the human tragedy.



Mr. Matsushima introduced himself as one of the most fortunate survivors. Born in 1929, he was 16 when the bomb was dropped (the same age as many of my students). He described his life during the war, including his withdrawal from school as students were mobilized to work in factories. He recalled being hungry and miserable during the war. He had recently returned to school and on the day of the blast was lucky to be sitting on the south side of the classroom. He said at the moment of the blast, his "whole world turned to sunset world" before everything turned dark and quiet and he had to crawl to safety. He described a student sitting on the north side of the classroom as having half of his face burned off and others as having charcoal and/or peeling skin.

He later walked more than 10 km to his family's home in the countryside, passing those burned and injured, to a grateful mother who had seen the mushroom cloud from the fields. He became ill the next day, and when he came back to Hiroshima 10 days later he could look across the city, a leveled field of ashes.

He talked about his feelings about nuclear weapons, saying that they should never be used again and voicing his view that Hiroshima was sacrificed for peace. He chooses to speak out so that memories are not lost. His talk and the voices that echoed from the museum put a human face on what happened in Hiroshima. Mr. Matsushima is ~~is~~ an endearing man and I appreciated getting a copy of his autobiography as well as his willingness to share with us what must be painful memories.



Other study four participants shared these thoughts about the experience:

The museum was just a museum - historic facts, history of conquests, then one turns the corner and the personal stories grab your sense of humanity and take you to a place that makes you wonder why human beings are so cruel? The shoes, clothing, lunch pails, tricycles belonged to real people - teenagers + children. Adult men made a decision to bomb a city, but within that city lived the children of parents who had to claim belongings and bury toys.

We humans possess Buddha nature and yet we also possess the ability to act with intolerable cruelty.

" A DRAGONFLY FLITTED  
IN FRONT OF ME  
AND STOPPED ON A FENCE.  
I STOOD UP, TOOK MY  
CAP IN MY HANDS,  
AND WAS ABOUT TO CATCH  
THE DRAGONFLY  
WHEN . . . "  
KATHLEEN

---

Quotes:

" A man's fate is difficult to tell."

" Whole world changed into orange world."

" Everything was decided for us in that moment."

" No cries - No screams -  
Horrible moment . . . "





I never really had a committed stance on nuclear weapons - I do now! The devastation caused by the A-bomb was unreal. I couldn't stop crying. I will carry a new message of peace back with me to my family and students.

Shinichi Tetsutani 3 years and 11 months old, died that night. This tricycle... after sleeping for 40 years in the backyard with Shinichi were donated..."

Wow. This brought me to tears twice. Once reading it and now writing it.

J

"Hiroshima was a very valuable sacrifice for peace"

K



## Dinner at Ryokan!

see what happens  
when I don't finish  
the journal on time?

Pages out of order...

Our dinner (see menu →)

was delicious and beautifully presented. There were many highlights, including edamame threaded onto pine needles, an edible purple flower, fish & mushroom soup cooked in a pot at our table, and steak & asparagus - our hosts at the ryokan, have taken very good care of us.

We talked at dinner about our many options of things to do in Kyoto - I'm excited about the adventures ahead!

Amy Sanders



御献立

先付 二度豆胡麻和え

小鉢 じし貝  
おくら

前菜 はも寿司  
八幡巻  
車海老

汁 ひすい銀杏  
甘芋

どびんじ

はも 早松

二ツ葉 すだら

向付 すずき いか

鹽切り蒔し

妻一色

焚合せ ○茄子揚げ煮  
大根おろし

忍び生姜

焼物 和風ステーキ

アスパラ ぼん酢

皿

生野菜

レタス

トマト 胡瓜

油物

海老天ぶら

レモソ

塩

香の物

御飯

果物

西瓜 梨

平成二十一年七月十三日  
京料理 花

梁



Next we heard from Steven Leeper, the Chairman of the Peace Culture Foundation. He described the mission of the organization and outlined clearly and succinctly the sense of crisis and opportunity in terms of nuclear weapons. He mentioned a confluence of events making the world less stable, including a shift in power from the US/Europe to Asia, oil crises, a widening gap between rich and poor, and global environmental issues. He argued that we are at a crossroads in terms of how to respond to potential conflicts, and hoped that a culture of peace will prevail rather than violence. He said that the citizens of Hiroshima view this as an important opportunity to voice their concerns about the dangers of nuclear weapons. ahead of the May 2010 review conference of the NPT. Mr. Leeper clearly grabbed our attention and asked for our help in our communities to foster peace.

After our time at the museum, we returned to get our luggage and hopped on a train to Kyoto. We took taxis to our ryokan, found our roommates & were enchanted by our tatami rooms.

Next (actually preceding!) page for dinner...



Buddha Statue at  
Ryoanji Temple



Lunch at Ryoanji  
Temple



Kyoto at Night



1<sup>st</sup> of July

"I slept w/ my ear on backwards."

"Squished like a family of sardines."

"Like being at a slumber party w/ friends, but unfortunately some snore."

"Comfy and cozy."

— NIGHT AT THE RYOKAN

7:30 AM "AIS"

Breakfast in a tatami room on the floor. A huge array of lovely Japanese food - salmon, rice, tiny, tiny fish, salad, ham, a piece of fruit, strong coffee ... (great way to start the day!)

Our tour was the Nashiki Street Market which has been there for 500 yrs. 15<sup>th</sup> century to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Lots of fresh fish. preserved fish and lots of food. Great photos - one of a huge tuna head! Pickled fish was fermented in rice bran & salt, fish caught in Hokkaido was dried for several months & we also learned about heshiko - a staple used for hundreds of years on the Sea of Japan as needed. We had lots of food samples; black beans, dried clams, dried wasabi, spices, tofu donuts (excellent idea for a business at home!)

Next stop Ryoan-ji Temple. Claim to fame is the Zen rock garden. White sand & 15 rocks. Supposed to be very meditative but hard to do, I thought, w/ lots of tourists. Very nice spot to take pictures of trees, gardens & lotus. Lunch at Ryoan-ji. Hot soup w/ boiled tofu served at our table & kept warm over fire. I had that nice "pink glow" while eating my soup in the 85° weather. Still delicious and refreshing though.

Daitokuji was next. Temple w/ 24 sub temples. We saw where the monks trained and the steps to become a monk were explained by Catherine Ludvik who was our lecturer on 21<sup>st</sup> century religion in Japan. There are 2,000 temples & shrines just in Kyoto alone. Buddhism temples & Shinto shrines.



People worship at both as traditions interact in Japan. The mountains orient the city of Kyoto & there is a story to accompany each one.

On July 31st people climb Mt. Utako (spelling?) to get a piece of paper to put in their kitchen to protect their home from fire.

• Zen means meditation & was introduced by the Chinese in the 1300's

• 200 museums in Kyoto

• City of Festivals - always something going on.

• Gion Matsuri - July 1st through July

Night: Walked through the neighborhood up through the temple to see some of Gion Festival activities.

However I got sidetracked for a moment & lost my group. After the first five minutes of panic subsided & I knew I had my ryokan business card to find my way. The streets in back of our hotel were quiet & quaint - so like the Kyoto I imagined!

" EACH DAY IN LIFE IS TRAINING  
TRAINING FOR MYSELF  
THOUGH FAILURE IS POSSIBLE  
LIVING EACH MOMENT  
EQUAL TO ANYTHING  
READY FOR EVERYTHING

I AM ALIVE

I AM THIS MOMENT

MY FUTURE IS HERE & NOW  
FOR IF I CANNOT ENDURE TODAY  
WHEN & WHERE WILL I ?"

— SOEN OZEKI  
DAISEN-IN ZEN TEMPLE  
KYOTO







Katsura Imperial Villa

Fushimi –Inari Taisha Shrine



Ganko Restaurant Dinner



July 15 - Kyoto

The morning began with a return to western breakfast. Let's hear it for scrambled eggs, toast & coffee! ♥

Today is unique as it is a free choice day. Corby helped groups organize their choices for day's activities. Possibilities included: Katsura Rikyu, Nara, Craft fair onsen, Fushimi Inari, local exploration.

Amy, Blanche and I took a cab to Katsura Imperial Villa for our 10:00 am appointment. The tour began with a film about the villa, grounds and its history. The villa's construction dates to 1615, commissioned by Prince Toshito, younger brother of ~~Shun~~ ~~Toshitoki~~ Emperor Go-Yozai. The villa fell in disrepair through a period of disuse following his death. As the marriage line continued new resources allowed for future restoration and ~~expansion~~ <sup>expansion</sup>. The artistic balance between gardens and buildings was completed in 1649 and remains virtually in its original form today. The villa consists of 17 acres, in the middle is a lake with 5 artificial inlets over which there are bridges made of earth, wood and stone.

There is a garden with lanterns, and pathways which are laid out for strolling. The garden path has many surprises along the way as the elevation and manner of pathway changes. One shrine is intended to create the image of the sea, other bridges represent famous scenic spots in Japan. There are 3 teahouse along the path. My favorite was oriented for moon watching. The windows became frames in the landscape. The landscapes viewed through the windows were designed to depict landscapes often seen in scroll paintings. Another beautiful feature of the garden was a ~~beautiful~~ <sup>singular</sup> pine planted in such a way to obscure part of the viewing of the landscape. The point was for the viewer to have the beauty revealed a little at a time as he strolled along the path.



This garden is considered to be a masterpiece of design, harmony of materials and balance between wood working and landscape. Many architects have been influenced by its elegance. It is easy to see Frank Lloyd Wright's interest, creating simplicity + harmony of exterior garden and interior spaces.

There were beautiful breezes, rustling of leaves, sounds of cicadas and even a train.

It was a super hot day...

The tour is nicely designed and controlled, with audio sets in English.



Our tour group consisted of Japanese only.



Blanche's son, Nick, visited Japan as a student in high school. His one "must see" for his mom was Fushimi Inari with its thousand-torii gates. Amy and I were game so off we went (another cab ride, love that air-conditioning) for adventure no. 2!



The contrast upon arrival was such an opulent spectacle, so different from the subtle harmony of landscape and structure of Katsura, Fushimi Inari is a visual bombardment of lanterns and brilliant red torii gates. wow, wow, and more wow!!!

Inari shrines number in the thousands and are located throughout the country. Fushimi Inari Shrine is the most famous and thought to be the one <sup>from</sup> which others derived. The hike to the summit takes about 1 hour and a half. As you climb you are surrounded with red ~~shrines~~ <sup>gates</sup> in a variety of sizes and conditions. You can not explain this, you have to see it in person to believe the atmosphere it creates. The shrine is an testament to the importance of rice in the Japanese culture. Inari, whose name is thought to come from the words *ine* (rice plant) and *nari* (to become). Foxes are an important motif that are seen in entry ways and niches. One has a gem and the other a key. They were considered guards and protectors of the rice crops. At the summit there was evidence of offerings and remains of burned incense. The purchase of a torii is an offering ~~does not~~ come cheap costing \$45 to \$185, USD.

It was a hot and exhausting climb. We stopped at a great little restaurant and had it all to ourselves. The owner opened the windows, we had a great view and breezes. A beautiful noren fluttered during our lunch and the only sound was from a bell/wind chime. I had cold noodles served on a bamboo strainer with seaweed and



beer. after our climb to the top it was important to take the correct path DOWN, it was confusing as the trail looped. we asked a shop keeper and he directed us one way. Not excited aboutt what appeared to be another inside (remember very hot, very tired) we took the "other" route. Quickly we saw that this was more of a service route and it became a beautiful walk along a stream and still importantly it was DOWN. we walked through a mature bamboo forest and threatened to wade in the stream. Eventually we were back to the town but nowhere near the entrance but in a series of alley ways and looping streets. without a map we kept following what appeared to be the more major street and had no idea where we were or where we were going. Like magic a cab appeared and he received quite the warm welcome. Ah, air conditioning once again! a fun chat ensued with our cab driver as we told him about our adventures. our trip ended with taking our picture with the driver. The Japanese I have interacted with have been so courteous and helpful.

It was a great day with beautiful subtleties and contrasts. Our evening ended with a lovely farewell dinner at Ganko restaurant, another beautiful Japanese traditional restaurant with multiple courses. my favorite was the bacon cooked in a soup pot at the table! I appreciated the paper crane under the water glass, it was a beautiful table decoration and came full circle for me as I brought paper cranes to Japan from my students.

