



# *The Hokusei Times*

Shine Like Stars In a Dark World

## *Great Supporters for Improving English Skills*

By Kento Sasaki and Yuya Yanagisawa

The Writing Lab of Hokusei Gakuen University is a unique service to help students improve their English skills, not only in writing but also in speaking, outside their regular classroom sessions. Students of the 4-year university and the junior college at Hokusei can use its service, and nearly 1,400 students in total had the benefit of the assistance last year. It is on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of Building A. Basically, you need to make an appointment to get services, but you can stop by freely if it's not a busy time.

Writing Laboratory is well-known and a very common facility at the universities of the United States. The students in the US started to use the facility in the 1970's and 1980's, however the facility was not set in the universities of Japan at that time.

Hokusei's Writing Laboratory started its service tentatively in 2005. At that time, two Japanese teachers worked in the lab, and some tutors from English-speaking countries were recruited. They must have a Japanese speaking skill and a working experience in Japanese school.

Prof. Kyouko Morikoshi, who manages this lab, has been involved with this facility since its launching. She explains the purpose of this establishment like this: "In the second year of Junior College, the students in the English department are required to take general academic subjects in English. In these classes, students have to listen to the lectures, take tests and write reports in English. To support these tasks, we set the Writing Laboratory. Also, we set this facility for the students who have any questions about English."



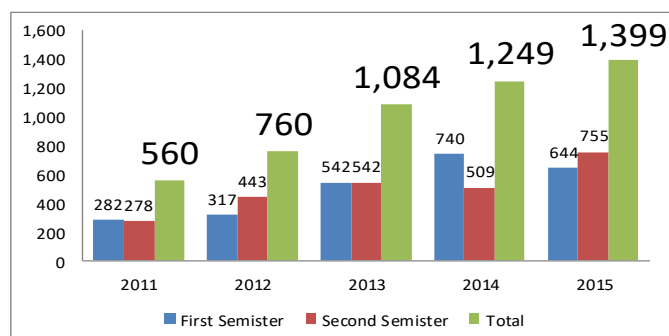
**Entrance to the lab and the English books**

## *Elaborate Services for Individual Students*

Since its launching, the lab has improved its service, and now, students can get a variety of services in a session. They can practice speaking English, get their essays checked and sometimes just have a chat with the tutors for a speaking practice. If a student makes a reservation for one session, he/she can use the lab for 20 minutes. However, if students book for the speaking practice as a group of two people or more, they can reserve up to two sessions at a time.

Prof. Kyouko Morikoshi says that the number of users is different in each year, but surely, it's been increasing. The English department of college and junior college jointly manage the lab for now, but she hopes that the facility will be administered by the entire school, and be open to all of the students who are studying English.

**The number of users**



# ***“Leading Students to the Right Direction”***

**By Kento Sasaki and Yuya Yanagisawa**



**Paul Wilson (right), a tutor from the Great Britain, gives a student proper advice and direction.**

Paul Wilson, one of the tutors, has been working at Hokusei's Writing Lab for more than eight years. His impression of the students at Hokusei is that most of them are “good and earnest.” However, sometimes, he can tell some students come to the lab rather reluctantly because some of the required subjects make the students come to the lab as an assignment.

He said the lab has changed positively since its starting year, offering more services than before. The main focus at first was on polishing writing skills. However, the students now can practice speaking and even taking an interview test for Eiken (English Language Proficiency Test). They can also get some advice on their presentation slides, reports and theses.

He told us what he cared about when teaching the students. He always tries not to give the answer right away. “Rather than just being given the answer, the students should be led to the right direction,” Paul said. Not only the students but Paul himself feels English is difficult sometimes. He thinks explaining the grammar is really daunting because of a great difference between English and Japanese.

At the end of the interview, he said with modesty he hopes to deepen his own understanding of English to teach the grammar, the most complicated part of learning a foreign language, to the students more clearly. In addition, he pointed out that the design of the lab should be changed for improvement.

# ***“Learn Things not in Textbooks”***

Yoshika Arisaka was once a junior college student of the English Department at Hokusei and used the lab frequently. She used it mainly because some professors told her to go there. Like her, most of the students use the lab for the same reason. However, she was an earnest student. She would use the lab at her own will to improve her speaking skill almost every day. Sometimes, she practiced writing essays for Eiken (English Language Proficiency Test). Now, she uses the lab mainly for her graduation thesis.

The good points of the lab, she said, are that you can use it anytime if you book for an appointment, or you can just drop by if it's not a busy time. The tutors are from English-speaking countries, so you can learn natural expressions and phrases which might not be in textbooks.

The only thing she feels uncomfortable is that she had to think of the topic to talk about when she used the lab for a speaking practice. The tutors don't bring up a topic, which means the chat is over if you have nothing to talk about. If the tutors have good topics to discuss that elicit students' utterances, students can practice speaking much more, without worrying about what kind of topics would last longer. She also wishes the lab would be open to the students of all the departments because it is really helpful.



**Yoshika Arisaka (left) poses for a photo with her friend.**

# 'Story language' is more practical

By Masami Nishida

Prof. Peter Gray, 60, has been working at Hokusei Gakuen University since 2001. His specialty is American literature. He is a very mild person in nature and a gentle man. But he is very eager and enthusiastic about teaching students. He makes good classes so we can understand the main points of his lectures easily.

In his seminar, we read many American novels in English deeply. In one of his unique assignments, we write our original short stories in English. Writing novels

are not so difficult as it seems because Prof. Gray teaches us many techniques to write stories. So we can write our own stories with a great enjoyment. The professor checks novels we wrote, and then we can learn the grammar and new vocabularies and finish our work with completeness.

He rarely talks about himself. He is mysterious in a way for students. So let's find out about his personal life and main interest.

Prof. Gray says:

*In my seminar, we study about stories, and as homework, American Literature, a fiction, students write stories. Practice and how to write stories. My writing a story is good for vocabulary learning because if you basic idea is that instead of reading stories and writing research papers, students read stories and write a story, it's kind of talking about everyday life. The vocabulary use can be very practical. I strongly think that by doing what they are reading, That's kind of difficult language students learn about literature. use if you write a research paper. So if you try to write a story, you become a better reader. That's different from the language of a kind of the basic purpose of my research paper. So I think that seminar. And in class we talk story language is more practical.*



Prof. Peter Gray

## *I like to do things that I can't normally do ...*

**Q: Please tell us the good point of Hokusei Gakuen University and your impression of Hokusei students.**

*A: I have a couple of good impressions of Hokusei. For the English department, the level of students is very high. That's very nice. For working with other teachers, we have a very nice group of teachers. And all of the English department teachers have been overseas and their English is very good. I like the English department because we each have our own little specialty. So I can do American Literature, another teacher can do British Literature, another teacher can do communication. So we each have a specialty. That way we work together very well. I enjoy working with other teachers here.*

**Q: What's your hobby and pastime?**

*A: I like reading novels. Sometimes I read novels in order to teach them, and sometimes I read them just for fun. I like gardening, but right now I live in an apartment, so I can't do that now. I sometimes cook. I'm not a great cook, but it is fun to cook foods that I like (especially American-style breakfast foods), and sometimes I try cooking new foods. I also write in my journal for a few minutes almost every day.*

**Q: What do you normally do on holidays?**

*A: During the school year, I'm often quite busy and don't have free time even on holidays. During the long summer vacation and spring vacation, I like to do things that I can't normally do: spend all day reading a novel, fix things in the house, and take short trips. Also, I usually visit my relatives in California once a year or once every other year.*

# Early students get the breakfast

By Takako Nagai

In the school cafeteria of Hokusei Gakuen University, the “50-yen breakfast” campaign was held from October 17 to 21, 2016.

The campaign started from this year and this is the fourth time of service. Between 8 and 9 o'clock in the morning, Hokusei students can eat a breakfast worth about 400 yen for only about 50 yen. In short, The mutual medical aid society of Hokusei Gakuen subsidizes 350 yen and students only have to pay the rest. The special breakfast is served only 100 meals for a day. This campaign was planned by the mutual medical aid society of Hokusei Gakuen with the purpose of teaching students the importance of having a breakfast every morning. Such a campaign is held at many universities across the country these days but most of those campaigns usually offer a breakfast for 100 yen. However, Jun Endo, the head of the support division of student welfare of Hokusei, thought the breakfast campaign at a similar price to other universities doesn't have enough punch and suggested to offer breakfast for 50 yen.

In this campaign, Masatoshi Hoshino the chief of school cafeteria, and Humiaki Kobayashi, the manager, suggested and created the menu. In the current fourth-time campaign, curry rice is introduced for the first time. There are a



**Students have a breakfast at the Hokusei school cafeteria.**

bowl of rice and a miso soup served basically but students can choose a broad range of main dishes like a croquette and a hamburger. In addition, there are many different varieties of side dishes.

The number of customers for the special meal for the 5 days in the current campaign is about 300. Students can eat breakfast one or more times for a day. Some students, especially males, had the breakfast twice a day.

Hiroyuki Tanno, a fourth-year student of the department of Social Policy in Social Welfare, who benefited from this campaign said, “I usually don't have a breakfast but I changed my mind because of this campaign. I enjoyed a satisfying meal for such a price. It was my first breakfast in a long while and I found myself having two meals a day. If there is a next time, I want to go again.”

The mutual medical aid society makes sure to carry out this campaign timely when the campus is full of students. For example, in this year, this

campaign was held in April, May, September and October. April is around the time when students can get things sorted out. One week after the golden week holidays, one week after the summer vacation and after the autumn school festival, students get a start on their work. The latest campaign was held from December 7 to 9 in response to students' request.

May Kamada, a staff member of the support division of student welfare of Hokusei said, “We create the menu thinking about students. For example, many students may be in a gloomy mood on the-so-called blue Mondays. I remember my school days and consider the menus. Since the first service in April, we conducted a questionnaire survey. There are many comments of wishing for more frequency of this campaign. We will try to respond to their wishes as much as possible. After graduation, students will enter the world of work. We want them to make it a habit from this campaign in their independent living.” This campaign is expected to continue.



**One of the 50-yen Breakfast menus**

# Cookies Sweeten Image of Hokusei

By Yuumi Akashi

In a rare collaboration with a local confectioner, Hokusei Gakuen University has launched new original brand cookies. The university developed the sweets in cooperation with “Kinotoya” which is a popular pastry maker based in Sapporo. The original Hokusei sweets project started in June this year. Hidefumi Nakata, executive director of Kinotoya, was the chief coordinator in this project. He is also a graduate of Hokusei and has always wanted to contribute to the university, and finally made his dream come true through this project. The Public Information Division and three students of Hokusei participated in the project. I interviewed Mineko Kozuka who is one of the staff members of the Public Information Division, Hiroshi Yaotani and Moemi Nishiyama who are students of Hokusei involved in this project.

Whenever Kozuka visited various universities on a business trip, she always brought standard sweets such as Shiroikoibito of Ishiya Co. as routine gifts. She wished there was the original sweets of this university as a present whenever she made a visit. This is one of the motivations for starting this project. And also, she wanted to produce the original brand with some of the students. Three students came forward to participate in this project.

They are members of the student publicity committee, which was organized about one year ago to appeal to the public this university from the students’ point of view. Now it has 17 members in all. They chose the cookie brand project among many proposed tasks. When asked why they chose the cookie project among other proposals, they answered immediately: “We love sweets!” Yaotani said, “I wanted to try to commercialize something by myself.”

Surprisingly, they couldn’t discuss this project face-to-face even once because their college year and department are each different. So their schedule didn’t match with the others’. They always used e-mails to exchange their ideas and opinions. It was the most difficult thing for them in carrying out the project.

“They gave me a lot of ideas, proposals, and everything was nice. So it was hard to make decisions among different choices,” Kozuka said. Many of their ideas are adopted in producing this original cookie. They designed two kinds of logos printed on the cookies. Those logos are related to the university. One is the school emblem of Hokusei and, another one is a star symbol. Moreover, they proposed attaching the original seal and even designed it by themselves. It is “KINOTOYA × HOKUSEI”. They also decided to sell two packets of cookies in a bag as one unit because two packs are easy number to buy for students. Hokusei Original Cookie was thus completed based on these different ideas.

When the product was put on the market for the first time on campus, all members had a great sense of accomplishment. And also, they are surprised by the popularity of the cookie beyond their expectation.



## Next Project In Line

Mineko Kozouka introduced and promoted this cookie brand to each division of Hokusei. Now most of the divisions use this cookie on many different occasions such as the orientation of the university, academic conferences, and lecture meetings. She is happy to see all the smiles of people who buy it. She is proud of taking part in this project. Finally, I asked her about the next project. She said, “This project was a collaboration between Hokusei and Kinotoya. Someday I want to produce the very original thing of this university.”

The students also have a plan of the next project lined up. They will make an information magazine for freshmen next spring. They have just started preparing for it. And they also have another interesting project. It’s Hokusei’s mascot character project. They want to make a costume of the character and appear in the orientation. I hope that they can make the project come true.



Mineko Kozuka (from left), Hiroshi Yaotani and Moemi Nishiyama

Hokusei Original Cookie is sold at Seikyo and NORTH STAR CAFÉ Sarah. It is so popular that it sells out easily. Don’t miss the chance by all means!

# Volunteer Activities in Kumamoto

By Marie Kishino



Photo by Herbie Yamaguchi

*Hokusei Gakuen University carried out its volunteer activities to help victims of natural disasters across Japan again in the latter half of this year. One mission under the Hokusei-Net assistance program, lasting several days from Aug. 7, was a continued assistance to Kumamoto Prefecture, which was hit by a series of earthquakes in early April. Another group of student volunteers participated in a separate mission to help victims of Minamifurano Town in Hokkaido, which was hit by a big typhoon and suffered a serious damage this summer.*

## Various tasks involved in serving local people

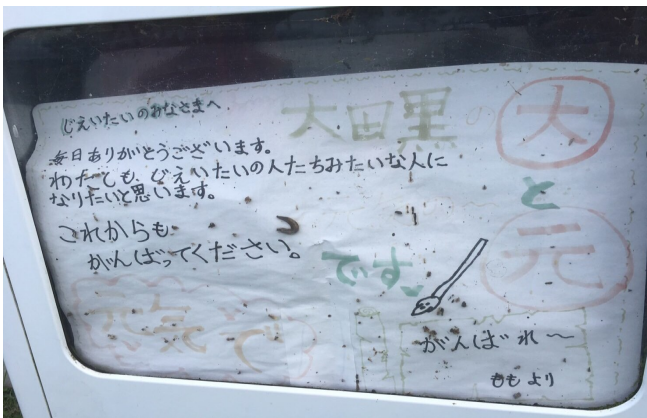
Volunteer works in Kumamoto lasted four days from Sep. 7 to Sept. 10 in this year's mission. The volunteers helped with agricultural jobs on the first, third and fourth day. On the second day they helped with demolition work of afflicted people's houses. In the agricultural job, they helped to mow a large field of Japanese millet. Farmers couldn't sprinkle herbicides due to the earthquake, and they got delayed in their works and their farmland was extensively covered with a lot of weeds. To demolish a broken house, a crane and heavy machinery are needed to break it down, and the rest of the work is done by hand. While disposing of scattered roof tiles, they sorted out a lot of pictures and other stuff left behind. One of the volunteer members recalls a memorable moment when he found many personal effects of memory such as albums, diplomas and whatever records of people's life when he was sorting out. He felt strongly then that he should do the work not hastily but carefully. Those items collected from the debris may be just "another stuff" for volunteer members, but they may be "precious

memorabilia" for the local residents. They had difficulties in deciding on whether to keep the items or dispose of them. Furthermore, they did a demolition work of vacant houses and always wondered whether some of the things should be trashed or not. People whose houses are destroyed by half or more are eligible for the "victim's certificate." Most people in Minami-Aso village can get it and relief money from the government. However, there are too many destroyed houses and a shortage of hands so the residents are kept in a long waiting list. And also it will take a great deal of time for them to recover. The volunteer members tried to help people who cannot receive the victim's certificate. When they hauled the trash to a garbage dump, it was checked carefully to see whether it was separated properly. For example, unless roof tiles are sorted separately from other items they may not be accepted at the dump site. The screening of the garbage is a difficult task and there was also a shortage of hands in this work.

## Messages to pass on

We can never know when our ordinary life suddenly gets broken down. Students who lived in a residence hall of Tokai University in Minami Aso Town and suffered from the damage by the earthquake must have lived a usual life before the earthquake happened. However, the earthquake broke a bridge and a lot of houses. Moreover, three students died due to the quake on April 16. Some students of Tokai University commute to the campus from Kumamoto. Their everyday life was lost. I thought strongly that the ordinary life may not be an infinity. (Masaya Yamada)

A half year passed after the earthquake occurred. Now, the media don't play up the coverage of the news much on TV. However, the affected area's conditions haven't gotten over it yet. And the number of volunteer workers is decreasing substantially. (Atsuya Chubachi)



A thank-you message to the Self-Defense Forces is written on a vending machine, saying: "I want to be like a member of the Self-Defense Forces." The message is written to appreciate the work of the SDF members for Kumamoto by local elementary school children.



Due to the earthquake, the local residents' main road was damaged. There was limited transportation available for them.



The debris of crashed houses show an awfulness of the earthquake.

## Feedback from volunteer workers

The volunteer activities provide "great encounters". The affected area may be an uncomfortable place for people who have never been in such a place. However, in reality, such places are not always in a gloomy mood, and also where we can feel the warm sense of humanity. When I went there, I found frightful spectacles in front of me. But there were full of many great and warm encounters. I was surprised at the gap between the frightful spectacles and the warm encounters. Great encounters and many smiles, I want the afflicted people to feel the same.

(Atsuya Chubachi)

Other volunteer workers did activities which develop a relationship with many of the affected local people. At a joint meeting, they heard the affected people say that they are so happy to see the volunteers visit there. There were many important things to do such as visiting the affected areas, talking with the affected people and knowing the real situation, and all of those also lead to a mental care for the affected people. There were many smiles and many encounters in the affected areas. (Masaya Yamada)



A dumping ground for sorted-out trashes and debris, with a board reading "flammable waste."

# Volunteer Activities in Minamifurano

By Erika Nakagawa



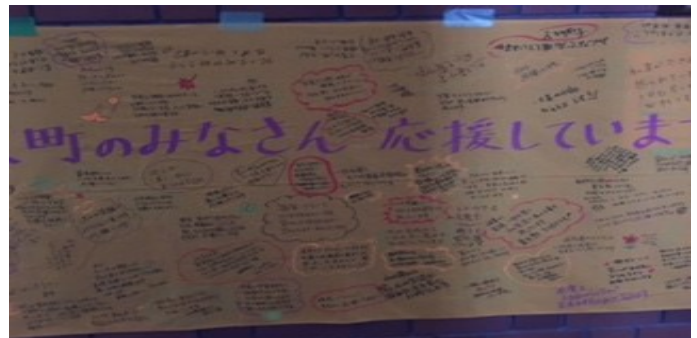
Some of the volunteer workers haul away rubbles.

*A group of students of Hokusei Gakuen participated in a mission of volunteer activities on Oct. 16 to help disaster-stricken people in Minamifurano Town in the central part of Hokkaido, which was hit by a big typhoon this summer. The volunteer activities were organized by a non-profit organization called "Inochi-wo Tsunagu Charity Marche" (Life-supporting Charity Market)*

*Sumire Ogawa, 3rd. year of the School of Social Welfare, participated in volunteer activities just for one day on Sept. 17. She explained about the main contents of the work. First, in the morning, she cleared away heat shield materials from under the floor of a house in Minamifurano. The heat shield material is called glass wool insulation. She tried to clear them away completely. In the afternoon, she helped with another house. The floor of the farm house was damaged by heavy rain. And then, the floor cratered, and it got through the daylight. The next work was caulking the hole and stopping to get through the daylight by the gravel. She worked on gravel and hauled it away many times. The following are excerpts from the interview with her.*

## Something she wants to tell to everyone

I have received energy from many people. There was full of energy I received in return for the volunteer work. When I was clearing away rubbles from many houses, I found something wrapped in a plastic bag. At first, I thought it was just a trash, but I tried to open the plastic bag and found wedding photos in it. I was shaken. I knew as much that carefulness is so important. If we screen many trashes to separate them for clearing away and dispose of them, we have to do it very carefully. Also we must think of the feelings of afflicted people and have a good sense of charity.



Messages by volunteer workers showing group efforts.



Sumire Ogawa

## Personal impression in Minamifurano

I think about many things. In fact, when I went there, and took a look at the frightful scene of the disaster, listened to the talks of the afflicted people, I shared their unhappy experience, serious and horrible state of affairs. And I thought we should not make an end to our help. We must think a great deal of the heart of the affected people. It is not easy to talk about my experience of the time in Minamifurano. I can say that they try to tell us something, remind us of something important in life. That means, we have to think about a disaster as it can take place on ourselves anytime. I have to cherish my life, and tell about my experience to others to guard my families, friends, and other people.

# Looking for Better Deal in Travel Plans

By Kana Yamamoto

## Services at travel Counter

**Open Hour**

**Monday—Friday**

**9:30—18:00**

Co-op building at Hokusei has a travel service counter on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. They have a wide-ranging services for students such as helping to make plans for the seminar class' trips, training camps, and trips in Japan or abroad. They also provide the service that students can book tickets for transportation wherever they want to go. If there are some different companies offering the same route plans, the travel counter compares the prices and tells us the cheapest one. So the students don't need to make a phone call to book it nor compare the prices of different plans by themselves.

In other fields, they also support some programs provided by Hokusei for studying abroad. These are called "KAIGAI JIJO" (Overseas Affairs) and many of the students at each department join these programs to study languages they are learning and specific subjects such as economics and social welfare. Furthermore, if you want to study abroad or are just interested in visiting abroad, they have generous supports. We can get a lot of information and help in obtaining insurance policies, visas and applying for schools.



The staff are working at the Co-op travel service counter.



Brochures for domestic and foreign tours are available at the counter.

## Voice of User

A female student, a member of the ice hockey club, who has used the travel counter service many times for her club activities says that she got an email immediately when she wanted to book a bus and they checked with many bus companies for her. In addition, another student of the English department says that when he had planned studying abroad, the counter staff searched and found a language school as he wished, booked flights and obtained traveler's insurance policy for him. He was so surprised at their great support and able to go abroad without any worries. They are helping a lot of students with different services.

## Merits you can get

Kaoru Yamaguchi and Rie Awano work at the travel counter and share all of the work. Yamaguchi, who has been working there over 10 years, says the busy period is from January to February every year because a lot of students are coming to the counter to book a tour for the graduation trip during the spring vacation. However, the number of students who make plans for trips at the counter is decreasing due to the growth of smart phones and LCC (Low Cost Carrier). Students book tickets much cheaper by using an LCC than FSA (Full Service Airline) such as ANA and JAL. However, some travel companies offer tours with special prices for the Co-op union members. Only university students can apply for the low-price tours. It often comes with flights and accommodations, so you don't need to spend a lot of time to search for a better deal. Thus, using the Co-op travel counter service is very easy to plan your trip with your friends.

# *To challenge the ultimate sport*

By Honoka Sudo

## **What is ultimate?**

Have you ever heard about “Ultimate”? It is an exciting sport played by only about 150,000 people all over the world. The play style looks like a mixture of basketball and American football. The players in this sport use Frisbees which we call a flying disc. When we start the game, players are divided into two teams of seven people and fight against each other using one disc on the court. Players try to keep passing the disc and some of them catch the disc in the end zone. Then we can score one point.

The variation of the game consists of men-to-men, women-to-women or co-gender team. This sport places a special emphasis on fair-play spirit so that we as players are expected to judge by ourselves. Therefore, players must fully know the rules and judge faithfully to each case. Also, physical contact is prohibited in the game.

## **Associating with people from various regions**

In Hokkaido, people who play this sport are not so many because it is not a major sport like baseball or soccer. For that reason, we often practice with two or three other schools together. So we can get along well with many people regardless of universities. Also, we have a lot of opportunities to meet people who live in or out of Hokkaido. For example, “Dosanko Cup”, a national championship, is held every year in Hokkaido. Many people from across the country participate in this game. All players are mixed up together and distributed into several groups. Therefore, we can play with many people and make many friends all over the country.



One of the players pass the disc to a teammate.

## **“Arch” is the team name.**

The Hokusei Gakuen University ultimate club, called “Arch” was founded seven years ago. Most of the members start playing this sport when they enter the university. As we continue to practice many times, we become addicted to this sport. In this sport, physical contact is banned and men and women can practice it together. Therefore, we often get to practice with all of the members together. We practice the throwing-way technique and play the game three times a week.

Many official games of ultimate are held throughout the year so everyone can participate in different kinds of official games.

Among them we practice toward the game of the student championship in the summer vacation.

Moreover, in winter, we sometimes play ultimate outside on a fine day. Though the ground is covered with snow, we enjoy playing ultimate.

We sometimes play other sports by using a disc that is called Guts and DDC. The disc used in this sport and the rules are different from ultimate.

Recently, this club was covered by some media like TV or radio. So I want more and more people get to know about this club.

## **Captain of Arch explains**

Q: What are the attractive points of Ultimate?

A: I think there are two attractive points. First, this sport uses a flying disc. The movement of a flying disc is different from that of a round ball. So we can experience the unique movement of a flying disc.

Also, we can't win the game alone. If we get a pass, we mustn't move and have to pass the disc to other players on the spot. We can't play the game by oneself. Therefore, we have to keep the pass with teammates and win the game when we band together.



Suguru Itooka, the captain of Arch, is trying to catch a disc.

# Hokusei in high gear to renovate campus

By Kentaro Kondo

*Hokusei Gakuen University has a long history starting from 1964 when the college founded its present campus in Oyachi. However, the campus had a historical revamp in the past few years by building or reforming many facilities and it plunged into a new era, which drastically changed the school life of all the students. The biggest facility constructed during this period was Building C, which cost the university as much as 2.5 billion yen. It was such a big spending for the university, according to a spokesperson of Financial Affairs Office at Hokusei. But even after the construction of Building C was completed, Hokusei's construction work didn't end. A series of construction works lasted for more than three years. What was behind this big change?*

## Long-awaited project

The renovation of the campus can be traced back to 2008, when the number of classrooms at Hokusei couldn't meet the demand of an increasing number of new classes. In addition to this, the college had Building C which was four stories high at the time. However, it was in a decrepit state and didn't meet the revised government quake-resistance standards. Therefore, school authorities began to think of reconstructing the building, conducted a questionnaire survey among teachers and students, and held public hearings on the issue. And finally in May 2012, it was decided at the University Council that the college was going to rebuild the old Building C, in conjunction with remodeling of Center Building and Front Gate, and construction of Covered Walk. It was not until the fall of 2016 that Hokusei realized its long-cherished dream to complete the major project.



Building C undergoing reconstruction



Hokusei's students lining up in front of new NORTH STAR CAFE Sarah

## Center Building

The former Administration Building, located at the center of the campus, was remodeled into a more casual place which has NORTH STAR CAFE Sarah, International Lounge, and Learning Commons inside, and renamed it Center Building in October 2015. The facility reflected a number of students' wish to have places for relaxation and refreshment. Before Center Building was renovated, Library was the only place for Hokusei's students to study other than classrooms. Since the building is provided with Wi-Fi service, many students now spend time comfortably in Center Building studying or interacting with each other.

## Covered Walk

Although a majority of students commute to the university via a cycling road adjacent to the campus, there was only one narrow alley between the campus and the cycling road, and this often caused people to get crowded with each other on the street. Given many complaints on this by neighbors, Hokusei embarked in 2015 upon constructing Covered Walk, a wider walking path which connects the Faculty Office Building area and the exit of a nearby tunnel through which students attend school. For the sake of safety, the college allows only pedestrians to use this path. Since some students force themselves through the hedge by Covered Walk, the university is also planning to install a fence alongside the path.



Covered Walk under construction



Renewed Front Gate of Hokusei Gakuen with a security building (left)

## Entrance

Since the university's entrance had been wide open to anyone and considered vulnerable to incursion by outsiders, the local police encouraged the college to reinforce its security against trespassers in 2014. Thus, Hokusei followed the advice and constructed two security buildings at the Front Gate area, and to avoid minor collisions between cars and pedestrians, the college also set up a separate parking entrance. These changes have ensured to provide students with a safe and secure campus environment.

# My top news of this year



**Erika Nakagawa**

I went to Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, to do volunteer activities and got to know many people. It was a precious encounter and experience!

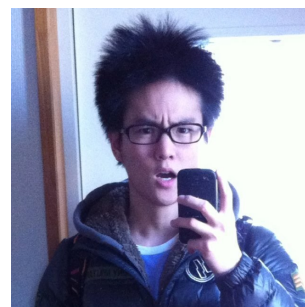
**Marie Kishino**

I went to Disneyland with my friend, and it was my first visit there. I'm broke now, but we really enjoyed every minute of it.



**Kentaro Kondo**

The other day, I got into bed with a hot-water bottle because my house was very cold. I slept comfortably that night. However, I awoke with a strong pain in my calf the next morning. There was a huge blister on my leg and I soon realized that I scalded myself with the bottle. Everybody, be careful of a low-temperature scald. It's painful!



**Masami Nishida**

I went to various places in Hokkaido in a tour with my friends! It was the best summer vacation ever!

**Kento Sasaki**

I welcomed a new family member in January. She was a half-year old pet dog Shih-Tzu, and we named her "Sea." Since then, I have really enjoyed seeing her growing up.



**Yuumi Akashi**

I stayed in California during this summer vacation. I could make new friends and visited some famous places: San Francisco, Hollywood and Los Angeles. I not only improved English skills but also learned about the different culture. I want to visit there again someday!





**Yuya Yanagisawa**

I almost froze to death at home this February. My electric heater, the only source of heat, was broken and I didn't fix it. I ended up living with no heat for a couple of months, being sometimes unconscious.

**Honoka Sudo**

I stayed in Canada for a month, and had a lot of good experiences there.



**Takako Nagai**

I was hospitalized with acute pneumonia. I had to keep regular hours, going to bed at 9 p.m. and waking up at 6 a.m. at the hospital.

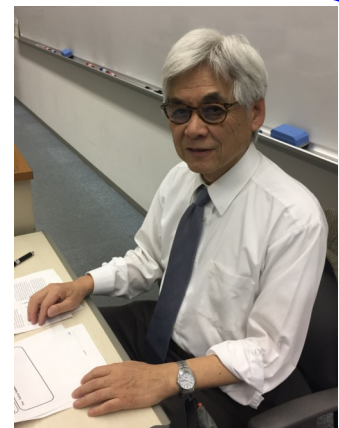
**Kana Yamamoto**

I stayed in Canada last year from September and visited the U.S. and Latin America to meet my best friends. Thank god, I came back to Japan SAFELY!



## MY LAST MESSAGE

This is the last year of my teaching career at Hokusei, marking the 10th year of the academic life with full of memorable experiences and encounters with varieties of students. I always tried my best in teaching, but I also learned a great deal from my students. I feel happy and accomplished about publishing the last memorial issue of The Hokusei Times. Parting is such sweet sorrow, but farewell for now and good luck to all of you!



Prof. Toshiya Kawahara



Full members of the editorial staff take a pose after completing the campus newspaper.

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