From Program Director Savarese:

Although the US-Japan Summer Cultural Experience 2012 has come to an end, I know the friendships and achievements that have formed will long surpass the two week duration of the program. Visions of the excited, yet quiet, students checking in on the first day, to the cameras, hugs, laughter and tears of the last many days, are prominent in my mind. After much preparation for my first year as Program Director, I now can reflect on one of the most fulfilling and influential experiences of my long career as an educator.

I feel that every part of the program plays an essential role in reaching our goals for the participants. Through highly structured events like the English and Japanese language classes, elective classes, experiencing Broadway’s Bring it On, and UDON noodle making, our students were able to acquire bilingual and bicultural skills and experiences. However, the students’ interactions during our evening events, throughout their meals, and during free dorm time were just as important to their success in gaining all this unique program has to offer.

I was most proud of the students on Family Day, when they were able to screen their group’s video productions for their peers, families and friends. Laughter and smiles filled the room as we were all able to see the media production skills they acquired as well as the creativity and teamwork that went into each group’s interpretation of their visits to New York City. Their hard work brainstorming, shooting footage, and editing paid off immensely, as I know they will never forget the pride they felt when exhibiting their finished products for the first time.

Although I had been anticipating the program’s start for a long time, I could not have imagined the strength of the bonds which formed between the staff and students of Japan and the United States or the depth of what would be experienced and learned. I have mostly the positive outlooks and enthusiasm of such a great group of participants, interns, and staff to thank.

Good Luck and Best Wishes Always,
ビル・サバリース (Bill Savarese, Program Director)
On July 22nd we welcomed 63 very energetic participants to our program and on August 4th we were able to send all 63 participants, many with tears in their eyes, back to their families. We sincerely hope these past two weeks were in many ways a learning experience for them in addition to them having a lot of fun. As the Administrative Director for this program, I have great appreciation for all the faculty, staff, DCTV instructors, outside services personnel such as travel providers, food providers, cleaners and security guards, volunteers from Sanuki UDON Project, corporate sponsors, as well as our outstanding interns who came from the most prestigious colleges all over the US. The operation of the program was a huge undertaking but we were able to run the program very smoothly thanks to all these people’s efforts. It was a great sign that all we still manage to keep smiling until the last day. Lastly, I would like to send a most sincere ‘thank you’ to the parents of participants who have trusted us with their children for the two weeks. We hope we did not let you down.

7月22日に63名の参加者を迎え、8月4日に全員を無事に送りだすことができました。最終日、新しく出来た仲間との別れを惜しみ涙をみせる参加者もみられました。皆さんも大変美味しい2週間を送ったと思います。また、学ぶことをためた2週間であったかと思います。今年もこのプログラムが成功に終わりられたのも、このプログラムに携わった全ての学院教職員、DCTVインストラクター、旅行代理店、カフェテリア、清掃、警備のスタッフ、Sanuki UDON Projectのボランティアの皆様、スポンサー各社、そして全米トップカレッジから集まった優秀なインターンの誠意と協力の結果_review点心から御礼申し上げます。皆様のサポートなしに、このような大きなプロジェクトであるプログラムを安全に運営し、笑顔でプログラムを締めくくることは決してできなかったと思います。最後に、私どもを信頼し、大切な子様を2週間お預けくださった保護者の皆様に改めて感謝の気持ちをお伝えする共に、皆様のご期待に応えられたことを祈ります。ありがとうございました。

大谷龍太(Ryuta Ohtani, Administrative Director)

“everyone involved was successful in making this experience the best for our participants”

Being on the administrative team this summer has been a lot of hard work, long hours and tons of fun! It takes dedicated interns, dormitory supervisors and instructors to make this program the best ever, and I feel everyone involved was successful in making this experience as best as possible for our participants. I hope our participants remember Keio Academy of New York and also take with them greater knowledge of foreign languages and cultures. Thank you for this experience.

レイエス・ジョン(John Reyes, Daytime Supervisor)
On the first day of the 2012 US-Japan Cultural Experience at Keio Academy of New York, many participants seemed so nervous and shy. But as time goes by, their smiles have emerged day-by-day, and their glowing faces have made staff members relieved and happy.

At the dorm, participants are living with caring dorm supervisors. They monitor participants to make sure they stay on schedule and get the most out of the program. A supervisor’s day starts with morning duty to make sure participants are up and getting ready, and to make sure they head off to the cafe for breakfast. In the evening, supervisors make sure participants are in their rooms getting ready to go to bed.

Also, supervisors prepared many fun activities during the dorm time. They held a dance workshop, played their version of the Jeopardy game, organized a scavenger hunt, a movie night, and outdoor game play. They spent time preparing to make sure all participants established friendships and have wonderful memories to take home as souvenirs.

It was wonderful to hear the participants’ laughter and shouting during the program. We hope this experience, where young people meet and become friends with those of different cultures and languages will be a fruitful and memorable chapter in their lives. It was our pleasure to meet them, and to spend this special time with them.

On Behalf of the Dormitory Staff:

Over the past two weeks our participants have done a lot. They have toured New York City, experienced a new and exciting Broadway show, created films with unique voices and perspectives, and even made Japanese Soba noodles with world-class chefs. Perhaps most importantly of these is their movie making experience in which our participants traveled to different parts of New York City to shoot footage and make films that capture both the city’s beauty and elegance, as well as their own personal style and artistic view. Working hard to make the most of these videos our participants showed themselves to have true vision and creativity. I am overjoyed to share that the screenings of these films were not only met with applause but are perhaps the best films made at any of our summer programs. It truly has been a summer to remember.

Thank you and all the best,

ロバート・デヴェヌティ (Robert R. Devenuti, Dorm Supervisor)
Summer Program Instructors

“In the Advanced English class, each day the students write, and each day they are required to speak in class. Their writing is critiqued based on the quality of their thoughts/ideas and effort as well as the actual execution of language. Errors in syntax, errors in agreement and other errors are corrected. This year, we culminated by having the students view the 2012 Disney film version of *A Princess of Mars: John Carter*. As a final assessment, the students argued which they felt was better, by defending their argument using specific examples. It has been a pleasure to see the students use English at this high level.”

アンソニー・ダクント (Anthony Dacunto, ESL Level III Instructor)

“The students in ESL Through Photography have been the most impressive in that they are very ‘camera literate’; they all have good equipment. What surprised me and them was how each student used his or her own camera in a new way and achieved making portraits that used only natural light. Students seems to love having created something new that they could share and compare with each other while learning English phrases that they can benefit from forever.”

ローレンス・アイビー (Lawrence Ivy, ESL Through Photography Instructor)

“This year, we have twelve very enthusiastic students who have been eager to learn Japanese culture and language. They were separated into three different level classes and at every level, they learn to read, write, and speak. We are preparing for a play, "KAGUYAHIME," in which each level of students came together to experience and perform in Japanese.”

菊地ふみ子 (Fumiko Kikuchi, Japanese Level III Instructor)

“The summer program Beginner English class had an enjoyable two weeks in the classroom! With a team of students almost 20 strong, we learned to introduce ourselves, ask and answer easy questions, and add a little sentence structure to basic vocabulary about summer, food, and ourselves. In our enjoyable new elective class, *English Through Music*, we used a range of songs in English to learn vocabulary, practice pronunciation and tell stories. Certainly, the lively students will leave the Keio summer program with a little more English and a lot more great memories!”

ローラ・ポキンテスタ (Laura Pochintesta, English Level I Instructor)
This is my second time as a US-Japan Cultural Experience at Keio Academy of New York intern. It has been so much fun watching the participants grow-up, and make incredible friendships in a short period of time. I believe all of the memories created in these past two weeks will be treasured for a lifetime. I also learned a lot from the participants, wonderful staff and interns through various cross-cultural activities. I am so happy to have returned this summer. Thank you all for such a great time!

—Feifei Helian, University of Iowa 2012

“...we sought out nooks and crannies of the Bronx and dug into the melty lasagna of Little Italy.”

The US-Japan Cultural Experience at Keio Academy of New York Summer Program has been a great experience for me and the participants. On our trip through New York City, we sought out nooks and crannies of the Bronx and dug into the melty lasagna of Little Italy. To say the least, our filming adventure was enlightening and exciting. Overall, this summer program provides such a relaxed environment in which both student and intern feel at ease when practicing their foreign language. I enjoyed this mutual sharing of language and culture because here we only help each other out.

—Adele Jackson-Gibson, Yale University 2013

“...I was able to practice my Japanese, explore New York City, and make friends with passionate and caring people.”

Working at Keio Academy of New York has been a wonderful experience. The staff was welcoming, the other interns friendly, and the participants full of surprises. Through this internship, I feel I gained far more than I gave—I was able to practice my Japanese, explore New York City, and make friends with passionate and caring people. The participants challenged me in many ways: I struggled with the balance between fun and discipline, and sought to maintain calm in a sometimes chaotic atmosphere. Nevertheless, I enjoyed my time here at Keio Academy of New York, and it seems like the students did as well.

—Catherine Medvigy, University of Virginia 2012

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—Catherine Medvigy, University of Virginia 2012
The US-Japan Cultural Experience at Keio Academy of New York Summer Program was an incredibly engaging experience. Participants were creative and worked hard with DCTV instructors in conveying their ideas onto film; and instructors had clear goals for the participants and were enthusiastic about accomplishing them. I have assisted by conveying the instructor’s thoughts and ideas to the participants, and vice-versa. The instructor I worked with could not speak Japanese, and many of the Japanese participants were shy speaking in English; so, being able to translate was a big asset for team communication.

I enjoyed the experience this program offered me and hope for its continued success.

Interning at Keio Academy of New York has taught me about myself as a growing adult, and it has shown me where my strengths and weaknesses lay as a Japanese language learner. When the program began, Mr. Ohtani said by the end we would feel like older siblings to the kids—and he was certainly right. Being able to experience their creativity and enthusiasm has been very rewarding. I will forever cherish this summer’s memories.

—Paul Palmer, Earlham College 2013

“Participants were creative and worked hard with DCTV instructors in conveying their ideas onto film...”
The US-Japan Cultural Experience at Keio Academy of New York Summer Program was a very good experience for me. I was able to interact with a lot of new people. I also heard different stories the participants who have different backgrounds, and I enjoyed spending time with them. They were very active! So active, I wanted to go back to middle school again.

“今年度のサマープログラムは様々な人々と交流することができて、自分にとって良い経験になりました。皆それぞれ違った背景を持っていて、色々な話を聞くことができて、子供たちと時間を過ごしてとても幸せでした。参加者は全員からこのプログラムを楽しんでいて、ヘルパーという形で参加した僕もまた中学生に戻ったような気分でした。このプログラムに参加させて頂けたことに感謝していますし、本学院のスタッフやインターンの方々と一緒に働くことができて楽しかったです。」

新井雄太(Yuta Arai)

I learned three things as a Keio Academy of New York graduate volunteer. First, I was able to engage with the interns and gain a better American cultural understanding. It was very interesting to hear what they like about Japan and Japanese culture. Second, I realized how beautiful Keio Academy of New York is on bright, sunny days. As a former student, I did not recognize the beautiful nature and open sky surrounding me on my busy days. I think it is very rare for a school to be surrounded by such beauty. Third, I was able to share my good experiences at Keio Academy of New York with the interns and participants. I am happy to pass on the knowledge that I learned here to the next generation of participants who may attend this school. Lastly, ‘thank you’ to Mr. Ohtani, Mrs. Ivy and all of the people who helped organize this program. I had a great experience and a wonderful time!

私はこの学院でのサマープログラムを通じて、沢山のことを学ぶことができました。その中でも特に3つのことが心に残っています。まず一つ目は、9人のインターンの方々と文化交流ができましたことです。インターンのほとんどは英語が母国語で、日本語を自分の興味として学んでいます。私は毎日当たり前のように日本語を使っているため、どこがそんなに魅力的だったかを考えることがありませんでした。しかし、今回の交流を通して、今まで気付かなかった日本語の美しさ、日本文化的な素晴らしいところに気が付くことができたのです。2つ目は、この学院の素晴らしい環境です。久しぶりにこの学院に戻ってきて、改めて緑が豊富で空も広く、本当にのびのびとした素敵な環境だと思いました。三つ目は、私がこの学院生活で得たこと、この学院の素晴らしいところを、次の世代（あるいはこれから受験を考えている人）に伝えることができたことです。少しでも私のメッセージが心に残ってくれたらと思います。最後になりましたが、このような貴重な体験をさせてくださった大谷さんを初め、Ivyさん、事務の方々に感謝の気持ちでいっぱいです。本当にありがとうございました。

箕輪美智子(Michiko Minowa)

These two weeks were very fun for me. In the beginning, I was worried the participants would not open their hearts and not have a fun experience. However, it was completely different than what I had imagined. The participants enjoyed their time being able to make new friends. I am so glad for the opportunity to participate in this program.

この2週間、ヘルパーとしてサマープログラムに参加したことは私にとってとても楽しくいい思い出になりました。最初はプログラム参加者が慣れない寮生活に窮屈さを感じ、心の底から楽しめないのではないかと心配していました。しかし、いざ始まってみると友達を作ること、ビデオを作ること、NYCトリップなど、全てのアクティビティを心の底から楽しんでいて、安心しました。このプログラムに参加させていただいたこと、同年代のインターンたちと一緒に活動できたことを、心から感謝しています。

山下裕太郎(Yutaro Yamashita)

“I learned three things as a Keio Academy of New York graduate volunteer. First, I was able to engage with the interns and gain a better American cultural understanding. It was very interesting to hear what they like about Japan and Japanese culture. Second, I realized how beautiful Keio Academy of New York is on bright, sunny days. As a former student, I did not recognize the beautiful nature and open sky surrounding me on my busy days. I think it is very rare for a school to be surrounded by such beauty. Third, I was able to share my good experiences at Keio Academy of New York with the interns and participants. I am happy to pass on the knowledge that I learned here to the next generation of participants who may attend this school. Lastly, ‘thank you’ to Mr. Ohtani, Mrs. Ivy and all of the people who helped organize this program. I had a great experience and a wonderful time!”

“I was able to interact with a lot of new people.”

“The participants enjoyed their time being able to make new friends.”
As a parent and as a first-generation Japanese American, I thought that my daughter truly enjoyed participating in the summer program. At home near Rochester, NY, we speak English at home since my wife is American. Also, in our daily lives, there are somewhat limited opportunities for our two children to learn about Japanese culture and language. In contrast, the two-week program at Keio Academy of New York was an unique opportunity for my daughter to learn about Japan among Japanese and American students of similar age and backgrounds. The cultural exchange experiences, including the New York City trips and the filming project, gave Megan a chance to serve as a “cultural ambassador” between the American and Japanese student groups. Perhaps the greatest benefit for my daughter was the chance to be comfortable among peers in discussing Japan-related topics, and in a manner that was so different than her interactions with American friends near our home. I believe that the US-Japan Summer Cultural Experience 2012 fulfilled a previously unmet cultural/linguistic need for my daughter, and am very hopeful and supportive for further continuation, or even expansion, of this truly outstanding program.

Warmest Regards,
Y.M.

“the two-week program at Keio Academy of New York was an unique opportunity for my daughter to learn about Japan.”
Program Participants

I learned many things at the US-Japan Summer Cultural Experience 2012. Some of my most enjoyable moments were expanding my Japanese vocabulary and learning more about the grammatical structure of sentences. I also enjoyed working with my peers, both Japanese and American. There were many similarities between both of us (the Japanese and the Americans). Similar interests included a love for manga, anime, and J-Pop. Both sides were interested in the other culture, and I had fun talking with the Japanese students to the best of my abilities about shared interests.

-M.M.

Awesome! The best two weeks ever!

-R.T.

このプログラムは一言で言えば、Awesome! 私は今年度初めてこの慶應義塾サマープログラムに参加しましたが、こんなに楽しいプログラムだとは思っていませんでした。最初は初対面の人々ばかりでしたが、このプログラムが終わるころにはずっと前から知り合いだったかのように仲のよい友達になりました。一つ一つのプログラムも充実しており、DCTVのインストラクターの方々も親切にしてくださり、最高の2週間が送れました。私は来年高校に進学しますが、このプログラムに参加したことによって選択肢がひとつ増えました。二週間ありがとうございました。Thank you!

-R.H.
Special Thanks!

This year’s program was made possible by the generous financial support from the following organizations:

Mr. Yosuke Honjo/ITO EN (North America), Inc.
KDDI America, Inc. TTA, Inc.

The Sanuki Udon demonstration was presented by the volunteers of the SANUKI Project.

讃岐うどんデモンストレーションは、SANUKIプロジェクトのボランティアの皆様のご協力で実現しました。

Keio Academy of New York would also like to express its sincere gratitude to the following companies for hosting our students during their New York City tours:

ニューヨーク市内観光中の社会見学では、以下の日系企業にご協力いただきました:

Fujisankei Communications International, Inc.
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The Kitano New York

2012 Summer Program Team


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