

RYUDAI COIL POST

COIL HIGHLIGHTS AND INSIGHTS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021 | ISSUE 9

1 SHOW AND TELL SESSION BETWEEN HONOLULU CC AND RYUDAI FACULTY OF EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINEES

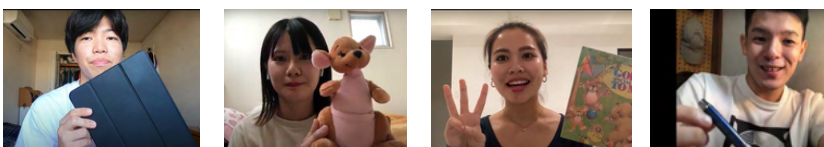
#ASYNCHRONOUSCOIL #SHOW AND TELL #YOUTUBE
#HONOLULU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Students taking English Pedagogy C2 and Seminar in Research on Practical Linguistic Application (Prof. Mitsuyo Toya, Faculty of Global and Regional Studies) interacted virtually with their peers studying Japanese language at Honolulu CC.

The COIL exchange began with asynchronous sharing of self-introduction videos and visual explanations on seasonal traditions and culture in Hawaii that were created by Honolulu CC students. Students at Ryudai each selected one Honolulu CC student, with whom they shared their reactions through Google Forms in both English and Japanese. Ryudai students then created bilingual show-and-tell videos introducing treasured personal items that were uploaded onto YouTube for viewing by their Honolulu CC counterparts, who in turn shared their comments on the videos they watched.

An approach commonly used in classrooms abroad, show-and-tell comes recommended by Japan's Ministry of Education. It was the first such experience for many of the students at Ryudai, making this COIL session particularly beneficial. Students responded positively to the class, pointing out that the bilingual nature of class content made for easy and active participation.

Of this practical exercise, Prof. Toya noted that student motivation for asynchronous COIL may be enhanced by allowing such experiences to offer a glimpse into the daily lives of participating students.

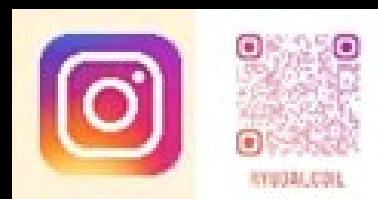


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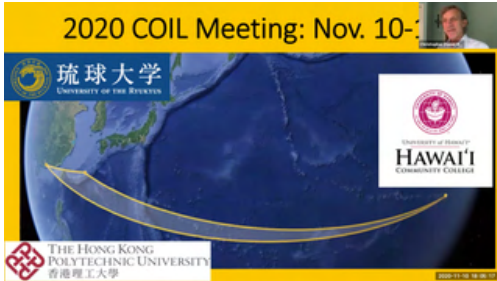
INSTAGRAM



FACEBOOK

2 LEARNING ABOUT JAPANESE CULTURE WITH HAWAII CC AND HONGKONG POLYU

#ASYNCHRONOUSCOIL #ZOOM
#OKINAWA CULTURE
#JAPANESE CULTURE
#HONGKONG POLYU
#HAWAII COMMUNITY COLLEGE



A joint COIL effort for the class "Learning about Japanese Culture through International Collaboration" by Mr. Christopher Melley (Fall 2020, Foreign Languages Unit) saw participation by Japanese program students from Hongkong Polytechnic University as well as students minoring in the Japanese program at Hawaii Community College.

Classes took place over three sessions, the first of which featured a lecture and class discussion on Okinawa culture and history by Mr. Melley, and the second that focused on Hawaii culture and history in a lecture by Dr. Michael Skinner of Hawaii CC. The third installment brought together students from Hongkong PolyU, where students engaged in unstructured conversations about Japan and Okinawa using Zoom breakout rooms.

The discussions saw lively participation from 14 Hongkong PolyU and 2 Hawaii CC students respectively, many of whom displayed strong interest in topics concerning Japan and Okinawa.

3 STORYTELLING COIL ON HISTORY OF OKINAWA EMIGRANTS IN HAWAII

#SYNCHRONOUS COIL #OKINAWA EMIGRANTS IN HAWAII #STORYTELLING #ZOOM
#GOOGLE DOCS



In a storytelling event as a part of the following Fall 2020 classes - "Intercultural Understanding 1 & 2", "Understanding American Studies", "Research on American Literature I" and "Seminar on Local and Global Engagement II" (helmed respectively by Prof. Ikue Kina, Prof. Yasuko Kase and Assoc. Prof. Kinuko Yamazato of the Faculty of Global and Regional Studies), Honolulu resident Dr. Ryokichi Higashionna shared his life experience as an Okinawa-born emigrant to post-war Hawaii and recounted the history of Okinawan emigration to Hawai'i to a total of 57 first and second-year students.

Despite some initial difficulty in comprehension, students were able to compile a series of questions for Dr. Higashionna over Google Documents and communicate proactively in the event's Q&A session.

In his narration, Dr. Higashionna said, "Even though I experienced a lot of hardship, I persevered believing that my actions would be of benefit to society. Any experience, good or bad, is an opportunity for self-growth. Think positively."

His words left a deep impression on students, who reflected that the event allowed them to not only learn about intercultural understanding and communication, but also gain rare, first-hand knowledge of personal accounts of migration. Others pointed out that the way in which Dr. Higashionna and those around him valued the concept of "*yuimaaru*" (helping one another, sharing) was particularly resonating.

4 DISCUSSING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AND ITS ISSUES WITH STUDENTS FROM KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY

#SYNCHRONOUS COIL #KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY #MAJOR IN CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT #EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS #PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION #YASASHII NIHONGO



Assoc. Prof. Minako Takahashi of the Faculty of Education paired up with Khon Kaen University (KKU) of Thailand in a joint online collaboration for her class "Children and Daily Conversational Words" (Childcare Education Development, Fall 2020). 28 fourth-year students in the Japanese language education program at KKU partnered with 24 second and third-year students at Ryudai online.

Each year, KKU students travel to Okinawa to visit Ryudai and interact with Japanese language education program students at the Faculty of Education. However, continuing restrictions on travel resulting from the pandemic prompted the change to a virtual exchange in 2020.

Students from Thailand prepared presentations on the country's education system and its problems, before taking questions from their Japanese counterparts on the similarities and differences with education in Japan. Ryudai students then responded to questions related to education in Japan and its issues.

As the exchange was conducted in Japanese with students whose native language is not Japanese, Ryudai students said that they took special care to relay only the most essential information using hand gestures so that they could be easily understood by their counterparts from Thailand. While students said that they experienced difficulty trying to express themselves using simple Japanese, they found the session highly meaningful because it allowed them the opportunity to communicate with their peers from overseas.

The event garnered positive reactions from students ("Despite limitations imposed by the pandemic, this virtual exchange allowed me to learn about Thailand's education system, as well as cultural differences with Japan", "I managed to exchange contact details with KKU students, which helped to widen my perspectives and worldview"), to which Associate Prof. Takahashi observes, "Most of the students who participated in the virtual exercise have never interacted with foreigners in Japanese before. It was a rare opportunity for them to establish contact with Japanese speakers of diverse cultural backgrounds, while prompting them to be mindful of the effort necessary to be understood through the use of simple Japanese.

The session was also notable because it brought students closer to their peers in distant countries, in spite of ongoing requirements for social distancing and limitations on international travel."