

タイトル	To Suzanne Yonesaka, with Gratitude and Admiration
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引用	北海学園大学人文論集(74): 43-45
発行日	2023-03-31

To Suzanne Yonesaka, with Gratitude and Admiration

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It is with great admiration, gratitude, and with sadness as well, that we bid farewell to Professor Suzanne Yonesaka, one of the pillars of the Faculty of Humanities, after a 37-year-long teaching career in Japan. For 30 years, Suzanne has been a crucial part of HGU's teaching workforce, helping many older and younger teachers in so many ways, and has been a crucial contributor to many committees. Throughout her career, she has gathered a great deal of respect and admiration from everyone across all faculties.

Here is a short summary of Suzanne's academic and professional trajectory. In 1977, Suzanne graduated from the University of California, with a Bachelor of Arts in French, and in 1983 from San Francisco State University Graduate School, with a Masters Degree in English. From April 1985 to March 1992, Suzanne worked as Lecturer and then as Associate Professor in the Department of English Literature, Women's Junior College, Sapporo University. From April 1992 and for one year, Suzanne was Associate Professor in the then Faculty of Liberal Arts at HGU. When the Faculty of Humanities was founded in April of 1993, Suzanne became Associate Professor, and from April 2002 to the present, has been Professor. From April 2005, she has taught in our Faculty's Master's Program. Over the years, Suzanne has published 29 journal articles, 1 textbook, 1 translated work, 4 symposium proceedings articles, 1 edited

volume chapter contribution, 1 book review, and has given 36 presentations at various national and international conferences. Combined with her work creating and implementing the new Humanities EFL program, and her tireless work with the many faculty and school-wide study abroad programs, Suzanne's academic and professional achievements are clearly noteworthy, and reveal her as a devoted and consistent worker, academic, teacher, and thinker.

As we all know, Japan has undergone major social, political, and cultural changes for the past few decades, and Suzanne has had the privilege of experiencing these changes both as a foreign worker, mother, and community member, and as an academic and professional leader. Her insight into Japanese society and culture, and the place and role of foreign workers in Japan, is unparalleled. The richness of this insight can partly be explained by the fact that Suzanne became a university faculty member at a time when being both a female and a foreign worker in the Japanese workforce was a very difficult reality to manage. Nevertheless, her organized and rational approach to work, and her eternally positive outlook on life and towards people, have ensured her success, and have been an inspiration to those who have had the privilege of working with her.

Generally speaking, people become teachers to make a difference in the lives of students, to help them find their goals and empower them so that they can eventually fulfill these goals independently from the help of teachers. A strong believer in this core educational principle, Suzanne showed that you can make a difference in students' lives through consistent effort, respect towards students, and attention to details. Suzanne also has a strong volunteer spirit. Immediately after the 2011 East-Japan earthquake, for example, she organized multiple volunteer visits with HGU students to help people in affected areas. On countless other occasions, of course, she has helped and provided extra tutorage to students whenever they needed

additional help.

Although we are all looking forward to the future with hope and excitement, we cannot help but feel sad and worried at knowing that Suzanne will no longer be here to provide advice, support, and leadership. Suzanne has had a profound impact on the Faculty of Humanities from many different angles, and will leave an important mark on our faculty for the years to come. The entire faculty of Humanities is extremely grateful for her work during all these years, and wishes her a happy and well-deserved retirement!

