

# KIRI-TIMES

DECEMBER 2018



# Gurasan Bread

Our college produced "Gurasan Bread". As you can tell from the name it is bread which has a jasmine taste (Sanpincha in Japanese,) a gratin topping, and on the top it has a sprinkling of Sanpincha powder. The bread has an image of a cross, which is our school symbol. This bread was produced by twelve members from our college. One of them said that the most difficult thing was coming up with an idea for a new food.



*This is the Gurasan Bread which was made by OCU students.*

Gurasan Bread was produced as part of a project called "GakuP," in which college students from each university on the island try to invent a new food. In 2018, those products were on sale at Family Mart from October 2nd to 15th. As part of the competition, a record was kept of how many of each products were sold over the two weeks. Our college sold 539 packets of bread in only two days - and that was just the amount sold on campus. It seems like a lot. However, we couldn't win the first prize. That went to Ryukyu University

# Biblio Battle



*People listening to the Biblio Battle at the University library on November 29th.*

On November 29th, there was an event called *The Biblio Battle* at the college library. It was a communication game battle. It took place from 16:30 to 17:30 and it was free to watch and listen to the battle. There were about 70 seats for spectators. Six people competed in the event and they introduced their favorite books. They could talk about any genre of book. Two students from OCU, two students from OCJC, and two librarians took part in the battle. The talking time limit was 5 minutes for each person and after their speeches, there was time for questions and answers.

The winner was decided by an audience vote.

The winner was Erika Isa who introduced her favourite book entitled, "Happy Birthday".



# BEHIND THE SCENES ON A CRUISE SHIP



*Cruise ships came to Okinawa a record 515 times in 2017.*

*But can you imagine what life is like on board a cruise ship if you were a member of the crew? Do you think their life is one long holiday?*

I'm going to tell you the truth about behind the scenes on a cruise ship. I worked on board one cruise ship for 17 days as an interpreter. At first it was really hard to get used to life on board. I always felt sleepy during the first five days - it was a kind of sea sickness. The ship was rocking all the time even though it was huge.

## **My job**

I belonged to the Entertainment Animation team. The ship had many interesting programs every day. Passengers could join English lessons, dance lessons, quiz and game shows, arts&craft clubs, sport tournaments and

karaoke – all for free. Our team organized these activities, so I translated when they needed me. I was sharing a room with another interpreter. Our room was the same as the passengers'. We had two beds, a window, a balcony and the room was cleaned by a housekeeper three times a day. We just put our laundry on the floor when we wanted it washed, then the housekeeper would bring it to the laundry. Also, we could eat every meal at the same time as the passengers, in the same restaurant. We could use the elevators and the stairs in the same way as passengers did, and we could even enjoy the jacuzzi when we didn't have to work.

## **The Regular Crew**

But our life was totally different to that of the regular crew. They had to sleep in bunk beds, in a cabin in the basement with no window and no balcony. They cleaned up their room themselves and took care of their own laundry. They ate in the crew restaurant, where they were sometimes given leftovers from the passengers' buffet. They had to use special elevators and stairs. If a crew member used the passenger area, they would be punished. It meant that someone was monitoring their activities, all the time, every single moment. Perhaps the worst thing was that they didn't have a day off during their



contract period, even if they had signed up for six months. However, they did have a vacation of two or three months after finishing each contract.

## **"They were discovered in a toilet kissing by the security staff."**

The most surprising thing was what happened to crew members who broke the rules. It didn't matter what their position was, or where the ship was at that time, if they broke the rules they would have to get off at the next port. My Korean friend on board used to work on a different ship. She told me a story about her former co-worker, a Chinese officer. One day, a woman passenger started talking to him and they became friendly and the next thing, they were discovered in a toilet kissing by the security staff. The next day, he had to disembark at Dubai. He had to make his own way back home to China. He lost his job and ruined his career. Cruise ship companies don't care about your

rank: if you break the rules, you're out!

## **It's a hard life**

Even if you don't break the rules, life on a cruise ship can be hard.

Takeru who was working with me in the Entertainment Animation department said, "We do a lot of organizing, hosting and assisting with events. We also have to greet the passengers when they embark and disembark, organize passports, manage the library... The work in our department is really hard because people in other departments force extra work on us. So our duties are never finished."

If life is so hard, why do they choose to work on a cruise ship? Takeru said, "It's because life on board is never boring. The crew comes from all over the world and I can talk to them. It's an international world."

Also, they get every meal cooked for them and they get to visit famous places around the world for free.

When the cruise ship visits a port, passengers can get off and visit places for sightseeing. Actually not only them, the crew can go out too. Yu from China who worked on board my ship said, "I like eating, shopping, visiting each city and taking photos when I get off."

I have told you the negative and positive things. Do you still think that you want to work on a cruise ship? For me the answer is still definitely, "Yes!"

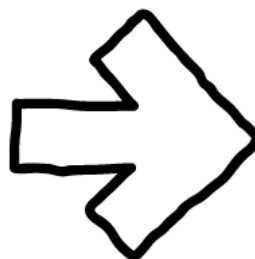
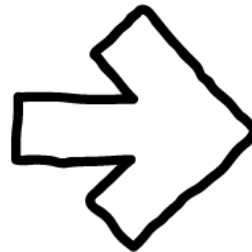
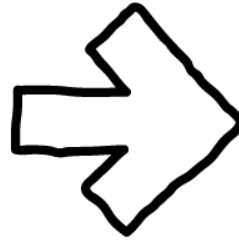
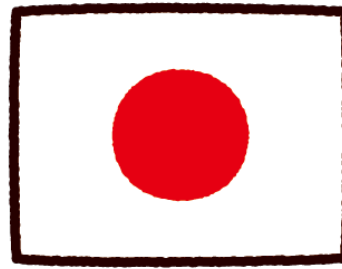
*All names have been changed in this article.*

# From Okinawa to the world



Mei Nakamura an OCU student (21), has had an exciting year. She went to South America for 35 days. She joined a program which is held in Kin town every year. Kin town is called, "the town of immigrants." In this program, she went to five countries. Bolivia was the country that left an especially big impression on her

In Bolivia, there is the place called "Colonia Okinawa". Colonia Okinawa is a town started by Japanese immigrants. In fact the Japanese language is taught in the school. Children in Colonia Okinawa can play Eisa and they can talk in the Okinawan language. Ms. Nakamura was surprised because many young people in Okinawa don't know the dialect of Okinawa. In addition, she had a very good impression of Brazil. She met her relatives there for the first time and she stayed at their house, so she was very happy.





# DID YOU VOTE TO ELECT OKINAWA'S NEW GOVERNOR?

## Kirara

I didn't vote for Denny Tamaki because I think If we remove Futenma base people who work on base will lose their jobs. A lot of people work on base so we also have to think about their jobs. Now lots of Okinawan people work on base and if we make a new base Okinawa's economy will be better than now.



## Kahono

I voted Denny Tamaki. We have to make our future by ourselves. So we need to go to the Okinawa election and vote. We need the young generation's opinion. We have to tell our opinions to the Japanese government. Our generation should to take an interest in election.



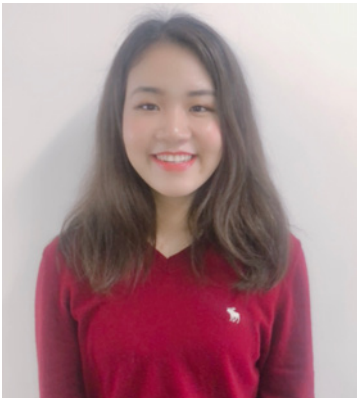
## Takashi Taira

I went to the election of the Okinawa prefectural governor. I don't have a choice not to vote because I think we have an obligation to go and vote. In fact, I have voted in every election I have been able to.



## Moe

I took part in the election of Okinawa's prefecture governor. I think voting by the younger generation is very important. I would like to make Okinawa a better place from now on.



## Akari

I voted in the Okinawa gubernatorial election. Recently the turnout of voters among young people is decreasing, so I feel responsible. I want to convey the opinion of the young people by voting in the election.



## Kei

We have to create the future of Okinawa by ourselves because Okinawa is important for each person in Okinawa. We have to think about our future.



# ***OCI's Unsung Heroes***

**Do you recognize this man? I think everyone knows him because his trademark costume is yellow. You probably see him every day on campus but do you know his name? Do you**



**know what he does? His name is Yamakawa-san. He belongs to the General Affairs Office. He has been working in Okinawa Christian University for 27 years.**

**His job is making sure our school is safe. In general terms, looking after the buildings, especially the insides of buildings. He looks around the OCJC campus twice a day and then if there is a wall that needs fixing, he fixes it. Or if there are harmful insects, like termites, he'll get rid of them. Before**

**coming here, he got a license for the specialized maintenance of buildings, especially the interiors. Also, he is qualified to look after air conditioners. In his current job, he fixes air conditioners or walls, or doors, or indeed any problems which occur in the buildings.**

**He said the most important thing is to make sure students can go about their school life safely. We can enjoy our safe and cozy school life because of him! He is an unsung hero.**

***Do you know any other unsung heroes in Kiritan or Kirigaku – please send your suggestions to: [timekkri073@gmail.com](mailto:timekkri073@gmail.com)***

# Pres. Hatoyama coming to OCU

Former President of Japan, Yukio Hatoyama will come to our campus to give a talk on January 22nd 2019. This event is part of a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the college. Mr Hatoyama will give a talk from 16:20 to 17:50 in Shalom 1-1. You can come without paying but seating is limited to 100 people. He is a member of the East Asian Community Institute.



*Yukio Hatoyama*

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## MS. and MR.

Ten contestants entered the "Ms. and Mr. Contest" at Okinawa Christian University (OCU) Festival on November 11th, 2018. This contest decided who was the most beautiful woman and the coolest guy on campus. Ten people entered the contest. Before the

show, one of them, Yuino Iraha said, "My heart is beating now." Another, Tiara Yamashiro said, "I'm happy to do this because this experience is rare." Kazuki Nakama was also competing. He said, "I'm totally calm." There were three ways to vote for the contestants, by paper, on Instagram, or on Twitter. Not only OCU and OCJC (Okinawa Christian Junior College) students could vote but also outsiders too. The contest started at about 18:15.

In third place were Tiara Yamashiro and Masanaga Forman. Tiara said, "I'm happy." Masanaga said, "I'm relieved because the contest is finished." The



second place went to Hinako Oshiro and Kazuki Nakama. Hinako said, "I didn't expect this result. I'd like to say thank you to my mother." Kazuki said, "I'm mortified at this result." In first place were Yuino Iraha and Ryutaro Azuma. Yuino said, "I'm happy and moved." When I asked why she was crying she said, "Because I stood on this stage 2 years ago as a student council president but now, my situation is different." Ryutaro said, "I'm happy but shy." Did you vote in this contest? If you didn't, you should think about doing so next year because your vote could make all the difference.



# MY COFFEE SHOP DRAMA

“I’ve never met anyone so stupid like you in my entire life! You’re an idiot and a horrible person!” said the foreign tourist after I handed her a cappuccino. As I put her cup on the counter, a little bit of steamed milk had come up through the hole in the lid, which happens sometimes because cappuccino has a lot of steamed milk. I didn’t think it was a big deal but it made her very angry. Well, I spent over a year and a half working at that coffee shop in Okinawa as a barista and it wasn’t what I expected.

A lot of people think that being a barista is cool and fashionable and you get to use special tools and coffee machines. And it looks easy. However in real life, it is quite a messy job. Let me tell you what happened to me.

## The Reality of Every Day

Even though I trained for almost three months and learned a lot about different kinds of coffee, in reality I didn’t need much of that

knowledge on the job. What is always expected from the customer is a warm welcome, great service skills and speed. Not much of what you know about the coffee is needed to sell it.

My coffee shop was open almost 24/7, no matter what. And the morning shift and



night shift had different types of customers. It was fun but challenging at the same time. Fun because I was paid to do what I always wanted to do. My mother is a typical coffee addict and she has been taking me to cafes since I was a little girl and it was she who

introduced me to the world of coffee. I had dreamed of becoming a barista as a little girl. So it was a lot of fun studying about coffee beans and all the other coffee facts – the history of the company and the beverages they sell. Above all, my boss was nice and taught me everything I wanted to know. The co-workers were wonderful people too and that was the most important aspect of this job.

## **"You have a nice ass"**

Now let me tell you about the not-so-nice part of my job. There was something which we staff used to call "the black list," and some of our regular customers were on it. It was not a book or even a written list, rather it was just a group of faces which we had to memorize to keep us and the other customers safe. For example, every week a group of middle aged

American bikers would show up. Some of them were nice but others would make comments that made us feel uncomfortable, ranging from, "Can I take you out?" to, "Do you have a boyfriend?" to, "You have a nice ass." I used to dread when they came in.



Not as upsetting but still annoying, there was this old man who came early every Thursday morning and stayed all day long with just one cup of coffee and a sandwich. He was on our black list because he asked us to fill up his water bottle over and over again, almost every hour, all day long. But



actually we didn't mind that so much as his behavior - he was very rude to us and to the other customers.

## **Keep it professional**

When I was new I just treated everyone equally but I soon started having some trouble with customers who were on the black list, because at that time I didn't even know there was a black list. They would have long conversations with me and sometimes it was difficult to get back to work. They kept wanting my attention. My coworkers soon let me in on the secret and told me to be quick, a little curt and extra cool with those on the black list.

## **Unique and Fun**

But we had lots of nice customers too. And then there were some who were just a bit different. Often I served the same person who dressed in a banana costume even though it was never Halloween. Another guy with a ukulele used to come in singing and playing inside the

store, while waiting for his coffee. All in all, I'm glad I worked there but the reality of working as barista was certainly different from the image I had when I was a little girl.

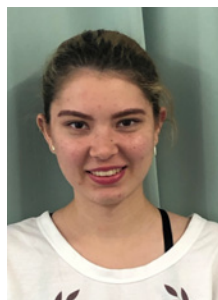
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