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KIRI-TIMES

Kevin Kinjou - Marathon Man

Kevin is a former OCJC student who recently won the Okinawa Chubu Trim marathon

I am in grade 2 at Ryukyu University, and 24 years old. I am majoring in Global studies. Before that, I was working at the Mizuno Company (located in Okinawa Prefecture General Sports Park) as a running instructor for the two years after I graduated from Okinawa Christian Junior College. My high school running coach introduced me to the Mizuno Company.

How did you get interested in running?

At first, when I was an elementary school student, I was wondering whether to do soccer or running. Eventually, I made my mind up to do running because of advice from the principal of my elementary school. Because of the principal, I came to like running. So, I kept running until I was 20 years old.

You said that you kept running until 20 years old, why did you quit at that time?

Because, I wanted to go study abroad. Actually, I



Kevin Kinjou is on the left.

went to Florida and Portland in the USA. It was one year in total. To be honest, I was not planning to go back to running. I had already gotten a lot of prizes, and, running was just my hobby. However, because of studying abroad, I put on some weight. I had not expected that. Therefore, I started running again to

lose weight. Running is an easy way to lose weight and it makes me feel so good.

What prizes have you won?

First, when I was a junior high school student, I took part in a 3000 meter Okinawa Prefectural race and I got first place. Then, six years ago, I got first place in the Chubu Trim Marathon. Also, I got the third place in the Shouhashi marathon. In that race I made a mistake, using too much energy in the early stages, so I could not keep running. If I had made a better running plan, I could have



Kevin with members of the newspaper class.

gotten a better prize.

Are you preparing for a particular race now?

Yes. I am trying to participate in the Okinawa Marathon, so I need to practice more. Actually, I am doing some practice these days. For example, I am running 10km five times a week around Ryukyu University. Although I have some assignments every week, so I can't always manage it. I spend most of my time every week studying. Anyway, I am going to try my best in the marathon.

What is your future plan?

After I graduate, I want to work at a Real estate company. I do not know whether I will keep running or not. At least, I am going to keep running while I'm still a university student.

What is your motivation for running?

Above all, I just like running but running also helps me focus on my study.

Dr. Tetsu Nakamura



Professor Uchima with Doctor Tetsu Nakamura on his visit to OCI last year

Japan and the wider world was shocked by the murder of Doctor Tetsu Nakamura in Afghanistan last month. Doctor Nakamura had been engaged in charitable work in the troubled central Asian country since the 1980s. Shortly before his death, he visited Okinawa Christian Institute to deliver a lecture at the invitation of the Peace Institute. He received a warm welcome and spoke passionately about his work in Afghanistan. Although he initially went there as a doctor, he began to realise that agriculture was a more pressing problem. "Medicine can't heal starvation and thirst. What we needed there was clean water. In fact, almost all the disease could be prevented if there was only enough food and clean water," he told the audience. Thanks to his efforts an irrigation system was constructed and land which was previously desert was brought into cultivation, bringing a measure of stability to local communities. These projects also created thousands of much needed jobs. He also spoke about the futility of the ongoing conflict, "The most important thing is living. Life is important. Not the army, not weapons." Dr Nakamura was a stern critic of attempts to revise Article 9 of Japan's constitution which renounces war and militarism unconditionally.

THE VOX POP

What do you want to improve in this college?

Mako Iramina



Kirigaku has only one entrance. In addition, it is narrow!! So this college should increase the number of entrances and expand the main entrance.

Kentaro Yogi



I'm a student of childcare. We are busy with training everyday. So I want the college to reduce the assignments. And we want to listen more to the advice of alumni. So we want an opportunity to talk to them.

Shun Tamaki



This college's shop closes early. Please increase the business hours. If the shop has a small number of employees, what about hiring students?

Daiki Shinjo



I want to be able to use WiFi anywhere in the university. For example, in the library or in any toilet. The lack of WiFi is too inconvenient!!

Ren Yamamoto



Christianity is boring. It is too difficult for me to understand. I want it to be easier to understand or don't make it a compulsory subject.

Ms Kinjo



Even though I am a college student, I don't have the opportunity to meet other students. So I want the college to increase the number of events.

Aki Oshiro



I feel that the menu in the canteen (Union) is too small. I want the canteen to increase the size of the menu. And I think the canteen can change the menu every season.

Ms Ikehara



I can't wake up every morning so I'm late for class everyday. I think it is the fault of the system. I want the college to delay the start time of the first period.

Ryota Tamaki



The men's restroom is bit shabby. On the other hand the women's restroom is gorgeous. It's discrimination. Please improve the men's restroom... Also, there are many hills around the university so our cars use a lot of gasoline. This college should help pay our transportation expenses.

Ms Hurugen



I don't like parking on sand on rainy days. So please cover the parking lot with concrete.

Generations of girls...



Shiina's grandmother's birthday party.

How many people do you have in your family? Some people have big families, two generations, or three generations. But how about five generations? That's the number of generations in the family of Namizato Shiina, a 2nd year OCJC student. The oldest member is her great grandmother, next are her grandparents, then her parents, then herself and her siblings, and finally her nephews. Today, I am going to tell you more about them .

Shiina's great grandmother experienced World War II. Now she is in a nursing home and is 100 years old. She had 10 children - two daughters and eight sons but her older two sons died in the war. Her 2nd youngest child is Shiina's



Shiina's great grandmother and nephew

grandmother. She is 59 years old and she enjoys getting together with her siblings every month for Moai and birthday parties. Usually about 30 people gather and eat a homemade feast. She likes to cook and decorate the room for celebrations like Halloween, Christmas etc. She has 2 daughters, one of whom is Shiina's mother. She is 42 years old, and a cook. She is like a friend to Shiina and easy going. Shiina's father works in the food industry and he has an attentive personality. They have 7 children, 6 daughters and a son.

Shiina's older sisters are aged 25 and 24, and her younger sisters are 15, 13, and 8, while her younger brother is just 11.

They all get along together and everyone shares the same living room. All seven of the children usually sleep side by side with their parents. Because their family is unusually big, the doctors at the hospital remembered their faces and the doctors were surprised when Shiina's sister came back to give birth. However, there seem to be some problems with being from such a big family. Shiina's siblings sometimes fight over food, or bath times etc. Also the younger children have to wear their big sisters' hand-me-downs.

Good and bad points

Some of the hard things for their parents are making packed lunches every day, or getting presents for everyone at Christmas time. On the other hand, being from a big family has many good points. The children can help their mother with the house work, and when they want someone to go to for advice, they will be an adviser for each other. Above all, family life is always lively.

Sometimes, they rent a bus and go somewhere in Okinawa with their aunt's family. At the end-of-year party, about 70 relations meet in a community center. Shiina's elder sister has three children, a 5-year-old, a 3-year-old, and a 1- year old. So all five generations - her great grandmother, grandparents, parents, Shiina and her siblings, and her nephew, all get together in the one room.



Shiina's grand parents with their grand children.

Life as a foreign worker in Japan

The number of foreign workers in Japan is increasing every year. There were almost three million foreign workers here at the end of June 2019. This number is expected to increase after Japan changed the law regarding working visas. So what is it like to live in Japan as a foreign worker and how easy is it to get a visa?

One Filipino's story

I talked to Ma. Lourdes Bigay from the northern part of the Philippines. She is now working as a teacher in Okinawa. When she was in college in the Philippines, she was teaching English through Skype. The company she worked for was famous among Japanese people learning English.

Every time when she asked one of her students, "What is the most beautiful place in your country?" they always said "Okinawa," even though they came from mainland Japan. She hadn't known about Okinawa before that. At that time, she was about to graduate from college and she wanted to work abroad as a teacher. So she searched on Google for "schools in Okinawa" and sent her resume to them. Luckily, one school offered her a job. Then she had to get a visa and other paperwork before she could come to Japan.

Getting a visa

In the Philippines it is very hard to leave the country without the proper paperwork but she said the visa is "actually the easiest document to get. As long as you have a school or company that will sponsor you, the process is quite straightforward." The school helped her with the visa application and she submitted the necessary documents; passport, school certificates etc. Just three weeks later she received her visa.

However, in the Philippines a visa is not the

only document you need. You also have to get an Overseas' Employment Certificate (COE). If you have this you can work in other countries. Ma. Lourdes' school in Japan applied for that for her but there were some difficulties. All the paperwork was processed in the capital, Manila and she was living 8 hours away, so there was a lot of traveling involved but in the end she received it.

The cost for getting the visa was ¥3500, and her school also needed to pay ¥7000 for the COE. Usually, the working visa is for 3 years, which is the same length as most foreign workers' contracts. However Ma Lourdes only has a one year visa now.



Ma. Lourdes Bigay

Difficulties

The things she finds difficult in Japan are the cost of living, the language, and the work culture. The last of these is tricky because even when it's time to go home, many Japanese workers are still working, so she is confused about what time she should quit for the day.

OCI's Unsung Heroes

The Security Team



Body text

Q: What's your name?

How old are you?

My name is Mr Taira and I'm in my 60s.

Q: How many guards are there here?

There are four people who are working as guards.

Q: When did you start this job?

I started around six years ago. I retired from my previous company and I have been working here for the past six years.

Q: Why did you start this job?

I retired from my previous job and I had a lot of free time, but I had nothing to do every day. So I decided to look for a job which I could do to make a little money. So this job suited me very well.

Q: What is the good thing about your work here?

The good thing is that I can communicate with young people. The energy from the young people makes me happy and gives me motivation.

Q: What is the hard thing about your work here?

There are not really any bad things, because Kirigaku and Kiritan students are good students. Besides the job suits my body and it is easy to do.

Q: Who is suited to this job?

The job suits someone who wants to work after retiring from his previous job, who can communicate well and who pays attention to detail.

Q: Please tell me about your daily routine.

There are three shifts every day and three staff so

we take turns, eight hours for each person. We open classrooms in the morning and lock them at night, at about 10p.m. We patrol around the school. If I discover something strange, I contact Soumuka.



Body text

Q: What's your name? My name is Mr Tamashiiro

Q: When did you start this job?

I started this year, 6 months ago. I had my pension, but I needed more money to live. After that I found this job which is near my house. I decided to work here.

Q: What are the good and the bad things about your work here?

The good thing is that students remind me about my youth, and I can get a lot of energy from the students. A hard thing is when the fire alarm sounds because of a malfunction. It gives me a shock. Another problem is that sometimes students are in school late at night. I want students involved in club activity to leave the gym by 10 pm. I would appreciate it if you could tell all students to go home on time.

Q: Have you seen any ghosts or unnatural phenomenon?

I haven't seen a ghost! But I heard noises. At that time, I wondered if it was a ghost.

Book a place in the 2020 Biblio Battle

A Biblio Battle was held in OCU library on November 28th, The Biblio Battle was a competition between five students.

Before the Biblio Battle, the participants read some books that they liked and summarized the story. At the end of the Biblio Battle they made a presentation in front of an audience of students and teachers for five minutes. Hikaru Suzuki got first prize this time and she said, "I did not know about the Biblio Battle at first but in the class we had to read one book and make a presentation in front of everyone and I won that. That's why I was chosen to enter the Biblio Battle. I had never read any books before so I was not sure what to read. I went to the bookstore and I found *Chosen Women*. When I saw this book, I was excited about reading it". This book was written by Ratna Sari Dewi Sukarno who is as known as Mrs. Dewi and she has appeared in a lot of television programs. Hikaru was so impressed by how Mrs. Dewi has lived her life because she was poor when she was young and she got a great job after she graduated from junior high school. But even during the break time of the job or after work, she worked in a part-time job. Hikaru was touched by how Mrs. Dewi sacrificed herself for her family.



The Biblio Battle which was held in the library.



Hikaru Suzuki who got first prize.

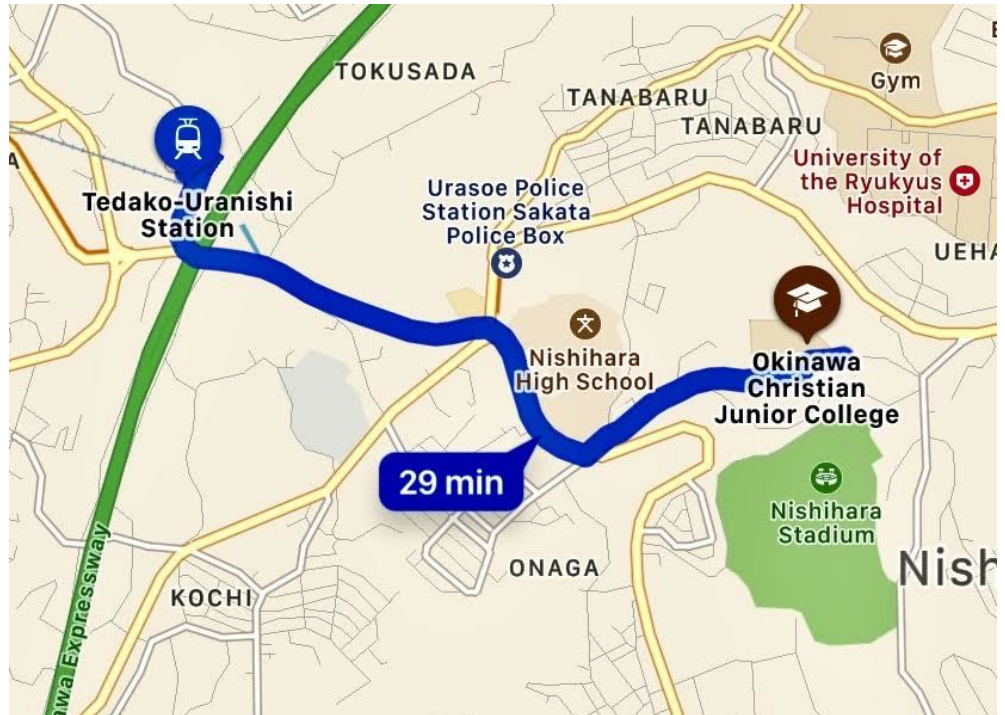
Other participants also introduced some interesting books. For example, *Fuss-free Cooking* and *Taking Some Memos*. *Fuss-free Cooking* was about how we do not have to always make perfect meals but we can enjoy cooking. In this book, the author introduced a lot of recipes so even people who don't usually cook, can make many kinds of meals.

The *Taking Some Memos* book was about how if you want to achieve something new, you should write down some memos to help you see the way to your goal. If we write down our vision, we can see our goal more clearly.

The Biblio Battle will be held next year as well, so why don't you read a lot of books, pick one you really like and introduce it to us next time?

TAKING THE MONORAIL TO COLLEGE

Yui Rail was extended to Tedako on October first. The new station is right beside Sakata and helps some people come to this college. In addition three other stations have been opened at Ishimine, Kyouzuka and Maeda. Compared to buses, taxis, or cars the monorail is much quicker, especially during rush hour since it doesn't have to wait in traffic. One of those who uses the extended service is Professor Christopher Valvona from the English Communication department. Professor Valvona lives in Naha city and uses the monorail about once a week. He usually boards at Tsubogawa but if he has time to walk to the next station, he will board at Onoyama station. He said that it takes about 35 to 40 minutes to get to Tedako Uranishi station and then it takes around a further 20 minutes to walk to the college, although Google maps says it takes 29 minutes! Professor Valvona says this service is good because the trains are very frequent but the downside is that the fare is a little expensive. He pays 360 yen from Tsubogawa station to



The new Tedako monorail station in relation to O.C.I. (Google Maps)

Tedako station. He recommended other people to use the monorail because he thinks it is a healthy option, and its good for the environment. While he's on the monorail, he can read some books. This college has a shortage of car parking spaces so he said it would be good if more students considered using the monorail. Another member of staff who uses the new station is Mr Yamakawa, who is in charge of maintenance. He lives in Urasoe city, and, sometimes uses the monorail, from Tedako station to Maeda station, to go back home after he finishes work. He said that the new monorail station is not crowded, but admits that it is more expensive than using the bus. Also, the nearest station to his home is not that close, plus it also takes time to walk from Tedako Uranishi to the college. That's why he doesn't use the monorail every day. On the plus side however, the monorail is not crowded and it is useful. So if you live in Naha or Urasoe, have you thought about switching to the monorail?

Hong Kong Demos

Professor Uechi talks about the unrest in his hometown

Q1, What do you think about the Hong Kong demos?

I'm worried about the Hong Kong demos because they are damaging the territory's economy. For example, public transportation is stopped and the demos invite young people to join them, so they can't go to school. And as long as the demos continue many shops can't open



The demonstrations in Hong Kong have brought tens of thousands of people onto the streets, often resulting in clashes with police.

either. So the Hong Kong economy has been badly damaged by the demos and I think they haven't ended yet.

Q2, What do you think about the police fighting with the demonstrators?

Actually the police and the participants are all Hong Kong people. I don't want them to hurt each other. But some police officers have families so they must support their families. On the other hand, the participants have their own lives. I think

they need to be rational with each other in order to find a solution to this problem.

Q3, Do you have friends in Hong Kong? Are they participating in the demos?

Yes, I have many friends in Hong Kong but they don't participate in the demos because they are wealthy. Some of them also have two passports - dual nationality - since when they were children. Actually they learned from their parents when they were children that problems like this would probably occur in the future.

Q4, Is China to blame for the unrest?

I think it is not only China that is bad because Hong Kong was always supposed to become part of China after 40 years. China has given Hong Kong a 40 year period to govern itself and Hong Kong people accepted the arrangement. But the problem was that Hong Kong people didn't really inform today's young people about the agreement. So it is not just China's fault.



Professor Uechi talks about Hong Kong with students from the newspaper class.

KIRI-TIMES' MEMBERS



Taiga Minami



Taisei Sakumoto



Mei Matsuda



Maika Hirakawa



Reiji Konami



Kokoro Shimamoto



Kouya Irabu



Morifumi Shiroma