

A farewell message to Nomura-sensei

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A Farewell Message to Nomura-sensei

Donna Hurst TATSUKI

Professor Kazuhiro Nomura, words cannot begin to express our gratitude to you for your hard work at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies for these many years. Professor Nomura and I served on many of the same committees and we both taught in the teacher training courses, the applied linguistics program in the department of English Studies, and the Graduate School for English Language Education and Research (GSELER). Through these various contexts I have come to know and respect my colleague, who humbly said, “Just call me Kaz,” the first time we met.

In the work of the Department of Anglo-American Studies, Professor Nomura was the representative of the Department of Anglo-American Studies in 2015 and 2016. I remember his meetings were punctual, efficient and friendly, as befitting his own personality. Upon a visit to his office, the gentle but happy gurgling of the little water fountain would greet guests at the door; it made a calming nature-evoking atmosphere, which was a stark contrast to the many electronic gadgets (always very orderly) that dominated the room.

Nomura-sensei has been a key member of our teacher education team for these past many years and has also made important contributions to English Education in Japan. As well as serving in important leadership roles in academic societies, Nomura-sensei continues to be involved in writing and editing high school English textbooks. As a teacher trainer, he has diligently undertaken many field visits and offered helpful guidance to students doing their fieldwork practicums. This kind of friendly guidance has enabled many Gaidai students to complete their educational training and attain the high achievement of passing the teacher employment examination.

Nomura-sensei's impact has also been strongly felt in the Graduate School for English

Language Education and Research (GSELER), which is also known as “the Recurrent Program”—a master’s level course for veteran teachers to refresh their language competencies, while renewing their knowledge of the language education field and re-conceptualizing their approaches to pedagogy. He has been a central instructor in the program, covering topics like technology in language teaching and oral presentation skills, as well as being a supervisor of numerous Master’s thesis projects. Every year he has voluntarily compiled all new thesis manuscripts onto a digital platform that continues to serve as a cumulative historical record of the academic achievements of our students.

Among some special memories is the following: Professor Nomura is very fond of singing and has a pleasant voice. Each year during the GSELER orientation party, he would play a recording of the school chorus in order to get us all to sing the Kobe Gaidai school song. As the rest of us fumbled with the words (reading tiny furigana under pressure is not easy!!!!) and we botched the unfamiliar melody, he carried us all as his voice rang out strong and pure. The zest and joy he brought everyday to the university life at Kobe Gaidai will be tough to match, impossible to replace.

All the best to you. Thank you Professor Nomura!