

Kotaro Murakami

村上 幸太郎

機械工学専攻・1年・駒崎研究室

30年度 GOES サンディエゴ海外研修 (6月23日～9月8日: 11週間) 2018 GOES San Diego Program (June 23 - Sept. 8; 11weeks)			
日付 Date	6月25日～8月3日 June 25 - Aug. 3 (6週間・6 weeks)	8月6日～17日 Aug. 6 - 17 (2週間・2 weeks)	8月18日～9月7日 Aug. 18 - Sept. 7 (3週間・3 weeks)
研修 案内 Program	速成英語 コミュニケーション B Intensive English for Communication B	未来技術研修 Future Technology Study Program	地域貢献活動 Independent Regional Study
研修先 Supporting Institution	サンディエゴ州立大学 附属語学学校 ALI San Diego State University American Language Institute	サンディエゴ州立大学工学 部研究推進機構 San Diego State University Faculty of Engineering Research Foundation	サンディエゴ州立大学工学 部ムーン研究室 San Diego State University Lab experiment experience

感想文

When I was in Japan, I thought that if I went to America I would improve my English skills. Spending time in San Diego has changed my mind and I realized that the most important thing is communication skills. In the first place, I tried to think about why my English skills improve in America. The answer is simple, because I use English in all the scenes of life. I think this is the same in every language. We use words as a means to output what we are thinking and to communicate with another person. In other words, we need to communicate in order to use English. In Japan, it was too common for me to use Japanese, so I did not feel the use of language as a means of communication, so I had a new way of thinking about languages in America.

In addition, my idea of communication itself has changed. When I observed people with high communication skills, I thought there were some common points. First of all, the opportunity of conversation comes from oneself, and I must speak with confidence. I think it is amazing that people try to talk even if they don't speak English. Also, my change of thinking about communication has changed the way I think about Japanese. When I was trying to convey things in detail and can't think of the words in English, I was often interrupted during the conversation. I felt it was important to rephrase it to other words, and to use words that convey the discrepancy of words less accurately than when thinking in Japanese.

The most unusual idea is that I need to think for myself. I think that my personality became more prominent because it is a different environment. This change is difficult to put into words, but I think that it is necessary in my future life, and I imitate the part that I think is good in others, and connect it to my own growth. I spent three months in San Diego, and I learned many things. I had no choice but to converse with people that I had never met before, and to change my thinking in terms of my first situation or the first time that I couldn't communicate using words. It was good to know that I can still change myself even if I get older. I will continue to absorb more.

Mie Mori 森 美詠

化学生命・化学工学専攻・2年・上田研究室

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感想文

I think there are many differences between ALI lessons and English lessons in Japan. Japanese English lessons are not good for daily life. Although I have studied English for over 10 years, I can't listen and speak English. Thus, I'm spending much money to study English in America. For the next generation, I would like to find an effective study method in Japan. First, in Japan, teachers tell students something one-sidedly. This style is very passive and boring.

ALI lessons have discussions not only in oral classes but also Grammar, Reading, Writing and Listening classes. This style is very active and fun, because students can speak a lot. And many teachers ask students questions. If my answer is wrong, I don't get an uncomfortable feeling. Second is atmosphere. In Japan, if students stop the lessons, the teacher gets angry. But in ALI, when the students stop the class and ask something, teachers answer their questions kindly. Third is about class composition. In Japan, there are about 40 students in one class, and class levels are usually high, middle or low. ALI has many levels of classes. General class (Grammar, Reading, Writing and Listening) has 101 to 106 level. Oral communication class has 101 to 107 level. Based on tests on the first day, our classes were decided. My first general class level was 105. But I changed my class level to 104, because students in 105 could speak and understand English well. So, I could not understand what they said. Before I would hate English, I changed my class.

Although the teacher of Grammar and Reading is very strict, I enjoy my classes. If I had this situation in Japan, I could not change my class level. If I change to a class level below, that lesson is too easy for me. As ALI has many levels of class, they can provide fit lessons for students. In addition to this, we can get many chances to talk with teachers. In ALI, the number of students in a class is smaller than Japanese one. One class has only 12 or 13 students. All students talk with their teachers everyday about daily life. Like baseball games, the amount of sugar in juice and weekend plans. That is a good opportunity for teachers to understand students' listening and speaking skills and is also good for students. I want to work in America, but I would have difficulty if I only study English in Japan.

Toru Shirahama

白濱 透

物理宇宙専攻・1年・伊藤研究室

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感想文

My best experience in San Diego is living at Vantaggio. It changed my world because I met a lot of people from different countries. This experience is precious. I was shy when I came here because I am not good at speaking English. However I got a fearless heart there. I always cook dinner in the kitchen. I look forward to dinner time because I can meet my friends and new people. A wide range of people come the kitchen, so I talk with them. I was nervous because it is first meeting and I have to speak English. At first, it is hard for me but I have done this every day. I feel like I'm not nearly as nervous as I was. I realized that grammar is not important and I can learn English naturally. I really like this time.

I have eaten Italian and Saudi Arabian traditional food, such as Kabasa, lasagna, and pizza. My friend Rami is from Saudi Arabia. He is a chef. He has stayed in America for 4 years so he can speak English very well. I usually eat dinner with Rami and another chef, Nino, in the communal kitchen. They always give me some food. I was moved by their giving. Although I know giving is important in my life, I had not been doing it. I have been living by myself since I was 16 years old. Therefore I had to save my money and it has become a habit. I was only thinking about short term profit. However my mind changed by their giving. They never request a repayment. They always say that you are my friend, never mind. I could grow my spirit and humanity. I think I want to give something to other people from now. I think it is a good way for communication.

While living at Vantaggio, I volunteered at a newspaper publishing company, Yu Yu San Diego. There are seven regular staff at Yu Yu. All of them are women. When I started to work at there, I felt out of place. However, they are so kind, smart and funny. Yu Yu is always quite lively. I really like the ambiance of the office. They have a lot of topics to talk about. However, they engage in work seriously when working has started. I'm looking forward to lunch time every day. It is very fun. We talk about family, life, a joke. Their talking is so funny I couldn't stop laughing. I have spent great days at Yu Yu. I wish I could stay more days. I miss them. The most difficult thing is thinking about recommendation articles for the guidebook of San Diego. I have to describe with reference to reviews and pictures. Also there is a character limit. I need to write place, time, budget, and recommended dish. I spent four hours but I only finished two articles. It is very hard work. It is necessary to keep a strong mind. The most interesting work is putting the San Diego guide book at front of Japanese shops. I met many people with different jobs. Connection and corporation are important when we work at a company. We have to cooperate with each other. I had a good experience at YuYu San Diego.

Koji Wada

和田 晃司

物理宇宙専攻・1年・半田研究室

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感想文

I volunteered at RH Fleet Science Center, Studio X. There are many educational toys in Studio X and children play with them and make things too. On the first day, our boss told us what we should do, and we toured RH Fleet Science Center. American schools were on summer vacation so many children visited, and there were lots of opportunities to talk with children and their parents. Before coming to San Diego, I planned to compare about astronomy education events between Kagoshima and San Diego. In Kagoshima, there are many space-related facilities. I belong to astronomy laboratory in Kagoshima university which holds two events in July and August every year. Also there are two JAXA rocket bases in Kagoshima. There are many exhibits at both rocket bases and many people come there when the rocket is launched. So, Kagoshima has a deep connection with astronomy.

In San Diego, there are two space-related facilities which are the Palomar Observatory and San Diego Air & Space Museum. I went to Palomar observatory, which has three telescopes. It is an active research center and visitors can only go into limited areas. There is a gift shop and small museum. Next I went to San Diego Air & Space Museum which is in Balboa Park. There are about 66 collections and 7 areas in the museum. Unfortunately most collections were planes and there were only 3 collections about space. Also, there is a 3D-4D Theater in the museum. All movies are about space, for example gravity and about Apollo, and space fighter planes. Finally I went to Griffith observatory. It took about 20 minutes from Hollywood by car. It is a famous tourist spot in Los Angeles, so there were a lot of people in Griffith observatory, and I found it was a building for sightseeing, like a museum, not a building for research because there were no telescopes for research though there are optic telescopes for visitors. There were three domes. Two of those were the exhibits areas, and, as for the other, it was a planetarium. There were history of Griffith observatory and Structure of the telescopes and kind of the telescopes and a chemical formula exhibit in the exhibit areas. Furthermore, I was surprised that there were a café and gift shop which sell many things.

Through volunteering and visiting various astronomy education sites I came to know the difference between American and Japanese astronomy education. Japanese astronomy education is closely related to real research. American astronomy education seems to be more entertainment. A good point of the American way is that many people can enjoy and feel fun about astronomy, even if they are not interested in research. But a weak point is they can't feel the excitement of research. I think we can learn from both ways.

Masayuki Yada

矢田 雅之

化学生命・化学工学専攻・1年・隅田研究室

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感想文

In Dr. Moon's program, I learned about the three latest technologies. These technologies are far apart from my research field and I thought that I had no chance to learn them without participating in this program. Although it was a short period of two weeks, it was a good opportunity to think about the future.

First, I learned about robotics technology. I made coins using a 3D printer. It was completed in a shorter time than I expected and I felt the progress of technology. Also, the design drawing for 3D printers is made public on the web, and I thought that there will be nothing that cannot be made with 3D printers in the future. Second, I learned about wireless technology. We could move a wheelchair with just a few hand movements. For people with physical disabilities, I thought it was quite a breakthrough. I was convinced that this technology would make the world more comfortable for people to live in. Third, I learned about neural technology. We played games with BCI (brain computer interface). Before, I thought that understanding someone's thinking just by reading brain waves is horrible. However, now I think that it is very wonderful technology because it has the potential for us to be able to do anything just by thinking.

In addition, in the culture class, it was particularly impressive to go to Midway Ship Museum. The submarines and ships had all been actually used, and it was very impressive. All of them aggregated the technologies of that era, and I thought that this technology could be used for military purposes. However, I did not feel comfortable with life on board. The submarines and Sea Shepherd had emphasis on efficiency, and there was not enough space. Especially I thought that the space to sleep was insufficient. However, Midway was a huge ship, and the interior design was too amazing. There were a lot of fighter aircraft on the ship, and when I actually sat in a fighter aircraft, I felt amazing again.

Yuri Uno

宇野 友理

物理宇宙専攻・1年・今井研究室

30年度 GOES サンディエゴ海外研修 (7月12日～9月26日:10週間) 2018 GOES San Diego Program (July 12 - Sept. 26 ; 10 weeks)		
日付 Date	7月16日～8月17日 June 25 - Aug. 3 (5週間・5 weeks)	7月16日～9月21日 July 16 - Sept. 21 (10週間・10 weeks)
研修案内 Program	アカデミック英語 Academic English	地域研究活動 Local Research Study
研修先 Supporting Institution	西オーストラリア大学 附属語学学校 CELT University of Western Australia Centre for English Language Training (CELT)	西オーストラリア大学 ICRAR 研究推進機構 University of Western Australia International Center for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR)

感想文

If I could go back in time to give myself advice on the first day I arrived in Perth, there are lots of things I would tell myself. The very first thing is work hard. Even though I was determined to work hard back in Kagoshima, and brought 4 textbooks related to my internship, they were all left clean (or, not really clean, because they are covered in a slight layer of dust...). I regret that I did not make a plan to get things done. One of the ICRAR PhD students had three times as many grants as the other PhD students. I heard this is because he has a long time schedule with precise time tables for finishing all his tasks. I think I should also plan neatly if I really want to get things done.

The second thing I would say is that if you feel strange even slightly, believe in yourself and act courageously to make things right. If I trusted myself more and could be more courageous, my first few weeks in Perth would have been more favourable. To be honest, when I first arrived in Perth, I was scared to talk to anyone. Especially, I did not like to go to the supermarket where I often felt discriminated against. I did not know why I suddenly became extremely pessimistic in this situation, but after thinking, I discovered that what makes your English worse is feeling afraid of speaking English. I realized that when I spoke to the cashier my voice was too soft to hear and my heart was shaking timidly, which probably offended the air like a tsunami. The next moment, I almost heard the sound of a click and saw the flash of a bulb covered in dust for years. The one who discriminated against me the most was ME! Since then I had no fear to go to the shop and even enjoyed small talk with the service staff.

The final advice I would give myself is to make yourself more comfortable. Although I love talking with people when I travel, I kept thinking it was better to spend my time with friends and interacting with people, and I didn't realize I was always putting myself in a stressful situation. Finally I had my own time, relaxing alone. It made me realize the importance of being happy just spending time by yourself. All in all, a lot of things in UWA were different from Kagoshima University, but what I liked most was the environment dedicated to researchers from all over the world, and aspirational students.