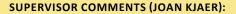
EDUCATIONAL JAPANESE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF IOWA August 2010 –July 2012

15 counties, 25 cities, and more than 100 visits to lowa K-12 schools, libraries, senior centers, and communities: I have just concluded two years of service in the state of lowa. In comparison with more urban areas, rural lowa students have few opportunities to learn about Japan. This fact allowed me to have a much more thrilling and enjoyable experience.

My most memorable outreach visits were those to rural area schools in lowa. Last February, I visited a classroom at Van Allen Elementary school in Chariton, Iowa. It looked like a typical Iowa classroom but, as soon as I looked around the classroom, I realized that there was no other ethnicity except Caucasian. So, of course, I was the only person of color in the classroom. For some of the students, I was the first Asian they had ever seen. The teacher told me that, unfortunately, they don't have much chance to learn about global awareness. Seeing their excited eyes really motivated me. I was so fortunate to be in lowa to meet lowa students.

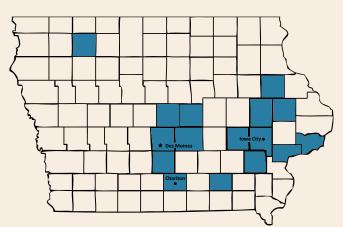


Yume has been an inspiration to hundreds, probably thousands, of students, faculty, and community members all across the state of lowa whom she has personally touched. Her knowledge, enthusiasm, and genuine joy in sharing her culture has brought great credit to the University of Iowa's International Programs and left an indelible mark on Iowans of all ages and backgrounds. The JOI program could not have found a better representative than Yume Hidaka.

TEACHER COMMENTS (ALISA MEGGITT):

THANK YOU again for your very generous investment in my students. Thank you for the most wonderful day of SUSHI and Japan Fun. The kids just fell in LOVE with Japan today.

Map of the places I've made presentations in Iowa:







THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

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JAPAN OUTREACH IN UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COMMUNITY

My **Sushi Workshop** won the University of Iowa program award for the "Best Educational Program of the Year" (February 8, 2012):

I've spent 30% of my time in JOI activities for the University of Iowa community. The most successful event I organized was the Sushi Workshop for university students living in the residence halls. It was awarded the Best Educational Program of the Year for 2012. In addition to the sushirolling activities, I also included a Japanese traveling art exhibit. I borrowed from the General Consulate of Japan at Chicago a collection of drawings by a group of Japanese school children whose lives had been impacted by the devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan last year. I directed students' attention to the artwork hanging on the walls and I explained the prolonged suffering in Japan and how much the Japanese appreciated the help from around the world. On the tables were card-making materials for students to create their own messages to send to these children, letting them know that, though a year had passed, the world was still thinking of them.









WorldCanvass Appearance *March 2, 2012*

I was a guest on the University of Iowa WorldCanvass program on Japan, where I introduced the Japanese children's artwork. WorldCanvass is a live and recorded program on Iowa Public Radio and cable television stations. The program is also available as a podcast.



So-ran Bushi was performed at Asian Night at the lowa City Public Library, by the Japanese Students and Scholars Club *April 27th, 2012*

The University of lowa Japanese community is very small compared to other international communities. When

I arrived here, there were almost no activities that Japanese students were involved in. I took over the organization of the University of Iowa Japanese Students and Scholars Club in order to provide more communication between Japanese members and also to provide Japanese cultural outreach for the University of Iowa community. We hosted several Japanese cultural events such as Karaoke & Onigiri Night and Japanese film screenings. In addition, we established a So-ran Bushi performing troupe that included members of other nationalities.

DORMITORY COORDINATOR COMMENTS:

This was a completely affordable way to not only entertain but also educate residents on a slice of Japanese culture and increase awareness of those still being affected by the earthquake and tsunami. We believe this sushi event will continue to be an annual festivity benefiting residents and beyond.



JAPAN OUTREACH FOR IOWA-JAPAN (SISTER STATES)

Iowa-Yamanashi Sister States 50th Anniversary *August 11 – 14, 2011*

Last year was the 50th Anniversary of the Iowa-Yamanashi Sister States Organization in Des Moines, Iowa's capitol city. We hosted a delegation from Yamanashi that included the governor and a youth delegation that celebrated a 50-year-old relationship. I served as the guide and interpreter for a group of more than 20 high school students from Yamanashi.



Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Centennial in Iowa *May 12, 2012*

It has been one hundred years since the first cherry blossom tree was given to the United States from Japan as a symbol of friendship. As part of celebrating this anniversary, Des Moines was chosen as one of the cities to be given young cherry blossom trees. On May 12, 2012, I was appointed as a member of the Centennial Committee. We worked for six months to organize the programs, and hosted centennial events at the State Capitol grounds where the Yamanashi temple bell is located. Attending the ceremony were the governor of Iowa, the Japanese delegation, and other important guests in the area of US-Japan relations. I mainly worked as their interpreter during their stay.

It was great to work with Iowa-Yamanashi Sister States and through the programs. I met so many wonderful people who put an immense amount of effort into US-Japan relations. That became a very special and wonderful part of my memory of Iowa.







COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IOWA SISTER STATES (CAROL GRANT)

During her time in Iowa, Yume became a volunteer member of the Iowa Sister States (ISS) Yamanashi Committee. As such she was instrumental in two important exchanges that occurred during her tenure in Iowa. Her experience with students and bilingual capabilities made her a tremendous asset for ISS. In all of her involvement, Yume's contributions are extensive and professional. She is a pleasure to work with.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Yume's boundless energy and exceptional work ethic propelled her into countless activities across the state, many of them high-profile, where she was able to assist local and governmental groups in celebrating lowa's connections with Japan. This reflected well not only on Yume and the JOI program, but on the University of Iowa and International Programs.