



## 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 sushi-rolling 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.



Sushi Workshop at the University of Iowa



‘Thinking of you’ cards



‘Best program of the year’ award



WorldCanvass focus on Japan

### 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 Performing

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

The University of Iowa 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.



Yamanashi Youth Delegation

### 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.



Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Centennial in Des Moines, IA



Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Centennial walk



Iowa Yamanashi Sister States

#### 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 Iowa's connections with Japan. This reflected well not only on Yume and the JOI program, but on the University of Iowa and International Programs.*