

UFSA KONNECT

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Masataka Oeki

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Spring in **INDIA**

by Iswarya Sankaralingam

While Japan enjoys spring through Sakura, we Indians have our own fun way to celebrate spring, in early March. People take to the streets and celebrate by throwing colored powder and flower petals on each other. The colors are meant to symbolize the beauty of spring. It is a glorious mess and mesmerizing to watch the outcome. Social norms are usually forgone and everyone celebrates this festival with the same vigor and cheer! It is said that the spirit of Holi encourages unity in the society and even enemies turn friends on this day. People also drink a special drink called thandai or bhang, a milk drink that includes ground cannabis and eat pastries containing nuts. If you are planning to visit India, definitely plan your trip around this time, to be a part of these fun festivities. Holi doesn't need more words to explain, just a picture would tell a thousand tales.



Spring in POLAND

by Alexandra Wolf

When my Friend asked me to write about Polish Spring's Celebrations I immediately thought about the chocolate bunnies, jumping from shopping shelves and egg-shaped candies, wrapped in colourful foil, which I could not overlook during weekly shopping. This was the time when I really missed traditional Polish customs. For centuries, beautifully decorated eggs adorned Polish homes during Easter.

To be honest, for me as a handcrafts enthusiast anything related to decorations is a story without an end. I wish to introduce all the Readers with the detailed egg-dyeing method starting from the application of the hot wax to the eggshell, covering the surface with naturally derived paint (for example onion peel gives brown color; beetroot – *kawaii* pink; and cornflower petals – deep blue), and finally removing the wax to reveal the floral patterns. Voilà! This was just one example, out of 20 different ways of how to prepare a traditional Polish *Pisanka* (ang. Easter egg) and although the methods have evolved, the tradition still stands the test of time.



“But ... is it the only Polish Spring's Celebration?” I asked myself. While trying to recall the colourful childhood times, a heavy storm visited Fukuoka. Looking through the drenched window a bright thunder took me on a journey back in time to Warsaw - my hometown. A whisper came “Don't be afraid Ola, Lady Spring drowns Marzanna in rain” ... Marzanna. Now I remember.

Marzanna (In Polish *mara* means nightmare) is a Slavic goddess whose death represents the end of the dark days of winter. In folk stories, thunders announce the rebirth of Spring and victory over darkness. Eventually the rituals associated with Marzanna lost their spiritual character and nowadays they are considered as an occasion to have a feast, prepare together a Marzanna-doll out of straw and drown her in the nearby river.



With this article I wish all of you a great start in the Spring 2017 Semester. Drown all your weaknesses and plant a strong tree of knowledge that will give you fruits for a lifetime.

HUMANS OF KYUDAI



Photo credits: Win Banthrarungoj

Masataka Oeki, Genki cyclist, Biochem, English, kangaroo lover, and future science teacher

Please tell us what brings you to Kyudai and the Department of Agriculture?

My hometown was Yamaguchi so Kyudai was the first choice as it is near and within my reach for university entrance exam. I really like science, especially Biology and Chemistry, hence the Department of Agriculture

How have 2 years in Kyudai been for you?

Both ups and downs, I guess. So far, all have been very fun. I took up cycling and also got the chance to brush up on my English thanks to the diversity of international students here. Being their supporter and friend has been wonderful.

How about classes?

At some point, big hall lectures are not my favorite but the in-depth knowledge they bring is truly amazing. (geeky smile)

Can you share with us how you get inspired to like Biochemistry and English so much?

In junior high school, I was strongly influenced by one teacher. He was very strict in class where he teaches us Biology, but very kind to us outside of class. I was inspired to become as good a science teacher as he was. For that, I now am determined to study abroad, hopefully in Australia for my love of kangaroo ~ Hence, English and Biology caught me I guess.

As our short encounter ended, Oeki bid us goodbye on his cool black cross bike back home to Ito. A great science teacher can start just like that!

Tanabata

TANABATA is a traditional Japanese festival originating from an ancient Chinese legend. Based on the legend, as two lovers, Orihime and Hikoboshi (represented by Vega and Altair) loved each other too much, they became lazy and stopped working decently. Seeing them as such, the Lord of Heaven got mad and separated them via the Milky Way. Since then, they've been allowed to see each other just once a year, on July 7th. This is why they pray for a clear night on that day for their encounter. The story, moreover, stood strong the test of time. So many poems about Tanabata have been found in Manyōshū, the oldest poetry book in Japan. Around Tanabata season, bamboo trees get decorated with colorful paper strips filled with wishes of people written on. Each year Tanabata is celebrated on or around July 7th with fancily garnished bamboos display. We hope you have a nice TANABATA day this year and may Orihime and Hikoboshi see one another.



Image source: tokyoenzine.com

UPCOMING KUFSA EVENTS

New! **TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

At KUFSA sports we believe:

Sports is friendship

Sports is health

Sports is education

Sports is life

Sports bring the world together. Playing sports teaches us how to win honorably, lose gracefully, respect authority, work with others, manage our time and stay out of trouble.

By destiny we have been joined together at Kyushu University and we are happy to be part of such a large family. With the ever growing population of foreign students with varying culture and love for diverse sports, we at KUFSA sports have decided to meet the athletic expectation of such a unique community by including TABLE TENNIS in this year's lined up activities. Table Tennis is known to be played among all ages, sex and in all countries across the globe. This event is designed for all, especially those who cannot partake in any of our traditional yearly events (soccer, basketball, volleyball and badminton).

We expect students to bring the same euphoria and enthusiasm observed during their research activities at their laboratories, at the Kyushu gym and various activities to this event to make friends and compete amicably. We believe that this will be a platform to showcase our talent as we make friends. Why don't you join us as we play to be the next Ai Bukhara (famous Japanese tennis player)? Ai says: 'Table tennis is such an interesting sport. It is fun to watch but if you play you will understand how great it is'.

It's going to be such an immensely enjoyable moment. Life is a sport, make it count. Join us as we make a table tennis history on Kyushu campus. We want to start the unknown with you and finish unforgettable on that day!

Below is the tentative schedule for the table tennis event to get you prepared.

Date: July 22nd

Venue: Ito campus (Gym)

Participants: Both males and females

KUFSA SPORTS,
Always with you!

Information from the International Student and Researcher Support Center 外国人留学生・研究者サポートセンターからのお知らせ



International Student and Researcher Support Center has been established for international students and researchers to start off your studies or research activities smoothly. Please feel free to contact us when you have any questions or problems.

We extend you our best wishes for your pleasant stay in Fukuoka and fruitful studies and research at Kyushu University.

Website

We are providing various information regarding campus facilities, immigration procedures, and events/news for foreign residents in Fukuoka through this website.

We hope that you will check our website regularly and get useful information.

Business hours

9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Hospital campus: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm)

Closed: Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and New Year Holidays

Location

Japanese: <http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/contact>

English: <http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en/contact>

Please check more information at Support Center Website!!
<http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/supportcenter/en>

UPCOMING KUFSA EVENTS

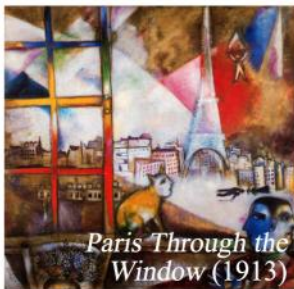
One-day Trip to Oita

Join us in June on the excursion to experience from the stunning nature of Tenso Shrine, the rich history and culture of Usa Jingu Shrine to the vivid colors in Marc Chagall Museum, celebrating the most preeminent modernist artworks of the 20th century under discount. All in one amazing trip.

And some more secrets along the way...



Marc Chagall



Paris Through the Window (1913)



Tenso shrine



Usa Jingu Shrine

Talent Hunt

A poster for the KUFSA Talent Hunt 2017. The left side is black with white silhouettes of a boombox, a guitar, and a microphone. The right side is red with white text. At the bottom, it says 'APPLICATION: DEADLINE: MAY 17'.

KUFSA TALENT HUNT 2017 BRING IT ON!

VENUE: MADOKAPIA HALL, ONOJO CITY
AUDITION: MAY 20
FINAL SHOW: JUNE 10 (18:00-21:00)

PRIZE: 10000 JPY + TROPHY

APPLICATION:
DEADLINE:
MAY 17



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We hope you can be part of a fruitful year for KUFSA. Please feel free to contact us at kufsainfo@gmail.com!