

International Graduate Students Seminar July 25-27

YAMAGISHI Takakazu (DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE
STUDENTS SEMINAR)

NANZAN UNIVERSITY

The three-day International Graduate Student Seminar began on schedule upon the successful completion of the NASSS 2010 Professional Conference. The two American Keynote speakers, Professor Marianna TORGOVNICK of Duke University and Professor Robert MCMAHON of Ohio State University, the three professors from the Asia Pacific region, Professor Yu-Cheng LEE from Academia Sinica in Taiwan, Professor Kousar AZAM from Osmania University in India and Professor Ricardo JOSE from the University of the Philippines were joined by the twenty-three graduate students from Japan and abroad at the Nanzan Seminar House. As Professor YONEYAMA Lisa was unable to attend the seminar, Prof. Kousar AZAM kindly agreed to fill in for all of her mentoring duties. The graduate students came from such diverse backgrounds this year from countries like Japan, the United States, Canada, China, Thailand, the Philippines and India. In total 11 Japanese and 12 graduate students from abroad participated this year. The main purpose and mission of the graduate student seminar is to foster deeper and more intimate bonds between young local and international scholars while gaining personal and unique firsthand experience from our Japanese mentors, local professors, keynote speakers and professors from ASPAC countries.

Participants hailed from the following universities worldwide: Nanzan University, The University of Tokyo, Kyushu University, Osaka University, Kyoto University, Hokkaido University, Rikkyo University, University of North Carolina, University of Alberta, University of California, Irvine, Ohio State University, Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, Harvard University, Minnesota University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of the Philippines, Academia Sinica, and Osmania University.

The program was as follows:

Evening of July 25th (General Orientation and Reception and 1st “free discussion”
(*zadan no yube*)

Beginning at 17:30, with Professor YAMAGISHI Takakazu presiding, participants were treated to a comprehensive history of Nanzan University’s American center activities and introduced one of its founding members and a

present member of the NASSS Executive Committee and Office, Professor Emeritus IWANO Ichiro. We then listened to a ten-minute introduction of the Graduate Seminar's activities for the next two days by Asst. Professor Sheri Love Yasue. Professor Dave POTTER then presented a short ten-minute PowerPoint on the history of the American Studies Seminars from the post war period up to the present focusing on the changes in location and methodology of each set of American Studies Seminars. At 18:30, the official start of the Graduate Students Seminar was toasted by Professor SUZUKI Tatsuya, Director of British and American Studies at Nanzan University. After the buffet dinner, where students, NASSS staff and professors alike enjoyed mingling in a free social environment, the evening continued on up to the late hours of the night at the seminar house lounge where participants enjoyed interesting discussions and informal introductions.

Morning of July 26 (Plenary Session)

The plenary session was presided over once again by Professor YAMAGISHI Takakazu and began with an hour long session that focused around the themes: *How to Complete a Dissertation?* and *How to succeed in Academic Life?* Students were able to hear firsthand and honest advice from local and foreign professors on the future difficulties of academic careers and lifestyles. Students were also asked to give information on the realities, cost and experiences of completing dissertations in their own home countries.

Afternoon of July 26 (Sightseeing Excursion)

Both foreign and Japanese students and professors took advantage of the pre-arranged excursion by Asst. Prof. Sheri Love Yasue to downtown Nagoya's historical shopping arcade and Osu Temple for lunch and browsing. Students grouped together in an informal manner and were free to choose from a variety of local or foreign cuisine. The excursion then moved to Inuyama city on the outskirts of Nagoya to see a national treasure and one of the oldest castles in Japan, the Inuyama castle, and visited nearby Urakuen Tea House. Though small in size, the authentic atmosphere was a great opportunity for picture taking. Searing temperatures made this excursion only bearable, and participants were able to cool down with cold drinks and had traditional Japanese kaiseki cuisine at a local restaurant for the evening meal.

July 27th All day session (Three separated Sectional Conferences- Students' project presentations)

Students were divided into three session groups, identical to those in the NASSS conference. Each student was given 15 minutes for the presentation and 20 minutes for the Q&A session afterwards. We lengthened the Q&A section this year in an attempt to add breadth and value to the comments offered by professors and other students. The presentations were a great success this year and we believe that the students were able to benefit positively from this informal and intensive presentation session.

July 28 Morning Departure

Students departed at various times and moved on to their respective destinations.