

THE PRISM

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's e-newsletter on International Education

IKIGAI — THE FORCE WITHIN by Lois Kajiwara (<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/international>)

Perhaps Elizabeth Keith's path in life was destined from an early age. Born and raised in Tokyo, she grew up in a bicultural family and attended the International School of the Sacred Heart (Empress Michiko's alma mater). She then moved to Hawai'i to study at UH Mānoa and in her junior year, she studied abroad at Alliance Francaise and Sorbonne in Paris. Her BA (Japanese, French), MA (Japanese Literature), and PhD (Japanese Literature) degrees are all from UH Mānoa.

When I first met Elizabeth, she was well-established and highly regarded in the Japanese media. Among her many accomplishments, she was the NHK correspondent in Hawai'i from 1986–2012, the assistant general manager of KIKU-TV, a TV reporter who interviewed



Elizabeth and Kent Keith

famous people such as sumo wrestler Takamiyama (Jesse Kuhaulua), and a professional interpreter for heads of state/government. For the past six years, however, her career in international education has been her passion. She has been teaching at UH Mānoa intermittently since 2002, except during 2012–2015, when she worked as a senior lecturer for the Centre for Transcultural Studies at Temasek Polytechnic in Singapore. Teaching at both institutions intensified her feelings on the value of international education. In July, after her return from a five-week trip to Africa, I had a chance to ask questions and catch up on her recent news.

Was your first language Japanese?

My mother is Japanese and my father was Swedish-American. I grew up in Tokyo, Japan. My father travelled often for work and my mother only spoke Japanese. So I guess you could say that my first language as a toddler was Japanese. When I was in high school and had the opportunity to choose French, Spanish, or Japanese to study, my father urged me to take Japanese. He said that someday, when I grow up and live away from my mother, I should be able to write a decent letter to her in Japanese. He said that my mother didn't have to learn English to communicate with me, but I have to

learn Japanese because it's my mother's language. I was a rebellious teenager, so in high school, I studied French.

What was it like for you to grow up in Tokyo?

Tokyo in my childhood years was quite cosmopolitan. The school that I attended was an international school attended by children of diplomats and foreign corporate representatives. As a result, over 20 different countries were represented in my class of 37 students. I was able to watch French movies in the theater, enjoyed jam with tea and piroshki at Russian restaurants, ate hot Indian curry with my fingers, bought Irish lace kerchiefs as gifts, wore Burberry jackets from U.K., sipped Colombian coffees in the coffee shops, and treated myself to Belgian chocolates. The English language newspaper, *The Japan Times*, was filled with international headlines from around the world. As a result, I grew up in Tokyo with a keen awareness of the world outside of Japan.

Why did you decide on UH Mānoa to get your degrees? What attracted you to Japanese literature?

I believe that UH Mānoa has one of the best East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL) department in the nation. I was attracted to Japanese literature because I wanted to someday translate a literary piece from Japanese to English.

Once, when I was on an interpreting assignment in Tokyo, I stopped at Kinokuniya bookstore. There, I found *The Twilight Years*, a novel by Ariyoshi Sawako, translated into English by Mildred Tahara, one of my professors at EALL. I had done subtitle translations and oral interpretations; however, I had not translated any literary work into English. I was deeply impressed by the translation, and was inspired to return to EALL for my MA in Japanese Literature. Once I started the program, I learned how rich and diverse Japanese literature was. It provided me with a deeper understanding of the Japanese people's minds and their behavior. The insights provided by literature were truly empowering and meaningful to me, and I continued on until I completed my PhD.

How did you start your broadcasting career in TV and radio? What did you enjoy the most about it?

I was hired as a legal interpreter by a lawyer defending a yakuza in a notorious entrapment case in 1986–87. This case was in Honolulu and attracted tremendous media attention from Japan. After the trial was over, NHK asked me to work as a correspondent in Hawai'i. I continued to work for them for 25 years until I left for Singapore in 2012. What I enjoyed the most was the variety of stories I proposed and reported on. They ranged from science, politics, economy, to human interest stories. For example, back in February 2008, before any Japanese media was interested in Barack Obama, I suggested that we "put in the can" a documentary on him to save for future use. I realized that he had captured the grass roots support in Hawai'i and felt that if his popularity here was any indication, he might win the presidential election in 2008. I am happy to say that NHK was one of the first networks to introduce President Obama to the Japanese people, early on in the 2008 campaign season.

CONTENTS

<i>Ikigai</i> — The Force Within (continued from page 1)	2
Introducing George Sabo	3
Live ♦ Laugh ♦ Learn Q&A with Tran Vo	4
International Education Links	5-6



IKIGAI — THE FORCE WITHIN (continued from page 1)**You met a lot of interesting people when you were working in the media. Who stands out?**

I was extremely nervous but felt honored to interpret for His Royal Highness, Prince Hitachi of Japan (photo to the right). Because of his interest in marine biology, he visited the abalone farm at the Natural Energy Lab of Hawai'i. At the end of the briefing from the director of the lab, there was a gift, nicely wrapped, to present to him. His Royal Highness noticed the large, beautiful abalone shell on the receptionist's desk, filled with paper clips and odds and ends. He pointed to this shell and asked if he could keep it as a souvenir. The director quickly emptied it out, rubbed it clean on his aloha shirt, and presented it to him. The Prince was delighted, and happily accepted it. I also spent a week as an exclusive interpreter for Itami Juzo, the actor and movie director, when he was attending the Hawai'i International Film Festival. He was here with his wife, Nobuko Miyamoto, and his son. They were quick, witty, funny, yet warm and gracious. At the end of the week when we said our goodbyes, Nobuko had tears in her eyes.

**What does international education mean to you and what is its role in today's world?**

As we become increasingly more interconnected around the world through technology, it is even more critical for us to gain a deeper understanding of people from different cultures. International education is also a process of self-discovery. The more we are exposed to different cultures, the more we understand our own. Thus, international education is the first step in achieving this deeper understanding on all levels. We are particularly blessed in Hawai'i because we are multicultural and are exposed to people of various ethnicities and backgrounds. The host culture of Hawai'i is also rich in values such as taking care of our environment, each other, the elderly, and the children. We only have one planet and we should all be aware of our responsibilities as stewards of this earth. Through international education, we can raise this awareness and come to the realization that in spite of all our differences, we share certain universal values. That commonality will be what unites us, and brings us peace. International education helps us in this search for common values, and thus, it has become even more crucial in today's world.



Elizabeth with Silantoi Nikoitiko (to the right of photo), a young girl who the Keiths have been supporting for over 10 years, and Silantoi's relatives

In June you were invited by the University of Johannesburg to do a presentation on "Reexamining the Humanities: From the Neoliberal to Holistic View of Education in Singapore." What is your opinion on the debate regarding the importance of liberal arts versus STEM?

Thank you for this question. I firmly believe that a liberal arts education is as important as STEM education. That is because science helps us live longer, but the arts help us live better. It is important to teach humanities as part of a holistic education so students can gain an understanding of human beings such that they may apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills globally, for the good of mankind. It is through humanities that we are reminded of what it is to be "human," and are inspired to be the best that we can be, no matter the race or religion. In this ever-changing, fast-paced world, we need to learn and relearn our skills so that we may retool for new challenges. Humanities teach us how to learn, how to write, how to articulate our thoughts, and how to communicate effectively with other human beings. Humanities teach us to think critically, tolerate differences, and celebrate diversity. An appreciation of differences teaches tolerance and makes the world a kinder place. That is why a liberal arts education is vitally important in today's world.

What are some of the projects that you are working on?

I am currently working on developing a Cross Cultural Studies program, textbook, and curriculum for learners of English. In the course of studying the English language, students could be exposed to various different concepts and issues which are relevant to cultural studies and comparisons. I believe this cross-cultural competency will be helpful to students as they enter the global marketplace. I am also working on publishing portions of my 290-page dissertation, "*Doshinshugi* and Realism: A Study of the Characteristics of the Poems, Stories, and Compositions in *Akai tori* from 1918 to 1923." During my research for my dissertation, I learned that these songs, ingrained deep in my heart from my childhood in Tokyo, were first published in the *Akai tori* journal, almost a century ago. I enjoyed the research findings for this dissertation and hope that others will, too.

What advice would you give to students?

I have been blessed to be able to travel abroad and learn. I think students have even more opportunities today to travel, so you should make every effort to go abroad and learn about other cultures. But even if you don't leave your country, you can still enrich your life by befriending people from different cultures. Ultimately, it is the people in your lives that influence you, so be generous with your friendship, and enjoy people.



INTRODUCING...GEORGE SABO

Aloha! My name is George Sabo and I joined the University as the coordinator of the Mānoa International Exchange (MIX) Office in October 2015. I am very happy to be here at UH Mānoa supporting the internationalization of our campus community and helping to foster a globally engaged student body.



I hail originally from San Diego, California, but completed much of my later schooling in the Midwest U.S. I received a BA at Indiana University, Bloomington, with majors in English and Film Studies, and a minor in Music. I then pursued an MA in Humanities at the University of Chicago, where I focused on aesthetic issues of translation and subtitling in Japanese film.

My enduring interest in international education took hold early in my career, from experiences living and working abroad. I taught English on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program in Osaka, Japan; I wrote and edited English tests at Seoul National University in Korea; and finally, moved to Hong Kong with a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, where I taught courses in academic writing and media studies, first at the Hong Kong Institute of Education (recently renamed the Education University of Hong Kong) and then at the Community College of City University, Hong Kong.

In 2012, I returned to California to help manage international programs at the University of California, Davis. In that role, I was also responsible for student recruitment, which took me to many places around the globe to talk with prospective students, including India, Turkey, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Most recently, I worked at the Office of International Admissions at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, where I was evaluating student applications primarily from Asia and Europe.

I have always looked at my years abroad as some of the most valuable and transformative of my life; I learned about the many joys and struggles of adapting to new cultures, made lasting professional and personal connections, became a confident and savvy world traveller, and gained valuable language and intercultural communication skills. As someone who has realized so much personal growth from international exchange myself, I find great fulfillment in work that helps to facilitate these kinds of experiences for students. I am very happy to be here at UH Mānoa and in a position to support the international mobility of our students and help them navigate the challenges and rewards of living and studying in a new culture and language.



Since arriving at MIX, I have been focused on advising the approximately 180 inbound and outbound exchange students that come and go each semester, and also deepening my knowledge of the over 90 student exchange partnerships in 24 different countries that UH Mānoa faculty and the MIX Office have built up over many years. Through these partnerships, our undergraduate and graduate students have access to study, research, and internship opportunities at some of the finest institutions around the world! In exchange, UH Mānoa invites students from these partner institutions to study here for one to two semesters and immerse themselves in the cultural and academic communities of our campus and Hawai'i.

At MIX, one of several long term goals I have will be to improve access to our international exchange opportunities for a more broadly diverse group of students across our campus, by advocating for increased scholarship funding and improved integration of exchange study into students' degree curricula and academic plans. I also hope to engage more closely with faculty and International Programs offices in the Colleges and Departments across campus, to learn more about their internationalization activities and offer the MIX Office's support for partnership and agreement development.

In my free time, I enjoy playing music, particularly the guitar. I hope to find more opportunities to play here and learn more about the richly diverse musical heritage of Hawai'i, particularly slack-key guitar! I am also very interested in languages; I've studied French and Japanese formally for a few years but I've gotten quite rusty lately so I'll be looking for chances to practice these somewhere in Honolulu. I've also learned a little bit of Mandarin and would like to continue studying that here at UH. Other passions include coffee, wine, and cycling. I've done bicycle touring on three different continents — North America, Europe, and Asia. As soon as I find the courage, I think I'd like to tackle a ride up Tantalus!



If you are a student, staff, or faculty and have questions about MIX, I encourage you to attend one of our weekly International Social Hours, held on Fridays at QLC, 4th floor during the fall and spring semesters. Or, come to the MIX Office for an advising session. Faculty or Departments that would like to learn more about how MIX can work with you to establish and support international agreements, including student exchange,

please get in touch. I look forward to working with you!

LIVE ♦ LAUGH ♦ LEARN — Q&A WITH TRAN VO

Tran Vo, who was born in Vietnam, moved to Hawai'i with her parents six years ago. She is a pre-business student and is planning to double major, either in Accounting and International Business or in Management and International Business. Below, she shares some of her thoughts on her experiences while learning a new language and culture.

How was your adjustment to living in Hawai'i?

It was not easy to adjust to living in Hawai'i because of cultural and language differences. I also had to deal with being treated badly by some of my classmates in middle school and seeing my parents struggling to adapt to the American way of life. I felt isolated and helpless. All I could do was to stay positive and try to make the best out of each situation.

What have you learned since moving to Hawai'i?

I have learned a lot of things since moving to Hawai'i to the extent that I would say the move changed my life. Before coming here, everything had to be done in a certain way, but living here has made me think otherwise. I learned to be open-minded and embrace the aloha spirit. I became more accepting and appreciative. I learned to love people for the way they are and start the day with a smile. I no longer worry about outcomes, but instead, focus on giving my best efforts in all that I do.

Why did you choose to study at UH Mānoa?

UH Mānoa is well-known for the international excellence of the Shidler College of Business. It is also a very diverse campus with many majors to study and organizations to join. UH Mānoa was my first choice and it is located near to where I live. For anyone who is interested in studying at UH Mānoa, I would encourage you to apply!

**How did you decide on business as your major?**

I have many interests and hobbies — music, photography, traveling, fashion, learning foreign languages, cooking, pets, social networking, movies, and art — but there were a number of reasons why I chose business as my major. My father was an accountant and my mom was a saleswoman, so part of my decision was a bit influenced by my family. A career in business will also provide the financial support I need to pursue my interests and hobbies.

How is your English ability now as compared to when you first arrived?

My English ability is much better now. At UH Mānoa, I took several classes through the English Language Institute. Those classes helped to increase my reading speed/comprehension and improve my writing skills. I am also an extrovert, so socializing with people played a big role in helping to improve my English. Lastly, I really love Korean dramas (K-dramas) and most of the time, the newest K-dramas only have English subtitles so that motivates me to read and understand English faster!

What are some of the highlights of your UH Mānoa experience?

I feel proud to call myself a Rainbow Warrior. It feels nice to be a part of something big. Some of the highlights would be how great my professors are, making friends with people from many places in and outside of the U.S., and being able to watch sports in person for the first time in my life. Also, the food is good at Campus Center and Paradise Palms, and there are fun and informative events at the Courtyard every week. I believe the experience of being a UH Mānoa student will be one of my most valuable experiences.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like making new friends and learning new things. When I am at home, I cook, bake, watch K-dramas/inspirational videos, listen to music, and make song covers. Other than that, I like to hang out with friends and interact with new people. I also do photography, photo shoots, check out new restaurants, and go to the beach or go hiking.

What aspects of American culture do you like?

I really like that American people are known for being straightforward and direct. They speak their mind and do what they believe is right. I have learned to speak up and not be afraid to ask for help when I need it.

What is an important goal for you?

My goal is to have a job that I can travel and explore the world, learning about new cultures and connecting to people. I want to be an independent and successful woman so that I can financially and emotionally support myself and others.

What is your proudest accomplishment so far?

My proudest accomplishment was when I became the interpreter for my family. About a year after arriving in Hawai'i, we finally moved out of my uncle's place to be on our own. I had to take care of everything related to speaking, writing, and understanding English. It was the moment I started feeling proud that I could help my family to overcome the struggles of living in a foreign country.



UH MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION LINKS

Office of International and Exchange Programs: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/international>

For more information on
The Prism, please contact:

Office of International and
Exchange Programs

loiskk@hawaii.edu

Faculty and Scholar Immigration Services (FSIS): <http://www.hawaii.edu/fsis>

FSIS provides immigration services and advising for departments, international visiting scholars, and employees across the University of Hawai'i System.

International Student Services (ISS): <http://www.hawaii.edu/issmanoa>

ISS is the primary university resource for international students in areas ranging from immigration advising to cross-cultural adjustment, and consults with the greater community on related issues.

Mānoa International Exchange (MIX): <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/mix>

The goals of MIX are: (1) to facilitate partnerships with outstanding universities around the world to the benefit of UH Mānoa students, faculty, and staff; (2) to promote cross-cultural education and understanding at UH Mānoa through the enrollment of international exchange students; and (3) to provide UH Mānoa students with study abroad opportunities that will have a transformative and positive effect on their lives.

National Student Exchange (NSE): <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~nse>

Although the UH Mānoa NSE website has instructions for UH Mānoa students wanting to attend an exchange school or students attending consortium member schools wishing to exchange to UH Mānoa, the most detailed information on each of the 170 participating schools can be found on the national website, <http://www.nse.org>.

UHM Study Abroad Center (UHM SAC): <http://www.studyabroad.hawaii.edu>

UHM SAC provides summer, semester, and year-long study abroad programs for undergraduate students and for faculty to teach, mentor students, develop new courses, and pursue their research interests. Students earn UH Mānoa credits for coursework completed overseas towards their Mānoa degree requirements.

College of Education (COE) – International Activities:

<https://coe.hawaii.edu/research/international-and-special-programs-iasp>

COE develops and maintains sustainable international agreements and partnerships in higher education between COE and institutions in China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Norway, Russia, and Vietnam. Activities include collaborative research projects, educational conferences, and student/faculty exchanges. COE annually hosts numerous visiting scholars interested in studying with COE faculty and exchanging expertise.

College of Social Sciences (CSS): <http://www.socialsciences.hawaii.edu>

CSS offers students many opportunities to engage in the global community through its expertise, leadership, and far-reaching partnerships which span from Indonesia to Sweden. CSS continues to expand and grow new and existing relationships with its international partners through innovative educational agreements, programs, conferences, symposiums, and other collaborative projects.

English Language Institute (ELI): <http://www.hawaii.edu/eli>

ELI, which is housed in the Department of Second Language Studies, is a program that supports admitted students at UH Mānoa who have English as a second language and are found to be in need of ELI's support (including international, immigrant, and exchange students). ELI provides instruction in English for academic purposes and strategies for more effective study, and helps students acclimate to a new academic culture.

Hawai'i English Language Program (HELP): <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/eslhelp>

The HELP program has been providing the highest quality academic English classes for over 40 years. Through our Conditional Admission pathway, students can enter undergraduate or graduate study at UH Mānoa without a TOEFL score. HELP also offers teacher training workshops and the CELTA English teaching certificate program.

John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) – Global Health/Medicine Programs:

<http://jabsom.hawaii.edu/global-health>

JABSOM is committed to improving the health of the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Our mission is to train a globally competent health workforce with skills to address critical global health problems. JABSOM strives to understand and reduce health inequalities around the Pacific Rim.

Office of Graduate Education – UHM 3+2 International Program: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/threeplustwo>

UHM 3+2 International Program cooperates with prestigious universities overseas to recruit well-performing college students to spend their senior year at UH Mānoa and simultaneously, pursue their master's program at UH Mānoa. After five years, the student will acquire a bachelor's degree from his/her home institution and a master's degree from UH Mānoa.

Outreach College – International Programs: <http://www.nice.hawaii.edu>

The International Programs division of Outreach College provides international students access to UH Mānoa through its ESL programs, conditional admission university preparation programs, and short-term customized programs on a variety of subjects.

UH MĀNOA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION LINKS (continued from page 5)**School of Travel Industry Management (TIM):** <http://www.tim.hawaii.edu>

TIM is recognized as a leading educational institution in hospitality, tourism, and transportation management. TIM pioneered the concept of integrating all aspects of the travel industry under a single discipline. Built on a foundation of management science, TIM also draws on a broad range of disciplines to provide high-quality education at the undergraduate and graduate levels to current and future professionals.

Shidler College of Business:**Full-time Global MBA program:** <http://www.shidler.hawaii.edu/ft-mba>

The Full-time Global MBA program offers students a comprehensive foundation in business fundamentals with its wide array of choices in the Asia-Pacific region for internships and study abroad opportunities. Students can take a semester of classes at one of our partner schools and work at a professional internship in countries such as China, Japan, and Vietnam.

Pacific Asian Management Institute (PAMI): <http://pami.shidler.hawaii.edu>

PAMI is the center for international business programs with an Asia-Pacific focus. PAMI is the umbrella organization housing the PAMI Summer Program, PAMI Year Round Programs, PAMI Asian Field Study Program, Center for International Business Education and Research, and Pacific Asian Consortium for International Business Education and Research.

William S. Richardson School of Law – International Programs: <https://www.law.hawaii.edu/which-program-right-you>

The William S. Richardson School of Law maintains an active schedule of international programs and activities. The law school offers two degree programs for international students, the LLM degree for foreign law graduates and the advanced JD program, which grants credit for qualified foreign law graduates. American law students are encouraged to pursue law study in international law study, through our exchanges, such as with Bucerius Law School in Germany or through programs in China, Hong Kong, or Australia.