Acknowledgement of Professor Jeffrey C. Miller’s Contributions to Hakuoh University

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On behalf of fellow educators at Hakuoh University, I would like to congratulate Professor Jeffrey C. Miller upon his retirement from Hakuoh University. He has been a valued team member and educator during his tenure at Hakuoh University.

Tommy Uematsu, Professor Emeritus of Hakuoh University, first introduced Jeffrey Miller to me in the late 90s when we were working together on the English program Denwa de Hallo on NHK educational television and the All Japan Inter-Commercial High School English Speech Contest. Jeff had just completed twenty-one years of work at St. Joseph’s International School (SJIS), a Catholic boys’ preparatory school in Yokohama which was established in 1901 with notable alumni such as the Nobel Prize winner Charles J. Pedersen and artist Isamu Noguchi, and was considering working at Hakuoh University. Since I graduated from the Catholic school St. Maur International School adjacent to SJIS, we could relate to each other about parochial schools, Yokohama City, and even about a small Greek restaurant there.

Professor Miller, originally from New York, grew up in Japan as a teenager. He attended SJC and went on to receive his BA and MA from Sophia University in Tokyo. Eventually he worked as an assistant manager at an art gallery, English language trainer, and later began his position at SJIS in 1978. At SJIS, Jeff taught Language Arts and Social Studies, but also held positions as the College Counselor, and rose to the level of
Assistant Principal during his tenure until 2000.

Professor Miller has a storied career in institutions of higher education in Japan including The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). His positions have been numerous - in the trenches as a teacher and in higher positions as a consultant, advisor, member of a multitude of committees, assistant principal, and director of various centers, associations, and departments.

In addition, within the above time period, Professor Miller was an Eiken 1st Grade evaluator from 1978 to 2018. From the early 1980’s, he was a Commercial High School Association English and Business teacher, an in-service seminar trainer, and has been a Kentei English Examination evaluator.

From 2000 to the present, Professor Miller brought his talents to Hakuoh University though he still found the time and energy to supplement his schedule with other important duties. For example, expanding his relation with MEXT, in 2002, he became a senior English textbook evaluator, a Daigaku Nyushi Center test writer between 2002-2004, and a secondary school English trainer across the country from 2005 to 2008.

Professor Miller has insisted upon giving opportunities for students to use English. Among the many activities he led for students, some of the memorable were Miller’s Movie Magic and his Kamakura and Yokohama tours. Students enjoyed listening to Professor Miller explain films clips and historical backgrounds of Kanto cities in English. He also took over the All English Speech Contest at Hakuoh University from Tommy Uematsu and continued it for several years. As always, he placed priority in giving students opportunities to be immersed in English by holding various events.

Professor Miller has also been gender-conscious. He has made it mandatory to include both sexes when hiring new faculty or when going
abroad on students’ study tours. He personally felt that both sexes should be actively involved in the university setting.

From 2005 to 2015, he was Director of the Hakuoh University International Exchange Center leading 22 study groups of students and recruitment trips to the US, UK, Taiwan, and Australia. Notably, during this time, Hakuoh’s sister-school relations expanded from two institutions to more and held annual student exchanges.

From 2015, Professor Miller became head of Hakuoh’s English Education Majors. As both Director of the International Exchange Center and Chief of the Department of English Education, he once again broke new ground as the first non-Japanese to serve in these capacities. Jeff was also a Super Science High School advisor and Super English High School advisor at Hakuoh’s affiliated high schools in Ashikaga. Lastly, he was a leading member of Hakuoh’s Admissions, Entrance Test Writing, Personnel and Accreditation committees.

As for research, Professor Miller wrote a variety of papers beginning from comparing business models of coffee distributors in 2008 and later about the English language as a universal lingua franca, “Globish,” and the future of English. He has published many papers on world English usage and evolution of the language.

Clearly, Professor Jeffrey C. Miller has left an indelible mark on the students, his co-workers, the associations, committees, and institutions he has been involved with and to which he has given a large part of this life. He has been an example to others of the rewards of effort, persistence and good standards. Though he will physically leave Hakuoh University, his legacy will remain.