

Address to Freshmen 2013

Hello, everybody. My name is FUJII Saya, a sophomore. Welcome to the Japanese Red Cross Kyushu International College of Nursing. I can easily understand that you are full of joy and happiness now because I was in the same state a year ago. As a token of our heart-felt welcome to you all, I would like to share with you some of my observations about our college; I'd like you to know that our college has turned out to be as good as, or much better than, what I thought it to be on my first day here.

First of all, I'd like to tell you that our college is very true to its name: the International College of Nursing. Our college offers you the key to open the door to the world. What do you think the key is? Yes, one essential factor is English. At our college many optional courses are offered in addition to the courses required for graduation in order for you to improve your skills in English. You can learn before the first session in the morning, over the lunch, and when you have no other classes. How nice! However, the key to the world includes something even more important than English. That is keen interests in societies and people different from us. Our college offers us many opportunities to know about people living in various corners of the world. For example, Luncheon Meetings are given once in a while, where speakers including foreign guests tell you about their precious experiences and foreign countries. Thus, if you are alert enough, you can sense the world at this rural part of Munakata.

Now, I'd like to tell you how my freshman year has changed my view on English and the purpose of learning. Before I came to this college, I liked studying and using English, but English was no more than the means to make friends with foreign people and have good time with them. But, my freshman year has taught me that English means much more than that. English offers you direct access to a vast ocean of knowledge and information, and also, English will enable you to travel in most parts of the world and talk to many people in the world, which means many more chances for us to make contributions to the world peace as a nurse. After I noticed these things, I've come to enjoy studying much more than before.

Another thing I am very happy to tell you is that we have a lot of teachers with profound knowledge and wonderful experiences to share with us. For example, I remember how much I was excited when one teacher told us about her experiences in African countries as a nurse. Our college is rather small, but students and teachers can be much closer to each other here than at a mega university.

However, I have to add one thing. All the wonderful things I have told you are not coming to you automatically. If you want to have nice things in life, you have to stretch your arm to get them. The choice is yours. If you wish to make the most of opportunities offered at our college, you will have to step forward, and make efforts. When you have any problems, we, senior students, are here to help you, as well as the teachers. We will be only too happy to make friends with you and work together to make our days fruitful. Let's enjoy our campus lives together. Thank you.