

Japanese student exchanges heartfelt sayonara

Karen Hill
FEATURE EDITOR

The start of a new school year at CCC brought a variety of aspiring writers, photographers and designers parading into the office of The Clackamas Print; one in particular was 21-year-old Shingo Izumi, all the way from Obihiro, Japan.

Izumi joined the staff with a passion and enthusiasm for journalism. His plans were to improve his English skills while writing stories, as well as gain experience to take back with him to Japan, where he planned to pursue journalism as a career.

"Journalism is the fundamental foundation to communicating and writing well," said Izumi. "Writing gives you the opportunity to express your feelings on paper."

Izumi's determination to benefit from his experiences in the

United States drove him to do the best job possible in his endeavors.

"Shingo came a long way since the beginning of the term in his writing ability and comprehension of the English language," said Cyndee Mady, co editor-in-chief of The Print. "He brought a unique energy to our staff and will truly be missed."

The Clackamas Print Advisor Linda Vogt was also very impressed with Izumi's initiative to write in an unfamiliar language. "It's

amazing that someone could write for a publication in a foreign language," she said.

In addition to his appreciation for the language, Izumi also brought a little culture to the staff.

"Shingo taught me a lot of cool things about Japan," said Isaiah Creel, A&E editor of The Print. "He taught me that over there they don't have 'corn dogs,' they have 'American dogs.'"

As well as

becoming involved on the newspaper, Izumi volunteered part-time for local children's charities while in America.

"Mentoring and guiding children who have recently lost a family member is important," he said. He plans to continue this volunteer work in Japan. "Mentoring these children through this most difficult time is important to me."

After attending Clackamas for nearly a year, Izumi returned to his homeland in Obihiro at the beginning of February.

"I am glad to go back to Japan to make use of the experiences I have attained, but I am sad because I feel there is more for me to learn here in the United States," said

this field."

Izumi will long be remembered for his ability to make people laugh, for his heart-warming speeches of gratitude, and the phrase, "Oh really?" which may never be heard the same way by staff members again.

"I appreciated his sense of humor and willingness to jump in and be part of this group in a really positive way," said Vogt.

Izumi did not let cultural barriers prevent him from quickly adapting to the American lifestyle or from making lasting friendships.

"Shingo was awesome," said Print production assistant Michael Cooper.

Though more than four thousand miles away, Izumi has left the spirit of his heart and soul here in Oregon City.

"He taught us all something about ourselves," said Cory Price, The Print's co editor-in-chief. "He kind of changed each one of us in his own way."

"He brought a unique energy to our staff and will truly be missed."

Cyndee Mady
Co Editor-in-Chief



Faith Paddock also contributed to the story.

These photos were taken by various staff members during the Fall term retreat.

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