

Students US diplomacy trip

by Koharu Aka

In March, two KLI students were chosen for a prestigious international program that took them to Tokyo, New York and Washington D.C.

The program, known as TOFU (Thinking of Okinawa's Future in the U.S.) is a part of the Kakehashi project, an



exchange program to promote understanding of Japan.

Second-year KLI student Lishu Kinjo and 2022 graduate Meg Kamiunten were joined by 40 high school

and university students from Okinawa as they visited political facilities in Tokyo, New York and Washington D.C. The program included trips to the prime minister's office of Japan, the United Nations, and the United States Capitol.

In the program, participants met with a Japanese diplomat at the United States Department of State and they experienced diplomat role-playing.

"I felt my limit to speak in English about politics," Meg said. "Also, there are differences of expression even if we use the same words in Japanese.

However, I would normally have to be the prime minister of Japan to meet the high-ranking people I could meet."

In addition, Lishu made a



Students in the Washington Dulles International Airport.

presentation about Okinawa's history for local students. She said, "After the presentation, one student told me about her memories about Okinawa. I felt the fun of chatting with people from other countries

about Okinawa and the greatness of Okinawa. It was a great experience for me."

Meg and her teammates at the United Nations.



Brazilians' 'roots' tour

by Koharu Aka

On December 23rd, KLI students took part in a welcome party which was held for students visiting from Brazil. Kadena town has an annual program called "Training for children of overseas immigrants" which provides support for children of overseas immigrants to learn about their ancestors' roots and Okinawan culture. A year two Brazilian Okinawan descendents, Marina Miyazato and Naomi Yara, stayed in Kadena town for three months from December to February. They studied *kanji* (Chinese characters),

Uchina-guchi (Okinawan language), *sanshin* (Okinawan traditional instrument), *karate* and Ryukyu dance. Every Thursday, they took part in KLI's Ryukyu dance class. Moreover, they took part in P.E. classes too. On February 10th, KLI students participated in their farewell party. Marina and Naomi showed the audience their *sanshin* playing skills. In addition, Marina performed a Ryukyu dance. Yuwa Nakama, a second year student at KLI, said, "It was a good chance to learn about another country. Also, we could get to know each other. I was impressed by them. So, I thought if I have a chance, I want to learn about my roots too."

Coffee with teacher's family

by Ruka Maeshiro

On Friday, 24th March, KLI students had a special cafe lesson class at Starbucks in Yomitan and were able to hang out with the family of one of the college's teachers. The lesson was led by teacher Angela Mason and is held

regularly to help students improve their practical speaking skills in a relaxed non-classroom space. But on this day, Angela's family came from England and took part in the class. Students were divided into three groups with her family and enjoyed various kinds of talking. Students were able to learn the

history of England and get a good opportunity to understand cultural differences through their conversations. Second year student Lishu Kinjo said, "It was a good opportunity that I could listen to native English and know Angela's background. I'm looking forward to meeting again and talking together."

Students move class after placement test

On April 14th, KLI students had a placement test for the first semester of 2023. The placement test measures students' skill in speaking, writing, reading and listening. Based on the results, KLI students either move class or remain in their present one. The *KLI Times'* Yuwa Nakama interviewed some of the students about their feelings about the new classes and test.

Ayane Nakahara (First year)

Intermediate class



"I am trying to improve my English skills in the Intermediate class to be promoted to the Advance class in the Autumn placement test. I will do my best not to lose to anyone."

Aoi Irei (Second year)

Beginner class → Intermediate class



"I worried about my result of the placement test but I could move to the Intermediate class from the Beginner class. Therefore, I will work hard to consolidate my English skills and achieve my goal to raise my English ability."

Matthew Hayashi (Second year)

Intermediate class → Advanced class



"When I was a first year student, I belonged to the Intermediate class all year, so I tried taking a placement test to get promoted to the Advanced class. I did not study for this test but I was able to move to the Advanced class, so I decided to study hard to take this opportunity. I am not good at reading and writing, so I will try my best to focus on that."