

琵琶湖にフレッシュな風を呼んだ 「小さなアメリカ」

“Little America” Blowing a Fresh Breeze on Lake Biwa

毎年春になると、琵琶湖上に現れる「小さなアメリカ」。ミシガン州ランシング・コミュニティ・カレッジ（LCC）の留学生がミシシッピ型外輪船で観光客に接客サービスをする「ミシガン国際交流研修プログラム」は、春夏の琵琶湖にフレッシュな風を運ぶ風物詩でした。1982年の創設以来、姉妹都市提携が生んだユニークな取り組みとして注目を集めました。

ミシガン州のLCCの学生と先生を招き、民間会社・琵琶湖汽船の遊覧船「ミシガン」を教育の場として提供するプログラム。3月から11月にかけて、留学生は乗客サービスを実践しながらに体験し、併せて日本語や日本文化、来日教授の専門授業を受け、9ヶ月後に単位を取得して帰国しました。研修目的は、日本の文化や言語、経済、政治制度、観光と接客の様式、企業経営を学び、姉妹関係をより強固にすること。また、日米両国民間の文

Every spring, a “Little America” would appear on Lake Biwa. All the way through summer, the Michigan International Exchange Training Program, which brought exchange students from Lansing Community College (LCC), Michigan, to Shiga to tend to tourists on a Mississippi paddle steamer, was a staple of the season that blew a fresh breeze on Lake Biwa. Since its launch in 1982, the Program has attracted attention as a unique initiative born of the sister-city relationship.

The Program invited students and teachers from LCC to use Biwako Kisen CO.'s cruise boat, the Michigan, as an educational space. Students stayed from March to November, taking care of customer service on the boat. In addition, they had Japanese language and culture classes, as well as specialized classes taught by professors visiting Japan. After nine months, they returned to America having gained school credits. The purpose of the training was for them to learn about Japan's culture, language, economy, political system, tourism, customer service, and business management, and to strengthen sister relations. The Program, which also promoted cultural exchange and mutual understanding between people in the U.S. and Japan, continued for 35 years, with a total of 607 trainees and teaching assistants visiting Japan.

The relationship between LCC and Shiga was first established in 1977, when a delegation of eight students visited the prefecture as members of a goodwill mission. Later, in 1981, Philip Gannon, then-president of LCC, led a group of 43 on the goodwill mission to visit the prefecture. Then-governor Masayoshi Takemura, who hosted the group, remembers their visit: “We were eating



第1期研修生たち（1982年） Japan Adventure Participants (1982)



琵琶湖クルーズといえば「ミシガン」
1982年に始まった遊覧船は今も人気だ
The most famous way of cruising Lake Biwa,
the Michigan.
The cruise has been popular since its launch
in 1982.



1982年4月2日、進水式
“MICHIGAN” is launched on April 2, 1982



1985年のポスター
1985 poster



第10期生（1991年）
The 10th group of
participants (1991)

化交流と相互理解を促進する、というもので、35年にわたって継続され、のべ607人の研修生と指導助手が来日しました。

LCCと滋賀県との出会いは、友好親善使節団の団員として学生8人が県を訪れた1977年。81年には、当時のLCC学長のフィリップ・ギャノン氏が同使節団の団長として43人を率い、県を訪問。ギャノン氏をもてなした武村正義元知事は「すき焼きを食べながら、幅広い学生同士の交流をしたいと提案すると、ギャノン氏が『アグリウイズユー』と快く同意してくれた」と振り返ります。

プログラムを発案したのは、琵琶湖汽船の社長だった重松徳氏。「新しい観光船の建造を検討していた重松氏から、米国の学生を乗せたい、ひと夏の間、毎日船で働いてくれる形でやりたい、という話を聞き、ギャノン氏に提案した」（武村元知事）。プログラムの内容について熟考が重ねられ、学習はLCCが、実務研修としての日本での生活は琵琶湖汽船が担う輪郭が完成したのです。

翌1982年4月、「ミシガン」と名付けられた外輪船の就航と同時に、第1期国際交流研修生20人が参加して「ジャパン・アドベンチャー・プログラム」がスタート。民間企業と大学による交流プログラムは国内初の制度で、社会的な評価も高いものでした。「留学生は毎日真剣に研修に取り組み、サービスする姿が非常にフレッシュで、乗客にも大変好評だった」（武村元知事）。

sukiyaki when I suggested that I would like to create a wide-scale student exchange experience. Gannon jumped straight on board, saying ‘I agree with you.’”

The person who thought of the Program was Megumi Shigematsu, ex-president of Biwako Kisen Co. Takemura explains, “I proposed the idea to Gannon, after hearing Shigematsu, who was thinking about building a new tourist boat, say that he would like to have the American students on board, working on the ship every day over the course of a summer.” The Program content was given careful thought and a basic outline was drawn up where LCC would take care of the studies, while Biwako Kisen Co. would be responsible for the student's life in Japan as practical interns.

In April 1982, as the paddle steamer named “Michigan” went into service, the Japan Adventure Program was launched with a first group of 20 participating trainees. This was the first exchange program between a private company and a university in Japan, and it was well-received by the public. “The students were serious about their daily work on the ship, and seeing them serving passengers was very refreshing. They were very popular with the passengers,” explained Takemura. In 2011, the Program was reborn as the Japan Immersion Program, which was a shorter 12 weeks. Until it ended in 2017, approximately ten students came for internships each year.

In September 2018, the interns who had worked on the Michigan met in East Lansing, Michigan, to commemorate



2011年には、12週間と期間を短縮した「ジャパン・イマージョン・プログラム」として新たにスタートし、2017年の終了まで毎年約10人の留学生がインターシップに訪れました。

2018年9月には、滋賀県とミシガン州の姉妹提携50周年を記念して、観光船「ミシガン」で働いた元国際交流研修生の同窓会が同州イストラランシング市で開かれました。35年間続いた研修プログラムの同窓生ら約300人が友人との再会を喜び、研修プログラムに関わった人々が、当時を振り返りました。

プログラムを開発し、25年間携わってきたタイ・ソン・キム元LCC国際学部長は「当初は米国人を見たことのない人もいたと思うし、日本語を知っている学生も少なかった。学生たちが国際化と姉妹都市交流に貢献でき、学生自身のキャリアに役立ったことが嬉しい」と誇らしげに語りました。琵琶湖汽船の川戸良幸社長も1期目からプログラムに関わってきました。「外国の人とフランクに付き合える習慣を滋賀で作り、外国を身近に楽しんでもらいたかった。ミシガンの学生とは長年つきあう中で非常によい経験をしてきていると感じていたし、今の自分たちの役に立っているだろう」と確信していました。

1期生の研修生としてプログラムに参加したゴードン・ワトソンさんは「琵琶湖は私の人生の一部」と語りました。「日本人が英語で話しかけてくれたのが新鮮だった。大津市のアパートでルームメイトと暮らし、働きながら日本語や柔道、生け花などの日本文化を勉強した。滋賀の人とは今も琵琶湖でつながっている」と、琵

the 50th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Shiga and the state. Approximately 300 alumni enjoyed reuniting with their old friends, and all of those involved reflected back on the days of the Program that had continued for 35 years.

Tai Sung Kim, who was the Director of the Lansing Community College International Programs, developed the Program and was involved with it for 25 years. "I think that, in the early years, there were people who had never laid eyes on an American, and there were few students who knew Japanese. We are very pleased that the students were able to contribute to internationalization and the exchange between Shiga and Michigan, and that we were able to help them build their careers," he explained proudly. Yoshiyuki Kawato, president of Biwako Kisen Co., was also involved with the Program since its beginning. "We wanted to make open interactions with foreigners a habit in Shiga, and to get people to enjoy foreign cultures in a way that hit close to home. Through my interactions with the students from Michigan over all these years, I feel that they have had great experiences, and that they always thought that this opportunity was beneficial to their lives," he added confidently.

Gordon Watson was a trainee during the first year of the Program. "Lake Biwa is a part of my life. It was refreshing to have Japanese people make an effort to start speaking to us in English. I shared an apartment in Otsu with a roommate and studied Japanese culture while working—things like the language, judo, and ikebana. I am still connected with the people of Shiga through Lake Biwa," he said, expressing that the things



【左から】ウェルカムパーティー、石山寺参詣、調理体験（いずれも2004年）
(from left) Welcome party, visiting Ishiyamadera Temple, and cooking Japanese food (all from 2004)

琵琶湖での学びが自分にとって大きな意味があったことを実感していました。90年に研修生としてプログラムに参加したケイティ・フィンクさんは「琵琶湖は大好き。朝はとてきれいで夜は静か。ミシガン湖と同じ感じがする」といい、琵琶湖と故郷を重ね合わせていた当時に思いをさせていました。

he learned at Lake Biwa were very significant to him. Katie Fink joined the Program as a trainee in 1990. "I love Lake Biwa. It is so beautiful in the morning, and quiet at night. It feels the same as Lake Michigan," she said, thinking back fondly on her days as an intern, when Lake Biwa and her hometown overlapped in her mind.



ミシガン州ランシング短期大学内にあるシゲマツメモリアルガーデンは、2006年「ジャパン・アドベンチャー・プログラム」の25周年を記念して造られた。名称は事業を創始した、琵琶湖汽船株式会社社長・重松徳氏に由来する
The Shigematsu Memorial Garden was dedicated in 2006 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Japan Adventure Program. It was named after Mr. Megumi Shigematsu, president of Biwako Kisen Co., Ltd.



大津市国際交流員
エミリー・ハモンド
Otsu City CIR, Emily Hammond

大津は私の第二の故郷 Otsu is my Second Home

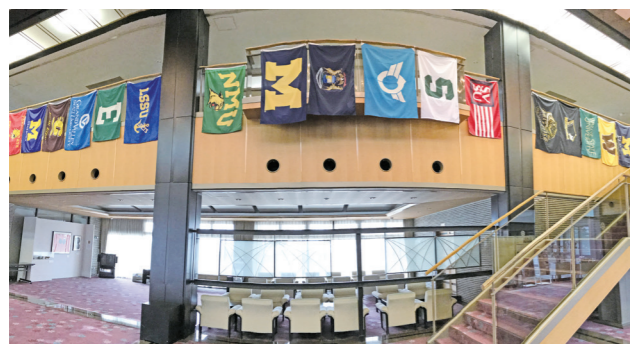
ミシガンポートでの研修のおかげで、日本が大好きになり、特に滋賀県大津市には住んでみたいと思うほどになりました。当時は片言の日本語しかできなかったにも関わらず、一生の友達が何人もできました。このプログラムがきっかけで、現在、ミシガン州ランシング市と強い結び付きのある大津市の国際交流員として働ける機会に恵まれ、これ以上ないほど感謝しています。私にとって、間違いなく大津市が第二の故郷となりました。

Participating as an intern on the Michigan Boat was the main reason that I fell in love with not just Japan, but Otsu in particular to the extent of wanting to live here. I could not even speak Japanese at the time, but despite that I made friends that I still have to this day. I could not be happier to have the opportunity to work in Otsu now. It has without a doubt become my second home.

日米双方のかけはしの拠点として Acting as a Bridge between Japan and the United States

滋賀県とミシガン州の姉妹提携20周年を記念し、1989年に設立されたのが、ミシガン州立大学連合日本センター（JCMU）です。滋賀県が施設を整備し、ミシガン州立大学連合が運営する画期的な国際交流事業で、日米双方の人々がともに語学や文化、習慣などについて相互の理解を深めてきました。存続の危機もありながら、それまでの友好親善をベースにさまざまな人たちの努力や工夫を重ねられ、滋賀県とミシガン州との架け橋になる人材が育っていく。そんな貴重なプログラムとして、現在も友好関係を支えています。

JCMUのプログラムは、主に4つあります。▽ミシガン州の学生に日本語や日本文化などを学んでもらう講座▽日本人向けの英語講座▽セミナーやビジネスなど広い分野を対象にした日米の専門家向けの講座▽日本での研究活動を助ける共同研究です。双方にとって学びがあるプログラムになるように工夫し、また、JCMUの学生と地域住民の交流も積極的に進めています。



JCMUアップルホール JCMU Apple Hall



ミシガン州立大学連合日本センター（彦根市） The Japan Center for Michigan Universities (in Hikone)

The Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU) was established in 1989 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Shiga-Michigan sister-state agreement. JCMU is a unique international exchange program operated by a consortium of public universities in Michigan in facilities constructed by Shiga Prefecture. Its programs are designed for people from both the U.S. and Japan to study together and gain a mutual understanding of each other's culture, language, and customs. Despite a crisis that affected its survival, JCMU produces talented individuals who act as a bridge between Shiga and Michigan, thanks to the unending hard work and dedication of a diverse range of people through the friendships that have been built over the years. JCMU continues to support the friendly relations between Shiga and Michigan by offering invaluable programs.

JCMU offers four key programs: 1) Japanese language and culture classes for Michigan's university students; 2) English language classes for Japanese people, 3) seminars and classes on business and other subjects for Japanese and American professionals; and 4) joint research that supports research in Japan. The Center is committed to offering instructive programs to both Japanese and American people, while promoting exchanges between JCMU students and the local community. Students in the Center's programs gain experience by learning Japanese and about Japanese culture while living in a dormitory. They also participate in local events such as festivals and multiply their exchanges. After completing their program, students pursue international career paths in either Japan or the U.S.

Katsuyuki Tabata, who was the first Shiga visiting official

センター建設前の様子
(1989年)
Before construction (in
1989)



地鎮祭 (1989年)
Shinto purification
ceremony at the
JCMU site (in 1989)



JCMUのプログラムで学ぶ学生たちは、寮で暮らし、日本語や日本文化を身につけ、様々な経験を積んでいきました。祭りやイベントに参加するなど地域との交流も重ね、修了後は、日本国内や米国の国際的な分野で幅広く活躍しています。

立ち上げ当時、県職員としてJCMUの事業に携わった田端克行氏（初代駐在員）は、「会議のためミシガン州を訪問した際、ふと立ち寄った食料品店で『滋賀県の彦根で勉強した』と日本語で話しかけてくれるスタッフに出会ったり、在デトロイト日本総領事館で勤務するJCMUの修了生の姿を見るにつけ、このプログラムの持つ国際的な意義や重要性を実感します」と語ります。JCMUは、日米の架け橋になる人材を、今も輩出し続けています。

同センター設立の話が浮上したのは、日米貿易摩擦が話題になっていた1987年でした。その頃、技術人材の確保に危機感を抱いていた産業界からの要望で、県は大学誘致に積極的になっていました。そんな最中、米国で大学の輸出案が浮上していることを知り、リストの中にミシガン州立大学という名前があるのを見つけた県側が州側にアプローチしたことがきっかけでした。

1988年6月、当時企画調整課の職員だった廣脇正機さんがミシガン州を訪問。「ミシガン州立大学関係者と話し、州立15大学が合同で運営するなら議会もサポートすると言っている、それなら大学としても取り組みたい、と聞いた」といいます。同年9月、稲葉稔知事がミシガン州を訪れ、センターの設立に調印して開校が決まりました。ところが、具体的な中身は決まっておらず、11月にミシガン州から担当者が訪れて細かいプログラムを打ち合わせするという、大変急な話でした。校舎の建設が間に合わず、翌89年9月に仮校舎でスタートしました。

一期生の仮校舎は、米原市の文化産業会館5階に当時あった知事室を予算100万円で改装して整備したものでした。ミ



竣工式・開所式 JCMU completion ceremony and opening ceremony

to Michigan, and was responsible for establishing JCMU as an employee of the prefecture, had many things to say. "Once, when I visited Michigan for a meeting, an employee at a grocery store told me in Japanese that they had studied in Hikone, in Shiga, and I saw a JCMU graduate working at the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit. Seeing this, I really felt the international significance and importance of the program." JCMU continually produces talented individuals acting as a bridge between the U.S. and Japan.

The plan to establish JCMU took form in 1987, as talks about U.S.-Japan trade friction were common. Around that time, there was a sense of impending crisis in the industrial world about securing technical talent, so the prefecture became proactive in encouraging people to create universities. Meanwhile, universities in the U.S. were seeking to affiliate with universities outside the country, and Michigan State University was one of the candidates. In light of this, Shiga approached Michigan with a proposal.

In June 1988, Masaki Hirowaki, of the Shiga Prefecture Planning Coordination Division, visited Michigan. When speaking with someone from the University, he learned that the Michigan legislature would support Shiga's proposal if the affiliated university was jointly operated by the 15 public universities in Michigan, which was an incentive for them to get down to work. In September of that year, the late Shiga Governor, Minoru Inaba, came to Michigan and signed the agreement for the establishment of JCMU. However, while the specific contents had not been determined, a representative from Michigan was suddenly set to visit in November to thoroughly formalize the program details. The following September, JCMU was launched in a temporary building since the facilities had not been completed.

In its first year, JCMU was housed in the former governor's office on the 5th floor of the Maibara Cultural and Industrial Hall, which had been renovated for one million yen. Every day, the group of 32 Michigan students traveled to JCMU by bicycle from their housing—the old dormitories for nurses at the Hikone City hospital and other city employee housing—which was provided by Hikone. The JCMU facilities in Hikone were finally completed the following June, and from the second year forward, students had classes in the new building.

シガン州の32人の学生たちは、彦根市が協力して手配した市立病院の旧看護婦宿舎や、企業の空いた職員住宅などに住まい、自転車で通いました。翌90年6月に彦根市に校舎が完成。二期生から新校舎での学びがスタートしました。

JCMUの運営は順風満帆とはいかず、開校間もなく困難が始まります。ミシガン州の財政が悪化し、JCMUへの財政支援を打ち切る予算が発表されたのです。3代目駐在員としてミシガン州に渡った廣脇さんは頭を抱えました。89年、90年と予算がついていたのに91年はつかない。予算の決定権限を持っている州議会議員などにJCMUの意義を説明しロビー的な活動もしましたが予算が復活することはありませんでした。「どうすればいいのかと県側でも真剣な議論を重ねた結果、1回限りの緊急避難的な措置として県がプログラムをサポートすることになりました。しかし一方で、運営はミシガン側がやるという約束なのに県が財政支援をするのといはかがなものか、という声もあがりました」（田端さん）。このように悩みながらもプログラムの価値を信じ、「絶対、閉校させない」という関係者の強い意志のもと、県は例外的な措置をとる決断をし、この難局を乗り切ることとしたのです。

一方、ミシガン州が出してきた案は、「ミシガン日本基金を作る」というものでした。州が受け皿を作り、お金は寄付で民間から集める発想です。「米国は寄付文化で、日本の発想とは全く違っていた。その時『ファンドレイジング』という言葉を初めて覚えました。滋賀県にとっては日米の考え方の違いを知る貴重な

Center operations did not go smoothly, as issues came to light quickly after the opening: Michigan made drastic cutbacks in its financial support to JCMU as a result of worsening fiscal problems. Masaki Hirowaki, the third Shiga visiting official, was worried. Unlike in the 1989 and 1990 budgets, there was no funding in 1991. Despite lobbying and explaining the importance of JCMU to the state government and legislators, the budget was not restored. "After serious discussions, the prefecture decided to give one-off support to the program as an emergency measure. However, there were dissenting voices questioning the prefecture offering financial support despite an agreement that Michigan would be managing the Center's operations," explained Mr. Tabata. While struggling with these issues, those involved considered the program valuable, and they were firmly determined to not let the Center close down. As a result, the prefecture decided to take exceptional measures and overcome the difficult situation.

Meanwhile, Michigan proposed creating a "Michigan-Japan fund", which would be financed through public donations. Mr. Tabata reflected on that time, saying: "Funding projects through private donations was part of U.S. culture, but was unheard of in Japan. That's when I first learned the word "fundraising." For Shiga, it was an important experience in understanding the difference between the American and Japanese ways of thinking." In the course of exchanging ideas to adapt to the financial crisis, Shiga and Michigan affirmed their common determination to continue the JCMU program and strengthened their trusting relationship. The results



消火訓練 (2014年)
Fire extinguisher training (2014)



ハロウィンパーティー (2015年)
Halloween Party (2015)



日本文化体験 (2017年)
Japanese culture experience (2017)

体験となりました」と田端さんは振り返ります。結果的にこの財政危機は、アイデアを出し合ってプログラムを継続させようという県州双方の思いを確認し、信頼関係を強くする出来事となったのでした。今では、歴代ミシガン州知事が必ず在任中にJCMUを訪問するのをはじめ、広くその成果が認められています。

JCMUの開校と運営は、滋賀県とミシガン州の国際的な学びの場が必要であるとする官民の多くの人に支えられたものでしたが、同時に、日米の文化の違いを可視化させ、一緒に創り上げていく難しさと素晴らしさを教えてくれた事業でもありました。

of this cooperation can still be felt in a number of ways today, like by the fact that every Michigan governor since then has visited JCMU during their mandate.

The hard work and dedication of the many individuals from both public and private sectors who considered international educational programs necessary for people in Shiga and Michigan made it possible to establish and maintain JCMU. At the same time, it shed light on the cultural differences between the two countries. All of this work has shown us how working together to build something can be both difficult and amazing.



国際交流祭 (1996年)
International Festa (1996)



設立10周年記念碑を設置 (1999年)
Unveiling of the monument for the 10th anniversary of JCMU's foundation (1999)



グランホールム知事を迎えて (2005年)
Governor Granholm (second from left)'s visit (2005)



姉妹提携50周年を祝った「同窓会」 (2018年)
Reunion party for the 50th anniversary of the Michigan-Shiga Sister-State relation (2018)

今の自分はJCMUの経験あってこそ

My Experience with JCMU Made Me Who I Am



ミシガン州立大学連合日本センター
所長 ベンジャミン・マクラッケン
JCMU Director, Benjamin McCracken

1998年9月から翌年4月までの8カ月間、JCMUで学びました。弁護士を志してミシガンの大学で学んでいましたが、米国以外の国も知りたい、と考えたのです。その後、弁護士として、日本企業も関わる国際訴訟を担当し、毎年日本を訪れるようになりました。JCMUの経験があってこそ、今の自分があります。2012年に所長に就任したときは1年で戻るつもりでした。来てみると1年では足りない。学生たちに自分と同じようなチャンスを与えたい、役に立ちたいと、運営に力を注ぐうち、帰国はどんどん先延ばしに。JCMUは、人が人と出会い、相互理解を深める場。滋賀の人たちにとっても、海外に行かなくても米国の学生と出会える、大切な場所なのです。

I studied at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities for eight months, from September 1998 to April of the following year. I was studying at a university in Michigan, aiming to become a lawyer, but I also felt that I wanted to find out about countries other than the United States. Later, working as a lawyer, I was in charge of international lawsuits that involved Japanese companies, and I was visiting Japan every year. I am who I am now thanks to my experience with JCMU. When I took up my position as its director in 2012, my intention was to return to the US after a year. After getting here, however, I could see that one year was not enough. As I put my efforts into management, wanting to be useful and giving the students the same kind of opportunity that I enjoyed, my return home keeps being postponed. JCMU is a place where people can meet and deepen their mutual understanding. It is also an important place for the people of Shiga, where they can meet American students without having to travel overseas.