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Ms. Tami Takahashi  


Dear Tami:

I noticed in the Stanford Observer that you and your husband had donated and endowed a chair in Japanese Studies. I want to congratulate you for the success that allows such generosity and particularly for benefitting my university.

When I attended Stanford in September 1941, there were no Oriental languages available. Certainly no Japanese Studies. As you know, the war started a few months later and when I asserted an interest in studying Japanese I had to transfer to UCLA (to study with a Korean professor) and then to UC Berkely to study with Hakujin; all the Japanese speakers had left the coastal areas.

I wonder if you remember me from 25 years ago. We sat side by side for 24 hours in a DC-7 from San Francisco to Honolulu to Wake to Tokyo in May 1959. I was going to attend the Chugoku District Sheinen Kaigisho International Meeting in Okayama and you were going on a buying trip for your store. We met again in Kyoto at the Kyoto Hotel where you were conducting interviews with suppliers. I thought then that you were certainly a bright, hard-driving (good sense) businesswoman, but of course your career since is part of the West Coast success story and well known.

What impels me to mention our traveling together so many years ago is that in another way that trip paid off for Japanese and American relationships. Recently I and my wife welcomed in Saratoga 38 young Japanese businessmen traveling to San Jose to commemorate the 25 year relationship between Okayama Jaycees

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and San Jose Jaycees that I started during that visit to Japan. I am also proud of the 60 or so, year long, exchange students whom I have helped through San Jose State College since 1959 and the abiding friendly relationship between the citizens of Okayama and San Jose and their relationship as sister cities which I helped found. It is the most celebrated long-term sister city relationship in the nation; several national awards declare that is so.

I am pleased to have the future secured for Japanese studies at Stanford by your kind gift and wish you both personal peace and continued prosperity.

Yours truly,



Wade H. Hover

WHH:slt

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