



Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network Magazine

ACROSS

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No. 2



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- ① A golden canopy of trees line Ginkgo Avenue.
- ② Monument in Honor of Dr. Nitobe Inazo in the Flowering Tree Garden
- ③ A flock of sheep dot the green fields of the farm.

I wish to a bridge across the Pacific



YUHAZU Kazuyori

Vice-Principal, Hokkaido University Nitobe College

The old 5,000-yen bill featured a portrait of Nitobe Inazo and an illustration of the earth with the Pacific Ocean at the center. Needless to say, the design was associated with Nitobe's remark, "I wish to be a bridge across the Pacific," which he made while being interviewed by Professor Toyama Masakazu following the application by the 21-year-old Nitobe to study at the University of Tokyo as a non-degree special student. The circumstances are detailed in *Kigan no Ashi (Student Days Abroad)*, a book he wrote 24 years later, in a chapter describing his motives for studying abroad. The book also recounts how he went on to tell the interviewer of his desire to be a conduit for transmitting Japanese ideas to other countries and bringing new ideas to Japan. This indicates that he made the remark not from some self-centered desire, but from his lofty aspirations to contribute to relations between Japan and the U.S.

Nitobe's phrase—"I wish to be a bridge across the Pacific"—is widely known, as illustrated by its supposed Japanese original, rendered literally as "Negawakuwa ware Taiheiyo no hashi to naran" and inscribed on a monument in Morioka Castle Site Park and on a stone monument in the Nitobe Memorial Garden at the University of British Columbia in Canada. Upon reflection, it's doubtful whether Nitobe would really have used the kanbun kundoku style [a mix of Japanese and classical literary Chinese] in answering Professor Toyama's question, because it's natural to think that he'd have answered colloquially—"Taiheiyo no hashi ni naritai to omoimasu"—even though it was nearly 140 years ago. The literary expression was used probably because the context of a monument inscription called for an elevated, poetic tone. If so, I must say that the literary version was very likely contrived for the monument.

Meanwhile, the English phrase "I wish to be a bridge across the Pacific" is inscribed on the Monument in Honor of Dr. Nitobe Inazo that stands in the Flowering Tree Garden near Poplar Avenue on the Hokkaido University campus. This inscription is the very source of this magazine's name. What led to the selection of that English sentence? Hokkaido University Professor Emeritus Mishima Tokuzo, who was involved in the construction of the monument, states in his book *Nitobe Inazo no Manazashi (The Vision of Inazo Nitobe)*, published by Hokkaido University Press, that the English sentence originated in the preface to *The Japanese Nation*, written by Nitobe, because a painstaking faculty search for that literary Japanese expression in each and every writing by Nitobe came up with nothing. In short, rather than rushing to use an expression of uncertain origin, the faculty faithfully used a sentence written by Nitobe himself. This demonstrates their profound insight as scholars.

All of this shows that the famous remark by Nitobe embeds his real intention and that the faculty made a scholarly judgement for the accurate transmission of that intention. We'll keep these facts in our hearts as we continue to take on new challenges in this unprecedented interdisciplinary education program. I look forward to your continued cooperation with and support of Nitobe College.

Continuing my academic pursuits in Sweden



SHIGEI Makoto

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Member of the inaugural class of
Nitobe College graduating 2017

I received a master's degree from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) after completing the programs of the Hokkaido University School of Engineering and the Graduate School of Global Food Resources. In the master's program, I gained knowledge and research skills for the study of water and soil environments from various perspectives through lectures and fieldwork. For my master's thesis I spent a year researching small-scale distributed wastewater treatment using biochar. This August, I'll be embarking on a Ph.D. program in the same discipline at Uppsala University to continue my studies for four years. In Sweden, Ph.D. programs feel like places of employment because students are generally hired by universities and aren't charged tuition. Due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, the past two years have made me reaffirm the importance of self-care and self-reliance, and I've been practicing these. Differences in graduate education between Japan and Sweden include the way thesis research is conducted. In Sweden, the timing of the thesis presentation, thesis submission and program completion differ by student. As the English curriculum name suggests, it feels like an independent project. The presence of an examiner, who evaluates your academic performance, separately from your supervisor, who provides research guidance, as well as a student opponent, who serves as your partner to comment on your thesis and ask questions when you make presentations, was also an eye-opener for me. As I continue my research, I'm committed to absorbing many things and devoting myself to my studies.

My experiences at Nitobe College will broaden my horizons



TAIRA Toru

Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) Technology & Research Center
Member of the inaugural class of
Nitobe College graduating 2017

I graduated from Nitobe College in the inaugural class and then from graduate school before I began to work in oil exploration. I found my employer, which is one of the best places to work in view of its values and future potential, through interviews with Fellows in Nitobe College's Dialog Program. Many Fellows are Hokkaido University alumni who are working as business executives, and people that students don't usually have the opportunity to encounter in person. I feel it truly significant that I was able to find the first step in my career, which has played a great role in shaping my subsequent career in the following several decades, based on advice from those with ample experience in the real world.

While I was an undergraduate, I had the opportunity to pursue my studies in the U.S. for a year as part of a Nitobe College program. I primarily studied geophysics, my major, joining local students in classes and practical training sessions. I gained invaluable experience in communicating with other students, including those from various other countries, as well as with faculty members, in the classroom and beyond. Since my employer offers its employees various opportunities, including to pursue their studies in doctoral programs abroad and work at overseas offices, I look forward to challenging myself with new endeavors by using my experiences in studying abroad as a springboard.

Keep moving forward with the courage to dare to change



MISHIMA Wataru

Japan Meteorological Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
A member of the Nitobe School 2017
inaugural class

I used to feel how high the hurdles were and how fun it was for a team to make a series of rational choices to get things done. At college I was surrounded by approachable students who had the same major as I did. While recognizing the importance of such a world of kindred souls, I found that my endeavor into a world of diverse people rewarded me with an amazing opportunity. The work of my team always delivered results beyond what I could have imagined, allowing me to realize the joy of achieving results from multiple perspectives.

My motto since college—and since I entered the workforce—has been “Use your skills and expertise for the common good.” When I act, I always keep in mind that what's familiar to us is also the norm around the world. I always try to understand how the things that my teammates and I invest time and effort to achieve contribute to society and the role of those things in society, and I modify our planned course of action and communication methods whenever deemed necessary. When I talk with people who've had fascinating experiences, I often feel that my experiences are still quite limited. I'd like to use their stories as inspiration and give my all to work while improving myself day in and day out.

Experience feeds you, but only if it's put to good use



NAGASHIMA Megumi (TOYOTA)

Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT)
Member of the inaugural class of
Nitobe College graduating 2019

I belong to a drug discovery division, engaging in pharmaceutical research and development. My workplace, at the forefront of drug discovery research, calls for free and open-minded exchanges of views in order to develop novel therapeutic drugs. When I started with the company, however, I was bewildered because I felt too awed to give advice to the seasoned researchers. However, I was able to adapt swiftly to changes in my environment thanks to my experience at Nitobe School, where I learned to open myself to opinions different from my own and to leverage my capacity for the good of my team by carrying out a project with people from different disciplines with different ways of thinking. Today, I draw up research plans without feeling intimidated, relishing the joy of working with other researchers toward the advancement of our research.

When it comes to contributing to the common good, I still have a long way to go because I still often struggle to deal with the work at hand. However, studying at Nitobe School opened my eyes to what was going on outside where I belonged. What impressed me most at that time was a lecture on Syrian refugees, which made me realize what a small, closed world I'd known and lived in. Although I have a lot to learn, my goal for now is to make a difference in the world by developing a groundbreaking pharmaceutical drug.



Education Program: Undergraduate Courses

Global Foundation Course

The Global Foundation Course, a compulsory course in the Foundation Program, is designed for provisionally enrolled first- and second-year students. This course on International Understanding and Study Abroad, offered in the spring term, is a series of omnibus lectures given by instructors with extensive international experience. The summer term on Leadership and Teamwork centers on groupwork. Due to the pandemic, a hurried switch to online instruction posed a major challenge to communication between faculty and students. Going forward, we're striving to provide more tailored support for students through live Q&A simulcasts and the introduction of tutors.



Fellow Seminar

Nitobe College Fellows guide students as they ponder the role of a sustainable society in the context of myriad problems facing the world and enable them to gain leadership and teamwork skills in the Fellow Seminars. With the live Zoom simulcasting of classes in academic year 2020, many students experienced difficulties in online communication with faculty and their classmates, but classes concluded with outstanding presentations and a lively Q&A session at the Plenary Presentation Session, which was held in person and via Zoom. We'll take advantage of the benefits of online instruction to further improve classes.



Career Development Seminar

Career Development Seminar courses help students cultivate the ability to build their own futures. Here Nitobe College Fellows serve as partners of students, and students themselves serve as partners for other students. Before the pandemic, the courses included residential training to encourage students to gain insight into themselves in an out-of-the-ordinary space. This year courses were given as on-demand lectures and as online Q&A and groupwork sessions. The pandemic provided an opportunity for students to learn what is going on in society outside their university and to reevaluate their life plans. Nitobe College Fellows also provided feedback to students about their day-to-day efforts through the Nitobe Portfolio (NPF).



Dialog Program

This program offers the opportunity for students to have one-on-one dialogs with Nitobe College Fellows to improve their leadership capabilities. In 2020, students exchanged messages and held dialogs with Fellows via Zoom, but these methods involved some problems and difficulties that students would not have had to endure in conventional in-person dialog sessions. On the other hand, the online sessions offer more options than in-person sessions, allowing more students to attend dialogs, as they can choose the methods which best suit their individual circumstances. Moving forward, we will use multiple tools to offer dialog sessions based on improvements we make.



Overseas Study

Overseas Study is mandatory for Nitobe College students and aims to develop their global perspectives. Nitobe College awards credits in Overseas Study to students who have successfully completed the Short-Term Overseas Special Program (Short-Term SP), International Internship Program (International IP), Student Exchange Program or a short-term overseas study program registered as a specialized subject in one of the undergraduate schools. The global spread of COVID-19 forced the cancellation of all these programs other than online courses of the Short-Term SP and International IP. Below is an introduction to how the online course of the Short-Term SP was offered in the spring term of academic year 2020. That course featured faculty from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of Washington, and the University of British Columbia. Specifically, the set of instruction consisted of students (1) watching lectures on demand, (2) engaging in group discussions that included a teaching assistant (TA), and (3) attending Q&A sessions with the lecturers adding up to a total of 14 sets of instruction offered for a period of two weeks. Students were able to view video lectures any number of times before attending group discussions and Q&A sessions, resulting in their deeper understanding of class and lively discussions with the lecturers.



Academic Year 2020

Education Program: Graduate Courses

Owing to the pandemic, all graduate courses were offered online in the 2020 academic year. No major changes were made to course content, thanks to certain ingenious solutions, such as holding team discussions using Zoom breakout rooms, the Miro online whiteboard, and the teamwork functions of the Nitobe Portfolio (NPF); providing advice from different viewpoints by assigning a non-Japanese teaching assistant to each team; and energizing discussions in English. Meanwhile, going online enabled students and lecturers alike to join classes from different locations in Japan and the world. We received lots of positive feedback from students, some of whom expressed their confidence in online discussions. On the other hand, it was pointed out that tasks going forward would include how to enhance the synergy between teams, because splitting students into breakout rooms creates difficulty in understanding the status of the other teams. We will offer more opportunities for students to share the state of progress and identify possible improvements.

■ Foundation I, Foundation II: Basics and Practice of Team-based Learning

Foundation I focused on the development of teamwork ability on topics such as creative thinking, critical thinking, leadership skills, and professional ethics, whereas Foundation II introduced students to the basics of project management in order to ensure effective, efficient teamwork and enabled them to implement two projects: one for increasing the number of applicants to Nitobe College and the other for opening the doors of Hokkaido University as a refugee camp. The problem of refugees is a serious cross-cutting social issue, so it requires not only the expertise of individual students, but also creative and critical thinking. A sense of reality was brought to the project by Mentors pointing out the need for consideration of budget estimates and other practical aspects.



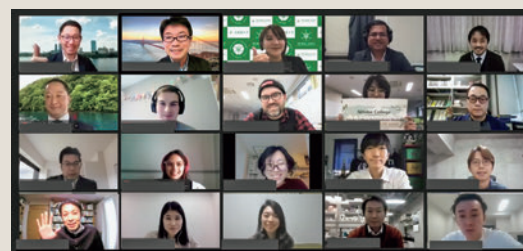
■ Advanced I, Advanced II: Problem Solving and Problem Finding

Advanced I focused on “The Problem-solving Game-changer” in the spring term and “Socially Vulnerable People under COVID-19” in the fall term, both under the overall theme of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Students also learned new content about the entrepreneurial spirit and considered the effectiveness of work to solve problems from a business perspective. In Advanced II, students implemented projects under the theme of “Sustainable City—Sapporo” in the summer term and “Future City Development towards SDGs in Hokkaido” in the winter term. Unable to do fieldwork due to the pandemic, students explored real problems to be solved by analyzing primary data obtained from interview surveys using phones, Zoom, e-mail and other methods. These experiences provided students with the opportunity to break down fixed ideas about fieldwork and consider a new normal in difficult times.



■ Mentor Forum

Lectures and meetups featuring Nitobe College Mentors were held online under the theme of “Career Paths and What I Gained from My Career Change.” Through the Forum, students gained valuable insights into how they should engage in research and job hunting, as well as into career designing.



■ Nitobe College Special Seminar for Graduate Students: Hult Prize Challenge & Demola (Issue-solving exercise for real business)

The winner of the Hult Prize Hokkaido University On-Campus Program 2020-21 was Team Floatmeal, consisting of alumni of Nitobe School and Nitobe College for Graduate Students. The team is working to use its proprietary vertical hydroponic technology to create new jobs and reduce CO₂ emissions. In Demola, students formed teams with partner companies and made presentations to the companies on solutions to the challenges they faced. Several companies have even accepted solutions presented by students and worked together with them to form licensing agreements.

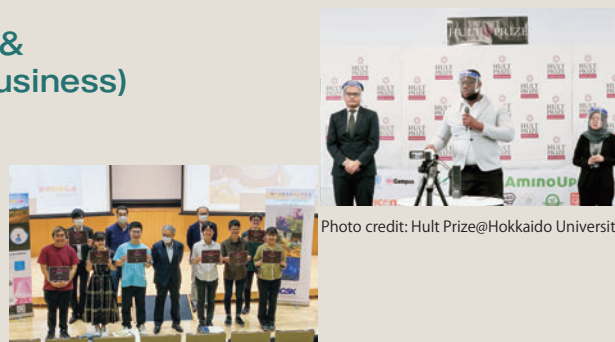
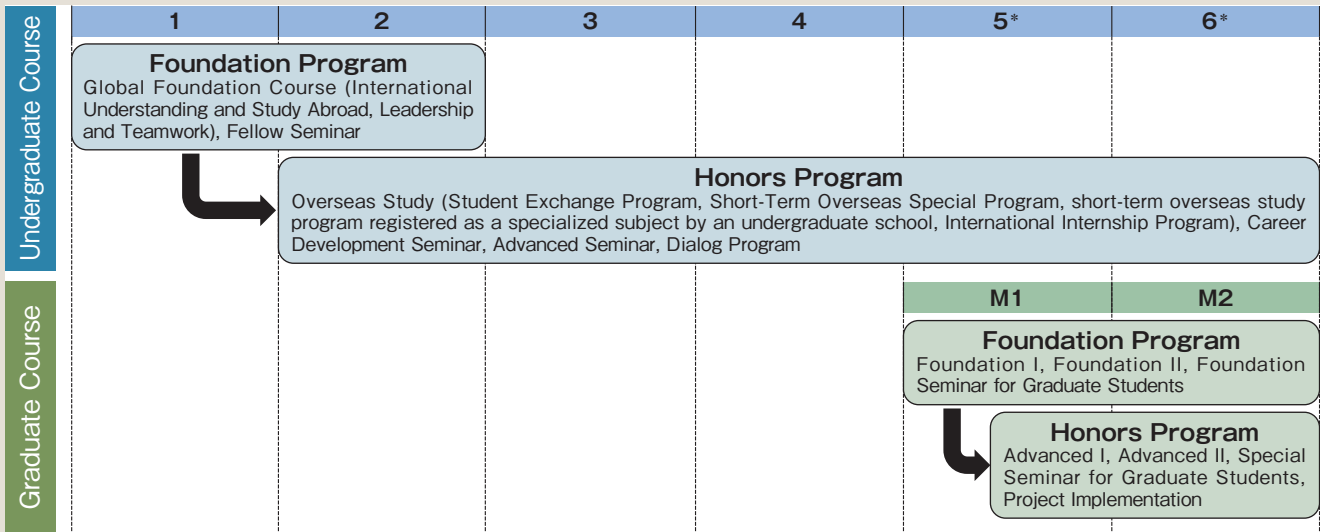


Photo credit: Hult Prize@Hokkaido University

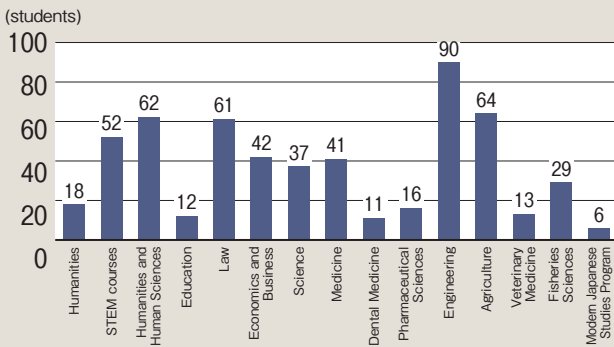
Photo credit: Demola Hokkaido

Nitobe College's Original Education Programs

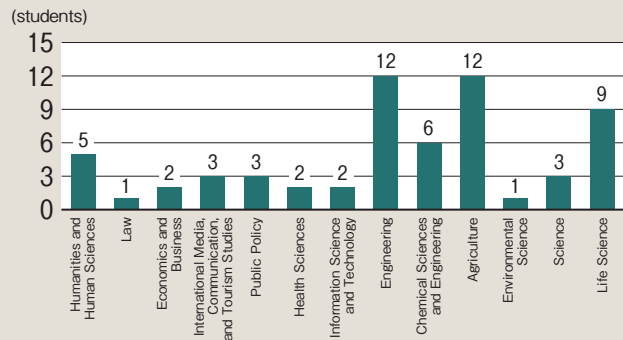


*six-year undergraduate program

● Enrollment by School in 2020 (554 students in total)

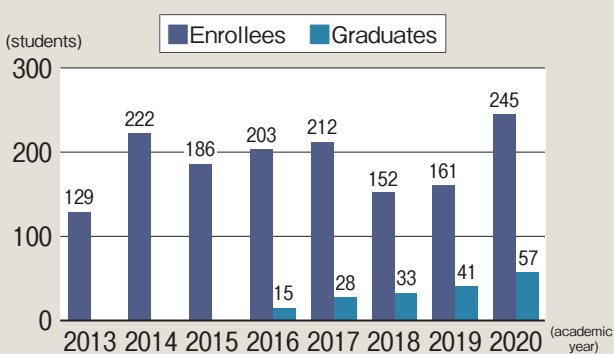


● Enrollment by Graduate School in 2020 (61 students in total)

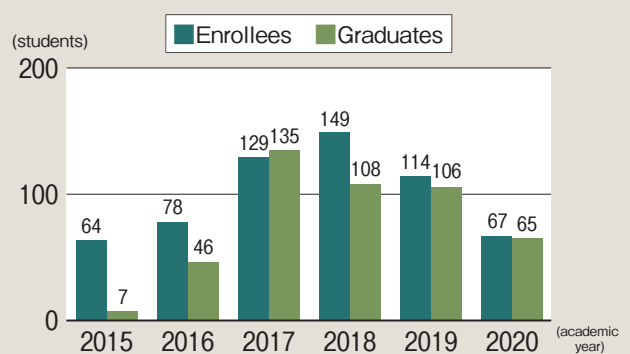


● Numbers of Enrollees and Graduates

■ Undergraduate Course



■ Graduate Course



● Career Choices of Undergraduate Course Students

Career destination	Number of students
Private enterprises	15
Government organizations	4
Advancement to higher education	35 (33 in Japan, 2 abroad)
Undecided	3

● Career Choices of Graduate Course Students

Career destination	Number of students
Private enterprises	8
Government organizations	1
Advancement to higher education	5 (4 in Japan, 1 abroad)
In university	51

Nitobe College Fellows, Mentors, and Faculty Members

Find your core desire in life in order to build the future you want



MORI Junko
Fellow

Happy Arrow Co., Ltd.

Finding the direction you'd like to aim for, namely your core desire in life, while still at college will help you carve out a path in life. In my case, after graduating from a private university in Tokyo, I worked as a newscaster at a TV station in Iwate Prefecture and then in Hokkaido. After leaving the TV station, I became a lecturer in geography and business etiquette because I had the desire to share information in person. I realized the importance of education while teaching students and found that contributing to society in the field of education was my core desire in life. Thereafter, I founded an educational service company and entered the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Education, where I researched career education that fosters a zest for living. Based on my graduate studies, I've been engaged in wide-ranging activities, including organizing educational events and giving lectures.

You may aspire to become a nurse because you desire to help people. Even if your aspiration isn't achieved, a new goal in life—be it to become a teacher, a politician, or a software developer—will appear on the horizon if you keep your desire at the forefront of your mind. Even while you are in college, you can see what your core desire in life is by looking for what makes you feel incredibly rewarded.

To carve out a future, you also need new ideas. I hope that you'll broaden your perspectives by connecting with people in various fields and that you'll build the future you want by keeping your desire at the forefront of your mind no matter what adversity you face.

Aspire to become leaders with a global perspective who can cross over into various fields



YAMASHITA Naoki
Mentor

Ministry of Finance

Amidst rapid social changes, such as globalization and digitization, policy formation in line with a vertically structured administrative setup, as was often done in the past, no longer works. Competent individuals with multi-disciplinary expertise who can set their eyes on both domestic and international challenges are needed more than ever. Enhancement of the quality of social services also requires individuals who can work in both the public and private sectors and environments that enable such mobility. The traditional idea of clearly separating the private and public sectors prevents us from providing the next stage of social services. New public services must be created by leveraging expertise in both sectors. Equally indispensable is the idea of bringing the academic world and the pragmatic world together. Going forward, individuals needed in society will be neither those with expertise that has no impact on the real world nor those who engage in practical business affairs that make no use of academic achievements. Society will need people who can coordinate between them.

In short, leaders who can cross over into various fields will be considered valuable going forward. In fact, it's already a matter of course that people working at Japanese companies in Japan do business while globally negotiating social issues they've never encountered. Nitobe College is an institution that produces such global leaders—those who can cross over into different fields. Aim high and turn your attention beyond Hokkaido to the outside world.

Specially Appointed Academic Staff



ARAI Katsutoshi (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed professor
Fisheries sciences (fish development biology, genetics)



UCHIDA Haruko (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed associate professor
Educational psychology



SHIGETOMI-KURIBAYASHI Kaori (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed associate professor
Micro and nano engineering, origami engineering



SHIMADA Kazuhisa (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed associate professor
Political science



HATANAKA Takami (Master's degree)

Specially appointed lecturer
European studies



XIAO Lan (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed lecturer
Pedagogy



SCHLUETER Tomoko (Ph.D.)

Specially appointed assistant professor
Religious studies



WANG Qianran (Master's degree)

Specially appointed assistant professor
Pedagogy (social education, lifelong learning studies)

Fellows and Mentors

Fellows

ISHIKAWA Megumi

Proprietor of CJ Communication

ISHIKAWA Yuichi

President and CEO, Purau, Inc.
Director, Johnson Controls, K.K.

ITO Shin

Associate Director, Marketing
Pharmaceutical Division
Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

INOUE Shuhei

Former Executive Officer, Sojitz
Corporation
Former Director, Member of the
Board, Sinfonia Technology Co., Ltd.

UEDA Hideki

Senior Vice President Corporate
Planning and Control Department
Nippon Information and
Communication Corporation

OHTSUKA Eiko

Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido
University

OHTOMO Toshihiko

Head of Oncology Lifecycle
Management Department
Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

KAERIYAMA Masahide

Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido
University

KAYANO Satoru

CEO
Successboard Inc.

KUDO Fumikiyo

General Manager, Hokkaido Branch
Sojitz Corporation

SASAKI Ryoko

Board Member, Ares Co. Ltd.

SHISAI Satoko

Vice President
Head of Digital & IT Supervisory
Division
Chugai Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

SHIBATA Tetsushi

Director, Engineering Department,
Sapporo Branch
Sato Kogyo Co., Ltd.

SHIBUE Takao

Former Executive Officer of Mitsui
Mining & Smelting Co., Ltd.

SHIMADA Motoo

Adviser, VISCAS Corporation

TAKANO Fumiaki

Chairman
Takano Landscape Planning Co., Ltd.

TADA Yukio

Senior Advisor
Sojitz Research Institute

TAMASHIRO Hiko

Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido
University

TODA Morimichi

Director and Senior Executive
Managing Officer
Toda Corporation

HAGINO Izumi

Director, Data Utilization Department
I
Dentsu Cross Brain Inc.

HINO Mineko

Conference interpreter

HIROSHIGE Katsuhiko

Representative Director
Japan Corporate Bond Research
Association

FUJITA Nobuyoshi

Director, Cerezo Osaka Sports Club
Director and Senior Adviser, Cerezo
Osaka Co., Ltd.

MATSUO Nozomu

Senior Chief Researcher
Institute of Intellectual Property
Foundation for Intellectual Property

MIMURA Naoki

General Manager
Winbond Electronics, Co. Japan

MURAYAMA Waka

Section Manager
Engineering Department
Zukosha Co., Ltd.

MORI Junko

President and Representative Director
Happy Arrow Co., Ltd.

Mentors

ISHIKAWA Kenichi

Vice President
3M Japan Limited

OFUSU-TWUM Eric

Researcher
Hitachi, Ltd.

KURODA Taruho

Senior Director, LEO Science & Tech
Hub
LEO Pharma K.K.

KOSHI Naomi

Partner, Miura & Partners
Co-Founder & CEO, OnBoard K.K.

SAHEKI Yuriko

Researcher
Shiseido Co., Ltd.

TSUKESHIBA Hiroyuki

President & CEO
Savon de Siesta Inc.

NAKAJIMA Tetsu

Founder & General Partner, 15th
Rock Ventures
Representative Director, Spirete, Inc.

NAKAHARA Taku

Co-founder & CEO, Metagen
Therapeutics, Inc.
Venture Partner, Fast Track Initiative,
Inc.
Co-founder & COO enU Pharma, Inc.

NAGAHORI Noriko

Specially appointed professor
Hokkaido University
Co-founder & CEO, enU Pharma, Inc.

HAGINO Izumi

Director, Dentsu Cross Brain Inc.

FUJII Kodai

Vice President of sales and marketing
Sanmaruko Foods Co., Ltd.

MAEDA Miku

Nitori Holdings Co., Ltd.

MISHIMA Wataru

Japan Meteorological Agency

YAMASHITA Naoki

Budget examiner, Budget Bureau
Ministry of Finance

RAVANKAR Abhijeet

Associate Professor
Kitami Institute of Technology

WADA Yoshiaki

Member, House of Representatives



David W. Valentine

Professor
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

An early American philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, wrote that "the mind, once stretched by a new idea, never returns to its original dimensions". That is what Nitobe College seeks to do, through exposing students to new environments, people, ideas, and approaches. I think that has been especially true for the Hokkaido University students that have participated in the Summer Short Term Educational Programs hosted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks. And although very little of what students experienced in Alaska was familiar to them, it was clear they enjoyed themselves as they learned about issues both universal and unique to the far north. As a result of their experience in Nitobe College, students have a greatly expanded view of the world of possibilities open to them.

Messages from Partner Institutions



Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez

Professor
Oregon State University

The Nitobe College represents a bright spot of education at the world level. Nitobe College students have the great opportunity of feeling the world from very different international perspectives. In a world of virtual realities the Nitobe College makes possible the very real personal and cultural experiences that provide opportunities for students to find their true global leadership vocation. At Oregon State University we believe in building cross-cultural bridges. We are proud to collaborate in the Nitobe College endeavor because we share the mission of helping people to build dreams and create the world they want to see.

\\ To Nitobe College Alumni //

Please register as a member with the Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network (HU-NCAN).

- To register, please visit the Nitobe College website or scan the QR code here.
- The Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network (HU-NCAN) carefully manages the personal information obtained through your membership registration in line with the Act on the Protection of Personal Information and never provides it to any third party without your prior consent.



<https://ws.formzu.net/fgen/S23755582/>

Website and Facebook Account Addresses

- **Website : Nitobe College** <https://nitobe-college.academic.hokudai.ac.jp/>
- **Facebook accounts : Nitobe College Alumni Association** <https://www.facebook.com/nitobecollege/>
Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hokudai.nitobe.alumni.network/>

Hokkaido University Nitobe College Alumni Network (HU-NCAN)

Hokkaido University Nitobe College Office

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