東工大クロニクル

Tokyo Tech Chronicle

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No. 532

November 2019

東京工業大学
Tokyo Institute of Technology

Food trucks now on Ookayama Campus every weekday

In response to requests in the 2018 Student Survey for more varied lunch menus on Tokyo Tech's campuses, food trucks began operating on Ookayama Campus on June 18.

Distant view of food trucks

The welcomed addition initially began on a trial basis once week, but due to the popularity of these lunch options, two food trucks will now be serving a variety of dishes every weekday near the Main Building. The expansion, which launched on September 26, included the following options in its first week.

Monday

THE TACO SHOP

Original taco rice with plenty of veggies and cheese. Choose your preferred level of spice.

market

Bolognese with high-grade local meat, blue crab pasta. All veggies organic!

Tuesday

ANADOLU KEBAB

Real Turkish kebabs, kebab bowls, and desserts.

Eight Prince

Dishes include mega-fried chicken bowl, stamina bowl. Say no more.

Wednesday

Kitchen Kanaloa

Specializes in whitebait and roast beef bowls.

KaZoo

Born in NY. Chicken over rice and other soul food.

Thursday

es.tokyo

Nasi goreng, gapao rice, and other ethnic delicacies!

Tori-hachi

Yakitori bowl, ground chicken bowl, and other dishes served with tasty toppings.

Friday

Pizza La Nave

Neopolitan pizzas tossed by an Italy-certified master! Margherita and others.

NEW NEW YORK CLUB

Chicken over rice and falafel over rice specialist!

NOTE: Vendors and menus may change without notice.

In addition to making these new options available, TLUNCH, the company collectively in charge of the food truck services, has enabled cashless payments through its app, which is currently in Japanese only. When checking out options, look out for the small "Pay" logo on the bottom left corner of the image to confirm whether your food truck of choice has gone cashless.

TLUNCH is currently considering the expansion of its operations to Tokyo Tech's other campuses.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Student Support Division, Student Services Department・October 9, 2019)

Tokyo Fire Department notes the Institute's emergency service efforts

The Tokyo Fire Department presented Tokyo Tech with a letter of appreciation on September 24 for the Institute's efforts in actively contributing to the enhancement and development of emergency services.

(from left) VP for Safety and Compliance Tetsuo Okada, Miyakawa, Kudo, EVP for Education Tetsuya Mizumoto

Tokyo Tech's Department of Chemistry and Department of Chemical Science and Engineering collaborate to offer master's students the Environment Preservation and Chemical Safety I and II courses. In the first and second quarters of AY2019, 210 students learned about the basics of safety on campus, medicine management methods, and crisis management. The course also included a hands-on first aid class that focused on the use of an automated external defibrillator and administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Basic first aid class at Tokyo Tech

Comments from Associate Professor Fumitaka Kudo, School of Science
Head of Environment Preservation and Chemical Safety course

This course was developed based on guidance from the Tokyo Disaster Prevention and Emergency Medical Service Association, and was executed with the help of many disaster support volunteers from the Denenchofu area. It is clear that this course can boost the disaster prevention capabilities of the region, and I hope that, in the future, we can continue to develop youngsters who are ready and able to help in case a disaster strikes.

Denenchofu Fire Station Chief Katsuhiro Miyakawa (left) commending Kudo

(Tokyo Tech news published : Safety Planning Office, Facilities Department・October 18, 2019)

Four Tokyo Tech researchers receive 2019 Suematsu Digital Technology Award

Four Tokyo Tech young researchers were awarded the 2019 Suematsu Digital Technology Award and a ceremony was held on September 5.

Memorial photo of the ceremony

The Suematsu Digital Technology Award was created last year to provide a broad range of support for young researchers and their work in areas such as computers, robotics, networks, and the application of digital technology.

Four researchers were selected as award recipients this year.

2019 Suematsu Award "Fundamentals and Developments of Digital Technology" Recipients

Affiliation	Title	Name	Research Topic
School of Science Chemistry	Assistant Professor	Hiroyoshi OHTSU	Development of flexible memory devices
School of Materials and Chemical Technology Chemical Science and Engineering	Assistant Professor	Ryota SHIMIZU	AI-Robot-driven materials research in polyanion-compound thin films with high Li+-ion conductivity
Institute of Innovative Research Laboratory for Future Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Technology	Assistant Professor	Yosuke MIZUNO	Performance Improvement of Brillouin Optical Correlation-Domain Reflectometry Based on Arbitrary-Shaped Optical Frequency Modulation
Global Scientific Information and Computing Center	Associate Professor	Satoshi MATSUURA	Decision Making in Security Incident Response using AI/ML

Assistant Professor Hiroyoshi OHTSU

Assistant Professor Yosuke MIZUNO

After receiving an award certificate from President Kazuya Masu at the ceremony, the researchers gave presentations on their respective research topics. This was followed by questions and answers, and words of encouragement from Former President and Honorary Professor Suematsu and other attendees.

President Masu gave the award to
Associate prof. Satoshi MATSUURA


Assistant Prof. Ryota SHIMIZU giving presentation

Background to the award

Former Tokyo Tech President and Honorary Professor Yasuharu Suematsu was awarded the Japan Prize in 2014 for his contributions to the development of high-capacity, long-distance optical fiber communications through his research at the Institute, particularly his groundbreaking research related to dynamic single-mode lasers. He donated a portion of the prize money to Tokyo Tech in hopes of encouraging young scientists and engineers to pursue research in diverse fields, develop new technology systems, and delve into the unexplored domains of science.

Suematsu hopes to create a rising tide of activities that will reveal the now-hidden shape of the future. The Tokyo Institute of Technology Fund created the Suematsu Fund to promote research in line with Suematsu's wishes. President and Representative Director Hisao Taki of Gurunavi Inc., a Tokyo Tech alumnus and supporter of the Tokyo Institute of Technology Fund since its inception, also donated a significant additional sum, making the creation of this award possible.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Research Planning Group 1, Research Planning Division・September 9, 2019)

2019 Tokyo Tech Challenging Research Award

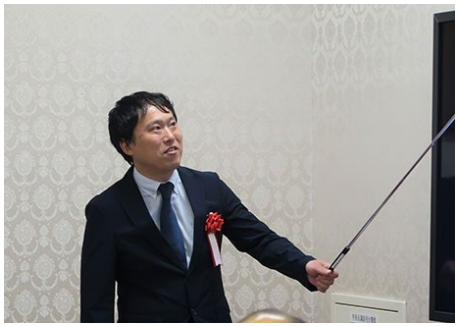
The 2019 Tokyo Tech Challenging Research Award ceremony was held on September 5*, and 10 researchers were awarded and 3 of them won the Suematsu Challenging Research Award.

*Another ceremony was held at the President's Office on September 10 for researchers who were absent on September 5.

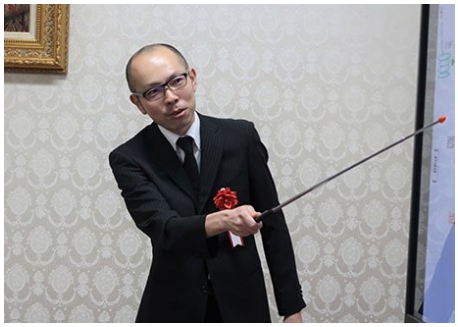
Commemorative photo of ceremony participants on September 5

Snapshot of the ceremony on September 10

Award-winning Asst. Prof. Yoshiaki Masaki giving presentation



Award-winning Assistant Prof. Takayoshi Katase giving presentation



Award-winning Asst. Prof. Keisuke Yoshida giving presentation

During the ceremony, President Kazuya Masu gave some words of encouragement, which were followed by presentations of three Suematsu Challenging Research Award winners on their respective research topics.

Tokyo Tech established the Challenging Research Award with the aim of encouraging young faculty members at the Institute to engage in challenging research. It recognizes creative, up-and-coming researchers who boldly pursue the promotion of the most advanced research in the world, pioneering of new fields of study, innovative development of new research, and important issues that are difficult to solve. The Suematsu Challenging Research Award is given to the highest qualified group among the Challenging Research Award winners.

The 18th Tokyo Tech Challenging Research Awards went to ten researchers each of whom will receive a research grant.

2019 Tokyo Tech Challenging Research Award recipients

Name	Affiliation	Title	Research topic
Michiaki Onodera	Department of Mathematics, School of Science	Associate Professor	Dynamical approach to free boundary problems
Hiroyuki Fujioka	Department of Physics, School of Science	Associate Professor	Structure of Vacuum and Origin of Mass Investigated with η' Mesons
Yoshio Ando	Department of Chemistry, School of Science	Assistant Professor	Development of photo-iduced stereocontrol of dynamic stereochemistry: Toward synthesis of complex natural products
Masao Yamagishi	Department of Information and Communications Engineering, School of Engineering	Assistant Professor	Hierarchical semialgebraic optimization and its applications to signal processing
Kota Suzuki	Department of Chemical Science and Engineering, School of Materials and Chemical Technology	Assistant Professor	Development of lithium ion conducting solids based on ionic conductive property prediction using machine learning
Masayoshi Tanaka	Department of Chemical Science and Engineering, School of Materials and Chemical Technology	Assistant Professor	Peptide modeling for gold nanoparticle synthesis regulation toward advanced medical applications
Yoshiaki Masaki	Department of Life Science and Technology, School of Life Science and Technology	Assistant Professor	* Development of Chemically Modified Nucleic Acids for Supression of RNaseH-Dependent Off-Target Effect

Name	Affiliation	Title	Research topic
Takayoshi Katase	Laboratory for Materials and Structures, Institute of Innovative Research	Associate Professor	* Design and demonstration of novel thermal-electronic coupling functions in low-dimensional semiconductors
Shintaro Yasui	Laboratory for Materials and Structures, Institute of Innovative Research	Assistant Professor	Development of Li ion thin film battery with ultrahigh rate charge/discharge performance assisted by ferroelectrics
Keisuke Yoshida	Laboratory for Chemistry and Life Science, Institute of Innovative Research	Assistant Professor	* Dissecting redox-based regulatory network of plant photosynthesis

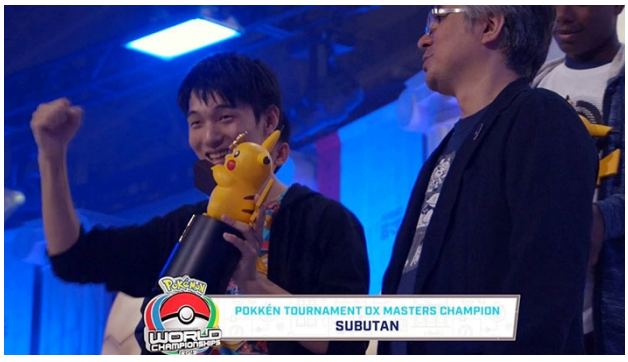
*The Suematsu Challenging Research Award

(Tokyo Tech news published : Research Planning Group 1, Research Planning Division・September 11, 2019)

Hiroki Ishida wins Pokemon World Championships 2019

Hiroki Ishida, a 4th-year Industrial Engineering and Economics student, has won the Pokkén Tournament Masters Division of the 2019 Pokémon World Championships, held in Washington D.C., USA from August 16 to 18.

Ishida placed fourth in the 2018 competition, but this year, he is the world champion.



Hiroki "SUBUTAN" Ishida (left) celebrating win
Photo courtesy of 2019 Pokémon World Championships

The Pokémon World Championships comprise three categories: video games, trading card games, and the Pokkén tournament. Ishida secured his place in the finals of the Pokkén tournament after finishing fourth in the Japan contest in June. He joined 15 other finalists, born in 2003 or earlier, who competed in a double elimination format using Nintendo Switch systems.

Comments from Hiroki Ishida

Winning the world championships this year was my objective, and I am absolutely thrilled.

There was a big change in the rules this year, and how well players would adapt to this change was a big topic of discussion. I struggled with this rule in the Japan championships and finished fourth, which just barely guaranteed my place in the finals. Somehow, I was able to overcome this challenge and win the whole thing. I could not have done it without the players I practiced with and the supporters who cheered me on.

I am currently a member of Professor Junichi Iijima's lab, where I will continue to focus on my studies and research while polishing my gaming skills.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Public Relations Section・September 5, 2019)

Rowers third at DGIST World-Class University Rowing Festival

The Tokyo Tech Rowing Club finished third in the men's coxed four category at the DGIST World-Class University Festival, held from August 21 to 25 at Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST).

In a contest that brought together over 100 top student rowers from seven universities — DGIST, Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), ETH-Zurich, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), and Tokyo Tech — the Institute also placed fourth in the mixed eight category after teaming up with the women from UNIST.

(clockwise from back left)
Ogiso, Morinaga, Fujiwara, Nose, Sawatari, Uchida, Sanuki, Ishikawa, Maki

Mixed eight members

Takaaki Ogiso, 3rd year, Transdisciplinary Science and Engineering
Kentaro Morinaga, 2nd year, Industrial Engineering and Economics
Yuuya Fujiwara, 2nd year, Materials Science and Engineering
Yasunori Nose, 2nd year, Industrial Engineering and Economics

Men's coxed four team

Nozomi Maki, 3rd year, Mathematical and Computing Science
Shun Ishikawa, 2nd year, Systems and Control Engineering
Kaito Sanuki, 2nd year, Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Yuto Uchida, 2nd year, Chemical Science and Engineering
Yuuki Sawatari, 2nd year, Chemical Science and Engineering

Comments from cox Nozomi Maki

This international sports event was an extremely enjoyable experience. During the mixed eight race, half of our team — the ladies from UNIST — did not speak any Japanese, but I was able to create a positive atmosphere using English. In the future, I will strive to create similar good vibes during our practice sessions and races.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Rowing Club・October 30, 2019)

Three Tokyo Tech teams qualify for ICPC2019 Asia regionals

The Japan qualifications for the 2019 International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC) were held on July 12, and three Tokyo Tech teams booked their place in the Asian regional competition in mid-November.

Team working on the qualification

A total of 495 teams from 101 universities, junior colleges, and technical high schools around the country tested their skills during the three-hour qualification round. Of the 46 top teams that received special awards from the ICPC Board, five were from Tokyo Tech. Team eiyatonari, Team mickytheta, and Team unlimited greedy will feature in the Asia regionals.

This year — in addition to Yokohama — Singapore, Jakarta, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Taipei, Da Nang, Manila, and Yangon will also host regional competitions.

Prestigious contest sponsored by ICPC Foundation

ICPC, held under the auspices of the ICPC Foundation, is one of the oldest, largest, and most prestigious programming contests in the world. In 2018, over 52,000 contestants from 3,233 universities in 110 countries and regions competed in regional competitions in an attempt to reach the finals.

The contest involves three members from each university trying to solve eight or more complex, real-world problems within a five-hour deadline. Only one computer is available for each team, highlighting the importance of effective teamwork over individual programming skills. The team that solves the most problems in the fewest attempts in the least amount of time is the winner.

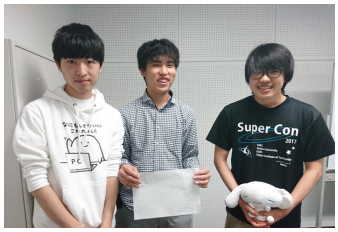
Teams that qualified for Asia regionals

Team eiyatonari (11th overall)

Team eiyatonari (from left): Nagata, Yoshida, Fukunari

Recipients of Qualification Round Award and Retrieva Award
Riki Fukunari, 1st-year master's student, Information and Communications Engineering
Takuto Yoshida, 3rd year, Computer Science
Ryoji Nagata, 2nd year, Computer Science

Team mickytheta (17th overall)



Team mickytheta (from left): Matsuura, Ota, Kasuga

Mikito Ota, 4th year, Computer Science
Ryotaro Kasuga, 4th year, Computer Science
Mikito Matsuura, 2nd year, Computer Science

Team unlimited greedy (18th overall)

Team unlimited greedy (from left): Yoshida, Kaku, Endo

Shinji Yoshino, 1st-year master's student, Mathematical and Computing Science
Linsho Kaku, 1st-year master's student, Computer Science
Koya Endo, 3rd year, Mathematical and Computing Science

Other commended teams

Team Poyashi (28th overall)

Recipients of Amatsubame Award
Yasunori Kinoshita, 1st year, School of Computing
Akihiro Omori, 1st year, School of Computing
Riku Kishida, 1st year, School of Computing

Team MIYAJIMA PONYAKO (38th overall)

Mizuki Shirai, 2nd year, Computer Science
Shunta Shiba, 3rd year, Computer Science
Yu Terauchi, 4th year, Information and Communications Engineering

(Tokyo Tech news published : Shin-ya Nishizaki, Professor, Global Scientific Information and Computing Center・October 16, 2019)

Tokyo Tech singles champion, doubles runner-up in Kanto regional tennis contest

Second-year Physics student Koki Sumiya has won the men's singles crown in the Kanto Polytechnic University Hardball Tennis Federation competition. Sumiya won all his matches in straight sets, emerging victorious in a tournament that features approximately 1,000 male players annually.

Sumiya during the match

Sumiya also finished second in the doubles category with pair Hiroki Kojima, a 4th-year Information and Communications Engineering student. Sumiya and Kojima, seeded sixth at the start of the tournament, knocked out several top-seeded pairs before being stopped in the finals.

The Kanto Polytechnic University Hardball Tennis Federation competition, held this year from August 17 to September 6, brings together approximately 1,000 men and 300 women from universities around the Kanto region. This year, 18 male and 8 female players participated from Tokyo Tech.

Comments from Koki Sumiya

I am extremely happy to have won the singles and finished second in the doubles category of this competition. Last year, I finished third in the singles and reached the best eight in the doubles, so I really feel that I have developed as a player in the past twelve months. I would like to thank all my practice partners, and the alumni, coaches, and families who support the club.

In the Department of Physics, challenging lectures and assignments keep me busy, and I sense that this will continue in the future. Still, I want continue practicing my tennis every day. My goal is to win both the singles and doubles crowns next year.

Tokyo Tech Tennis Team

The Tokyo Tech Tennis Team, affiliated with the Kanto Inter-Collegiate Tennis Federation and Kanto Polytechnic University Hardball Tennis Federation, has a 100-year history. The men currently play in Division 6 of the Kanto Universities Tennis League, and in Division 3 of the Science and Technology Universities League. Tokyo Tech's women play in Division 5 of the Kanto Universities Tennis League and Division 4 of the Science and Technology Universities League. In addition to normal practices, the Tokyo Tech Tennis Team holds trial sessions with interested high school students.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Public Relations Section・October 15, 2019)

Tokyo Tech student top scorer in Kanto Students' Water Polo League

Third-year Industrial Engineering and Economics student Asahi Tamaki has won the scoring title in the Second Division of the 2019 Kanto Students' Water Polo League.

In the seven season matches between May 18 and June 23, Tamaki scored 35 goals. After progressing through the knockout stages, the Tokyo Tech Swimming Club finished fourth out of nine teams competing in the final round of the Second Division.

Tokyo Tech swimming member after the last match

Comments from Asahi Tamaki

I am very pleased to have won this title as I just missed out last year after finishing as the second highest scorer. We have also grown as a team. This year, we advanced to the final league — something that Tokyo Tech has not been able to achieve in the past few years.

Our team experienced significant changes over the summer as we said goodbye to several 4th-year students. While we will miss our teammates, this also gives us a chance to build an even stronger team with the new and remaining swimmers.

We will continue living in the moment each day while trying to balance our studies with our passion for the water.

Asahi Tamaki during the match

Tokyo Tech Swimming Club

The Tokyo Tech Swimming Club regularly practices two sports — swimming and water polo. The club currently consists of sixteen male swimmers, fourteen female swimmers, and six managers.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Public Relations Section・October 9, 2019)

Sailing team wins Tokyo regional championships

The Titech Sailing Team, Tokyo Tech's official student sailing club, has won the overall team category in the 67th Tokyo Regional Sailing Championships for National and Public Universities, held in Hayama, Kanagawa Prefecture on September 22.

Sailing team captain Horie (back, center) with winning team

This year, the competition was open to all teams wanting to join, with Tokyo Tech acting as the main organizer. A total of 17 universities team competed in the 470[1] class, while 13 universities joined the Snipe[2] class. In addition to taking the overall team win, Tokyo Tech also won the individual 470 race and finished second in the Snipe race.

While being an outstanding achievement in itself, this result also acted as a great practice run for the Kanto Intercollegiate Student Sailing Competition, where Tokyo Tech will meet the best sailors from across the Kanto region.

Comments from team captain Ryotaro Horie
4th year, Mechanical Engineering

I think this overall result, combined with the great individual performances, demonstrates the comprehensive strength of our team. The Tokyo Regional Sailing Championships for National and Public Universities is never an easy race, and the practice we have put in since last spring has paid off. The intercollegiate contest is coming up soon, so we don't want to rest on our laurels now, but instead aim to practice hard to achieve even better results.

Balancing a life of sailing, lectures, and research means that our time is very limited. I would like to express our thanks to certain faculty members who understand this, treat us fairly, allow us to remain active members of the sailing club, and therefore help us to proudly develop into stronger individuals. This motivates us to study harder and to demonstrate our personal growth through our research efforts.

About Titech Sailing Team

The Titech Sailing Team is a group of ocean-loving sailors who polish their seafaring skills off the Hayama coast in Kanagawa Prefecture. The team has access to five 470-class dinghies and five Snipes, as well as two rescue motorboats in case the seas get rough. Members often head to the seaside on Saturday morning and only return to Tokyo on Sunday evening. The group is strongly supported by a 400-member group of alumni whose motto is "developing full-fledged sailors, full-fledged members of society."

1 The 470 (four-seventy), so named due to its 4.7-meter length, is a sailboat designed to plane easily. Sailing the boat efficiently requires strong teamwork from its two members. Designed in 1963 by Frenchman André Cornu, the 470 has been an Olympic sailing class since 1976.

2 The Snipe is a 4.72-meter sailboat designed by William F. Crosby in 1931. It was originally intended as a boat that can be rigged and launched in a short time, and has maintained its position as one of the most popular two-person racing sailboats since its creation.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Titech Sailing Team・October 23, 2019)

Tokyo Tech pair first at Kanto Intercollegiate Student Sailing Competition qualifiers

Tokyo Tech pair Ei Okada and Ryotaro Horie finished first in their qualifying round of the 86th Kanto Intercollegiate Student Sailing Competition, earning them a place in the finals in early October. Okada and Horie raced in the Snipe[1] class of the competition.

The qualifiers, held on September 28 and 29 at Morito Coast in Hayama, Kanagawa Prefecture, involved 45 pairs from 15 universities in the Kanto region racing in two-person sailing boats. The Titech Sailing Team, Tokyo Tech's official student sailing club, registered three teams for both the Snipe and 470[2] classes. Their overall team performance was enough in both classes to ensure progression into the finals.

Tokyo Tech Snipe pair Horie (front) and Okada

Comments from Ei Okada
3rd year, Mechanical Engineering

Last year in this competition, I slowed down the team and we didn't not qualify for the finals. I used that disappointment as a springboard during my practices, and I was able to get my revenge this year. Looking ahead, we aim for even better team results next year.

Comments from Ryotaro Horie
4th year, Mechanical Engineering

I am extremely happy that we achieved this result. Our earnest attempts to go just that little bit faster paid off. I have now raced together with Ei for a year, and really appreciate having him as my pair.

About Titech Sailing Team

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1 Snipe

The Snipe is a 4.72-meter sailboat designed by William F. Crosby in 1931. It was originally intended as a boat that can be rigged and launched in a short time, and has maintained its position as one of the most popular two-person racing sailboats since its creation.

2 470

The 470 (four-seventy), so named due to its 4.7-meter length, is a sailboat designed to plane easily. Sailing the boat efficiently requires strong teamwork from its two members. Designed in 1963 by Frenchman André Cornu, the 470 has been an Olympic sailing class since 1976.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Titech Sailing Team・October 23, 2019)

Tokyo Tech pair sixth at fall Kanto women's sailing contest

Fourth-year students Ami Kawai and Nami Tsuda from the Titech Sailing Team, an official student club, finished sixth at the 86th Kanto Intercollegiate Fall Women's Student Sailing Competition, held on September 14 and 15 at Morito Coast in Hayama, Kanagawa Prefecture. The performance was a wonderful way for the talented Tokyo Tech pair to complete their four-year stint of competitive sailing before they fully focus their efforts on academics and research.

Tokyo Tech pair: Kawai (left) and Tsuda

The Kanto Intercollegiate Women's Student Sailing Competition is a team contest that features two types of boats — the Snipe[1]class and the 470[2] class. This year, Tokyo Tech's women had two teams racing in the former and one team racing in the latter class. Overall, the Institute finished eighth in the competition.

Comments from Snipe pair

Ami Kawai

4th year, Industrial Engineering and Economics

Nami Tsuda

4th year, Life Science and Technology

We have been very busy in the lab, and therefore had to come up with a strategy to produce decent sailing despite having very little practice time.

Throughout the two race days we were able to maintain stable results under conditions that suited our style of sailing. This was the culmination of four years of competitive sailing, and we hope to apply the tenacity we have developed through sailing to our research.

About Titech Sailing Team

The Titech Sailing Team is a group of ocean-loving sailors who polish their seafaring skills off the Hayama coast in Kanagawa Prefecture. The team has access to five 470-class dinghies and five Snipes, as well as two rescue motorboats in case the seas get rough. Members often head to the seaside on Saturday morning and only return to Tokyo on Sunday evening. The group is strongly supported by a 400-member group of alumni whose motto is "developing full-fledged sailors, full-fledged members of society."

1 Snipe

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2 470

The 470 (four-seventy), so named due to its 4.7-meter length, is a sailboat designed to plane easily. Sailing the boat efficiently requires strong teamwork from its two members. Designed in 1963 by Frenchman André Cornu, the 470 has been an Olympic sailing class since 1976.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Titech Sailing Team・October 31, 2019)

Korea Science Academy Science Fair 2019 commends Tokyo Tech high school students

Three students of Tokyo Tech High School of Science and Technology have been awarded the Most Innovative Research Award at Korea Science Academy Science Fair 2019, held from June 26 to 30 at the Korea Science Academy of KAIST.

(from left) Takahashi, Tokyo Tech High School of Science and Technology Principal Motoshi Saeki, Goto, Shibusawa, KSA Principal Chung Yoon

Of the 46 research presentations given by students from 32 schools in 17 countries and regions, Tokyo Tech high school's "Making of a Robot Referee of KENDO" was selected as the most innovative. Ken Shibusawa, Naoki Takahashi, and Daisuke Goto held poster sessions and oral presentations to introduce the development and evaluation of a system that assists referees during bouts in the traditional Japanese martial art.

Shibusawa animated during poster presentation

Tokyo Tech high school team presenting their research

Tokyo Tech High School of Science and Technology team members

Ken Shibusawa, 3rd year, Mechanical Systems Engineering Course
Naoki Takahashi, 3rd year, Electricity and Electronics Course
Daisuke Goto, 2nd year, Information Systems Course

Comments from team leader Shibusawa

Our research consumed more time than we expected, and preparing our posters and presentations in English was tough. We managed to complete everything on time by combining our abilities as a team.

This event was a great opportunity to learn about and discuss the research conducted by high school students in other countries. As a representative of Tokyo Tech High School of Science and Technology, We are proud to bring this award home.

(Tokyo Tech news published : Tokyo Tech High School of Science and Technology・September 26, 2019)

Local residents tour history of Tokyo Tech, Ookayama Campus

Tokyo Tech Museum and Archives

On August 31, thirteen residents of Meguro City joined a behind-the-scenes tour of the Institute as the Tokyo Tech Museum and Archives hosted a session blending facility viewings, Tokyo Tech history, and campus development.

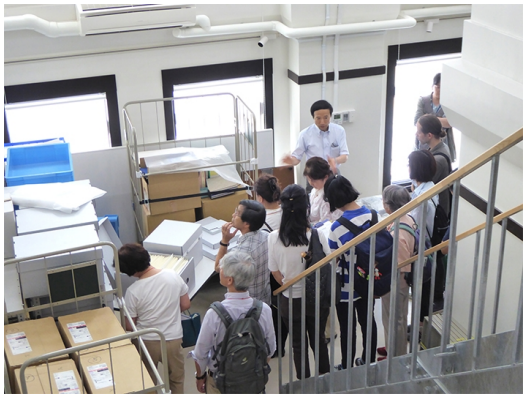
Tokyo Tech Museum and Archives tour participants

After gathering at Centennial Hall, the home of the Tokyo Tech Museum, participants toured the Institute's Library, TSUBAME supercomputer, and Administration Building 1, designed by the late architect Kiyoshi Seike. They were also introduced to the Tokyo Tech Patagonia Expedition of 1968, the details of which are currently being displayed just inside the entrance of the Main Building.

From here, the tour moved underground to the entrance of the book vault, which still brandishes doors and locks from the early Showa Era. When Tokyo Tech became a degree-conferring university, it aimed to educate approximately 150 students per year, and the Main Building could facilitate most educational and research activities. At that time, the library was located across the courtyard from the clock tower, and this space stores the Institute's historical documents collection to this day.

Book vault with high ceilings and sturdy pillars

While visiting the collection, participants learned about the scrupulous process preceding the public release of historical documents. This includes initial dusting and sterilization of documents, cataloging and storage in a special container, and UV-ray shielding and humidity and temperature control in the storage environment. Only after this can the materials be digitized. While listening to an outline of this process, participants also examined the quake-resistant design of the vault itself, which was constructed soon after the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923.



Institute Professor Shigehisa Hirose explaining methods for preparing historical documents for publication

In the second half of the tour, participants moved to a larger room where materials documenting the Institute's history were on display. These included old entrance exam questions, drawings demonstrating the changes Ookayama Campus has gone through, and mechanical engineering lecture notes from 1908. Several attendees were especially interested in discussing how the pond in the Ookayama North Area came to be, and where its water source is.*

Learning history of Ookayama Campus with help of maps

Viewing lecture notes from 1908 and student mobilization-related documents from 1943

In 1947, a plan emerged to extend Ookayama Campus to the south and southeast. Showa Medical School and the present-day Tokyo Metropolitan University were invited to establish themselves to the east and west of Tokyo Tech, which would have formed a multi-university community in the Ookayama area. Participants were excited to view the conceptual diagrams for a grand plan that, unfortunately, never materialized.

While providing a deeper understanding of the development and history of Ookayama Campus and its surroundings, this event offered residents of Meguro City a rare glimpse into the important work carried out by the Tokyo Tech Museum and Archives.

*The Ookayama North Area pond was likely constructed during campus development efforts in 1932 and 1933. It was known that the Shimizu Kubo Spring, just north of Ookayama station, was the water source for Senzoku Pond, located southeast of the campus. The same spring flowed to the west side of the Ookayama ridge. As the campus land was being prepared, a waterway was dug under the North Area and Sports Ground, and part of it was preserved as the North Area pond. The neck of the gourd-shaped reservoir initially had a bridge running across it.

(Tokyo Tech news published : September 18, 2019)

Tokyo Tech Chronicle No.532
November 30, 2019 ©Tokyo Institute of Technology

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ISSN 1349-9300
Editors-in-chief Akira Chiba, Professor, School of Engineering
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