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CENTER FOR
JAPANESE STUDIES
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A Message from the President of Nanzan University



“Hominis Dignitati” – “For Human Dignity”

As a member of Nanzan University, I have become familiar with the idea that there is more to education than acquiring know-how for surviving, and, perhaps, even getting ahead, in the global society. I see university education as a chance to think once more about, and get a new perspective on, a well-known adage of ancient Greece.

γνῶθι σεαυτόν Know yourself

On the surface, this means, perhaps, nothing more than “know yourself in the rapidly evolving context of globalization” (“know your comparative strengths and weaknesses that help you to survive and succeed in the global society”), but I believe that there is much more to life than success – material or otherwise. To know oneself is, in itself, an important aim of education – and an educational environment that exists by necessity in an internationalized and globalized society provides plenty of opportunities to look to the outside in order to get a better understanding of oneself. By learning together with people from other cultures and languages, we get a more complete picture of what it means to be a human being; each of us becomes richer by learning first hand, through actual experience and interaction, about the great diversity that constitutes our common human dignity.

For over thirty years, the Center for Japanese Studies at Nanzan University has been helping people to communicate across cultures through its one-year program in intensive Japanese language and its courses on Japanese society and culture. Extracurricular activities, opportunities for homestay, and daily interaction with students and faculty from many different countries, beginning with Japan, also provide experiences for increasing cultural awareness and understanding of the wider world.

Why not join us at the Center for Japanese Studies at Nanzan University? You can discover for yourself that learning is not a one-way process, that you will be able to contribute toward a global society based on human dignity – through the culture, language, and values you bring with you to Nanzan University. Together with likeminded people from around the world, you will be able to deepen your understanding of cultural differences, learn to see the world from a wider international perspective and develop your abilities to communicate across cultures in this age of rapid and profound global change – and, I hope, help in tearing down the walls and fences that prevent us from realizing the full potential of our common human dignity.

Michael Calmano