

Dear CJS Staff, dear everyone formerly or currently studying at Nanzan University!

I'm Marvin Eil and I used to be a student of TU Dortmund University in Germany from which I graduated with a Master's degree in Education (English and Art) earlier last year. For over a year, I've been teaching English and Art at a high school in the German city of Hamm, which is also my hometown. Right now I'm enjoying a three-week summer vacation in Japan and took the chance to visit Nanzan University and have a reunion with my Japanese Language Level 1 & 2 teacher Takeda Sensei.

I was a CJS student at Nanzan University for two semesters from September 2019 to May 2020 and I lived with a host family in nearby Kuwana, whom I also paid a visit to during this vacation. Right from the beginning, I made incredible new experiences in Kuwana, Nagoya and at Nanzan University and I learned so much during my Japanese lessons with Takeda Sensei and Watarai Sensei as well as in the classes of Japanese Art & Culture, Japanese Popular Culture, Intercultural Competence, the traditional Japanese Art courses such as Hanga, Shodo, Odori and more.

I had such a great time especially with my fellow students of the Japanese I class, with the friends I made in Stella & World Plaza and with the Japanese-German Stammtisch of Nagoya. Participating in the Stella events, going on the Nanzan field trips to Nagoya's Japanese gardens, to Toyota and Nagano and the monthly dinners of our Stammtisch were unforgettable and a lasting memory throughout the Corona pandemic that followed my stay in Japan.

I fell in love with Nagoya so much that during the time of Corona lockdowns I started to paint a large-scale painting of some of my favorite places in Nagoya in my garden, which I'm still working on in my free time in between work. Visiting all these places, my host family and their cats and many of my friends again this year was amazingly fun and unbelievably heartwarming. I can't wait to come back to Japan... maybe even for more than a holiday! And I will definitely visit Nanzan University again! Until then, I'll hold onto these dear memories.

Thanks to everybody involved in turning my CJS time into one of the best of my life! Congratulations to the 50th anniversary of the Center for Japanese Studies and on to the next 50 years!