

Preface

It is both a pleasure and an honor to say a few words on the occasion of the first issue of *Crossings*, the journal of the Society for International Studies of the Department of International Studies at Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts.

The department was established in 2007 with the goal of providing young women with a firm foundation in the English language, in addition to their proficiency in Japanese. The idea was to have students spend a year abroad studying at a university in an English-speaking country. The reason for this was not only to enable them to build on their skills in English in an English-speaking environment, but also to enable them to mature and develop through participation in a wide variety of activities both inside and outside of the classroom in countries in which English is the medium of communication. From the beginning, the goal has been to give the students the tools and the foundation to pursue studies in whatever fields interest them, whether in English or in Japanese.

While overseas, the students meet students from many different countries besides those of their host country; they are also able to choose from a much broader range of courses than is available at Doshisha Women's College. Through their experiences both inside and outside of the classroom the students learn to see the world from multiple perspectives. They acquire an international world view that evolves naturally and matures in ways that involve the interaction of many different elements.

Crossings, the title of the journal, describes the experiences of the students physically, experientially, and intellectually. "Crossing" is a verbal

noun which comes from the verb “to cross.” It can be the place where two lines meet and cross, such as the place where a road crosses train tracks, or the place or area where different genres or different artistic forms meet, and cross, or where two different fields of study meet. A “border crossing” is a place on the border between two countries (or nations, or in stages of life, etc.), where it is possible to cross from one side to the other, and perhaps go back and forth, or even stay in the crossing (in older churches which are built in the shape of a cross, the area where the two parts of the cross meet is called the “crossing”). The word “crossing” can also refer to a voyage or trip, such as the flight of an airplane from Osaka to San Francisco, the voyage of a ship from London to New York, or the voyage from birth to death, and beyond.

As you can see from this brief explanation, “crossing” is used to describe a broad range of situations. It perfectly describes the experiences of the students in the Department of International Studies at Doshisha Women’s College of Liberal Arts.

The goals of the journal are to present works of academic excellence by faculty, students, and graduates both to the members of the society and to the world at large, to increase communication between students, faculty, and graduates, and to stimulate students to participate in the world of academic research. I congratulate the Society for International Studies on the advent of *Crossings*.

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