

Barbara Fujiwara

S. Kathleen KITAO

I have had the privilege of knowing Barbara Fujiwara for more than 35 years and of having her as a close colleague for some 25 years.

Barbara and I first met before either of us was connected with Doshisha Women's College, when I visited Kyoto to see her good friend and my future husband, Kenji Kitao, in early 1980. I visited her at the high school where she was teaching and was able to observe some of her classes. It convinced me that I never wanted to teach in a high school, but it also convinced me that Barbara was a very talented and dedicated teacher.

After Kenji and I were married later in 1980, Barbara and I were both part of a group of teachers who were developing reading textbooks. From that time I was impressed by her knowledgeability, and I learned a great deal from her about making language expressive and inclusive. (She is also still the best proofreader I have ever known.)

Barbara was one of the original teachers in the Doshisha Women's Junior College, and when I joined the junior college later, we worked together as colleagues for the first time. Over the years, we worked together on the entrance exam committee many times, and we also were coordinators for the English-speaking part-time teachers. Barbara is one of the pleasantest, most conscientious people I have ever had the pleasure of working with.

Her sense of humor and patience helped make even our more tedious tasks easier.

Barbara always impressed me as a diligent, creative teacher whose classes I wished I could take. She taught classes and seminars in gender studies and multiculturalism. Thanks to her, many students at Doshisha Women's College came away with greater insight into these topics.

When Barbara transferred to Gensha, she took on the great responsibility of developing and coordinating the CASE program, a selective program to help Gensha students develop their English proficiency and study content in English. Thanks to her hard work in developing the program and especially to her support of the teachers who taught in it, it has become a great asset to Gensha and to DWC.

While we didn't see each other as much during the years after the English Department moved to the Imadegawa campus, we still worked together on coordinating the English-speaking part-time teachers. We were sometimes able to get together for dinner at the Indian restaurant near campus after faculty meetings and on other occasions. It was always such a pleasure to get to talk to her at those times.

And now, as of March 31, 2015, she has retired. She seems to be enjoying retirement and using it as an opportunity to pursue interests that she didn't have time to pursue when she was working full time, while running a sideline as a tour guide in Nara. In the past six months, my family members have visited Kyoto on two different occasions, and she has been kind enough

to offer to take them around Nara. They greatly enjoyed not only the experience of seeing Nara but of meeting Barbara and experiencing her warmth, humor, and local knowledge.

Barbara left an important legacy at Doshisha Women's College and to those of us fortunate enough to know and work with her. Thank you, Barbara! You're the greatest!