Chapter II

Girt Round with Stone, the Castle University
1. The Birth of the New Kanazawa University: Home of the soldiers to home of the students

Kanazawa University was created in May 1949, just a few short years following the end of the war, from the merger of the Fourth Higher School, Kanazawa Medical College, and other institutes of higher education in Ishikawa Prefecture. Its main campus was located inside Kanazawa Castle, which had been used as an army base since the Meiji period.

The new “master of Kanazawa Castle,” the university, soon gained fame around the country as the “university in the castle.” There were other universities in Japan that were built in former castle sites, but none that were as well-preserved as Kanazawa Castle, where students could pass through the great castle gate on their way to classes, feeling like samurai warriors.

Music for the Kanazawa University Song, composed by Nobutoki Kiyoshi

Original draft of words to the Kanazawa University Song, written by Muro Saisei
In the earliest days of Kanazawa University it was housed in the former army barrack buildings, but by the 1960s new reinforced concrete buildings replaced these one by one, though a few escaped destruction. One of these was the old Cultural Clubs Building, where all the arts and culture-related clubs and circles were based. Nicknamed the “Circle Longhouse,” there is a story about when a tourist to the castle was looking for the Sanjikken Nagaya longhouse (a registered National Important Cultural Property dating back to the Edo period), he was directed to the Circle Longhouse by a student who heard “longhouse” and didn’t know about the older, more important one. One can only imagine what the tourist would have thought on seeing the decrepit old arts clubs building…
2. Akegarasu Haya and the University Library

When Kanazawa University was founded under the new education system in 1949, all the libraries of its component schools were merged, forming Kanazawa University Library. Despite the shortage of materials immediately after the war, each school did its very best to ensure it could contribute as much as possible to the new university. Ishikawa Normal School in particular was able to provide the 55,000-volume personal collection of the chief priest of the Myotatsuji temple in the nearby town of Kitayasuda, Ishikawa County (now part of Hakusan City), Akegarasu Haya.
Akegarasu Haya was born in the Myotatsuji temple (Otani school, Jodo-Shinshu sect) in 1877, and became the 18th chief priest. Haya participated in the sect reform movement of Kiyozawa Manshi, of Hongo in Tokyo, and worked to modernize the religion by, for example, spreading the *Tannisho (Lamentations of Divergences)*, which was banned by the Jodo sect at the time. He left an important legacy in prewar religion and philosophy. Haya was a great traveller, not only extensively touring Japan, but also India, Europe, China, the United States, and Hawai'i, and collected a number of books and works of ceramics during his travels.

Haya's collection, which he called the Collection of Fragrant Grasses, was donated to Ishikawa Normal School in 1947. When the Normal School was incorporated into the Faculty of Education at Kanazawa University, that library was then moved to the university, where it was housed in the Sanjikken Nagaya storehouse and renamed the Akegarasu Collection. Haya's legacy has formed a cornerstone of education and research at Kanazawa University, and been the basis for much scholarship. As if he were gazing gently at us now in the future, Haya's words still resonate:

*I will pass on peacefully, because I can leave my collection of books I wanted to read, for posterity*
The origins of the Faculty of Letters go back to the Fourth Higher School and Kanazawa Higher Normal School, but its direct predecessor was the Faculty of Letters and Law of Kanazawa University which started in 1949. At the time, the two disciplines were combined, and of the 300 students who enrolled, a hundred were assigned to the Department of Letters. This department included 17 different courses within it.

The expansion of the Department of Letters led to calls to split it up into the three departments of philosophy, history, and literature. This was based on a desire to arrange it like one of the Faculties of Letters in the prewar imperial university system. The Ministry of Education approved this split in 1964.

In 1980 the Faculty of Letters and Law was split up into the three faculties of Letters, Law, and Economics, making this the formal origin of the Faculty of Letters. Work had already begun on becoming independent back in the mid 1970s. The goal was for a four department system, with human sciences added to philosophy, history, and literature. There would be a total of 35 chairs, of which the existing 17 would be split up into at least two.
This plan was not approved by the Ministry of Education, however. In the end, the three department system was retained, with philosophy and social sciences being merged into behavioural sciences. However, the original plan was not totally abandoned. For example, a sub-major system was considered, and finally introduced into the Faculty of Letters in the 21st century, from which it spread to the rest of the university.

In 1996, to cope with the increase in faculty due to the reorganization of the Faculty of General Education, minor chairs were changed to major chairs, so it was now possible to largely unify course names for students. At this time the Department of Behavioural Sciences was changed to the Department of Human Sciences.
3. Profiles of 8 Faculties:
The Faculty of Education

Based on a recommendation from the United States Education Mission to Japan in 1946, and in consideration of the errors of prewar teacher education, the following reforms were proposed with the goal of creating independent and humanistic teachers. (1) The teacher training curriculum is to be composed of the three fields of general training, pedagogical training, and subject-based training; (2) Education will require systematic preparation; (3) Normal schools are to be attached to four-year universities for the purposes of teacher training. At the same time, two of the features of prewar teacher training education, namely the supply of lesson fees and the requirement to work for a set period as a teacher, were abandoned. In this way, (1) teacher training would be carried out at all universities, and (2) One faculty for one university in each prefecture was to be set up to apply the plan for compulsory education teachers would allow students who were not in the teacher training faculties to gain their teaching licences if they passed the requisite subjects. These were the two core principles underlying everything.

In 1949, with the formation of Kanazawa University, the teacher training functions of the Ishikawa Normal School (men’s and women’s departments), the Ishikawa Youth Normal School, and the Kanazawa Higher Normal School were incorporated into Kanazawa University to form the Faculty of Education.
The new-style Faculty of Education was characterized by its training of teachers who would aim for the broad range of education and academic research appropriate for a university, and create teachers with high senses of mission and ethics. The faculty started off with five courses, which were reorganized in 1962 into primary education, secondary education, physical education, and special education, with education for the deaf added in 1966, and education for verbally handicapped children added in 1973. Reflecting the changes in postwar society, the faculty has responded to the needs of training teachers who will be in charge of educating the new generation.

In more recent years, with the advent of the knowledge society and globalization, informatization, and an aging society, the issues of school education have become more complex and diverse. The reorganization into the School of Teacher Education in 2008 is designed to train teachers with the rich humanitarian and social capacities and high levels of specialist skills needed to respond to these changes and issues by drawing on the functions of the university and through liaising and working with regional education committees and the various faculty schools.
3. Profiles of 8 Faculties:
The Faculty of Law

The origins of the Faculty of Law date back to the Department of Law that was added to the Ishikawa Middle Normal School back in May 1881, but its direct foundation was the establishment of the Faculty of Letters and Law in Kanazawa University in May 1949. The Faculty of Letters and Law was built on the Kanazawa Higher Normal School and the Fourth Higher School, but as there were not enough teaching faculty to cover all the subjects once these two schools were merged and the new Department of Law created, Nakagawa Zennosuke, at the time a professor in the Faculty of Law of Tohoku University (who would later become the President of Kanazawa University) was asked to help, and the required staff obtained.

Later, efforts were made to enhance the education and research system, and with the splitting into the two departments of letters and law in 1980, the Faculty of Law was created. At the time the Faculty of Law had one department (the Department of Law) with 4 major chairs, 36 teaching staff, and places for up to 180 students. However, with the abandonment of course divisions and the reorganization of the Faculty of General Education and subsequent redeployment of faculty members, the Faculty of Law was reorganized in 1996 into two departments (Law, and Public Systems), expanding to six major chairs, 49 teaching staff, and places for up to 225 students.

As a large number of teaching staff were relocated from the Faculty of Law with the 2004 establishment of the Law School, it was changed to one department (Law and Politics), 4 major chairs, 34 teaching staff (as well as three joint appointments with the Law School), with capacity for 180 students. The educational system went through a variety of changes, and once it returned to around the same size it was at the start, it was then reorganized into the School of Law in 2008.
In the Faculty of Law’s nearly three decades of history there have been come major incidents that rocked the entire faculty. One of these was the issue of relocating the university: back in June 1981 a faculty committee debate on the merits of moving to Kakuma took two whole days. This was nicknamed the “Dawn Faculty Meeting,” and is still talked of among professors who were present at the time. In addition, the emergency faculty committee meeting in 2003 that determined the establishment of the Law School was the focus of a lot of outside attention, with a number of newspaper articles and other media presence.
The Faculty of Economics dates back to the third division of the Faculty of Letters and Law that was established in 1949. It was split off into the Department of Economics as in intra-university measure in 1953 (though only formally established in 1965). There were only two teaching posts for the subject when it was the third division of Letters and Law, but by 1954 that had increased to eleven. Of the Department of Law students (200, though 180 from 1958), those that went into the third division (economics) generally tended to hover around 70 a year. Students were active participants in research exchange events outside the university, spreading awareness of their presence.

In 1965 the Department of Economics (100 students capacity) was created, thus expanding the number of subjects even more, and in 1978 there were now 19 teaching staff. The Kanazawa Economics Society, founded in 1961 by faculty and students, held its first conference in 1976, and has continued to be an important venue for students to present their work.
In 1976 the concept was floated of creating a Faculty of Socio-Economics to study economics in a wider sense, with an interdisciplinary scope covering the social sciences. While this never came to fruition, it was inherited as a concept when the Faculty of Economics added subjects later on.

The Faculty of Economics itself was formed in 1980 with one department (economics) and 6 major chairs, 33 teaching staff and 180 students. In 1986, the Regional Economics Information Library was created, the forerunner of the present Regional Policy Studies Center, College of Human and Social Sciences, and started publication of *Newsletter of Regional Economics*. 
3. Profiles of 8 Faculties: The Faculty of Science

The Faculty of Science at Kanazawa University started with the five departments of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Geology when the new university was launched in 1949. These departments were staffed by the same people who had taught these subjects at the Fourth Higher School and Kanazawa Higher Normal School. The initial student capacity was 100.

1996 was a year of great change for the faculty. Along with changes from minor chairs to major chairs, the Department of Computational Science was launched to teach and study comprehensive science using computers. With the increase of science teaching faculty due to the abolition of the Faculty of General Education, the faculty was boosted even more. In 2002, the Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology was founded, with science faculty members at its core.
The graduate school was first established in 1954 with the Graduate School of Science, and reformed into a Master’s degree-level graduate school in 1963 with 5 majors (mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and geology). While relatively small, with only 38 places for students, it allowed the start of higher level education and research. The establishment of a doctoral course in the natural sciences in 1987 was the realization of a long-held dream, and a major turning-point for the Faculty of Science.

In the long history of the Faculty of Science, a good deal of international-level research has been performed, representing Kanazawa University, and world-leading fields have been developed. The merger with the Faculty of Engineering that formed one of its cornerstones led to the birth of the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology in 1989, and unification at the faculty (school) level has created additional chances for biology, geophysics, and other areas to be at the forefront of unification. This fusion of science and technology is difficult, but we are trying to be pioneer in the new field derived from it.
3. Profiles of 8 Faculties: The Faculty of Medicine

In 1949 Kanazawa Medical College and its attached Department of Medicine were merged into the Kanazawa University Faculty of Medicine, which offered 25 chairs (13 in basic medicine, 12 in clinical medicine) in one department. With the changes in the postwar university system and in medical treatment systems, the faculty changed to a six-year one, with two years of basic courses followed by four years of specialist courses. In 1955 the Graduate School of Medicine, doctoral course, which offered majors, was founded.

Schools attached to the Faculty of Medicine for training medical technicians started with the 1949 School of Nursing, followed by the School of Medical Radiography (1956), the School of Midwifery (1958), and the School of Medical Technology (1965).
In 1978, the Institute for Experimental Animals attached to the Faculty of Medicine was opened, the first such on the Japan Sea coast, and in 1985 the Genetics Experimentation Laboratory was completed, enriching the university-wide joint research facilities.

With the Deregulation of University Act for university establishment standards by the Ministry of Education in 1991, the Faculty of Medicine was able to abolish the existing divisions and create a new curriculum based on a complete six-year course. In April 2000, the Graduate School of Medicine with its four majors was reformed and Faculty of Medicine staff were able to be assigned to the departmentalized graduate school.
3. Profiles of 8 Faculties: The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Kanazawa University has two current schools related to pharmaceutics: the School of Pharmacy and the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, both of which aim to train pharmacists and pharmaceutical researchers with a passion for research. Pharmaceutical education in Kanazawa dates back to 1867, with the Kaga Domain Utatsuyama Health-care Center. After a number of changes, that became the Department of Pharmacology of Kanazawa Medical College in 1923, and in 1929 the new campus was built in Kodatsuno, where it remained until its merger with Kanazawa University in 1949.

The faculty’s student song, Nanashigusa (Weeds), which is still sung, was written by the famous poet Muro Saisei in 1931. In 1947, shortly after the war ended, the first Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan was held in Kanazawa, as it had escaped wartime bombing, and was attended by over 2,000 people.
Later developments included the establishment of the master’s degree course in 1964, the split into the two departments of pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmaceutics in 1966, the establishment of the doctoral course in 1985, the reform into one department of comprehensive pharmaceutics in 2002, and, following the revision into two courses, one for six years and one for four years, in 2006, the creation of the School of Pharmacy and School of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences in 2008.

There were eight chairs in 1952 when the new university was created, which had increased to 17 by 2010. With the support of its long history, the faculty continues to create pharmacists and pharmaceutical researchers utilizing the latest equipment and environments.
3. Profiles of 8 Faculties:  
The Faculty of Engineering

In 1949, Kanazawa Higher Technical College (which had been renamed Kanazawa Industrial College in 1944) celebrated its thirtieth anniversary by becoming the new Faculty of Engineering at Kanazawa University. When it first started out, it included the five departments of civil engineering, mechanical engineering, industrial chemistry, chemical machinery, and electrical engineering. Its first dean was Yokoyama Moriaki, who was the third headmaster of Kanazawa Higher Industrial College. Unlike its forerunner, the students first spent 18 months learning general education subjects before beginning their majors, where they would study at the Kodatsuno Campus. The initial student intake capacity was 140, and, with the confusion following the end of the war, it was relatively easy to get it, with a greater than one in two chance, but as the country stabilized and more and more young people aspired to work in industry, by 1955 only around one in five applicants were successful.

With the increased demand for engineering students as the economy developed, and for high levels of science and technology, four new departments were added between 1962 and 1975. In addition, the old wooden buildings were gradually replaced by reinforced concrete starting from 1960. During this period, from 1965 to 1974, the graduate school of engineering was given permission to add civil engineering, mechanical engineering, mechanical engineering number two, industrial chemistry, chemical engineering, electrical engineering, precision engineering, and electronic engineering, creating the foundation for a faculty and graduate school of engineering with nine departments and nine majors.
Later, with the changes in society from the 1980s to the 1990s, closely related departments were merged, reducing the Faculty of Engineering to six departments, and the graduate school to four majors in 1997 when the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology (later doctoral course) was established. And with the general move of the university to the Kakuma Campus, all departments were fully relocated by 2005, finally vacating the old Kodatsuno Campus, its home for 84 years.
4. Graduate Schools

The first graduate school to be established at Kanazawa University was in the field of medicine. In April 1955, a few years after Kanazawa University was founded under the new educational system, the Graduate School of Medicine (doctoral course) was established. With medicine, of course, there had already been a research department in the old Kanazawa Medical College, which had granted the degree of Doctor of Medicine, so it was only natural that a graduate school be created so promptly. When it first began, there were 50 places for students, but by 1961 that had increased to 61. Note that while it was also in the same field of medicine, the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (master’s degree course) was only set up in April 1964, with an intake of 18 students.

With the rapid increase in demand for science graduates with master’s degrees thanks to the economic boom that started in the late 1950s, the early 1960s saw a number of master’s degree courses established in science-related faculties in national universities around the country. Kanazawa University was no exception: in 1963 the Graduate School of Science was established, followed by the Graduate School of Engineering in 1965. These science-related graduate schools would, along with the Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, later develop into the Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology.

The last graduate school to be established was that for the humanities and social sciences. The earliest one to be set up was the Graduate School of Law in 1971, which at the time was featured extensively in the newspapers as “the first humanities-based graduate school on the Japan Sea coast.” The following year, the Graduate School of Letters was also established, and was followed by the Graduate School of Education in 1982 and the Graduate School of Economics in 1984, giving Kanazawa University a complete range of graduate schools over all disciplines. These humanities graduate schools would eventually develop, following the establishment of the Graduate School of Socio-Environmental Studies especially for doctoral degrees, into the Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environmental Studies.
Historical Chart of Graduate Schools

Graduate School of Medicine
1955
Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
1964
Graduate School of Science
1963
Graduate School of Engineering
1965
Graduate School of Law
1971
Graduate School of Letters
1972
Graduate School of Economics
1984
Graduate School of Socio-Environmental Studies
1993
Graduate School of Education
1982
Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology
1987
Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environment Studies
2006
Graduate School of Medical Sciences
2012
Graduate School of Medical Sciences
2000

Explanatory Note

* Master's Course
** Doctoral Course
*** Integrated Course of Master's and Doctoral Levels
**** Professional Degree Course

Law School
2004
United Graduate School (see p.116-117)
2009

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5. Student Passions: Student movements and the Uchinada Riots

In December 1949 the student council for the Faculty of General Education was organized. This was the time when the Allied Occupation and the government were starting their Red Purge. The following October, the student council and other students carried out a strike opposing this Red Purge, leading to the university office expelling four students, and placing another four on indefinite suspension.

This marked the end of the student movement at Kanazawa University. Later, students from Kanazawa University played an active role in 1956 with the ban the hydrogen bomb movement, and in 1960 with the demonstrations against the revisions of the Japan-US security treaty, and the university riots of the late 1960s.

However, what made the entire country aware of the student movements at Kanazawa University was their participation in the Uchinada Conflict. In September 1959, it was found out that the Japanese government was intending to seize land in the coastal village Uchinada near Kanazawa for use by the US
Army as a firing range. Opposition movements immediately sprung up, especially in the local area. When on June 2 the following year the Cabinet decided to take the land in perpetuity, the opposition movements spread across the entire prefecture, and then across the entire country.

Kanazawa University students, based around the Kanazawa University branch of the Wadatsumi Association (the Memorial Association for Student War Dead) and the student council, called for support for Uchinada from all universities around the country. Later, before the firing exercises were forcibly carried out, the students participated in a sit-in along with village residents and workers. The firing exercises were done on June 15th, when there were several hundred Kanazawa University students on the site. Later, the students published a magazine called Uchinada, where they explained what was happening on the site to readers both in the university and around the country, calling for support as they continued their own support of the sit-in on the dunes.

However, faced with the government’s intractable stance, the village gradually changed to a conditional struggle, and as they did so, the movements by the students and other outside organizations started to be shut out. The sit-in, in which a total of some 30,000 people participated from that June, finally ended on October 4th.
6. The ‘63 Snowstorm

The Hokuriku region is one of the snowiest on the planet, and winters feature day after day of leaden grey skies and low clouds. These clouds can dump a metre or more of snow on the city. Back in 1940, the snowiest winter for half a century caused havoc not only in Kanazawa but around the country.

The heaviest snowfall since the war was the ‘63 Snowstorm, which lasted from January through to February. Record snowfalls were seen along the Japan Sea coast from Niigata to northern Kyoto prefecture, and in Kanazawa itself the snow depth reached 1.8 metres. The university was buried, and the students and faculty both had to help remove the snow. There were no snow removal machines at the time, and the snow piled in the street soon reached the level of the eaves. People would be shovelling the snow off their roofs and then walking right out onto the heaped snow.
The next major snowfalls were the '81 Snowstorm, lasting from December 1980 to March the following year, when it reached 1.25 m deep, and the '84 Snowstorm, lasting from December 1983 to March the following year. Both years, thanks to the university buildings being strong reinforced concrete, students did not have to be mobilized to shovel snow. However, for the first few days of the storm, city traffic was in chaos, with no busses running, and so most students were forced to walk into classes.

Luckily there have been no major accumulations since then, so even with the move to Kakuma in the hills there have been no serious problems. However, with the increased number of students and faculty who drive cars to the campus, even a 20 cm fall means hard work clearing the extensive carparks.
7. History of the Relocation

In 1974, a quarter of a century after Kanazawa University was founded, a problem was raised at the 322nd Meeting of the Board of Trustees. The problem was, the castle campus was too small to allow for expansion, so it was time to consider future plans. At the time, the university was occupied with issues like the splitting and reorganization of the Faculty of Letters and Law, the establishment of the Graduate School of Natural Sciences, and the increasingly cramped classroom conditions as enrolments increased. With this suggestion, it was decided to establish a Committee to Study Future Plans at a Board of Trustees meeting in 1976, and the debate over relocation began.

After much discussion, the Board of Trustees confirmed that a general relocation was in order, and in 1978, asked Ishikawa Prefecture and Kanazawa City to mediate in selecting candidate sites. The sites proposed by the prefecture and city were studied, and at the emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees in November 1980, the Kakuma area of Kanazawa was selected. However, the Ministry of Education considered it a problem that relocation of the Faculty of General Education had not been agreed upon, and the request for budgetary appropriations for the following financial year fell through.
Later, in FY1982, funds were approved for purchasing the new site, and the groundbreaking ceremony for the general relocation project was held in October 1984. Then in 1989, the three faculties of Letters, Law, and Economics completed their relocation, and the General Relocation Phase I Completion Ceremony was held at the new Kakuma Campus. Later, the faculties of science and education were relocated in 1992, followed the Faculty of General Education in 1993, and then finally, the relocation of the Main University Office in 1995 brought down the curtain on the history of the “university in a castle.”

However, Phase II Project Study Funds were included in the request for budgetary appropriations for FY1988, and the General Relocation Phase II Completion Ceremony was held in 1998. In 2004 the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences was relocated, followed by the Faculty of Engineering in 2005, and the Cancer Research Institute in 2010, finally bringing to a close the relocation plan, 36 years since it was first raised back in 1974.
8. Classroom Scenes from the Old Campuses

“The specialist course of philosophy and social science had few students, and in most lectures there were seldom more than four or five people. We would have a kettle on the potbellied stove in the lab where we all hung out on snowy mornings, with steam rising from it. The first students in would put the tea on, and everyone would drink it. Later, the professor would arrive, and everyone would gather around the stove and talk. That would often end up being the lecture.” This quote is from the memories of Fujimura Engyo, who graduated from the Faculty of Letters and Law in 1962.*

Haruki Shigeo, who graduated from the same faculty in 1959, had this to say. “I was really amazed that Professor O would give lectures with a Hikari-brand unfiltered cigarette in his mouth and let us smoke during class. And Professor M, who taught French, also let us smoke, but only during exams as he said it would relax us.” What made such an impression on Haruki was, he noted, the attitude of the faculty that treated the students as adults.***
Professor Otani Minoru of the School of Teacher Education (mathematics) is a graduate of Kanazawa University. He graduated from the Faculty of Education in 1983, making him a couple of generations younger than Fujimura or Haruki. Otani look back his school days and said, “I have never received thorough guidance from professors, even if I had difficulty to solve mathematical problems.” Classes were a series of difficult tests where students would infer something, which the professor would refute, and the students would have to revise and improve themselves. Professor Otani has asked himself if, compared to that, today’s education is as if “professor is scratching where student itch”.

Back in the days of the old Marunouchi Campus in the castle was a time when the students themselves were acutely aware that only the most select few young people could get a university education. That was a time when, while there were at times a relaxed atmosphere, classes were a close, and harsh, relationship between students and faculty.

*Kanazawa University Museum 21-nendo Tokubetsuten: Sho'o Satsurai, 2009.*
9. Episodes of Student Life

It was one of the world’s only universities inside a castle. Students who passed under the castle gate to head to classes would sometimes see themselves as samurai, visiting their lord.

When classes ended for the day, students would head off to their clubs or student council activities. The events held every May to June for the anniversary of the university’s founding were important venues for them to present their work. Twenty-five circles and groups presented at the Ninth University Anniversary Day Festival in 1957. The curry and rice sold by the Home Economics club cost 45 yen.

The students’ projects and events changed radically with the 1964 Kanazawa University Festival. The theme of that year’s festival, with the student movements in full swing, gave voice to the passion and energy of the students at the time. For example, the 1973 theme was as follows: “Youth Full of Energy – You Unjust Groups Preventing Our Future and Freedom, Look Well! Look on the Vast Friendships and Comradeship that Grows Our Flesh that Swells with Power and the Academic Study of We Who Seek the Future!”
The Student Hall was opened in July 1966. It consisted of a large hall, three medium meeting rooms, three small meeting rooms, a music room, a Japanese-style room, a recreation room, a barber shop, a cafeteria, and the student coop. The Student Hall was from its opening used for independently by students for circle and club activities, seminars, debates and reading and other study session. While there were 2,900 students studying in the castle campus, the cumulative usage of the Student Hall topped 10,270 by that October.

Most of the students worked hard at part-time jobs. For example, starting in 1969 the students living at the Hoku-mei Dormitory would head downtown to Katamachi to sell baked sweet potatoes as a way to raise school fees and cover living expenses. They became well known by the office workers there, and became one of the seasonal reminders of Kanazawa in winter. The sweet potato sales remained a long-standing tradition among the dorm students until they were finally banned in the winter of 2003, after more than three decades, for not being in compliance with the traffic laws.