To the Green Hills of Kakuma

Chapter III
1. The New Campus

The move to the Kakuma campus was finally completed, after a number of complications, with the 1995 relocation of the main offices for Phase I, and the Cancer Research Institute in 2010 for Phase II. The verdant Kakuma Campus undulating and full of trees and other vegetation, as described in *50 Years of Kanazawa University,* “Passing through the rice fields on the right bank of the Asano River, you head up a twisty mountain road that follows the Kakuma River for about 2 km into the hills.”
However, the move to Kakuma had its downsides as well. The biggest of these was the loss of Kanazawa University’s dramatic image as the university in the castle. In addition, when the university was based in the castle campus, most students lived in a 2 km radius from it, meaning that about a third of them could walk to classes. However, with the relocation there have been a large number of apartment buildings developed in the Morinosato district at the entrance to the campus area, which is quite far from the castle. Students are no longer a common sight in town, and for Kanazawa residents, the university has, to an extent, passed a fair way out of mind.

One former student recalls the castle campus: “The strongest impression would of course be when the cherry blossoms were all out. The avenue of cherries in front of the student cafeteria and clubhouses was stunning in full bloom.” There are still a lot of graduates who resent the move out to Kakuma from the castle, which they likened to Heidelberg in Germany, but perhaps that is just their age talking. In another twenty years, it may be the days out at Kakuma that are looked back on so fondly as the glory of their youth.

*50 Years of Kanazawa University, Overview Volume, p. 772
**Tsukawa Tomoko, “The Four Seasons on Campus,” The Twentieth Century: Students' Recollections, Kanazawa University Law, Economics, and Letters Alumni Association 50th Anniversary Special Issue, p.96
2. Incorporation as a National University Corporation

On April 1, 2004, Kanazawa University made a fresh start as Kanazawa University National University Corporation. On that day, then-President Hayashi Yujiro described the aspirations of this move as follows: “Rather than ask what has changed as a result of our incorporation, we should ask how we should change, and the meaning of our existence as a university for society.”

Incorporation of national universities was an issue that was raised as part of the administrative and financial reforms and large-scale reductions in government employees of the 1990s. The National Universities Association and other people connected with universities around the country expressed strong reservations about the future of education and research under this new perspective, but it was settled by the cabinet of then-Prime Minister Obuchi in 1999.

Certainly, lacking any independent corporate status, many universities of Japan had little operational freedom, were always short on funds, and were preventing from linking up with society by restrictions on outside business, with hiring and promotion done in quite the opposite way to the principle of competition. There is no doubt that many saw incorporation as a way to transform all these negative elements. However, Kanazawa University, though a general university, is a medium-sized regional university, and so the road to incorporation was by no means a smooth one. Management Expenses Grants were whittled down further and further, yet at the same time education and research results were demanded even more stridently than before. There are many, many reforms that must be carried out until Kanazawa University can be created as a strong and attractive fortress of academia here, in their truest sense of “autonomy,” “individuality,” “competitiveness,” used by the current President, Dr. Nakamura Shin-ichi, as key words for incorporation.

* Kanazawa University Bulletin, Monthly Acanthus News, No.89

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**Charter of Kanazawa University**

Humankind, despite repeated acts of creation and destruction, has succeeded over the course of its long history in enhancing an understanding of nature and various social phenomena, and has thereby developed a highly public culture. Universities, which have the responsibility of carrying out academic research, have served to bind generations together through creation of knowledge and fostering of talent, and consequently have contributed to the formation and development of a diverse society. Now a new era has dawned, in which numerous people cross national boundaries to cooperate on a global scale.

Kanazawa University, inheriting the tradition of its predecessor school, was established in 1949. After coming through the turbulent postwar period, the University has certainly contributed towards the development of Japan and the world. However, with its new start as a National University Corporation, the time has come to inquire once again into the true meaning of being “a university dedicated to society.”

Kanazawa University has the goal of becoming “a research university dedicated to education, while opening up its doors to both local and global society.” With this objective the university will work on reform, in the belief that its activities will contribute to 1) the opening up of a new 21st century era, and 2) the promotion of world peace and the sustainable development of humankind. Kanazawa University shall hereby establish its charter based on the above ideology and objectives. (Preamble)
From 8 Faculties and 25 Departments to 3 Colleges and 16 Schools

With its incorporation, Kanazawa University changed dramatically. The pillar of this change was the reform of its educational organization from 8 faculties and 25 departments to 3 colleges and 16 schools. With this reform, Kanazawa University took the first step to becoming the “research university dedicated to education, while opening up its doors to both local and global society” of its Charter.

History after the Foundation of Kanazawa University
3. College of Human and Social Sciences

In 2008, in order to be able to develop people with the abilities to solve the increasingly complex problems of society, and based on the key words of “Humans” and “Society,” Kanazawa University integrated its existing Faculties of Letters, Education, Law, and Economics into the College of Human and Social Sciences, which is made up of the six Schools of Humanities, Law, Economics, Teacher Education, Regional Development Studies, and International Studies.

One major feature of the College of Human and Social Sciences is its Progress-Based Elective System where each student can determine the course they wish to specialize in once they have fully explored their own desires and aptitudes. In addition to these main courses, we have brought in a major and minor system whereby students can take courses in other colleges or courses that interest them, as part of our efforts to create an educational program that emphasizes the students’ own interests and passions.
Of the six schools in the College of Human and Social Sciences, the four of Humanities, Law, Economics, and Teacher Education are successors to the former Faculties of Letters, Law, Education, and Economics, while the School of Regional Development Studies and the School of International Studies were created as new educational organizations that emphasize interdisciplinary, comprehensive approaches that are not bound by older academics in order to create leaders of local society and true international people.

The College of Human and Social Sciences aims to provide a new type of university education through the fusion of tradition and revolution, emphasizing links with related disciplines and continuing to develop existing ones.
The College of Science and Engineering was launched in April 2008 with the merger of the former Faculties of Science and Engineering. The College offers six schools: Mathematics and Physics, Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Environmental Design, and Natural Systems. Normally, the Faculty of Science would be responsible for the core knowledge of science and engineering and the Faculty of Engineering would provide teaching and research in its practical aspects, but these six schools have been created to merge these from a different point of view.

Each school is divided into courses that reflect the former disciplines they are based on. For example, the School of Mathematics and Physics is divided into the three courses of Mathematics, Physics, and Computational Science. Other schools are divided into two to four courses. New students are all grouped by school, and then later on choose a course they wish to specialize in (Progress-Based Elective System).
The birth of the College of Science and Engineering at Kanazawa University has brought attention, thanks to its attempt to sweep away the old walls between science and engineering. It has only been a few years since its inception, and there are still many people who are confused about the historical differences in how problems are tackled and methodology between the two faculties, but there are also expectations that a new field could be created. The division between science and engineering fields remains strong within society, but the College will continue to take on the challenges of creating a new, fused, discipline. The six schools in the College are also choices newly proposed to applying students by Kanazawa University, and their responses should be worth looking at. How will the applying students deal with this challenge?
5. College of Medical, Pharmaceutical, and Health Sciences

The College of Medical, Pharmaceutical, and Health Sciences, incorporating the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Health Sciences, was formed in April 2008, but the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences had been relocated from Takaramachi to Kakuma earlier, in 2004 as part of Phase II of the General Relocation, while the Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Medicine and Department of Health Sciences remained at the Takaramachi and Tsuruma Campuses, respectively. The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences had also changed to a six-year system in April 2006 in line with changes in the qualifications for pharmacists.

The reorganization of the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical, and Health Sciences was done in order to be able to both pursue high levels of specialization with the flexibility to respond to the continual development of medicine and other supporting fields, and to train people with the ability to support holistic medical care bolstered by a rich humanity, high levels of ethics, and interdisciplinary knowledge. Through a gradual integration of the different disciplines of each of the four schools as a College, it will be possible to not only gain deep knowledge of specialist disciplines, but study a wide range of academic fields that connect to comprehensive medical treatment.
Graduates of the College generally become physicians, pharmacists, medical technicians, or researchers into the life sciences. The education in each school is strongly influenced by its goals of obtaining qualifications, but there are also Common Subjects for first-year students in their Basic Specialized Subjects in order to form a common learning foundation so that students in each school will be able to create teams and work together in such as medicine or life sciences. One of these subjects, Basic Health Science, is provided around four times each year to all students of the College as a joint lecture. The College of Medical, Pharmaceutical, and Health Sciences is working to train the men and women who will be responsible for future cutting-edge medical treatment and develop research that can contribute to society.
6. Establishment and Expansion of the Graduate Schools

Around a third of Kanazawa University undergraduates go onto graduate school, and the 2,400 graduate students, including those coming in from other universities, study in a wide range of fields.

The Graduate School of Medical Sciences dates back to the 1955 establishment of the doctoral course in medical research in the university’s first graduate school. That was later reformed and renamed to the current graduate school, with the April 2012 integration of the master’s and doctoral levels of the medical, pharmaceutical, and health science fields. To meet the increasing sophistication of medical science, this new system allows training of medical practitioners and researchers who can take the lead in advanced treatments and the pursuit of research that contributes to medicine.

The Graduate School of Human and Socio-Environment Studies was created in 2006 from a merger of the older independent Graduate School of Socio-Environmental Studies that was created as a doctoral course in 1993 with the existing master’s courses in the Faculties of Letters, Economics, and Law. It is designed to conduct innovative original research into issues related to the human and social environments, and train people with the abilities to solve the problems of contemporary society.
The Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology was created in 1987 from the three divisions of material sciences, life sciences, and system sciences, merging the graduate schools of natural science, engineering and pharmacology. At present it consists of eleven divisions at the master's level, with a further six at the doctoral level. Along with training high-level engineers and researchers with a wealth of creativity based on being independent, comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and region-focused, it is designed to enhance and strengthen the foundations of creative science and technology.

The Law School was established in 2004 on the principle of training lawyers with a focus on the local region. Thanks to its small class sizes, it has allowed many to pass the bar examination and begin careers in the law, and aims to continue to graduate lawyers into the future.

The Graduate School of Education was created in 2009 by reforms and mergers to form the country's first master's degree level course with a specialist focus on training teachers at the graduate level who can respond to the needs of society. The existing per-subject majors were abandoned, and merged into the Advanced Educational Research and Developmental Course with the aim of providing even higher levels of training in practical instructional abilities and application.
7. The University’s Attached Schools

The university includes five schools covering the range from kindergarten to senior high school, where (1) research into and verification of the theory and actual practice of education are carried out, and (2) university student teachers get hands-on experience.

These schools date back to 1874, when Kanazawa Municipal Sengoku Primary School was appointed as the location for research into pedagogy for students at Ishikawa Normal School, and it officially became the attached normal primary school in 1875. The kindergarten dates back to 1887, when the private Kanazawa Kindergarten, founded in 1885 by people connected with the normal school, was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Ishikawa Normal School.
Ishikawa Normal School was folded into Kanazawa University in 1949, and became co-educational as the Faculty of Education. At the same time, the kindergarten and primary school, as well as the new junior high school (formed as part of the post-war educational reforms), were relocated to Hirosaka. The special support school was established in 1949 within the Kanazawa University Ishikawa Normal Elementary School, with the special class for mentally-handicapped children, the first such for a state school in Japan. In 1964 it was established as the Kanazawa University Faculty of Education's School for the Mentally Disabled Students in Higashi-Kenroku-machi.

Of the university’s attached schools, the kindergarten, elementary, junior high, and senior high school were located in Hirosaka, but these were relocated to Heiwa-machi, where the senior high school was, in 1995. In the Heiwa-machi area, they make use of their shared campus for joint classes, exchange projects, research into transfer period education between each school level, training per subject and other approaches that go beyond the boundaries of each individual school.
8. Faculty of General Education / Organization for Common Education

With the post-war educational reforms, university education was divided into General Education Courses and Specialized Courses, and universities were required to establish a department in charge of general education. At Kanazawa University, the Faculty of General Education was established inside Kanazawa Castle when the university was formed in 1949, and students would spend their first 18 to 24 months there. Later, with the nationwide changes to make departments of general education independent, the Faculty was made into its own independent organization with its own teaching staff.

Its first classrooms were the old converted barracks of the Seventh Regiment, but in 1964 these were replaced with a new four-storey reinforced concrete building. In the late 1970s, talks began on relocating the university. The Faculty of General Education Committee was opposed to the move, but in 1992 was reluctantly forced to acquiesce, and the faculty relocated to Kakuma Campus the following summer.

Changes in the curriculum

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<th>Until 1993</th>
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<th>2006 to present</th>
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<td>Specialized Courses</td>
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<td>General Education Courses</td>
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The hurdle known as “course classification” lay between general and specialized education until the 1993, meaning that students were not able to start their specialized courses until they had completed all credit for the general education course. However, starting from the 1994, specialized education subjects were available for first-year students, and similarly, fourth-year students could take general education subjects. This sort of curriculum was termed “wedge-shaped,” based on the shape of the illustrative diagram.
In 1991, the standards for university establishment were greatly revised (the Deregulation of University Act), and universities around the country began reforming and reorganizing themselves. Kanazawa University also abolished the division between General Education Courses and Specialized Courses, and in 1994 started a new curriculum, where the boundaries between General Education Subjects and Specialized Subjects were wedge-shaped. Finally, in 1996, the Faculty of General Education was abolished as part of the university-wide reforms, and the teaching staff were attached to each faculty or center.

Later, in 2004, the Organization for General Education was renamed the Organization for Common Education. Once again, the curriculum was greatly revised, and in 2006, General Education Subjects were renamed Common Education Subjects, and with the addition of areas like introductory education and information processing education, formed a new type of education.
9. The University Hospital

When the new Kanazawa University was founded in 1949, the university hospital, attached the Faculty of Medicine, had eleven departments, carrying on from when it was Kanazawa Medical College. Between 1953 and 1981 a further eight departments were added, and in addition to the hospital organization, composed of the Department of Clinical Medicine, the Department of Hospital Pharmacy, the Division of Nursing, and the Administration Division and Central Medical Facilities were enhanced from 1960 to 1997.

With the change to corporatization in 2004, the hospital’s structural organization was changed in accordance with the proposal presented by the Hospital Strategy Committee, an advisory board to the University President. The major changes were as follows: (1) strengthen the authority of the Director of the University Hospital as the person in charge; (2) make the Executive Committee, composed of the Vice President in charge of the Hospital, Director, and Vice Director of the Hospital, the supreme decision-making organ; (3) reorganize the diagnosis and treatment departments per internal organ, and get all physicians, regardless of which chair they occupied in the Faculty of Medicine, to be attached to the per-organ diagnostic departments and work there; and (4) work on establishing centers to handle diseases that cover multiple departments, starting with the Cancer Center.
Redevelopment of the hospital started in 1998, and the new building was completed in 2001, with the new Central Consultations Building completed in 2005, followed by the new Outpatients and Consultations Building in 2009, completing the construction. The Kanazawa Advanced Medical Center, a liaison between academia and industry, started operation in 2010.

With the 2008 restructuring of the university into colleges, the Faculty of Medicine's Attached Hospital, its formal name, became the Kanazawa University Attached Hospital, and forms a venue for the education of students from the schools of pharmaceutical science and health science in addition to medicine, and for the university-wide development of joint research, interdisciplinary research, applied research, translational research, and clinical research.
10. The Cutting Edge of Cancer Research: the Cancer Research Institute

The Cancer Research Institute was formed in 1967 from the merger of the Kanazawa Medical College Tuberculosis Research Institute (founded 1942) and the Cancer Research Institute of the Faculty of Medicine (founded 1961), with the aim of researching the scientific principles related to cancer, and their application. One of the reasons for its founding was the high regard held for the development of the OK-432 anti-cancer drug by Professor Okamoto Hajime of the Faculty of Medicine and Professor Koshimura Saburo of the Tuberculosis Research Institute.

In 1997, it was reorganized into a three-department system, and the Center for the Development of Molecular-targeted Drugs established. The Institute's hospital, known by locals for years as the “Cancer Institute Hospital,” was merged with the main University Hospital in 2001 when that hospital was redeveloped.

Mr. Torigoe Shuntaro giving an extension seminar
The Institute was reorganized into two fundamental departments and two centers in 2006 with the goal of becoming an international-level research facility for the malignant progression of cancers. In 2010, it changed to a four program system, with the focus on metastasis and drug resistance. In addition, to make its mission as a research institute more clear, it was renamed in 2011 to the “Cancer Progression Control Research Institute” (the official English name remains the same), and in 2010 it was recognized by the national government as Joint Usage/Research Center on Metastasis and Drug Resistance and started working as a Joint Usage/Research Center authorized by MEXT.

At the Cancer Research Institute, researchers from a wide range of fields, from existing clinical medical ones to science and engineering specialists, have come together to work on cancer research. In the future too, the Institute is expected to provide even more advanced research on conquering the malignant progress of cancers.
When the new Kanazawa University was founded in 1949, the libraries of Kanazawa Medical College, the Fourth Higher School, Kanazawa Higher Normal School, Ishikawa Normal School, and all the others were merged into one, forming the Kanazawa University Library. When the university was founded, the University Establishment Committee required that the social sciences-related collections be strengthened, which was finally achieved with the addition of the 55,000 volumes of the Akegarasu Collection collected by the famous Buddhist monk Akegarasu Haya, who lived near Kanazawa.
The new Central Library was built on the site of the old Second Bailey at Kanazawa Castle in 1965. Later, with the move to the Kakuma Campus in 1989, the current Central Library was built in Kakuma, and with the 2005 completion of the Natural Science and Technology Library, the University Library system consisted of three main branches, adding in the Medical Branch Library in Takaramachi. As of 2011, the University Library has grown into a massive information database that holds some 1.81 million volumes, 7100 e-journal titles, and has around 740,000 users a year.

However, the University Museum’s history is quite new, and was only established in 1989, in part of the Central Library building, with the stated “goal of systematically collecting and storing academic research materials within the university, and providing them for research and education.” Its main collections feature the nameplates of the Meirindo and Keibukan Kaga Domain schools, archaeological materials and physics apparatuses from the Fourth Higher School, as well as the 753 items of porcelain collected by Akegarasu Haya.
12. Supporting an Information Infrastructure

Kanazawa University is a general university, which means that it has a number of close links with the colleges, the graduate schools, the university hospital, and other organizations. This section will briefly discuss the Information Media Center of Kanazawa University, which provides a strong support for the teaching of students and the education and research conducted by faculty here.

Preparation of an intra-university network at Kanazawa University started with the Computer Room installed in the Faculty of Science in 1963. Now the Information Media Center (IMC), which was reorganized and established in 2003, forms the nucleus of Kanazawa University's Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
One of the aspects of ICT education at Kanazawa University that is known nationwide is that new students all carry laptop computers. This started in 2006, and now all classes are premised on the assumption that students will have laptops. Intra-university information systems, from research—including in this field of education—to various office procedures, and even to the alumni association, are increasingly handled by the Acanthus Portal, the university-wide portal, as a one-stop service system. This is supported in turn by the integrated authentication system developed by the IMC.

A quarter of a century ago, student theses were all handwritten, and articles by faculty members might be created on a word-processor at best. The IMC will continue to remain at the forefront of the ICT revolution, developing into a central facility that links the students, faculty, and the various organizations of the university.

**Common Institutes and Facilities**

**Common Institutes for Education and Research**
- Center for Regional Collaboration
- Advanced Science Research Center
  - Institute for Experimental Animals
  - Institute for Gene Research
- Central Institute of Radioisotope Science
- Radioisotope Laboratory for Natural Science and Technology
- Research Institute for Instrumental Analysis
- Research Facilities Support Office
- Information Media Center
- Foreign Language Institute
- Institute of Nature and Environmental Technology
  - Low Level Radioactivity Laboratory
  - Ogoya Underground Laboratory
  - Marine Laboratory
  - Botanical Garden
- Research Center for Higher Education
- Environment Preservation Center
- Research Center for Child Mental Development

**Common Research Facilities**
- Low Temperature Laboratory
- University Museum
- Center for Archaeological Research
- Technical Support Center

**Others**
- Health Service Center
- Organization of Frontier Science and Innovation
- Career Design Laboratory for Gender Equality
- FD/ICT Education Office
- Kakuma-no-Sato house
- International Student Center
- International House
- Kakuma Guest House
- Center for Cultural Resource Studies
- Research Center of Italian Mural Paintings
- Bio-AFM Frontier Research Center
- Research Center for Sustainable Energy and Technology
- Brain/Liver Interface Medicine Research Center
- Wellness Promotion Science Center
- Satellite Plaza
- Tatsunokuchi Seminar House
- Tokyo Office
13. The Students

Around the time when the Phase I General Relocation was completed in 1995, the university students also started to relocate from rooms near the castle to the modern apartment buildings that were being rapidly constructed at the foot of the Kakuma area.

In 1952 there were 31 university clubs and circles, 14 cultural and 17 athletic, with a total of 715 members. By 2009, that had expanded to 81 clubs (40 cultural and 41 athletic), or 130 including all those recognized by the faculties, and with a total of 4,000 members. The increase in club activities was not merely due to the increase in enrolment: it also reflects the increased wealth of students and the diverse interests and hobbies this allows them.
Modern students are active in clubs, but they also have part-time jobs as well. A 1964 survey showed that 21% of students had not worked part time in the previous four months, but by 1997, the percentage that had not worked at a part-time job in the past ten months had dropped to 16%. While the questions are a little different, it does show that students still work hard at part-time jobs even now.

Another interesting piece of data concerns money. In the 1964 survey, the average expenditure for study costs was ¥1,800 a month, with ¥1,600 spent on recreational activities (including extracurricular fees). However by 1997, undergraduate students were spending ¥40,000 on tuition annually, ¥47,000 on extracurricular fees, and ¥149,000 on recreation and hobbies.

As student lifestyles continue to diversify, students wearing the latest fashions are devoting their efforts to their clubs and part-time jobs.
14. The Satoyama in Kakuma, and the Satoumi in Noto

The hilly area where Kanazawa University’s Kakuma Campus is sited borders the urban area, and is both a local hill area, or *satoyama*, that had long been a source of food, firewood, and charcoal for city residents, and a valuable natural environment. In 1997, a wooded area the equivalent of a third of the entire 201 ha Kakuma Campus was designated as a natural environment preservation district (62 ha) and a natural park (12 ha), which were later collectively termed “Satoyama Zone”. The Satoyama Nature School in Kakuma was opened in 1999, and uses the Satoyama Zone as a venue for education and research, and offers lifetime learning programs for the general public. The Zone continues to be the focus of attention as a symbolic activity for a university open to the region.
The Kakuma-no-Sato lodge, built as a base for the Nature School to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the university, uses a 300 year old farmhouse from the Kuwashima area of Shiramine Village (now incorporated into Hakusan City) at the base of Mt. Hakusan. The basic structure of the farmhouse was retained, and the lodge completed in April 2005. It harmonizes with its satoyama backdrop of bamboo forests, and provides a place of respite within the campus.

In 2006, a former elementary school in Suzu City, at the top of the Noto Peninsula, was transformed into the Noto Peninsula Satoyama Satoumi Nature School. This is used for both surveys and research to evaluate biodiversity, and for environmental protection activities for the forests in conjunction with local residents. The Noto Satoyama Meister Training Program, which started in 2007 and aims to train 60 people over 5 years who can take lead roles in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, and the Satoyama Satoumi Activities in the Noto Peninsula that started in 2009 are both showing positive results thanks to their links with local authorities.
15. The Morinosato Area

Morinosato area before the Mountain Loop Bypass was built (1982)

The Mountain Loop Bypass passing through Morinosato area near university
While hard to imagine looking at it now, the area now known as Morinosato was, until the late 1980s (barely more than two decades ago), an agricultural area filled with rice fields and vineyards.

The roads leading from the Kodatsuno Ridge across to Tai-machi and Tenjin-machi were narrow, and there were few houses across the river, from Suzumi Bridge south. However, with the relocation of the university that started in 1989, the Morinosato area underwent great changes, with new roads and the opening of large-scale commercial developments driving them.

The appearance of the large-scale retail facilities that form the heart of Morinosato, and the completion of the road that leads from Kodatsu to Morinosato via the Suzumi Bridge (now part of the Mountain Loop Bypass route) transformed the existing farmland into residential areas, roads, and shops. Something that symbolizes this change is the relocation of a famous gyoza restaurant that almost every student at the Kodatsuno or Takaramachi campuses would have known, down from Kodatsuno to Morinosato. Still always packed with university students, it shows how the areas of student activity have moved, as did this restaurant, from Kodatsuno to Morinosato.

Morinosato is now replete with fast-food places, restaurants, shops, leisure facilities, and all the other things found in urban commercial districts. In addition to the large numbers of student apartments, there has also been a boom in general residential construction. It had probably changed more over the last 20 years from the end of the 1980s than the actual university.
16. The Ancillary Staff Who Support Kanazawa University

In addition to the teaching staff, who often seem to represent the university and get called “Professor,” at Kanazawa University there are some 1,000 technical staff and 400 administrative staff who work in offices, the hospital, or other ancillary facilities.

These staff members need to carry out a wide range of work that includes entrance examination tasks, which require careful attention paid to applicants, open campus days, showing off the university to high school students or examinees, or other public relations-related tasks, the management and operation of the various university facilities, negotiations and contract-related tasks between faculty and outside personnel for things like consigned work or joint research, and many others. Another important task for a university in the snow country is removing snow, which is not an easy job and would not be possible without these workers.
Staff in the administration and financial areas, who deal directly with things like university policy, are mainly found in the Administration Office building at Kakuma Campus. Closer at hand, they can also be found in the various general affairs, student affairs, accounting and other departments in each campus or district, where they work to help students keep their lives running smoothly in terms of classes or grades, and support education and research through purchasing equipment or carrying out their many other tasks.

It is clear that a university cannot function without these technicians and office staff. However, their numbers have been declining steadily as universities face increasingly harsh conditions, and at present much of this work needs to be supplemented by part-time staff. Nevertheless, the administrative work of the university is increases each year, so a kind word of thanks dropped by a professor might be an honest expression of the feelings of the entire faculty to the ancillary staff hard at work day and night.
Our university, in Kanazawa Castle

Yamade Tamotsu (former Mayor of Kanazawa)

I finished my entrance ceremony at the Science Hall in Sengoku-machi in the spring of 1950, and passed through the avenue of cherry blossoms in full bloom at Kenrokuen to enter the Ishikawa Gate in the second student intake at Kanazawa University.

While I thought how unusual it was for the old buildings of the Division Headquarters and the former army barracks scattered around the second, third, and new baileys of the castle to have survived the war without being damaged, as they were military facilities, I can recall how impressed I was by the way these dozens of rough wooden buildings gained a new mission in life for peaceful, democratic education. The revolution in the education system allowed the merger of the six faculties of Medicine, Pharmacology, Engineering, Science, Letters and Law, and Education, sending a fresh breeze of diverse energy and coeducation through the place; the autonomy, independence, and freedom of this place of learning standing tall on the hill in the middle of town gave me a sense that a new era had arrived.

In law, there were far-reaching reforms starting with the Constitution and the Civil Code, as well as in the principles of law, and we were short of teaching materials, yet I still look back with fondness on how moved we all were by the passion of the lectures on precedence by the young professors.

Kanazawa University would have more than 40 years of history as one of the few castle universities in the world.

(Class of 1954, Faculty of Letters and Law (Dept. of Law))
6 Years at Kanazawa University Formed the Foundations to Realize my Dreams

Furu Akiko (Associate Professor at Kanazawa Gakuin University, Japan’s Olympic Representative in Trampoline at the Sydney Olympic Games)

At this time I would like to congratulate Kanazawa University on its 150th anniversary. I am very proud of the 6 years (4 as an undergraduate, 2 as a graduate) of this wonderful history that I spent as a student here. I would head through the Ishikawa Gate with the dream of becoming a physical education teacher. That dream I was able to achieve today, at the university level, and each day I stand in front of the students I feel the pride as an athlete that I learned in classes here. When I was at university, I was able to take the crown at the Japan Trampoline Association Championship many years in a row, even getting the President’s Prize. Once I finished graduate school, I started to seriously set my sights on the Olympics, and was able to finish 6th at the Sydney Games in 2000. The sports psychology I learned under Professor Ishimura at Kanazawa University enabled me to do my own personal best at the Olympics. I intend to continue having pride in being a graduate of this university, and to pursue my dreams.

(Class of 1996, Faculty of Education; Class of 1998, Graduate School of Education)