

## Stimulating the community's interest in science

## New initiatives to promote social contribution and gender equality

## Exploring-Germination-and-Growth program for young Scientist : EGGS science program

Tohoku University operates a program to help high school students pursue their interest in science by engaging them in science lectures, field studies, and laboratory experiments. This program is part of a project initiated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency to foster the next generation leaders in science and technology. The University recruits 100 local high school students every year, 70 of whom are assigned to a basic course and 30 to an advanced course. In both courses, professors of the University's graduate schools in sciences assist them in cultivating scientific minds—exploring the wonder around us, analyzing and summarizing their findings in reports and making presentations; and reading science materials in English.



High school students in the science program

Sendai high school students in the EGGS science program discover the antimicrobial activity of Ag<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

Saaya Ando, Tomosato Hioki, and Takamichi Yamada—who are students of Sendai Daini High School and members of its chemistry club, and are in the Tohoku University's EGGS science program—discovered the strong antimicrobial activity of Ag<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Their discovery was reported online in the Journal of Materials Science.

When the three students were analyzing shiny black crystals that formed on a cathode while applying electrolysis to silver nitrate to produce pure silver dendrites, they discovered that the black crystals had the crystal structure of Ag<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. They also found that the crystals were an Ag<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> clathrate, which has stronger antimicrobial activity, higher oxidative activity, and higher conductivity than Ag<sub>2</sub>O, and that releases 10 times more silver ions into water than Ag<sub>2</sub>O does.

## Science Café in Fukushima "What Does Smart Grid Mean to Us"



Professor Saito talking about the smart grid

Tohoku University holds a monthly Science Café event in Sendai, in which University researchers and local residents talk about topics in science casually. On November 19, 2012, the University and the Tohoku Regional Advancement Center hosted the Science Café in Fukushima City. In this event, Professor Hiroumi Saito of the Graduate School of Engineering, who is working on a system to monitor the stability of power systems and a system for the coordinated control of distributed power generators and power networks, shared the latest developments in the smart grid, which is considered the future of electric power distribution, and talked about how it will change people's lives.

## Science Angel Project receives L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science

Tohoku University Science Angel Project, in which female graduate students of natural sciences visit elementary, junior high, and high schools to stimulate students' interest in science, received a special award of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science in Japan for 2011.

The day after project members received the award in a ceremony in Tokyo on July 12, 2011, they met with Atsuko Okajima, director-general of the Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office, and Kumiko Bando, director-general of the Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau of MEXT. The officials told the team that they hoped that the Science Angel Project would be extended to all over Japan to lay the groundwork for nurturing next-generation scientists.



Award ceremony

## Developing a sense of community

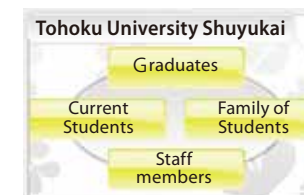
## Tohoku University Shuyukai Association

When Tohoku University celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2007, the Tohoku University Shuyukai Association was established as a close-knit community for University alumni, current students and their families, and current and former faculty members and staffers. The organization is intended to facilitate friendship and communication among its members and foster a strong sense of togetherness.

## Fostering a sense of community among Shuyukai members

Shuyukai members get together at an annual homecoming of the University and in regional networking meetings held around the country.

Class reunions are held every 10 years from the year of graduation, and secretaries selected from among alumni by year of graduation organize a reunion of that class. By the end of the 2011 academic year, secretaries of the alumni association have been chosen from among graduates of classes of 2006 through 2011.



## Homecoming Day to celebrate the University's 104th anniversary

Tohoku University Homecoming Day events have been held in October since 2007 to give graduates an opportunity to reunite with old friends and teachers, and mingle with current students. Many events are lined up for the day—all under the theme "Welcome Back."

■Date: Saturday, October 8, 2011

■Venue: Centennial Hall (Kawauchi Hagi Hall), Kawauchi Gymnasium, Kawauchi Cafeteria

- General meeting of Shuyukai
- Get-together party for current and former students
- Seminar titled "Bridging Medicine and Engineering in the Face of the Coming Aging Society"
- Autumn Cultural Festival
- Lobby performance
- Concert celebrating Tohoku University's 104th anniversary



General meeting of Shuyukai



Anniversary concert



Get-together party for current and former students

## Regional networking meetings

Shuyukai has been holding regional networking meetings for alumni and parents of current students since 2009 to update them on what is going on at the University, including an update on the latest research projects. This is part of Shuyukai's efforts to keep people informed of the latest developments at the University and Shuyukai and to foster a sense of community among members in each region.

- Meeting in the Kanto region on July 20, 2011 (attended by 400 people)
- Meeting in Hokkaido on November 12, 2011 (attended by 120 people)
- Meeting in the Kansai region on February 11, 2012 (attended by 130 people)



Lecture



Get-together party

## Shuyukai premier members' retreat

Shuyukai held the second retreat for its premier members in the University's Kawauchi Hagi Hall on May 7, 2012.

The first part of the event featured a concert by Kazumasa Oda, a popular singer-songwriter and graduate of the University's Department of Architecture at the School of Engineering.

At the party that followed, Shuyukai President Susumu Satomi made a speech, and 150 participants sang the University's school song, led by members of the Tohoku University Cheering Club.



Concert by Kazumasa Oda