

In the spirit of our “open-door policy,” we look to the future hand in hand with our community

Preserving tradition, contributing to a changing society and promoting gender equality

Project commemorating 100th anniversary of first women students at Tohoku University

In 1913, Tohoku University welcomed its first female students. At the time, it was considered unthinkable to accept a woman as a legitimate student and in spite of the fact that the Ministry of Education (present Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) requested documents explaining the reason for accepting female students, Tohoku University decided to admit women, making it the first university in Japan to do so.



First three women to study at Tohoku University (Chika Kuroda, Ume Tange, Raku Makita)



Logo commemorating 100th anniversary of first women students at Tohoku University

Various activities to promote gender equality have been carried out throughout 2013 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first women to study at Tohoku University. On August 8, 2013, as part of our commemorative activities, a symposium was held on the theme “100 Years since the First Women Scientists Studied at Tohoku University and Fostering Future Female Leaders” with the participation of top female scientists from throughout Japan and the world. In addition, a 10-year “Action Plan” was announced to promote gender equality by fostering female leaders and scientists for the next generation and supporting faculty and staff members who want to work while raising a family.

Logo created in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first women students to be admitted to Tohoku University

The woman holding a test tube symbolizes Chika Kuroda and Ume Tange, the first women entrants to the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science. The *Shichiyo Mon* emblem represents a space-filling problem in mathematics, symbolizing Raku Makita who entered the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science. This emblem also represents the symbol of the University, the Big Dipper that guides and shines in the northern sky. The rich carmine (pinkish red) color is associated with Ms. Kuroda, also known as the *Carmine Doctor*, who received a doctorate in her studies on natural pigments such as carmine.

*The photographs of Chika Kuroda and Raku Makita are courtesy of the Tohoku University Archives and the photograph of Ume Tange is courtesy of Japan Women's University Naruse Memorial Hall.

Hosting of NHK Program Public Recording



Scene from the “Rocket Classroom”

On February 11, 2013, the Hosting of “NHK Public Recording ‘Disaster Recovery Support for the Future’ at Tohoku University” was held at the Kawauchi Campus with 5,400 audiences taking part in many different programs.

As part of Tohoku University's activities, a “Water Rocket Workshop” for children was conducted by FROM THE EARTH, a group from the Students' Friendship Association. The children made their own water rockets and launched them. They also launched rockets with the use of explosives. In addition, three special programs of “Science Café” have been offered. “Science Café” is usually held once a month at the Sendai Mediatheque in order to help people in the local community learning the joy of science.



Science Café Special Program

“Justice with Michael Sandel at Tohoku University”

On February 22, 2013, Michael J. Sandel, a professor at Harvard University came to Japan and presented a special lecture entitled “Justice with Michael Sandel at Tohoku University” under the theme of disaster reconstruction and was held at the Kawauchi Hagi Hall at Tohoku University. A total of 1,100 people, including 500 Tohoku University students, attended this lecture.

At the lecture, Professor Sandel asked difficult questions such as “Do you think social workers or firefighters should put their lives at risk at times of disasters?” or “Which do you think is more important, taking speedy action for reconstruction, or getting everyone to agree on the right action even if it might take longer?” You can view this lecture on Tohoku University's video channel on YouTube.



Answering a difficult question from Professor Sandel



Professor Michael Sandel

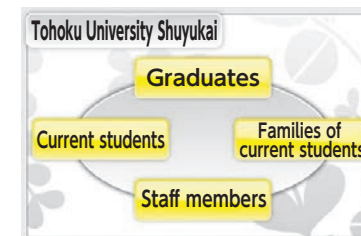
Bringing together people and organizations affiliated with Tohoku University Tohoku University Alumni Association Shuyukai

The Tohoku University Alumni Association Shuyukai was created in 2007 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the University and to set a course for its next 100 years. In addition to the 140,000 alumni members of the organization, there are 18,000 current students and their families, and 6,000 members of the faculty and staff. Shuyukai is working to deepen the bonds among its members and to contribute to its development by strengthening communication between the University and members, thus creating a high awareness and closer ties as members of the “Tohoku University Community.”

Fostering a sense of community among Shuyukai members

The Shuyukai holds events such as Homecoming Day and regional exchange meetings for its members to promote friendship and communication.

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 2012 academic year, secretaries of the alumni association have been chosen from among graduates of classes of 2006 through 2012.



Tohoku University 105th Anniversary Homecoming Day

Tohoku University Homecoming Day was planned to provide an opportunity for graduates to meet their old friends and teachers, and current students. The intention of this event is to say “Welcome to your University.” Since 2007, Homecoming Day has been held in October every year.

Date: Saturday, October 6, 2012 Venue: Centennial Hall (Kawauchi Hagi Hall), Kawauchi Gymnasium, Kawauchi Cafeteria

- Shuyukai general meeting
- Sendai Seminar
- “Creating Close Ties among the Japanese: Our Hearts and Minds after the Disaster of March 11, 2011”
- Get-together meeting between current students and graduates
- Autumn culture festival
- Lobby performance
- Concert for Tohoku University

105th Anniversary Homecoming Day



Shuyukai general meeting



Anniversary concert



Get-together meeting between current students and graduates

Regional exchange meetings

Since 2009, regional exchange meetings have been held targeting the graduates and parents of the current students. It aims to foster a sense of community among members in each region by explaining the current status of the University and the achievements of its cutting-edge research activities.



Lecture



Get-together meeting

Exchange Meeting in Kanto on the 105th Anniversary	(attended by about 400 participants)	Date and time: Sunday, July 29, 2012 from 15:00 to 19:00 Venue: Tokyo Station Conference (5F, Sapia Tower)
Exchange Meeting in Kyushu on the 105th Anniversary	(attended by about 100 participants)	Date and time: Sunday, November 11, 2012 from 15:00 to 19:30 Venue: Hotel New Otani Hakata
Exchange Meeting in Kyushu on the 106th Anniversary	(attended by about 130 participants)	Date and time: Saturday, February 23, 2013 from 14:00 to 18:30 Venue: Kyoto Tower Hotel

3rd Shuyukai premium alumni meeting

On May 24, 2013, a performance of the musical “Cats” performed by the Gekidan Shiki theater troupe was held solely for Shuyukai members at the Tokyo Electron Hall Miyagi as part of the 3rd Shuyukai premium alumni meeting.

On this day, over 900 Shuyukai “Premium Members,” including alumni, faculty and staff, current students and their families, attended this performance. The two and a half hour musical passed by swiftly as the audience watched mesmerized, clapping to the beat of the music and laughing out loud with joy. Although the members of the audience came from different walks of life, on this day, everyone was united as they shared the thrill and excitement of this special time.



Performance of “Cats” held exclusively for Shuyukai members