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UC Santa Cruz associate researcher Joji Muramoto lectures visiting Japanese college students Monday in the campus' Sustainable Living Center.

# Cultural and educational EYE-OPENER

JAPANESE AGRICULTURE STUDENTS PAY VISIT TO UC SANTA CRUZ

By **KIRSTEN FAIRCHILDS**

[newroom@santacruzsentinel.com](mailto:newroom@santacruzsentinel.com)

SANTA CRUZ — Risa Ouchi had never been on a field trip to a garden before.

A junior at Keisen University in Tokyo, Ouchi had also never been to the United States before.

On Monday, Ouchi had an opportunity to combine both first-time experiences on the UC Santa Cruz campus.

A resident of Sagamihara, Japan, Ouchi, 20, arrived Sunday with 13 fellow Keisen University students and two instructors to participate in a weeklong institute, titled "Teaching and Learning from Seed to Table."

The institute, running through Friday, is a collaboration between UC Santa Cruz's Sustainable Living Center and the nonprofit Life Lab, which provides garden-based activities such as field trips to students ranging in age from preschoolers to university students. The students will have an opportunity to tour area farms, farmers markets and school gardens as well as attend lectures on agroecology and sustain-



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Visiting college students from Japan scribble notes from UC Santa Cruz associate researcher Joji Muramoto — lecturing in Japanese — in the Sustainable Living Center on campus Monday.

able food systems.

The group will also participate in hands-on workshops on topics ranging from building with cob to teaching young children about the six plant parts — roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds.

Joji Muramoto, an associate researcher in soil science and agroecology at UC Santa Cruz, joined the Keisen group for dinner before presenting an Introduction to Agroecol-

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...became a professional wakeboarder in the mid-1990s, but after injuring his knee and blowing out his Achilles tendon, Smith went into developing Internet businesses, according to family members.

"He was a really close friend of mine since childhood," said Grady Jackson of Smith. "Chris was kind of a pioneer of wakeboarding; he was pretty acrobatic and athletic about it."

In a statement released Tuesday, Smith's family described him as passionate and brilliant.

"Thinking outside the box was almost automatic for him when looking at any idea, concept, or something considered fact," the statement said. "Chris had a longing for peace and for something this world could not offer."

Smith's father said the family won't release further details during the investigation.

"We want to find our son," said Steve Smith, who now lives in Bend, Ore.

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## OFFICER

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Hoover said he plans to visit his father's grave at Santa Cruz Memorial today and place a small flag there.

Richard Hoover, a World War II Navy veteran, was a student at Soquel Grammar School at the time, he said.

His parents had split up, he said, but his dad would take him on row boat rides on the San Lorenzo River and to DeLaveaga Park when he was off duty. And he would sometimes stop by on his motorcycle, during breaks, his son said.

"I remember the news.

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## TRIP

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ogy lecture entirely in Japanese on Monday evening.

Muramoto, a Tokyo native, has been at UC Santa Cruz for 15 years. He welcomed the opportunity to help out as a translator at the dinner.

"I plan on talking about the history and definition of agroecology," Muramoto said before the lecture. "Agroecology is an application of ecological principles to design and manage sustainable food systems. Agroecology in academia in Japan is not very popular.

"Agricultural science and ecology are separate things in Japan, and it was in the U.S. for a long time," he said. "That's part of the history I'm going to talk about."

Four of the Sustainable Living Center's students prepared the dinner, along with help from four Japanese students. The dinner of kale salad with edible flowers, vegetarian chili and corn bread used the six



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Temple University graduate Midori Asaoka is visiting UC Santa Cruz with college students from Japan, where she teaches a 'Gardening in English' class.

plant parts, identified in English by the Japanese students in a pre-meal

gathering.

"Each student has a different goal

for coming here," said Midori Asaoka, a part-time instructor who teaches a class called "Gardening in English" at Keisen University. "Maybe they came to get some ideas to use in their future work or to improve their English or to see a different culture."

A private women's college with roughly 2,000 students, Keisen University requires all first-year students to take a horticulture class, in which they learn to grow flowers and vegetables.

Determined by her schoolmates to be the most proficient English speaker of the group, Ouchi said that brushing up on her English and learning how to teach food education were two of her goals.

"Keisen students are different than other college students in Japan because we study food education and horticulture, but at different universities, they study only agriculture and how to grow crops," said Ouchi, with Muramoto helping with translation. "In Japan, we don't go to places like here for field trips.

"You don't study about food and gardening on field trips, so this is very refreshing to see such a thing."

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## SURGERY

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work all last week.

Santa Cruz Mayor Ryan Coonerty, who lectures in legal studies in the Division of Social Sciences at UCSC, said, "I just wish him and his family all the best and hope for a full recovery."

Blumenthal is well-liked in the community, having cultivated rela-

tionships with civic and business leaders that have helped heal rifts between residents and the "City on a Hill," as the campus is sometimes called.

Coonerty, who learned about the surgery through the campuswide message, worked closely with Blumenthal to hammer out a 2008 agreement that settled various lawsuits over UCSC's growth plans.

"He has been a tremendous leader at UCSC, both on campus and in the community," Coonerty said. "We all

care about him very much."

Blumenthal, an astronomy and astrophysics professor who has served as a top universitywide faculty figure, joined the campus in 1972. He took over as interim chancellor after the June 2006 suicide of predecessor Denice Denton and was named to the post in September 2007. Blumenthal chairs the Size and Shape Working Group of the UC Commission on the Future.

Joe Konopelski, vice chair of the Academic Senate and a professor of

chemistry and biochemistry, said the news about Blumenthal's surgery was a surprise. Konopelski, a 27-year UCSC veteran, said he had not heard whether the chancellor was ill prior to the procedure but hopes for a quick recovery.

"George has been here a long time," he said. "It's nice having him at the helm of the institution and driving us forward," he said.

Fall instruction at UCSC resumes Sept. 22. Enrollment is about 16,000 students.