Prospectus

Class 16 Fund Raising Project

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Entering ICU

Members of Class 16: April 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of our entry into ICU (September 2018 for September entry students). On April 21 next year a celebratory party, hosted by the President, will be held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Class 16 and the 25th anniversary of Class 41. On this occasion, we, a group of concerned members of Class 16, acting upon the suggestion that we carry out some sort of fund raising actively in order to contribute to the advancement of our alma mater, got together with other concerned members in order to consider the matter. As we reported earlier, we initially thought of making a contribution to the ICU Peace Bell scholarship. However, searching for some fund raising project that would more clearly reflect the sentiments of Class 16, in the end we decided to raise funds for the repair and revival of Seabury Chapel.

Do you all remember Seabury Chapel? It’s that small white building nestled in the trees on the Western side of the grassy area in front of University Hall (that is, to the left as you face University Hall). It is often referred to as the triangle chapel. In fact, some students may not have set foot in this building during their time at school, but in addition to religious services, open lectures and seminars (Mori Arimasa and Shina Rinzō gave lectures here), the chapel has been used for wedding ceremonies and small social gatherings. It was built in 1959, so that now, after 58 years, the building has significantly aged. It is no longer recommended for use by gatherings, especially when in people from outside of ICU are involved. In fact, the chapel is hardly used except for a weekly Worship Night organized by a group of students.

Recently, those of us interested in setting up the fund raising project had an chance to make an onsite inspection of Seabury Chapel. To be sure, we could find obvious signs of aging, but we were impressed by the cozy space surrounded by green; the building reminded us of the peaceful and intimate atmosphere typical of the ICU campus. We were also impressed with the unified triangle design evident both in the exterior and interior of the building. It was at once bold but also comforting, creating a uniquely captivating space. We felt certain that with a little help, the chapel could once again be restored to serve as a valuable and useful university asset.

The University administration, not sitting on its hands, has budgeted funds for the upkeep of buildings that now form part of the university’s historical heritage, headed by Taizansō, a Registered Tangible Cultural Property, and Diffendorfer Hall (D-kan), selected by DOCOMOCO as one of the Buildings of the Modern Movement in Japan. It is a fact, however, that Seabury Chapel is in considerble need of restorative care and maintenance. It is for this reason that our Class 16 Fund Raising Project seeks to shed light on a historical heritage site hidden on our alma mater and play a pioneering role in breathing new life into Seabury Chapel. The University has voiced its approval of this project.

We earnestly hope to receive your understanding and agreement with this endeavor. Your help and cooperation is respectfully solicited.

November 2017 *dies faustus*

Class 16 Concerned Group in charge of Fund Raising for the 50th Anniversary of Entering ICU

Onishi Naoki, Representative