

【巻頭言】

## Ronald (Ron) Notestine

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I had been in Japan for about two years, working as a teacher of English at a private university in Aichi, when our small group of native language faculty was joined by a new hire, an American who had been working as an English instructor in Tokyo: Ron Notestine.

Within a very short time, as we got to know each other, Ron and I came to realise that we had many interests in common: the habit of voracious reading, especially history; a deep interest in Japan and its culture; a shared enjoyment of music; a fondness for abstract conversation; and, perhaps most significantly, a love of hiking and camping in the Japanese mountains. We soon developed a pattern of throwing rucksacks in a car most weekends, either for day hikes or camping overnights, and I vividly remember those outings as being full of stimulating conversations on a very wide range of topics. Ron's first intellectual love, I think, is applied mathematics, a subject of which I know next to nothing, but I remember being fascinated by his passionate and lucid expositions of (to me) arcane mathematical lore. It still astonishes me that Ron can have this deep understanding of a highly technical field, yet also have the capability to discourse knowledgeably and interestingly on literary and philosophical topics. I have learned a great deal from Ron over the years, and do not think I have ever known anyone who has more successfully bridged the 'two cultures' of science and the humanities.

Of course, this 'Renaissance Man' aspect of Ron's character qualified him to be an exceptional member of faculty at Chukyo University School of Management, which we both joined in 1990. Students taking his courses could learn so much more from him than the narrowly defined requirements of the curriculum. Ron was a devoted teacher, and spent long hours (usually in a local coffee shop) developing materials that would help students better understand the course content. He would regularly invite seminars to his home, where he and his wife Kanako offered food, entertainment, and conversation, the memories of which, I am sure, will stay with every student who benefitted from his generosity and hospitality. His retirement leaves a gap that will be very difficult to fill, and for the sake of future students I sincerely hope that Ron will retain a connection to Chukyo as a part-time teacher for as long as possible.

I am privileged to know Ron Notestine, and feel very lucky that, not only did we meet and work together when he first came to the Nagoya area, but that we joined Chukyo together and

have thus been able to build a close relationship, both professionally and personally, over the course of more than thirty years. I shall miss seeing Ron in the corridors of Chukyo, but feel confident that our friendship will continue to strengthen and mature. Good luck, Ron; whatever you do next, I feel sure that it will bring you, and the people around you, much joy.