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Greetings. Here again is a summary of this year's happenings.

Kazumi and Yukiko had a new year in Uwajima (Yukiko's hometown) together. Yukiko's brother took Kazumi two rounds of golf, and we all enjoyed the mother's home cooking. Kazumi continued his assignment at Ochanomizu University and Waseda University, so he went back to Tokyo as Yukiko went back to Hiroshima. In January, we learned that Professor Yoshinori Sasaki passed away. He was our long-time friend since we went to the same graduate school at University of Illinois. As we expected him to produce more good works, we all felt a strong sense of unfairness.

Kazumi finished his work at Waseda, and continued to live in Tokyo. He had his first Ningen dokku (complete physical examination). The result was "Perfect." He befriended with Mr. Watanabe, who has been a long supporter of Master Sankyo (rakugo player). Mr. Watanabe loves to drink and talk loudly. He continued friendship with his elementary school and high school classmates. In March, Kazumi made a brief TV appearance as a guest for a program that featured Master Sankyo. He kept taking Shamisen lessons from Master Kumiya. In May, Mr. and Mrs. Ito (Kazumi's graduate students), Mr. Takahashi (graduate of Univ. of Iowa), and Dr. Tabuse (Easter Michigan University) came to Tokyo. We went to Asakusa and Tokyo Sky Tree. (We also ate a famous Tendon in Asakusa.) In June, Kazumi went back to Lafayette and picked up Chibitan and Miitaro from Ms. Kubota who took care of them while Kazumi was in Japan. The sixth summer as the director, the Japanese School went smoothly including Rakugo week and A-bomb survivor's talk. The survivor we invited this past summer was Ms. Shigeko Sasamori, who has been very active in talking about her personal experience. She was indeed very energetic, and Kazumi thought this was another wonderful meeting. Starting in the summer of 2011, the Japanese School will be held at Mills College in Oakland, CA. A whole new set of challenges will await us. In the fall, Kazumi went back into his normal routine at Purdue. In October, Dr. Negishi of Purdue received the Nobel Prize. The campus was noisy for a while. Since we had some personal contacts with Dr. Negishi such as playing golf and karaoke singing, this was a very delightful incident. (Thanks to him, Purdue's name value has increased tremendously in Japan.)



Yukiko has got used to working in a Japanese university and writing in Japanese. As a part of her research activities, she has been coming to US to attend different kinds of conferences in applied linguistic field. The number of her graduate students grew in size, but she is enjoying interactions with her students. As she received a support from a science research grant, she is doing (and enjoying) a project with professors at other universities. The second edition of "Nakama 2" (textbook) was finally published in August just in time for the new semester. We knew the final stage would be tough, but it was a tough birth. However, we are now relieved as we begin to hear fairly good feedback from users.

For our vacation, we went to Guam to relax. While Kazumi was gone for diving happily, Yukiko went around the island observing WWII historical places. In March, Yukiko and her friend, Motoko, went to a hot spring in Hiroshima and Kurashiki. An old friend, Mr. Soda's father took her around in Okayama. Yukiko made another hot-spring trip with Haruko (University of Hawaii) and Yukari. She made her first trip to Taipei in July. Beside attending a conference, she was able to visit the National Palace Museum and eat wonderful Chinese cuisine, and tea tasting. In September, when Yukiko went to her niece's (Kyoko) wedding, she went to another hot spring trip with her family. Also, Miura-sensei (emeritus, University of Wisconsin) visited Japan, so she had a dinner with him in Tokyo. In October, she attended a reunion of her classmates at Keio University. Recently, she is into Super Public Bath and a lying-on-heated-slate bath. As you can see, she is working hard and playing hard.





Chibitan and Miitaro are both healthy. Kazumi continues to play basketball, but his weight is on a slightly increasing trend. (but not much. KH) In December, Kazumi goes back to Tokyo and help Eda-san with carrying out a rakugo event at ICU. He is organizing a reunion of former Middlebury students in his neighborhood of Tokyo. About thirty people will be attending. On January 1, we will be heading out to Maldives!



We hope you will have another wonderful year!



Kazumi and Yukiko

***** A Happy New Year 2011 *****