



MAEBASHI FOCUS

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter



On the 10th of last month, I was invited as a lecturer to the Central Community Center Hall by Meiju University. Meiju University is a classroom held by this center for older individuals. With lectures, club activities, and tours of city facilities, this lifelong learning program offers a variety of invaluable course content. The day consisted of giving a lecture to 272 students for approximately 2 hours with a 20-minute break in the middle. During the first half, I gave an introduction on Hawaii while making comparisons to Japan. For the second half, I spoke on international exchange and multiculturalism in Maebashi City. Even from the podium, I noticed everyone listening eagerly and intently. Enveloped in this warm, welcoming atmosphere, the lecture came to a wonderful close.

I also decided to display seashells picked from my first trip to Okinawa during Golden Week by placing them on trays using a long table in the back of the hall. To me, the shells, although not from Hawaii, captured the essence of the islands. In actuality, I grew to like beachcombing because of my mother, and a plethora of shells are displayed in a glass case back home. During the break, students picked up the shells and studied them, and many looked on as they walked by while leaving as well. I was happy that this display area served as conversation starters with the students and spurred interactions among themselves. I look forward to being a part of everyone's learning again someday.

