

Keikilani Ezra Cabus

B.A. Japanese Studies 2017

Before university, I attended a small community college which piqued my interest in Japanese studies through baseball. On the team, a few Japanese international students played with us and talked about baseball in Japan. As a result, I had some awareness of players from Japan like Ichiro and Hideo Nomo. Transferring to UCSD was easy after comparing it to other programs. Many school evaluations indicated that UCSD was speaking-focused, while UCLA and others were writing and art-focused.

I sincerely enjoyed the Japanese studies program. Professors and advisors were highly attentive and hospitable to majors and minors in the program. The sense of community in the program was close-knit yet open and friendly to all. I completed language courses with Professor Mochizuki in 20, Professor Sato in 130, and Professor Takeda in 135. I would often take Professor Matsumura's intensive courses on modern Japanese history and visit her office to discuss classes, research interests, and life. Some definite courses that I would recommend would be JAPN 190. The research topics were all-encompassing. All the literature required was always fascinating.

After graduation, I joined the JET program and became an ALT in Fukushima. I taught for five years at 20 different elementary and junior high schools in Fukushima City. During my contract, I volunteered with Minami Souma Volunteer Center and Playground of Hope in Tohoku. I also became the Tohoku API leader and Fukushima Kenpoku area support leader. In addition, I was a member of a lowrider car club in Fukushima despite driving 'kyusha.' Also, I played amateur baseball with some local teams and coached all my junior high schools.

Currently, I own a small business shipping vintage Japanese cars and parts while waiting for application results for graduate school at UCSD. Hopefully, I can soon reunite with this esteemed program and faculty again.