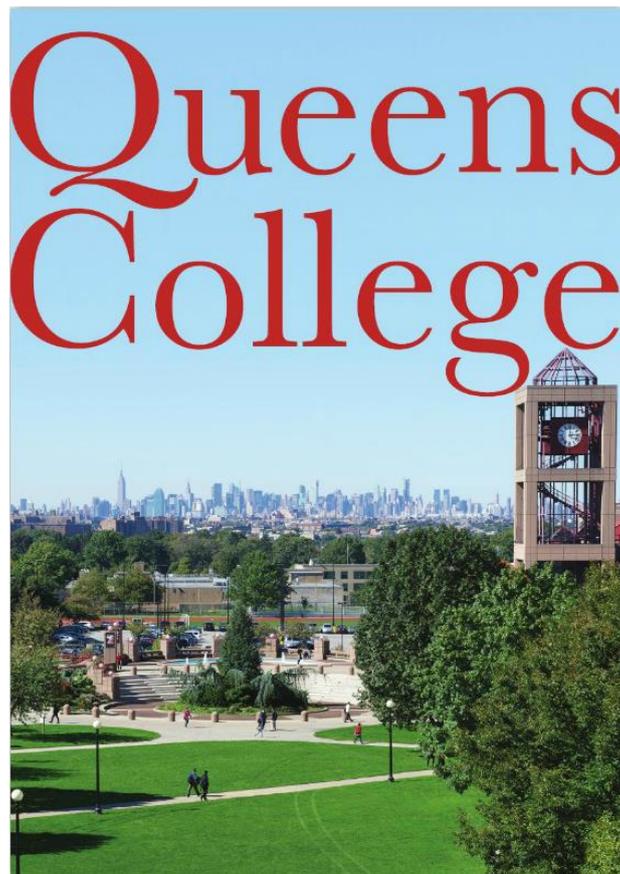


**Toyohashi University of Technology,
Institute for Global Network Innovation in
Technology Education**

News from QC

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■ Reports

New York Life

Activity Report vol. 4

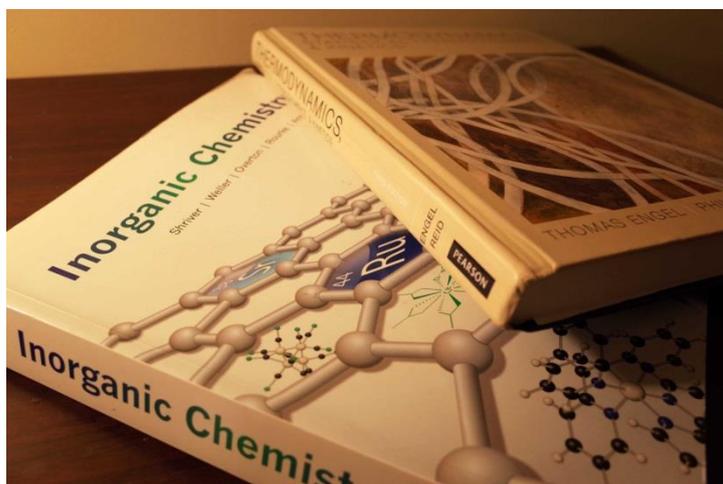
–Taking Specialized Courses–

Junji Sasano, Toyohashi University of Technology

After finishing ELI (English Language Institute) Intensive Course in summer semester, the fall semester had started at the end of August. In contrast to the deserted atmosphere of the campus in summer semester, the campus and dormitory of Queens College (QC) had dramatically changed to an energetic atmosphere of the beginning of a new academic year. In fall semester we are supposed to take specialized courses and a special course for the enhancement of educational skills in English (Teaching in English), and to do research work. I would like to describe my experience of taking specialized courses in this report.

In this program, we are supposed to take a course for earning grades and that for auditing. This activity is, I think, aiming at not only just experiencing specialized courses in English but also learning tips and points in lectures given in English. I selected Chemical Thermodynamics & Kinetics and Inorganic Chemistry as the earning-grade and auditing courses, respectively.

Chemical Thermodynamics & Kinetics is held from 9:05-10:55pm every Monday and Wednesday. Since a Korean teacher is teaching this course, I think it a very good example of the courses conducted by non-native English speakers. The class consists of about 25 students and is mainly performed by writing on a whiteboard without power point presentations. In the first class I got the syllabus of the course in which the schedule of exams and the score distribution of each exam were clearly described. Two quizzes, two exams and a final exam are scheduled. So far, I took the first exam in the middle of October. Although I understood this subject somehow, I had to work hard to prepare for the exam by solving suggested problems and assignments. The first exam required us to solve 5 problems in 2 hours. However, I had to use up all the time for solving the problems because of the amount of calculations. I was surprised to see no one left in the class when I looked up after finishing the exam; so, at first I thought the students were so excellent. The graded result was returned in a few weeks, and I scored fairly good results. When the graded



Recent textbooks look so accessible because they are colorful inside.

results were returned, the teacher informed us that nearly half of the class scored less than 100 in 250 points. The exam seemed to be too difficult for some students. So far, the basics of thermodynamics and thermodynamic chemistry of solution has finished; hereafter statistical thermodynamics and chemical kinetics are going to be covered by the middle of December. The schedule of twice a week makes it possible to teach such vast contents only in four months, which are usually completed in a year in Japan. However, I'm anxious that some students may not catch up with the class. As for me, I'm feeling it difficult recently.

On the other hand, my auditing course, Inorganic Chemistry, is useful as a typical course taught by native English speakers. It's held from 5:00-6:15pm every Tuesday and Thursday. The teacher is good at communicating with students; so, I feel that they are really enjoying the course. Because the course contains the subjects, such as symmetry, group theory, electronic structure, coordination complex, which are important in my research field but I'm not good at, I feel it not only difficult but also worthwhile. I want to take advantage of this opportunity of learning basics to boost my research work. Although I didn't need to take exams of this auditing course, I tried it. The resulted score was no good as I expected. On the returned answer sheet, there was the teacher's comment, "Junji, when you are done with this course, you have to grade my teaching strengths and weaknesses." I love such wits of American people.

By the way, although both courses happened to fit for my specialty and their teaching methods are so helpful for me, some other participants of this program didn't go well like me, for the teachers of their specialized courses are not necessarily skillful. Moreover, since QC doesn't have the department of architecture, those who specialize in this field had to choose irrelevant courses to their specialties. I think the participants of this program next year may want to research well the courses in advance. In addition, some participants are auditing several courses. I think it's effective for learning various teaching styles.

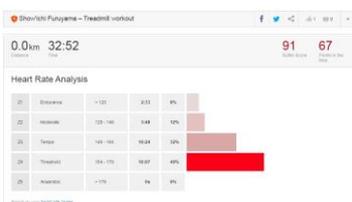
It should be noted that the students here look much more active than that in Japan. Every student doesn't hesitate to ask teachers questions during classes. So, improvisational skills are required for teachers. I always see some students waiting in line to ask teachers questions after every class. In the light of globalization of education in Japan, it seems not enough just to change the language used in classes into English. Their attitudes made me think that whether students will actively participate in classes or not depends highly on teachers' skills.

Anyway, I have remaining two exams hereafter, so I need to continue studying further. Now I can understand students' feelings well. Although the pressure of earning grades is not small, I think this is really a good experience. I would like to continue studying hard until the end of the semester and being an excellent student, if possible.

24/7 “24 hours a day, 7 days a week” -New York Fall, 2014 -

Shoichi Furuyama, National Institute of Technology, Toyama Collage

It has been two months since I wrote last QC letter. I have kept well-regulated life such as getting up at 4am and going to bed at 10pm. I also spend at Gym for one hour every day. Nowadays I usually use the treadmill and record the heart rate data like as the following graph. It looks healthy activity but sometimes I can see Pegasus by the Glute training mode (30 minutes and 7.5 miles/h pace). I am not sure it is healthy or not but my athletic performance has been improved. Supplements such as amino acid, creatine and protein are very popular in US. They are very attractive for me. I tried various supplements like as a photo for my health. I am sure I will be able to fight with Ebola and of course defeat it by training these activities and taking these supplements.



Heart Rate Data



Supplements

After morning trainings, I go to school for a class. I have taken the class which is “Differential Equations: Numerical Method 1”. I am studying it with second degree of bachelor students in mathematics division. Moreover I am studying about teaching skills in English for mathematics class such as the contents of the class, communication skill with students and expressions of technical terms. Anyway I had a midterm

examination of the class. I thought I would get 100% score for appealing the Japanese high ability of mathematics; however I couldn't achieve that. I apologize deeply for all Japanese people.

I go to laboratory every day for research activities. We can't stop chatting because I have desk in students' room. They looks very interested in Japanese culture and politics, they ask me a lot of things of Japan. I have proceeded research activities of my original theme. It is difficult to have enough discussion about the collaborative research work because the supervisor at QC has gone abroad for his sabbatical trip and he won't be back until I am going to leave New York. At the moment I think that it is the best way to make relationship for our future research work.

At the night time I cook a simple dinner by myself. Basically I eat vegetables (photo). We often go Irish bar near the dormitory because we are not permitted to drink in the dormitory. Other day I go to bed 10pm. We need strong body, well sleeping and refreshing of mental. I have no problems for them. Anyway I cut my hair. It is buzz cut. I decide the style suddenly, so some colleagues were surprised. But I am all right.



Vegetable Dinner

Irish bar

It is colder and colder in New York. Beanie is important item for my head. I

am trying hard work until the end of the year in New York.

Issues about Water -New York -

Yoshitaka Matsumoto, National Institute of Technology, Toyota College

I report water issues in NY; various information and stories about what I had experiences, as I'm a researcher of civil and environmental engineering division.

Hydrology, Urban Planning, Disaster Prevention

NY has only 1200 mm precipitation a year much lower than that of ordinal Japanese regions. I used an umbrella less than five times even I stay here from July. I found inundation anywhere in NY City located lower area during large precipitation, because of the weakness for a flood disaster management. The manager of NY City Office of Emergency Management talked me "The urban system didn't work several days for inundation in Manhattan after attacking Hurricane Sandy, 2012. " NY has one of the big problems against flood disaster that is the weakest point for most modern metropolitan city in the world.

Sanitary Eng. and River Environmental Eng.

I'm working with Marine Microbiologist and Soil Scientist in QC. Ph. D. course student, who belongs to their lab., monitors the emitting amount of carbon dioxide and methane from Hudson River. High concentrations of nutrients and carbon water contaminating sewage water, known as a combined sewer

overflow, discharges with storm water runoff to Hudson River, because a combination sewer system operates in NY City. He evaluates the mechanism of the emission of these gases affected by CSO, and his research relates with the climate change owing to these gases have a highly potential of green house gas. I went to the river cruise survey with them to do experiments with uncomfortable waving on the ship (Photo 1).



Photo 1 Survey at Hudson River

Engineering Happiness *search these words on YouTube

The drinking water in NY is safe and tasty. There are lots of microbreweries at a suburban of NY City, but I'm not sure whether the rich amount of water source and high pure quality make easier to brew or not. These microbreweries participate in beer fest that sometimes holds in NY City. I love to go there with

colleagues and refresh my exhausted mind (Photo 2).



Photo 2 Beer Fest in summer, author is at right

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