

# ピーター・マッキャグ先生に捧ぐ Homage to Peter B. McCagg

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I first had the pleasure of meeting Peter McCagg one afternoon in 1980 at a gathering of about 40 graduate students working in language and linguistics at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The majority of the students had come from outside the U.S., and as a group spoke and had knowledge of dozens of languages and cultures. One man wore a *kufi*; two women a *sari* and *hijab*; most dressed in some hybrid or semi-formal western style. Although I had just returned from five years in Europe and Africa, I had never been in such a compact yet culturally diverse group of people in my life. This was Paradise. Many times since, I have wished that the ICU Graduate School could one day provide a similarly extreme international and multicultural setting for Japanese students in Japan.

During that year, 1980, most of us, including (I think) Peter, were too busy to dwell on the possible long-term significance of the major events that were unfolding around us and even in some of “our” countries. The Iranian revolution had just occurred. Saddam Hussein, Robert Mugabe, and Margaret Thatcher became new heads of state. The Soviets invaded Afghanistan. Poland went on strike and began to develop a free press. Japan became the world’s largest auto-producer. Every Georgetown freshman got a Sony Walkman for Christmas.

In that distant and dark age we had all been born and raised offline, although we would not realize that primitive aspect of ourselves until a decade or two later, when our children would gently point it out to us. In 1980, the competent “techies” among us were those who could type a paper using more than one finger.

I recall an earlier version of Peter McCagg casually strolling around in jeans and tennis shoes, with a 32-inch waistline and the handle of a tennis racket sticking out of his briefcase. Like each of us, Peter was different. He was from Princeton, where he had begun in architecture but finished in East Asian Studies. He had already lived and worked overseas (in Japan), gotten married, and started a family. Among the Americans, he was probably the most definite about where he wanted to be in the future and what he wanted to do. For Peter there was no Plan B; he wanted only to return to Japan and devote himself to a place called “ICU.”

Keep in mind that Peter had other options. Another part of his difference was that he had excelled as a student across widely different courses and topics (e.g., syntax, discourse analysis, and language testing). He had begun to write academic papers that would later appear in international refereed journals. He had worked at the Center for Applied Linguistics, adjacent to Georgetown. If Peter had wanted to do so, he could

have obtained a position at one of the more prestigious universities in the U.S.

Peter instead, however, chose to return to Japan, where for the past 25 years he has dutifully attended approximately 25,000 hours of ICU-related meetings, at which he has made countless known and unknown contributions to ICU programs, divisions, departments, groups, offices, colleagues, students, friends, ancestors, and *tamuki*.

In the space that remains here, I would like to acknowledge just one of Peter's many areas of contribution. This concerns his decade-long service as Dean of International Affairs. As DIA, Peter did more than anyone has ever done to contribute to the internationalization of ICU, in part by bringing foreign faculty and students here. Due to the efforts of Peter, a number of Japanese students who were unable to go and experience life and academe overseas, came to ICU as the "next best option" because Peter had moved ICU closer to the type of multicultural environment in which I was privileged to meet him in 30 years ago.

ICU, including the Graduate School and the IERS, will continue to reap the benefits of Peter's work for many years to come. Those of us who knew Peter will always remember him, and miss him. On behalf of all members of the IERS, I would like to thank Peter for his years of service to ICU and wish him the best in his new position and career.