

Preface

Rome was not built in a day. The Aino University produced new graduates this spring on March 14, 2008. More than 40 years after starting the nurse training school in 1965, Dr. Koyama's goal has been achieved. He is producing well-trained nurses, who respect the human rights of patients, because at one time, patients with mental illness were treated miserably. Thereafter, his school developed steadily and moved up to the rank of university via technical college and junior college. Shortly after he started the school, he annually published a bulletin of Aino Gakuin Foundation. Accordingly, the bulletin celebrated its 20th anniversary this year. In 1998, the technical college for nurses became a junior college and President Sakai of the college launched Aino Journal, hence the birth of this journal. In 2004, finally Dr. Koyama's dream came true and Aino University was born. After four years, we finally produced the first graduates.

It has been a great pleasure for me to be involved in running the university since 2004. The graduation ceremony was quite impressive and memorable. All graduates looked brilliant and confident. They seemed to look forward with ample hope for their future. We had two special guests, Professor Emeritus Toshiaki Sakai, who gave a heartfelt message saying that now the graduates stand on the start line, referring to the graduation term "commencement" in the United States, which means beginning. President of Takatsuki Red Cross Hospital, Tajima Masarou encouraged the graduates to be responsible with every patient, and to take care of each one making every effort for their comfort. Also he encouraged the graduates to keep themselves trained, and keep up with advancements in medicine.

In my speech, I looked back and summarized the last four years. It must have been an extremely rewarding period for the students. During the past four years, they obtained many good friends and some advisers whom they can consult anytime they need. Those reliable relationships among friends and teachers are a treasure in life. I compared the graduates with young salmon that fully grow in the river and then go to the ocean.

I told them the following from my heart. "Now it is the time of departure. All of you are young, healthy, and active as salmon. With confidence, swim and dash into the mighty ocean. Many ill people await you. Go see such patients, mentally heal them, and give them courage to fight against illness."

The reason I compared the graduates to salmon is that they have a habit of coming back their old river where they grew — Aino University. I sincerely hope

that many of them will succeed in their mission, write papers to fill this journal, and come back to Aino to practice at Aino Hospital or teach at Aino University.

Now I am looking forwards to the days the graduates will write papers published in our Aino Journal in near future.

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