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## UW Bothell partners with Japanese university

Thursday, February 13, 2003

In a historic partnership, UW Bothell and Japan's Ehime University have pledged to promote academic exchange and cooperation through the interchange of researchers, students and information. It is the first such partnership for UWB.

The agreement grew out of a process that started in February of last year when a group of faculty and administrators from Ehime, which included Shinya Kobayashi, visited UW Bothell to learn more about the campus. Kobayashi became a guest professor at Bothell in November, teaming up with UWB's Munehiro Fukuda, a professor of computing and software systems, for a research project.

UWB's professor of Asian Studies, Steve Collins made a brief visit to Ehime University, last summer while in Japan on other business. The administration there, knowing of Collins' interest in university-industry relations and technology transfer, introduced him to Kobayashi, who has similar interests. Finding they had a lot in common, they decided to explore the possibility of a collaborative project comparing university-industry relations in Japan and the United States and recommended that UWB pursue an agreement.

Last week that partnership became a reality, as Ehime University President Kyozo Ayukawa traveled to Bothell to put his signature on the official agreement.

"We are very pleased to have Ehime University partner with the University of Washington, Bothell in developing our international collaboration in the Asian Pacific region," said Chancellor Warren W. Buck at the signing. "We look forward to a future of faculty, student, and cultural exchanges across a broad range of disciplines." Buck added, "We value this relationship and hope to expand our mutual opportunities for cooperation and development."

Ayukawa responded by saying, "On behalf of all the faculty and staff of Ehime University, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have made this agreement possible. I sincerely hope that through our academic exchanges we can make a great contribution to the advancement of research and education of people who will take a leadership role in the 21st century."

### NEWS BRIEFS

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**Lifelong Learning Award deadline extended**  
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**Parker to speak on teaching democracy**  
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 Bothell students help by 'building together'**  
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**Hate crime reaction is topic of lecture**  
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**UW Bothell partners with Japanese university**  
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**Tacoma's Institute of Technology opens new building**  
 Thursday, February 13, 2003

Ehime University, which is located in Matsuyama City, the capital of Ehime Prefecture, is one of Japan's 155 national/public universities, having an enrollment of 8,500 undergraduate and 1,300 graduate students.

"It is indeed an honor for us to have this opportunity today to pen an agreement between our two campuses, an agreement in which we pledge to collaborate on academic research and student exchange," said Collins. "But this agreement, in my view, is about something more, for through it, we endeavor to build friendships built on mutual respect and understanding between the individuals in our respective faculties, administration, student bodies, and our communities."

Ayukawa said he plans to invite Collins to Ehime University again this year to further advance collaborative research.

The agreement will be valid for five years and is renewable at succeeding intervals of five years. Although the details are still being negotiated, the agreement in principle will permit a small number of students from each university to take courses for credit at the other university. In practice, few undergraduates at UW Bothell will have the qualifications to enroll in courses at Ehime University because Japan requires that undergraduates from abroad pass a Japanese language proficiency exam. The requirement does not apply to graduate students.

Additionally, faculty from UWB would be eligible to visit as researchers at Ehime University, giving them access to the full range of resources at that institution.

"UWB encourages intellectual contributions that transcend the boundaries of conventional disciplines, beliefs, and countries, which will enhance the education of our students," said Buck. "To that end, we are proud to include Ehime University as our partner in international education."

-Cynthia Scanlon

