

September 2020, Special Edition

SCU NEWSLETTER



International Education and Scholar Services



1. Special Feature: Discussion about SCU's Initiatives and Outlook

Chairman: Shohei Ohgi, President

Attendants:

Chiaki Yagura, Director of Education and Curriculum (Professor, School of Rehabilitation Sciences)

Toshiko Fukuda, Director of Career Support (Professor, School of Social Work)

Yukari Noda, Director of Student Services (Professor, School of Social Work)

Shinji Nagamine, Director of Library Services (Professor, School of Nursing)

Providing a secure environment for learning in which students feel safe and comfortable.

Professor Ohgi: Our university specializes in health care, social welfare, and education and is composed of undergraduate and graduate programs in nursing, social work, and rehabilitation sciences. Our programs are based on the philosophy of “dignity of life” and “love thy neighbor”. We have four different sections to carry out our philosophy and educational aims. Could each director please introduce the roles and practices of your sections?

Professor Yagura (Director of Education and Curriculum): We promote “active learning” as a way for students to learn independently and actively. We started using an online learning management system called “WebClass” in April 2019 as a way to support students’ active learning. Also, we plan to use “e-Portfolio” (a digital portfolio system) in order to make visible representations of each students’ study record and their achievements.

Professor Noda (Director of Student Services): We collaborate not only with professors but also administrative staff to “secure an environment for learning in which students feel safe and comfortable”. One of the characteristics of our university is that there are full-time staff in the Student Counseling Room, Health Care Center, and Study Support Room. We have already implemented the University Personality Inventory (UPI) for mental health screening, and believe that by staying healthy, both mentally and physically, students can cope with the pressures of advanced classes.

We also have an “advisor system” that allows professors to consult as advisors for each student. We hope that this experience of being deeply and strongly supported by someone other than family members will be a significant experience for students who are training to become a specialist who supports patients and clients. There are also many students who are in financial difficulty, so we would like to strongly support the establishment of scholarships, support for learning, and tuition exemptions for those facing economic hardship.

What is the role of the university library, which is open to students and the community?

Professor Ohgi: I think the library plays an important role in supporting learning for students. How does the library connect to students and how is it used?

Professor Nagamine (Director of Library Services): The library has a long history since the establishment of Seirei Gakuen Junior College of Nursing. There are numerous books in various fields including specialized nursing, medical science, social welfare, literature, and social science. There are more than 2,300 research journals in a wide variety of categories, and I think that it is an environment where students aiming to become professionals can quickly find the materials necessary for their everyday study.

In addition, group learning is actively conducted in the Learning Commons (a room for self-study in the library), and it is used by students for a total of around 30,000 individual times each year. It is an environment for inspiring and learning with friends.

Professor Ohgi: There are a variety of books related to medical care and social welfare in the SCU library. Could you say a few words about the activities in the library that are open to people in the community.

Professor Nagamine: The library is open until 9 p.m. on weekdays. It is open on Saturdays as well so that people in our community can also come. Last year, about 3,000 SCU graduates and more than 1,800 specialists who work at Seirei Group hospitals or other places used our library services.

About the Career Support Center

Professor Ohgi: Our students’ employment ratio is nearly 100% every year and the satisfaction of students and their parents is very high. Please describe the characteristics and strengths of the Career Support Center.

Professor Fukuda (Director of Career Support): The key characteristic of the Career Support Center is “Collaboration”. Career support is provided through close cooperation between the Career Support Center, which consists of administrative staff, and the faculty organization centered on advisors. An advisor, who understands the learning of each student, first gives advice to students and helps decide a place of employment. After that, a staff member in the Career Support Center helps students to complete the application documents and conduct a mock interview. I think that one of the strengths of our university is that professors and administrative staff get in touch as soon as a concern about a student arises.

2. Seirei Christopher University College of Care Work

Care Work Practicum II Debriefing

On May 28, the second-year students completed the Care Work Practicum II Debriefing. It was held online using Zoom Meetings this year because of COVID-19. Although some students were unable to complete the entire schedule, the goal was to determine one client and learn the process of making and implementing an individualized care plan, which is the basis of the care work course.

First-year students also participated in this debriefing. It was a great opportunity to prepare and have specific images for the practicum that they will complete next year. There might have been some confusion for second-year students because it was the first time to have a debriefing by Zoom, but we hope they will make use of this experience for Care Work Practicum III.

3. Seirei Christopher Junior High and High School

High School and University collaboration program called “Seirei Project”

The Seirei Project is conducted in cooperation with Seirei Christopher University and is targeted for high school students who wish to pursue their study in nursing and medical care, social welfare, or education. This program started 15 years ago. High school students register in the program at the beginning of school year and participate for a year. Seventy-four first-year (freshmen) students and 49 second-year (sophomore) students registered in AY2019. This program is popular because students can take time to deepen their understanding of their desired career path and related fields.

As for the contents, first of all, students have classes once a month with SCU professors. First-year students have classes in the fundamentals of each field and second-year students have more specialized classes. Also, specialists who work in the areas of nursing, rehabilitation, social welfare, and education or who are studying in these fields give lectures about their experiences. Many specialists from Seirei Mikatahara General Hospital gave lectures last year.

Lastly, students learn to summarize, research, and make presentations. They write reports after every class. Second-year students decide their presentation topic and research about it. In the last class of the program in February, the students make three-minute presentations. They might feel pressure because they have not had such experiences before. However, many students said they felt a sense of achievement and confidence when they received feedback from the professors. We are proud of this program for high school students and would be pleased if it led to them considering studying nursing, medical care, or social welfare in university.