

## Acknowledgement

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### Where it all began

My first encounter with Prof. McOmie was in the “Comparative Culture” class. I had taken it for the required credit to graduate, and I also thought it would be interesting. What he taught me inside and outside the class has helped deepen my insight and widen my perspectives. In this letter, I would like to describe the change (i.e., growth) he facilitated, to express my sincere gratitude toward him.

### What I learned from him

When I started at Kanagawa University, I did not have much motivation or confidence—that is, my attitude used to be “I want to do something, but I dare not do it.” One day, during his lecture, Prof. McOmie said, “When I ask questions, only the foreign students actively try to answer; the Japanese students do not. It feels as if I am talking to a wall.” This statement shocked me, because until then, I had believed that I had taken up his class with a positive attitude and proper motivation. His words got me thinking about how I could express myself to him. Later, when I saw him preparing for a lecture, I approached him and expressed my thoughts in my broken English, particularly terrible then because I was nervous. However, he patiently listened to me with a smile, which made me feel that I had become one among the students rather than a part of the wall. From this experience, I learned that mustering up courage and doing something gradually builds one’s confidence, and that it is possible to communicate without perfect words.

From then on, I would talk to him whenever I would see him, and every time, learn about different insightful and fruitful perspectives—one of my most memorable talks with him is when he said that he tries to understand a piece of news from the various perspectives of different countries and regions; it made me feel ashamed that I did not do the same. Until then,

I had deluded myself that I understood an event perfectly, as portrayed by the Japanese media alone. Based on what he said, I have since tried to understand an occurrence in depth from various perspectives rather than being satisfied with information from just one source. I have also kept this in mind while doing assignments, writing my bachelor's thesis, and communicating with people. I have also been taking care not to jump to conclusions based on little information.

### **Last, but foremost**

I have learned a lot from him, and it has helped me become a better student and person. When I look back on my time with him at KU, I realize that his thoughts influenced me in varied and wonderful ways. I do not have enough words to express my heartfelt appreciation for him. I truly respect Prof. McOmie, someone who is so open and accepting despite the differences, and I am happy to have met him at KU. Thank you very much!!!

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