



充実した毎日 年末にはNYへ 米アラバマ大留学中の高根さん

米アラバマ大へ留学中の人文学部3年生高根沙紀さんから季節の便りが届きました。本業の学修はもちろん、合間を縫って開講されている日本語の講義の手助けをし、期末試験終了後には5日間ニューヨークを訪問するなど充実した日々を過ごされているようです。

Hello everyone. I am Saki Takane. How have you been? I have been great and I enjoy winter season, but...I guess Birmingham is warmer than Ibaraki. Sometimes I wear short sleeves in spite of December!!

Four months have passed since I came University of Alabama at Birmingham (we call it UAB!!). About three weeks ago, I survived final exams. Most UAB students stayed in the library all day long. Surprisingly, it was opened 24 hours a day during final exams. Of course they were studying hard all day and all night. I was so surprised because I had never seen this sight in Japan.



In UAB, there are Japanese language classes. I sometimes helped those who were learning Japanese. I was impressed with their enthusiasm for studying. They held Japanese conversation table every week and a lot of students joined it. We enjoyed not only talking, but also exchange information about each other.

By the way, I went to the New York City with my friend for five days. We went there by bus from Birmingham. It took about nineteen hours to get there. It was...interesting. I



cannot describe everything but the only what I can say is "Never again". :p Oh, do not worry. New York City was so exciting, brilliant, amazing and wonderful. I visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, National Museum of Natural History (I remembered "*Night at the Museum*"), Statue of Liberty, 9.11 Memorial Museum and many other locations. Everything I saw was new to me. Actually, I was wandering alone in the subway for two hours because it was so complicated. Unlike



Japan's stations, it is not easy to navigate. If you are planning go there, be careful and prepare enough!! However, thanks to the wandering, I encountered people who were playing Christmas music in the subway station. It was cool. I could feel a lot of cultural differences through the trip. Before the adventure, I had a great time on Halloween and Thanksgiving Day holidays with nice friends and families!! These helped me more about the real America.



I found that both culture had positive aspects and some differences. Sometimes one of the habits is difficult to understand, but *when in Rome, do as the Romans do*. But anyway, New Year is just around the corner!! Have a safe and a happy break you all!!

Best wishes,  
Saki Takane

アラバマからこんにちは。UABに留学しています、高根沙紀です。こちらはクリスマスブレイクに突入し、各々休暇を楽しんでいるところです。アメリカの学生は切り替えが素早いですね。休みに入ると一斉に実家に帰省するところは、日本の学生と一緒にだなぁと感じました。おかげで寮はもぬけの殻です。少し寂しい気もしますが、時間を有意義に使いたいと思います。



幸運なことに、私はルームメイトにも友人にも先生方にも恵まれており、勉強も遊びも大変充実した毎日をごしております。みなさんも、やりたいこと・やらなければならないこと、両方とも沢山あると思いますが、どうか後悔しないように、できれば精一杯楽しんで取り組んでもらえたらと思います。写真は、バーミンガムのデパートにあった大きなクリスマスツリーと、NYCのクリスマスイルミネーションと夜景です。

それでは手短ではありますが、身体に気を付けてよいお年をお過ごしください。

茨城大学人文学部人文コミュニケーション学科メディア文化コース古賀ゼミ3年 高根沙紀