

Grandcanyon *roadtrip*



Road Trip tribute from Hideki Baba, CHIS graduate and staff

One wonderful memory I have is of a trip I took with Dr. Motoyama to Arizona. This trip was a week-long road trip, going to the Grand Canyon via Las Vegas, stopping in Sedona and returning from Phoenix.

While staying in California, Dr. Motoyama was always busy with work at CIHS and rarely had time to relax, but on this trip, he seemed to be able to take a break and enjoy some leisure time. He particularly loved the vast landscapes of deserts and mountains, and I remember him being very relaxed and enjoying the drive on the straight highways leading to Las Vegas.

On a vast desert stretched out before us, he said he wanted to drive. He seemed to be enjoying the drive immensely, and he kept increasing the speed, eventually reaching around 85-90 MPH. Dr. Motoyama asked me if I was scared, and I replied that I wasn't scared, but I was worried about getting caught by the police for speeding.

I remember him smiling and saying, "I know where the police are."

After that, in Las Vegas, we enjoyed walking around and watching the themed events at each hotel before heading to the Grand Canyon.

At the Grand Canyon, we took a helicopter tour in the morning and had lunch at a hotel overlooking the Grand Canyon, enjoying the magnificent scenery.

I have one memory from the Grand Canyon. I was still young at the time, and I wasn't paying much attention, jumping between rocks near the edge of the cliff, and I remember being scolded by him. He told me that you never know what might happen in places like this, so you always have to be aware of your surroundings and protect yourself. I still remember those words to this day.

From the Grand Canyon, we went to Sedona. This place is said to be a sacred place for Native Americans, and Dr. Motoyama said that he had come here before with people related to this place. The stories about being invited to a ceremony under the moonlight, the stories about the Native Americans, and the stories about the rocks and stones that form the mountains were very interesting, and it was very educational to hear Dr. Motoyama actually holding the stones in his hand and talking about them.

After that, we headed back, traveling on the highway to Phoenix. Something Dr. Motoyama said along the way left a strong impression on me. He said that as we got closer to CIHS, his mind started to fill with thoughts about work again. Until then, he seemed to have completely separated himself from CIHS and his work. It was a side of him that made me understand he was always thinking about and cherishing CIHS.

I first met Dr. Hiroshi Motoyama in 1999 in a class at CIHS. I had graduated from a university on the East Coast and enrolled in CIHS to study Comparative Religious & Philosophy (the program at the time), and that first class was "Karma and Reincarnation." I still remember how excited I was to be taught by Dr. Motoyama about topics that were rarely taught in the academically-oriented educational institutions.

From then until my graduation from CIHS in 2003, and then as a staff member at CIHS until 2015, I learned so much from Dr. Motoyama. These years were also a turning point in my life, and the guidance I received from Dr. Motoyama during these major life transitions - graduation, finding a job, marriage, and starting a family — had a profound impact on my life.

The fact that Dr. Motoyama established a graduate school in the United States, obtaining approval from the state of California and accreditation from the WSCUC, and has produced nearly 200 graduates to date, is a testament to his noble ideals.

I believe that the students who enroll and graduate from this university also understand these ideals to some extent, and continue to live their lives, influencing as many people as possible in society after graduation. All of this is a result of Dr. Motoyama's lofty ideals and his ability to realize them. I am truly grateful that I was able to be with him on the journey.