Professor Shigenori Asai (Retired)

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This writer came to Chiba University of Commerce to teach English 16 years ago in 1995 as a part-time instructor. One of the first teachers who was not an English teacher to greet me was Prof. Shigenori Asai. From the beginning he was so friendly and willing to not only speak with me, but also to help me become oriented to the ins and outs of teaching at a Japanese university. Outside of the English department, Prof. Asai is one of the best known and well-liked of all the Japanese colleagues by the native-speaking teachers of foreign languages at CUC. I would like to take this opportunity to write a little about Prof. Asai’s professional life and introduce him to anyone who may not be acquainted with this fine man.

Professor Shigenori Asai began teaching philosophy at Chiba University of Commerce in April, 1967 and retired in March, 2011, a career spanning 44 years. After graduating from high school in Hokkaido, Prof. Asai attended Waseda University, earning his BA in philosophy. He then achieved his MA in philosophy from the graduate school at Nihon University. He spent part of the first six months of his graduate studies teaching part-time at a junior high school in Tokyo.

After obtaining his MA in philosophy, Prof. Asai started teaching philosophy courses in 1967 at Chiba University of Commerce as an assistant professor. At the same time Prof. Asai also began teaching part-time at both the attached high school of Chiba University and also at Chiba Junior College, which at that time was not only attached to Chiba University of Commerce but also located — III —
on the same campus. He taught at the high school for one year and at the junior college for five years.

Prof. Asai was promoted to Associate Professor in 1973 and spent the academic year of 1977~78 doing research during his Sabbatical Year in America and Germany. In 1979 he was promoted to Full Professor and at the same time started teaching part-time at his alma mater of Nihon University, where he continued until 2002. Over the next few years, Prof. Asai also taught part-time at Kawaguchi Junior College, Nihon Medical University, and Funabashi-City Nursing School. After retiring as a full-time professor at Chiba University of Commerce, he has continued teaching as a part-time teacher at CUC.

Throughout Prof. Asai’s academic and teaching career, he has or still does belong to at least 12 academic circles, groups, and/or committees. He has also received at least ten academic awards and/or acknowledgement certificates of merit during his teaching career.

Beginning with his first academic research paper that was published in 1970, Prof. Asai has been very busy continuing to do research, writing about his findings, and publishing the results. Counted all together, he has published 28 academic papers in cooperation with another author and 48 academic papers as sole author, translated one academic research work about Confucius for a leading Japanese publishing company, written for Asahi Newspaper, and has given at least eight academic presentations at various academic conferences, and additionally has worked on, researched, and/or presented over 100 other academic works (114 different works as of this writing). Thus it is easy to see that Prof. Asai has been very active in both his teaching career and in his academic researching, writing and presenting career.

During Prof. Asai’s career at Chiba University of Commerce, he has been busy working with students outside the classroom as well as teaching his classes. Prof. Asai has served as supervisor of the guitar circle, supervisor of the baseball team, has taken his Seminar students to various places, including — IV —
Ohshima Island, Yugawara in Kanagawa, and to Gunma Prefecture. He has also made many academic trips to do research for his Seminar’s main themes about two great Chinese philosophers, namely the Discourse of Mencius and the Works of Confucius.

Considering all the various activities and events that Prof. Asai has undertaken in his long and glorious teaching and academic career at Chiba University of Commerce and the various part-time teaching positions that he has held during the same time frame, it is this writer’s opinion that Prof. Asai truly deserves all the praise and accolades that we can bestow upon him. He has been, and currently continues to be, an inspiration and guiding light to this writer as to what a true leader, teacher, and professor should be for his students and colleagues alike. To Prof. Asai: I want to give you a hearty “Job well-done!” for everything you have accomplished in your distinguished career. Thank you very much!