Name: Ai Kataoka

Date: All year round
Participants: K-College students
Activities:
- Learning Japanese culture
- Origami
- Introduce Japanese school
- Chopstick challenge
- Yukata demonstration
- Story-telling
- Introduce Japanese children’s song
- Froshiki-wrapping

Coordinator’s comment
I have visited many schools during the past year. I always enjoy question time at the end of presentation, because many students express interest in Japan by asking many questions. I am glad that I have such a great opportunity to spread the knowledge about Japanese culture.
Azalea International Folk Fair (School Field Trip)

Date: 3/6, 3/7
Participants: Middle school students
Description: It is Georgia’s Official International Festival from 2008, created with the clear and defined mission of serving as an educational resource to augment the social studies curriculum in Georgia. Programs literally bring the world to our doorsteps and provide a concrete expression of the world’s many rich traditions, humanities, cultures and arts. *Quoted by AIFF website

Japanese folk dance
Lowndes Middle School's students learned and practiced Japanese folk dance for about two months. Through Japanese dance practice they also learned Japanese culture and Japanese traditional dance. They did a great job performing Bon-dance, Awa-dance and Tanko-bushi in front of the audience.

Presentation
Presentation includes a video about Japan, Japanese greeting and bowing and a short quiz about Japan.

Kimono and yukata, obi demonstration and tea ceremony demonstration
Students from Valdosta and Lowndes High School learned the proper way to tie an obi and perform the tea ceremony. They practiced many times to meet the time limit. They gave a great performance while the narrator explained traditions behind the kimono and the tea ceremony.

Hands-on activities

Comment from Mrs. Lane from Sallas Mahone Elementary School
Miss Kataoka is visiting elementary schools where she introduces students and teachers to the beauty of Japan - and the Japanese language, culture, music, and art. During her multiple visits, she is helping to expand students' view of their world and making Japan feel a little closer.
Comment from Mrs. Huang, Director of Azalea International Folk Fair

It is my great pleasure to write an enthusiastic endorsement for the excellent work of Ms. Ai Kataoka. Her invaluable support has made not only our annual program, Valdosta-based Georgia official international festival on March, 2014, but also Atlanta-based Global Winter Wonderland World Culture EXPO on December, 2013, become successful. Ai has played a crucial role in the successful presentation of Japanese programs.

Japanese Cultural Hour

Date: 1/17
Participants: College students
Contents:
- General information about Japan
- Fan quiz about ‘Japanese New Year’
- Mochi (rice cake) making and tasting
- Karuta competition
- Taste of Japan

Japanese Language Exchange

Date: Every Thursday

Yukata

Participants: College students

Description: Japanese language exchange is the afterschool activity during which Japanese exchange students and American students gather together to exchange their language and culture. The activities include learning Japanese seasonal events and their meanings, having discussions about difference between Japanese and American culture, making onigiri, and practicing using chopsticks.

Onigiri making

Trying
Halloween Cos-play Party

**Supervisor’s comment**

As the JOI coordinator at Valdosta State University, Ai has brought Japanese culture to the local community, the schools and the university students. Her enthusiasm and her can-do attitude have helped her forge links in the community that we hope to build upon to help internationalize the community and bring more Japanese cultural and language programs to the university. She has been well received in the community and we look forward to having her here for one more year.