



JSPS SAN FRANCISCO NEWSLETTER

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KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING

In recent years, reduced subsidies for higher education have put strains on operating budgets at many universities in Japan. In order to continue developing high quality research and education functions, while still meeting the needs of a diverse student body, universities have focused on developing independent funding sources such as donations.

READ MORE ON PG. 2



BE AMAZED BY MATHMAGICS!

Networking and building connections is important for researchers. Through these connections they can learn new things and get valuable feedback from their peers. For more than a decade JSPS San Francisco has been hosting biannual gatherings to promote interaction between U.S.-based Japanese researchers from different disciplines, age groups, and positions. The number of attendees has grown steadily over the years.

READ MORE ON PG. 5

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Given the necessity of fundraising among many universities in Japan, the Japanese University Network in the Bay Area (JUNBA) held its 10th symposium aiming to provide university leaders and administrative staff with an opportunity to learn about issues and strategies surrounding fundraising through the experience and example of universities here in the U.S. The event brought together more than 50 officials from both the U.S. and Japan on January 10, 2020 at the San Francisco Airport Marriot Waterfront in Burlingame.

Co-hosted by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), San Francisco, the symposium titled “Fundraising Best Practices: Fostering Effective Leadership and Building Alumni Relationships” featured talks from fundraising professionals from universities around the Bay Area as well as several discussions on how Japan’s institutions of higher learning can improve their fundraising strategies and policies.



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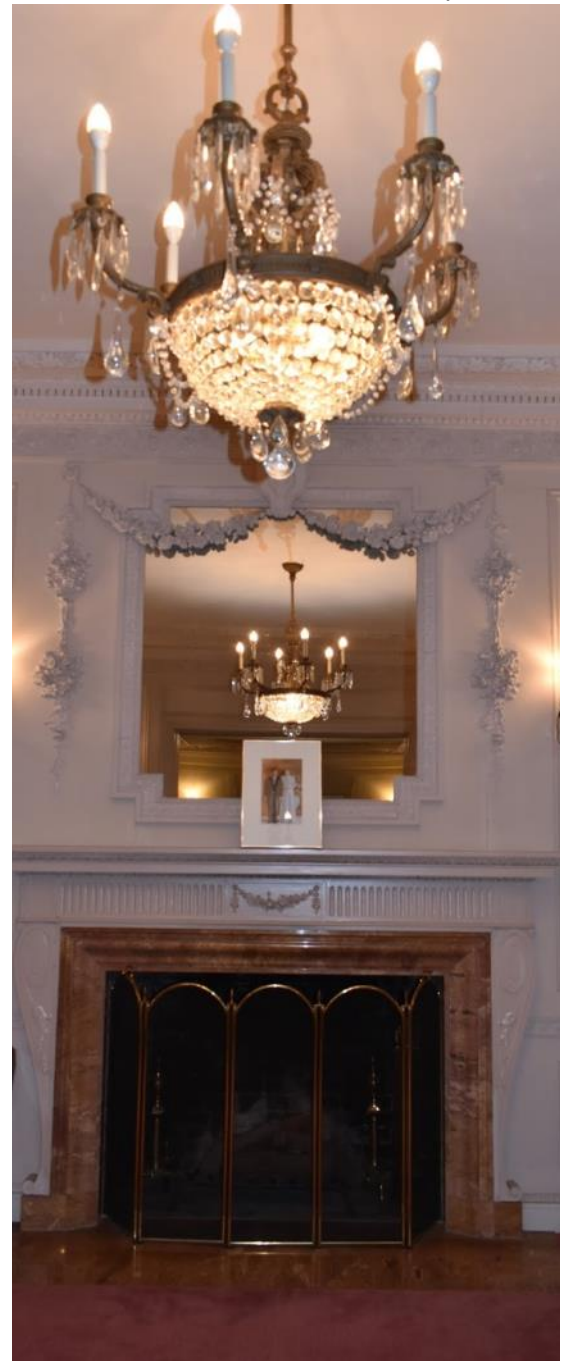
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On the eve of the symposium, participants joined a reception at the Official Residence of the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco. Thanks to the generous support from the Consul General and his staff, the evening provided an excellent opportunity for representatives from different institutions in Japan and the U.S. to meet and engage in lively conversation with one another.

The symposium began with opening remarks by Tomohisa Koyama, the President of JUNBA, followed by a lecture from Peter Smitz, Interim Vice President for University Advancement of San Jose State University, titled "Ingredients for Successful Fundraising". Dr. Smitz impressed the audience with his wealth of experience and knowledge on how to guide a successful university fundraising operation. His lecture along with an interview and Q&A session with his colleague, Lori Redfearn, gave participants valuable insight into effective leadership and alumni engagement.

The second lecture titled "Higher Education Advancement" was given by Amy Ambrose, Senior Development Director at Simons Institute at the University of California Berkeley. Following the introduction by Tomohisa Koyama, Ms. Ambrose presented practical methods based on her first-hand experience for department-wide fundraising initiatives. The audience benefited greatly from her extensive base of knowledge and expertise.

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After the morning sessions, the speakers and participants enjoyed lunch overlooking the San Francisco Bay. The casual settings allowed everyone to talk freely about university fundraising and related topics. Many also consulted with one another sharing advice and experience.

The afternoon discussion session focused on two topics: effective leadership and alumni engagement. Hiroto Watanabe, Advisor at JSPS San Francisco, started the session with a presentation on fundraising data from both the U.S. and Japan.

Following his presentation, the two-part discussion session began with a few conversation starters selected by participants. Before long, a vibrant discussion developed with each university representative contributing their views, thoughts, and strategies that have been successful at their

own institution. The three-hour discussion session was just enough time for participants to engage in a lively dialogue that generated new ideas and insights.

The full day event concluded with Masato Miyake, a board member of JUNBA, summarizing the morning lectures and afternoon session while raising new topics for future discussions that can contribute to the further development and enhancement of research and education in Japan. The event ended on a high note with participants staying well past the official ending time.

The success of the JUNBA 2020 event was achieved through the generous support and cooperation of numerous different individuals and organizations. JUNBA would like to thank the presenters and participants for contributing to a productive event. JSPS San Francisco also hopes to hold future symposiums and other events benefiting higher education in Japan.





ON FEBRUARY 8TH, 2020, JSPS SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE HELD ITS 2019 WINTER RESEARCHER GATHERING AT THE DAVID BROWER CENTER IN BERKELEY.

This gathering was combined with the 3rd JSPS Bridge Award Ceremony and was attended by researchers (both resident and visiting), representatives from research institutes and U.S.-based companies, and JSPS research fellows.

The JSPS Bridge Award was established by the JSPS San Francisco and Washington DC offices to support young U.S.-based Japanese researchers financially and to help them create a better international research environment.

This year's award nominee was Dr. Atsuo Sasaki, Associate Professor from the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Cincinnati. He was awarded for his excellent research here in the US. At the ceremony, Dr. Sasaki gave an engaging 20-minute talk on the academic and professional journey that has led him to where he is now.

After the ceremony, the main talk of this year's winter gathering was given by Dr. Tadashi Tokieda, Professor of Mathematics at Stanford University. His talk was titled "Twisting, Taping, and Cutting - Mathematical Tricks", and as the title suggests, he emphasized the depth of mathematics by impressing the audience with easy craft tricks. His tricks combining his interest in magic and the pursuit of knowledge that leads us to question our assumptions about mathematics, visually, and without bringing in complicated formula or equations. The audience included youngsters and many of them said they would love to share the tricks with their families and friends.

The day's events concluded with a toast from Dr. Yasunori Nomura, Professor and Director of Berkeley Center for Theoretical Physics, University of California Berkeley that kicked off the networking reception. Participants enjoyed chatting in this relaxed setting, meeting new people and reconnecting with old colleagues.

We are pleased to see this event serve as a venue for researchers to expand their networks and make new connections. The next Researcher Gathering will be held in the summer of 2020 in Berkeley.





CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUDIES SYMPOSIUM "IMAGINING POST 3.11 FUTURES AND LIVING WITH ANTHROPOGENIC CHANGE" WAS CO-SPONSORED BY JSPS SAN FRANCISCO.

The Center for Japanese Studies at University of California Berkeley held a two-day symposium co-sponsored by JSPS San Francisco on February 14 - 15, 2020. The symposium brought together artists, activists and scholars for a series of conversations on the 3.11.2011 disasters and the effects of anthropogenic change.

Both days started at 9:00 in the morning, with panels, papers, roundtables, and film-screening filling the schedule of each day. The conversations explored how people in

northeastern Japan are living with the consequences of the 3.11 disasters and how different communities with varying livelihoods and vulnerabilities have responded.

While the works being discussed provided attention to details that help contextualize the disasters and their aftermath within Japan, they also highlighted communities working together to innovate and solve new and unanticipated problems as a matter of survival.

JSPS San Francisco will continue to support events like this that strengthen global academic exchange. For more information about JSPS San Francisco Office and upcoming events, please contact us: webmaster@jpsusa-sf.org or visit our website: <http://www.jpsusa-sf.org/index.php>

JSPS FELLOW IN AMERICA



Cathedral of Learning is the tallest building in the University of Pittsburgh with 24/7 open learning rooms

AKIHIKO

AKAO

2019. 04-

Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Mathematics, University of Pittsburgh, JSPS Overseas Research Fellow

2019. 03

Ph.D. from Graduate school of Engineering, The University of Tokyo

2016 - 2019

JSPS Research Fellow DC1

2010. 04-

College of Arts and Science, The University of Tokyo

Akihiko Akao is a postdoctoral fellow in the department of mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh. He is working on biophysical modeling of neuronal electrical activities at neuronal networks level. He utilizes applied mathematical techniques to deal with the complexity of collective neuronal dynamics. He received his Ph.D. in Engineering in March 2019 from Graduate school of Engineering, University of Tokyo.

Q1. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO RESEARCH IN THE U.S.?

The main motivation was curiosity. I desired opportunities to go abroad since I was a child to expand my world, although I was not ambitious enough to take any action during my college days.

The unexpected happened during my grad student days when I met my current adviser (Dr. Bard Ermentrout). He visited Tokyo as a collaborating researcher of my Ph.D. advisor (Dr. Kiyoshi Kotani). I shared some time with him as sort of like a tour guide, since he doesn't speak Japanese. He needed some help and I had nothing else to do. The experience was the first time for me to talk with a foreigner for this amount of time and I enjoyed communicating with him. That was enough to reignite my interest in traveling overseas, which made me think about a career as a post-doc abroad.

After that, I devoted myself into my Ph.D. which was a collaboration with him. So it was quite natural and rational choice to pursue a post-doc with him to expand my Ph.D. research.

Q2. WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT IN THE U.S.?

I can name three pros of the environment: New perspectives, lots of seminars and a nice community. I met a lot of new people here and had many discussions with them, which brought me new perspectives (How can my research be valued from different viewpoints?). This is so far the most important intangible assets I got through this program.

Also, I have access to many relevant seminars on a wider variety of topics than I used to having in Japan.

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Neuroscience is an interdisciplinary field so the relevant labs tend to scatter across several departments . So I used to miss some nice seminars held in other department. Here, the university has a neuroscience organization that gathers all the seminar information across departments**. This system might not be so common in Japan now, but it is convenient.

In addition, people in the neighboring labs are very nice too. So nice that they take me on some nice activities on weekends such as dinners, board games, skiing, etc.

** Center for Neural basis and cognition operate across neighboring universities (The University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University) so that we have access to all the open seminars at both universities.

Pittsburgh is a city surrounded by rivers

Q3. HOW DO YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR EXPERIENCES IN THE U.S. AND APPLY IT TO YOUR RESEARCH OR CAREER?

I am still half-way through the program and trying to take advantage of it. So how could I do this? Is there anything I could do only during my stay in the US? I think “establishing myself among the research community on a deep personal level” might be one answer, although I am not sure whether it is important for research or not. Besides that, I believe it is better to have international experience, which should be an advantage for my scientific career. I hope my experience in the US would help to nourish the research culture of Japan.



The University of Pittsburgh is a state-related research university, founded as the Pittsburgh Academy in 1787. Pitt is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), which comprises 63 preeminent doctorate-granting research institutions in North America. (<https://www.pitt.edu/about>)



THE LATEST FROM UNIVERSITIES IN JAPAN

Hiroshima University and Peru

Building the Future of Sports



HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY

For some years now, Hiroshima University (HU) has been working to strengthen cooperation with other countries towards education in the field of sports.

One of these countries is Peru, a country where sports have begun to take off in recent years but still faces a lot of challenges. Here are two prominent projects where the university is highly involved and engaged to improve the situation in Peru.

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Peru's physical education specialists' team meeting President Ochi



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EDU-Port & EVRI implementing Japanese-style physical education in Peru

EDU-Port Japan is an initiative supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT), to disseminate Japanese-style education overseas by providing a platform where the public and private sectors collaborate.

HU's Education Vision Research Center (EVRI) carries one of EDU-Port's certified projects: "Implementing Japanese-style physical education (PE) in the world", the objective of which is to establish a teaching and training system by using 'lesson studies' in the schools of Peru".

Within the framework of this project, Professor Kazuhiko Saito and Associate Professor Shotaro Iwata, from the Graduate School of Education visited the cities of Arequipa and Cusco from November 26 to 29, 2019, to hold the first PE "lesson study" workshop in both cities.

Almost every PE teacher around the area (about 900 participants) attended the event. The workshop introduced Japanese-style PE classes and gave the audience a practical overview of the "lesson study" strategy and the processes involved in it.

SPORT for TOMORROW and the development of PE teachers in Peru

SPORT for TOMORROW (SFT) is a project led by the Japan Sports Agency and the Japan Sport Council which intends to promote sports to more than 10 million people in over 100 nations until the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Graduate School of Education, in

cooperation with the Peruvian Ministry of Education, is involved in one STF's project which supports the development of PE teachers in Peru. HU receives trainees from Peru to impart knowledge about the PE programs in Japanese schools so that they can adapt this knowledge in the Peruvian school system.

On January 8, 2020, as part of this project activities, members of the Peruvian Ministry of Education, the National University of San Marcos, the National University of Education Enrique Guzman y Valle, and experts in PE from Lima and Arequipa visited the University and exchanged opinions with HU's President, Mitsuo Ochi.

HU is determined to continue contributing to the development of appropriate PE professionals and classes, as it expects to keep building a strong relationship with the Peruvian community.



Class practice during the workshop in Arequipa and Cusco

JSPS San Francisco will continue to support and regularly feature in this newsletter collaborative research projects between universities in Japan and the Americas. Please contact us for more information.



HELLOs AND FAREWELLS

EVERY YEAR, WE HAVE PEOPLE COME AND GO AT JSPS SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE.

In the beginning of 2020, none of us saw this coming. We all took it for granted that the JSPS San Francisco office would say goodbye to some of its colleagues and welcome new members to Downtown Berkeley, just like it does every year.

The COVID-19 crisis, however, has completely changed the way we live and work. International travels have been and will be suspended for the time being. Most of the office's Japanese staff members have left Berkeley and are not sure about when they would be allowed to come back.

Even during these difficult and uncertain times, JSPS San Francisco will continue to serve as an academic hub for Japanese and international scholars in North America. We have been offering online events and up-to-date information about research grants. We also welcome ideas for collaborative events.

Please do feel free to contact us if there is anything we can do for you. We hope to continue to serve your academic needs and contribute to a better future of higher education.

We may not be able to meet you in person for a while, but we certainly hope to see you again in the future.

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HIROTO WATANABE

I return to Japan at the end of this March, and probably go back to MEXT.

My primary work at JSPS San Francisco was to help JUNBA (Japanese University Network in the Bay Area) to hold its symposium (JUNBA 2020) which focused on fundraising strategies for higher education.

And also, as a visiting scholar to UCOP (University of California, Office of the President), I investigated diversity policies in education or trends of continuing education in US.

I and my family had really wonderful time here in the Bay Area. I would like to thank all of your help and will be happy if I can see you again in Japan.

Hiroto served as Advisor from Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - Japan (MEXT)



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HASUMI MIYATA (Keio University)

“It’s never too late to learn.”

I heard this a lot from university staff here in the US. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to interview many of them about working at places like UC Berkeley. I was so inspired by their passion for lifelong learning. This broadened my perspective at work. I took a course on student development theory at UC Berkeley Extension last semester. It was more difficult than I expected. I had to carry a 500 page textbook every day and study after work. I thought I wasn’t proficient enough in English to stay caught up in the class, but this gave me a deeper understanding of how exchange students in Japan feel in the classroom. Thanks to the support of my instructor and my classmates, I was able to complete the course. Through my interviews and this course, I learned so much and developed some great resources that I can go back to even after I’m in Japan.

I was also able to visit 14 universities for both work and pleasure (maybe you enjoyed the pictures I took in our past Newsletters!). When I visited UBC for our information session, I was able to meet JSPS Summer Program alumni who did research at my university last year. I hope many more researchers get interested in going to Japan.

I was in charge of the Japanese Researchers Gatherings, and I thought it was interesting to

have researchers from such diverse backgrounds mingling all in one place. I believe new ideas were born there. It was so exciting!

I want to thank everybody who I met while living here in the SF Bay Area including all of the JSPS office staff, the Japanese researchers who attended our events, the researchers who also participated in our fellowship information session, the Japanese students who came to study at UC Berkeley, the Japanese university administrative staff members in the US, the Keio alumni who showed how strong the connection between alumni is even outside of Japan, and the hand bell choir members who welcomed me to play in my private time.

Never had I imagined I would meet so many people before coming to the US. I will cherish the connections I developed here when I’m back in Japan. I am looking forward to seeing you all again in the future!





COVID on Campus

CHRIS REED

Liaison Officer, JSPS San Francisco Office

During the pandemic, many here in the US are working from home. Those with young kids have it particularly rough as it can be challenging to make sure the little ones keep their masks on and maintain a safe distance from others. Kids may do a good job at first but after 20 minutes or so of playing the masks start to slip as they get closer to those they are playing with. Judging by recent developments college students don't seem all that different.

Back in July, the consulting firm EAB, which focuses on the education industry, reported that the vast majority of college and university leaders surveyed said their 'greatest concern' was that students would not follow social distancing guidelines while on or off campus¹.

These fears have played out on the national level with several schools abruptly switching to online classes after resuming in-person instruction. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State

University initially went forward with in-person classes only to move to completely online within weeks². In both cases new pockets of infection were blamed on off-campus gatherings. Similarly, a cluster of 23 cases at Oklahoma State University were linked back to a sorority house³. On the West Coast, the University of Washington reported at least 144 fraternity members had tested positive for COVID-19⁴.

Even schools that put rigorous testing and tracing programs in place have quickly backtracked on reopening after experiencing unexpected case surges. One example is the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where two of the professors involved with creating the epidemiological model used in planning for the reopening told the New York Times that they failed to consider 'willful noncompliance by a small group of people'⁵ (in other words students who went out to party after receiving a positive test result).

In the great state of Texas, case numbers are rising in many college towns due in major part to off-campus gatherings. One of the state's biggest university systems, Texas A&M, will have 50% of their classes online with everyone in attendance required to wear face coverings.

face coverings⁶. The multi-campus system is also asking local communities to report parties of more than 10 people or students not wearing masks⁷. The University of Texas at Austin started in-person instruction on August 26 and will have the semester end early on November 25, before the Thanksgiving holiday. Students have the option to attend all of their classes virtually and classrooms will be kept under 40% of capacity.

The University of Arizona with an enrollment of over 45,000 had moved forward with a mix of in-person classes (with 'enhanced' safety measures) and online instruction. However they recently reported over 600 new cases of COVID-19 in September and are now recommending that students living on or near campus stay home for the next two weeks in what is being described as a 'voluntary quarantine'. University officials are again blaming off-campus social gatherings⁸. The university's president, Robert C. Robbins described the move as, "part of being a good member of society, to take into account the health of others -- not just your individual health, and not just your individual desire to go out and have a good time and party."

Back in the Bay Area, colleges and universities are generally sticking with 'fully remote instruction', such as UC Berkeley and Stanford. Berkeley says they will 'continue to prepare to implement hybrid and/or flexible modes of instruction as soon as public health conditions allow'⁹ while Stanford plans to slowly resume on-campus activities on a limited basis, as long as physical distancing and personal hygiene guidance is followed¹⁰.

Down in Southern California, where the infection numbers are generally higher than those in the Northern part of the state, universities such as UCLA and USC (University of Southern California) have

switched to primarily online instruction, however approximately 15% to 20% of their courses will remain on campus¹¹. The California State University system (and largest four-year university system in the US) has almost all of their classes online for the fall semester.

Caltech in Pasadena is moving forward with a similar arrangement. The private research university has disclosed that as of September 9th, 21 individuals in the 'Caltech community' have been diagnosed with COVID-19 with the vast majority of those case (18 out of 21) being with staff, postdocs, and faculty¹².

According to a database compiled by the New York Times, colleges and universities in the US have reported more than 88,000 COVID-19 cases with at least 60 deaths attributed to the virus (as of September 10)¹³.

All things considered, the pandemic has led to a severe financial crisis for the higher education industry as a whole. While the financial crisis of 2007-2008 significantly strengthened the demand for higher education (with many of the unemployed going back to school to gain new skills while waiting for the labor market to improve), this pandemic is widely seen as an existential crisis for colleges and universities. Back in April, Moody's Investor Service, one of the 'big three' credit rating agencies, downgraded its outlook on the higher education sector to 'negative' from 'stable' citing lower than expected enrollment leading to a reduction in tuition fee income. Moody cited public US universities as being particularly at risk due to how much their revenue relies on international students, especially those from China.

Students and parents are increasingly unwilling to pay tuition for online classes and

Moody cited public US universities as being particularly at risk due to how much their revenue relies on international students, especially those from China.

Students and parents are increasingly unwilling to pay tuition for online classes and have filed over 150 lawsuits demanding refunds for the move to online¹⁴. At Harvard, over 20% of first year freshmen have deferred (delayed) their admission¹⁵. It's worth noting here that one of the key advantages to an Ivy League education is widely believed to be the connections one makes while attending, something that is much harder to do online. Both Princeton and Georgetown University have offered a 10% discount on tuition.

Many industry publications such as Inside Higher Ed and the Chronicle of Higher Education are predicting school closures while layoffs due to the coronavirus situation have already occurred. These challenges from the coronavirus come on top of a growing skepticism of the value of higher education among the American public more broadly that has been growing for many years now.

It seems that change is inevitable in the education space. Like so many other aspects of the modern economy, the pandemic seems to have increased the pace of change if not its direction. Analysts have been predicting an unbundling (charging for goods or services separately instead of as a bundle) of higher education for some time now but we should expect to see that process accelerate¹⁶.

Obviously no one knows exactly what higher education will look like after the current crisis is over but hopefully the new system will settle into place by the time the young kids now struggling to keep their masks on grow up and are ready to go off to college.





- 1 <https://eab.com/insights/press-release/student-affairs/survey-social-distancing-colleges/>
- 2 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/08/20/nc-state-switches-virtual-classes-amid-covid-clusters-adding-scramble-students-moving/>
- 3 <https://www.news9.com/story/5f38bc34cb2e890b8260d2ac/osu-officials-say-23-sorority-members-test-positive-for-covid19>
- 4 <https://www.washington.edu/news/2020/06/30/uw-public-health-seattle-king-county-responding-to-coronavirus-cases-in-greek-system/>
- 5 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/10/health/university-illinois-covid.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>
- 6 <https://abc13.com/college-back-to-school-plan-university-online-fall-2020/6350823/>
- 7 <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/09/08/texas-universities-coronavirus-parties/>
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- 9 <https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/07/21/uc-berkeley-to-begin-fall-semester-with-remote-instruction/>
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- 11 <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-07-02/usc-will-move-most-undergraduate-classes-online-cancels-reopening>
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- 13 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-college-cases-tracker.html>
- 14 https://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/21974/Student_Lawsuits_Seeking_Refunds_of_Tuition_and_Fees_

