

## Event

# Hanami (花見)

*Juntendo University and Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) held a Hanami.*

Juntendo University and Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) held a Hanami (花見, Flower Viewing) on April 5, 2013. The Hanami was a follow up to the Sakura Viewing Excursion (観桜) held last year. The event opened with remarks from Juntendo University President KOMINAMI Eiki and TMDU Planning / International Exchange Trustee OHNO Kikuo. President KOMINAMI asked everyone in attendance to think about the importance of the hanami in Japanese culture throughout the day.

Following the remarks, international students and faculty enjoyed a lunch and video presentation about the hanami. When lunch finished, everyone went for a walk that included stops at nearby Yushima Seido, Kanda Myojin, and Ueno Park. Each of the stops on the walk gave the students a chance to visit historical places in the Bunkyo Ward. Yushima Seido, the first stop on the walk, has a history of education dating back to Confucius studies in the late 17th century. Taking into account the historical background, students go to Yushima Seido to pray for success on their exams. The next stop on the walk was Kanda Myojin, a shrine that is over 1,200 years old containing a number of Kami (神, Gods) that people pray to for marriage, business, and luck. The final stop was Ueno Park, famous for



*Above: Juntendo University and TMDU international students and faculty standing in front of the statue of Confucius in Yushima Seido.*

its sakura flowers, the park was built in 1873 as one of the first public parks in Japan. The park is partially surrounded by schools, museums, and Japan's oldest zoo. Despite the long walk all participants had a good time.

One international student said that she was a little shocked by how short the flowers stay in bloom. Another interna-

tional student said that if she returns to Japan to continue her studies she would like attend Juntendo University or TMDU so that she will be able to attend future events similar to this one.

The Hanami was an occasion for international students and faculty to get together and meet new people from Juntendo University and TMDU. ■