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May 4, 2012

Yeonsu Koh
c/o Faculty of Arts
Saint Mary's University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Dear Ms. Koh,

Re: Speech Earns Trip To Japan for SMU Student- *The Chronicle Herald*

Congratulations on winning the grand prize in the 23rd National Japanese Speech Contest held in Vancouver! That is an incredible achievement, and to have won all the competitions on the way to the top deserves equal praise.

Languages and communication are the most vital and fundamental skills in our world, yet so often people fail to look outside of their own native language, and by resigning themselves to that they rob themselves the experience of truly delving into other cultures. I found your anecdote of watching the film *Mononokehime* as a child and being moved by the sounds of a different language quite beautiful.

Aside from having won this National Competition I want to extend my applause regarding your volunteer efforts, which as I understand was the subject of your speech. Your endeavors in both volunteerism and languages have certainly set a new standard of excellence for your own school and our provincial universities at large.

Congratulations once again! Your story has inspired me to continue on in my efforts to master the French language!

Warm regards,

Megan Leslie, MP
Halifax

ML/nh

