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"Dr. Reona ESAKI & the Doshisha"

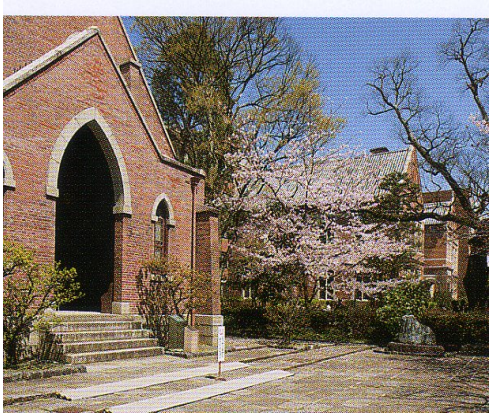
Reona Esaki (also known as Leo Esaki) is the Japanese physicist who shared the Nobel Prize In Physics with two others in 1973 in connection with the discovery of the phenomenon of electron tunneling, and specifically for inventing the Esaki Diode which exploits the phenomenon.

Esaki's research was done while he was with Tokyo Tsushin Kogyo, now known as SONY. He was also a pioneer contributor, while at IBM, toward work on the Semiconductor Super-lattice.

Esaki was born in Osaka in 1925 and graduated in Physics from the University of Tokyo, but his educational path didn't always proceed without disappointment.

Even though he had always been widely known as a bright student, he failed to pass the entrance examination for the acclaimed Kyoto First Prefectural Junior High School.

Instead of being devastated by this failure, young Esaki decided that instead of repeating the exam the following year, he would work toward passing the exam for Doshisha Junior High School. He was successful, and this move set the future direction of his life.



Doshisha Chapel

At the Doshisha, Esaki's eyes were opened to new horizons. He had the unusual experience of being taught English by an American woman, who even invited him to her home for an exciting celebration of Christmas in the traditional style, and, as he moved into his teen years、he was able to develop his own individuality, growing in the spirit created by Joseph Hardy Neesima.

Esaki has often said that his coming into contact with that Christian American culture at this impressionable point in his life opened his mind and gave him a valuable world-wide viewpoint.

(Masami Fujiwara, Public Relations Committee of the LCC)