

Aoyama Gakuin Chronicle

- 1874 Dora E. Schoonmaker opens a pioneering girls' elementary school in the Azabu district, Tokyo (the origin of Aoyama Gakuin girls' school)
- 1878 Julius Soper opens the Kokyo Gakusha in the Tsukiji district (one origin of the Aoyama Gakuin boys' school)
- 1879 Robert S. Maclay opens the Methodist Mission Seminary (Mikai Shingakko) in Yokohama (the other origin of the Aoyama Gakuin boys' school)
- 1883 The boys' schools purchase the land of Aoyama district to move the school (the boys' school and girls' school more here)
- 1894 The boys' school is renamed to Aoyama Gakuin
- 1895 The girls' school is also renamed to Aoyama Jogakuin (Aoyama Jogakuin union with Aoyama Gakuin in 1927)
- 1937 Aoyama Gakuin Midorigaoka Elementary School (renamed to Aoyama Gakuin Midorigaoka Shotougakko in 1941) and Midorigaoka Kindergarten opens
- 1946 Aoyama Gakuin Midorigaoka Elementary School is renamed to Aoyama Gakuin Elementary School
- 1947 Aoyama Gakuin Junior High School opens
- 1949 Aoyama Gakuin University opens
- 1950 Aoyama Gakuin Women's Junior College and Aoyama Gakuin Senior High School open
- 1952 Aoyama Gakuin University establishes its graduate schools
- 1961 Aoyama Gakuin Kindergarten opens
- 1965 Aoyama Gakuin University establishes a new campus in Setagaya, Tokyo
- 1982 Aoyama Gakuin University establishes a new campus in Atsugi, Kanagawa
- 2001 Aoyama Gakuin Professional Graduate Schools (Senmon Daigakuin) establishes (Renamed to Senmonsyo Daigakuin in 2003)
- 2003 Aoyama Gakuin University closes two campuses in Setagaya and Atsugi and establishes a new campus in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa
- 2022 Aoyama Gakuin Women's Junior College closes
- 2024 Aoyama Gakuin celebrates its 150th anniversary

History

Aoyama Gakuin is a leading private school in Japan, striving to cultivate “servant-leaders” to create a brighter future for all peoples and societies. We trace our origins to three schools (The oldest girls' school and two boys' schools) founded in the 1870s by American missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Having overcome many difficulties, we have steadfastly continued education based on the Christian faith throughout our history. Today, over 24,000 students from kindergarten through to graduate and professional graduate schools study at our institution.



Founders



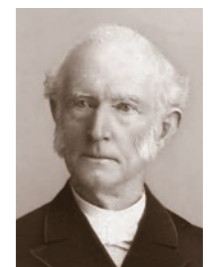
Dora E. SCHOONMAKER

Born in New York, Dora E. Schoonmaker came to Japan in 1874 at the young age of 23. About three weeks after her arrival, she established a modest girls' elementary school with the help of Tsuda Sen, a Japanese Christian, on November 16, 1874. This is the origin of Aoyama Gakuin and we celebrate that day as our foundation anniversary.



Julius SOPER

Born in Maryland, Julius Soper came to Japan in 1873. In the following year, he started Sunday worship service and Sunday school with the help of Japanese Christians. In 1878, he founded the Kokyo Gakusha Boys' School in the Tsukiji district.



Robert S. MACLAY

Born in Pennsylvania, Robert S. Maclay came to Japan in 1873 and founded the Methodist Mission Seminary (Mikai Shingakko) in Yokohama in 1879. After the merging of Soper's school and Maclay's seminary, he served as the first chancellor of Aoyama Gakuin for 4 years.