Sachio Ashida

Associate Professor
Psychology
(1970-2004)



WWII
Japanese Imperial Army Air Force
Kamikaze Pilot

From a memorial written by Cichorei Kano, a judo associate of Dr. Ashida:

In the war, when he was about 20 years old, Ashida-*sensei* was in the Japanese Air Force as a suicide pilot fighting the Americans. He was on a mission to fly over Hiroshima about 16 hours after the bomb had been dropped. In one of the most tragic and chilling accounts, Ashida told that he landed his plane, found a bicycle and pedaled amidst the burning remnants of the city. He mentioned that he came across a woman carrying a bucket on her arm; in the bucket was the head of her daughter whose body had been blasted apart. It was an image he never was able to ban from his mind.

After the war, when he was 29, in 1953, he decided to come to the US and wanted to study for a PhD in Psychology & Mathematics at the University of Nebraska. At that time he held the rank of *godan*. He struggled with English, of which his knowledge was insufficient to pass the entrance exam. In consequence he was assigned an English tutor by the name of Margaret. The two later married. As rumor goes, Margaret's father who fought under MacArthur refused to meet Ashida at the time. Interestingly, Nebraska law at the time actually prohibited its inhabitants from marrying either Japanese, Chinese or Indian people.