

**Dr. Osamu Shimomura, Distinguished Alumnus of Nagasaki University, has been conferred the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.**



Dr. Osamu Shimomura



The vertical banner at the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences honoring Dr. Shimomura



Congratulatory board set up along the main road

Dr. Osamu Shimomura, Distinguished Alumnus of Nagasaki University, has been conferred the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

After graduating from Nagasaki Medical Specialized School, Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences, predecessor of the present Nagasaki University School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, in 1951, he became a research associate there and earned a doctoral degree in science at Nagoya University. In 1960, he won a Fulbright Scholarship to study at Princeton University where he chanced to encounter the subject of bioluminescence of the umbrella-shaped glowing *Aequorea victoria* jellyfish, known as "owan kurage" in Japanese, which has become his lifework. He has worked on his research at Nagoya University, Princeton University, Boston University, and Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole,

and is now continuing to work at his home in Massachusetts, even after his retirement.

Dr. Shimomura discovered the proteins aequorin and green fluorescent protein (GFP) for the first time in the world and shed light on the emission mechanism of *Aequorea victoria* jellyfish. He went on to a scientific elucidation of data on many luminescent creatures and has become a world authority in this area. GFP has made a distinguished contribution to the field of molecular biology as it emits fluorescent light in a certain place of a living cell and in functional protein. GFP is now frequently used as a reliable reporter of gene expression. The discovery of these peculiar characteristics of GFP enabled scientists to observe that were previously invisible. Dr. Shimomura was awarded the 2008 Nobel Prize for discovering GFP.

Nagasaki University has set up a vertical banner and a congratulatory sign to celebrate his well-deserved glory and is filled with excitement at this great news of a Nobel Prize being won for the first time by a graduate of a local university in Japan.