How did Year Two of the Japan Seminar go? "It was very compressed, very exhausting, but a very rewarding experience," reported Bill Guinee, Westminster College, a two-year veteran of the first round of the ASIANetwork Ford Foundation-funded seminar series. "I was nearly a blank slate in terms of Japan or Asian Studies when I began the seminar, but the seminar has enabled me not only to offer my own course on Japanese culture, but to become a champion of Asian Studies on my campus."

Such was the tenor of the panelists' remarks at the panel reporting to the ASIANetwork at the annual meeting in Lisle, Illinois in April. Chaired by Japan Seminar Director Steve Nussbaum, four panelists reported on the gains, both institutional and personal, that two years of study and reflection had achieved. The first summer of 1996 drew them to the Earlham College campus for three weeks of intensive Japan study at a distance, but summer 1997 brought them to Tokyo, Kobe, and an immersion into Japanese life and society, complete with homestays and exploratory forays into the countryside.

Barbara Bowman, Illinois Wesleyan University, prepared a film course based on her newfound admiration and appreciation for Japanese cinema, while Lawry Finson, University of Redlands — also without prior Japanese cultural training — did the same in collaboration with a colleague. "My goal was not to become an instant area specialist, but to contribute more usefully to Asian Studies on campus," he reported. This he has done by offering that course, applying for an Asian Studies library grant, inserting a Japanese module for a core first-year course, and planning on adding Japanese topics into his elective courses on hitherto exclusively Euro-American philosophy.

Fred White, Goucher College, began the seminar as the sole Asia-interested faculty on campus. Since then he has developed a new first-year seminar program entitled, "Encounters with Contemporary Japan," and with recently interested colleagues has formed the nucleus of an Asian Studies program.

The China Seminar Year Two, in China, under the direction of Dick Bodman, St. Olaf College, flew in July to Shanghai and other sites in China. The Southeast Asia Seminar Year One gathered at Kenyon College in June with co-directors Rita Kipp, Kenyon College, and Leedom Lefferts, Jr., Drew University. Director Job Thomas and Associate Director William Mahony, both of Davidson College, led the South Asia Seminar Year One at Davidson College.

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