

about last night's episode of *ER*. They seem more enthusiastic about the episode than about your trip. Suddenly, they "gotta go" and say, "Let's have lunch sometime. Bye."

Skit example: You are back in school, and you meet a former dormmate. She asks about your trip, and you tell her in detail about the countries and places. She thinks it is wonderful, and how lucky you are. Throughout the semester, you keep meeting each other. Different things trigger your memory. One day in the student union, the rice isn't good, and you tell her how great the rice was in Japan and how awful it was from the road stands along Highway One in Vietnam. Another time, you hear the Macarena. You tell your friend about the great party you had with Korean roommates in Seoul.

After a few of these encounters, she tells you, "I am tired of your bragging. I don't want to hear more stories." You are confused, hurt, and more careful about relating your experiences to others.

Returning to school

Within the first month, have a get-together, a potluck to which the students bring Asian food. The students should bring their photos or albums. This is a good time to exchange pictures.

In the second or third month, hold a group meeting for serious talk about how the students are adjusting. Some will deny adjustment problems, but when they begin to talk, problems become apparent. A few will not come because they have decided to "get on" with their lives. The group is less important to them now that they are with other friends. However, for the rest of the group, this talk is very important.

Slowly they will share experiences of being back and how things seem different. They will discuss the

frustrations encountering people who are not interested in their trip, who don't know where Asia is, and who don't care. Some will mention American consumerism and wastage of water or electricity.

A recent group discussed how much they enjoy being with each other. Many cried and needed the catharsis within a caring and understanding group. After this meeting, the students felt much better. It was a turning point for many to "leave" PacRim, realize they were on campus, and needed to make decisions for the future.

Second semester

In our program, the new students have been selected for the next program by the end of the first semester. I organize a pizza party for the "veterans" and "neophytes" for the second month of the spring semester. The veterans bring photos to share with the new students. Each new student asks the veterans one question about the program.

At a recent gathering, the questions went on and on. When the responses of the veterans contradicted one another, the new students realized that there were multiple perspectives and experiences. Both groups had a wonderful time. One of the veterans commented, "I kept thinking I should stop. They couldn't want to hear more. But they did. I could talk and talk. Wow, what a night." The veterans' experiences, cosmopolitan views, and confidence impressed the new students. I know some thought, "In two years time that could be me talking."

By scheduling the party early in the semester, the new students have opportunities to speak to the veterans in class, at the café, or wherever they meet.

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1998 ASIANetwork FREEMAN FELLOWS REPORT ON THE WEB

Excerpts from the 1998 Student-Faculty Fellows' reports are now published on the ASIANetwork website. These published reports are those for which Teodora Amoloza, Director of the ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows Program, received "permission to publish" by October 30, 1998. The URL addresses are:

ASIANetwork website: <http://www.asianetwork.org>

ASIANetwork Freeman Foundation grant information: <http://www.asianetwork.org/freeman>

New summary information: <http://www.asianetwork.org/freeman/summary-index.html>

If you are applying for the 2000 competition, you may want to check this out to have an idea of the kind of work that the first group of fellows did. Please pass this information to ASIANetwork colleagues in your institution who may be interested in the reports and may wish to apply for the 2000 program.

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