

ASIANetwork Member Profile:
East Asian Studies at
John Carroll University

R.W. Purdy
Coordinator, East Asian Studies Program

John Carroll University, founded in 1886, is one of twenty-eight American colleges and universities established by the Society of Jesus. While Jesuit interest in East Asia can be traced to the 16th century and men like Francis Xavier and Mateo Ricci, the study of East Asia at JCU is more recent. John Carroll offers a liberal arts based education with more than forty different major undergraduate and graduate programs in the arts, sciences, and business. The current enrollment is approximately 4,000 full-time undergraduates with more than 230 faculty members. In 1996 the University revised its general education core to emphasize global awareness by requiring a least one year of foreign language study and two international courses, with at least one course on Asia, Africa, or Latin America. These new core requirements have resulted in a greater number of students being exposed to East Asian courses and activities.

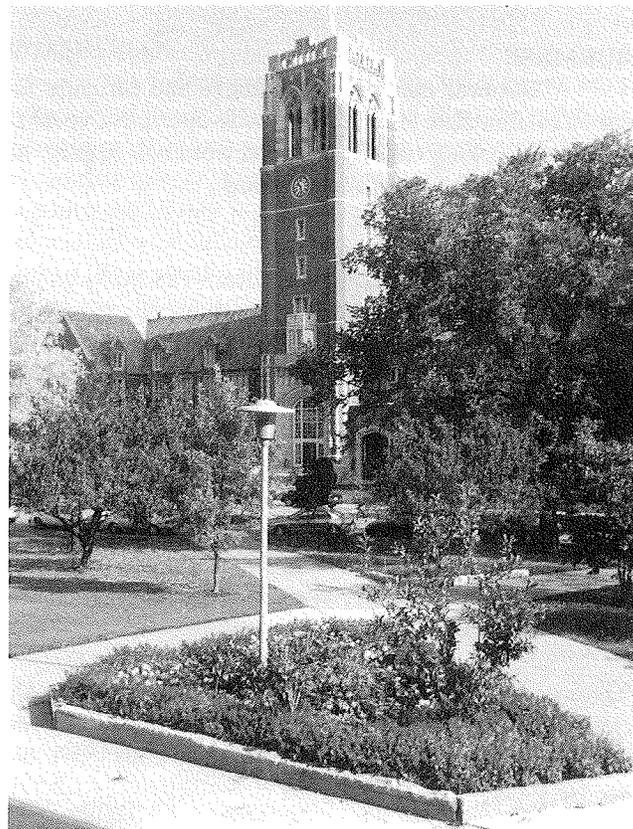
Early attempts to introduce East Asia into JCU's curriculum can be traced to the 1960s and faculty members such as Fr. Richard Schuchert, who had taught at Sophia University in Tokyo and translated works by Endô Shusaku before joining JCU's English department, and Dr. Margaret Berry, who taught courses in East Asian literature and wrote East-West literary criticism. The East Asian Studies (EAS) program was formally organized in 1987 with the appointment of Dr. Susan Long as coordinator. The following year the University hired its first tenure-track East Asian specialist, began to offer courses in Japanese language, and initiated exchange programs with two Japanese universities. The EAS program is directed by a coordinator who works with an advisory committee of faculty and students with expertise or interest in East Asia. In 1989 the program introduced an East Asian Studies concentration (interdisciplinary minor). As the University's first area studies program, East Asian Studies has served as a model for later programs in Latin America and modern Europe.

The interdisciplinary East Asian Studies concentration requires a total of twenty-four credit hours. This includes one year of Japanese or Chinese language and an introductory course on East Asia. Additional courses must be from at least three departments. Students who complete more than one year of language are awarded a "Certificate of Language Achievement" at the Language Department's yearly awards banquet and the distinction is noted on their formal transcripts. The Father Richard Schuchert, SJ, Prize in East Asian Studies was established in 1995 and is awarded annually to the student who best demonstrates a commitment to East Asian studies through language, scholarship, and university service. Because of the language requirement, the number of students fulfilling an EAS concentration is relatively small. Nevertheless, the exposure to East

Asia has been a valuable and rewarding experience for many JCU students. Matt Porter (class of 1999) received the Sidney Brown Prize for Best Undergraduate Paper at this year's Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs. Also, over the last three years, five JCU students have been accepted into the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program.

Currently, JCU offers students three University-sponsored study abroad programs in East Asia. Exchange programs with Sophia University in Tokyo and Nanzan University in Nagoya not only allow JCU students the opportunity to live and study in Japan, but also enrich the University community with Japanese exchange students studying at JCU. The Beijing Center for Language and Culture was established in 1998 through a consortium of American Jesuit colleges and universities. The program, which emphasizes language study, offers a variety of courses taught by Chinese instructors and includes extended trips along the Silk Road or to visit minorities in Southwest China. The program is located at the Beijing University of Physical Education, and students are able to have Chinese roommates.

One of the goals of the East Asian Studies program is to increase awareness among the University community of East Asia through conferences, speakers, and other cultural events. In 1991 the EAS program organized a national conference at JCU on the Japanese Catholic novelist and social critic, Endô Shusaku, author of works such as *Silence* and *The Samurai*. In 1993 EAS planned and hosted the annual meeting of the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs.



The campus of John Carroll University
University Heights (Cleveland), Ohio

Through grants from the Cleveland office of Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc. and the Mitsui (USA) Foundation, EAS has annually sponsored the Mitsui Distinguished Lecturer. The year Beata Sirota Gordon was the eighth Mitsui Distinguished Lecturer, and she spoke about her role in writing Japan's postwar constitution. To promote better understanding of East Asia, the EAS program also sponsors cultural activities. Last fall, in conjunction with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Department of Religious Studies, Tibetan Buddhist monks were invited to campus. This spring an East Asian film series was initiated, featuring movies by noted directors such as Kurosawa Akira, Itami Juzo, and Zhang Yimou.

Perhaps the EAS Program's most far-reaching contribution to improving awareness and understanding of East Asia in Northeast Ohio was the 1995-96 "Teaching Japanese in the Schools" initiative. Through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, local area high school language teachers completed courses in Japanese language and culture, including a five-week intensive language session at Nanzan University in the summer of 1996. As a result of the program ten Northeast Ohio schools now offer Japanese with a state-certified foreign language teacher.

To compensate for the sometimes-limited on-campus resources, the EAS program and faculty often turn to the local community. The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), with one of finest Asian collections in the country, is one invaluable resource. Instructors of several courses frequently include CMA field trips as part of the curriculum. Cleveland's small Asian community offers a Chinese pharmacy for classes on health and healing in East Asia. The several Japanese and Chinese restaurants also provide a context for courses on intercultural communications. Films shown at the Cleveland Institute of Art and programs at area universities, such as Case Western Reserve, are also incorporated into East Asian courses to enhance and expand JCU students' opportunity to learn more about Asia.

Currently the university has four tenured faculty members with research and teaching expertise in East Asia. To help increase the number of faculty who can teach East Asian related courses, one of the responsibilities of the coordinator is to find programs which provide curricular development in East Asia. Dr. Linda Seward participated in ASIANetwork's 1996-97 Faculty Development Seminar on Japan, which was sponsored by the Ford Foundation. This year three faculty members, Drs. Mary Beadle, Mark Diffenderfer, and Paul Nietupski, are Association of American Colleges and Universities Japan Seminar members and will spend three weeks in Japan this summer. Through programs like this JCU has been able to add courses in departments and programs such as Communications, Environmental Studies, and Religious Studies which do not have Japan specialists.

East Asian Studies is still developing new programs and courses. Chinese was added to the list of foreign languages available at JCU in the fall of 1998, and efforts are underway to expand our offerings to second and third year

Chinese. In the summer 1998 Dr. Nick Baumgartner, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dr. R.W. Purdy, EAS Coordinator, participated in the ASIANetwork Freeman College in Asia Summer Institute. As a result of the Summer Institute, the University hopes to offer a summer short-term study in Japan and program in the near future to kindle greater interest in East Asia and complement the existing study-abroad programs. The East Asian Studies Program has established itself as one of JCU's most active interdisciplinary programs and has helped demonstrate the significance of East Asia and the value of area studies to the University community.

EAS FACULTY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

East Asian Studies Coordinator and Chair of the EAS Advisory Committee:

Dr. R.W. Purdy, Associate Professor, History Advisory Committee Member (Spring 2000)

Dr. Raj Aggarwal, Professor, Department of Economics and Finance

Dr. Nick Baumgartner, Dean College of Arts and Sciences
[ex officio]

Dr. Robert Bloom, Professor, Department of Accountancy

Dr. Verghese Chirayath, Director, International Studies Center
[ex officio]

Dr. Susan Long, Professor, Department of Sociology

Mr. Michael Molloy, Student Representative, History major and EAS concentration

Ms. Keiko Nakano, Visiting Instructor, Department of Classical and Modern Languages

Dr. Tom Nevin, Professor, Department of Classical and Modern Languages

Dr. Paul Nietupski, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies

Dr. Linda Seward, Assistant Professor, Department of Communications

Mr. Jie Zhang, Assistant Librarian

EAST ASIAN STUDIES COURSES (Spring 2000)

Buddhism

Chinese Language

Comparative Religions

Intercultural Communications

Introduction to East Asian History and Culture

Health and Healing in East Asia

Japanese Language (Basic, Intermediate, Advanced)

For more information on John Carroll University's East Asian Studies Program contact:

R.W. Purdy, East Asian Studies Coordinator, John Carroll University, University Heights, OH 44118; telephone: 216/397-4776, facsimile: 216/397-4175, E-mail: rpurdy@jcu.edu.