

*Ford Foundation Faculty
Curricular Development on Asia
for the 21st Century Program:
Faculty Grants Strengthen
Asian Curriculum*

**Gregory Eliyu Guldin
Ford Grant Administrator**

It's not easy building Asian Studies programs at small liberal arts colleges. "We can't afford such a narrow specialty when we hire!" "Our current faculty don't have the background!" Which of us hasn't heard such objections to our plans to heighten the awareness and level of curricular offerings regarding Asia on our campuses?

A few years ago, ASIANetwork set its sights squarely on this problem. Why not, reasoned ASIANetwork co-founder Tom Benson, take non-Asianist faculty and re-tool them as faculty able to infuse Asian content into the curriculum? The Ford Foundation graciously agreed to the idea, and so in 1995 this innovative Faculty Curricular Development on Asia for the 21st Century Program was launched with nearly half a million dollars in backing.

A series of two-year seminars began at Earlham College in 1996 and focused on Japan under the leadership of Steve Nussbaum. Year I for all seminars took place at the US host institution and Year II was spent in Asia during a three-week study tour. The next country seminar was the China Seminar at St. Olaf which began in 1997 under Dick Bodman's stewardship, and this was followed by the South and Southeast Asia Seminars, both of which began in 1998.

This past year was Year II for both of the latter seminars. Drs. Rita Kipp and Leedom Lefferts were the co-

directors of the Southeast Asia Seminar. For three weeks in June 1999, nine ASIANetwork faculty members visited Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Indonesia, the area of Dr. Kipp's special knowledge, was unfortunately off the itinerary due to political turbulence surrounding the national elections. However this enabled participants to savor in greater depth the subtleties of peninsular Southeast Asia.

Dr. Job Thomas of Davidson College was the Director for the South Asia Seminar. In June, Dr. Thomas shepherded ten ASIANetwork faculty throughout South and Central India. Nine of the participants also opted to take a one-week extension of the tour to visit North India. From religion to architecture to foreign policy, they were enmeshed in the dynamics of the subcontinent for the greater part of June.

Since completing their seminar experiences, the faculty have returned to their campuses enthused, inspired, and aware. New courses in Asian theater, philosophy, and sociology have sprouted, while old, Eurocentric courses in art, political science and literature have been broadened by new modules on the peoples and cultures of Asia. Spurred by their contact with the Asian majority of humankind and the richness of their cultures, these ASIANetwork faculty have joined their long-standing Asianist colleagues to raise high the banner of Asian awareness and understanding on their campuses.

Now that the twenty-first century has begun, these faculty will contribute to preparing students to appreciate the significant role Asia and Asians will play in this new millennium. ASIANetwork members not fortunate to have participated in this now-concluded initiative are urged to consider participating in the other Asian studies-enhancing opportunities our association provides. They will find excellent opportunities for self-enrichment and intellectual service to their schools and communities.



South Asia Ford Foundation Participants in Goa, India, summer 1999

Editors' Note:

Look for other exciting photos from the Ford Foundation programs throughout this issue!

Ford Foundation Grant Participants

JAPAN

Barbara Bowman, *Illinois Wesleyan University*
Annie Dandavati, *Hope College*
Lawry Finsen, *University of Redlands*
Bill Guinee, *Westminster College*
Sandra Harris, *Eckerd College*
Dick Olufs, *Pacific Lutheran University*
Luke Reinsma, *Seattle Pacific University*
Linda Seward, *John Carroll University*
Dennis Storer, *Hastings College*
Fred White, *Goucher College*

CHINA

Charles Almy, *Guilford College*
Kaushik Bagchi, *Goucher College*
Richard Bodman, *St. Olaf College*
Susan Swyer-Shick, *Pacific Lutheran University*
David Goldblatt, *Denison University*
Charles Hill, *Whittier College*
Guru Rattan Kaur Khalsa, *Thiel College*
David Pasto, *Oklahoma City University*
Linda Pickle, *Westminster College*
Peter Scholl, *Luther College*
Robert Tallitsch, *Augustana College*

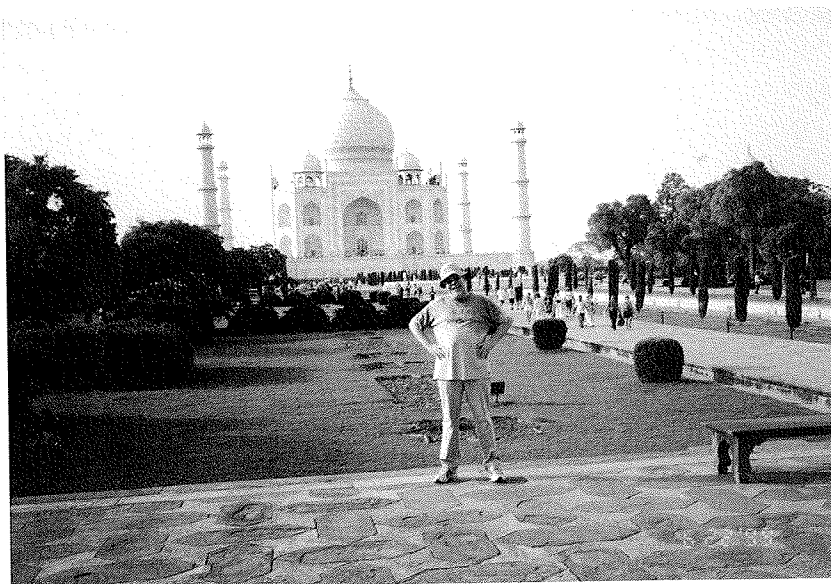
SOUTHEAST ASIA

Andrew Chittick, *Eckerd College*
Pamela Smiley, *Carthage College*
Nancy Keiser, *Mount St. Clare College*
Richard Johnson, *Oklahoma City University*
Michael Leming, *St. Olaf College*
Robert Stockton, *Hastings College*
Tazim Kassam, *The Colorado College*
Naomi Standen, *University of Wisconsin-Superior*
Mark Lincicome, *The College of the Holy Cross*

SOUTH ASIA

Michael Bartanen, *Pacific Lutheran University*
Beverly Bennett, *Goucher College*
Ann Burlein, *Meredith College*
Timothy Cheek, *The Colorado College*
Demerie Faitler, *Furman University*
Charles Keller, *Marietta College*
Carla Oleska, *Elms College*
Daniel Rosebury, *Earlham College*
William Young, *Westminster College*

Editors' note: Institutional affiliations are those at the time of participation and may not be the participant's current affiliation.



**"The Ugly American at the Taj"
South Asia Ford Foundation Participant Charles Keller, summer 1999**