

## Sumie A. Jones

Professor Sumie Jones, who has appointments in the Departments of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Comparative Literature, and Gender Studies, is retiring from Indiana University after 30 years of distinguished service as a scholar, teacher, and active participant in the scholarly community. She graduated from Waseda University in Tokyo, one of Japan's most prestigious private institutions of higher learning. She came to this country on a Fulbright scholarship and received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Washington. During her illustrious career she has been a Bunting Fellow at Harvard University, a Research Fellow at Tokyo University, a recipient of grants from the Lilly Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), American Council of Learned Societies, Japan Foundation, Suntory Foundation, and Toshiba International Foundation.

Her research has focused on comparative studies of early modern Japanese literature and the arts. Professor Jones was among the first to discuss the work of the eighteenth-century Neo-Confucian scholar Ogyu Sorai in terms of hermeneutics, to analyze the popular fiction of Hiraga Gennai in light of language theory, and to demonstrate the relationship between verbal and pictorial narrative in William Hogarth's lithographs and Santo Kyoden's popular fiction.

Professor Jones has played a leading role in stimulating interest in the area of Japanese popular *gesaku* fiction in the West. She has done this not only through her numerous publications both in English and Japanese but by organizing, persuading, and teaching other scholars and their students to think in new ways, to make connections to fields other than their own, and to open their minds to subjects often shied away from, like sexuality and eroticism. The vitality of this field today owes much to the persistent scholarly leadership of Sumie Jones.

It is probably as a teacher that Professor Jones will be best remembered, certainly by her students at IU. She has pursued her love of teaching with passion and unflagging energy. She has created many new undergraduate and graduate courses and trained an enormous number of students who have gone on to successful careers as teachers, in business, and in the arts. Among her courses that we will be hard put to replace are Asian Film, Japanese-Western Literary Relations, Sexuality and the Arts, History of Japanese Theater, Japanese Art and Aesthetics, and Courtly Culture: East and West. One of her undergraduate courses culminated in students' performing an original kabuki play with a distinctively IU locale and flavor.

The service that Professor Jones has rendered to her students, the IU community, and the world of scholarship on Japan is unrivaled. Her departments and the university have been greatly enhanced by the numerous speakers, performers, guests, and friends who have visited the campus through her efforts and invigorated the intellectual atmosphere here. Professor Jones has financed through grants, organized, and led major conferences that have made her and our program in East Asian studies better known throughout the world. The proceedings that have emanated from these conferences have provided opportunities for her students and helped define the parameters of popular literature and culture of Japan's early modern era. The papers from her "Sexuality and Edo Culture" conference financed by NEH were published as *Imaging/Reading Eros* and have been used as seminar readings in a number of universities.

Despite her retirement from Indiana University, Professor Jones continues to work on another major NEH-funded project entitled "Early Modern Japanese Literature: Research and Translation." This is a three-volume anthology of early modern Japanese literature with contributions from virtually everyone working in this field. The anthology brings together a diversity of scholarly interests and a network of collegial friends that is a fitting reflection of the role that Professor Jones has played in her field.

*Richard Rubinger*