

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Ezra F. Vogel

Class of 1950

Through teaching, writing and speaking, Ezra Vogel has endeavored to build bridges between the Far East and America and, with prescience, for many years has been advising Americans to try to learn from the Japanese.

Professor of sociology and international affairs at Harvard, he has been cited as one of America's top 25 Asia experts and is a specialist in modern Japan and China. His book Japan as Number One (published in 1979) ranks in a Japanese edition as the all-time best-seller in Japan of nonfiction by a Western author.

His interest in Asia began in 1958 when he spent a year in language work in Japan and a second year interviewing Japanese families. IN 1963-64, he interviewed Chinese émigrés in Hong Kong, and, to date, has spent a total off some five years in East Asia.

In 1965 he offered Harvard's first course on Chinese Communist Society. He teaches also courses on Japanese Society and Industrial East Asia. His research focuses especially on the social and cultural factors making for East Asian success, the challenge of East Asia for Western society, and the beginning of modernization in Communist China.

Based on research and yearly trips to East Asia, Dr. Vogel has written articles and award-winning books, among them Canton under Communism, which won the Harvard University Press faculty Book-of-the-Year award in 1970.

He has chaired several councils concerned with US-Japan relations and East Asian research, including the East Asian Research Center, the Council on East Asian Studies, and the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at the Center for International Affairs.

Professional memberships include American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Council of Learned Societies, National Committee on US-China Relations, Association for Asian Studies, American Sociological Association and the Japan Society, of which he is a Board member. He holds several honorary doctorates. Currently, he serves as a Trustee of Ohio Wesleyan.

And while striving for greater understanding of the Far East, Dr. Vogel has not forgotten his roots. At Ohio Wesleyan, he has established a lectureship in member of his parents to promote better understanding of his hometown of Delaware, Ohio, and its history.

We acclaim Ezra Vogel for his contributions to global understanding and treasure him as a member of the Ohio Wesleyan family.

May 16, 1992

