



Dr. Joseph E. Essman
Engineering
1993

The entire experience was outstanding, so to choose a few is a chore. I suppose I'll start at the beginning: My wife and I were greatly impressed by the hospitality shown by Drs. Tanaka, whom I often passed and talked with when Electrical Engineering was in Clippinger Hall, Dr. Suzumaura, chairman of the department who became a great friend and host, Mr. Murasu, and so many others in the department and the administration.

This Visiting Professor experience allowed us to learn so much about the Japanese culture and life style that it was unbelievable. The visits to see the cherry blossoms, temples, museums—everything—were exceptional. One of the highlights was the welcome dinner hosted by President Yamada. My wife and I decided that, to experience Japanese culture in its fullest, we would eat the traditional Japanese food. Before the dinner the ladies dressed my wife in a kimono, which she wore throughout the evening.

Of course, visiting the many temples was a very interesting experience, too. Another very interesting visit was to a Tokyo museum and some temples, as well as a major television research company.

We also went on a Cormorant fishing trip on the Nagara River. There are many other experiences that I could mention, including several academic sessions that I participated in, but these few that I have mentioned are indicative of the many that we had. Our lasting memories are of the wonderful Japanese people both in academia and in the neighborhood that we resided.