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Part I: Introduction
In previous volumes, we have tried to include one of the keynote addresses from the annual conference. We are pleased this year to continue that tradition with Susanne and David Whitcomb’s article, “The Kahuna as Professional and Organizational Development Specialist.” In their session and the essay based upon it, the Whitcombs encourage us to step outside our familiar world and to see what other cultures have to teach us about our surroundings. Their analysis of the ancient Kahuna provides both specific and general hints for those of us concerned with identifying important values in our universities and colleges and establishing humane practices in our work.

The essay by Ainsworth and Rau offers another perspective on American education, this time from the vantage point of Dr. Rau, a visitor from West Germany. As an outsider, Dr. Rau describes what he sees as unique and positive characteristics of our educational institutions. We may overlook, ignore, or undervalue the characteristics he suggests. But the comparison he draws between American and West German higher education highlights their importance at the same time that it raises
fundamental questions about the purposes of higher education in each country.

Peter Seldin considers what Japan may have to offer American higher education. In his overview of Japanese management techniques, he argues that many can be applied to the American college and university setting. He also points to the ways in which the teacher and faculty developer can become more effective by borrowing from the Japanese experience.

Finally, the Hellings step outside the milieu of the small liberal arts college to pose some important questions. They ask us to consider whether our evaluation instruments do not actually promote uniformity when variety, contrast, and counterpoint lead to educational excitement and institutional effectiveness. Their essay makes the point that we do not have to immerse ourselves in a foreign culture in order to think creatively about our own.