



## THE ASIANetwork EXCHANGE

*A Newsletter For Teaching About Asia*

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### *WELCOME TO AN EXCITING NEW YEAR*

Madeline Chu, Chair, ASIANetwork  
Chinese Language and Literature, Kalamazoo College

It is a great honor and a humbling experience to be elected Chair of the ASIANetwork. I thank the ASIANetwork members and Board of Directors for your trust and support. I appreciate the good role models I have to follow. Under the leadership of Tom Benson and Greg Guldin, our organization has gained, in fewer than four years, not only visibility, but also professional pride.

#### **April 1996 Conference**

The most successful annual conference at Hickory Ridge last April is a manifestation of the pride we share. We know that what we are doing in Asian Studies is important; we have demonstrated that we are promoting Asian Studies well, and, more importantly, we are willing to share our experiences and to learn from others. There was tremendous excitement and camaraderie among the conference attendees. The articulation and

networking that took place on the conference site and was carried back to our campuses will certainly benefit all of us for years to come.

We thank our Executive Director, Marianna McJimsey, and her assistant, Sandra Papuga, for managing the conference, as well as for their meticulous jobs at the ASIANetwork headquarters throughout the year. These include the publication of our newsletter, the *ASIANetwork Exchange*, answering inquiries, managing the Network funds, and making sure that the Directors of the Board are all clear on their directions!

It is my great pleasure to report that we are not only moving along smoothly with already existing projects, but also are progressing with plans for further development of the Network.

### Consultancy Program

This fall, the ASIANetwork Consultancy Program, supported by the Luce Foundation, will enter its third year. The interest continues to be high. Dorothy Borei has received a good number of inquiries and is making arrangements for the fall 1996 Consultancy visits. The tailor-made evaluations and recommendations based on campus visits have had visible impacts on successful faculty recruitment and resource location, and on achieving better communications between faculty members and administrators on campuses and between institutions.

### Faculty Development Seminars

This summer marked the beginning of the Faculty Curricular Development on Asia for the 21st Century Seminar Project, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, to provide training for people new to the study of Asia. In July, ten enthusiastic participants of the Japan Seminar completed their studies at Earlham College under the direction of Steve Nussbaum, and will have started planning their on-site seminar in Japan for next summer.

During the summer of 1997, when the Japan Seminar members depart for Tokyo, ten participants of the China Seminar will begin their study at St. Olaf College under the direction of Richard Bodman, and planning for the South Asia and Southeast Asia Faculty Development Seminars will be in full swing. Please contact Greg Guldin if you are interested in hosting the South Asia or Southeast Asia Seminar or would like to recommend a colleague to participate in the China Seminar.

### World Wide Web

New projects have been initiated as well. Tim Cheek has located a managing site for an ASIANet-

work WWW Homepage and its inauguration of service will soon be announced. Van Symons is looking into the possibilities of producing an Asian Studies field directory, or a history of Asian Studies in liberal arts colleges. To strengthen our ties with our partner institutions in Asia and help our students with study abroad opportunities, we are working with the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia to find resources to initiate a program for graduates from ASIANetwork institutions to teach and research in Asia.

### April 1997 Conference

Finally, I have excellent news on our next annual conference. Green Mountain College will assist the ASIANetwork to host its fifth Annual Conference, April 25-27, in beautiful Vermont. One of the founders and our good friend, Tom Benson, President of Green Mountain College, has chosen the exquisite resort hotel, The Equinox, in Manchester Village, Vermont as our conference site.

We are delighted that Roger Ames, Co-Director of the Asian Studies Development Program of the East-West Center and the University of Hawai'i, Professor of Chinese philosophy, and Director of the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Hawai'i, has accepted an invitation to be one of our keynote speakers. Among the panels and presentations that are taking shape is one entitled, "Nurturing the Staple Crops: Renewing China and Japan Survey Courses."

I invite you to participate in this conference by organizing panels, presenting papers, giving workshops, or making suggestions. Your proposals and ideas are most welcome as this is your conference! I look forward to hearing from you and greeting you at the conference.

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