

the leadership of Dick Bodman at St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN) and in the People's Republic of China. Southeast Asia Seminar: held under the collective leadership of Rita Kipp of Kenyon College (Gambier, OH) and Leedom Lefferts of Drew University (Madison, NJ) and conducted at Kenyon College and in Vietnam and Thailand. South Asia Seminar: held under the leadership of Job Thomas of Davidson College (Davidson, NC).

A not-inconsequential side effect of that Ford grant was that it helped ensure the continued financial--and thus organizational--health of ASIANetwork.

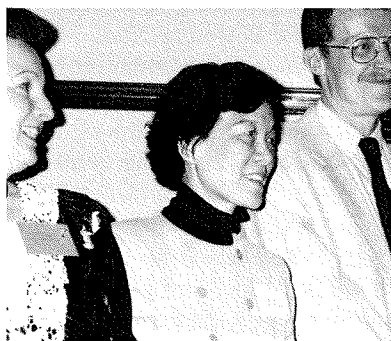
My tenure as chair of this august organization concluded with our second meeting at Hickory Ridge in the spring of 1996. Three major keynoters spoke again to our pan-Asia coverage and our increasing visibility in the field of Asian Studies. The venerable Asianist and former AAS president Rhodes Murphey spoke to us of the continuing importance of Asian studies, while Richard Wood told of his work in promoting Japanese-American understanding. Most stimulating was Evelyn Hu-DeHart's challenge to all Asianists to overcome the Orientalism-nay, racism-which still exists in our field.

Throughout that year and a half at the helm my

greatest pleasure was my intense interaction with a bevy of talented scholar-administrators. In a league of her own was the skilled, personable, and immensely appreciated Marianna McJimsey. So too I learned of the good work supporting Asian education (culturally appropriate and respectful of national sovereignties) undertaken by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia under the leadership of the always diplomatic and shrewdly intelligent David Vikner. Van Symons, apart from the high quality of his scholarship and volunteerism, was most appreciated as a friend and opponent on the racquetball court.

When time came for me to relinquish Board leadership at the end of that Hickory Ridge conference's annual business meeting in April of 1996, new grants, new members and new membership categories (affiliate status) were all in the offing. Now a very competent and personable new Board chair would put her own stamp on the no longer fledgling organization. When Madeline Chu took the helm leading the ASIANetwork towards new vistas, we all took the continued existence and success of the organization for granted, a desirable outcome of the bureaucratization process.

MADELINE CHU: A PIECE OF HISTORY--HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASIANetwork



April 1996 to April 1997 was a very exciting year for ASIANetwork and I am so honored and happy that I was in the middle of all the excitement. The most significant thing to me in being the Board Chair of ASIANetwork during this period of time was the privilege to know and to work with a wonderful group of people. Thanks to the trust of colleagues of the ASIANetwork and its Board of Directors, my tenure as a Board member, and particularly Board Chair, became an important part of my life. Special thanks go to Rita Kipp and Steve Nussbaum for their constant guidance and support and for being my role models.

Between two extremely interesting conferences,

starting with one in Lisle, Illinois and concluding with one in Manchester Village, Vermont, the year 1996-97 was highlighted by a number of major landmarks for the organization. During that year, ASIANetwork launched the Ford Foundation supported ground-breaking program of Faculty Curricular Development, established the Council of Advisors, and acquired the now widely-known one-million-dollar Freeman Grant for research and study-abroad initiatives.

Three most impressive guest speakers graced the 1996 ASIANetwork Conference. We had two presidents--Richard Wood, President of Earlham College and Rhoads Murphey, former President of the Association for Asian Studies--and the ever-so-graceful Evelyn Hu-DeHart. In the process of preparing my introductory notes, I learned a great deal about Dr. Murphey's rich life experiences and outstanding academic achievements. But, more important to me was the opportunity to know him personally. His quick wit and great sense of humor were most admirable. Among the array of thought-provoking panels at the conference was the plenary session on teaching Asian languages at liberal arts colleges. For the first time the ASIANetwork conference paid tribute to the importance of language instruction and learning. I became acquainted with Kathie Carpenter, instructor of Southeast Asian languages, and Manindra Verma, instructor of South Asian languages, in addition to my good colleague and friend Rose Bundy, instructor of Japanese, and learned about their diligent work in sustaining programs in Asian languages and promoting Asian cultures. Of course, I will always remember the theatrical novelties orchestrated by Charles Hill, in which almost all the conference attend-

ees participated.

The 1997 conference was held at the beautiful Equinox in Manchester Village, Vermont and was hosted by Green Mountain College, whose president, Thomas Benson, was a founding member of ASIANetwork. Through my work in organizing the conference program, I became more appreciative of the talents of my predecessor, Greg Guldin, and the meticulousness of Executive Director Marianna McJimsey. Colleagues on the Board of Directors, Tim Cheek, Jyoti Grewal, Rita Kipp, Steve Nussbaum, Molly Ransbury, Van Symons and Eleanor Zelliott, provided me with the valuable support and guidance I needed. That year, the conference also moved further internationally. In addition to the United Board visiting scholars whose presence we always enjoyed, we had scholars such as Mark Sheldon and John Deeney who came all the way from Hong Kong to join us for the conference. They not only attended but also, together with Nancy Chapman of the Yale-China Association, presented a most informative and interesting panel, "Entering a New Era: Resources and Approaches for Understanding Contemporary Hong Kong."

The year 1996-97 saw the fruition of a major project: Faculty Development Seminars. These seminars were offered to faculty members at institutions planning to expand or enhance their curricular offerings related to Asia. The seminars introduced participants to key texts and issues pertinent to understanding and teaching about Asia. Participants then developed their own curricula or projects for their on-site research, with the aim of eventually adding Asian components to their courses or developing new courses on Asia. After years of planning and fund raising, the Ford Foundation Faculty Curricular Development on Asia for the 21st Century Seminars were launched in 1996. It was a great pleasure and learning experience for me to attend the planning meetings in New York, Tacoma, WA, and Chicago, to discuss issues with Tom Benson, Dorothy Borie, Greg Guldin, Marianna McJimsey and Steve Nussbaum, and finally to celebrate the beginning of the project. The project started with the 1996 summer Seminar at Earlham College under the directorship of Steve Nussbaum. In 1997, while the Japan group was in Japan for on-site research, the China group started their seminar at St. Olaf College under the directorship of Richard Bodman. The Southeast Asia and South Asia seminars followed in 1998.

The year 1996-97 also witnessed another landmark in ASIANetwork history: the establishment of the Council of Advisors. Since its founding in April 1992, ASIANetwork had enjoyed rapid growth. With this growth, we also found a constant need to identify sources of funding to sustain ASIANetwork operations and special projects. The decision to establish a Council of Advisors was a direct result of this unprecedented growth. The Board of Directors identified a group of scholars and administrators who were knowledgeable about Asia, committed to liberal arts education and to the promotion of Asia in the undergraduate curriculum, and who had professional expertise and talent for administrative leadership. In October 1996, I sent letters of invitation to

these scholars and the Council of Advisors was established in early 1997. The advisors for the first three-year term are Thomas Benson, Mary Brown Bullock, Ainslie T. Embree, Donald P. Gregg, Timothy Light and David Vikner. The luncheon meeting which the ASIANetwork representatives (Van Symons, Marianna McJimsey and myself) had with Professor Embree benefited us greatly. Professor Embree enthusiastically provided us with advice on the future development of ASIANetwork. His passion for Asia and for educating the younger generation about Asia was most inspirational.

When we talk about ASIANetwork or about the year 1996-97, we cannot help but mention the ASIANetwork Freeman Programs. These started with the opportunity I had to meet Mr. Houghton Freeman. David Vikner, President of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, asked me to go with him to meet with Mr. Freeman in his effort to seek support from the Freeman Foundation for a program to teach English in Asia. Mr. Freeman impressed me as a direct and no-nonsense person who had great interest and knowledge of Asia. Reading an ASIANetwork brochure I brought with me, Mr. Freeman became interested in the consortium. Knowing that my position at this meeting was as a supporter of the United Board proposal, I was rather passive. But I could not miss the interest Mr. Freeman expressed in ASIANetwork and the encouragement to convey to him our program initiatives and the funds needed to support them. Immediately after I returned to Kalamazoo, I sent Mr. Freeman part of my survey on Asian Studies course offerings, and I called Marianna and asked her to send a set of ASIANetwork newsletters to Mr. Freeman. Then, we learned of the match between what the Freeman Foundation was interested in supporting and what ASIANetwork wished and was able to do. With great help from Tim Cheek, Suzanne Barnett, Van Symons, as well as Norm Moline and Teddy Amoloza, a grant proposal was submitted to Mr. Freeman and the Freeman Foundation. The plan was to facilitate two initiatives: (1) Student-Faculty Fellows Program to support collaborative research in Asia for ten student-faculty teams each year for four years; and (2) College in Asia Summer Institute Program to provide a three-year training program for institutions to manage regular semester-in-Asia programs. The proposal was submitted in October. Before the end of 1996, ASIANetwork received the first check of a one-million-dollar grant. Planning of programs started immediately afterwards. And, as they say, the rest is history.

The deadline for submissions for the Winter issue of the ASIANetwork Exchange is November 1, 1999. Don't be late!