

# *ASIANetwork Initiatives*

## *9th Annual ASIANetwork Conference* **Pre-Conference Tour of Asian Sites in Cleveland** **New Board Nominees**

### **9th Annual ASIANetwork Conference in Cleveland** **April 20-22**

On April 20-22, 2001, the ASIANetwork Conference will be held at the Hilton Cleveland East/Beachwood Hotel, Cleveland, OH. The ASIANetwork Conference is customarily held in a different part of the country in one year, and at the Hickory Ridge Conference Center near Chicago in alternate years. The choice of venue in Cleveland follows ASIANetwork conferences held (alternatively with the Chicago site) in the Northwest (Tacoma, Washington), Northeast (Manchester Village, Vermont), Southeast (St. Petersburg, Florida), and Southwest (Santa Fe, New Mexico).

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

The keynote speakers have both done significant work in the medium of film. The first is Dr. Joseph Elder, who is Professor of the Departments of Sociology, Languages and Cultures of Asia, and Integrated Liberal Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and who has produced a number of films on religion and society in North India. His address, on Friday April 20, is titled *"Teaching India: Is Seeing Believing?"* Our second keynote speaker is Mr. Reggie Life, an African-American film maker who is the Executive Director and Founder of Global Film Network, Inc., and whose own experience in Japan has been mirrored and explored in three critically acclaimed films (*Doubles, Struggle and Success, and After America . . . After Japan*). His address, which will be at John Carroll University on Saturday, April 21, is titled *The Underrated Power of Culture*.

#### **JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY**

The evening program on Saturday, April 21 will be graciously hosted by John Carroll University. It will begin with a reception from 6:30-7:00 in the Murphy Room, which will be hosted by the Dean of the College. This will be followed by a banquet in the Student Activities Center Conference Room, from 7:00-8:30, and by Mr. Reggie Life's keynote address, in the Jardine Room, at 8:30. Buses will transport conference attendees to John Carroll University for

the evening, and return them to the conference hotel after the program.

#### **CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

The two plenary sessions will be "The Fulbright Programs and Asian Studies: Strategies for Success," which will be chaired by David Adams, Senior Program Officer, Asia/Middle East, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, and "Ethics and Politics in China and the West," which will be chaired by Prof. Charles Ess, Drury University. To enable greater focus on the "how-to" aspect of the first plenary session, David Adams encourages members to review the websites for CIES ([www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org)) and Department of Education ([www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/HEP/iegps/](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/HEP/iegps/)) before the meeting, to gain greater familiarity with their offerings.

The eight breakout panels in two concurrent blocks on Saturday and Sunday morning fall into three categories. Two of these panels flow from programs funded by the Freeman Foundation, namely the Freeman Faculty-Student Research Program, and the Freeman College-In-Asia Program. Three of these panels are directly focused on teaching, particularly with integrating the arts into the classroom: "Bringing Asian Art into the Classroom: Teaching Methods and Curriculum Development," "Asian Arts in the Liberal Arts," and "Asian Cinema in Asian Studies." Finally, three of these panels are concerned with larger issues affecting Asian Studies, whether conceptual or institutional "Encountering Indian Christianity on its Own Terms," "The Social and Political Impact of Globalization," and "Strategies for the Very Small Asian Studies Program."

An exciting new aspect of this year's program will come on Saturday afternoon (April 21), when the program venue will shift from the conference hotel to the Cleveland Museum of Art. Our time at the Museum will have three different dimensions: an overview of the Asian collection as a whole, interactive sessions in which participants view selected works from the collection, and finally unstructured time during which participants can enjoy the collection (or other parts of the Museum) as they wish. Buses will transport conference attendees to the Museum from the conference hotel, and back to the hotel from the Museum.

Finally, under the assumption that "good ideas lead to appealing grant proposals," the ASIANetwork Board of

Directors and the Development team will be soliciting your good ideas in an informal brainstorming session on Friday April 20, immediately following Dr. Joseph Elder's keynote address.

#### START AND FINISH OF THE CONFERENCE

Registration begins at 4 p.m. in the lobby of the Cleveland East/Beachwood Hilton. The conference will begin with a banquet at 6:30, followed by the keynote address by Dr. Joseph Elder. It will conclude at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 22, after the closing lunch.

#### PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR

As has been the case for the previous two years, the conference will be preceded by a pre-conference trip to Asia-related sites in the Cleveland area, including a Hindu temple, the Vietnamese Buddhist Association, the Asia Plaza, and the Cleveland Chinese Senior Citizens Association. Complete cost for the trip, including lunch, will be \$25 per person. An additional and even more unusual opportunity is the chance to attend a performance by the Cleveland Orchestra on Thursday evening, April 19 (the cost for which will depend on the price of the ticket). For more detailed information on this exciting opportunity, please see the article by Dr. Susan Long in this newsletter.

#### ACCOMODATIONS

Room rates at the Hilton Cleveland East/Beachwood are \$89 per night for a single or double. The rate is not inclusive of local taxes, which are currently 11.75%. Individuals are responsible for making their own reservations by calling 1-877-865-5324, or directly to the hotel at (216) 464-5950. Rooms will be guaranteed either with a first night advance deposit, or an accepted major credit card number.

Reservations should be made no later than Sunday, April 1, 2001. Any rooms remaining in the ASIANetwork block after this date will be released for normal sale. Any reservations requested after this date may not be eligible for the group discount, and are subject to availability. **Hotel room reservations must be made by Sunday, April 1, 2001.**

#### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration must be received by Friday, March 30, 2001. The registration rate for attendees from ASIANetwork member institutions is \$150 per person, and \$160 for Non-ASIANetwork members. For those registering after this date, there will be a \$10 surcharge.

The conference registration fee is inclusive, and must be paid in full. The registration fee includes the following meals: the Friday night banquet on April 20; continental breakfast, lunch and banquet dinner on Saturday, April 21; continental breakfast and lunch on Sunday, April 22, and beverages for mid-morning breaks on both Saturday and Sunday.

Conference Registration fees must be received by Friday, March 30, 2001. Please make checks payable to ASIANetwork, and mail to the Executive Director, Dr. Van Symons, 638 38<sup>th</sup> St., Rock Island, IL 612-01-2296. For fur-

ther information, contact either Dr. Symons (hisymons@augustana.edu), tel. 309-794-7413, or Prof. James Lochtefeld (jgl@carthage.edu), ASIANetwork Board Chair, at 262-551-5913.

### Pre-Conference Tour of Asian Sites in Cleveland Friday, April 20

Cleveland is a characteristically Midwestern city, known for its segregated residential neighborhoods, its Eastern European heritage, and its recent revival of its downtown riverfront and lakefront areas. By 1996, it was home to approximately 25,000 Asians, a small but visible presence in the community. This year's pre-conference field trip will center around the questions: What institutions have developed in this setting to deal with the variety of contemporary issues facing Asians? How do culturally different groups attempt to balance ethnic identity with the reality of their American daily lives?

Field trip participants will depart from the hotel at 8:45 am by university bus. The tour begins in Parma, an inner-ring suburb stereotyped as a bastion of white, middle class culture. After driving past old storefronts and Christian churches of every imaginable denomination, we will arrive at a contemporary building of red and white stone blocks, set spectacularly overlooking a ravine. The Shiva Vishnu Temple was founded in 1983, the result of the post-1965 immigration of numerous highly educated, English-speaking professionals from India. The current building, dedicated in 1997, serves as a focus for an Indian community otherwise divided by regional and language differences. The temple is the site of worship, religious study, participation in the area food bank, and classical music and dance classes and performances. One of its three priests, Shri Venkatachalapathi Samudrala, was the first clergy person outside of the Judeo-Christian tradition to offer an opening session prayer in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington on September 14, 2000. The dedication plaque on the dramatic bridge to the temple's main entrance suggests the institution's sense of purpose: "The Bridge to our Heritage is the link between our modern western lifestyle and rich religious and cultural roots of a time and place whence we came."

From the Shiva Vishnu Temple, our bus will travel through Cleveland city neighborhoods where we might find a Korean grocery right next to a gyros restaurant. Passing Cleveland's landmark Westside Market, a public housing project, and the revitalized Ohio City neighborhood, we will arrive at the Chua Vien Quang, the Vietnamese Buddhist Association of Cleveland. Refugees who arrived in the 1970s, and family members who have subsequently joined them, make up the approximately 3,000-person Vietnamese community in Cleveland. Most of the adults have obtained work in factories, restaurants or hotels, saving to bring family