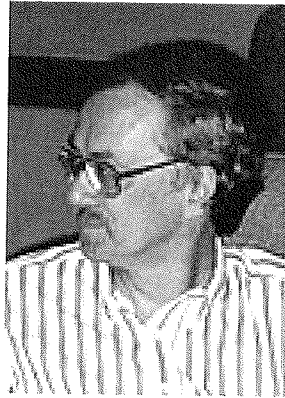


From the Board Chair



As Chair of the Board of Directors for 2001-02, I'm delighted to inaugurate ASIANetwork's 10th anniversary year! ASIANetwork began in the spring of 1992, when representatives from about 45 colleges met in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Pinehurst, North Carolina, to discuss how to strengthen the study of Asia at their institutions. In 1993 ASIANetwork was officially incorporated and became an affiliate of the Association for Asian Studies. In its first decade, ASIANetwork has grown nearly four-fold to over 150 current members. Our founders recognized both the unique place of liberal arts colleges in Western education and the unique role of Asian studies in the liberal arts curriculum. ASIANetwork has sought to enhance the unique strengths of liberal arts colleges: a deep commitment to teaching and learning, a collegial and personalized atmosphere, and a mode of intellectual inquiry that often crosses disciplinary boundaries and—in the case of Asian studies—always crosses cultural boundaries in order to understand others, and ourselves, better. The founders also recognized the problems we all face—limited resources (of all kinds); small size; difficulties in establishing, developing, and maintaining programs; and a sense of isolation, especially for faculty in small programs. ASIANetwork has grown precisely because it addressed these particular needs, by sharing existing resources and by using our collective strength and talent to develop new resources. As we look back to our first decade with considerable pride, we also look forward to the next decade's opportunities with optimism, yet an optimism tempered by the realistic assessment of the continuing problems faced by Asian studies in liberal arts institutions.

RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

ASIANetwork provides a variety of resources to its members. Faculty exchanges with various Asian colleges

have been facilitated through long-standing connections with The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. Other important resources for faculty development come through the annual conference and our thrice-yearly newsletter *ASIANetwork Exchange*, which have made it possible for us to talk to each other and learn in a natural, collegial way over the years.

Yet the most dramatic results have clearly come through over \$3 million in grants awarded by the Luce, Ford, Japan, and Freeman Foundations. These grants have funded faculty development; consultancies aimed to enrich members' Asian studies programs; faculty-student research in Asia; ASIANetwork's website (www.asianetwork.org); and our book, *Asia in the Undergraduate Curriculum: A Case for Asian Studies in Liberal Arts Education* (published by M.E. Sharpe in 2000), whose chapters provide a theoretical justification for Asian studies as well as practical information for implementing the study of Asia in the liberal arts context.

I am delighted to report that the Henry Luce Foundation recently awarded ASIANetwork a \$300,000 grant over a five-year period to sustain a variety of activities relating to program development. As our Executive Director Van Symons discusses in this issue, the Luce Foundation has supported ASIANetwork generously with three grants during the last ten years.

Last year the Freeman Foundation generously renewed its initial million-dollar grant for both the Faculty-Student Research program (which will run through the summer of 2003) and for the College in Asia Summer Institute. The latter program, which aims to help ASIANetwork institutions create on-site programs in Asia, will run in the summers of 2002 and 2003. The Freeman Foundation has doubled its commitment to the former program by committing funds to enable 40 students and faculty to do research in Asia each summer, rather than the 20 in previous years. Faculty can

now take groups of up to five students for either collaborative or individual undergraduate research projects, and proposals involving multiple students are especially encouraged.

Another resource which has been underutilized is the Asian studies consultancies to member institutions, which aim to assess the state of Asia-related programs at these institutions, and to recommend ways to enhance and improve such programs. The seed money for the original consultancies came through a grant from the Luce Foundation, but ASIANetwork has continued to arrange for such consultancies even after the original grant money was exhausted.

Please take advantage of the marvelous opportunities that membership brings! And watch for new opportunities that are currently being developed.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in ASIANetwork is primarily by institution. Regular members are institutions who define their primary mission as providing an undergraduate liberal arts education. Associate members are institutions for whom providing an undergraduate liberal arts education is one of their institutional missions. Affiliate members are organizations (foundations, publishing houses, etc.) or individuals with an interest in undergraduate liberal arts education.

Associate members are eligible for all the benefits open to Regular members, including Board service and grants administered by the ASIANetwork, but when competing applications are of equal merit, preference will be given to Regular members. Affiliate membership confers all the benefits open to other members, except that they are not eligible: 1) to apply for fellowships or grants administered by ASIANetwork; or 2) to nominate or elect candidates to serve as officers of the organization.

ASIANetwork's members support the organization not only with their time and talent, but also through their membership dues, which provide a significant portion of the consortium's operating revenue. This will be the last year that dues invoice cards will be sent to every member on the mailing list. We now request that each institution designate a "point person" who will be responsible for arranging dues payments, as well as a "backup" contact (for cases in which the designated person is on leave, out of the country, or otherwise unable to respond). If you are the designated "point" or "back-up" person, we would appreciate it if you would ensure that dues are paid in a timely manner.

2002 CONFERENCE

The annual conference will be held on April 19-21 at the Hickory Ridge Conference Center in Lisle, Illinois (near Chicago), the venue that we return to in alternate years. Since it is our 10th anniversary conference, we will reflect on the past and present state of Asian studies and our agenda for the future. Our Saturday evening keynote speaker, Dr. Eliot Deutsch of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, will offer his reflections based on his distinguished contributions to

comparative philosophy and aesthetics, ranging from his many research publications to his work with the journal *Philosophy East and West*, to his seminal N.E.H. Summer Institutes on Comparative Philosophy. At press time, our keynote speaker for Friday evening had not been confirmed, so watch for an announcement in the Winter issue of this newsletter. As in the past, there will be a pre-conference field trip on Friday, April 19 to sites connected with the Asian communities in the Chicago area. The field trip will not merely repeat the sites visited in previous years, so don't hesitate to sign up even if you went on it before. You can sign up for this when you receive your conference registration card early next year.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

I invite you to contribute your energy and talent to ASIANetwork. When you have an idea for a panel at our annual conference, let us know—participation on a panel is a wonderful way to share your knowledge of Asia and to work on common practical problems, be they pedagogical or institutional. Or suggest an idea for a project that would benefit our members; it could become ASIANetwork's next big grant. Serving on our "working" Board of Directors for a three-year term allows one to become even more deeply involved. If any of these ways of contributing appeal to you, don't hesitate to contact me (jsmith@skidmore.edu), Van Symons our Executive Director (hisymons@augustana.edu), or Jim Leavell (jim.leavell@furman.edu), next year's Board Chair.

ASIANetwork also invites its members and friends to make individual monetary contributions to the consortium. Your contribution, which is fully tax-deductible, will help to ensure that our collective vision and educational mission stay strong. Your contribution may be sent directly to the Executive Director, Van Symons of Augustana College, or enclosed with your registration form for the annual conference.

In its first decade, ASIANetwork has accomplished a great deal. Since these accomplishments have come through the efforts and talents of its members, we need your continued commitment. We look forward to seeing you at next spring's conference, and we invite your advice and suggestions as we begin our second decade of promoting the study of Asia in the liberal arts curriculum.

Joel Smith