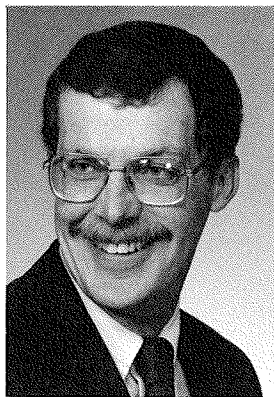


## *From the Executive Director*



Last fall a newly-created ASIANetwork development committee (Stan Mickel of Wittenberg University and Cathy Benton of Lake Forest College) and I flew to New York City to meet with representatives from various foundations. As none of us are development officers or professional grant writers, our trip proved to be a memorable experience in which we each gained a new respect for the challenges faced by the development officers at our own colleges. We easily reached a consensus that teaching Chinese, South Asian religion, or East Asian history beats development work. Nonetheless, we enjoyed introducing ASIANetwork to some new friends and conversing with some old ones. Particularly memorable was a luncheon we had at the Harvard Club as guests of Dr. Terrill Lautz, Vice President of The Henry Luce Foundation, and his associate, Ms. Helena Kolenda, Luce Program Officer for Asia.

Since the inception of ASIANetwork, The Henry Luce Foundation has encouraged our growth and development, and we have come to rely upon Terry and Helena for sound advice and counsel. Terry played a pivotal role in working with the editors and authors in the development of the book *Asia in the Undergraduate Curriculum*, and Helena, despite an arduous schedule, manages to regularly attend our spring conferences. The discussion that day focused upon the forthcoming celebration of ASIANetwork's tenth anniversary, the incredible growth of the consortium, and the impact ASIANetwork has had on the development of Asian studies on college campuses. We also talked about the administrative challenges faced by the leadership of the consortium concomitant with its growth, our future development plans, and especially about the fragility of our financial base. The challenges we face financially are related to our lack of endowment, and, more importantly, to our commitment to keep institutional membership dues low in order not to discourage small colleges with limited resources from joining ASIANetwork. At the end of the conversation, Terry and Helena graciously encouraged us to submit a grant proposal

to their Board of Directors to address these financial concerns.

As I suggested in last Fall's issue of the newsletter, much of the initial success of ASIANetwork is directly tied to the beneficence of The Henry Luce Foundation, which has a long tradition of supporting the study of Asia. Our first grant of \$225,000 was received in 1994 from this foundation to develop a consultancy program to support visits by experienced Asian scholars to small college campuses seeking advice on how to develop and strengthen Asian studies programs. Through careful management of these resources we were able to extend a three-year program to one that facilitated consultancy visits for four years. Once funds were exhausted, the consortium developed the ASIANetwork Consultancy Advisory Program. This program is managed pro bono each year by the immediate past board chair of the consortium who informs interested colleges about consultancy possibilities and helps them identify possible consultants. For each of the past two years, this program has enabled a half dozen colleges to invite consultants to visit their campuses.

This first grant was followed in the fall of 1997 by a three-year \$150,000 grant to "promote dialogue among Asianists." Monies from this grant were utilized to further the development of our newsletter (the *ASIANetwork Exchange*), our website ([www.asianetwork.org](http://www.asianetwork.org)), and our annual spring conference. It also enabled us to publish the book *Asia in the Undergraduate Curriculum*.

As reported by our new board chair, Joel Smith, this spring The Henry Luce Foundation informed us that we are the recipients of a five-year \$300,000 program development grant to insure our continued financial viability and to enable us to further strengthen our publications, website, and annual conferences. We remain immensely grateful for this financial support and for the ongoing encouragement and counsel received from Luce Foundation officers.

*Van Symons*