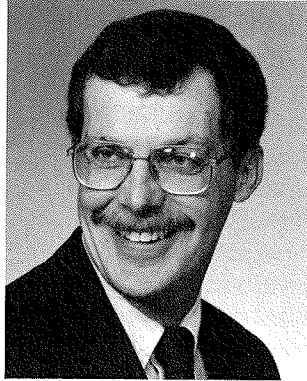


From the Executive Director



I write this message to ASIANetwork members less than two months after the tragic events of September 11, knowing that it will be another two months before the winter issue of the newsletter reaches your offices. Nonetheless, I wish to express the concern of ASIANetwork Board members for those directly impacted by this disaster, and to express our hope that the leaders of the world will be wise in their response to this crisis.

During our fall Board meetings held near Chicago in early October, Board members considered how terrorist activities might impact our summer 2002 Freeman Foundation-funded Student-Faculty Fellows and College-in-Asia Programs. As the Executive Director of the consortium, I was asked to call Mr. Houghton Freeman to discuss these concerns with him. Mr. Freeman remains highly supportive of these initiatives and, like us, hopes that interest in both programs will remain strong. We all agree that especially at this time it is important for colleges to show their commitment to international education and as much as possible further build bridges to promote better understanding between the peoples of Asia and North America.

One of the great challenges in creating an institution such as ASIANetwork presents itself as it moves to the second or third generation of leaders. This year, ASIANetwork is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The early leaders of the organization, Tom Benson, David Vikner, Marianna McJimsey and others, people of great vision and energy, jump-started ASIANetwork, and now current Board members are trying to keep this vehicle headed down the road. It is not an easy thing to do, but I am happy to report that at our recent fall Board meeting significant steps were taken to strengthen the consortium.

The Board considered a number of important issues related to ASIANetwork. Three are worth noting. First, it approved the renewal of an agreement with Augustana

College that will provide office space and administrative support for the consortium for up to three additional years. During this period, I will remain the Executive Director of ASIANetwork and will continue to rely upon a number of splendid Augustana associates to help with secretarial matters, the publication of the newsletter, and the management of ASIANetwork finances. Equally important, the president of Augustana College has again consented to share the burden of meeting the costs to run the basic administration of the consortium.

Second, Joel Smith, the Board Chair, established two new committees. One will examine the strengths and weaknesses of ASIANetwork's current administrative structure by considering how comparable organizations are organized and by conferring with former Board members about these issues. The challenge faced by this committee will be that of providing suggestions for administrative change that will enable the Executive Director and his/her staff along with Board members to handle a vastly increased work load, due to the consortium's rapid growth, while at the same time keeping expenditures at a minimum given the limited financial resources of ASIANetwork.

The second committee will recommend a process for the selection of the next Executive Director and headquarters site. Currently, Board plans call for the continuation of the policy of selecting a new Executive Director each fifth or sixth year, probably from among former and current Board members, with the expectation that the headquarters of the organization will be located at the college where the Executive Director is employed. The Board remains committed to involving, as much as possible, faculty from all member colleges in leadership of the consortium. Counting the current nominees for Board membership, 38 individuals are serving or have served on the Board, and they have been drawn from 35 different ASIANetwork institutions. Inviting

a different ASIANetwork member on a regular basis to assume the Executive Directorship and a different college to provide headquarters for the consortium brings the promise of new ideas and leadership style to the organization and further guarantees that the consortium does not become too closely identified with any single college or group of colleges.

Third, Job Thomas of Davidson College presented a fine report at the fall Board meeting, prepared with the help of Davidson's chief investment officer, Mr. Burton Hudson, on endowment investing, investment alternatives, asset allocation, and so forth for Board consideration. A wide ranging discussion then occurred on strategies ASIANetwork might utilize to build a small endowment to primarily fund the day-to-day administration of the consortium. Before these meetings, many Board participants had privately conversed with development officers at their own colleges who, like Mr. Hudson, have been generous in providing sound counsel to us. Job has been charged to return to the spring Board meeting with further recommendations for the Board to consider.

I wish to conclude my remarks by saying that most of us on the Board would rather not be spending our time worrying about how to strengthen ASIANetwork's administration, the selection of a new Executive Director and headquarters site, or building an investment strategy for the consortium, but these issues need to be addressed, and as a consequence, we are addressing them. However, don't let all this concern about administrative matters fool you, we're still having fun!

Van Symons



**ASIANetwork Freeman Student Faculty Fellows
Program Summer 2001
Carthage College students at the
Tribal Museum in Bangkok, Thailand**

Freeman College in Asia Summer Institute

The Freeman College in Asia Summer Institute aims to help ASIANetwork institutions create on-site programs in Asia. Faculty and administrators from eight ASIANetwork institutions will be selected for the 2002 program. Although the application deadline for the 2002 program has passed, applications for the 2003 program will be available soon. For more information about this unique opportunity, visit the ASIANetwork website at

www.asianetwork.org

or contact Norm Moline at ggmoline@augustana.edu, tel. (309)794-7303;
or Madeline Chu at chu@kzoo.edu, tel. (616)337-7325.