

From the Executive Director



In this issue of the newsletter, I wish to write about a small group of very talented individuals who have served, now serve, or will begin this spring to serve ASIANetwork as our Council of Advisors. The timing is appropriate because this April five members of the original council will complete six years of service and leave the council. They are Tom Benson, Ainslee Embree, Donald Gregg, Timothy Light, and David Vikner. As many of you know, Tom and David were instrumental in founding ASIANetwork, and they remain stalwart supporters of our endeavor. As a former ambassador to Korea and current board chair of The Korea Society, Donald Gregg has impressed upon our board the importance of integrating the study of Korea into the study of Asia. Throughout their academic careers, Ainslee and Tim have been among the most effective voices in support of the liberal arts and higher education, and of integrating the study of Asia into the college curriculum. We will miss having these colleagues on the council, but we will continue informally to seek their advice.

Current members of the council whose service will continue include Betty Buck, co-director of the Asian Studies Development Program at the East-West Center, now in her fourth year of service; Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor of Japanese History at Columbia University; Anthony Yu, Carl Darling Buck Distinguished Service Professor in Humanities at the University of Chicago, both in their second year of service; and Barbara Metcalf, along with Carol Gluck a former president of the Association for Asian Studies, and a professor of South Asian history at the University of California, Davis, who is in her first year of service. Tony and Barbara have both been keynote speakers at ASIANetwork conferences, and Carol is scheduled to speak this coming spring.

Three new members will join the council this April: Lucien Ellington, the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga and editor of the journal *Education About Asia*; Roberta Martin, the East Asian Institute at Columbia University and

director of one of five National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) sites; and Richard Woods, the president of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

Knowing how busy these colleagues are, ASIANetwork tries not to impose a great deal upon them. Mostly, we seek their advice on an *ad hoc* basis, but perhaps just as importantly, we are able to draw some luster to the consortium simply from being associated with them. This does not ignore the fact that we share a common commitment with all council members to enhance the study of Asia in North America at a time when the necessity of doing so is even more evident. We are also aware that there is a natural synergism between ASIANetwork and Betty's ASDP programs, Richard's United Board outreach, Lucien's *Education about Asia*, and Roberta's efforts to infuse the teaching of Asia into K-12 education and her other projects. We are proud to identify ASIANetwork with these endeavors.

In my annual cycle of service as executive director, I find myself attending board meetings, working with the editorial staff to get three issues of the *ASIANetwork EXCHANGE* out, handling memberships and mailings with the ASIANetwork secretary and financial matters with our controller, and preparing for the spring conference with the current board chair. However, one additional opportunity presents itself. This is hosting, with the board chair and vice-chair, an annual luncheon for the Council of Advisors. At the luncheon, we report to the council the key events and initiatives of the past year for ASIANetwork and then seek counsel from them. Council members are always solicitous of our needs, eager to help, and wise in the counsel they offer to us. Each year, we leave these luncheons reinvigorated and with solid advice to draw upon. I wish to publicly thank our council for their service. We are especially grateful for those leaving us this year after six years of service.

Van Symons