

From the Executive Director



ASIANetwork was founded on the premise that by working together, faculty at small liberal arts colleges can effectively pool their resources to promote the study of Asia in North America. This has worked in a miraculous fashion.

Mid-November is a very busy time for the consortium, and while writing this essay I have watched a group of board members pull together to plan an incredible spring conference and another group work on our Pearl River Delta faculty development program, as well as monitor (in a single day) at least two dozen e-mails communicated between and among the four persons chiefly responsible for running the Luce-funded Asian art grant program. In addition, the unflappable Teddy Amoloza has quietly been answering numbers of inquiries from faculty interested in mentoring students this summer in the Student-Faculty Fellows Program, while Marsha Smith, Nirmala Salgado, and Anne Prescott are dutifully preparing the winter issue of the newsletter for publication. It quite amazes me that these good colleagues manage somehow to squeeze time from their busy schedules to do this with little, if any, compensation.

During the past few years, ASIANetwork has grown phenomenally. Such growth is central to our success because increased institutional membership also increases the opportunity for fruitful discourse and interaction among ASIANetwork members and member institutions.

From the beginning, the leadership of ASIANetwork has conscientiously worked not only to increase the size of ASIANetwork, but also to build effective mechanisms for fostering collaboration between member colleges and between ASIANetwork and a few key founda-

tions. Member-to-member collaboration is fostered through the sponsorship of our annual conference, publication of our newsletter, and the promotion of our website, where the online directory is increasingly utilized by faculty seeking other ASIANetwork colleagues with similar academic interests. Our collaboration with various foundations provides us with the financial support needed to run an impressive array of faculty, student, and curricular development programs to enhance Asian Studies, as well as to meet some of our basic administrative expenses.

This said, in this issue I wish to write about a whole new array of collaborative endeavors currently being explored and initiated by ASIANetwork. Each is significant and suggests the growing influence of ASIANetwork. All provide us with ever greater opportunities to strengthen Asian Studies, and in one case, African Studies, in North America.

The Joint AN/ASDP Spring Conference

ASIANetwork's 13th annual spring conference will be hosted this year by Whittier College and held in Whittier, California from April 21st-24th, 2005. It will be jointly sponsored by ASIANetwork and the Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP). For the past decade, as ASIANetwork has sought to enrich and strengthen the study of Asia at small liberal arts colleges, programs sponsored by ASDP have been doing the same for community colleges and numbers of small colleges as well. Because our missions are much the same and we have much to learn from one another, the executive committees of both organizations agreed to jointly host this conference. By doing this, we hope that faculty from ASDP

member institutions will learn more about ASIANetwork programs, and vice-versa. Roger Ames and Betty Buck, the co-directors of ASDP, have already shared their talents with us. Roger was a stellar speaker at one of our early conferences held at the Equinox Inn in Manchester, Vermont, while Betty Buck has served as a committed member of our Council of Advisors for the past six years.

The Joint AN/HKAC Pearl River Delta Faculty Development Program

Two years ago, David Adams, a member of our Council of Advisors and longtime friend of ASIANetwork, contacted ASIANetwork to see if we might be interested in continuing work on a faculty development grant initiative he had begun in consultation with the Hong Kong-America Center (HKAC). Knowing of David's work as Senior Program Officer with the Asia Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) (David frequently comes to ASIANetwork conferences to announce various Fulbright program opportunities.) and the fine reputation of HKAC, the board happily agreed to do so. A revised version, built upon the solid foundation of the original grant, was submitted to the Fulbright-Hays Group Studies Abroad Program of the Department of Education in late October. We are optimistic that it will be funded, therein enabling fifteen faculty from ASIANetwork member colleges to spend 3 ½ weeks in South China this coming summer. The focus of this grant will be the rapid economic and social developments in this region. Next year we plan to again submit a joint proposal with HKAC that will enable faculty participants to study the history and culture of the Pearl River Delta Region.

ASIANetwork and the ACLS/CEEVN Grant Proposal Submitted to the Henry Luce Foundation

Many of you probably remember the visit of Steven Wheatley of the American Council of Learned Societies and Minh Kauffman of the Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam to last spring's conference to explore the possibility of collaborating with ASIANetwork member colleges to institute a campus exchange program involving scholars from Vietnam and America. I am happy to report that, based on this interaction and further conversations with the ASIANetwork leadership, a grant proposal, prepared by Minh and Steve, was and circulated among the ASIANetwork Executive Committee for comment. Subsequently, it was submitted early this fall to the Henry Luce Foundation for their consideration. We are optimistic that this initiative, if funded, will provide wonderful opportunities for the ASIANetwork colleges selected to participate in this program to develop solid ties with Vietnam. In turn, the program promises to help ASIANetwork strengthen its connections with the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam (CEEVN).

Collaboration with the Association for Asian Studies on a Guidebook Series

I am happy to report that significant progress has been made by ASIANetwork during the past year on the creation of a series of guidebooks for the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) "Resources for Teaching about Asia" publication series. This will be our first direct collaboration with the AAS, of which we are an affiliate member. The guidebooks will be modeled after the edited work *Asia in the Undergraduate Curriculum*, which was published with Henry Luce Foundation support by M.E. Sharpe in 2000. We hope by November 2005 to have identified co-editors for each volume in the series, as well as obtain foundation support for funding the production of these guidebooks. We are well underway in moving towards this goal. Three notable developments have occurred to make this a reality during the past year. First, Doug Merwin has agreed to publish the series as a new imprint of EastBridge Press. Second, Rita Kipp (Dean, Sewanee, the University of the South), a former ASIANetwork board member and author of a chapter in the *Asia in the Undergraduate Curriculum* book, has agreed to be the editor-in-chief of the entire series. Third, a template for the first volume (and funding for its production) has spun out of the recently received Luce-funded "Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum" grant. The co-editors of the first volume are Joan O'Mara (Washington & Lee University) and Paul Nietupski (John Carroll University). In early November, Rita Kipp and I had the opportunity to report on ASIANetwork's progress in developing this series to the publications committee board of the AAS in Ann Arbor. They are pleased with our progress.

ASIANetwork and the soon to be formed AFRICA NETWORK

The first week of November, I was invited by Tom Benson, one of the founders of ASIANetwork, to fly to Hofstra University to join with a small group of scholars of Africa as they prepare to launch an AFRICA NETWORK, which to some degree will be modeled after ASIANetwork. I was asked to address the group and provide "a paradigm for the AFRICA NETWORK." It was great fun to meet with these capable and energetic teacher/scholars (a larger group drawn from faculty of the Great Lakes Consortium, Associated Colleges of the Midwest, and representatives from a consortium of South Eastern colleges had just met in Colorado Springs), to sense their enthusiasm for this new venture and share with them their dreams. The consortium, grounded in the networking of liberal arts colleges, will include board members drawn from Augustana, Carleton, Knox, Kalamazoo, St. Olaf, and Colorado College—all of which are longstanding ASIANetwork member institutions. The headquarters will be at Hofstra University, where the Director, Cheryl Mwaria, and Deputy Director, Rob

Leonard, teach. Based on the success of ASIANetwork, I shared with them my optimism that this venture will succeed, and promised them all the help those of us at ASIANetwork can give them. If you have colleagues at your institutions who are teaching and doing research about Africa, please encourage them to contact Robert Leonard and Cheryl Mwaria at Cheryl.B.Mwaria@hofstra.edu or anthcbm@hofstra.edu.

This past year has been a standout year for ASIANetwork as new collaborations have been formed with the Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP), the Hong Kong-America Center (HKAC), the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam (CEEVN), the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), and the newly formed AFRICA NETWORK. We have a bright future ahead.

Van Symons

GOOD NEWS!!

ASIANetwork has just been informed that the Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam of the American Council of Learned Societies has received a \$300,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to foster faculty exchanges between Vietnamese universities and ASIANetwork member colleges/universities. Please watch for further details in the January conference mailing and on our website at www.asianetwork.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Africa Network Project

The Africa Network is a nonprofit consortium of liberal arts colleges committed to literacy about and concern for Africa in American higher education. Through a variety of creative programs, the African Network seeks to ensure a place for Africa on the agenda of a new generation of college students. Although it welcomes the counsel and partnership of African studies scholars and departments in the large research institutions, the Africa Network is focused on the nation's relatively small but influential liberal arts colleges, where the need for African expertise and curriculum is especially acute.

For further information, please visit the website at <http://www.africanetwork.org> or contact:

Dr. Cheryl Mwaria
Director, Africa Network
Department of Anthropology
Hofstra University
Hemstead, NY 11549
Tel: (516) 462-5589
Email: Cheryl.B.Mwaria@hofstra.edu
or: anthcbm@hofstra.edu

Wittenberg East Asian Studies Journal

Call for Papers

The *Wittenberg East Asian Studies Journal* publishes undergraduate writing on Japan, Korea, China, and Vietnam. Published each spring since 1976, the *Journal* seeks to bring to public attention personal essays, research articles, translations, poetry, fiction, photography, and other artwork.

We ask college faculty to suggest to undergraduate students writing outstanding papers, personal essays, poetry, and translations that they submit them to the *Wittenberg East Asian Studies Journal* for consideration for possible publication.

The deadline for the next issue is January 14, 2005. One hard copy of a manuscript plus an electronic copy on a 3.5" computer disk should be sent to:

Wittenberg East Asian Studies Journal
c/o Kelly Bezilla
East Asian Studies Program
Wittenberg University, Box 720
Springfield, Ohio 45501
sos.kbezilla@wittenberb.edu