

# ASIANetwork EXCHANGE

Vol. XIII, No. 1 Fall 2005

From the Editors—

## Introducing the New Look of *ASIANetwork Exchange*

Tom Lutze and Irv Epstein, Co-Editors

As we begin our editorship of the *ASIANetwork Exchange*, we think it important to introduce ourselves to members of ASIANetwork and to outline our goals and aspirations for the newsletter. We are respectively an Asian historian and a comparative educator who are deeply devoted to teaching about Asia in the undergraduate curriculum. For nine years here at Illinois Wesleyan University, our Asian Studies team has negotiated a number of challenges and taken advantage of many opportunities to help strengthen Asian Studies within a small, liberal arts environment. Our institutional involvement with ASIANetwork has been essential to the successes we have achieved. We thus seek to continue to learn from and share with our colleagues within the consortium, and view the editorship of the newsletter as a useful vehicle for broadly facilitating such exchanges among the membership.

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One of our main goals as editors is to maintain the standards of professionalism, relevance, and literary clarity that were established by our predecessors. As a result of the initial leadership of Marianna McJimsey and her colleagues at Colorado College, and, for the past six years, the efforts of Marsha Smith and the editorial team at Augustana College, the *ASIANetwork Exchange* has developed and expanded both as a source of information about the consortium and as an important teaching tool as well. Over these years, the newsletter's growth has accompanied—and served—the remarkable growth of the ASIANetwork consortium itself, from an initial handful to over 160 members. The task of preserving the quality of the *Exchange*, while daunting, has been eased by the assistance Marsha and her staff has given us so as to make the transition seamless. We are deeply indebted to their efforts on our behalf.

The issues all of us confront as liberal arts teachers dedicated to the promotion of Asian Studies in the undergraduate curriculum have been made more significant in the twenty-first century as funding opportunities for new curricular initiatives remain limited, and as we struggle to articulate a vision that challenges dominant scholarly and research paradigms that reiterate the importance of enhancing disciplinary boundedness and specialization to the exclusion of interdisciplinarity, pedagogical, and curricular innovation. For most of us, the importance of sharing ideas is crucial because we work in environments where colleagues with similar interests are few and where administrative support for curricular innovation can be precarious, depending upon resource constraints. We need to continually talk with, support, and share information with one another, and as the consortium continues to expand numerically, the importance of the *ASIANetwork Exchange* can only increase in support of these needs. To this end, we want to share with you our hopes for maintaining and enhancing the *Exchange* as a dynamic newsletter that can best serve the interests of the ASIANetwork membership.

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## Pearl River Delta Second Faculty Development Seminar

*pending funding by the U.S. Department of Education*

Following the successful completion of the first Pearl River Delta Faculty Development Seminar in summer 2005 that focused on the economic and social transformations occurring in southeast coastal China, ASIANetwork, in conjunction with the Hong Kong-America Center, will again seek funding from the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program of the U.S. Department of Education to sponsor another faculty development seminar. For 3 ½ weeks in the summer of 2006, up to fifteen faculty participants will be immersed in the study of the rich historical and cultural legacy of southeast China. **Deadline for application is December 1, 2005** with notification in mid-spring 2006 contingent upon receiving notice from the Department of Education that funding will be provided. For further information contact Dr. P. Richard Bohr, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, St. Joseph, MN 56374 (rbohr@csbsju.edu, phone 320-363-5918) or Dr. Chia Ning, Central College, 812 University Avenue, Pella IA 50219 (chian@central.edu, phone 641-628-5323).



*Some of the participants of the Pearl River Delta Faculty Development Seminar at the orientation session in Whittier, CA last April.*

**For additional details on all these programs, visit our website at [www.asianetwork.org](http://www.asianetwork.org).**

### *Introducing the New Look...(continued from page 1)*

#### **What's New in the Newsletter**

This issue of *ASIANetwork Exchange* embodies several new features to build on the existing strengths of the newsletter. Most obviously, readers will notice that we are adopting a new layout for text and incorporating more images and illustrations to accompany articles. We hope readers find the new format attractive.

We are launching other new features as well. At the heart of these changes is our effort to organize the material to enhance the newsletter's "user-friendliness." Emphasizing the role of the newsletter as both the voice of ASIANetwork and a tool "for teaching about Asia," we have grouped the articles to create a number of new sections that will appear regularly.

- **Network News** will include reports from officers, announcements about the annual meeting, information on ASIANetwork Initiatives, and other such organizational matters—all grouped together in one section.

Three other sections will be dedicated to teaching:

- **Teaching about Asia** will continue the newsletter's long-established and important work of soliciting and

publishing articles (including panel papers from the annual conference), sample syllabi, text reviews, and other materials that share information and experiences among members to enhance our classroom efforts.

- A new feature will be a section called **Media Resources**. With the growing availability and interest in film and electronic resources, we are publishing articles, movie reviews, information on digitized collections, and website assessments, all to assist in the selection and incorporation of media into our teaching.
- The newsletter will also continue to publish selected scholarly articles. While these pieces may not directly concern issues of pedagogy, they nevertheless address issues of broad interest to members and may be useful in teaching by providing short reading assignments for students or new material for retooling lectures. This section, **Research of Note**, includes such articles as the keynote addresses from the ASIANetwork annual conferences, panel papers, and timely analyses of current events relevant to Asia.

Two final sections will also be introduced.

- **For Our Students** will continue the reports on special student research, publication, language, and study abroad opportunities related to Asia.
- In future issues of *ASIANetwork Exchange*, **New and Noteworthy** will highlight institutional and individual accomplishments of ASIANetwork members, including, for example, honors awarded, grants received, books published, retirements, and appointments.

We hope these changes will enhance *ASIANetwork Exchange* as a reference source for our members. In producing our first issue of the newsletter we especially express our gratitude to the contributors who so cooperatively submitted their articles for publication. We want to stress how eager we are to continue to receive your submissions for any section of the newsletter; we rely on your sharing your experience, research, announcements, and ideas to make it a success. We also welcome your comments and suggestions as we try to build upon the newsletter's fine tradition of facilitating *Exchange* among our membership.