

upon Van's departure and to review the role and functions of the director's position itself. Setting the agenda for and chairing board meetings was living on the edge, as we all know too well when we try to guide faculty to efficiently stay on task so we can accomplish a full agenda.

Exhausting? Yes. I remember dozing off after the conference in the Hickory Ridge lobby waiting for my limo

to the airport. Challenging? Yes. The board chair performs such varied tasks, many of which are far different from our usual academic duties. Rewarding? You bet. Never have I had so much interaction with colleagues from other disciplines. Would I do it again? Maybe in a later life. But it was sure a heck of a joy ride this time around.



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Van Symons has been both a friend and mentor since I began service on the ASIANetwork board in 2000. Over the years I have been particularly impressed by the manner in which Van, as Executive Director, has identified particular talents of various people and has provided the opportunities for those talents to be used for our collective good. But, he does not just notice our special gifts. He is also listening constantly to our individual passions and considering ways such energy can be channeled for ASIANetwork's benefit. I have long harbored the belief that Van encouraged my nomination for board service because he learned of my interest in website design. He knew I was not actually very web savvy but was eager to learn. I have always been grateful for that special encouragement. Fortunately for all of us, Diane Clayton ultimately brought the ASIANetwork website to genuine functionality, but I had great fun tinkering with the early look. Thank you, Van.

To me, Van's skill in the area of conflict resolution has been inspiring. On a number of occasions I have watched him bring disparate and intensely held positions toward a consensus. Van's ability to negotiate with a broad spectrum of highly placed individuals in funding agencies, museums, and various academic institutions has brought credit to ASIANetwork and our wide variety of projects.

Two particular events during the last five years have served to deepen my admiration for Van. The first of these was his guidance as we planned the 2003 ASIANetwork annual conference in Greenville, SC. His ever-evolving set of meticulous task lists kept me focused during discussions with

hotel managers as well as conference panel participants. I marveled at his ability to adjust when carefully laid plans dissolved due to unforeseen developments. At all times he was gracious, but firm in protecting the interests of our organization.

The second event was Van's service as an ASIANetwork consultant on my own campus. He basically ran a workshop for me on how consultants should perform. He moved smoothly at all levels of the faculty and administration, listening carefully and translating what he heard into suggestions that quickly began to lift our Furman program to new levels.

It seems appropriate to mention that Van has been joined in his service to ASIANetwork by an extraordinary group of Augustana College colleagues—Norm Moline, Marsha Smith, Nirmala Salgado and of course, Ruth Symons. What a team!

Van's extraordinary contributions to ASIANetwork will leave a legacy upon which we will continue to build. He has left big shoes to fill. Fortunately for us, Teddy Amoloza has impressively large feet.