

the goals of ASIANetwork into reality have helped sustain the work of ASIANetwork over these last six years. All of us involved in development, including our colleagues at the foundations, will miss Van's presence and energy as we continue to meet the challenges of finding new funds and making each dollar stretch to support as many new ideas as possible.



**Marianna McJimsey**

As we move into the Julian year of 2005 and the Chinese year of the Rooster, Marianna McJimsey and I look forward to continuing our conversations with those who have been friends and advisors to ASIANetwork as well as funders, and to exploring new relationships with organizations who share the aspirations of ASIANetwork.

### **Board Chairs: 1999-2005**

Stanley L. Mickel (1999-2000)  
James G. Lochtefeld (2000-01)  
Joel R. Smith (2001-02)  
James B. Leavell (2002-03)  
Paul B. Watt (2003-04)  
Joan H. O'Mara (2004-05)

### **ASIANetwork Board Chairs: 1999-2005**



**Stanley L. Mickel**  
**East Asian Studies Program**  
**Wittenberg University**  
**Board Chair, 1999-2000**

There are many rewarding aspects to being the Chair of the Board of Directors of ASIANetwork, but for me the greatest was the privilege of organizing the 2000 ASIANetwork Conference. It was fitting that this first conference of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was held at Hickory Ridge Conference Center, our 'home base' in the Chicago area.

Being responsible for organizing a national conference was intimidating to say the least. However, I was very lucky to the valuable assistance of other members of the Board of Directors in setting up speakers and panels for the conference. Fortunately for me, the first keynote speaker for the conference, Anthony Yu of the University of Chi-

cago, who had been unable to be a keynote speaker for the 1999 conference, was available to deliver the keynote address for the 2000 conference. Because my academic background is in Chinese language and literature, I had long known about Anthony Yu and deeply respected his successes working with *The Journey to the West*, one of the six great classical Chinese novels. But I had never had the opportunity to meet him in person. So it was a great pleasure to be able to have a beer in the lounge after he had given his keynote speech and chat with him about learning and teaching Chinese literature. This kind of collegiality and openness among participants is one of things that make the ASIANetwork con-

ference so appealing and popular to our members.

My experience that year with the other keynote speaker, William LaFleur of the University of Pennsylvania was similarly stimulating. Dr. LaFleur had spoken at my own school several years earlier, and it was most enjoyable to have a chance to talk with him during the conference.

While the thought of organizing the plenary sessions and the many panels and panel participants was initially daunting, Board members and panel participants were all very cooperative. We finally ended up with a rounded program of two plenary sessions on important themes and sixteen pedagogically focused panels covering topics ranging from “Women’s Issues in Asia: An Asian Perspective” to “The Dangers and Pleasures of Teaching Orientalist Classic Books.” An added treat to the conference was the field trip the day before the conference, organized by Norm Moline, that took a dozen or so participants on a tour of some of the outstanding Asian cultural areas in Chicago.

Michael Gould, a graduate of Wittenberg University’s East Asian Studies Program, gave a wonderful concert on the Japanese shakuhachi flute on Saturday afternoon at the conference. The concert was held in the outdoor tent area next to the main building. A breeze rustled the bottom flaps of the tent as Mike played, and when I closed my eyes the sensation of listening to someone playing the shakuhachi by the shore of the Inland Sea on a moonlit night came to me. Mike’s playing and his explanation of the history and theory of the shakuhachi won enthusiastic applause from the audience. For me, his description undertaking a traditional apprenticeship to master the flute seemed to model the successful accommodation of different cultural values we all hope our students will experience wherever they study in Asia.

The conference ended as it had for many years, with a lunch sponsored by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. The lunch was highlighted by a talk given by one of the UBCHEA scholars on the topic “Literature as a Tool for English Learning.”

Another major activity that involved the Chair of ASIANetwork was the meeting held in January to judge applications for the Freeman supported “Faculty-Student Fellows Program.” The applications students and faculty wrote were of high quality, and it was very difficult to make final choices among them. The selection committee discussed the qualities of all the applications in careful detail throughout the afternoon and evening before coming to a decision about who would be selected and who would be urged to apply again the next round. The process, while arduous, was conducted in a spirit that epitomized the enthusiasm AN members have for our programs. A long-range outcome of the 1999-2000 deliberations was that Van Symons, ASIANetwork Executive Director, and members the Development Committee were willing to accept Mr. Freeman’s recommendation that the number of participants in each year’s “Faculty-student Fellows Program” be increased. The Fellows Program has been a vibrant, effective, and larger AN program since then.

Two other AN program activities initiated before my chairmanship but still being implemented that year are programs that promote the growth of Asian Studies at ASIANetwork member institutions. The first of these is “The College in Asia Program.” Under the direction of Norman Moline and associate direction of Jim Winship (both of Augustana College), a faculty member and an administrator from various colleges and universities traveled for three weeks through Japan, Taiwan, and the People’s Republic of China to study how to administer and run in-house term-in-Asia programs. During the summer of 2000 six institutions participated in this program. The “ASIANetwork Consultancy Advisory Program,” modeled after the “Luce Consultancy Advisory Program,” brought several experienced Asian Studies program consultants during the school year to AN member institutions that had a desire to establish an Asian Studies program. The consultants provided a voice of experience to these liberal arts schools on ways to develop the study of Asia on their campuses.

Finally, the book *Asia in the Undergraduate Curriculum: A Case for Asian Studies in Liberal Arts Education* was newly published by M.E. Sharpe in May 2000, just after my term as Chair of the Board ended. This well received book has six chapters that range in content from an overview of the development of Asian Studies on liberal arts campuses to chapters on the history of the study of Chinese and Japanese languages and the establishment of study abroad programs. Support from the Luce Foundation was crucial in creating this book, as Luce support has been through the history of ASIANetwork.

In all, it was a very busy and enjoyable year.

