

ASIANetwork Editors: 1999-2005



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The ASIANetwork EXCHANGE Editor, 1999-2002
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When it was decided that Augustana College would become the headquarters for ASIANetwork, I heard from my faculty colleagues that someone was needed to produce the newsletter. Always ready for a new challenge, I thought that it might be a good opportunity to contribute to a fine organization, meet some fascinating people, and attend some interesting conferences. In discussions with Van Symons and other colleagues, it was decided that we should have an editorial team, so in March 1999 Ben Nefzger and I became the new editorial staff for the *ASIANetwork EXCHANGE*.

Our first challenge was to research the technical side of getting a newsletter into the mailboxes of the ASIANetwork members. Who's going to print the newsletter? How much will it cost? How many pages are the most economical when printing a newsletter? What software do we need? What is a serif? And why does it matter if we do or don't have them on our font? Are two-column or three-column pages better? What's the best order for the newsletter sections? How do we get all those boxes of newsletters to the post office, and how much will it cost?

Gary Poskin from Pinney Printing came to campus twice a week, and was our most valuable advisor for the first few months. He was able to answer all of the above questions, and many, many more over the course of six years. Luckily for him, there were fewer and fewer questions after the first few issues, and the publication schedule became routine.

The first (and constant) challenge was to solicit copy for the newsletter. Papers presented at the annual conferences were (and still are) popular among the members, so off I went to the conference in Tacoma, not knowing a soul other than my Augustana colleagues, to solicit your help. With a bit of trepidation I approached as many presenters as I could, hoping that some of them might

be willing to send me written copies of their presentations for inclusion in a future newsletter. To my great surprise and relief, everyone agreed to my request, and soon after I returned to Rock Island, the submissions began to trickle in.

Preparing the first issue that summer was a challenge: learning new software, trying to figure out how to import Asian scripts, reminding (and sometimes begging!) people to turn their manuscripts in on time, remembering to spell check everything, and creating a professional-looking document worthy of the consortium. The dictionary and style guide were our constant companions, and with the aid of Ben's eagle eye, careful editing, and great stories to break up long afternoons, the first issue was produced.

As the years went by Marsha Smith joined the editorial fun, Ben retired, and I moved on to become an outreach coordinator in the East Asian Studies Center at Indiana University. With Van and Marsha's encouragement, I remained a part of the *ASIANetwork EXCHANGE* editorial team, with Marsha taking over the main editorial duties, and Nirmala Salgado and I assisting. Time and again in my new position at Indiana University I was to be reminded of just how influential ASIANetwork is in the world of Asian studies. My outreach duties center around educating public school teachers about East Asia through workshops, institutes, conferences, and classroom presentations. At virtually every one of these events I encounter ASIANetwork: the presenters, instructors, authors and advisors nearly always include someone from an ASIANetwork institution. And when I am asked to suggest a qualified East Asian expert for an event, the first names that pop into my mind are the dedicated ASIANetwork educators.

I am grateful to all of you for allowing me to have the opportunity to contribute to this vibrant organization, and I hope that one day in the near future I will have the chance to work with many of you again.