

From the Executive Director



Highlights of the Fall 2006 Board of Directors Meeting

Due to space constraints within the newsletter, I will confine my remarks to some of the highlights of the Board of Directors' fall meeting. For the same reason, Phyllis Larson, Board Chair and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, will report about the strategic planning process in the spring issue of the newsletter. Before proceeding, I wish to remind you of the e-mail message I sent in late November asking for your participation in a survey regarding the strategic planning process that we are undertaking. We thank you very much if you have already filled-in the web-based survey but if you have not yet done so, please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

Membership matters: After considerable discussions, the Board approved the motion from the Membership Committee to raise institutional dues. Starting with the 2007-2008 academic year, the institutional dues will be \$300 for full members and \$200 for associate members; membership dues for affiliate organizations and individuals will remain the

same. These dues will cover up to eight individuals per institution, an increase from the current coverage of only six individuals. For those institutions that have already paid their dues for multiple years, the increase will not apply until their time of renewal. There are several reasons for proposing this increase. First, although ASIANetwork has not increased its membership dues for the last seven years, the expenses of running the consortium, most notably, the administrative and annual conference expenses, are steadily increasing. Our \$300,000 grant from the Luce Foundation, which

(Tibet syllabus, continued from page 24)
 Nov 10 Gender and religious revival: the case of nuns

In class film: "Satya", Ellen Bruno, 1994, 28 min

Weeks Eleven-Twelve: Work and the Rural-Urban Divide

Nov. 15 Work, Gender and the State
 Nov. 22 Work, Gender and Education among Tibetans

Week Thirteen Film assignment (7 pm, Sun. Nov. 27, Bio 19):
 "Windhorse", Paul Wagner, 1998, 97 mins.

Week Thirteen: Refiguring Identities: Globalization, Urbanity, and Consumption

[We ask] for your participation in a survey regarding the strategic planning process that we are undertaking. We thank you very much if you have already filled-in the web-based survey but if you have not yet done so, please take a few minutes to complete the survey.

was designed to help ASIANetwork build an "endowment fund," ended last June. While we have built our fund to about \$900,000, our investment policy stipulates that we can only start drawing from the interests of this fund after we have reached our goal of securing one million dollars. Even after reaching the \$1M goal, the amount of the interest earnings that we can withdraw, based on our investment policy, will barely cover 50% of our annual expenses. The rest will have to come from membership dues and grants.

Because it has been increasingly difficult to find new benefactors, we have not been able to launch new projects. This year, we only have two programs whose funding contributes

to defraying our administrative costs: the Freeman-funded Student-Faculty Fellows program and the Luce-funded Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum project. We are in the last year of the third cycle of the Freeman-funded program, and while we are applying for renewed funding and remain hopeful of a positive outcome, there is no guarantee that we will receive further funding. The Luce-funded Asian Art project will run through 2008 only. As it costs about \$110,000 annually to run the consortium and the Freeman and Luce funded programs contribute a total of \$58,000 to our annual budget, the rest of our funding comes from membership dues. Obviously, we need to reach our \$1M goal soon so that when these grants end, we will have sufficient funds to operate the consortium.

Grants: The Board voted that as a matter of propriety, a board member cannot apply for an individual grant during the board member's term on the board. And, as a result of a post-meeting e-mail consultation, the Board decided to resubmit a proposal to the Department of Education's Fulbright-Hays Groups Study Abroad Project to sponsor a second faculty development seminar in the Pearl River Delta region of China. Prospective participants will include those who were accepted last year for the same program whose proposal was unfortunately not funded. Let us hope that we receive funding this time!

Nov. 29 Han Disenchantment and the Commodification of Minorities
 Dec. 1 The Threat of Assimilation: Disenchantment and the Negotiation of Modernity among Tibetans (Charlene at AAA's, reschedule for Wed. eve?)

Week Fourteen: Conclusions: the Future of a Relationship

Dec. 6 Global Futures?
 Dec. 8 Tibet Futures?

* * * * *

Charlene Makley, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Reed College, will have her book, *The Violence of Liberation: Gender and Tibetan Buddhist Revival in Post-Mao China* published in the fall of 2007 by the University of California Press.