

ASIANetwork EXCHANGE

Vol. XV, No. 3 Spring 2008

ASIANetwork Exchange:

From Newsletter to Journal

Changes to the Exchange: The Past Three Years

With the publication of this Spring 2008 issue of the *ASIANetwork Exchange*, the editorial staff of the newsletter will have completed its initial three-year term of office. We are pleased that the newsletter's evolution has reflected the continued growth and health of ASIANetwork. In addition to our efforts to improve the physical appearance of the *Exchange*, especially by increasing the number of illustrations that appear in each issue, we have also introduced a number of regular sections: Network News, Research of Note, Teaching about Asia, Media Resources, For Our Students, and New and Noteworthy. With this issue, the expansion continues. On pp. 24-25, we are introducing a new

section called Books that Beckon, offering a space that allows members to share their views of recent written works that they have found to be particularly influential. In this inaugural Books that Beckon, we include recommended readings by past Board chairs and by several members of the AN Council of Advisors.

Perhaps even more important than the launching of these regular features of the *Exchange*, however, have been our efforts to encourage extended debate and discussion of topical concerns, including an airing of various interpretations of Mao Zedong's legacy. In this issue, we continue that process with a special thematic section of four articles offering different perspectives on the subject, "Women, Tradition, and Agency." This section builds upon the attention past articles have given to ways of teaching gender issues as they relate to Asian societies and cultures. We have in addition published an increased number of articles that have emphasized the curricular and pedagogical uses of media in teaching about Asia.

We hope that, together, all of these changes have helped address the needs of our expanded readership, and we look forward to receiving more comments and feedback as the publication continues to improve.

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The Proposed Journal

The ASIANetwork Board of Directors asked us to prepare a report on *ASIANetwork Exchange* for their spring meeting in San Antonio, and we are delighted that Board members responded supportively and enthusiastically to our recommendations. Based upon our belief that the *ASIANetwork Exchange* can and should evolve so as to become an even more substantive, relevant, and professional publication, our chief proposal was that the *Exchange* be viewed no longer as a newsletter, but as a journal. The Board both approved of and improved upon this proposal, agreeing that henceforth the *Exchange* will be known as "A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts." The move to a journal form will require a number of further changes to the format and content of the publication.

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**Special Section:
Women, Tradition,
and Agency
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From Newsletter to Journal (continued from page 1)

First, we will now publish two formal issues of the *ASIANetwork Exchange* journal per year, in the fall and spring. The journal will include most sections of the current newsletter, including Research of Note, Teaching about Asia, Media Resources, For our Students, and Books that Beckon. During the winter, we will publish an "ASIANetwork Bulletin," focusing upon the consortium's activity and business. The Bulletin will contain the articles and information now published in the Network News and New and Noteworthy sections of the newsletter.

The decision to produce a journal is a reflection of ASIANetwork's Strategic Plan and Goals, announced this past fall. In an attempt to enhance the annual conference as a showcase of scholarship and pedagogy, the Board of Directors

identified as one tactic the strengthening of the *Exchange* as a tool for AN members. The journal's focus will center on the publication of thoughtful, original, and useful articles on teaching and scholarly activity surrounding the study of Asia in the liberal arts.

New Feature for Spring Issues: Guest Editors

In order to further encourage ASIANetwork members to contribute to the *Exchange* in its new form as a journal, the Board's Publicity Committee will extend an annual call after each spring's ASIANetwork conference for applications for a guest editorship. The guest editor will be responsible for gathering, evaluating, and editing four to five articles based upon a unifying theme. The articles

will then be published as a special section in the Spring issue. The guest editorship will be launched as a feature of the Spring 2009 issue of the *Exchange*. A more detailed invitation to submit proposals for guest editing that issue is printed below.

Based upon the Board's embrace of these changes, we are happy to accept the invitation to continue as editors of the *ASIANetwork Exchange* for another term. We hope that as we embark upon this new venture over the next three years, you will join us in our efforts to make the *Exchange* an essential publication for those of us who are committed to the teaching and study of Asia in the liberal arts setting. We welcome your insights and comments for making this goal a reality.

Thomas Lutze and Irving Epstein

Call for Applications for a Guest Editor of the Spring Issue of the *ASIANetwork Exchange*

The Board of Directors of ASIANetwork call for applications for a Guest Editor of the Spring 2009 issue of the *ASIANetwork Exchange*. Proposals should include the following information and meet the criteria listed below.

General Criteria

1. A successful proposal should have significance in relationship to the 2009 ASIANetwork Conference theme, Asia Changing/Changing Asia."
2. The proposal should include a brief narrative as to how the guest editor conceives of the issue, a rationale for the proposed topics, and how the audience will be engaged.

Specific Criteria

1. It should be innovative; something that would be interesting to the readership.
2. It should include a research component and at least one of the other areas of pedagogy, media resources, or usefulness for our students
3. It should be geared to a liberal arts faculty.
4. The proposal should provide evidence of viability.
5. Proposals should be no more than 1000 words.
6. The special issues should include at least 4 to 5 articles, and the guest editor will prepare to provide high-quality articles to fill about 16 pages of text or about 6000-7500 words, depending on images or other forms of media (images, charts, syllabi as possibilities) that might be used.
7. The author of the proposal should also include a one-page CV.

Other considerations

1. Guest editors must be members of the network.
2. Board members or Exchange editors are not eligible to apply.

Send applications to: **Robert Eng, Professor of History, University of Redlands, 1200 East Colton Avenue, PO Box 3080, Redlands, CA 92373-0999.**

Deadline for applications: July 15, 2008