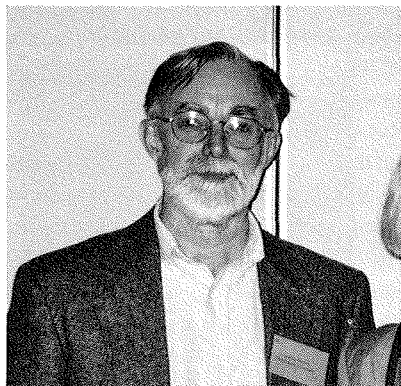


From the Board Chair



ASIANetwork is dedicated to the principle of advancing teaching about Asia. As a result, the membership of ASIANetwork is made up of congenial people who enthusiastically share their knowledge about Asia and their desire to learn more about it at our yearly conference, at workshops, through *ASIANetwork Exchange*, by e-mail, through consultancies, and many other ways. These factors make it clear why ASIANetwork has grown steadily into a consortium of over 135 member institutions since representatives from forty-some colleges met in Pinehurst, North Carolina in 1992 to consider ways to strengthen the teaching of Asia on college campuses.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in ASIANetwork is by institution. Liberal arts institutions with Asian Studies programs or with an interest in offering Asian Studies courses are eligible for membership at a low fee. Annual dues are important in the ability of ASIANetwork to continue to exist and offer the range of program opportunities it does. Individuals may apply for individual affiliate status. Invoice cards may go to more than one address at an institution, so check to see that your institution renews its membership upon receipt of the annual dues invoice card at the beginning of the school year.

OPPORTUNITIES

From the beginning of ASIANetwork, our members have had the chance to participate in a variety of educational opportunities about Asia. The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia has enabled ASIANetwork schools to host Asian scholars, sent our faculty to Asian schools to teach and do research and, with financial support from the Freeman Foundation, has recently organized a program that enables graduates from some of our institutions to teach in China. The Luce Foundation gave early and con-

tinuing help and encouragement to ASIANetwork in several important ways that range from funding for our website at www.asianetwork.org, conference enrichment, and consultancies that help schools establish Asian Studies programs, to support for the writing of the book *Asia in the Undergraduate Curriculum: A Case for Asian Studies in Liberal Arts Education*. The Freeman Foundation has sponsored the College in Asia Summer Institute Program that has a goal of building on-site programs in Asia. It also supports the Faculty-Student Fellows Program that gives faculty and students support for on-site research experiences in Asia. The Ford Foundation sponsored the Faculty Curricular Development Program that enhanced institutions' Asian curricula by providing summer seminars and trips to Asia. As the Luce, Freeman, and Ford programs reach the end of their life cycles, several new activities are being developed under the guidance of the Board of Directors. We look forward to these new opportunities being funded and ASIANetwork members having new sources of support for programs that help them and their institutions expand education about Asia.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The next ASIANetwork conference, the first in the new millennium, will be held April 28-30 at the Hickory Ridge Conference Center in the Chicago suburb of Lisle, Illinois. The conference this year has the special distinction of being partially supported by a Professional Conference Grant from the Japan Foundation. We will have two keynote speakers who will set the tenor of our conversations and a shakuhachi specialist, a graduate of one of our East Asian Studies programs, who will share this special music with us. And of course we will have a full range of sessions in which participants will share their knowledge of Asia and their experiences teaching about it. As an exciting prelude to the conference, on Friday, April 28 Norm Moline will guide a tour to many of the many sites in the Chicago area that are related to Asia. When you receive the conference registration card next spring, be sure to sign up for this fun and rewarding trip.

LeFleur and Yu, Keynote Speakers in 2000

Two outstanding scholars will be our keynote speakers at Hickory Ridge. Professor William LeFleur, a well-known specialist in Japanese literature from the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor Anthony Yu, a renowned student of Chinese literature from the University of Chicago, will deliver the keynote talks that will start the new millennium for our organization.

CHANGE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After six years of wonderfully effective service, Marianna McJimsey has stepped down from the Executive Director position. We have all benefited from the tremendous job she has done for us in this very demanding post. Van Symons, a student of Chinese history and professor of history at Augustana College, took over the responsibilities

of being our Executive Director on September 1, 1999. ASIANetwork is distinctly fortunate to have someone with his organizational skill and attention to detail take up this crucial job.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

ASIANetwork invites faculty colleagues and friends of the organization to make tax-deductible contributions to the organization. Your contribution will help ensure that our educational mission will continue and provides concrete evidence of the breadth of appeal our organization has. You may either send a contribution to the Executive Director or enclose a contribution when you register for the annual conference.

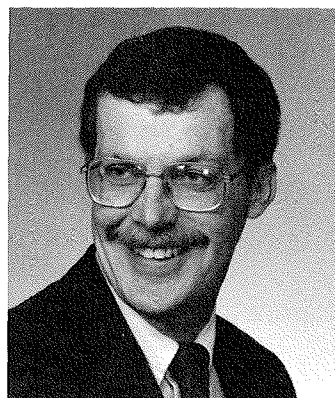
PARTICIPATE IN GUIDING ASIANetwork

We have a unique organization, one that offers many different kinds of opportunities to learn and share. We look forward to seeing you at our annual conference and as you take part in the various programs it offers. ASIANetwork has accomplished much, but there is much more to be done. We look forward to your advice and suggestions about how to best do this.

Stan Mickel

Do you have an opinion on something you read in this issue? Do you wonder what others think about a certain topic of discussion? Write a letter to the editor and start a dialogue. Send your thoughts to *ASIANetwork Exchange* at ANExchange@augustana.edu or Anne Prescott, *ASIANetwork Exchange*, Augustana College, 639 38th St., Rock Island, Illinois 61201. Don't wait for someone else to do it--write your letter now!

From the Executive Director



This past August has been incredibly busy as I have, on the one hand, worked with Marianna McJimsey to prepare ASIANetwork for its move from Colorado College to its new headquarters at Augustana College, and on the other hand, worked with the current Board, and especially Stan Mickel our current Board Chair, to prepare separate mailings to ASIANetwork members to solicit annual dues payments and to 750 college presidents to inform them about ASIANetwork and the wonderful array of programs and opportunities we present them. Stan and the Board are also deeply involved in preparing for the annual fall Board meeting, to be held October 1-3, and for the April 28-30, 2000 annual conference to be held at Hickory Ridge Conference Center near Chicago. Members of the Board are also engaged in grant writing, working with our friends at St. Olaf College on managing the website (www.ASIANetwork.org), and providing oversight for the wonderful array of foundation-funded programs available to faculty and students at ASIANetwork affiliated institutions. I have also had the opportunity to work with the new co-editors of the *ASIANetwork Exchange* to produce this issue of the newsletter.

What I have learned this past month has not surprised me. Marianna and her capable secretary, Sandy Papuga, devoted their entire summer to preparing materials for the transfer of the headquarters. I doubt there has ever been a change of leadership in an academic consortium so ably prepared for by an outgoing executive director. Membership records are updated and ready to use, financial accounts are in order, documents of importance related to the history of the organization and those essential to running the organization are properly filed and ready for use. The trans-