

ASIANetwork Initiatives

*8th Annual ASIANetwork Conference
Cross-Cultural Training Workshop
New Board Nominees
Website Development*

***8th ANNUAL ASIANetwork
CONFERENCE AT
HICKORY RIDGE
APRIL 28-30***

The 8th annual 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 is being partially supported by a Professional Conference Grant from the Japan Foundation, as well as ongoing grant assistance provided to the consortium by the Henry Luce Foundation. The program consists of sixteen panel sessions, two plenary sessions, and keynote addresses by William R. LaFleur (University of Pennsylvania) and Anthony C. Yu (University of Chicago). A pre-conference guided tour of Asian sites in the Chicago area is also available on April 28th.

If you have not yet received a mailing from the executive director's office, and if you are included in your college's list of member individuals, you soon will. It includes a flyer with the full text of the conference program, details about accommodations at Hickory Ridge Conference Center and how to secure reservations, travel information, and other data helpful to those who plan to attend. Also included is a pre-registration card to be filled out and returned to the Executive Director with a check to cover conference registration fees. This promises to be an especially good conference, and leaders of the consortium hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend.

For further information about the conference, contact: Stanley Mickel, Chinese Language and Literature, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH 45501, tel. (937) 327-6354, e-mail smickel@wittenberg.edu; or Van J. Symons, ASIANetwork, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61201, tel. (309) 794-7413, e-mail ASIANetwork@augustana.edu.

***ANNUAL CONFERENCE
TO FEATURE CROSS-CULTURAL
TRAINING WORKSHOP***

"The Impact of Culture on Communication and Relationships: Focus on Asia"

Pamela Leri, an intercultural and global management consultant, as well as a trainer and writer, will conduct a three-hour workshop at the April conference focusing on intercultural skills and insights helpful for living in a new culture. Participants will work with a variety of experiential activities, critical incidents, case studies, and videos to explore the subtle communication issues that arise when people from two cultures meet and begin to work together. In particular, the workshop will focus on the nuances of establishing credibility, different styles of communicating, what it means to "massage the truth" in different cultures, and varied definitions of order and structure.

Workshop participants will have the opportunity to share the insights they have gained both through their own experiences as scholars in Asian cultures, and as directors of student programs in Asia. The workshop will also suggest specific ways to give students tools to understand a new worldview, and to interact with people in a new culture within a framework of greater flexibility and respect.

Ms. Leri lived in Japan for seven years and southern Africa for one year, and has traveled extensively in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Mexico, and Canada. For the past twelve years, she has designed and delivered interactive skill-based training programs for people working in new cultures. As the recipient of the prestigious Iowa Arts Fellowship, Ms. Leri earned her M.F.A. from the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, and has received numerous awards for her writing. She is currently working on a novel set in Zimbabwe, Oxford and Kyoto.