

Board Nominees

The following people have been nominated by the Board of Directors to fill positions on the Board of Directors for the term 2004-2007. Board elections will be held at the ASIANetwork business meeting Sunday morning, April 4.



Kaushik Bagchi

Kaushik Bagchi teaches Asian history, world history, and interdisciplinary courses at Goucher College in Baltimore, where he has been on the History and International Studies faculty since 1993. He is currently chair of the History department and director of the Honors program. He has an interdisciplinary background in history, economics, languages, and international studies. His courses tend to be cross-cultural and comparative in nature (“British and Japanese Colonialism in South Asia and East Asia,” “Cross-Cultural Trade in Asia,” and “China and India since Revolution and Independence”). His research and publications have been in the areas of Orientalism, colonialism, third world history, and on issues in developing and teaching world history courses. His current research deals with central Asian trade connections with northern India, and on Akbar and Islam.

Kaushik was a participant in ASIANetwork’s Ford Foundation seminar on China in 1997-98 and will participate next year in the Freeman program to develop programs in East Asia. He will lead a study-abroad program to his native country, India in the near future. Kaushik has regularly attended and presented at ASIANetwork conferences since Goucher College became a member in the mid-nineties. He sees his upcoming work on the board as a way of reciprocating the help and support which he and his institution have received so generously over the years from ASIANetwork.



Phyllis Larson

Phyllis Larson, Associate Professor of Japanese and Asian studies at St. Olaf University, teaches courses in the Japanese language sequence, modern Japanese literature in translation, Japanese film, and a course in the Asian humanities sequence called “Asian Conversations.” Her research interests are two-fold. The first is in developing effective learner-centered language curricula, which currently involves a grant-funded project in the use of handhelds for learning Japanese language. This is a collaborative project with a colleague in instructional technology. Her second interest is in modern Japanese literature, particularly the life and work of Tamura Toshiko (1884-1945), viewing her as a public intellectual whose writing set her apart from the feminists of the Taisho period and then later, the militarist establishment in Showa Japan.

Phyllis has been deeply involved in several grant initiatives at St. Olaf that have resulted in the recent movement of Asian studies at St. Olaf from a program to department status, with the addition of one FTE. ASIANetwork made one of the earliest initiatives possible, through its “Colleges in Asia” program. Her interest in working with ASIANetwork stems from her experience at St. Olaf and from her commitment to collaborative and effective program-building for Asian Studies at the undergraduate level.

Contact Information



Jim Peterman

Jim Peterman is currently Professor and Chair of Philosophy at the University of the South (Sewanee) where he has taught since 1980. His graduate school training at the University of California at Berkeley focused on the analytic philosophy of language and ethics. His dissertation on Wittgenstein and Freud established his interest in the idea of philosophy as therapy, which he explored in his book *Philosophy as Therapy* (SUNY 1992). In 1998, he attended an NEH Summer Institute, "Chinese Philosophical and Religious Texts in Context," directed by Henry Rosemont at the East-West Center in Manoa, Hawaii. From that experience, he became interested in Confucianism and an examination of the affinities between classical Confucianism and Wittgenstein's later philosophy.

Since 1999, he has spent every summer in China, touring or studying Chinese. He also studied classical Chinese during his most recent sabbatical in the academic year 2000-1. In 2002, he took a group of students to Zhongshan University in Guangzhou China through the ASIANetwork Freeman Foundation Student Faculty Fellows Program to investigate whether and how far university students' attitudes toward family reflected their Confucian heritage.

In addition to his turn to Chinese philosophy, he has also recently developed an interest in medical ethics and sits on two medical ethics committees in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He is hoping in the future to examine the way in which the implicit Confucianism of modern China influences medical practice. He is also working on a manuscript in which he develops a Wittgensteinian interpretation and defense of the approach to ethics in Confucius' *Analects*.

Kaushik Bagchi

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Timothy Cheek and Marianna McJimsey, former board members, at the Opening Plenary of the 2003 ASIANetwork Conference