

ASIANetwork Editors: 1999-2005



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The ASIANetwork EXCHANGE Editor, 1999-2002
Assistant Editor, 2002-2005

When it was decided that Augustana College would become the headquarters for ASIANetwork, I heard from my faculty colleagues that someone was needed to produce the newsletter. Always ready for a new challenge, I thought that it might be a good opportunity to contribute to a fine organization, meet some fascinating people, and attend some interesting conferences. In discussions with Van Symons and other colleagues, it was decided that we should have an editorial team, so in March 1999 Ben Nefzger and I became the new editorial staff for the *ASIANetwork EXCHANGE*.

Our first challenge was to research the technical side of getting a newsletter into the mailboxes of the ASIANetwork members. Who's going to print the newsletter? How much will it cost? How many pages are the most economical when printing a newsletter? What software do we need? What is a serif? And why does it matter if we do or don't have them on our font? Are two-column or three-column pages better? What's the best order for the newsletter sections? How do we get all those boxes of newsletters to the post office, and how much will it cost?

Gary Poskin from Pinney Printing came to campus twice a week, and was our most valuable advisor for the first few months. He was able to answer all of the above questions, and many, many more over the course of six years. Luckily for him, there were fewer and fewer questions after the first few issues, and the publication schedule became routine.

The first (and constant) challenge was to solicit copy for the newsletter. Papers presented at the annual conferences were (and still are) popular among the members, so off I went to the conference in Tacoma, not knowing a soul other than my Augustana colleagues, to solicit your help. With a bit of trepidation I approached as many presenters as I could, hoping that some of them might

be willing to send me written copies of their presentations for inclusion in a future newsletter. To my great surprise and relief, everyone agreed to my request, and soon after I returned to Rock Island, the submissions began to trickle in.

Preparing the first issue that summer was a challenge: learning new software, trying to figure out how to import Asian scripts, reminding (and sometimes begging!) people to turn their manuscripts in on time, remembering to spell check everything, and creating a professional-looking document worthy of the consortium. The dictionary and style guide were our constant companions, and with the aid of Ben's eagle eye, careful editing, and great stories to break up long afternoons, the first issue was produced.

As the years went by Marsha Smith joined the editorial fun, Ben retired, and I moved on to become an outreach coordinator in the East Asian Studies Center at Indiana University. With Van and Marsha's encouragement, I remained a part of the *ASIANetwork EXCHANGE* editorial team, with Marsha taking over the main editorial duties, and Nirmala Salgado and I assisting. Time and again in my new position at Indiana University I was to be reminded of just how influential ASIANetwork is in the world of Asian studies. My outreach duties center around educating public school teachers about East Asia through workshops, institutes, conferences, and classroom presentations. At virtually every one of these events I encounter ASIANetwork: the presenters, instructors, authors and advisors nearly always include someone from an ASIANetwork institution. And when I am asked to suggest a qualified East Asian expert for an event, the first names that pop into my mind are the dedicated ASIANetwork educators.

I am grateful to all of you for allowing me to have the opportunity to contribute to this vibrant organization, and I hope that one day in the near future I will have the chance to work with many of you again.



Marsha Smith

Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Welfare

Assistant Editor 2000-2002

***The ASIANetwork EXCHANGE* Editor 2002-2005**

It has been my privilege and pleasure to act as your Editor of *The ASIANetwork EXCHANGE* for the past three and a half years. I was invited to join Anne Prescott and Ben Nefzger as an Assistant Editor in 2000, the second year the *EXCHANGE* was housed at Augustana. By that date Anne and Ben were quite up-to-speed on how to produce a newsletter and my job primarily entailed proofing and soliciting copy. Anne had done almost all of the set-up work: developing the new “look” for the newsletter, organizing departments for materials, settling on fonts and formatting styles, and all the rest. We were very fortunate that Anne had had past experience in editing before coming to Augustana.

When, in 2002, Anne left Augustana to work at Indiana University and Ben Nefzger retired from the college, I, by attrition, became Editor! Much of my late summer experience revolved around learning Page-maker, Photoshop, and other aspects of the position like soliciting copy. With great relief and rejoicing on my part, Anne was willing to stay on as an assistant editor. I could always email or call if I needed her expert advice (which I shamelessly took advantage of). She also introduced me to Gary Poskin at Pinney Press, who has been a wonderful support for us. Later in my first year of Editorship, Nirmala Salgado joined us. I especially want to offer my thanks to both Anne and Nirmala. They always come through with excellent editing skills, often in an extremely tight time frame.

I have enjoyed working for Van Symons, Executive Director. Whenever I have a question, he always has the answer, no matter how beleaguered or frenzied he might be at the moment. Thanks, as well, to each of the Board Chairs that served while I was Editor: Jim Leavell, Paul Watt, and Joan O’Mara. You always got great copy in to me and always on time! Thanks also to Diane Clayton who maintains the website. She posts copies of each newsletter one year after it is published, in case someone needs to find an article in a back-issue. I also wish to thank all of the conference photographers over the years, including Diane Clayton, Jim Leavell, Chia Ning, and Anne Prescott. Of course, I wish to give a special thanks to Teddy Amoloza, incoming Executive Director, who

annually provides photos from ASIANetwork Freeman Student Faculty Fellows reports, and has often, on short notice, provided a written up-date on the status of the program. Every one of you has provided incredible degrees of support in maintaining ongoing quality of the newsletter.

Working on the newsletter has been a growing experience for me in a number of ways. As many others have said in this issue, for me, the most wonderful facet of this position is that I have the opportunity to meet so many wonderful, interesting, and talented Asian scholars. Whether I have met you at conferences as I try to solicit copy for next year’s issue, or by email—again soliciting copy or asking for clarification, or by telephone, I am constantly reminded of what a strong and lively consortium this is.

The *EXCHANGE* sometimes comes to light in my other Asian-related roles. For example, as National Consortium for Teaching About Asia Seminar coordinator under the Teaching East Asia Program in Colorado, I have attended NCTA meetings where program directors such as Lynn Parisi, Kathleen Woods Masalski, Roberta H. Martin, Mary Hammond Bernson and Jacques Fuqua have at varying times all mentioned articles or information they have read in the *EXCHANGE*.

As someone who was not an “Asianist” in my graduate work, the newsletter has allowed me the opportunity to grow more broadly in my expertise on Asia. Editing articles on Korea or India, or in the fields of Literature, Religion or Economics, has enhanced my understanding in a variety of ways. By reading your work, attending your sessions, talking with you during meals or on field trips or after sessions, I continue to learn. As I turn over editorship to those at Illinois Wesleyan, I am excited about my continued involvement in ASIANetwork and Asian Studies—whether by offering a new class on China, presenting a paper at the upcoming ASIANetwork conference, or by working this summer as one of the faculty selected for the Pearl River Delta Faculty Development program. My life, both as a teacher and a scholar, has been enriched greatly by this experience.