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**Board Chair 2003-2004**

Certainly the best parts of any job are the opportunities it provides to work with constructive and energetic colleagues and to contribute to a worthwhile cause. The years that I served on the ASIANetwork Board of Directors and as its chair provided both of these opportunities. All who read this publication know of the important work that liberal arts colleges do in the development and dissemination of knowledge about Asia. ASIANetwork has a unique role to play in supporting the students and faculties at these institutions, and it has been a joy to be a part of this effort.

During my time on the Board, ASIANetwork has continued to mature as an organization. ASIANetwork will always work with the many foundations that have so generously supported us in the past and that share our sense of mission about the critical need to strengthen education about Asia on our campuses—the Ford Foundation, the Freeman Foundation, the Luce Foundation, and the Japan Foundation, to mention the most prominent. But in recent years, the Board has devoted special attention to establishing a solid financial base for ASIANetwork's everyday operations, and we are making progress toward that goal. In terms of our programming, we continue to seek out new and relevant ways to expand the opportunities we offer our students and faculties. Two recent efforts, both supported by the Luce Foundation, illustrate these efforts. I refer to ASIANetwork's new program focusing attention on Asian art and the role it can play in our classrooms and to the new opportunity provided by the Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam and the American Council of Learned Societies for selected ASIANetwork colleges to host scholars from Vietnam. During my years of service, the Board also developed our first application directed at the U.S. Department of Education for a month-long faculty development program in the Pearl River region of South China. While others on the Board have done the serious work related to the development of these programs,

I have appreciated the opportunity to contribute to these discussions. Each Board chair has special responsibility for the annual conference; let me express my sincere thanks to all who made the 2004 conference at Hickory Ridge a success and especially to the Korea Society for its support of the Sunday morning plenary session on Korea.

The people that I have had the great pleasure to work with during my years on the Board and as chair are far too numerous to mention. I am grateful for the support and friendship of all Board colleagues and for the genuine concern and constructive advice of ASIANetwork's Council of Advisors. I have appreciated the opportunity while chair to meet with representatives of many organizations who share ASIANetwork's goals; these organizations include the Freeman Foundation, the Luce Foundation, the Korea Society, the publication board of the Association for Asia Society, the editorial Board of *Education About Asia*, and the Asian Studies Development Program. The one person I will mention by name is Van Symons, ASIANetwork's Executive Director. Van has worked tirelessly and creatively for ASIANetwork throughout his term. As I have said before, though ASIANetwork has drawn on the talents and energies of many people, no one has done more for ASIANetwork than Van. The long hours we worked together were a pleasure, and I am grateful for the unselfish way he shared his time and knowledge with me.