Board Nominees

The following people have been nominated by the Board of Directors to fill positions on the Board for the term 2006-2009. Board elections will be held at the ASIANetwork business meeting Sunday morning, April 24.

Robert Y. Eng is Professor of History and Department Chair, and member of the Advisory Group for the Asian Studies Program at the University of Redlands, where he has been teaching since 1980. After graduating from Pomona College with a B.A. in mathematics, he earned an M.A. in Asian Studies and a Ph.D. in history at the University of California at Berkeley.

Eng teaches courses on world history and East Asian history, and comparative history seminars on business and entrepreneurship, peasant economies and revolutions, and globalization. He is the author of Economic Imperialism in China: Silk Production and Exports, 1861-1932 (Berkeley: University of California, Institute of East Asian Studies, 1986), and articles on topics ranging from the population history of Qing China and Tokugawa Japan to labor movements and women’s collective action in 20th century China.

Eng is a member of the WWW Virtual Library consortium, and the Webmaster of several Asia-related sites, including an annotated directory of Internet Resources on the Pearl River Delta compiled in conjunction with his participation in the 2005 ASIANetwork Hong Kong-America Center Faculty Development Seminar in South China.

Zhenhu Jin

Zhenhu Jin is Associate Professor of finance at the College of Business Administration, Valparaiso University. Before coming to Valparaiso University, he was an associate professor of finance at Illinois Wesleyan University. He received an ASIANetwork Freeman Foundation Student-Faculty Research Fellowship Grant in 2000 that enabled him to conduct research with Yi Zhang, a student at IWU.

Jin was born and raised in Shanghai, China. He came to the U.S. in 1986. He received his Ph. D in finance in 1994 from the University of Houston. Since then, he has been very active in promoting faculty/student exchanges and short-term visits with Asian countries. When Jin was at Illinois Wesleyan, he led travel courses to Asia 6 times and gained wide knowledge of the countries he visited. After Jin came to Valparaiso in 2002, he served as resident director of the 5-week Summer Program in China in 2004 and 2005 (The program in 2003 was cancelled due to SARS). He is an active member of the Chinese and Japanese Studies Program, and he has helped to bring several visiting scholars and full time students from China. This semester, over 20 such students and scholars from China are on campus. He is actively working on developing an MBA China Study course that he and his colleagues plan to launch next summer. They plan to take their MBA students to China for a few weeks each year as part of the regular curriculum.

His area of expertise is in investment and financial management. During his years at Illinois Wesleyan University, he directed the IWU Student Managed Portfolio, which is part of the university endowment. From 1996 to 2002, the portfolio consistently and significantly outperformed the market. In addition, he has been an arbitrator for the National Association of Securities Dealers since 1998 and is very familiar with the rules and regulations in regards to professionally managed endowments or portfolios.

A part of Jin’s academic research is related to China and Asia. Of the nearly 20 peer-reviewed articles he has published, almost half are related to Asia; five of his last 6 publications focus on China and Asia. He has also done extensive consulting work for Coca Cola China and has been intimately involved in their executive training program from 2000-2004.

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Erin McCarthy (Ph.D. University of Ottawa, 2000) joined the Department of Philosophy and Asian Studies Program at St. Lawrence University in 2000. She teaches courses on ethical theory, feminist philosophy, existential philosophy, Asian philosophy, and introduction to philosophy — from a comparative perspective whenever possible. Her research on comparative philosophy has been published in Philosophy, Culture and Traditions, Sagesse du Corps, Corps et Science: Enjeux culturels et philosophiques. She has also published writing on teaching Asian and comparative philosophy in ASIANetwork Exchange, and on post 9/11 rhetoric and popular culture in Collateral Language. Her current research takes two directions. First, she adds a feminist perspective to comparative philosophy on ethics and the body, in particular using the work of French feminist philosopher Luce Irigaray and Japanese philosophers Watsuji Tetsurō and Yuasa Yasuo. The second current interest proposes how teaching comparative philosophy can contribute to the development of multicultural communities and ‘geocitizens’ on liberal arts campuses. In addition, she has served on Columbia University’s Expanding East Asian Studies collaborative and is Co-Director of St. Lawrence University’s Asian Studies Initiative, an initiative funded by the Freeman Foundation Asian Studies Development Grant.

McCarthy received an ASIANetwork Student-Faculty Fellows grant in the summer of 2001 right after she became involved in ASIANetwork. Her interest in working with the board stems from her experiences at ASIANetwork meetings since 2000, as well as being more involved with Asian studies both at St. Lawrence and beyond. She looks forward to being able to contribute to an organization that has enriched her own research and teaching since her involvement in ASIANetwork began.

Erin McCarthy

Contact Information:

Robert Y. Eng
Professor of History and Department Chair
University of Redlands
1200 E. Colton Avenue, P.O. Box 3080
Redlands, CA 92373-0999
909-793-2121, ext. 4273
Robert_Eng@redlands.edu
FAX: (909) 335-5215

Zhenhu Jin, Ph. D
Associate Professor of Finance
College of Business Administration
Valparaiso University
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-465-7957
Zhenhu.jin@valpo.edu

Erin McCarthy, Ph.D.
Philosophy Department
Asian Studies Program
St. Lawrence University
Canton, New York 13617
315-229-5224
emccarthy@stlawu.edu

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the board meeting as Editor-in-Chief of the book series) remarked, ASIANetwork is no longer the “new kid on the block.” We have established a reputation as evidenced by several requests from different organizations for collaborative work with us. Recognizing that we are indeed growing, there is a need to define the direction of our growth. Thus, at the suggestion of vice-chair Phyllis Larson, the board agreed to develop a strategic or long-range planning document. To help us accomplish this, we will be doing what I consider to be a very Asian tradition, seeking advice from our elders. Paul Watt had earlier proposed, and the board approved, the formation of the Past Chairs Advisory Council, composed of former board chairs and executive directors, and we are inviting them to be part of this conversation. They have much to share and we will profit from their wisdom. And as we move forward, we will always be guided by the vision of our founding members and will remain anchored to the basic mission of the consortium.