

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

# Tribute to Retiring ASIANetwork Leaders

Marking the 15<sup>th</sup> year of ASIANetwork makes us realize that some of our colleagues who led the consortium during its infancy and guided it through its latter years are in the next phase of their career: retirement. To our knowledge, four of those leaders were easing into retirement this academic year or are retiring at the end of spring. They are Suzanne Wilson Barnett (University of Puget Sound), Dottie Borei (Guilford College), Jim Leavell (Furman University), and Stan Mickel (Wittenberg University). To recognize their contributions to building the Asian/ East Asian Studies program on their campuses, I asked their campus colleagues to write summaries of their contributions to their institutions. A consistent comment is that every single one of them laid the foundation for Asian/East Asian Studies on their campuses and was pivotal in the growth and development of the program. I also requested Van Symons, my predecessor, who has worked with all of our four retiring/retired colleagues, to highlight each one's contributions to ASIANetwork. I thank them for contributing to this compilation and I regret any error of omission due to my editing the pieces. To Suzanne, Dottie, Jim, and Stan, our sincere best wishes as you pursue a life of rest, relaxation and leisure! Many, many thanks for all your contributions to ASIANetwork! Maraming salamat!

Teddy O. Amoloza

**Suzanne Wilson Barnett's** contribution to Asian Studies at the **University of Puget Sound** and beyond is incalculable. During her 34-years career as Professor of History at the University of Puget Sound, she has had a profound influence on the creation and development of the university's Asian Studies Program, the strengthening of Asian Studies in the liberal arts curriculum nationally, and the education of countless undergraduate students. Barnett became assistant professor at the University of Puget Sound in 1973, and since that time has been a strong advocate for Asian studies in the undergraduate curriculum and its role in the university's academic program. Barnett has been an active member of the Asian Studies Committee since her arrival, directed the program for over fifteen years, and patiently mentored the many Asian Studies faculty who teach or have taught at Puget Sound over these three decades. In addition, she has frequently served as an outside consultant to programs in Asian Studies at other institutions and has served on the leadership boards of the American Historical Association, the Association for Asian Studies, and ASIANetwork.

Barnett's scholarship focuses on intellectual and educational innovation in late imperial China and also includes



Suzanne Wilson Barnett

United States - China cultural interaction. She teaches undergraduate courses in history and humanities on China and Japan, including a recently-developed, innovative freshman seminar on "Scholars and Warriors in China and Japan," 23 offerings of the Asian Studies gateway course "Asian Societies: Past and Present," and an upper-division Asian Studies course "Asia in Motion." Her teaching over the years has earned her numerous awards, including being honored as the 2002 Washington Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

As she leaves full-time teaching after 34 years, her energy, enthusiasm and erudition will be sorely missed by her colleagues on this campus and beyond. She leaves as her legacy a thriving Asian Studies program at Puget Sound and thousands of students and former students with an enhanced understanding of, and enthusiasm for, Asia. (contributed by *Karl Fields*)

**Suzanne Barnett** served on the board of directors of ASIANetwork from 1996-99 and was board chair during the 1998-99 academic year. In the spring of 1999, the University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University, both in Tacoma, Washington, collaborated to host our spring conference, one of the best attended

conferences we have ever held. Suzanne is best remembered by the board as the creator of the "Cache of Lore," a document that serves as our institutional memory. It does not have the official standing of board by-laws, but rather has been compiled, and continues to be annually updated, and contains significant decisions that have been debated and agreed upon related to a myriad of AN business. Most recently, Suzanne worked with Jim Peterman, a current board member, to create an Investment Policy Statement. Suzanne's work on this document and in shaping the organizational integrity of the consortium has been significant. Suzanne was also instrumental in securing our second grant from the Henry Luce Foundation that funded the publication of a book she co-edited, *Asian Studies in the Undergraduate Curriculum*, which makes a telling case for the need to enhance the study of Asia on North American college campuses.



It is not too much to say that **Dottie Borei** is the East Asian Studies Program at **Guilford College**. Dottie is well-known to the Guilford College as a faculty member who has devoted her entire life, both academically and personally, to local and national communities in the arenas of East Asian studies and public service. During her service as the Director of International Studies/Intercultural Studies in 1997-2005, she played a crucial leadership role in the growth of the East Asian program at Guilford College. Her numerous campus

and college service contributions have had a profound and lasting influence in the development of the Guilford campus to what it is today. She authored and directed several successful grants, namely, Freeman Asian Studies Grant, 2002-2006; US Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Title VI Grants,



Dottie Borei

1983-1985, 1998-2000, and the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, 1999-2000. Throughout her career, Dottie has devoted extraordinary time and energy to the service of the national East Asian community, including terms as President of the Southeast Region/Association for Asian Studies; she is Guilford College's representative to the Southern Atlantic States Association for Asian and African Studies since 1979 and served as its Executive Director in 1989-1992. Her colleague, George Guo, said: "During her 28 years in Guilford College, Dottie has never lost her enthusiasm, her patience, or her sense of humor. She had this impact on many of her students and colleagues, including me. She has left great legacy for us to carry on: a passion for students, a commitment to the scholarly enterprise, a selfless dedication to the community, and a deep-seeded concern for people. Another colleague, Hiroko Hirakawa added a personal note. "Most of all, however, Dottie has been the greatest mentor and friend for me personally. There were many occasions when I felt lost and distressed professionally and personally, and I have always run to Dottie for consultation and consolation because I know she has never failed to provide both concrete advice and non-judgmental understanding. Thank you, Dottie, and we will miss you!" (contributed by *George Guo* and *Hiroko Hirakawa*)

**Dottie Borei** was one of the founding members of ASIANetwork and served on the first board of directors that was formed under the direction of Tom Benson in the fall of 1993. Shortly thereafter, ASIANetwork received its first significant grant of \$225,000 from the Henry Luce

Foundation to develop an ASIANetwork Luce Consultancy Program. Dottie was asked to direct this program which she capably did for the next four years. As director of this program, she carefully identified faculty from small liberal arts colleges willing to serve as consultants to other small colleges seeking to develop and strengthen their Asian Studies programs. Due to her effective leadership, the program, initially funded for three years, ran for four. Twenty-two consultancies were completed. Since then, the model established by Dottie has been used in the ASIANetwork Consultancy Advisory Program which continues to link colleges with consultants and to facilitate consultancy visits. Since 1998, consultancies have been arranged for an additional 25 colleges.



Since the retirement of our dedicated colleague and friend, **Jim Leavell**, the new Asian Studies Suite at **Furman University**, despite the steady flow of students streaming in to explore new offerings, seems empty somehow. Jim has been one of the key contributors to building our Asian Studies program at Furman, and will be sorely missed.

Jim was Furman's first Asia specialist. Since completing his dissertation research on Japanese Police Modernization, much of Jim's research has focused on various aspects of rural temple life, pilgrims, and pilgrimages. Brought in for a one-year appointment in 1974, he quickly made himself indispensable to the History, Art, and Religion Departments. Tirelessly promoting the study of Asia across the curriculum and encouraging departments to hire Asia specialists, Jim was instrumental in creating an Asian Studies Department in 1988. Asian Studies grew in strength during Jim's tenure as chair from 1995 to 2000. The Department today boasts a faculty of fourteen Asian specialists drawn from eight departments, offers four study away opportunities in China, Japan and India, and runs a summer Chinese language school in Suzhou.



Jim Leavell

Jim is an outstanding professor and mentor. The Association of Furman Students awarded Jim the "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" in 1978 and the "Faculty Member of the Year" award in 1989. In 1996, he received the university's "Meritorious Teaching Award. Jim has trained nearly a hundred high school and middle school teachers over the last six years as director of the South Carolina Consortium for Teaching about Asia, the South Carolina branch of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) funded through a generous grant by the Freeman Foundation. Jim continues to direct the program with great enthusiasm today.

Jim's service to International and Asian Studies extends well beyond the halls of Furman University. In 1979, he founded the South Carolina International Consortium and served as its President for almost ten years. From 1993-1996, he became an Executive Board Member of the Southeast Regional Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, and, in 1994-1995, he served as the organization's President. From 1995-2001, he served on the editorial board of *Southeast Asian Studies Review*. All of us in the Asian Studies Department at Furman who have benefited from Jim's tireless giving to the department, his generous mentoring and support, and his caring friendship, are

reluctant to let him go. We know that wherever Jim pursues his passion for photography, hiking, and traveling in the years ahead, he will always remain a focused and dedicated Asianist. We'll miss you, Jim! (*Kate Kaup*)

**Jim Leavell** served on the board of directors from 2000-2003 and was board chair during the 2002-03 academic year.

While on the board, Jim took a special interest in helping to strengthen AN's website thus becoming the first website editor and worked closely with Tim Cheek, Diane Clayton, and Craig Rice to create the original design of our website. He also initiated the creation of the ASIANetwork photo gallery - collections of snapshots taken during the annual conference since 2001. During his term as board chair, he,

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along with his colleagues at Furman University, organized and hosted the highly successful 2003 spring AN conference in downtown Greenville, South Carolina.



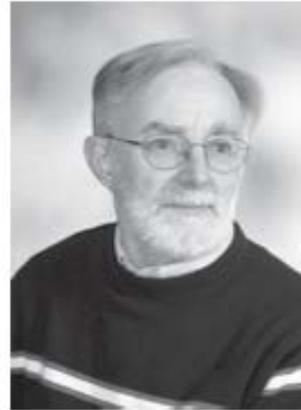
It is impossible to think of East Asian studies at Wittenberg apart from **Stan Mickel**. From his arrival at **Wittenberg University** in 1971, fresh with an Indiana University Ph.D., he has been at the heart of the program. For three decades, he was the sole teacher of the Chinese language, regularly teaching far more courses than Wittenberg contracts demanded so that every student's language needs could be met. His students today serve in leading positions around the world: in business and industry, in journalism, in academia, and in the U.S. government. He chaired our Language Department for many years in the 1990s, and he chaired the committee that oversaw the development of Hollenbeck Hall, the state-of-the-art humanities building that opened in 1999. His meticulous oversight was instrumental in making it quite an outstanding building. He also produced a stream of articles and books, first on how to decipher China's ancient oracle bones, then on Chinese language pedagogy. His three books *Reading Chinese Newspapers: Tactics and Skills* (1992) and the companion student workbook, and *Dictionary for Readers of Modern Chinese Prose: Your Guide to the*

*250 Key Grammatical Markers in Chinese* (1999) continue to be in demand at Yale University Press.

Above all—for members of the university's East Asia Program—he was an indefatigable and successful program builder. Along with his colleague Eugene Swanger, he created the program at the beginning of the 1970s; later, he served for more than a decade as its chair and enthusiastic spokesperson, overseeing significant growth in both the range of courses and the numbers of students studying East Asia. More recently, he has filled a crucial role as the program's elder statesman. Conceiving the East Asia Program without him is as painful as it is difficult!

**Stan Mickel** served on the ASIANetwork board of directors from 1997-2000 and was board chair during the 1999-2000 academic year. After completing his work on the board, Stan was asked to work with Cathy Benton on AN's first Development Committee. For the next four years, Stan worked tirelessly on development issues seeking to identify

potential sources of support to fund ASIANetwork programs, working with others to write grant proposals, and maintaining contact with supporters of our grant initiatives. A number of grant programs to ASIANetwork has benefited from Stan's input. He wrote a remarkable chapter in the *Asian Studies in the Undergraduate Curriculum* book developed by ASIANetwork and published with support from the Henry Luce Foundation in 2000. He also furthered the work of Freeman Foundation funded Student-Faculty Fellows by helping to publish a special volume of the *Wittenberg University East Asian Studies Journal* containing selected research papers from the first three years of the grant. Most



Stan Mickel

recently, Stan accepted the directorship of what is perhaps the most complex program ever run by ASIANetwork, the "Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum" project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. He will continue to run this program even through his retirement until the end product of the project, a book that will make a case for integrating Asian art into the undergraduate curriculum and introduce and evaluate the Asian art found on our campuses, is published in spring 2009.

## Membership News

**ALVERNO COLLEGE: Russell G. Brooker**, Associate Professor of the Social Science Department, taught as a Fulbright scholar at two universities in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, during the spring semester of 2006: Behavioral Science Research and American Studies at the University of Pedagogy (Dai Hoc Su Pham); Marketing at Van Hien University (Dai Hoc Dan Lap Van Hien). In addition, he taught Statistics at the Institute for Educational Research.

Brooker is planning to return to Ho Chi Minh City this summer to teach courses in American History and American Politics at the Center for International Education.

**ANTIOCH COLLEGE: Brian Victoria**, Professor of Japanese Studies and Director of the Buddhist Studies in Japan Program, has published a revised and expanded 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of his book, *Zen at War* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), the first English-language study of the complicity of institutional Buddhism, particularly the Zen school, in Japan's overseas imperialist expansion and domestic political repression. The second edition expands considerably on the historical roots of Buddhism's political compromises in support of ruling establishments from the time of King Ashoka in India to

Buddhism's spread to China, Korea and Japan.

**AUSTIN COLLEGE: Janet Huber Lowry**, Associate Professor of Sociology, co-edited *Recent Studies on Indian Women: Empirical Work of Social Scientists* (Rawat Publications, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 2007) with Kamal K. Misra, Professor of Anthropology at University of Hyderabad and former Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Austin College. This book features an introductory chapter overview and 17 studies about women in historical and cultural contexts, demographic, health, and