

## 2010 Distinguished Service Award

In 2008, the Board of Directors voted to institute the Distinguished Service Award to recognize the contributions of and express gratitude to our colleagues for their long and dedicated service to ASIANetwork. The first recipient of the award was **Van J. Symons** of Augustana College. In 2009, two colleagues were presented with the award: **Stan Mickel**, Professor of Chinese, Wittenberg University (retired in 2007) and **Joan O'Mara**, Professor of Art History, Washington and Lee University (deceased, 2009).

In 2010, the Board voted to present the award to **Paul B. Watt**, Professor of Asian Studies and Walter E. Bundy Professor of Religious Studies at DePauw University. Paul Watt joined the Board in 2001 and served as Board Chair in 2003-2004. He continued his service to the Board as a member of the Development Team starting in 2005 until 2010. He is now a professor at Waseda University's Center for International Education in Tokyo, Japan. We publish here the tribute by Cathy Benton (Lake Forest College) when the award was presented to Paul at the Business meeting during the annual conference in April 2010.

Teddy O. Amoloza

### In Recognition of Paul B. Watt

Catherine Benton  
Lake Forest College

More than 10 years ago, I ran into Paul Watt at an American Academy of Religion Conference in Boston. Paul said he was looking for new ways to be involved in Asian Studies, and I said, "I've got the perfect organization for you!"

I explained that ASIANetwork was a new consortium of small liberal arts colleges established to strengthen Asian Studies at these institutions by developing educational projects in Asia. I told him that the people involved in ASIANetwork are great people to work with, motivated by a spirit of collaboration and the shared conviction that study in Asia is essential for students interested in a deeper understanding of Asian societies and cultures.

Sometime after this conversation in Boston, Paul did bring DePauw into the consortium. And after attending several ASIANetwork conferences, Paul was nominated to the Board of Directors and subsequently asked to chair the Board. By the end of his Board term, Paul was hooked on the work of ASIANetwork and offered to serve again, this time as a member of the Development Committee.

I would particularly like to highlight here the work that Paul has done over these last five years on the Development Committee.

Paul helped coordinate and shape the discussion of the many ideas that finally became the "Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum" project that was generously funded by the Luce Foundation. Numerous member colleges have benefited from this Asian Art project through the expert evaluations of their campus Asian art collections and through

the availability of the professional quality digitized images available on a web platform linked to the ASIANetwork website.

Realizing the benefit to the consortium of keeping past board chairs involved, Paul initiated the Past Chairs Advisory Council. Previous Board members continue to serve the organization in a variety of ways, such as managing new ASIANetwork projects, advising the Board about financial policies, and expanding the technological capabilities of the website.

Reflecting on the first ten years of the organization, the Board decided that it must begin to institutionalize the consortium's administrative procedures and develop a strategic plan for future

growth. Paul supported this process that resulted in the establishment of short-term and long-term goals determined by the needs and concerns of its members.

Most recently, Paul spearheaded the "Faculty Enhancement Project in Asia" initiative designed to help faculty with established expertise in one region of Asia to expand the scope of their teaching and research into a different region of Asia. This program will promote faculty development in India, South Korea, and Vietnam.

Certainly, Paul has taken his role as a supporter of ASIANetwork seriously, sometimes flying in from as far away as Japan to join us for Board meetings and Conferences.

So for all these contributions, offered with a generous spirit, a kind heart, and an ever-ready willingness to laugh—we recognize Paul Watt with the 2010 ASIANetwork Distinguished Service Award.



Jason Fuller presenting the award to Paul Watt