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From the President

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from your new President! I am honored to serve you in this position and thank you for your confidence for electing me as the first female Asian President of CEAL.

In the midst of the hectic schedules during the Philadelphia annual meeting last March, I regret not having had an opportunity to pay proper tribute to Kris Troost for her service as President. Taking this opportunity, I wish to thank Kris for all her hard work for CEAL. During her term as President, we have seen several positive changes in annual meeting programs. The most notable was the separation of the business agendas from plenary sessions, which allowed the creation of substantive programs with stimulating speakers for plenary. The first joint program of the Technical Processing Committee and the Public Services Committee proved to be a highly successful experiment. Kris also made a special effort to reach out to our peers in CONSALD and CORMOSEA on issues of interest to all of us.

I wish to report on major activities of the Executive Board since the annual meeting.

First of all, I congratulate and welcome the following newly elected Board members.

Vice-President/President-elect: Peter Zhou, UC Berkeley

Membership Committee Chair: Hikaru Nakano, University of Florida, Gainesville

Member-at-large: Beth Katzoff, Columbia University

Member-at-large with Korean Studies focus: Mikyung Kang, Harvard University

Over the past two months, the Executive Board continued our discussions via email the agenda items we could not finish during the annual meetings. Our work led to two online surveys on Eastlib: one on the CEAL Fellowship Dinner and the other on whether to make JEAL a peer reviewed journal or not. We were gratified to receive many responses on both surveys. Thank you very much for your participation. Your thoughtful answers and comments will help us to make appropriate decisions in the future. I also thank Dr. Ying Zhang of the University of California, Irvine for administering the Fellowship Dinner survey, and Gail King of Brigham Young University for the JEAL survey. Please read their very informative and interesting reports in this issue.

Another major EB agenda item, which is still ongoing, has to do with the Chair position of the Committee on Library Technology (CLT). The Board realized that the CLT's role has evolved so much over the years that it became necessary to reevaluate how it fits organizationally vis-à-vis other committees. With this in mind, a Special Committee to Review Organizational Issues for CLT was appointed with the following members:

Vickie Doll (Statistics Chair)
Joy Kim (Current CEAL President)
Philip Melzer (Former CEAL President)
Hikaru Nakano (Membership Chair)

The charges for the Special Committee are to review and identify organizational issues for CLT in the context of other CEAL committees, propose solutions including a Bylaws revision if necessary, and submit recommendations to the Executive Board. I thank the members of this Special Committee for their willingness to serve.

Speaking of service, CEAL is an organization of volunteers. Without the hard work and selfless service of many dedicated colleagues, our organization would not be what it is today. We don't have many formal venues to express our appreciation to those deserving a special recognition. So I wish to use this column to highlight some of our colleague's extraordinary contributions, one person in each issue lest it becomes too long.

Gail King is my choice for this issue. We are all aware of her contribution to CEAL as the sole Editor of JEAL since 1996. For fourteen years, she has quietly and consistently produced high quality JEAL issues three times each year. As if this was not enough, she also voluntarily took up the mailing of the issues to all subscribers, which used to be CEAL Secretary's duties. While I can imagine and appreciate the toll these challenging and demanding responsibilities must have taken on her workloads, it is her other, perhaps less celebrated contribution I wish to call your attention to. Without any CEAL support, financial or otherwise, Gail singlehandedly digitized all the back issues of JEAL (and its predecessors), starting with no. 1 published in 1963! Whenever I access the online JEAL database from my computer, with a perfect ease thanks to its convenient search and browse functions, I am reminded of Gail's invisible hard work of many years. I am also grateful for Brigham Young University's provision of computing power, technology, and administrative support for Gail to complete this massive project without CEAL's assistance. Along with all the issues of JEAL Gail produced, the online JEAL database will be her lasting legacy as one of CEAL's most significant gifts to the world of librarianship for generations to come.

Gail, on behalf of all CEAL members, I send you my highest appreciation, respect, and admiration for your model professionalism and dedication to JEAL. More importantly, your grace and character as a beautiful human being have been a source of inspiration for me personally. Please also convey our deep appreciation to those at Brigham Young University who have assisted you to produce, distribute, and provide access to JEAL.

Joy Kim
President, Council on East Asian Libraries