



T'ang Studies Society

Founded in 1983
Website: www.tangstudies.org
EIN: 35-1534995

President: Anthony DeBlasi
Treasurer: Manling Luo
Secretary: Jonathan Skaff
Journal Editor: Nicholas M. Williams

January 15, 2020

Dear T'ang Studies Society Members:

I am writing to report on the activities of the Society over the past year. During 2019, the Society supported Tang-related scholarship in several ways and undertook important transitions. Before describing those activities, I would first like to note the results of our Board of Directors election last spring. We welcomed Sarah Allen for a second term, and Beverly Bossler and Ping Wang to their first terms. I am grateful to the three of them for their commitment to serve, and I appreciate the willingness of members to stand for election.

The Society underwent important leadership changes this year. I succeeded Anna Shields as President of the Society on Saturday, March 23. I know I speak for the entire Society in expressing deep gratitude to Anna for her two terms of service as President. I aspire to live up to her sterling example. The Board also split the Secretary-Treasurer position into two separate offices. Manling Luo is our new Treasurer, and Jonathan Skaff ended his term on the Board and now serves in the new Secretary position. I thank both for agreeing to take up these important leadership roles. The three of us met in Albany over the summer to familiarize ourselves with our new responsibilities and have since worked together to create as seamless a transition as possible.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of our current journal editor, Nick Williams, the most recent issue of *Tang Studies*, number 37, has just appeared—if you are a member who paid dues for 2019 and have not yet received your copy, please let us know as soon as possible.

The Society continues to support financially the research efforts of its members. The Society has committed to help support a conference this year: “Tang Studies and Beyond: A Symposium in Remembrance of Antonino Forte” at the University of Naples in April. In addition, the society is sponsoring a panel at AAS in Boston: “Multi-ethnic Approaches to the Tang-Song Transition,” which will take place on Saturday, March 21 from 3-4:45 in the Sheraton Boston: Clarendon Room, 3rd floor.

The Society's efforts are made possible by the generous support of the organizations that believe in its mission. The Elling O. Eide Foundation once again generously donated funds to support the Society's work. I look forward to more collaboration with the Eide Foundation and its Research Library. We have also been at work forging a collaborative effort with the Tang Research Foundation. In an exciting development, the TRF has approved a proposal that will provide funding for research grants and workshops over the next few years. An announcement of the first round of these grants will appear shortly.

The Board's election of officers is just one aspect of determining the leadership of the Society. More important is the membership's selection of the Board of Directors. The participation of members in the Board election is crucial to our work. This year we will once again use an all-electronic voting procedure. The election will employ the secure ElectionRunner online election website. To help you prepare for voting, we have attached the short biographies that the candidates supplied for your reference. You will receive an email notification at the beginning of the voting period. When you click on the log-in button in that email, you will be sent directly to the website, where you will log in and see the ballot with the candidates. You can also simply click on the Info (“i”) icon to the right of the candidate's name to see each candidate bio. As usual, please choose THREE candidates (there is also space for write-in-candidates) and submit your vote. The election will run from January 20 at 6:00 a.m. until February 3 at 11:45 p.m. Eastern time. Please be sure to

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cast your vote before that end date. If you have any questions, feel free to email the Secretary, Jonathan Skaff at jkskaf@ship.edu.

As always, we ask that you please consider submitting your work for publication in *Tang Studies*. The Society's website has submission guidelines and procedures: <http://tangstudies.org/Journal.html>. Submissions should be sent to Nick Williams at editor@tangstudies.org. If your institution's library does not currently subscribe to the journal, please encourage it to do so. Remember that all current members have access to the journal's contents online. Members who pay their 2020 dues will receive the 2020 password with instructions for accessing this content. We ask that you respect the copyright interests of the Society and its publishing partners and not share your username and password.

We are now also beginning the collection of dues for 2020. Timely renewal of your membership enables us to maintain contact with you and provides for uninterrupted access to the benefits of the Society. Please take a few moments at your earliest convenience to renew your membership for 2020, which will also ensure that you receive volume 38 when it is published in December of 2020. Also, if you have colleagues or graduate students working in the field who are not members, please encourage them to join the Society now. The larger the membership, the more vibrant the Society will be and the more it can do to promote the field. If you are not sure about the current status of your membership, please email Jonathan Skaff.

Dues may be paid via PayPal, using the link on the Society's website, or checks drawn on U.S. banks via mail. Regular membership is \$35 per year, and student membership is \$20 per year. Regular members can opt to renew for one, two or three years. Of course, Life Memberships remain an option if you can consider that. Because of U.S. banking laws, we cannot accept checks or money orders drawn on non-U.S. banks, so most non-U.S. members will want to use the PayPal option. If your contact information has changed, be sure to notify us. For more information on membership and payment, see:

<http://www.tangstudies.org/Membership.html>

Dues payments by check should be mailed to the Treasurer, Manling Luo, at the following address:

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Indiana University
355 N. Jordan Avenue, GISB 2058, Bloomington, IN 47405 USA

Other correspondence and inquiries should be sent to the Secretary, Jonathan Skaff, at the following address:

History/Philosophy Department, Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257 USA jkskaf@ship.edu

You can also reach us at admin@tangstudies.org

Finally, our next formal meeting will take place in conjunction with the upcoming meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Boston, Massachusetts, March 19-22, 2020. Our general meeting and reception will be held on **Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 – 11:30 p.m.** at the Sheraton Boston: Back Bay Ballroom D, 2nd floor. We strongly encourage you to attend the reception to learn more about the activities we have planned for the coming year. We will send a reminder with these details as the date approaches. We hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,



Anthony DeBlasi
President