



# T'ang Studies Society

Founded in 1983  
Website: [www.tangstudies.org](http://www.tangstudies.org)  
EIN: 35-1534995

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

January 26, 2026

Dear T'ang Studies Society Members:

I am writing to report on the activities of the Society during 2025 and alert you to upcoming events in 2026. During the past year, the Society continued to carry out its core activities as well as reaching an important milestone. Before getting to those activities, I would like to begin with the recognition that the Society depends on its members to carry out the important work of supporting research related to the Tang Dynasty. So, I want to once again welcome our new members to the organization and express my gratitude to our long-term members for their continuing commitment to the Society.

As is traditional, I'll begin my round-up of the year with the results of last spring's election. The Society was once again blessed by enthusiastic members willing to stand for election to the Board of Directors. We welcomed three members to new terms on the Board. Alexei Ditter and Don Wyatt were re-elected to the Board, and Anne Feng was elected to her first term. I want to also extend the Society's gratitude to Wang Ping for her service as her term on the Board came to an end.

The Tang Studies Society Annual Meeting and Reception at AAS in Columbus was as well attended as ever. I was glad to have the opportunity to see so many of you and enjoy the camaraderie that is the TSS tradition.

The core activity of the Society remains the publication of the journal. Issue 43 appeared this past November, so it is now available on Project Muse. For those of you receiving the hard copy, it should have reached your mailboxes by this point. If you paid dues for 2025 and have not received your copy of the journal, please email the secretary as soon as possible ([admin@tangstudies.org](mailto:admin@tangstudies.org)), so we can remedy the situation.

The Society's commitment to supporting scholarly activities also continued during 2025. Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Elling Eide Center and the Tang Research Foundation, we are again running all our grant programs for 2025: Research Grants, Scholarly Production Grants, and Conference Travel grants.

In addition to the grant programs, the Society reached another milestone by hosting its third international field conference at the Eide Center in Sarasota, Florida at the end of April. Under the theme of "Questioning Boundaries: Contemporary Approaches to Tang China," attendees from three continents gathered to exchange their research. We are exceedingly grateful for the very generous support of the Tang Research Foundation for the conference as well as the continuing support of the Eide Center. No doubt, the program will lead to many important publications, not least in the pages of *Tang Studies*.

The 2026 TSS Annual Meeting and Reception will once again be held in conjunction with AAS, this year in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. We will meet in our traditional time slot: Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the Malaspina Room in the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel. If you will be in Vancouver, I hope to see you there. This year, the Society is also sponsoring two panels at the conference: "Border-crossings and Identity Strategies in Middle Period China" on Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. in VCC Room 204, and "Negotiating Legitimacy in Tang and Song China: Tradition, Innovation, Identity" on Saturday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m. in VCC Room 201. I encourage you to attend both if they fit your schedule.

Before the Annual Meeting, there is another important contribution you can make to the Society. Member participation in the election of the Board of Directors is crucial to our work. This year we will once again use

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an all-electronic voting procedure. The election will employ the secure ElectionRunner online election website. To help you prepare for voting, I am including with this message the candidates' short biographies for your reference. You will receive an email notification at the beginning of the voting period. As usual, please choose THREE candidates (there is also space for write-in candidates) and submit your vote. The election will run from Monday, February 2 at 7:00 a.m. until Wednesday, February 11 at 11:55 p.m. Eastern time. Please be sure to cast your vote before that end date. If you have any questions, feel free to email the Secretary, Jonathan Skaff at [admin@tangstudies.org](mailto:admin@tangstudies.org).

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](mailto:editor@tangstudies.org). If your institution's library does not currently subscribe to the journal, please encourage it to do so. Information on institutional subscriptions with JHUP can be found at the following URL: <https://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/tang-studies>. Remember that all current members have access to the journal's contents online. Members will receive instructions for activating their account along with the 2026 online access code when they renew their memberships. As always, we ask that you respect the copyright interests of the Society and its publishing partners by not sharing your username and password or share digital versions of articles with AI or Large Language Model tools.

We are now also beginning the collection of dues for 2026. Timely renewal of your membership enables us to maintain contact with you and provides for uninterrupted access to the benefits of the Society, including your journal subscription, eligibility for grants, and the opportunity to participate in Society elections. Please take a few moments at your earliest convenience to renew your membership for 2026, which will also ensure that you receive volume 44 when it is published toward the end of the year. 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 Secretary 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 North Eagleson Avenue, GISB 2058, Bloomington, IN 47405 USA

If you choose to renew by mail, please also send an e-mail to the Treasurer ([luom@indiana.edu](mailto:luom@indiana.edu)) to alert her of that fact so we can process your renewal and get your online access to the journal registered as quickly as possible. Check processing time can be a bit slow, and we do not want your membership delayed by that fact.

As in past years, members who would prefer to limit their access to the digital platform and forego the hard copy may choose "Digital Only" in the Journal Option drop down menu when paying their dues via PayPal. If you are paying by check, you may indicate "Digital Only" on the check memo line.

Other correspondence and inquiries should be sent to the Secretary, Jonathan Skaff, at the the following email address: [jkskaff@retiree.ship.edu](mailto:jkskaff@retiree.ship.edu)

Once again please note the date of the upcoming Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 9:00 p.m. We strongly encourage you to attend to learn more about the activities we have planned for the coming year (not to mention spending convivial time with colleagues). We will send a reminder as the date approaches. We hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony DeBlasi". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Anthony DeBlasi  
President