

With Gratitude to *The Middle Ground Journal's* First Chief Editor, Hong-Ming Liang, Ph.D.

Hong-Ming was chief editor of *The Middle Ground Journal* from its inception in 2009 through 2019. He created out of nothing an online, peer-reviewed, open-access, teaching journal. *Ex nihilo* is accurate. The magnitude of that undertaking will take a moment to sink in. The journal was created when the Midwest World History Association (MWWHA.org) came into being, thanks to Paul Jentz calling together a gathering of random world historians and teachers in November 2009. To my recollection, Hong-Ming did not say much during the gathering, but he volunteered to take the lead on seeing if an online journal could be established. A few others, myself included, volunteered, too. Hong-Ming was the one who made the journal *work*. He not only garnered the institutional support needed for the journal to be online and open-access, he also assembled and guided, herded, and persuaded a crew of editors and contributors to keep articles moving through the process with the most patient emails I have ever received. Hong-Ming's students became entangled in his global ken and soon there was an offshoot publication, *North Star Reports* (northstarreports.org), where students shared their wide-ranging experiences from every corner of the world. It is an astounding record of his dedication to education and supporting others in their education, in whatever form it takes.

Hong-Ming created not a journal but an arena of opportunities for historians, teachers, and students to learn about the world. My humblest hope is that *The Middle Ground Journal* continues in that tradition.

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