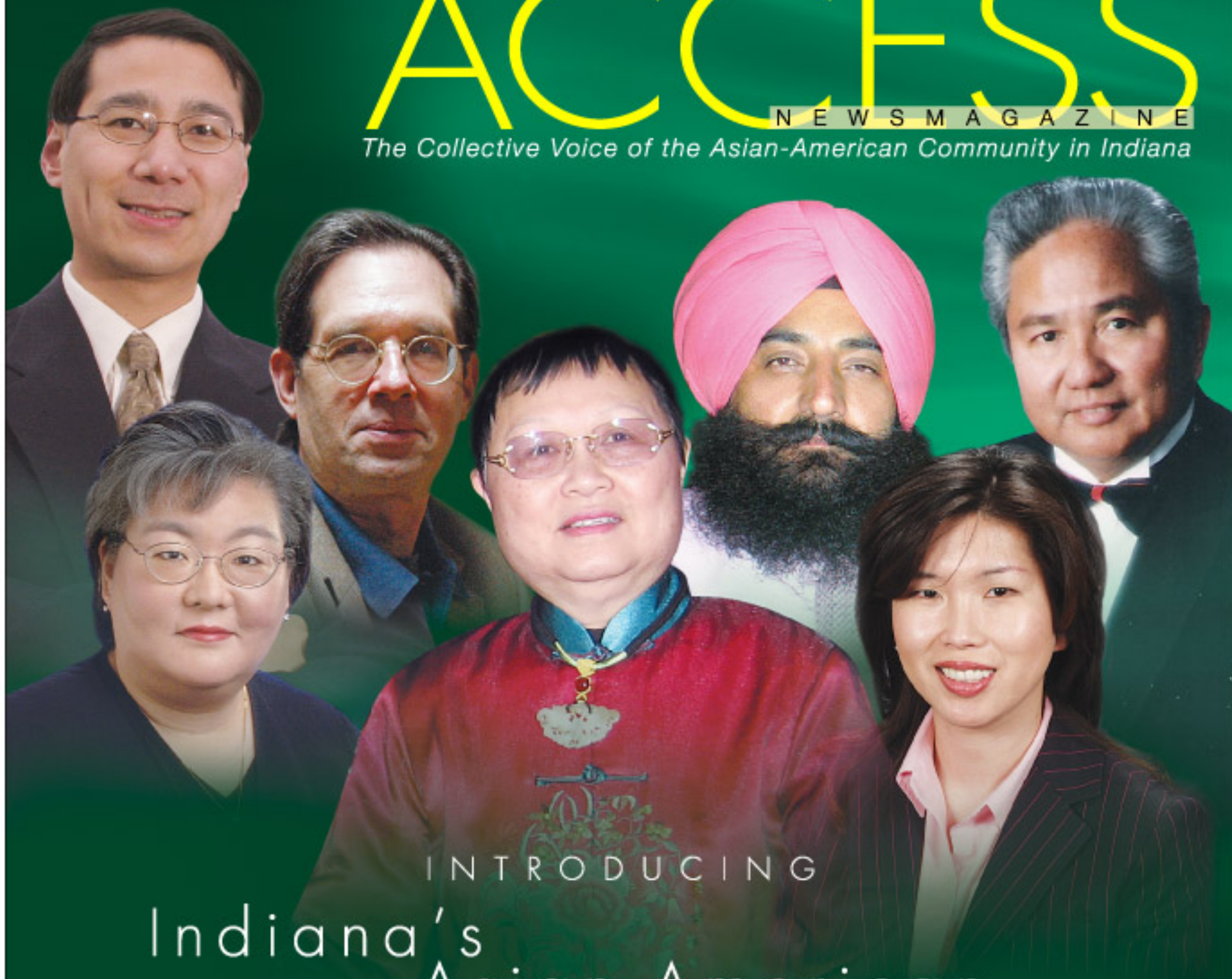


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*The Collective Voice of the Asian-American Community in Indiana*



INTRODUCING  
Indiana's  
Asian-American  
Community HEROES

MEET ORDINARY ASIANS DOING  
EXTRAORDINARY WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

BURMA • VIETNAM • JAPAN • PAKISTAN • THAILAND • MALAYSIA • ETC.

# PHYLIS LAN LIN, Ph.D.

Dr. Lin uses the acronym "VIP"—for Vision, Integrity, and Passion—in all she does, even in her social work at the University of Indianapolis which is appropriately named "The Phylis Lan Lin Program in Social Work."

In her accomplished career as a sociologist and professor, receiving VIP treatment and having programs and events bearing her name is not uncommon for Dr. Lin.

In 1991 Mayor William Hudnut III proclaimed July 26, 1991, as "Dr. Phylis Lan Lin Day" to honor her contributions in strengthening the family unit all over the world. In November 2001 Dr. Lin was designated a member of the "Good Old Girls" in the Indianapolis Business Journal's Women in Business, which named her as one of the 33 most influential women in the city of Indianapolis. She recently was highlighted in the March 2003 Indianapolis Woman as a person of inspiration because of her survival of breast cancer.

Dr. Lin is much more than her accomplishments. She is a mixture of modesty, humility, passion, energy, dedication, vision, and humor. She tells you that she was born in Taiwan to a "modest family."

She was the first-born of five children—four girls and one boy—to Yun-Teng Lan and Dr. Yu-Chiao Lin. Her father gave her a beautiful Chinese name, "Tsai-Fong," which means "When the wind blows, the grass will bend."

Though greatly influenced by her artist-philosopher father, Dr. Lin counts her mother as her personal real-life hero. "She is a successful ophthalmologist, greatest mother and wife on earth, intelligent, kind and compassion. She is 90 now and continues to cook, write, and read. She



## The VIP of Social Work

**"Be passionate about what you do. See your service, your work, as blessed. You are shaping individuals, and individuals shape society."**



retired after practicing medicine for 50 years."

Her parents gave Dr. Lin a strong foundation. She built on this by completing her undergraduate work in Taiwan. She wanted to pursue a graduate program in applied sociology. This led her to the United States, where she graduated from Montana State University and then went on to earn her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1972.

Dr. Lin's first teaching job was at Missouri Southeast State University. After her first year at MSSU, she looked at colleges in the Indianapolis area. When asked why she chose Indiana Central College, she showed her sense of humor and practicality: "I did not want to drive on the interstate."

She describes herself as a visionary and a lifetime learner. She seeks advice from those "above" and "below" her, valuing each and every person she meets.

Dr. Lin's words of wisdom: "Be passionate about what you do. See your service, your work, as blessed. You are shaping individuals, and individuals shape society."

To this day, Dr. Lin thoroughly enjoys her work at the University and shows no signs of slowing down. Her work and who she is as a person continue to foster the VIP motto. And her friends, colleagues, and students couldn't be more grateful.

After all, it is Dr. Lin—described by them as a lady with a big heart, deep compassion, high spirit, far vision, overwhelming energy, unfathomable generosity, and worldwide influence... a woman who gives all of herself and engages in life fully to make a difference in everything she does—who has opened doors and widened career frontiers for a number of Chinese and other Asians. Words of honor reserved only for heroes, a VIP among heroes at that.