

CREATORS SYNDICATE

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CREATORS NAMES THREE NEW VICE PRESIDENTS AND OPERATIONS MANAGER

On August 15, Creators Syndicate announced the promotion of three longtime employees to the position of vice president and named a new operations manager. Marianne Sugawara will be vice president of operations, Melissa Lin will be vice president of business affairs and Kathy Kei will be vice president and editorial director. Andrea Fryrear is the new operations manager.

"We have an incredibly strong staff, and I felt it was time to acknowledge the contributions of some of the key employees," said Rick Newcombe, president and founder of Creators Syndicate. "We are experiencing solid growth in a rapidly changing marketplace, and I want for our corporate structure to reflect the executive responsibilities that these employees have already assumed."

Marianne Sugawara is one of the longest serving employees of the company, having been with Creators Syndicate since January 1989. She has been an integral part of the office since then, most recently serving as executive assistant to the president and head of international syndication.

"Marianne has been the link between the talent and all departments within the company," Newcombe said. "She is an invaluable employee who helps run the day-to-day operations as smoothly and efficiently as I have ever seen."

Melissa Lin joined Creators Syndicate in February 1992 and has worked her way up through the company's business ranks, having served as accounting manager and business manager. She received her bachelor's degree from Hunter College, City University of New York in 1987 and an MBA from Chapman University in 1998.

"In addition to overseeing the accounting department, Melissa has been negotiating contracts with our columnists and cartoonists, generating new business on the Internet and helping plan strategies for Creators Syndicate's future growth," Newcombe said. "She has become an indispensable executive at the company."

Kathy Kei started working at Creators Syndicate in July 1999 in the editorial department and has played an increasingly prominent role within the company each year. In addition to editing, she is in charge of coordinating all editorial schedules and helping to select columns and comic strips for future syndication. She had previously been employed by InStyle magazine. She has a bachelor's degree from UCLA.

"Kathy has very sound judgment and is one of the finest editors I have ever known," Newcombe said. "She has done a wonderful job reorganizing the editorial department and in working with our columnists and cartoonists."

Andrea Fryrear started with Creators Syndicate in February 2006, working with Christina Lee, who resigned recently. She received her bachelor's degree from Austin College in 2004 and a master's degree in women's studies from Oxford University in 2005.

"Andrea is very bright, personable and extremely knowledgeable about the digital world," Newcombe said. "I know she will help us continue to grow and expand in the years ahead, particularly as the term 'new media' continues to be redefined."

Creators Syndicate, one of the largest newspaper and Internet syndicates in the world, represents more than 100 features to over 2,400 newspapers and Internet sites around the globe, including editorial cartoons by Mike Luckovich, Steve Kelley and Chip Bok, and columns by Bill O'Reilly, Robert Novak and Molly Ivins, the comic strips *B.C.* and *The Wizard of Id* by Johnny Hart, *One Big Happy* by Rick Detorie, and the comic panel *Speed Bump* by Dave Coverly. To find out more, visit www.creators.com.

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