Regional Worlds Postdoctoral Fellow

Regional Worlds and the Center for East Asian Studies, The University of Chicago, will sponsor one Postdoctoral Fellow to be in residence at the university for a period of three to six months in 1999. While at the university, the fellow will conduct personal research, present one public lecture, interact with University of Chicago faculty, Midwest Faculty Fellows, graduate research fellows, and advanced graduate students through participation in Regional Worlds activities.

Regional Worlds Graduate Writing Fellows

In conjunction with the Center for East Asian Studies, Regional Worlds 1998-99 has awarded dissertation write-up fellowships to two University of Chicago graduate students whose dissertation work relates to the Regional Worlds 1998-99 theme. The Graduate Writing Fellows will participate in all Regional Worlds programming, which includes colloquia, curriculum development discussions, bibliographical research, and the culminating conference. The two Fellows will also present a public lecture based on their dissertation research.

The Graduate Writing Fellows for the 1998-99 academic year are William Schaefer and Melissa Wender, advanced graduate students in The University of Chicago's Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations. Schaefer's research topic is entitled "Shanghai's Margins: Shi Zhecun and Modernist Fictions of the Past." Wender's project is entitled "Tripping the Borders: Literature by Koreans in Japan, 1965-1995."

Contact: Xiaobing Tang, Program Coordinator; John A. Crespi, Program Assistant, Regional Worlds, Pick Hall 126, 5828 South University Ave., Chicago, IL 60637; Tel.: 773/834-2759; Fax: 773/702-8260; regionalworlds@uchicago.edu; http://www.uchicago.edu/cis/globalization/

ASIAN STUDIES ACROSS THE CURRICULUM
1998 ASIANetwork CONFERENCE PANEL

Penny Campbell
History, Agnes Scott College

Panel Chair Penny Campbell teaches two introductory courses, "Introduction to the Asian World," which comes up to the twentieth century, and "The Asian World in Modern Times," which treats the twentieth century. She supplements Rhoads Murphey's text, A History of Asia, with such works as The Travels of Marco Polo (1254-1323) and Pang-Mei Chang's Bound Feet and Western Dress (1996), depending on the time period. Campbell also teaches "South Asia," "Twentieth-Century Southeast Asia," "The United States and China," "Emergence of Japan as a World Power," "The Chinese Revolution in the Twentieth Century," and a topics course on Asian biography.

Penny Campbell, History, Agnes Scott College
Rosemary Cunningham, Economics, Agnes Scott College

The purpose of the panel was to discuss ways in which small colleges with few, if any, Asian specialists can enhance the study of Asia through the utilization of existing faculty members and other steps. Penny Campbell described the college-sponsored visit of seven Agnes Scott faculty members, led by President Mary Brown Bullock, to Korea and the PRC in the summer of 1997. This was an experiment in jump-starting an increased Asian orientation on a campus of 700 students by exposing individuals in different academic disciplines to a world region largely unfamiliar to them. Since they were all involved in the Women's Studies Program, scholarship on women became the focus of their journey.

Among the subsequent benefits to the college have been changes in faculty outlook regarding Asia, an examination by each participant of her course content with the intention of reformulating it, augmenting it, or approaching the subject matter differently, and proposals for curriculum enhancement. The college is also viewing its public events calendar as a mechanism for increasing awareness of Asia on campus and in the community, and it expects the global outlook which it is promoting to attract a more diverse student body.

Rosemary Cunningham, whose concentration on international finance encompasses Asia and who accompanied President Bullock, elaborated on the
program followed by the seven Agnes Scott faculty members, mentioned the visits to Korean and Chinese institutions which may lead to faculty and student exchanges, and commented on surprising or eye-opening aspects of the trip. She was particularly enthusiastic about the contributions that the faculty members in different disciplines made to each other from their own academic backgrounds and perspectives. The resulting synergy was an important element to the overall success of the experience.

Dorothy Borei, History, Guilford College

Dottie Borei specializes in the history of China, Japan, and the Pacific Rim at Guilford College, an institution of 1100-1200 students, and she described methods she has used to increase interest in Asia on her campus. They range from initiating a study group to read a book together (one suggestion is The Tale of Genji) to asking the college bookstore to carry a few books on Asian subjects (several possibilities are Mark Salzman's Iron and Silk, Jung Chang's Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China, and Sumiko Iwao's The Japanese Woman). Another idea is to invite faculty members from outside Asian studies to pay class visits where they comment on some aspect of the course content, on videocassettes, or on assigned readings.

Bill Guinee, Anthropology, Westminster College

Bill Guinee, arriving at Westminster College a few years ago, found that there were 650-700 students and about fifty faculty members, but only one Asianist, a Korean political scientist who taught American government. Two other professors had Asian components in their broader courses. Through needling faculty members to add Asian subjects, writing reports for college administrators of ASIANetwork conferences he had attended, and various means, he has succeeded in establishing an Asian Studies minor with seventeen course offerings. In addition to coordinating this program, he teaches a wide range of general anthropology courses.

Discussion

The audience contributed many suggestions for enhancing Asian studies on small campuses, particularly ways to attract science students and faculty while not interfering with regimented curricular requirements. Science faculty can participate in teaching broad courses on Asian culture (their inclusion could be written into grant proposals), and their involvement can begin with attending scientific conferences such as those currently being sponsored by the South Korean government. Biologists can develop courses that they teach in China, thereby allowing science students to continue the orderly completion of their majors. Devising strategies that enable these students to stay on track whether enrolled in a specific Asian course on the home campus or participating in an exchange program abroad is of great importance to the overall success of an Asian studies initiative.

For the broader campus community, there are numerous methods to increase interest and to strengthen course offerings in Asia. The faculty can be appealed to with the question, "Can you afford NOT to know what is going on in Asia in your discipline?" Their knowledge may be augmented by dinners with Asian speakers who share their poetry, political insight, or economic outlook. The offering of concentrations in the college curriculum can pull together logically courses that complement each other from many disciplines. In most courses where research papers are required, students can be encouraged to select an Asian topic. Another incentive for students to become interested in Asia is the potential for employment in Asian multinational corporations; managers can be invited to campuses to tell them about their businesses. Finally, there is the opportunity for volunteer work in which students see the "Asian Face" by tutoring Asians in English, by mentoring, or by other services. This contact often motivates students to learn more.

Contact: Dorothy Borei, Guilford College, 5800 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27410; Tel.: 910/316-2219; Fax: 910/316-2950; <boreidv@rascal.guilford.edu>

Penelope Campbell, Agnes Scott College, History, 141 E. College Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030; Tel: 404/638-6210; Fax: 404/638-6177; <pcampbell@ness.agnesscott.edu>

Cunningham, Rosemary, Agnes Scott College, 141 E. College Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030; Tel.: 404/638-6208; Fax: 404/638-6177; <rcunningham@ness.agnesscott.edu>

Guinee, William, Westminster College, Anthropology, Fulton, MO 65251; Tel.: 573/592-5326