

ASIANetwork Initiatives

Freeman College in Asia Summer Institute

Freemant Student-Faculty Fellowship Program

ASIANetwork Sponsors Final 2003 Freeman College in Asia Summer Institute Norm Moline, Augustana College, Program Director

In the summer of 2003 ASIANetwork will sponsor its final College-in-Asia Summer Institute under a grant from the Freeman Foundation. Three successful institutes, involving fifteen colleges and universities, were run in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Both ASIANetwork and the Freeman Foundation hope that any member institutions which have an interest in developing a program of overseas study in Asia will take advantage of this **final summer institute** to travel to East Asia to learn more about setting up such a program. This article introduces the context of overseas study, the opportunities available through the summer institute, some success stories from the first three institutes and the timetable for applying for the 2003 program.

Imagine teaching your Asian courses on-site in the countries themselves rather than in a classroom on your U.S. campus. After hearing lectures and participating in discussions, students could move out into urban and rural environments which are the contexts of the Asian courses rather than just going into the American settings on and around your campus. Immediately students see connections between the classroom experiences and the world around them. Also, imagine that your students would be taking not only your Asian course, but also other courses about other aspects of Asia in different disciplines. The students would be getting a more integrated look at one or more Asian cultures instead of an isolated three or four sessions per week single course sandwiched between non-Asian courses and extra-curricular experiences which is the situation on our campuses. I would assume that almost every professor of an Asian course would be delighted to be able to teach under such an arrangement.

In 1997 the Freeman Foundation gave ASIANetwork a generous grant to sponsor three College in Asia Summer Institutes to assist colleges and universities which would like to develop study programs in Asia. The Freeman Foundation had learned of and was impressed by the strength of the Augustana College (Rock Island, Illinois) East Asia Overseas Term, which began in 1974 and has taken almost 800 students to East Asia in regularly scheduled programs over three decades, including 78 last fall term. It asked if Augustana would be willing to share its experience as a

possible model for what others might do. Thus, the directors of Augustana's program became the director and associate director of the ASIANetwork College in Asia Summer Institutes. For the institutes, colleges and universities were invited to send an Asian Studies faculty member and a high-level administrator on a three-week experience in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong S.A.R. and China (the locations included in Augustana's program). The grant covers all travel expenses and provides a stipend for each participant. During the three weeks participants learn more about eleven sites and their potential for an overseas program, investigate possible lodging accommodations and teaching settings, and meet some key resource people who have been extremely useful to Augustana and who could be valuable to other institutions both on matters of trip logistics and academic content. Following the three-week experience, each participating institution is entitled to a two-day consulting visit by the director of the institutes, Professor Norman Moline, in establishing a functioning program. The colleges and universities make the decision on the best time for such a consultation.

Fifteen institutions participated in the first cycle of programs: Allegheny College, Alverno College, Austin College, Brenau University, Brigham Young University in Idaho, Eckerd College, Elms College, Fairfield University, Hiram College, John Carroll University, St. Olaf College, Spelman College, Texas Christian University, Washington & Lee University, and William Woods University. For each, the Institutes opened up new possibilities. For some institutions which already have strong Asian Studies programs, an overseas study term along the lines of the Augustana model is seen as a logical expansion of their existing on-campus Asian curriculum or a supplement of a different style to current overseas programs. For institutions that are beginning to build a multi-discipline Asian Studies program, an overseas study term can be a method to generate interest in the region among their students and faculty.

Some institutions already have implemented programs. Allegheny College (Pennsylvania) recently completed a successful summer program in China under the leadership of Sharon Wesoky. Combining studies in literature

and political science, twenty students and two faculty focused on different aspects of modernization in China. Allegheny plans to repeat this program every two or three years. In the meantime, it is taking creative steps to incorporate the experiences and contacts developed in China into its on-campus curriculum.

Austin College (Texas) under the leadership of Charles Krusekopf sponsored a January term program in 2002 in China and Hong Kong which involved twenty-nine students and two faculty. The primary focus was on economics and communication arts, but a broad introduction to Chinese culture also was achieved through different program elements, a trait of all of these success stories.

Eckerd College (Florida) developed a program for the spring of 2002 in which fifteen students spent half of the semester on its campus, taking two of four courses which were designed specifically to prepare students for the trip to Asia. Then, the students and three faculty, including the main coordinator Ed Grasso, moved to East Asia for the second seven weeks, spending time in Japan, Taiwan and China where they studied the history and cultures of China and Japan and some of the management and economic features of modern East Asia. Plans already are being made for the second program in 2003. Moreover, Eckerd used its participation on a College in Asia Institute as key background information for a successful grant application to the Freeman Foundation for advanced research opportunities in Asia.

Hiram College (Ohio) under the leadership of Lisa Safford and a colleague sponsored a program in Japan in the spring term of 2001. Three courses were available for the ten student participants: Japan: Fundamental Ideologies and Institutions; Japanese Art History; and Communications between Cultures. Hiram hopes to repeat the course again in 2004.

St. Olaf College, which already had a long and extensive tradition of overseas study, used the institute to learn more about facilities and arrangements in Japan which would make stops in that country financially feasible. Building upon the experiences of institute participant Bob Entenmann in history in 1998, St. Olaf has sponsored three consecutive Japan study programs in its January term involving a total of about sixty students and plans to reintroduce a Japan component into its 2003 fall term in Asia.

Each of these schools hopes that what has been started in the last few years will strengthen with repeat visits and become a regular part of the curriculum. In this regard, consultation visits will be made this year to two of these schools to help them find ways to build upon their first programs.

Alverno College (Wisconsin) has not sponsored a student program yet, but has used the experience from the Institute and the faculty leadership of Carla Freeman to prepare and receive a grant from the Freeman Foundation for a phased movement toward the implementation of student programs in two years. Brigham Young University in Idaho has developed all the details and made all the contacts for a program in China and merely is waiting for the appropriate

time to announce and begin to implement it. Furthermore, consultation visits are planned for the coming year to Alverno College, Elms College, Spelman College, and Washington and Lee University as they seek to implement some kind of Asian study term which matches their current curriculum and staffing situations.

The ASIANetwork College in Asia Summer Institute program recognized from the beginning that for a program to be adoptable at an institution, one needs not only dedicated Asian Studies faculty members (who obviously would love to take students to Asia), but also a strong supporter among the higher level administrators of the schools who can be an advocate at key institution decision meetings. This structure has been praised by many of the participant institutions. For example, Austin College's Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Michael Imhoff, who participated on one of the institutes, regularly notes to me how the trip introduced him to the importance of serious study of this region and has prompted him to do all he can to facilitate various Asian initiatives developed by the faculty. In his report he wrote: "The decision to choose faculty-administrator teams was a wise one and has helped immediately to advance the Asian Studies agenda. Since the trip, our Asian Studies faculty have developed a curriculum for a minor in Asian Studies, have developed a strategic plan for the program, have written several proposals for external funding, and have been instrumental in the college's decision to create a tenure-track position in Japanese and to commit to a new position for an Asian expert in political science."

Now we return to the topic of the 2003 College in Asia Summer Institute. We hope that the success stories noted above as well as the inherent interest in overseas study opportunities shared by most Asian Studies faculty will prompt many schools to apply for this last institute. The grant will allow us to take two representatives (the Asian Studies faculty member and an administrator) from at least ten colleges and universities. The Institute will run from June 6 through approximately June 30. If anyone has questions about the institute and its desired outcomes, please contact the Director of the College in Asia Institutes, Professor Norman Moline at Augustana (309-794-7303 or ggmoline@augustana.edu). Application materials may be requested from Professor Madeline Chu, Kalamazoo College, 1200 Academy Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006 (or by e-mail from chu@kzoo.edu) who coordinates the Freeman-sponsored ASIANetwork programs or downloaded from the ASIANetwork website at www.ASIANetwork.org under the faculty resources link. The deadline for submitting completed applications is November 30. Decisions on applications should be made by mid-January. After that, regular communication begins between the directors and selected participants in preparing for the summer experience. Through these preparations, the institute itself, and the follow-up consultations, we hope to enable more institutions to be able to offer regularly to their Asian Studies faculty and students the opportunity on a regular basis for on-site study in an extremely important and interesting part of the world.