$450,000 Luce Grant to ASIANetwork to Support Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow Program

Through the generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation, ASIANetwork will provide member institutions the opportunity to apply for a grant to hire a postdoctoral teaching fellow in Asian Studies. The ASIANetwork - Luce Teaching Fellows, recent recipients of a terminal degree from a North American university, will spend one year at a host ASIANetwork member college, teaching and participating in the intellectual and cultural life of the host college. ASIANetwork will award 4 grants each year for 3 academic years (2010-11, 2011-12, and 2012-13).

ASIANetwork will provide $30,000 to each of the selected colleges as partial support for the hiring of the teaching fellow and $1,000 to support the fellow’s mentor/coordinator. The host college will follow its own search and employment procedures within the context of Program guidelines provided by ASIANetwork.

During the year of participation in the Program, the host college will designate a faculty mentor to work with the teaching fellow and will arrange various professional development opportunities. ASIANetwork will provide each teaching fellow with a travel allowance to attend the ASIANetwork annual conference. The teaching fellow will teach a half-time course load, attend departmental and college faculty meetings, keep office hours, mentor students, and continue to pursue research and/or other scholar projects. With allowances for the academic discipline, area of regional specialty, and the needs of the host college, the teaching fellow should be encouraged to teach comparatively about Asia.

Only U.S. ASIANetwork member colleges and universities are eligible. For more information, visit our website or contact the Program Director, Gary DeCoker, Earlham College, at 765-983-1890; decokga@earlham.edu.

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continue our Student-Faculty Fellows Program; a Fulbright Hays Grant to send fifteen colleagues from ASIANetwork colleges to the Pearl River Delta for faculty development; a shared grant with the American Council of Learned Societies and the Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam to enable AN colleges to host Vietnamese scholars on their campuses and send faculty from ASIANetwork member colleges to Vietnam for enrichment; and a fourth grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to provide consultancy visits to AN campuses to evaluate their Asian art holdings in order to produce a book Reading Asian Art: Windows to Asia in College Collections and a digital library of images of these art works.

Service as Grant Director

Stan’s success in helping to secure the fourth Luce Foundation grant to survey Asian art on the campuses of ASIANetwork colleges and produce a book based on the findings, created the opportunity for him to serve in yet another setting. In the spring of 2004, as Stan’s three year term on the development committee ended, Paul Watt (DePauw University) was asked to replace Stan on AN’s development committee. Stan surely felt that he was finally going to receive a break after almost a decade of service to ASIANetwork. However, the ASIANetwork board had other plans for him. Knowing how thorough and competent Stan is in every endeavor he undertakes, Stan was asked to become the director of this very complex grant. Few have worked so hard for so long for ASIANetwork, but after being given a night to sleep on the offer and discuss it with his wife, Karen, he accepted. Not surprisingly, he and a small group of individuals around him including Karil Kucera (St. Olaf), Joan O’Mara (Washington & Lee), and Paul Nietupski (John Carroll) have completed the orchestration of consultancy visits to two dozen colleges, secured images of the art that has been accessed and evaluated, posted these images on our website and others, and are now nearing the completion of the promised book dealing with our discoveries. What a fitting conclusion to a full decade of service to ASIANetwork.

Stan is ever dependable, and never commits himself to a project without completing it in a timely manner. His contributions in service on the board, in development work, and as the Asian Arts grant director, are unparalleled. Stan is also a highly respected teacher and scholar who established one of the earliest Chinese programs on a North American liberal arts college campus (Wittenburg), and he has published a number of important scholarly articles and books. He is one of the founders of the Wittenburg University East Asian Studies Journal which for over thirty years has published undergraduate research written by students across this country that is focused on Asia.

In my work with ASIANetwork, I came to rely on Stan Mickel more than he will ever realize. Stan is a steady and soft spoken individual. He sees the good in people and is seldom, if ever, judgmental of others. He and I first met when Marianna McJimsey matched us to share a hotel room at ASIANetwork’s 2nd annual spring conference held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Since then, Stan has become one of my closest friends, and a friend that I truly admire.