

Board Nominees

The ASIANetwork Nominations Committee is pleased to present the following three candidates for election to the Board of Directors. The election will be held at the Business Meeting at the 2010 Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

DYRON DABNEY

Dyron Dabney is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Albion College, Albion Michigan where he teaches courses on Japanese and U.S. domestic politics. His research and teaching interests invite comparative political analysis of campaigns and elections, political participation and political parties in Japan and the U.S. Dabney has actively advanced the Japanese studies and international studies curriculum at Albion College since joining the faculty in 2005. His most recent publication, "Campaign Behavior: The Limits to Change," from the edited volume, *Democratic Reform in Japan: Assessing the Impact*, is a longitudinal case study of Lower House candidates' campaign strategies in Japan under different electoral systems. His current research projects examine the "spousal effect" on election campaign outcomes in Japan, and gender and election campaign corruption in Japan. These research projects are motivated and informed by contemporary studies that bring into focus gendered differences in political participation and political behavior. Dabney served as a *Japan Study* Program advisory board member from



2005-2008, and he was a recipient of several Japan Study and GLCA research and curricular development grants in 2004, 2005 and 2009. He continues to serve as a campus representative and liaison for the *Japan Study* and the *JET* Program. He was a scholar in residence and occasional lecturer at the *Matsushita Institute of Government and Management*, an elite political training academy located in Chigasaki, Japan, from 1995-1997 and 2001. While in residence Dabney provided research support to current fellows at the institute and instructed seminars on American politics and political culture. The Matsushita Institute and its graduates figure prominently in two of his research studies. Dabney holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Politics from the University of Michigan. His leisure interests include skiing, cooking, walking and weight training.

Contact Information:

Albion College
Department of Political Science
319 Robinson Hall, 611 E. Porter St.
Albion, MI 49224
tel: 517-629-0415
fax: 517-629-0991
email: ddabney@albion.edu

BRIAN DOTT

Brian Dott is Director of the Asian Studies Program and Associate Professor of History at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. He teaches courses on the entire span of East Asian



history, with a concentration on the early modern and modern periods for China and Japan. Recently he has been developing more comparative as well as interdisciplinary courses. Last Spring he co-taught a course with a Whitman colleague in the Biology department on the History and Ethnobiology of the Silk Roads. They explored the histories and cultures of peoples along the silk

roads while at the same time examining the biology of such things as horses, camels, silk worms, grain crops and plant fibers. The two of them took eight of the students to China for two weeks during Spring Break as a part of a supplementary field course. They traveled from Xi'an to Turpan by train, drove to Urumqi and then flew to Kashgar. They ended the trip in Hangzhou studying silk and tea. In

another new course last year Dott compared China during the early Qing with Japan during the early Tokugawa. This semester he is teaching an upper-level research seminar on China and Japan from 1890-1912. In the summer of 2008 he was the director of the Whitman Summer Studies in China program. He led 18 students on a six week tour and language study in Yunnan. His class focused on the history of Han and minority relations in Yunnan. Dott's research focus is in Chinese cultural history during the late imperial period. His book, *Identity Reflections: Pilgrimages to Mount Tai in Late Imperial China* (Harvard Asia Center, 2004), examines and compares a variety of motivations for trips to the mountain amongst various groups including women, literati men and Manchu emperors. A chapter examining the modern state responses to the mountain as both a tourist and religious site is under consideration for publication as part of a volume edited by Donald Sutton and Timothy Oakes. His current research project is an examination of the introduction of the chili pepper into China. He has discovered interesting class differences in the rate of adoption of chilis. People in the lower classes seem to have turned to them much more readily than the elite. Dott

served as a board member of the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, 2004-2007. Dott began his association with ASIANetwork as a visiting faculty member at Kalamazoo College in 1999. He travelled to Beijing to study contemporary Daoist practice with Jeffery Lung (Kalamazoo College) in the summer of 2000 on an ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellowship. He was the Whitman College organizer and sponsor for the ASIANetwork, ACLS, Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam, and the Henry Luce Foundation, Vietnam Faculty Exchange Program which brought a visiting faculty

member to Whitman in 2007. He just completed the other portion of the exchange when he visited Vietnam for a month this past summer.

Contact Information:

History Department
Asian Studies Program
Whitman College
Walla Walla, WA 99362
tel: (509) 527-5776
email: dottbr@whitman.edu

MARY BETH HESTON

Mary Beth Heston teaches Art History and Asian Studies and is founding Director of the Asian Studies program at the College of Charleston, the public liberal arts college of South Carolina. Her course offerings include Introduction to Asian Art, surveys of Indian, Chinese and Japanese Art, Hindu Myth and Image, Indian Painting, and seminars on Indian Art, including Encounter, Accommodation and Resistance: Indian Art in the Nineteenth Century. With research focused on the visual culture of the Kerala region of southwestern coastal India, she has published on Architecture and the Public Sphere in Nineteenth Century Trivandrum; Constructions of the Body in Kerala Bronze Sculpture; Architecture and Authority in Indian Kingship; and mural painting traditions of Kerala. Her research has been supported by fellowships



from the American Institute of Indian Studies, the J. Paul Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Fulbright Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, and the College of Charleston. Service beyond the College of Charleston includes: Vice President (1999-2004), and President (2004-2008) of the American Council for Southern Asian Art; Peer Review committee of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (Fulbright) for India and the American Institute of Indian Studies; reader for American Institute of Indian Studies book prize; Trustee, the American Institute of Indian Studies; College Art Association Education Committee (2005-2008); Consultant, Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum, ASIANetwork.

Contact information:

Mary Beth Heston
Department of Art History
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC 29424
PH: 843.953.6313
Email: hestonm@cofc.edu

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5. Will this change affect our ability to support colleges with the greatest financial need?

We have not used financial need as a criterion in the past. Moreover, there is currently great variation in the financial resources of our members.

6. Are there any changes to benefits of membership?

No. In fact, there has been almost no difference in the benefits available to full and associate members. The proposed changes to the By Laws will not have any effect on membership benefits.

7. What will happen to community colleges?

Those community colleges that share our focus on liberal arts undergraduate education are welcome to become institutional members, although the cost of their participation will increase \$100. Currently, we have one community college among our Associate Members.