

THE ASIANetwork CONSULTANCY PROGRAM LAUNCHES THIRD YEAR

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One of ASIANetwork's most successful endeavors is the Luce Consultancy Program, now starting its third year of operation (1996-1997). In the past two years, this program has provided fifteen colleges and universities with assistance in planning and evaluating a diverse and creative array of Asian Studies programs.

The Luce funds could not have come at a better time because, while Asia is now playing an ever more important role in the world economy, many of our liberal arts institutions face budget difficulties. These constraints often mean that there is less money available for "exotic" programs like ours. Even more effort must be made to justify faculty appointments, guarantee a high quality Asia curriculum, and build and maintain Asian Studies programs on our campuses.

The ASIANetwork consultants help by explaining to administrators the importance of Asia in the liberal arts curriculum, by providing faculty with creative ideas for developing current resources in a more systematic way, and by recommending additional resources for expanding Asian Studies.

The following summary describes the experiences of the two colleges which benefitted from the Luce Consultancy in the spring of 1996. Although each institution has its particular strengths and needs, this synopsis reflects the common themes that run through many of the consultancy reports.

Perhaps you will come up with your own ideas for a consultancy. See the end of this article for further details.

Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC

Coordinator: Ron Dempsey, Assistant Dean of Academics

Consultants: Susan Long, John Carroll and Van Symons, Augustana

Project goals: Initiate an Asian Study program by developing current courses and study abroad programs in a systematic and structured manner.

Presbyterian has many strengths, including a three-semester language requirement; Chinese language taught by visiting instructors; existing Asia-related courses; an administrative commitment to internationalize the campus; existing study abroad opportunities; and faculty development funds. The consultants believe these qualities make the building of an Asian Studies program viable at Presbyterian.

At the same time, the consultants outlined several recommendations: concentrate on East Asia with a focus on Korea in order to build on existing resources; articulate more clearly the relationship between study abroad and the Asia curriculum; hire two or more faculty with Asia expertise to replace retirements; and organize the curriculum into a minor coordinated by a strong faculty leader.

Albion College, Albion, MI

Coordinator: Yi Sun, Assistant Professor of History

Consultants: Thomas Burkman, SUNY-Buffalo and Henry Rosemont, St. Mary's

Project goals: Establish an Asian Studies program by strengthening existing course offerings, creating new courses, improving exchange programs, and seeking outside funding.

The consultants noted that there is strong administrative and faculty support for Asian Studies as well as interested and motivated students. A small core of faculty with Asia training now offers courses in history, religion, and political science. Students have access to study abroad programs in China and Japan, but the numbers involved are small. Participation is perhaps less because Albion offers no formal training in an Asian language.

In order to develop Asian Studies at Albion, the consultants recommended that the college take the following steps to build international studies: increase curricular offerings in all global regions in order to articulate a clearer international orientation; consider the adoption of a foreign language requirement; build in an administrative structure

for international studies generally; and attract more international students to campus.

They also encouraged Albion to build Asian Studies in a number of ways: introduce one Asian language so that students can study in Asia; increase the number of faculty and courses on Asia in the humanities and social sciences through the hiring of Asia specialists and the retraining of current faculty; create a curricular concentration or minor for Asian Studies; purchase additional library materials on Asia in English in those fields where new courses/faculty are added; establish a direct tie with a Chinese institution of higher learning; create a structure for Asian Studies which will support the Asianists and supervise the program.

Consultancy administration

Two consultants, whose honoraria and travel expenses are paid by the Luce Consultancy grant, normally spend one and a half to two full days on the ASIANetwork member campus. In a schedule arranged by the campus coordinator, they meet ad-

ministrators, faculty (those currently teaching Asia courses and those interested in Asia), and students.

One month after the visit, they send a written report to the coordinator which details the existing strengths of the program and makes specific recommendations for the future development of Asian Studies at the institutions.

These reports are extremely useful in negotiating with faculty committees and administrators. In addition, they help the faculty formulate their ideas more clearly, convince others of the importance of Asian Studies in the liberal arts curriculum, and provide suggestions for further development of resources.

If your institution is interested in participating in this program, or if you have the experience needed to be a consultant,

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POSITIONS OPEN

Japanese Language and Culture

Guilford College

Guilford College, ASIANetwork member, will be announcing in greater detail this fall a tenure-track position in Japanese language and culture. Contact: Sylvia Trelles, Foreign Languages, Guilford College, 5800 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro, NC 27410; Tel:910/316-2209; email:trelless@rascal.guilford.edu

Japanese Language and Culture

Huron College

Deadline: December 13, 1996, or until position is filled

Huron College, an affiliate university college of The University of Western Ontario and ASIANetwork member, invites applications for a three-year limited term or probationary (tenure-track) appointment in Japanese culture and language at the rank of assistant professor to commence July 1, 1997.

Candidates should have a completed Ph.D., teaching experience, and publications. The appointee will be expected to provide leadership in curriculum development and in relations with external agencies and institutions in the Japanese Studies.

A curriculum vitae, teaching evaluations, academic transcripts, and three confidential letters of reference should be submitted with a letter of application.

Canadian immigration requirements give priority to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada.

Contact: J.E. Crimmins, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Huron College, 1349 West-ern Rd., London, Ontario N6G 1H3; Tel:519/438-7224; Fax:519/438-3938

Japanese History

Northern Illinois University

Deadline: October 11, 1996

Tenure-track assistant professor position to begin fall 1997. Candidate should offer a two-semester Japanese history sequence, Asian history surveys, advanced undergraduate and graduate courses in the candidate's specialty. Ph.D. required by starting date.

Send letter of application, three letters of recommendation, samples of scholarship, and evidence of teaching effectiveness. NIU recognizes dual career issues and is an AA/EOE.

Contact: George W. Spencer, History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115