

The Luce Foundation funded ASIANetwork/CEEVN/ACLS Vietnam Exchange Program



Paul Nietupski, Administrator



Minh Kauffman, CEEVN

ASIANetwork is pleased to announce funding from the Henry Luce Foundation for an academic exchange program with Vietnam. ASIANetwork will work together with the Center for Educational Exchange with Vietnam (CEEVN) and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to send Vietnamese university faculty in the humanities and social sciences to ASIANetwork member schools, and in turn, send AN representatives to Vietnam. The Luce grant provides for one semester of residence and study in an ASIANetwork institution for the Vietnamese faculty and a one-month investigative trip for a faculty member from the host US school. There are altogether eight of these exchange awards, four to be granted in 2005-2006 and four in 2006-2007.

This program is up and running, due in part to the excellent combination of resources. The generous support of the Henry Luce Foundation and the commitment of Terry Lautz at the Luce New York office fuel the program. Minh Kauffman at CEEVN brings many years of development and exchange work in and with Vietnam and knows the territory very well. Sandra Bradley and Steve Wheatley of ACLS offer excellent project development and administrative skills. ASIANetwork selects appropriate host institutions for the Vietnamese guests, monitors and manages the programs, and organizes a mid-semester retreat. The ASIANetwork effort has been a group project since its outset. Van Symons, Executive Director, Joan O'Mara, Chair of the ASIANetwork Board, and Cathy Benton and Marianna McJimsey of the AN Development Committee worked on the project since early in 2004. Paul Nietupski with Maryann Milford and Kaushik Bagchi have been appointed to oversee the actual operation of the project. This spring Minh Kauffman of

CEEVN, Sandra Bradley of ACLS and Paul Nietupski will work in Vietnam during the selection and preliminary orientation of the Vietnamese visitors.

This is an exciting project. Its human resources are capable, the project foundations were carefully laid, and the funding is secured. The committee has paid close attention to the exchange's motives and goals. We expect that the visiting Vietnamese educators will enhance their own research, and at the same time, benefit from witnessing how liberal arts colleges are run, classes are taught, and the curriculum is integrated. In turn, we anticipate that US visitors to Vietnam will make progress in their own research and enhance their home schools' curricula. The project however goes further, because we hope that this two-year effort becomes a prototype for long term academic exchanges between the US and Vietnamese schools. The program promises to be a success; there have already been a number of preliminary letters of interest from potential host colleges, and we expect more in the coming weeks.

See the AN website (www.ASIANetwork.org) for full details about the program, mentor responsibilities and application details. Please direct inquiries and applications for the first year of the program by the May 2, 2005 deadline to Paul Nietupski, Department of Religious Studies, John Carroll University, 20700 North Park Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44118. Tel. 216-397-4704; or e-mail, pnietupski@jcu.edu.