

Board Nominees

Note: One Board nominee backed out just before press time. A third nominee will be in place by the April conference.

Gary DeCoker

Gary DeCoker is the Director of the Japan Study program and Professor of Japanese Studies at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Japan Study is a consortial program that supports the exchange of students and faculty between Waseda University in Tokyo and the 26 colleges of the Great Lakes Colleges Association and the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. As Director, DeCoker has managed the GLCA Development Fund for Japanese



Studies. The activities of the Fund, which promotes Japanese Studies on the 26 campuses, include conferences, travel grants, speakers' bureau, performing artists, and Japanese-language interns. From 1989-2003, DeCoker was Professor of Education at Ohio Wesleyan University, where he developed the East Asian Studies program and served as its Director. In 1991-92, as the Resident Director of Japan Study, he was Visiting Professor at Waseda University. In 1984-85, he was a Japan Foundation Dissertation Research Fellow at Kyoto University.

DeCoker's publications include translations and analyses of Japanese historical documents related to education and the traditional Japanese arts, and studies of contemporary Japanese education. He is the editor of the book *National Standards and School Reform in Japan and the United States*. His courses include the history of education in Japan and foundations of education in the United States.

He has served on the Advisory Board of the Midwest Japan Seminar, the Board of Trustees of the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio, and as an Editor for *Education About Asia*. He holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Education and an M.A. in Japanese Studies from the University of Michigan. He enjoys cycling, hiking, and gardening.

Ronnie Littlejohn

Ronnie Littlejohn is Chairman of the Department and Professor of Philosophy at Belmont University where he also is Director of Asian Studies. He teaches courses on ethics, early modern philosophy, Wittgenstein, Chinese philosophy and Asian humanities. His research interest is contemporary Zhengyi Daoist practice in southern China, especially Fujian. Littlejohn directs the Belmont China Travel study for 21 to 23 days with 12 to 20 students each summer. He typically remains in China for 5 to 7 weeks to



continue his research. He is a regular contributor to *Dao: A Journal in Comparative Philosophy, Philosophy East and West, and Education about Asia*. He is also the author of several essays for the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, including "Daoist Philosophy," "Laozi," "Wang Bi," and "Comparative Philosophy." His most recent publications are in the area of the connection between classical Daoist texts and ritual. Littlejohn was consulting author for the Chinese religions script of Episode 13 in the *Religions of the World* series developed by Greenstar Television and narrated by Ben Kingsley and in 2005 he did the 30 minute T.V. program, *Opening Heaven's Gate: The Daoist Manual of Inner Alchemy* for PBS, New York.

Littlejohn is interested in the translation of philosophical ideas across traditions and was invited to include his essay "On the Meaning of 'Target Discourse': The Use of Process Philosophy in Translating the *Zhongyong*," in the Festschrift for David Hall entitled *Metaphilosophy and Chinese Thought*. He is Co-Editor of *Polishing the Chinese Mirror: Essays in Honor of Henry Rosemont, Jr.* (forthcoming from Open Court) and also *Riding the Wind with Liezi: New Essays on the Daoist Classic* (forthcoming from SUNY). Littlejohn has been an active member of ASIANetwork since 1999 and received an ASIANetwork Student-Faculty Fellows grant in the summer of 2001 to work with Erin M. Cline on a study of Daoist prioritization of moral values. He looks forward to being able to contribute to an organization that has done so much to enrich his own research and teaching.

Contact Information

Gary DeCoker, Director
Japan Study Program
Professor of Japanese Studies
Earlham College
801 National Road West
Richmond, IN 47374-4095
decokga@earlham.edu
765-983-1890
FAX: 765-983-1798

Ronnie Littlejohn, Chairman
Department of Philosophy
Director, Asian Studies
Belmont University
1900 Belmont Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37212
littlejohnr@mail.belmont.edu
615-460-6494
FAX: 615-460-6914