

Infusing Asian Studies into the Curriculum—Sylvia Gray (Or: What I did on my summer vacation)

First: introductions

- ❖ Three week institute: **Infusing East Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum**
 - Sounded a little boring to me, except for the word “Infusing”
 - But it was in Hawaii, after all
- ❖ How cool this institute really was
 - Great participants from all over the country and Malaysia
 - Many disciplines: sociology, science, psychology, history, English, political science, administrators
 - Each session more interesting than the other:
 - All experts
 - All great communicators
 - Examples:
 - ◆ *Confucian Textuality: The Analects and the Focusing the Familiar* (Roger Ames)
 - ◆ *Japan: A Culture of Intimacy* (Thomas Kasulis)
 - ◆ *Human Rights in Modern China* (Shana Brown)
 - ◆ *Chinese Art and Aesthetics* (Stanley Murashige)
 - ◆ *Chinese Literature: An Introduction to the Traditions* (Michelle Yeh)
 - Also poetry reading with wine
 - ◆ *Popular Japanese Literature in Traditional Japan* (Robert Huey)
 - ◆ *Music Traditions in China* (Fred Lau)
 - Also an evening performance and I got to try the instruments
 - ◆ *The Political Economy of 21st Century China* (Chris McNally)
 - ◆ Also a number of current films
- ❖ Show clip of film with Roger Ames: *Human Rights in Chin: The Search for Common Ground* (great discussion – we have it in the library)
- ❖ East-West Center and ASDP
 - Show website (www.eastwestcenter.org)
 - Statement: “The East-West Center is an education and research organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1960 to

strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. The Center contributes to a peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia Pacific community by serving as a vigorous hub for cooperative research, education, and dialogue on critical issues of common concern to the Asia Pacific region and the United States. Funding for the Center comes from the U.S. government, with additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations, and the governments of the region.”

- As national and regional resource, the center offers:
 - **Research program** (interdisciplinary)
 - **Dialogue and professional enrichment programs:** media, political and policy leaders, and educators
 - ***Educational programs*:** to develop the human resources needed by the U.S. and the Asia Pacific region in a new era of increased interdependence.
 - ◆ **Asian Studies Development Program: ASDP**
 - In conjunction with the University of Hawaii
 - Established in 1990
 - Various grants help support it
 - ◆ ASDP Purpose:
 - Need for more Asian studies in undergraduate curriculum
 - Goal is to improve the long-term capacity of American higher education to teach about Asian Cultures
 - Few resources available so designed to assist
 - Particularly two year and four year colleges
 - And minority –servicing colleges
 - General Approach
 - ◆ Promotes a comparative approach
 - ◆ Infusing Asian material into the undergraduate curriculum
 - ◆ Especially core courses
 - Believing that not only do students come to understand more about other cultures
 - ◆ They also better understand their own
- ASDP’s three basic components
 - **Summer institutes for faculty**

- Our faculty at PCC have a better chance of being included in these well-funded programs if the PCC shows commitment to the idea.
- The one I attended: *Infusing East Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum*
- NEH Seminars:
 - ◆ 2004: *Religion and Politics in India: Culture, History, and the Contemporary Experience*
 - ◆ 2005: *Southeast Asia: The Interplay of Indigenous Cultures and Outside Influences*
- Next summer (2006): *Silk Road*
- **Field Seminars in Asia**
 - Travel programs
 - Next summer to China: focusing on performing arts and led by Fred Lau
- **Development of regional center programs**
 - Opportunity for PCC

❖ **What this means for PCC**

- During my time at the institute, realized what I was learning should go beyond me
- Began to realize we are not coordinated
- Began to wonder what other people are doing here at PCC
- Began to believe other faculty might really enjoy attending
- Began to realize that if we were working on coordinating ourselves, we all stand a better chance of getting to go and getting help
 - Acceptance to institutes and opportunities based on
 - Home institution's commitment to infusing Asian Studies
 - Applicant's current level of expertise
 - Applicants commitment to integrating topics into courses
 - Applicants ability and desire to work on Asian studies activities with other faculty
- **We could even become a regional center, if we wanted.**
 - Example: Todd Marshall: University of Central Arkansas
 - Institutional commitment made
 - Humanities speakers
 - Training sessions for staff to infuse Asian studies
 - Minor in Asian studies
 - ◆ Valuable to international business students

- Language teachers
- Participates in national meetings, etc.



❖ **My brainstorms since this time:**

- We need to get to know each other
- We need to be in touch with Kelly Brayton (oversees International Students here at PCC) and Bonnie Starkey (working on Grants – has a master plan)
 - They have resources for faculty development
 - And they have a vision for much bigger things in the future.
- We could come up with an Asian focus of studies
 - Such as Women’s studies, Creative Writing, and Performing Arts are doing
 - Resources and information on this: Susanne Christopher and Carollee Boone
 - Restore International Studies Certificate?
- This school needs (in my humble opinion) to offer Chinese as a language
 - (example: grant to Portland Public Schools – see Oregonian article September 20, 2005)
 - and if we spoke as a concerted group, I imagine the likelihood of that happening would be greater
- PSU has an Asian Studies Program which might be a possibility to link with

Discussion following presentation: We will meet with interested people and try to brainstorm and propose a focus of studies – probably Asian studies. Anyone interested should come. So far, Susanne Christopher, Brian Hull, Sylvia Gray, and Jane Rognlie will be core people in this endeavor. Others who could have a vested interest: Kerry Pataki (anthropology and geography); Jane Zunkel, English; MaryAnne Plunkett (Art History); Rita Hennessey (Philosophy); and Japanese language teachers would be valuable. There are probably others. International Business instructors? Political Science?