

University Communications

News and Events

Illinois Wesleyan University

Year 2009

University to Integrate Asian Studies
Across Campus with Department of
Education Grant

Rachel Hatch
Illinois Wesleyan University

October 22, 2009

Contact: Rachel Hatch, (309) 556-3960

University to Integrate Asian Studies Across Campus with Department of Education Grant

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Illinois Wesleyan University has been awarded a nearly \$162,000 grant by the U.S. Department of Education’s Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program for expanding Asian studies on campus.

The grant will be used to support Chinese language classes, which started last fall at Illinois Wesleyan, as well as expand courses to include units on Asia, and develop new courses.

“The 21st century has been called the Pacific Century,” said Professor of Sociology Teodora Amoloza, who is the project director. “The idea behind the grant is to strengthen the Asian studies curriculum and to incorporate Asian perspective into many fields of study across campus.” According to Amoloza, professors in areas such as the humanities, theater, art and business are developing Asian segments to their classes. Funds for library materials relating to classes are also available through the grant.

New international ties will also be pursued with the grant, said Amoloza. Efforts are underway to create potential relations with institutions and individuals in Asia, who might come to campus as visiting scholars. “We want to find someone who can contribute to classes across the board, across disciplines,” she said.

Students will also benefit from the grant. Funds are being set aside to offer a scholarship to a student or students who plan to study in Asia to further enhance their language competency. Details of the scholarship are not final as yet, said Amoloza.

Associate Professor of History Tom Lutze and Associate Professor of German and Eastern European Studies Sonja Fritzsche are co-directors of the grant. Others who worked on the grant application were International Studies Director and Professor of Political Science William Munro, Associate Dean Irv Epstein and Asian Studies Team Coordinator, McFee Professor of Religion Brian Hatcher and Director of Sponsored Programs and Foundation Relations Jo Porter.

-30-