Interim Report Cover Sheet

Type of Report – Interim Performance Report
Grant Number – AC-50146-12
Title of Project – Women in China: Internationalizing the Humanities and Professional Studies
Name of Project Directors – Dr. Montserrat Reguant and Dr. Julie Feldman-Abe
Name of Grantee Institution – Mount St. Mary’s College
Date report is submitted – May 30, 2013
Overview
As a result of the $100,000 grant award from the National Endowment from the Humanities, Mount St. Mary’s College (MSMC) made significant progress on the Women in China project in the 2012-2013 academic year, and accomplished all of the proposed objectives and activities in the first year. The following narrative summarizes the activities and outcomes of this past year.

Year One Activities
A cross section of eight faculty members from both the humanities and selected professions such as physical therapy, nursing, education, and business, actively participated in establishing a new model of integrating the Chinese culture into curricula and strengthening professional schools’ connection to the humanities. As described in our original proposal, the faculty cohort includes: Montserrat Reguant, Chair, Language & Culture (Project Co-Director); Julie Feldman-Abe (Project Co-Director), Director of the Center for Cultural Fluency (Education); Michelle Fine, Associate Professor, Language & Culture and History; Jane Crawford, Lecturer, History; Paul Green, Assistant Professor, Philosophy; David Leese, Professor, Business Administration and English; Patty Melnick, Assistant Professor, Nursing; and, Alan Lee, Associate Professor, Physical Therapy. Faculty members explored Chinese culture by studying its history, philosophy, literature, and the arts, with an emphasis on understanding the role of women.

The project’s initial start date was modified from July to May 2012, since the required NEH Project Directors Meeting in Washington took place earlier in the year. Dr. Montserrat Reguant, Project Co-Director, participated in this meeting. In April 2012, Dr. Julie Feldman-Abe, Project Co-Director, attended the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) assessment training in Oregon. The IDI was used at the start of the first year and once again at the end of the year to measure the faculty cohort’s overall intercultural competency, perception of their knowledge of Chinese culture, and ability to integrate Chinese culture into their coursework. Each faculty member also wrote reflective essays, initially on what they hoped to learn in this project and, later on the knowledge and insights they gained in the first year.

From August 2012 through February 2013, the six public lectures were organized and hosted as planned. These lectures included topics such as philosophy, history, classical Chinese poetry, art, 20th century Chinese literature, and film. Attached is a copy of the postcard created to promote these lectures. Before the final lecture in late February 2013, MSMC received a surprise visit from Zhao Wenshu, Chair of the English department at Nanjing University, who was on sabbatical in the U.S. Dr. Wenshu was influential in meeting with our faculty cohort and answering their questions, as well as providing them with an informative pre-orientation talk before their trip to China.

In addition to participating in the public lectures, the faculty cohort members completed the relevant readings, attended the post-lecture two-hour seminars with the visiting scholars, and contributed to the follow-up discussion sessions. These discussions enabled the cohort members
to reflect on their learning and make connections between the readings, lectures, seminars, and their course development work.

The trip to China took place during the College’s spring break vacation in mid-March 2013. The eight-member faculty cohort traveled to Nanjing and Beijing to reinforce their understanding of the materials they studied through scholarly facilitated access to exhibits, historical sites, and the two proposed seminars led by Nanjing faculty – Chinese History Through Pearl S. Buck and The Nanjing Massacre. Faculty cohort members attended a third talk when they visited the Women’s Center at Peking University, the first established modern university in China and one of the country’s most highly ranked universities. This seminar discussed the founding and history of the Women’s Center, as well as its current activities and offerings such as its master’s degree program in gender studies and the Center’s interdisciplinary courses on gender and the law.

Outcomes and Accomplishments
Apart from gaining a greater understanding of Chinese culture and acquiring new content that could later be used in their courses, the faculty cohort deepened their relationships with one another, as well as forged meaningful connections with faculty from local Southern California universities and some of the most highly respected universities in China. These relationships are one of the key accomplishments of the project’s first year because they are the foundation upon which the rest of the project will be built in the second year and will facilitate future collaborations and academic partnerships.

MSMC faculty members from different academic disciplines, who would under different circumstances have minimal interaction, came together for this project and found new ways to interact so that they could establish stronger collaborations. In fact, an example of such cooperation among different departments is the development of a new interdisciplinary minor in Asian Studies, which will be offered to MSMC students beginning this fall semester. As a result of the public lectures, MSMC faculty also formed closer working relationships with the lecturers, many who are experts in their field from other universities in Southern California. The faculty cohort’s China trip and visits with scholars at prestigious Chinese universities such as Nanjing University, Peking University, and the Women’s University, allowed for greater communication and discussions on different ways to collaborate such as developing shared courses, which would also increase communication among students from the different universities. Therefore, MSMC students will have many more opportunities to enroll in a greater number of interdisciplinary courses and be exposed to the Chinese culture.

An additional outcome in the first year included the tremendous success of the public lecture series. MSMC was very pleased to have received widespread enthusiasm for these lectures from the Mount community, as well as the public at large. This enthusiasm is evident by the fact that attendance at the lectures totaled 296 guests, with an average of approximately 50 guests per lecture. The online surveys given to attendees after the lectures were overwhelmingly positive, with a substantial majority of respondents indicating that they found the lectures informative and would be interested in attending future lecture series presented by the College. Due to their overall success, MSMC plans to actively host and promote future public lectures.
Lastly, the China trip’s success was underscored by the fact that this was the first time an MSMC faculty group visited these institutions abroad, rather than hosting Chinese faculty on the College’s campuses in Los Angeles. Our faculty members’ engagement in this project along with their trip, impressed our counterpart institutions in China, which warmly received our faculty cohort and solidified each institution’s willingness and desire to establish long-term collaborations with MSMC.

Consultants and Project Staffing
The role of the consultants in this project during the first year did not change from what was proposed in MSMC’s grant application. Faculty members from several institutions in Southern California and who are experts in their field served as our consultants and conducted the six public lectures in the fall and winter. In addition, two faculty members from Nanjing University led the proposed seminars for our faculty cohort during their trip to China. In the project’s second year, Nanjing faculty will continue to serve as consultants and assist our cohort with their courses.

The primary staffing challenge this year was in identifying and retaining an assistant to support the MSMC Co-Directors. Although the position was briefly occupied, the position remained largely unfilled for a significant portion of the year. As a result, the two Co-Directors who were actively involved in the faculty cohort also coordinated and arranged the trip and project logistics without additional support. In preparation for the second year, the Co-Directors are seeking additional assistance from several campus offices within the College’s Student Affairs division to help fill this vacancy and provide valuable assistance to successfully conclude the project at the end of the year.

Matching funds
Federal matching funds were not a component of the award and project.

Conclusion
MSMC is proud of the significant progress made on this project thus far and anticipates successfully concluding this project in the second year. We remain deeply grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for providing the College with the resources to pilot a model that effectively infuses the Chinese culture into our curricula and that could later be applied to other world cultures.
**Women in China**

Explore the changing gender roles over time from ancient China through the 21st century.

**FREE PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES AT MOUNT ST. MARY’S COLLEGE**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Title</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 13, 2012</td>
<td><em>Empresses Art and Agency</em></td>
<td>By Hsi-shih Lee, associate professor of art history, University of California, Los Angeles</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13, 2012</td>
<td><em>Women in Chinese History</em></td>
<td>By Ping Yao, associate professor of Chinese Literature, University of California, Irvine</td>
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<td>October 25, 2012</td>
<td><em>Women in Chinese Literature</em></td>
<td>By Shu-mei Shin, professor of comparative literature, Asian languages and cultures, University of California, Los Angeles</td>
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<td>January 10, 2013</td>
<td><em>Women in 20th Century Chinese History</em></td>
<td>By Ziwei Xiao, associate professor of history, California State University, San Marcos</td>
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<td>January 31, 2013</td>
<td><em>Modern Chinese History</em></td>
<td>By David Nasarris, professor of Chinese, City College of San Francisco</td>
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<td>February 21, 2013</td>
<td><em>What Can Chinese Film Tell Us About Modern China</em></td>
<td>By D. Zhen Chen, professor of film studies, University of California, Los Angeles</td>
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The free lectures will be held from 6:30 p.m. at Mount St. Mary's College, Rose Hills Auditorium, 10 Chester Place, Los Angeles. Space is limited, so RSVP now.