

Financial Support for the Mission of the Department of English

The funding opportunities described below will allow our alumni and friends to support our departmental mission at MSU and our extension of our mission, an extension that marks the intersection of literacy and culture on our campus and in our community. Please contact Alex McIntosh, Director of Development for the College of Arts & Sciences, if you can help us to [meet any of these needs: amcintosh@foundation.msstate.edu](mailto:amcintosh@foundation.msstate.edu).

Modest Needs

- We need a more reliable **postal scale**. Cost: **\$200**.
- Our current **fax machine** is nearly a decade old. A new, more efficient model would cost approximately **\$500**.
- Professors need an **lcd projector** for class presentations when the film room is not available. Cost: **\$750**.
- We need a **scanner** to assist faculty in processing documents for scholarship and teaching. Cost: **\$750**.
- We also need new computers for our executive and administrative secretaries. Cost: **\$5,000**

More Costly Needs

- First, we propose an **electronic Writing Center**. We already have a successful Writing Center in Lee 200, but adequate funding would allow us to secure and train two or three additional teaching assistants per year. These MA students would receive training in one-on-one teaching, just as all TAs who work in the WC do; additionally, they would receive training in the problems and challenges of responding to student in a strictly online environment. This proposal would allow the WC to serve community high school students as well as on-campus university students. Estimated funding need, including three additional computers: **\$25,000**.
- Second, we need a **software/hardware fund**. The Department of English ranks as one of the largest departments on the MSU campus. We have 22 professors, nine instructors, 14 lecturers, and 22 teaching assistants, as well as two secretaries. All of us need computers, Microsoft Office, and other software; keeping up with these needs has been challenging, indeed. Additionally, we have 10 computers in the Writing Center, each purchased in the fall semester of 2004 with money generated by our proposal to the Provost to begin a state-of-art Writing Center. We have achieved this goal, but our four-year-old computers will soon need replacing. Should they all expire at the same time, we would not have the means to replace them all at once. Estimated funding need: **\$50,000**.

- Third, we propose offering **workshops in writing and grammar** for area middle schools and high schools. These workshops would be offered by faculty from English and from the MSU Writing Project (Education professors as well as area teachers who have attended the WP Summer Institute), a partnership that may be emerging soon. To pay workshop leaders (probably two or three per workshop), we would need \$200 per teacher for one-time, two-hour sessions, plus \$100 per session to cover copying and materials. For long-term programs (multiple workshops over 3-6 months), we would need \$5,000-\$10,000, depending on the number and length of these programs. Estimated cost: **\$25,000**
- Fourth, we propose reviving the recently canceled **Learning Community program** for MSU's campus. Estimated cost: **\$100,000** to cover stipends for faculty. During my two-year tenure as interim director of LCs at MSU, the president's office provided approximately \$50,000 each semester, enough to fund 7-8 Learning Communities and the faculty members' stipends.
- Finally, we propose a **Speakers Bureau**. Of course, many of our colleagues already make presentations in local schools and in other community settings, as requested. This plan would call for our colleagues actively offering their services to local schools and organizations; those services would include lectures on literary topics, workshops in creative writing, or presentations on literary travel. These programs would be offered at no charge to the school or audience, but presenters would receive a stipend from me, \$100-\$200, depending on the length and nature of the presentation. Estimated cost: **\$50,000**. This amount would allow us not only to pay stipends to presenters but also to fund their professional travel to appropriate conferences, travel essential to their professional growth. Of course, many faculty do make trips to conferences, but they rarely receive full support, and their modest salaries mean passing up many opportunities. For example, one of our best new faculty colleagues, Dr. Thomas Anderson, recently had to pass up an invitation to deliver a paper at a prominent Shakespearean conference because the department lacked the funding to support him and because he could not afford to pay for the trip himself.