

ABSTRACTS OF TENURE-TRACK PROPOSALS

The Committee on Academic Priorities 2006-07

BIOLOGY (2 positions):

The Department of Biology requests permission to search for two faculty members in 2007-2008, at the level of Assistant Professor. The first position is for an individual with expertise in Developmental Biology/Evolution. Bryn Mawr has a long-standing commitment to offering courses and research in the general area of Developmental Biology; a position most recently held by Dr. Margaret Hollyday, who passed away in July 2006. In recent years, Developmental Biology has been developing a rich and productive intersection with Evolutionary Biology. An appointment in this area will provide coverage in a core area of Biology and position the Department at the cutting edge of an emerging discipline certain to grow in the next ten years. The second position is in Computational Ecology. Computer modeling is rapidly becoming a new core tool throughout Biology (as it is in other sciences), and one area in which it is being most effectively applied is in Ecology. An appointment in ecological modeling would strengthen our developing departmental program in this area as well as the broader program in Environmental Studies for which ecology is a central component. An appointment in computational ecology also will provide coursework for students across the sciences interested in modeling through participation in the Minor in Computational Methods. These two positions, along with our current search in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, will position the department to offer a thorough, innovative and cutting edge program in Biology that anticipates the challenges of future years, and to contribute to a range of interdisciplinary programs at the College.

CLASSICAL AND NEAR EASTERN ARCHAEOLOGY:

The Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology proposes to hire a classical archaeologist, whose research and teaching is centered on the material culture of classical antiquity in the Mediterranean and the Near East. This proposal is based on an examination of the department's philosophy and mission and the creation of a long range plan. The plan restructures the curriculum to broaden instruction in archaeology in the college at all levels of instruction. It will be implemented by new and revived offerings at the 100, 200 and 300 levels, with specific courses oriented to allied departments in classics, art history, Growth and Structure of Cities, anthropology, and history. The long range plan also makes fieldwork into a for-credit course of training and integrates the graduate curriculum with the upper-level undergraduate one.

Anyone interested in the Long Range Plan may view it at www.brynmawr.edu/archaeology/lrp.pdf.

EAST ASIAN STUDIES:

The bi-college East Asian Studies Department seeks a teacher-scholar of Modern East Asian History, culture and institutions. While the department is flexible with respect to scholarly foci, it is especially interested in attracting an individual who is capable of teaching about China, Japan, and, possibly, Korea from the nineteenth century to the present.

ENGLISH:

To continue the English Department's commitment to a rigorous film program at Bryn Mawr College and to maintain our core curriculum, we request permission to search for an **Assistant Professor of English and Film Studies**. A successful candidate would contribute leadership and core courses to both programs. **History:** In 1999, CAP approved our proposal to convert a departmental position focused on the history of the novel into one focused on film studies — a conversion that maintained our commitment to the study of narrative but expanded our curriculum to include an important form of narrative in the 20th century. This hire became Bryn Mawr's first tenure-line faculty member specializing in film studies. The position represents a synergy between essential competencies in our field and our commitments to key College goals: providing courses that serve all the Arts and Letters and responding to rapid technological change in a way that is both intellectually rigorous and pedagogically sound. **Trico Context:** There is no Haverford counterpart to this position or to our film program. Swarthmore has a growing program in film studies, with one joint appointment in their English department, but distance and SC's tight enrollments pose a significant challenge to cross-registration.

GROWTH AND STRUCTURE OF CITIES:

The Program in Growth and Structure of Cities requests a conversion of the part-time continuing non-tenure track teaching line in Cities that has existed for nearly a decade in various configurations, generally functioning as 0.8 FTE, into a fulltime tenure-track line in American architectural and urban history.

This relatively small adjustment is central and crucial to our long-term goal to stabilize the Program and to maintain its breadth and balance. It recognizes our fundamental commitment to interdisciplinary understanding of the built environment, encompassing diversity within the U.S. as well as global comparison, a vision deeply imbued with the College's institutional priorities.

Our proposal solidifies a central component of the Cities Program, its deep grounding in the historical evolution of the built environment. It strengthens our ability to work with U.S. topics that are vital for global/local comparisons as well as professional formation in architecture and planning (including our commitment to the 3-2 Program with the

University of Pennsylvania) and is an essential part of the interdisciplinary foundation of the Program. A full-time tenure-track position also provides us necessary continuities of teaching and advising, and allows us to respond to leaves as our five-year plan illustrates. Finally, this position will allow us to extend participation in cooperative programs with other departments, College Seminars (C-Sems), Graduate Seminars (G-Sems), and Environmental Studies, through direct participation of any newly appointed professor and through release of other faculty from current demands.

HISTORY:

The Department of History proposes a position in Comparative Medieval History, located in the time period 700 CE – 1400 CE. This period has a vibrant history in both Europe and the Islamic world. Within and beyond Europe, kingdoms and populations came to be linked by trade, migration, warfare, and extraordinary cultural exchanges including rich developments in science, math, and philosophy. We use the phrase “comparative history” in describing this position to emphasize that we are looking for someone whose research addresses links between cultures and societies. Our first preference will be for someone whose research interests focus on the connections between the Islamic world and that of Medieval Europe, whether in terms of trade, politics, history of science, or cultural exchange. Additionally, any research which relies upon a comparative approach will be welcome.

There are currently no Medieval historians at either Bryn Mawr College or Haverford College. This position both fills a Bi-Co unmet need in Medieval history while simultaneously offering support to the areas of the curriculum that already address such issues as art and architecture in the Medieval period and Medieval literatures in English, French, and Spanish.

PHILOSOPHY:

The Department of Philosophy has submitted a proposal to CAP for a full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professor during the academic year 2007-08. This position is a replacement for Cheryl Chen, who left at the end of 2005/06.

In the Department’s last external review in Spring 2000, the reviewers recommended that there be a search for a full-time, tenure-track position in the Philosophy Department at Bryn Mawr in the specific areas of Philosophy of Mind/Psychology, Philosophy of Language, and Logic. Their recommendations were based on the need to fill gaps and strengthen the Philosophy curriculum in the Bi-College context and they formed the basis for our proposal to CAP in 2003 to convert Chen to a tenure track appointment. However, in line with CAP’s new directives to departments as outlined in its 2005/06 Annual Report, Philosophy has reevaluated the areas specified above and concluded that it needs to broaden the vision of them to reflect new developments in these areas, to promote the sharing of resources in the College context, to enrich cross- and interdisciplinary

collaboration in teaching and research, and to ease the pressures created by the enhanced sabbatical policy.

To achieve these goals we believe that the description of the position needs to be fairly broad for three main reasons. First, because we are small in number (even when we count Haverford's faculty), we need someone who can teach some of the courses central to the discipline and to the core requirements in Philosophy at Bryn Mawr. These include Historical Introduction to Philosophy: Ancient; Historical Introduction to Philosophy: Modern, Logic, Metaphysics, and Theory of Knowledge. We will need to cast the net wide for applicants who specialize in the general areas of philosophy identified above, but who also have competence in teaching some of the core courses. This will help ease the pressures on the department and the College when faculty members who regularly teach the core courses are on sabbatical. Second, the wider we cast the net the greater the probability that we can find an exceptional scholar/teacher and the greater the probability that we might find someone who can also help the College meet its diversity aims. Third, within the general areas of philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and logic, we want someone who is able to cross traditional boundaries between disciplines and programs in the Tri-College context. This opens up range of possibilities: candidates who explore linkages between Philosophy of Mind and Psychology or between Cognitive Science and Computer Science or between Philosophy of Language and the Linguistics Program at Swarthmore. Another potentially rich link could be between Philosophy and Neural and Behavioral Sciences, a concentration that is interdisciplinary in nature and already has the participation of faculty in Biology, Psychology, and Computer Science.

In summary, we have needs in the areas of Philosophy of Mind/Psychology, Cognitive Science, Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, and Logic and we need to keep the description broad so that options are kept open with respect to getting the best candidate, someone who can contribute to the core curriculum in Philosophy and thereby ease the demand for sabbatical leave replacements and also use the areas of specialization to reach across disciplines in their teaching and research.