New Doctoral Dissertation Grants Funded

Each year the Foundation solicits proposals from doctoral candidates doing research on TIRF’s priority topics. Applicants must be enrolled in a legitimate doctoral program and must be advanced to candidacy (i.e., they must have finished any required coursework and must have had their research plans approved by their faculty committee). Those applicants whose proposals are selected receive awards up to US $5,000 to carry out their research.

At its September 2010 meeting, the TIRF Board of Trustees endorsed the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee to support six doctoral candidates as they complete their studies. The highest rated proposal each year is recognized by being named the Russell N. Campbell Doctoral Dissertation Grant, in honor of one of the founding members of the Foundation. As the top-ranked applicant, Ms. Ching-Ni Hsieh has been named as the 2010 Russell N. Campbell Award recipient. Congratulations to all our grantees!

The 2010 competition was the biggest to date. The Research Advisory Committee reports that if more money had been available, more applicants would have been funded, as there were several deserving proposals we could not support this year.

TIRF Report Appears in Taiwanese Magazine

The Taiwanese magazine, English Career, is publishing TIRF’s report, The Impact of English and Plurilingualism in Global Corporations, in Mandarin. The executive summary of the report appeared in the June 2010 issue. The first half of the full report and the appendices will appear in October, with the second half of the report to appear in December.

Many thanks to Chao-Min Hsu, a Translation & Interpretation masters degree candidate at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, for checking the translation. For a free downloadable copy of the report written in English, please visit http://www.tirfonline.org/TIRF_Plurilingualism_full.pdf.
It has been just a year since I was elected as Chairman of the TIRF Board of Trustees and President of the Foundation. Some of that time has been consumed with infrastructure work: opening a bank account and post-office box in Monterey and closing the earlier ones; establishing line items at the Monterey Institute for TIRF expenses; and even making sure that new letterhead was printed. But the much more rewarding part of the office has involved the substantive work of furthering TIRF’s mission and publicizing the Foundation’s efforts.

The most important development of the past year was that Sheikh Nahayan, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the UAE, agreed to continue his generous grant to TIRF. The Sheikh Nahayan Fellowships are used to support doctoral candidates completing research on the teaching and learning of English in the Arab world. We are very grateful to the Sheikh for his support of this important initiative, and to former TIRF trustees, Yehia El-Ezabi and Ali Al-Sharhan, who negotiated the conditions of this gift. Future issues of this newsletter will report on the 2010 competition, which is currently underway.

I am deeply appreciative of the support of all TIRF’s donors and of my Board colleagues, who volunteer their precious time to make sure the foundation is successful. I am especially grateful to former Chairs, Donald Freeman, Dick Tucker, and Neil Anderson, who have guided and supported me in the past year. I look forward to sharing more information about TIRF in future issues of this newsletter.

Kathleen Bailey, Chair of TIRF