

Editor's Letter

For some reason, my student teachers keep looking younger and younger, but they do prompt me to reflect on both the journeys ahead of them as art teachers and the one I am still on. As a mentor teacher, I feel it is my responsibility to steer them onto a successful path, pointing out ways around pitfalls while trying to ensure that they don't miss the best experiences.

As art teachers, our journeys can take many forms: in our schools, our communities, across the country, around the world, through cyberspace. Before you think you can't afford such travel, especially beyond your community, I would like to share with you some suggestions for making such journeys possible, even on a teacher's salary.

Thanks to the Internet, it has become much easier to find and apply for teacher grants that can pay for all or part of professional development and travel opportunities, especially during the summer. Don't be hesitant to apply—you might soon find yourself on the highway or in the air. The cold months of winter are the perfect time to start planning for the summer.

One place to start is the Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad, which provides short-term study and travel seminars abroad for United States educators in the social studies and humanities for the purpose of improving their knowledge of the cultures of other countries. Learn about their current offerings at www.ed.gov/programs/iegpssap/index.html.

Another source to investigate is the Fund for Teachers, which provides travel grants for the personal and professional growth of teachers. Find out if your school district qualifies at www.fundforteachers.org. You can also read about the experiences of two teachers who received a travel grant from the Fund for Teachers in "Our Enchanted Art Adventure" on page 8.

The NEA Foundation offers Learning and Leadership grants that provide funds for teachers to engage in high-quality professional development like summer institutes and action research. You can apply online at www.neafoundation.org.

The National Art Education Association offers grant opportunities, co-sponsored academies and institutes, and grant-writing tips at www.arteducators.org/olc/pub/NAEA/grants. Your state art education association or a local school district foundation may offer similar grants. I have received a number of grants from my school district foundation.

It never hurts to apply (you can use the same information in a number of applications) and you might just find yourself on a delightful adventure that will refresh and strengthen you as a teacher. Whether you travel near or far, by plane or Internet, I wish you a joyful journey.



Nancy on a boat in the Hong Kong harbor for a Chinese New Year celebration.

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