

## **Report to the AIS from the AIS Foundation -- May 10, 2016**

### **Grants & Scholarships**

Several new projects have been funded since last fall:

1. Texas State University San Marcos received \$6,621 in April, 2016 for Master's Student Alexander Zalmat. His project is the "Divergent Selection and Reproductive Isolation in Louisiana Iris: Using Fst Outlier Analysis to Identify Selectively Divergent Loci". The data generated by this project will provide the largest geographic survey of genomic variation in Louisiana Irises to date. Tissue samples from *I. hexagona* were collected from 3 sites in Florida and 2 coastal sites in Texas and *I. brevicaulis* samples from Illinois, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas. The largest portion of the cost of this study will be spent on DNA sequencing using the University of Austin's Genome Sequencing and Analysis Facility.
2. A change in location occurred in one of the previously approved and funded grants. Erin Riggs left Leach Botanical Garden in Portland and can no longer continue the grant awarded her last year to work on California irises. Dr. Carol Wilson at Berkeley will take over the project. The Foundation received a refund check for \$4,489.42 of the original grant of \$4,915 in April, 2016, and a new check was made out for \$4,915.00 to The Regent's of the University of California on April 18, 2016. The project, as originally proposed and approved, "Phylogeny and Biogeography of series Californicae in the genus Iris" will be completed by Dr. Wilson.
3. The Foundation approved a \$500 grant to be used toward the registration and travel expenses for Milan Blazek from the Czech Republic to attend the 2016 AIS National Convention. Milan received the Warburton Medal in 2004 and is an honorary member of the AIS. He has registered over 100 irises and is notably one of the first to start savings old irises that grew around old Castles and Estates in Europe. Cathy Egerer with HIPS has been coordinating the fundraising for this project.

### **AIS Library**

The lease on the Molalla Oregon library space is up for renewal for another 2-year term on June 1, 2016.

### **AIS Encyclopedia**

A request has been made to increase the payment for IT services for the wiki from \$1,000 a year to \$2,000 a year. This will be discussed at the Foundation Board meeting at the Convention.

Also, the name of the AIS Library needs to be consistent between the AIS Foundation, the DuBose Trust, and the Encyclopedia. The Foundation will discuss approving the following name for the AIS Library, to be used in all venues: "The Sidney DuBose/BenHager Memorial AIS Library".

### **DuBose Trust**

When Sidney Du Bose passed away in 2005, the residue of his estate went into the Sidney DuBose Trust. The income from the Trust is to go to the AIS Foundation annually to fund the expenses of the AIS Library. Former AIS counselor Robert Plank became the de facto Trustee for the Trust via a Power of Attorney granted by named trustee, Philip Edinger in 2005. Last Fall, Mr. Plank asked to be replaced in this position. It has taken many hours and discussions with local lawyers and Chase Bank (which holds the Trust assets), but as of May 12, 2016, the Agent for the DuBose Trust will now be Jill Bonino. Philip Edinger signed a new POA on that day effecting this change.

### **Ackerman Essay Contact**

The Essay Contest has been completed and the winners will be announced at the Board of Directors Meeting in Newark, NJ at the AIS National Convention.

### **Other Foundation Operations**

During 2015, Jill Bonino became the Secretary/Treasurer for the AIS Foundation. A new bank account at Wells Fargo was opened in July, 2015 and gradually throughout the rest of the year, former Sec/Treas Gary White transferred funds and closed CDs into the new Wells Fargo account. Discussions were made via email among AIS Foundation Board members to discuss a new Investment Policy at the next annual Foundation Board meeting. Interest rates on CDs have been in the 1%-2% range for the last 5 years and show no signs of improving. Other investment vehicles exist that should earn higher annual yields than this on the approximately \$440,000 of Foundation funds. Only through the income from donations, earnings on investments and from the DuBose Trust can the Foundation continue to fund the AIS Library, the Encyclopedia, and research grants & scholarships.

Several openings have occurred on the Foundation Board over the last 6 months. New Board members will be elected at the annual Foundation meeting at the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Bonino,  
Secretary/Treasurer