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2010 will be 23rd year for Lilly Endowment's Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program

Recipients of the 2009 Teacher Creativity Fellowships have returned to their Indiana classrooms with tales of their summer adventures. Their fellowships allowed them to “dream big” when deciding on their personal renewal projects – and they did just that.

They hiked and backpacked in six national parks, followed the Oregon Trail, attended a yodeling festival in Switzerland and explored the Alps, backpacked through England, France, Italy, Germany and Belgium; and explored Morocco, Spain, Turkey and Israel to study Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

They built guitars, boats and cedar woodstrip canoes. They researched their ancestors' service in the Civil War and reconnected with buddies who shared service in Vietnam. The educators researched family histories from Kentucky to Croatia, visited zoos in Europe and studied British history at Oxford University.

They chronicled the life of today's trucker – and studied the history of the Tucker car. Another traveled to England for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Mini Cooper. Another went to England to learn to ride, joust and foot-fight with shields and broad swords at the Knights of Middle England program. One traveled through Russia – Moscow to Irkutsk – on the TransSiberian Railroad.

Now it's time for the future 2010 Teacher Creativity fellows to start thinking about possible proposal ideas. Lilly Endowment Inc. is offering the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program for the 23rd year. Up to 120 awards of \$8,000 each will be made to K-12 licensed teachers, principals and assistant principals, guidance counselors and librarians/media specialists to support creative projects.

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2010 Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program
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These projects will take place during six weeks next summer and must be completed by Aug. 31, 2010. The grant period, however, will run through May 31, 2011, so that recipients will be able to report how the grant activities have influenced their work in the classroom.

“The best teachers know that learning never ends,” said Sara B. Cobb, Endowment vice president for education. “These teachers are curious. They are articulate and enthusiastic. They are eager to share.

“We have teachers return and tell us the fellowship was a life-changing experience and the ‘biggest adventure of my life.’ We are constantly amazed and gratified by the enthusiasm the teachers bring to these projects, the lessons they learn and the people they meet. The excitement they bring back to the students in their classrooms is contagious,” Cobb added.

All applicants must have at least three years of professional experience to be eligible for this competitive program. Also, former Teacher Creativity fellows who received their award before 2003 are eligible to apply for a second award in the 2010 program.

Applications for the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program must be postmarked by Nov. 6. Notification of grant awards will be made by Feb. 26, 2010; grant payments will be made in due course after March 15.

For specific questions about the Teacher Creativity program, application procedures or grant-writing tips, please consult the Endowment’s Web site, www.lillyendowment.org and click on Education, then on Teacher Creativity. You may also contact the Endowment by e-mail, teachercreativity@lei.org.