Diversity Fair 2004

For the second year in a row, the Indiana University Library hosted a Diversity Fair showcasing the many campus groups devoted to promoting and educating people about different cultures. EASC contributed a booth explaining our programs to promote and educate about East Asian cultures. EASC volunteers arranged for a copy of the lesson plan CD-ROM for use in their own classrooms. If you would like a copy of this lesson plan CD-ROM, contact Outreach Coordinator Anne Prescott.

Exploratory language

When Hazelwood Middle School in New Albany, IN decided that they needed to expose their students to a variety of foreign languages, they called on the resources of IU’s International Studies for Indiana Students (ISIS) program and the International Outreach Centers. The goal was to increase awareness among middle school students of the benefits of foreign language study, and to expose them to both commonly-taught and lesser-taught languages.

The resulting exploratory languages program is using video distance learning (VDL) to link 7th grade Hazelwood students with language instructors in Swahili, Japanese, French and Spanish. The students had six one-hour classes for each language, plus introductory and wrap-up sessions. Mikiko Kory taught the Japanese program, and in addition to basic Japanese phrases, she included fun cultural activities such as games and how to eat with chopsticks. ISIS coordinator Kathleen Sobiech reported that, “The kids loved Mikiko’s classes. She really made them curious to learn more about her country. After the final class they were all ready to leave for Japan the next day.”

EASC can arrange VDL classes on any East Asia-related topic to complement your teaching. Contact us to see how we can help you!

Diversity Fair 2004

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Lotus Blossoms

On March 5 and 6, the gym at Binford Elementary School in Bloomington was full of children learning about cultures from around the world, including East Asia. More than 7,000 people, most of them children in grades K through 6, experienced Lotus Blossoms, an outreach program presented by the nonprofit Lotus Education and Arts Foundation. Activities included public concerts, a free World Bazaar with music and hands-on activities for children, and free workshops. EASC volunteers contributed to the World Bazaar with an origami demonstration, a game which challenged children to identify artifacts from China, Japan and Korea, and calligraphers who wrote the children’s names in Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

Of Interest

China Box

EASC outreach assistant Francis Tan has nearly completed our China Box, a chest full of items which teachers can use to enrich their instruction about China. Outreach coordinators Anne Prescott and Mary Hayes collected the items in February 2003 on their study tour preparation trip to China, and more items will be collected this summer during the study tour. Some of the contents are in response to teacher inquiries and interest. These include a Young Pioneers red scarf, a Mao pin, city maps, and a Chinese New Year’s dragon puppet. Other items include games, a cassette of children’s songs, a book, Chinese money, a calligraphy brush, elementary school Chinese character workbooks, and a DVD on Chinese tea. A complete list of the contents as well as information on borrowing the China Box will be available soon.

Japan Box

The Japan Box continues to be a useful instructional aid for teachers. A box featuring traditional toys is currently available, and another exploring Japanese school life will be available soon. For more information on the Japan Box, its contents, and how to borrow it, go to http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/resources/japan_box/index.htm.

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Did you know?

**Forbidden City Comes to Chicago**

Looking for an interesting summer excursion that is educational as well? Why not visit the Forbidden City exhibit at the Field Museum in Chicago? The items on display center on the life and reign of the Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795). This is the first time these items have been shown outside of the Palace Museum in Beijing. A guided audio tour is available in two versions, one for children and one for adults, so the whole family can enjoy and learn about Chinese culture and civilization. For more information, go to the Field Museum website at [http://www.fieldmuseum.org/forbiddencity/](http://www.fieldmuseum.org/forbiddencity/).

**Marvelous, Magical Creatures from East Asia at the Monroe County Public Library**

Join EASC staff July 9 and meet famous Chinese, Japanese, and Korean mythical characters. Learn why these creatures are special...some are faithful friends while others are tricksters to beware. And some...are simply magical, mystical beings of another world. Hear stories of these fantastic beasts, make a creature of your own, and sample some fabulous East Asian food treats. For older preschool through grade 6 children. Please register in advance at the Monroe County Public Library switchboard at (812) 349-3050.

**Indiana Teacher Honored**

John Frank, a participant in the Study Tour to Japan and Korea in 2002, and curriculum consultant for the 2003 and 2004 study tours, received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Teaching of History 2004. John teaches U.S. history, world history, and government at Center Grove High School in Greenwood, Indiana. He was nominated for the award, which is sponsored by the Indiana Council for History Education, the Indiana Association of Historians and the Indiana Historical Society, by a colleague, and received a certificate and a $1,000 award.