Summer 2004 Successes

Teaching East Asian Literature in the Elementary Classroom Workshop

“Incredibly perfect!” That’s how one of the participants of the Teaching East Asian Literature in the Elementary Classroom workshop summed up her experience. Twenty music teachers from Indiana, Tennessee, Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio, North Carolina and Taiwan gathered at IU Bloomington June 13-16 to learn more about the musics of East Asia and how to incorporate them into their teaching. Sessions were led by Dr. Han Kuo-Huang (China), Dr. Anne Prescott (Japan), Dr. Hilary Finchum-Sung (Korea), and Dr. Terese Volk. The workshop also featured demonstrations and hands-on experience with East Asian instruments and a special concert by Chinese pipa virtuoso Hong Shao. Dates for the 2005 workshop will be announced soon.

For all the latest information, visit our website.

Teaching East Asian Music in the Elementary Classroom Workshop

Beginning on July 18, twenty-one high school English teachers came to Bloomington to study the history and literature of China, Japan, and Korea. Professors from Columbia University and Indiana University taught this summer’s week-long workshop. The first two days covered traditional and modern Japanese history and literature. Literature, culture and history of the Korean peninsula were covered on Wednesday. The week ended with two days devoted to traditional and modern Chinese literature and history. Throughout the week, Cecilia Boyce of Hillsborough High School (Odessa, FL) and Judith DeWoskin of Community High School (Ann Arbor, MI) guided participants on how to creatively implement East Asian literature into the high school classroom. In addition to formal sessions, the 2004 literature workshop provided cultural presentations on aikido, tai chi, samulnori and East Asian fashion, as well as, exploring East Asia through films and food. A participant summed up the week with, “Phenomenal week! Professional, helpful staff, great professors and teachers. What bliss!” For the latest information about the 2005 workshop, visit our website.

Welcome!

We want to welcome John Frank, history teacher at Center Grove High School in Greenwood, Indiana, who will be working with EASC as a curriculum consultant. John completed the NCTA Teaching about Asia seminar and has been on three NCTA study tours, first as a participant and then as curriculum coordinator. He will be contributing a Classroom Connection section to each issue of this newsletter.

Goodbye!

Mary Hayes, who has been an outreach coordinator at EASC since January 2001, has decided to return to school to work on her Master’s degree in Parks and Recreation. We are happy that she has this opportunity, but she will be greatly missed by all who have worked with her over the past few years.

In addition, Jeff Payne has been awarded a graduate assistantship in the political science department. Thanks to him for his work for the past two years. Anne Prescott will take over supervision of all outreach activities and will be assisted by Maryanne Kim, Francis Tan, and another assistant yet to be hired.

Coming up

Next Issue:

2004 Study Tour to China
NCTA Chicago Enrichment Trip
Asia in the Curriculum Symposium
Storytelling
Classroom Connection

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For the past six years the EASC, with generous support from the Freeman Foundation, has been conducting 10-week, 30-hour seminars throughout the Midwest to help teachers become more knowledgeable about East Asia. Texts, school resources, and stipends are available to those successfully completing the seminar. Upcoming Teaching About Asia seminars include:

Alabama: Location, dates and times: TBA

Bloomington, IL: Illinois State University, January 12-April 6 (no class 3/2, 3/9, and 3/23), Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m.

Bowling Green, KY: Western Kentucky University, January 13-March 17, Thursdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Chicago, IL: Roosevelt High School, January 11-April 5 (no class 2/15 & 3/22), Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Cleveland, OH: Cleveland State University, January 26-April 6 (no class 3/16), Wednesdays, 7-10 p.m.

East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University, February 2-April 13 (no class 3/9), Wednesdays, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Indianapolis, IN: Park Tudor School, January 13-March 17, Thursdays, 5-8 p.m.

Toledo, OH: University of Toledo, February 2-April 20 (no class 3/9 & 3/30, make-up sessions are 4/27 & 5/4, if needed), Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m.

West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University, January 11-March 22, Tuesdays, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information or to request an application, contact Anne Prescott at aprescot@indiana.edu or at 800.441.3272. Applications are also available online at www.indiana.edu/~easc.

Classroom Connection: Yasukuni Shrine

August 15, 2004 marked the fifty-ninth anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific. On that day, several Japanese government officials visited Tokyo’s Yasukuni Shrine, rekindling an annual controversy. (The spirits of Japan’s 1853 to 1945 war dead, including a small number of convicted war criminals, are enshrined at the Shinto place of worship.) China and North Korea issued statements critical of the Japanese minister’s visits and Japanese critics voiced objections to what they view as an unconstitutional state sponsorship of Shintoism.

(IU’s EASC 2002 and 2003 teacher study groups toured Yasukuni. This summer’s Study Tour to Japan and Korea will also visit the shrine. Alumni of IU’s Teaching About Asia seminars are eligible to apply for this summer’s study tour. Applications will be available soon.)

Possible questions for classroom discussion:
1.) Why would Japan’s neighbors so strongly and publicly criticize official Japanese visits to the Yasukuni Shrine?
2.) How have Japan and Germany dealt with the legacy of World War II?
3.) How do nations memorialize their wars? (Compare Tokyo’s Yasukuni Shrine with Paris’ Arc de Triomphe or Washington DC’s Vietnam War Memorial or the recently dedicated World War II Memorial.)

For more information on the Yasukuni Shrine see the following websites:
http://home.kyodo.co.jp/all/display.jsp?an=20040815089
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/1330223.stm