Recent Spring 2006 Successes!

**A Day in Korea**

EASC held its annual High School Honors Seminar on Friday, April 28. This year's theme was “A Day in Korea,” and the day included lectures by Dr. Michael Robinson, EALC, on daily life in Korea and Kyoim Yun, graduate student in folklore and ethnomusicology, on shamanism. These presentations were followed by a hands-on “Amazing Race” experience. This event, based on the popular television program “Amazing Race,” was developed by Susan Stroh and Linda Glave, teachers from Angola, IN, Prairie Heights Middle School (2005 NCTA seminar, Toledo, OH). Six teams competed to see who could most accurately and quickly navigate a number of checkpoints, including Korean facts, Korean dietary guidelines, Korean symbols, Korean places, taekwondo, and a final stop where they had to differentiate Korean cultural artifacts from their Chinese and Japanese equivalents. They also had to pass through a “roadblock” where one team member had to eat a bowl of kimchi! Students from Indianapolis, Columbus, Franklin and Elletsville participated in this fun and educational experience. One 11th grader from Warren Central High School in Indianapolis commented that “This is the most educational field trip I have ever been on!” If you are interested in learning more about the “Amazing Race Korea” and how you might be able to implement it at your school, please contact EASC.

EASC also says farewell to Maryanne Kim, who is leaving to stay at home with her first child (due any day now!). We will miss Maryanne’s superb organizational skills and positive disposition. Maryanne is the “master” of our very successful East Asian stories program, and we know that her baby will flourish with a mother who is so patient and good at teaching young children!

**Milroy, IN and Frankfort, KY School programs**

We would like to commend two schools on their recent successful all-school Japan programs. This spring Milroy Elementary School in Milroy, Indiana completed a Japan project that involved all of the teachers and students, and brought in guest experts from Indianapolis and Bloomington. On March 2 Molly Jeon (Japanese instructor, Bloomington High School North), Anne Prescott (EASC), and Maryanne Kim (EASC) spent the day at Milroy teaching the students about Japanese min’yo (folk song), koto and kamishibai storytelling, respectively. That evening several hundred people in this town of less than 1,000 showed up for a night of Japanese music and culture. Music teacher Rebecca Stone not only planned all the activities, but also wrote the grant to finance the entire learning event.

Western Hills High School in Frankfort, KY hosted a “Japanese Tea House” on March 28. Media Specialist Lorrie Fraley coordinated the evening, attended by several hundred students, parents and community members. This impressive event included a koi pond built by agriculture students, a Zen rock garden contributed by horticulture classes, shoji screens from the art department, dango dumplings made by home ec students, and many other special attractions. One of the highlights of the evening was the adaptation of the kabuki-style play “Love Suicides at the Jordan River.” Originally written by Professor Sumie Jones’ student Vince Amlin for a comparative literature class at IU, Western Hills students adapted it for their school and presented it to a very enthusiastic audience. Also featured were Anne Prescott, EASC, performing on the koto, and local Japanese martial arts groups.

Many thanks to these two schools for their continuing efforts to promote learning about Asia in their schools!

**NCTA Presentations and Seminar in Michigan**

Presentations by NCTA teachers are vital to NCTA’s efforts to create a permanent place for Asia in American schools. NCTA participants Susan Stroh and Linda Glave, Angola, IN, Rob Fetters, Columbus, OH, Jeff Johnson, Indianapolis, IN (seminar instructor), and Anne Prescott, presented NCTA lesson plans and information at the Great Lakes Regional Council for the Social Studies Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. Grand Rapids will be the site of an NCTA seminar, administered through Michigan State University, next fall. For more information on that seminar, contact Marilyn McCullough at mccull67@msu.edu.

Farewells and Welcome

EASC is saying farewell to two people and hello to one person this spring. Jeff Wasserstrom, EASC director for the past four years, is leaving to assume a new position at the University of California-Irvine. Jeff has been a great supporter of EASC outreach efforts, contributing to many campus outreach events as well as being a faculty expert on the 2004 NCTA study tour to China. We wish Jeff the best of luck in his new position and hope that the people in California realize how lucky they are to be getting him!

We welcome Heidi Ross, Professor of Education, as the incoming EASC director. Heidi has also contributed greatly to EASC outreach efforts since her arrival in Bloomington three years ago, and we look forward to working with her to develop and implement new and innovative programs in the upcoming years.

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The United States and Three East Asian Nations: Higher Education Enrolment in Six Leading Major Fields of Study

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<th>China (higher education)</th>
<th>Japan (university students)</th>
<th>South Korea (college freshman)</th>
<th>United States (undergraduates)</th>
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<td>home economics 2%</td>
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Sources:
South Korea: Brief Statistics on Korean Education - 2004, Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development