Recent Spring 2007 Successes!

IL/IN East Asia Fair: The Art of Calligraphy and Seal Making

The first annual IL/IN East Asia Fair for high school students, sponsored by EASC and University of Illinois’s Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, was held at Ivy Tech Community College in Terre Haute on April 23rd. The topic was “The Art of Calligraphy and Seal Making,” and over twenty teachers and students from Terre Haute and Champaign-Urbana attended. In the morning students learned about the history of calligraphy and seal making from James Yang, Professor Emeritus at National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan. In the afternoon there were hands-on sessions, with participants creating their own calligraphy pieces as well as personalized seals.

Exploration, Conquest, Imperialism, and Post-Colonialism: A Workshop for Teachers of Grades 7-12

On April 24th, EASC co-sponsored a workshop that focused on Standard 4 of Indiana’s new Geography and History of the World State Standards for secondary teachers, held at the Southern Indiana Education Center in Jasper, IN. This is the first in a series of workshops organized by Indiana University’s Center for Social Studies and International Education and jointly sponsored by IU’s Title VI area studies centers including: African Studies Program, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, East Asian Studies Center, Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center, and the Russian & East European Institute. During the workshop guest speakers from IU Bloomington gave content lectures, followed by instruction by an experienced teacher educator on how to integrate the content into the classroom. These standards workshops will be held at different locations in Indiana over the next three years. The next workshop will be held on June 13 at the Wilson Education Center in Charlestown. To register, visit http://www.wesc.k12.in.us/. If you’re interested in learning about future workshops in your region, contact Jane Henson at henson@indiana.edu.

K-12 Chinese & Japanese Language Teachers Workshop

EASC will hold a summer workshop for Indiana K-12 Chinese and Japanese language teachers titled “New State Standards for East Asian Languages: Implications and Implementation,” on Saturday, July 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the IUPUI School of Education building in Indianapolis. Teachers are invited to come learn about the new state standards, meet colleagues, and share resources. The first 15 registrants from each language will receive a $50 honorarium. Teachers who present on their ideas will receive an additional $50 honorarium. Participants who come from over 50 miles away will be reimbursed for up to $100 in travel expenses. Certification Renewal Units (CRU’s) are also available. For more information and a registration form, visit www.indiana.edu/~easc/ea_langstds_workshop or contact Brian Flaherty at bdflaher@indiana.edu. The deadline to register is June 9, 2007.

STARTALK 2007: Chinese Pedagogy Institute

EASC was awarded STARTALK funding as part of the National Security Language Initiative to hold an intensive two-week residential Chinese Pedagogy Institute (CPI) this July 14-29. The institute will offer four hours of graduate-level credit to fifteen prospective and current high school Chinese teachers recruited from around the country. The goal of the workshop is to help Chinese language teachers attain full certification to teach in U.S. schools. In addition to the four credit hours of tuition, instructional materials, lodging, and meals will be fully covered, with travel being the only cost borne by the participants. Indiana University Professor Jennifer Liu will lead the workshop with the help of Michael Alverson, a professor of foreign language education at the University of Iowa and Claire Kottenbelt, an award-winning teacher of high school Chinese and an instructor and consultant at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The first week will take place at IU’s Bradford Woods retreat center, and the second week will take place on the Bloomington campus. Local high school students will be recruited to act as teaching subjects to aid in a practicum for teachers (see back of newsletter for more information). Participants for this year’s institute have already been selected, but we anticipate offering CPI annually. For more information see: http://www.indiana.edu/~easc/CPI.

News & Notes

New EASC Website Coming

The East Asian Studies Center website is getting a new look! Re-design is currently in process and should be completed this summer. The new design will include spotlights that feature faculty, volunteers, students, and K-12 teachers who have been involved with the EASC over the years. We will also add a comprehensive calendar of East Asia-related events. The address will stay the same: http://www.indiana.edu/~easc. Check it out!

Electronic K-12 Connection

This is the last print version of the K-12 East Asian Connection. From now on, the newsletter will be published electronically. EASC has established a listserv to keep K-12 teachers abreast of news and opportunities related to teaching about East Asia. If you would like your e-mail to be added to that list, please e-mail easc@indiana.edu with the subject heading: “Add to K-12 Listserv.”

Briefing on Teaching High School Chinese in Indiana

Many Indiana high schools are interested in adding Chinese language programs, increasing the demand for certified Chinese language teachers. On May 12, EASC Director Heidi Ross helped lead an informational session for native Chinese speakers living in Indiana who are interested in becoming certified to teach in public high schools. The session was jointly organized by the Indiana Department of Education, EASC, and the IU School of Education. If you are interested in being notified of future Chinese language initiatives, e-mail easc@indiana.edu with the subject heading: “Add to Chinese List.”

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Symbols of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games
Using Olympic Symbols to Teach Students about Chinese Culture

The symbols chosen by the Beijing Olympic Games organizers are steeped in Chinese culture and language. The Olympic graphics, which our students will repeatedly see on television screens in eighteen months, are helpful resources to teach about China. Examples include:

The emblem for the games is based upon the Chinese character “jing” (the second character of the word Beijing.)

The mascots selected by the organizers reflect Chinese symbolic use of color, nature, and language.

Pictograms (symbols for individual sports) of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games are based on “seal characters,” an archaic style of Chinese calligraphy.

Students might do reports, language activities, or art projects based on the Olympic symbols. For more information on this topic visit the official “Image and Look” website of the Beijing Games:


a taste of chinese for high school students

June 25-29
10:30 am-12:30 pm
Indiana University - Bloomington

FREE! What’s more, students who are selected to attend will be paid $75 for their participation. Students must be able to provide their own transportation to and from campus. They must also commit to attending all sessions.

how to apply

Complete the application form and submit it by May 27, June 8, 2007. The application can be found on our website at www.indiana.edu/~easc/CIPI/students