

Asia Institute Outreach Newsletter



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Message from the Outreach Coordinator



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program is designed to create a network (*tsunagaru* in Japanese) of Virginia teachers with expanded knowledge of Japanese language and culture. A self-selected and motivated group of 30 teachers began with the first step on February 4th, undertaking **three hours** of introductory Japanese...on a Saturday morning! Teachers from Amherst, Nelson, Charles City County, and even as far as Campbell and Pittsylvania Counties attended. For lunch participants tried all sorts of delicacies in bento boxes including teriyaki, sushi, seaweed salad, and *tamago*. Workshop participants are now engaging in the next phase, a curriculum development contest. We'll announce the winners in the summer newsletter in June.

We are currently accepting applications from rising 9th through 12th graders for the 2012 Chinese STARTALK program. For details [check out the application package](#).

Otherwise, despite the warm winter, we're still ready for Spring!

-Rachel Stauffer

こんにちは！

We have been thrilled to be very busy here in the Asia Institute over the last couple of months. As I reported in the Winter edition of this newsletter, the Asia Institute was granted \$5,000 from the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership to organize a project called the *Tsunagaru Initiative*. This

Recent Events

- * Rachel Stauffer and Karen Lang (Religious Studies) gave presentations for HS teachers in Hanover County on Russia and India (respectively) in the Virginia SOLs.
- * Rachel, Rich Cohen (South Asian Studies/Asia Institute), Margaret McNett, and Hiromi Johnson ([Hiromi T'ai Chi](#)) conducted presentations for students in an after-school program on Global Cultures at Rockfish River Elementary School (Nelson).
- * The [Piedmont Chinese Association](#) held an amazing

program at Fashion Square Mall on Saturday, February 25th with performances in Chinese music, martial arts, and all sorts of free demos of origami, calligraphy, tea ceremony, and lots more. Stay tuned for details about the **Japan Spring Festival at Fashion Square Mall in April!**

- * Elizabeth Mulcahy of Western Albemarle HS and Marc Carraway of the [Blue Ridge Virtual Governor's School](#) will travel on scholarship to China this summer thanks to the [Virginia School University Partnership](#). Congrats! Eat lots of *jiao zi* (dumplings)!

"I am not an Athenian, nor a Greek, but a citizen of the world."

-Socrates



The Asia Institute houses faculty who are experts on the cultures of China, Japan, Korea, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tibet, and Nepal. We also work with U.Va students and staff volunteers who are interested in visiting schools to provide cultural and informational programming on their study or travel experiences. We provide these services at **no cost** to schools.

Projected Professional Development

- Last summer's Mandarin Mini-Course was such a huge hit with participants that we'd like to offer 1) a one-day refresher for those who participated last year and 2) a two-day introductory program like last year. We are working with 46% less money this year, but rest assured we will try to make this happen!
- The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center is currently working with the Asia Institute to pilot a program for K-12 in-service and pre-service teachers in far Southwestern Virginia and surrounding counties in Tennessee and Kentucky, focused on concepts of "global competence". This program is still in the planning stages, but we'll be sure to let you know if/when it comes to fruition!
- The Asia Institute recently submitted a proposal to take K-12 teachers to study art, culture, literature, and film in Russia, China, and North Korea for professional development. We won't know our funding status on this project until later this fall.
- We offer free consultations and professional development upon request too! Just contact us and ask!

Unique Opportunities

The Chinese Summer Language Institute at the University of Virginia welcomes rising high school senior or high school graduates who are attending college this fall to take Beginning Chinese or Intermediate Chinese if there is proven sufficient background. For a prospective first year college student, taking Chinese in the summer will speed up your progress with learning Chinese and lengthen your opportunity of studying Chinese at the college level as this summer intensive program will allow you to study one year's worth of Chinese in 8 weeks. If you are interested, please look at the [website](http://www.virginia.edu/summer/SLI/chinese/) with all information:

<http://www.virginia.edu/summer/SLI/chinese/>

To travel to China with College Board on the Chinese Bridge Delegation in 2012, bookmark [this site](#) and check back often.

U.Va at Wise will take educators to China June 24-July 3, 2013 through a special professional development program (and offered at a special rate) developed by EF Educational Tours. For more information, visit the website of the [Center for Teaching Excellence \(CTE\)](#) at U.Va Wise.

Summer Study in China: [China Institute](#) is pleased to announce two programs this summer, in Beijing and in Shanghai. Both sessions, in addition to employing an intensive language-learning curriculum that covers the equivalent of at least one year of high school-level Mandarin, seek to provide students with the tools necessary to fully contextualize their diverse experiences abroad. The programs will run for 4-5 weeks between the dates of July 5 and August 11.

The U.Va Art Museum will exhibit its collections of Japanese woodblock prints from January through August. They can arrange tours for K-12 classes and teachers with docents and/or with faculty. [Visit their website](#) for more information.

The 2012 5th Annual Partnership for Global Learning Conference will take place June 29-30 in New York City. The theme is "Pathways to Global Competence" and will feature Dan Rather as a speaker. [Visit the conference website](#) for more information.

For questions about any of the opportunities listed here, contact the people indicated or Outreach Coordinator for the Asia Institute, Dr. Rachel Stauffer. (see p. 4)

Quick Chinese for Beginners

One of the most feared aspects of learning Chinese is characters. Reading in Chinese fluently requires knowledge of about 4000 characters. But you'll be surprised at how logical they are! Try numbers:

一	二	三	四	五
1	2	3	4	5

See how the characters for 1, 2, and 3 all make sense? 4 and 5 are a little more complex, but 5 does require 5 strokes.

Once you know one character, it can help you to read more than just one word or phrase.

The character 电 means 'lightning' but in modern times has also come to mean 'electric'. We write 电 in combination with other words to communicate the idea behind certain modern devices:

电话 electric+word=**telephone**
 电影 electric+shadow=**movie**
 电脑 electric+brain=**computer**

Asia in the World Geography SOLs and Suggested Activities (new!)

WG.1e The student will use maps, globes, satellite images, photographs, or diagrams to analyze and explain how different cultures use maps and other visual images to reflect their own interests and ambitions.

Essential Understandings: Maps and other visual images reflect changes over time.

Essential Questions: How do maps reflect changes over time? How are maps and other visual images used to present a particular bias (positive or negative) about an area of the Earth's surface?

Essential Knowledge: **Place names:** Formosa, Taiwan, Republic of China; **Boundaries:** Russia and the former Soviet Union; Middle East, before 1948, after 1967; **Perspectives of place names:** Arabian Gulf vs. Persian Gulf; Sea of Japan vs. East Sea; Middle East vs. North Africa and Southwest Asia; **Disputed areas:** Korea, Western Sahara, Kashmir.

Suggested Activity: Using a [Chinese-made map of the world](#), note that China is in the middle, which explains why the Chinese word for China is 中国 *zhōng guó* or 'Middle Kingdom'. The first character is visually symbolic of the concept of 'middle' with the line going down through the middle of the rectangle. The second character represents 'kingdom' or 'country' by virtue of the outside boundary surrounding the inside lines which represents a city wall (kind of like the Kremlin or maybe the Great Wall!). Have students write the characters (use a site like [Skritter](#) to get the right stroke order), and ask them to look at world maps from other countries as well. Try [this one](#) from Japan, for example, where once again, Japan is in the middle of the map.

WG.3b The student will apply the concept of a region by b) explaining how regional landscapes reflect the physical environment and the cultural characteristics of their inhabitants.

Essential Understandings: Regional landscapes are influenced by climate and underlying geology. Regional landscapes are influenced by the cultural economic and political characteristics of their inhabitants.

Essential Questions: How does the regional landscape reflect the physical environment? How does the regional landscape reflect the characteristics of the inhabitants?

Essential Knowledge: **Cultural characteristics:** Architectural structures – religious buildings, dwellings, statues and monuments of local, national, or global significance: Mosques, churches, temples, synagogues, pagodas; tents, yurts, city apartments; Taj Mahal, Kaaba, Western Wall, Pyramids, Kremlin.

Suggested Activity: Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites [website](#). Ask students to determine what makes these sites important enough to designate them as such. Why are they culturally as well as universally significant? A building like Istanbul's Hagia Sophia shows changes in the religious landscape of contemporary Turkey from the time of Constantinople as the center of Orthodox Christianity to the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. Similarly, the Moscow Kremlin in recent memory is representative of Russian political power, which began as a result of the perceived military strength of the Red Army during the Cold War. The Kremlin and its churches were originally designed to position Moscow as the 'Third Rome' after the fall of Constantinople, and after the center of Russian power was moved to Moscow following the end of the Mongol occupation. Assign students different buildings from the UNESCO website and ask them to discuss how they represent shifts in the cultural landscapes of the countries to which they belong.

WG.11a The student will analyze the patterns of urban development by applying the concepts of site and situation to major cities in each region.

Essential Understandings: Site and situation are important geographic concepts when studying the growth of cities. Patterns of urban development occur according to site and situation.

Essential Questions: What is meant by site? What is meant by situation? In what ways may site and/or situation affect urban development?

Essential Knowledge: Examples of situation (regional/global connections): Samarkand, Uzbekistan; Xi'an, China; Singapore: Cities that grew up around trade routes (the Silk Road, maritime trade).

Suggested Activity: Introduce the concept of the Silk Road – [borrow our copy](#) of [Along the Silk Road](#) and the accompanying map if you want – then break students into groups to research the contemporary cultural and urban landscapes of Samarkand, Xi'an, and Singapore. Student working on Xi'an, for example, can talk about its role as an ancient capital by looking at the [city wall](#) and learning about the [Terracotta Warriors](#), while also considering its modern population (6M!) and the [urban housing problems in China](#) designed to meet the needs of its population.

Need a refresher? Contact us!



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Asia In the News

[Pakistan's First Oscar](#)

Asia Society (<http://www.asiasociety.org>)

February 26, 2012

[A Horse Worth The Price: North Korea's Nuclear Weapons](#)

The Economist

March 3, 2012

[Chinese Relish Crack in Great Firewall, Log In to Facebook](#)

Reuters

February 29, 2012

[Asian Manufacturing Shows Resilience](#)

Wall Street Journal

March 1, 2012

[Kathryn Bigelow Shoots Osama bin Laden Film in India](#)

BBC

March 1, 2012

[The Beginning of History](#) (Russian elections)

Pravda

March 1, 2012

[In Tibet, Top Chinese Official Orders New Media Clampdown](#)

Voice of America

March 1, 2012

[Request Outreach Online](#)

<http://artsandsciences.virginia.edu/asiainstitute/outreach/contact>

Fill out the form found at the address above and mail, e-mail, or fax to Rachel Stauffer (see above). You may also print, complete, and mail in the form below. We hope to hear from you!

Name: _____

Title: _____

School/Division: _____

E-mail: _____

Work Phone: _____

Describe the nature of your inquiry/request: