Happy March (finally!) – we here in the Asia Institute are reaaaalllly glad that winter is almost over. Spring is just...so much better than winter! Haruko Yuda, our Japan Outreach Coordinator has been hard at work since we last issued an Outreach Newsletter. She has visited schools, students, classrooms, and teachers in Nelson County, Campbell County, Newport News, Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, and Amherst! She has been such a wonderful and lively presence in our office and we are so glad that she is here with us. Remember that Haruko can come to your school at no cost to talk about Japanese language, culture, history, food, art, and just about anything else you can imagine.

Contact her at harukoyuda@virginia.edu to schedule a visit.

Meanwhile, I have been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) that brings $360,000 to Virginia community colleges. Read about it on page 2.

We are happy to announce that we will yet again host a day program for Chinese here at UVa this summer for free for local students. Read more about the Chinese STARTALK program on page 2.

I am traveling to Korea at the end of March through a fellowship with Korea Society. They have fantastic opportunities for teachers to travel to Korea for free. Stay tuned for a recap in the Summer 2013 newsletter!

-Rachel Stauffer

“Knowledge is the true organ of sight, not the eyes.”
-Panchatantra
NEH Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges

The University of Virginia will launch a two-year project to boost global humanities in Virginia’s community colleges, thanks to a recently announced grant from the federal National Endowment for the Humanities. The new program, “Understanding the Non-West: Strengthening Global Humanities at Virginia’s Community Colleges,” will allow faculty from five community colleges around the commonwealth to work closely with U.Va. to expand knowledge and instruction.

The NEH UVa Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges project will offer 36 community college faculty a unique professional development experience designed to broaden understanding and enrich appreciation for the cultural traditions, literature, and cinema of China, India, the Middle East, Russia and Eurasia, and Japan.

Community college faculty participants will come from 5 Virginia institutions: Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville, J. Sargeant Reynolds in the Richmond area, Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, Southwest Virginia Community College and Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke.

Participants will attend a five-day symposium in Charlottesville in August, and will then work with UVa faculty facilitators as they tackle a reading list on the region they choose to investigate.

At the end of the two-year project, institutions will have ideally gained a greater sense of how to internationalize curriculum at their institutions. The grant also provides $20,000 to each institution to direct towards internationalization activities, possibly for resources, programming, or continued faculty development.

Read more about this exciting Asia Institute project that Rachel Stauffer is directing at U.Va Today.

Unique Opportunities

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.

China and India: Comparisons and Connections, An NEH Summer Institute for K-12 Teachers, University at Buffalo, State University of New York
www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/nehsummer

The Asian Studies Program of the University at Buffalo invites applications for “China and India: Comparisons and Connections,” a three-week NEH summer institute for teachers in July 2013. The Institute is open to thirty teachers and prospective teachers of any grade level or subject in U.S. schools who have the opportunity to teach about China and India in their classes.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The 3rd annual UVa Chinese STARTALK Summer Language Immersion program is now soliciting applications. Deadline: April 19th, 2013

ELIGIBILITY: Rising 9th through 12th graders with zero or very little knowledge of Mandarin Chinese.


CLASS SCHEDULE: Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and end by 12:30PM. Class will be held on Saturday, June 29.

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING: The program cannot provide transportation services or parking. Parents and student participants are solely responsible for daily transportation to and from University Grounds.

Visit http://uvachinesestartalk.wordpress.com for the application and more information.
Asia in the Social Studies SOLs with a Suggested Activity and a Suggested Extension

**WG.1** The student will use maps, globes, satellite images, photographs, or diagrams to develop and refine mental maps of world regions.

*Essential Knowledge:* Describing the location of places in terms of the human characteristics of a place (e.g., languages, types of housing, dress, recreation, customs, and traditions).

*Suggested Activity:* Have students interact with these maps of London and New York that indicate the languages of Tweets sent by city dwellers and visitors. Have students compose questions about the maps in terms of what the mapping of language actually tells us about the cultural geography of these two cities in terms of ethnicity and diversity. Have students answer these questions by researching demographic data – the UK Office for National Statistics and the US Census Bureau are good places to start. Also ask students to consider the languages that are most prevalent and least prevalent. Are these congruent to current world populations? For example, the number of Chinese tweets in the New York map is very low. But China has the world’s largest population at over 1 billion. Does the number of speakers of a language reflect the number of people who associate themselves ethnically with their language’s majority of speakers? Now have students think about Virginia? What would a language map of Virginia look like based on census bureau data? What would a graph of languages spoken at your school look like?

**WHI.7e** The student will demonstrate knowledge of the Byzantine Empire and Russia from about 300 to 1000 AD

*Essential Understandings:* Byzantine civilization influenced Russian and Eastern European civilizations through its religion, culture, and trade.

*Essential Questions:* Why did the Byzantine Empire have so much influence on religion, culture, and trade in Russia and Eastern Europe?

*Essential Knowledge:* Adoption of Orthodox Christianity by Russia and much of Eastern Europe.

*Suggested Content for Extension:* What? What is a Standard about Byzantium doing here in the *Asia* Institute newsletter? Well, we’re tweaking things a bit – we won’t be talking about Eastern Europe, or really Russia either, but two nations that adopted Christianity long before either region: Armenia (converted in 301, before the Edict of Milan) and Georgia (converted around 327). It is important to note also that both of these nations are officially still Orthodox Christian to this day, despite repeated and tumultuous invasions and occupations. Armenia is the world’s oldest Christian nation. The Christianization of Armenia is best told in Agathangelos’ “History of St. Gregory and the Conversion of Armenia”. In any case, Georgia and Armenia are claimed by both Europe and Asia and simultaneously by neither. The highest peak in Europe is Mount Elbruz, in the Caucasus, in Georgia. Yet, the CIA classifies Armenia and Georgia as Middle Eastern, while the Department of State categorizes them into the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. Even though the Asia Institute does not exactly cover Armenia and Georgia (we tend to be more focused on East Asia and South Asia), this brings up an important point about where the line is on the Great Eurasian Plain, that is, that divides Europe from Asia. This Russian map conveniently omits Georgia, Armenia, and Turkey as European, emboldening everything west of the Caucasus region as Europe (Russia to the west of the Urals included). Through study of these countries’ respective and interrelated histories and cultures, it is easy to see why the confusion exists. Christian but occupied by Muslim Turks and Persians, connected to Byzantium through the Black Sea, but to the great Eurasian steppes north of the mountains and east of the Caspian Sea. As an extension project with students in World History and Geography, have them research these countries and their histories. Are they European or Asian? How are the lines drawn?

For what it’s worth, Russia doesn’t really make contact with the region until the late 18th century (except for a brief, unsuccessful marriage between a Russian noble and the great Georgian Queen Tamar in the 12th century). This extension can easily be linked to contemporary politics – Georgia’s Rose Revolution, the 2008 Russian invasion of South Ossetia, the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the recent Georgian presidential elections.

*Suggested Resources:* Armeniapedia | St. Nino and the Conversion of Georgia | Caucasian Knot | My Armenia documentary

**Need a refresher? Contact us!**
Quick Japanese for Beginners

As we discussed in the Spring 2012 newsletter Chinese 电脑 diannao literally means ‘electric brain’, but translates as ‘computer’. In Japanese, the word uses katakana to transliterate the Western word, コンピュータ 凯. Let's break that down.

Ko n pi yu u ta

In this way, Japanese is almost more user-friendly for those Americans who have studied Western languages like Spanish (computadora, anyone?) – of course you still have to learn two syllabaries and a bunch of kanji. But the rigor of Japanese only contributes to its charm.

Want more?!?
Omniglot
Japanese Writing Tutor
How to Tell Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Apart

Asia in the News

China and the Mirror of History
Economist
March 4, 2013

25 Years of Slam Dunk Diplomacy
North Korea News
March 4, 2013

Claustrophobia-enducing photos of Japan’s Apartments
Washington Post
March 4, 2013

The Scariest Thing I Did in India
New York Times
February 22, 2013

Was Tamerlane Disabled?
BBC
December 4, 2012

Live China TV Coverage of Executions Raises Outcry
LA Times
March 1, 2013

Sri Lanka Takes Next Step to Opening Strategic Port
Reuters
March 4, 2013

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: