Message from the Outreach Coordinator

I took this photo at the Forbidden City Palace in November. I participated in a teacher training workshop in Beijing, China sponsored by Hanban - the Chinese Ministry of Cultural Affairs. I attended this workshop with teachers of Mandarin Chinese from all over the United States. Representation from Virginia included myself, teachers from Bedford County, Loudoun County, Fairfax County, and Charlottesville City. I am indebted to the Charlottesville City Schools in particular for their invitation to attend the workshop as part of their team – I had an amazing experience in China – it has renewed my commitment to continue to help Virginia schools as much as they need it in order to cultivate and sustain the teaching of Chinese language to as many students as possible.

We have had a great deal of China-centered events supported by the Asia Institute, substantially due to our federal funding from the Department of Education for the East Asia Center. However, we are just as committed as ever to helping teachers enrich content and engage students in the study of pan-Asian languages and cultures.

The South Asia Center (formerly the Center for South Asian Studies) has a new name, a new director, and a new program assistant. We are still maintaining our outreach activities on India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and surrounding countries, even though it may seem that East Asia has been in the spotlight recently.

In January, I will be announcing several professional development workshops planned for Spring 2011. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season!

-Rachel Stauffer

Recent Events

* Bram Lipman, East Asian Studies M.A. student, gave a talk on the Tale of Genji for students at the Massanutten Regional Governor’s School
* Gus Heldt, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, gave a talk about Memoirs of a Geisha for a screening at the Greene County Public Library
* The Teacher Institute on East Asia for K-16 was held in late October at Blue Ridge Community College.
* The Japan Foundation Film Series screened five 35mm films from the 1960s on Tuesdays in October
* The Asia Institute and East Asia Center hosted China Town Hall, an event organized by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations
* The National Geographic Society Giant Asia Map traveled to almost 10 schools across the state courtesy of the Asia Institute and East Asia Center.
China Town Hall

On October 18th, the U.Va Asia Institute and East Asia Center, in collaboration with Blue Ridge Community College and Mary Baldwin College, hosted the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations annual event, China Town Hall. Speakers included U.Va’s John Shepherd, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the East Asia Center and Hank Shugart, W.W. Corcoran Professor of Environmental Sciences. The guest speaker, Dr. Jennifer Turner, Director of the China Environment Forum, from the Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington DC, spoke about the growing environmental threats facing China and how this will eventually lead to serious problems with China’s growing population. Following Turner’s comments, the main event, a live webcast from Beijing with the U.S. Ambassador to China, Jon R. Huntsman. The Ambassador’s comments were framed by questions sent in by China Town Hall participants from the other 50+ locations across the U.S. hosting the event. Questions were mostly about politics, particularly concerning diplomacy and how the U.S. would like to see China evolve as a growing world economy. This was the first year that U.Va has hosted China Town Hall. For more info, visit the NCUSCR website on China Town Hall, where you can even view the webcast.

"For us to get this relationship right, longer term... young kids in the United States are going to have to be given more in the way of opportunities to study Mandarin, which, to my mind, is a window into a foreign culture...how do you crack the code in terms of getting kids to understand a foreign culture? I believe it’s through language.”
-Jon R. Huntsman, Jr. U.S. Ambassador to China

Teacher Institute on East Asia

On October 23rd, 2010, the Asia Institute, East Asia Center, and Blue Ridge Community College were host to approximately 25 local K-16 educators seeking to deepen their understanding of China, Japan, and Korea. Three U.Va faculty presented, as well as one BRCC faculty member. Participants learned about cultural differences between the U.S. and China from Peter Yu, a China native now working as an administrator in Academic Affairs at U.Va. Prof. Robert Stolz provided the educators with a presentation on Japan, and Prof. Ron Dimberg discussed the Korean peninsula, both in historical perspective. Chinese food was served for lunch, and in the afternoon, BRCC professor Nell Tiller gave a rousing presentation on her travels to China, offering participants valuable insights into Chinese culture, food, and customs. The workshop was free to participants except for a $19 registration fee, and everyone received a binder with lesson plans for all levels corresponding to Virginia SOLs involving East Asia. This workshop was designed as the second part to a two-part series that began last spring with a similar workshop on the countries and cultures of South Asia.

VSUP Partnership, Spring 2011

The U.Va Asia Institute and East Asia Center will be collaborating with the Virginia School University Partnership (VSUP) in the spring to provide, we hope, several day-long workshops on a variety of topics related to East and South Asia for K-12 teachers, particularly in literature, the arts, and all levels of history and social studies. If you have ideas or would like to suggest presenters, please contact Rachel Stauffer in the Asia Institute: staufferr@virginia.edu, (434) 982-0560.

“The world has changed, and we must change with it”.
-Barack Obama
Asia and Asia-related topics in the Virginia SOLs: K-2

While not all of these SOLs may come to mind when thinking of Asia, the possibilities for integration and interdisciplinary approaches are endless. Not sure how to make it work? Contact us!

Kindergarten

English (Oral Language)
K.1 The student will demonstrate growth in the use of oral language. a) Listen to a variety of literary forms, including stories and poems. b) Participate in choral speaking and recite short poems, rhymes, songs, and stories with repeated patterns. c) Participate in creative dramas. d) Begin to discriminate between spoken sentences, words, and syllables. e) Recognize rhyming words. f) Generate rhyming words in a rhyming pattern.

Visual Arts (Cultural Context and Art History)
K.13 The student will discuss the concept that people in all cultures create works of art.

First Grade

Science (Resources)
1.8 The student will investigate and understand that natural resources are limited. Key concepts include a) identification of natural resources (plants and animals, water, air, land, minerals, forests, and soil); b) factors that affect air and water quality; and c) recycling, reusing, and reducing consumption of natural resources.

Second Grade

Economics
2.7 The student will describe natural resources (water, soil, wood, and coal), human resources (people at work), and capital resources (machines, tools, and buildings).
2.8 The student will distinguish between the use of barter and the use of money in the exchange for goods and services.

History
2.1 The student will explain how the contributions of ancient China and Egypt have influenced the present world in terms of architecture, inventions, the calendar, and written language.

Geography
2.4 The student will develop map skills by a) locating the United States, China, and Egypt on world maps; b) understanding the relationship between the environment and the culture of ancient China and Egypt;
2.5 The student will develop map skills by a) locating the equator, the seven continents, and the five oceans on maps and globes; b) locating selected rivers (James River, Mississippi River, Rio Grande, Huang He, and Nile River), mountain ranges (Appalachian Mountains and Rocky Mountains), and lakes (Great Lakes) in the United States and other countries.

Mathematics (Measurement)
2.17 The student will use actual measuring devices to compare metric and U.S. Customary units (cups, pints, quarts, gallons, and liters) for measuring liquid volume, using the concepts of more, less, and equivalent.

Science (Interelationships in Earth/Space Systems)
2.6 The student will investigate and understand basic types, changes, and patterns of weather. Key concepts include a) temperature, wind, precipitation, drought, flood, and storms; and b) the use and importance of measuring and recording weather data.

Science (Resources)
2.8 The student will investigate and understand that plants produce oxygen and food, are a source of useful products, and provide benefits in nature. Key concepts include a) important plant products (fiber, cotton, oil, spices, lumber, rubber, medicines, and paper); b) the availability of plant products affects the development of a geographic area; and c) plants provide homes and food for many animals and prevent soil from washing away.

Visual Arts (Cultural Context and Art History)
2.13 The student will compare the art, artifacts, and architecture of other cultures with that of their own culture.
2.14 The student will identify symbols from various cultures.
2.15 The student will identify art from other cultures, including Ancient Egypt, Ancient China, and American Indians (First Americans).

Visual Arts (Aesthetics)
2.22 The student will discuss the ways that the art of a culture reflects its people’s attitudes and beliefs.
Asia In the News

VIENNA – International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano told a meeting of the body's board of governors that he was worried by reports North Korea has built a state-of-the-art uranium enrichment facility, which the United States suggested dated much further back than the reclusive Stalinist state claims. "It was with great concern that I learned of recent reports about a new uranium enrichment facility, as well as the construction of a new light water reactor, in the DPRK or Democratic People's Republic of Korea," Amano said in his opening address to the closed-door meeting. Earlier this month a US scientist revealed he had been shown a new uranium enrichment plant at the Yongbyon nuclear complex outside the capital North Korean capital Pyongyang. The news has heightened international concern that North Korea -- which has conducted two nuclear weapons tests -- could produce highly-enriched weapons-grade uranium on top of the plutonium already in its possession. More...

HONG KONG — A bank whose customer base is larger than the population of the United States, a French cosmetics maker, a microlender and a Chinese pharmaceutical company that makes an anticoagulant derived from pigs' guts: Asian stock exchanges have seen it all this year. And it is not just the variety of stocks on offer. It is the sheer number of companies rushing to market in Asia, and the huge amounts they are raising. General Motors may have raised $23.1 billion in its initial public offering — but it is fast-growing Asia, not Wall Street, that has had most of the world's new listings this year. More...

CANADA — According to respected U.S. intelligence analyst Bruce Riedel, Pakistan has the world's fastest growing nuclear arsenal as well as the most terrorists per square mile. The latest tranche of classified cables published by WikiLeaks includes the revelation that since 2007, the United States has been engaged in unsuccessful efforts to remove from a Pakistani research reactor highly enriched uranium that could be diverted for use by terrorists in an illicit nuclear device. There are interesting structural parallels between the world's two potential nuclear flashpoints. More...

NEW DELHI – International Monetary Fund (IMF), on Thursday, asked India to gear up itself for taking more responsibility for 'orderly and smooth' management of the global economy. This was conveyed by IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss Kahn during wide-ranging talks with Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee here. With India fast emerging as an economic power in the international arena it will have to share more responsibility for management of the global economy, he said. More...

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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: