

ESSAYS

Outreach Programs at the National Resource Centers for the Study of Asia

By Anne L. Foster

Increasingly, Asian history, culture, language, and politics are being integrated into the K-12 curriculum in schools across the nation. Many teachers are now teaching subjects, then, in which they received little or no training while in college. Fortunately, however, centers for the study of Asia at universities around the country have, under the auspices of Title VI of the Higher Education Act, established National Resource Centers (NRCs). One of the nine programs within the Center for International Education of the U.S. Department of Education, NRCs support improvement of university library collections, academic research by faculty, language instruction, and curriculum development, as well as promote outreach to K-12, community college, and four-year college teachers. These outreach efforts take the form of information, lesson plans, learning opportunities, and instructional materials about Asia. There are currently fifteen NRCs for East Asia, nine for South Asia, and six for Southeast Asia.¹ The centers are scattered around the country, and while many provide some services nationwide, most outreach programs focus primarily on assisting teachers and professors in their own regions.

Perhaps most immediately useful to teachers are the curriculum guides, lesson plans, and resource materials offered, usually for a nominal charge or free, by many of these centers. The South Asian Center at Syracuse University, for example, provides teaching kits, some of which include comics from India, for teachers to use in classrooms. The University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana's Center for East Asian and Pacific

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Studies also offers a study of cartoons from Japan. At the University of Hawaii's Southeast Asia Center, they have developed lesson plans (one to two lessons each) on twenty-five different topics, as well as workbooks for high school students on the Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

Columbia University's East Asian Institute has run the East Asian Curriculum Project, and developed teaching workbooks on Japan and China. The Center for International Studies at the University of Missouri-St.

effort to collect video materials about Tibet, one of its areas of expertise. The East Asian Studies Center at Ohio State University has approximately twenty-five feature films and 200 documentaries on East Asian topics. Some programs restrict lending to their immediate area, but many others are willing to mail videos for a nominal fee and/or deposit. Most outreach centers with video lending libraries have catalogs available on request.

The outreach programs also offer many opportunities for continuing education, pri-



Professor Benedict Anderson demonstrates Kumbākarnā, a puppet from the traditional Javanese wayang (shadow play) during the workshop, "Understanding Southeast Asia: Stories from the Flow of Life" at the Kahin Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Cornell University, June 1996.

Louis operates a resource library for teachers in the state which includes slide lessons, children's literature, curriculum units, and cultural artifact kits. Cornell University's East Asia Program has developed curricula for schoolchildren, using the resources of the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art. And for those who live near the University of Pennsylvania, the outreach coordinator of its South Asian Center helps local teachers develop curriculum on South Asia, tailored to their specific needs.

Most of the outreach programs also offer video lending libraries of films about or from Asia. Cornell University's Southeast Asia Program, for example, has thematic video packages which provide an interdisciplinary look at a country's culture, history, and politics. The South Asian Center at the University of Virginia has made a special

marily in the form of institutes and workshops. They range in length from two hours to two weeks, may be held in schools or at the centers, and treat a wide variety of topics. In summer 1996, the University of California at Berkeley offered an institute titled "Waters of Life: Exploring the River Civilizations of China, Middle East and South Asia." This workshop targeted California teachers of sixth and seventh grade, as did the Summer Institute at the University of California at San Diego for 1996, "The Great Wall: Connecting Past and Present." Both of these institutes offer lectures by experts, information about resources, lesson plans, and small group discussions to enable teachers to learn from each others' experiences.

The three NRCs for Asia at the University of Michigan collaborate to offer the

Teachers Institute in Asian Studies each year, for teachers in the midwest. Each four-day institute focuses on a different country or region, and draws on University of Michigan faculty and graduate students as well as K-12 teachers who have particular expertise in Asian studies. In summer 1995, Cornell University's three Asia outreach centers also collaborated to offer a two-day workshop, "Teaching Asia through Cultural Media," which provided teachers with information about festivals, food, literature, music, and drama appropriate for elementary, middle, or high school classroom use.

The outreach coordinators for East, South, and Southeast Asia at the University of Washington work closely together, often jointly sponsoring teacher training institutes, including the 1996 institute, "A World of Cities: Problems and Trends in Urban Centers." The three centers for Asia worked with other area studies centers for an integrated, worldwide study of cities and urbanism. The University of Washington also sponsors popular travel/study programs. In summer 1996, teachers went to Hyōgo, Japan. These teachers gain knowledge and experience of Japan, and upon return have the opportunity to assist the East Asia Center with curriculum development and in leading workshops for other teachers.

The Speakers' Bureau, which most outreach programs offer, is another means of providing information about specialized topics. Indiana University maintains a Global Speakers service, with speakers prepared to lecture on a wide variety of topics. This service is easily accessible through their toll-free number. The University of Chicago's East Asian Studies program, in conjunction with the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, sponsors a lecture series for high school teachers and administrators. The Speakers' Bureaus of the NRCs include experts on topics such as politics, economics, or history, and performance experts in music, drama, dance, storytelling, or puppetry.

Harvard University's East Asia Council has taken an innovative approach to outreach. Its outreach program is located within the Children's Museum in Boston and takes advantage of the resources and access to children which the museum offers. In their exhibit of a traditional house from Kyōto, Japan, children go into the house, taking off their shoes at the door. They get to explore,

as well as have explained, traditional Japanese living arrangements, including stored bedding, a silk weaver's shop, and eating customs. The museum also sponsors annual celebrations of festivals such as the Chinese and Japanese New Years.

The outreach programs of the National Resource Centers have much more to offer than can possibly be described in a short article, but the two best ways to learn about the offerings of the closest NRC are to get on their mailing lists, and visit their Web sites. Everyone on the mailing list of the East Asian Center at Indiana University receives their CultureSpeak brochures, brief brochures with information and activities about different cultural issues in East Asia. Current topics include Japanese traditions, festivals, and holidays; recent changes in the People's Republic of China; and elementary and secondary education in Korea. Many of the newsletters provide short articles potentially useful in the classroom, but also keep teachers informed about newly available resources, opportunities for continuing education, and special programs.

Many of the NRCs also have their own Web sites. These Internet resources provide information available in many of the newsletters, although on a more timely basis, as well as information, photographs, maps, and stories which teachers may use in their classrooms.

Patricia O'Connell-Young, Outreach Coordinator at the University of Michigan's Center for Chinese Studies, finds it very exciting to be working in the field of education about Asia because of the "almost universal acknowledgment of the active, vital, and important roles played by the countries of East Asia." Students and teachers are interested in learning more about Asia, and she, like other Outreach Coordinators of the NRCs for Asia, are there to provide information and resources to satisfy that interest. ■

NOTE

1. This article discusses a few outreach programs at universities which are not currently designated as National Resource Centers, but which receive some Title VI funding. For more information about the National Resource Center program, contact the Center for International Education at the U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20202-5247, phone 202-401-9798.

The program officer for East Asia is Cheryl Gibbs (202-401-9785) and for South and Southeast Asia, Uri Monson (202-401-9779).

LIST OF NRCs FOR ASIA

(Outreach Programs not currently designated as NRCs indicated by an asterisk.)

EAST ASIA

Columbia University
Center for East Asian Studies
Roberta Martin, Outreach Coordinator
420 West 118th Street
New York NY 10027
phone: 212-854-1723

Cornell University
East Asia Program
Laurie Damiani, Outreach Coordinator
140 Uris Hall
Ithaca NY 14853-7601
phone: 607-255-6222

University of North Carolina
Triangle Consortium for East Asian Studies
Judith Farquhar, Director
301 Alumni Building CB 3115
Chapel Hill NC 27599
phone: 919-962-8090

Harvard University
Children's Museum
Outreach Coordinator
300 Congress Street
Boston MA 02210
phone: 617-426-6500 ext. 235

Indiana University
East Asian Studies Center
Anjali Sengupta, Outreach Coordinator
Memorial Hall West 207
Bloomington IN 47405
phone: 812-855-3765

Ohio State University
East Asian Studies Program
Owen Hagovsky, Outreach Coordinator
318 Oxley Hall, 1712 Neil Avenue
Columbus OH 43210-1219
phone: 614-688-4253

Stanford University
Center for East Asian Studies
Theodore N. Foss, Outreach Coordinator
Room 14, Littlefield Center, 300 Lasuen St.
Stanford CA 94305-5013
phone: 415-725-1483

University of California at Berkeley
Institute of East Asian Studies
Joan Kask, Outreach Coordinator
2223 Fulton Street
Berkeley CA 94720-2318
phone: 510-642-2809

University of California at San Diego
Graduate School of International
Relations and Pacific Studies
Barbara Edwards, Outreach Coordinator
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla CA 92093-0519
phone: 619-534-3674

ESSAYS

University of California at Santa Barbara*
East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies
Program

Leanne Hall, Outreach Coordinator
Phelps Hall, Room 6316
Santa Barbara CA
phone: 805-893-3316

University of Chicago
Center for East Asian Studies
Mary Brinton, Director
5828 S. University, P121
Chicago IL 60637
phone: 312-702-8647

University of Hawaii*
School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies
Glenda S. Roberts, Outreach Coordinator
1890 East-West Road, Moore Hall Room 216
Honolulu HI 96822-2318

University of Illinois
Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies
Roberta Gumpert, Outreach Coordinator
910 South Fifth Street
Champaign IL 61820
phone: 217-244-4601

University of Michigan
East Asian Studies Center
Patricia O'Connell-Young
104 Lane Hall 1290
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1290
phone: 313-747-1487

University of Southern California
USC-UCLA Joint Center in East Asian Studies
Christopher Evans, Outreach Coordinator
Taper Hall of Humanities, 331M
Los Angeles CA 90089-4351
phone: 213-740-2993

University of California at Los Angeles
USC-UCLA Joint East Asian Studies Center
Fred G. Notcheifer, Outreach Coordinator
11250 Bunche Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1487
phone: 307-825-0007

University of Washington
East Asian Language and Area Center
Mary Bernson, Outreach Coordinator
Jackson School of International Studies
Box 353650
Seattle WA 98195
phone: 206-543-1921

University of Missouri at St. Louis
Joint Center for East Asian Studies
Katherine Cochrane, Outreach Coordinator
St. Louis MO 63130-4899
phone: 314-516-5801

SOUTH ASIA

Columbia University
Southern Asian Institute
Barbara Gombach, Outreach Coordinator
420 West 118th Street
New York NY 10027
phone: 212-854-4565

Cornell University
South Asia Program
Susan Campbell, Outreach Coordinator
170 Uris Hall
Ithaca NY 14853-7601
phone: 607-255-8493

Syracuse University
South Asia Center
Priti Ramamurthy, Outreach Coordinator
346 G Eggers Hall
Syracuse NY 13244
phone: 315-443-2533

University of California at Berkeley
Center for South Asian Studies
Simona Sawhney, Outreach Coordinator
210 Moses Hall
Berkeley CA 94720-2310
phone: 510-642-3608

University of Chicago
South Asia National Resource Center
Kate Schechter, Outreach Coordinator
Green Hall 414 5848 University Avenue
Chicago IL 60637
phone: 312-702-8635

University of Pennsylvania
South Asia Regional Studies
Robert Young, Outreach Coordinator
820 Williams Hall
Philadelphia PA 19104-6305
phone: 215-898-7475

University of Texas
Center for Asian Studies
Outreach Coordinator
Mail Code G9300
Austin TX 78712-1194
phone: 512-471-5811

University of Virginia*
Center for South Asian Studies
Cynthia Benton-Groner, Outreach Coordinator
110 Minor Hall
Charlottesville VA 22903
phone: 804-924-8815

University of Washington
South Asia Center
Outreach Coordinator
Box 353650
Thomson Hall
Seattle WA 98195
phone: 206-543-4800

University of Wisconsin
Center for South Asia
Sharon Dickson, Outreach Coordinator
1258 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive
Madison WI 53706
phone: 608-262-4884

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Cornell University
Southeast Asia Program
Penelope Nichols-Dietrich,
Outreach Coordinator
180 Uris Hall
Ithaca NY 14853-7601
phone: 607-275-9452

University of California at Berkeley*
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Eric Crystal, Outreach Coordinator
2223 Fulton Street, Room 617
Berkeley CA 94720-2318
phone: 510-643-7076

University of Hawaii
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Flo Lamoureux, Outreach Coordinator
1890 East-West Road, Moore Hall 416
Honolulu, HI 96822
phone: 808-956-2688

University of Michigan
Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies
Lee Schlesinger, Outreach Coordinator
130 Lane Hall
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1290
phone: 313-747-0352

University of Washington
Northwest Regional Consortium for
Southeast Asian Studies
Maureen Jackson, Outreach Coordinator
303 Thomson Hall, DR-05
Seattle WA 98195
phone: 206-543-9606

University of Oregon
Northwest Regional Consortium for
Southeast Asian Studies
Scott DeLancey, Director
110 Gerlinger Hall
Eugene OR 97403-1288
phone: 503-346-3901

University of Wisconsin
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
Peggy Choy, Outreach Coordinator
4115 Helen C. White, 600 N. Park Street
Madison WI 53706
phone: 608-263-1755