

HEMISPHERES



THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND RUSSIA, EASTERN EUROPE & EURASIA

FALL 2001

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Summary of Hemispheres Summer Teacher Workshop 2001

A summer workshop attendee reports on the activities and successes of "World Cultures through the Arts," page 2.

Spotlight on Current Events

Since the tragedy of September 11, Christopher Rose, Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, has been called upon by schools, the media, and local community groups to provide information on the history, practices, and cultures of Islam and the Arab world. This pressing need for current and accurate information underscores the importance of area studies' outreach services in our schools. For more information, please see page 3.

Upcoming Events

"Faith, Devotion & Worship: World Religions in Central Texas"

November 2 & 5, 2001, University of Texas campus. A two-day workshop with lectures and discussion about world religions culminating in visits to places of worship in the Austin area. \$30 participant fee. Includes field trip and lunch on both days. Details back page.

Also, see page 5 for a more complete list of Hemispheres events scheduled throughout the upcoming year.

New Resources for Teaching World Cultures

Every year, Hemispheres' Outreach Coordinators purchase new materials for loan to teachers. Check out a few of our recent purchases on page 4.

The Hemispheres Roadshow

Hemispheres is traveling to school districts throughout the region to promote our free resources. Please see page 4 for more details.

CONTACT US:

CENTER FOR ASIAN STUDIES

Kamal Adhikary
Interim Outreach Coordinator
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
phone: 512-475-6054
fax: 512-471-4469
email: outreach@uts.cc.utexas.edu
<http://asnic.ytexas.utexas/asnic/outreach/layout.html>

TERESA LOZANO LONG INSTITUTE OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Natalie Arsenault
Outreach Coordinator
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
phone: 512-232-2404
fax: 512-471-3090
email: n.arsenault@mail.utexas.edu
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/lilas/centers/outreach/>

CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN & EURASIAN STUDIES

Natalie Gober
Outreach Coordinator
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
phone: 512-471-7782
fax 512-471-3368
email: ngober@mail.utexas.edu
<http://reemc.utexas.edu/creees/outreach.html>

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Christopher Rose
Outreach Coordinator
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712
phone: 512-471-3881
fax: 512-471-7834
email: csrose@mail.utexas.edu
<http://menic.utexas.edu/menic.html>

Highlights from the Summer 2001 Workshop: World Cultures through the Arts

Contributed by Carol Schlenk, Education Coordinator,
Texas Council for the Humanities

Twenty-one Texas educators were treated to a veritable "trip around the world" at this year's Hemispheres workshop at UT-Austin. Focusing on "World Cultures through the Arts," the four UT National Resource Centers guided secondary school teachers and education coordinators through the visual arts, performing arts, architecture, film, literature, and music of some of the world's most colorful cultures.

Each day of the June 5-9 workshop was filled with presentations rich in sound, images, and ideas. Faculty members from UT and other institutions provided short lectures enhanced by examples of painting, sculpture, music, film, dance, and literature from

their respective areas of study and encouraged questions and discussion from workshop participants. Diverse presentation topics included "Geometry and Islamic Architecture," "Using Comic Books to Teach about India," and "Texas *Corridos* and Texas Culture." Additional cultural sessions included instruction on Middle Eastern folk dancing and three delightful evening performances featuring live music from Russia, India, and Brazil.

Each afternoon during the workshop, a session on classroom strategies was led by Anita Pilling, World History and Advanced Placement History teacher at the John Cooper School in The Woodlands, Texas. These engaging and informative sessions gave classroom teachers practical applications for incorporating

scholarly cultural arts topics into their classroom teaching activities. Mrs. Pilling also discussed world travel as a means to understanding other cultures, and shared information about grant opportunities available to classroom teachers for travel to other countries.

A much enjoyed highlight of the Hemispheres workshop was a field trip to the University of Texas' Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio.

Teachers toured the exhibit floor and attended a storytelling session before strolling the grounds to explore the ethnic food, music, costumes, and crafts of cultures from around the globe.

On the workshop's

final day, teachers participated in a "best practices" session, where they exchanged favorite lesson plans, handouts, and teaching tips from their classrooms, and shared their perspectives on the workshop. As teachers presented their selected lessons, they also shared information about the ethnic make-up of their respective school districts, and discussed how they would use the knowledge and materials gained at the workshop to validate the various cultures in their districts. By week's end, workshop participants left UT with a binder full of wonderful teaching resources and the rich experience of having explored world cultures through the arts.



Workshop attendees sit transfixed as Tim Tingle gives a special storytelling demonstration during the fieldtrip to the Institute of Texan Cultures.



Spotlight on Current Events

by Christopher Rose, Outreach Coordinator
Center for Middle Eastern Studies

As the Federal Bureau of Investigation began to report its findings in the investigation of the tragic events in New York and Washington, Muslim Americans began bracing for reprisals when the FBI confirmed what many had already assumed: the perpetrators of these events, at least those who were involved in the hijacking of the aircraft, were Arabs and presumably Muslims.

After the Oklahoma City bombing and during the Persian Gulf War, anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiment often manifested itself in the form of attacks on mosques and small businesses, and in verbal and physical assault on individuals. The September 11 attacks have resulted in a similar response.

As an educator myself, I urge you to listen to your students and to help them deal with feelings of anger and hatred, particularly those directed toward other students or particular groups. This is especially important if you have Muslim students in your classes — people are very anxious about what will happen over the upcoming weeks and months.

Words like "jihad" and "Islamic fundamentalism" are being spread throughout the media as people try to understand how someone — anyone— could do what these people have done.

As the world struggles to come to terms with the horrible acts committed, it is important to remember that the people who committed these acts of terrorism and mass murder are not representative of Muslims or Arabs or Middle Easterners. They are extremists in their own societies, much as

individuals such as Jim Jones, David Koresh, and Timothy McVeigh are extremists in American society. The large outpouring of support from the Muslim and Middle Eastern communities in the United States is a clear indication that their sentiments are with the victims and their families. This is a time when all of us need to come together for support, and to resist letting out feelings of anger and frustration by attacking innocent Muslims and Middle Easterners simply because of their religious or national background.

For more information:

The Council on Islamic Education

<http://www.cie.org/>

What the Islamic scriptures really say about jihad and violence — from BeliefNet

http://beliefnet.com/story/87/story_8753_1.html

UT-MENIC's List of Islamic Resources

<http://menic.utexas.edu/menic/islam.html>

Who are the Taleban? — from BBC Online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/newsid_144000/144382.stm

Who is Osama Bin Laden? — from BBC Online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/south_asia/newsid_155000/155236.stm

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Complete this form and fax (512-471-3090) or mail (LLILAS Outreach, Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, SRH 1.310, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712).

Please send me information about services offered by the following Outreach Programs (please circle area[s] of interest):

Asia Latin America Middle East Russia/E. Europe/Eurasia All

NAME & ADDRESS

New Resources from Hemispheres' Lending Libraries

Every year, we purchase new materials available for loan, free of charge, to teachers throughout Texas and beyond. Highlighted below are a few of our most recent video purchases. In order to view current catalogs, which include books, music, curriculum guides, maps, and slides, in addition to videos, please visit each center's website, listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Asia

Lagaan

This film depicts the situation of early 19th century India, when villagers could keep very little of what they produced from their land. The local Raja, King, collected land rent from the villagers, leaving almost nothing to them, and the British rulers in turn collected almost all of what the Raja collected from the villages. In addition to portraying typical Indian village life and culture, this video narrates a universal story of love, separation, hope, fear, joy, and tears.

Latin America

Threads of Hope

This program tells the powerful story of a group of women who banded together and dared to defy the brutal dictatorship of Chile's Gen. Augusto Pinochet. These women - mothers, wives, and sisters of tens of thousands of victims of the regime's torture and execution - armed only with scraps of cloth, sewing needles, and the overwhelming desire to find their loved ones, set to work to tell their stories by creating *arpilleras*, colorful handmade tapestries that chronicled the horror and injustice of Pinochet's reign of terror.

Middle East

Egypt: Beyond the Pyramids (4-part series)

Led by the archeologists who are uncovering long-lost temples, tombs, and treasures, this program examines recent discoveries that have altered our understanding of the Kingdom of the Nile. Kent Weeks reveals how he solved an ancient mystery while excavating KV5, the massive tomb built by Ramses the Second for his family. A visit to the Valley of the Golden Mummies sheds new light on Egyptian funerary and burial practices. And Donald Redford explains what the skeletons of Mendes tell us about the lives of ordinary Egyptians.

Russia, Eastern Europe & Eurasia

The New Russia (5-part series)

Using spectacular views from space and three-dimensional graphics, this series brings the scale and diversity of Russia to life for students. With the help of a young reporter/guide, the programs provide current information on this vast, dynamic country, covering: The Moscow Region, The Kuzbass, The Volga River, The Steppes of North Caucasus, and Norilisk: Life in the Arctic.

THE HEMISPHERES ROADSHOW MAY BE COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU!

This fall, the Outreach Coordinators from Hemispheres have been making a concerted effort to visit with curriculum coordinators and teachers from throughout Region XIII. We've been on the road, promoting our resources through special meetings and in-service day presentations. Our goal: to have every school in Region XIII aware of the free resources they can access to teach world cultures.

We're starting locally, but are interested in coming to your school to talk to you and your colleagues! Please contact any one of us to arrange for a Hemispheres presentation at your next in-service day. We can bring some of our materials to talk about our resources or we can arrange for a content-based session on a topic specific to our regions.

If you are in Region XIII, check with your district's social studies curriculum coordinator to see if we have scheduled a visit. We would be happy to meet with interested teachers while we are in the area.
Region XX: Be on the lookout for us in the spring!

Note: Availability will depend on demand. Please contact us as soon as possible before your event in order to ensure that we can attend.

2001–2002 List of Events

June through December

Through our Lens: Russia~Eastern Europe~Central Asia~Siberia in Photographs by Students and Faculty at the University of Texas at Austin, Gebauer Hall, 4th floor gallery, UT-Austin. Organized by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies

October 13

Look for Hemispheres to be teaching regional arts & crafts in the Playworks area of the Austin **International Children's Festival**, Palmer Auditorium

November 2 & 5

Faith, Worship and Devotion: World Religions in Central Texas — Two-day workshop and field trip in Austin (see back page for more information)

March 2, 2002

Look for Hemispheres at **Explore UT**, the biggest open house in Texas! University of Texas Campus

Spring 2002 (tentative)

Faith, Worship and Devotion: World Religions in San Antonio.

Summer 2002

Week-long **summer teacher workshop** on teaching world cultures though the use of film (tentative topic)

Summer 2002

Six-week **study program in Egypt** for K-12 teachers. Coordinated by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies

More fun from the 2001 Summer Teacher Workshop...



Shagufta Ellam, of Cedar Valley Middle School, displays her carved potato. Summer workshop participants were treated to a special workshop on folk carving at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

**Don't miss
our next workshop
in Summer 2002!**

Hemispheres

AREA STUDIES RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS:
AVAILABLE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

HEMISPHERES NEWSLETTER is distributed to schools throughout Texas to be shared with social studies, geography, language, English, literature, math, and science teachers within each school. This biannual newsletter is a tool for teachers who use, or would like to incorporate, area studies materials in the classroom.

Please distribute copies of *Hemispheres* to all who may benefit from our resources!

HEMISPHERES LISTSERV You can sign up to receive upcoming issues of *Hemispheres*, workshop announcements, and other information from the centers' outreach programs via this electronic distribution list. We also invite you to use this listserv to communicate with fellow teachers regarding area-studies issues. **To subscribe to the list:**

- 1) send a message to listproc@lists.cc.utexas.edu;
- 2) leave the subject line blank;
- 3) in the message area type:
subscribe HEMISPHERES FIRSTNAME LASTNAME
(e.g., subscribe HEMISPHERES JANE SMITH).

You will receive email confirmation of your subscription.

CENTER FOR ASIAN STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AUSTIN, TX 78712

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Faith, Devotion & Worship: World Religions in Central Texas

A two-day workshop with lectures and discussion about world religions
culminating in visits to places of worship in the Austin area

November 2 & 5, 2001

The four National Resource Centers at the University of Texas at Austin are hosting a two-day workshop that will address issues of faith, devotion, culture, and identity in world societies. Participants will attend a day of lecture and discussion on November 2, followed by a day-long field trip to places of worship in the Austin area on November 5. This interactive workshop is designed for middle and high school teachers of history, geography, politics, cultures and literature.

Deadline for registration: October 19. Limited to 30 participants on a first-come, first-registered basis. If space permits, others may be added after the deadline. \$30 per participant registration fee (nonrefundable; includes lunch, handouts, coffee and transportation).

For further information or to register, contact: Christopher Rose, Outreach Coordinator, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, WMB 6.102, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712-1193, (512) 471-3881, fax (512) 471-7834, csrose@mail.utexas.edu

A collaborative outreach project of: Center for Asian Studies, Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

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Logo: Diane Watts.*
