

Hemispheres



**The International Area Studies Outreach Consortium
at the University of Texas at Austin
Latin America, the Middle East, Russia, East Europe & Eurasia, and South Asia**

<http://inic.utexas.edu/hemispheres>
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Spring 2004 Newsletter

In this issue:

Highlights of Area Studies Activities for Educators

While we generally use this newsletter as a forum to promote thematic, cross-regional teaching activities and outreach programming, each center has an active outreach program focused solely on its individual region. In this issue, we highlight some of the programming each of the four outreach programs is involved with outside of our collaborative Hemispheres activities. We hope you will be as receptive to our individual resources as you have been to our joint efforts. To learn more about any of these exciting projects, read pages 2-5 and then contact the sponsoring outreach coordinator.

Summer Institute 2004

Have you been wondering what intriguing topic the Hemispheres Summer Institute will cover this summer? Turn to page 6 to read more about this upcoming event.

Two New Asia Studies Centers at UT-Austin

The Center for Asian Studies has split into two entities: the South Asia Institute (SAI) and the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS). SAI continues to be a federally funded National Resource Center on the UT campus and maintains its collaborative relationship with Hemispheres. The Center for East Asian Studies is committed to promoting awareness of East Asian cultures and societies throughout the campus and in the community. Both SAI and CEAS can supply materials and speakers for K-12 classrooms.

Jordan Phillips is the Outreach Coordinator at SAI and can be reached at outreach@uts.cc.utexas.edu. CEAS can be reached via their website at <http://link.lanic.utexas.edu/asnic/ceas/>.

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ArtesAméricas: Bringing Latin America to Your Classroom and Community

Brazilian bossa nova. Argentine tango. Caribbean salsa. Music and dance captivate us and draw us into other cultures. Recognizing the power of the arts, UT's Performing Arts Center (PAC) and LLILAS have created ArtesAméricas, which seeks to engage in a dynamic cultural exchange rooted in a deep understanding and respect for the cultural traditions and histories of the peoples of the Americas. ArtesAméricas will bring the best in Latin American and U.S. Latino performing artists to new audiences across the country through partnerships with more than 40 universities and institutions (in Texas, partners include: Arts Council of Northeast Tarrant County, Arts San Antonio, Lola Productions in El Paso, Performing Arts Fort Worth, Society for the Performing Arts in Houston, Texas A&M Opera and Performing Arts Society, The Grand 1894 Opera House in Galveston).

ArtesAméricas includes artists who explore local and folkloric traditions, as well as those whose work reflects international influences and concerns. In 2003-04, its inaugural season, ArtesAméricas features contemporary Brazilian dance company Quasar, Mexico's acclaimed Ballet Folklórico de Amalia Hernández, Peruvian singer Tania Libertad, the opera "La Tentación de San Antonio" by Mexican composer Luis Jaime Cortez, Julio Bocca and Ballet Argentino, and the 25th anniversary production of Luis Valdez' "Zoot Suit."

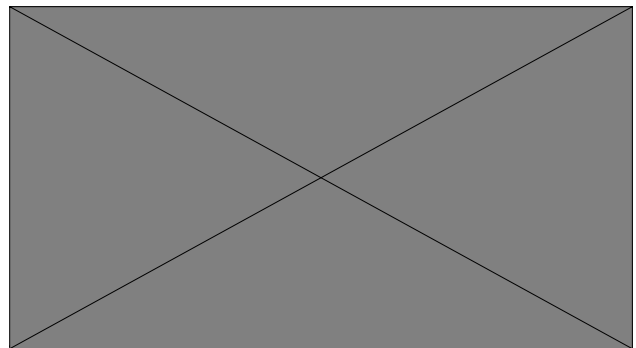
LLILAS and the PAC have created six introductory guides to countries and cultures of the Americas: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Mexican-Americans and the Zoot Suit Era, and Latinos in the US. Each of the 12-page guides introduces the geography, the people, the history, daily life, and the arts of a country or culture. In addition to these more general guides, which are appropriate reading for high school students or as background material for educators, we have produced eight sets of teacher and student resource materials related to specific performances. Thus, students who attend a youth performance are able to study the company in their class, and are given materials about the performance to share with their families.

Each year, as new artists and new countries are presented, LLILAS and the PAC will continue to produce contextualization materials.

How can you, as an educator, benefit from ArtesAméricas?

- (1) Use the Guides to Countries and Cultures to introduce or elaborate on specific topics in your classroom.
- (2) Take your students to see a performance – check to see if your local arts organizations are involved in ArtesAméricas. For more information, visit <http://www.utpac.org/artesamericas.php>
- (3) Attend a teacher workshop organized in conjunction with a performance-related topic. Currently, we are planning a symposium to accompany "Zoot Suit" on May 8, 2004—special guests include playwright Luis Valdez and Alice McGrath, the Executive Secretary of the Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee. The Zoot Suit symposium will be accompanied by a half-day teacher workshop on covering the zoot suit riots in the classroom and attendees will attend a performance of "Zoot Suit" at Austin's Paramount Theatre.

If you would like more information on any of these exciting programs, please contact Natalie Arsenault at n.arsenault@mail.utexas.edu or 512-232-2404.



Middle Eastern Activities for Educators

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies was pleased to welcome veteran educator Audrey Shabbas back to Texas in December. She presented her popular educational workshop "Teaching about the Arab World" for over 30 teachers from the Austin region. Many of the attendees returned for a second one-day hands-on workshop on Islamic Art. Shabbas, who taught social studies in California for 23 years, is the author of *The Arab World Studies Notebook* and *Creative Activities for Teaching about the Arabs at the Elementary Level*.

CMES and its counterparts at Harvard, UCLA, and UC-Berkeley, along with the Alaska Humanities Forum organized a series of public events in Anchorage, Alaska in conjunction with the national Middle East Studies Association conference in November. Among the highlights of the program was "Middle East 101: a Workshop for Educators," a one-day workshop held on the campus of the University of Alaska, Anchorage, that drew 55 attendees. Center staff also gave presentations at schools throughout the Anchorage area.

New Resources

Cairo: Living Past, Living Future is an online unit for teachers and students in grades 6-12. Written to the TEKS for world history, world geography, government, and economics, this unit includes downloadable handouts, quizzes, teachers' notes, resource lists, and other supplemental materials. The unit is divided into two sections that can be used independently or in conjunction with one another. The first section breaks down the history of Cairo from antiquity through the 20th century, and is designed to fit in with a more comprehensive study of world history or world geography. The second section, dealing with the modern city, looks at society, religion, culture and issues of environmental degradation and urbanization. Access the unit online at <http://menic.utexas.edu/menic/cairo/>

Looking for resources on the war in Iraq, the war on terrorism, or other current events? The Middle East outreach program has added lots of new materials to our lending library over the past

year. See the outreach webpage at <http://menic.utexas.edu/menic/cmec/Outreach/> to access our print and video catalogues or for more information on our latest acquisitions.

Keep an eye out for...

CMES is developing a traveling photo exhibit on the Middle East, which will be available by spring 2004. The collection of images can easily be displayed in your classroom. Each photo is accompanied by a short description and questions to aid with interpretation and understanding of cultural concepts. An activity worksheet to help students learn how to critically analyze a photograph is included, along with lists of suggested reading material, videos, and Websites for students and educators to conduct further research. Contact Christopher Rose at csrose@mail.utexas.edu or 512-471-3582 for information on how to bring the exhibit to your school.

Based on the success of the Arab World workshop this year, CMES is planning to hold a multi-day comprehensive educational workshop on the Middle East during the 2004-2005 academic year. This program will expand the previous workshop's focus on the Arab World to include Iran, Israel, and Turkey as well.



A Taste of Russia at UT

Russia Day

Russia Day is an outreach event involving one hundred or more high school students, held on a Friday or Saturday late in the spring semester. Students come with their teachers and parents to campus and have an "immersion experience" in Russian culture, language, traditions, and history. Ethnic foods, Russian games, Cyrillic alphabet teaching, folk dancing, Balkan music, and other opportunities allow students to experience the intellectual and cultural riches of the world's largest country. Local area high schools as well as many from other Texas cities participate. The out-of-town students may then spend the night, supervised by their teachers and our faculty and graduate students, returning home the next morning. All presentations and activities are conducted by volunteer faculty members and graduate and undergraduate students.

Paskha, A Texas Interpretation of Russian Tradition

After the chill of wintry winds and the drizzle of late March, the first Friday afternoon of April proves to be a bright and beautiful time and perfect for an outdoor celebration. As participants gather on the Main Building's east lawn, folk singers in vibrant costumes serenade observers with Russian songs. The singers are university undergraduate students who study Russian and are members of the Russian Club. Professors from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures welcome the attendees and explain in brief some of the history and traditions of the Russian Easter celebration. A team of undergraduate and graduate student-cooks, supervised by native-Russian faculty members, coordinate all the food and decorations. The authentic Russian dishes on the buffet include borshch (beet soup), pirogi (savory pies), meatballs in wild mushroom sauce,

eggplant spread, breads, traditional salads, pickled vegetables, cold cuts, kulich (pastry), and paskha, a sweet cheese dish. Customary beverages of sour cherry juice and kvas (a Russian nonalcoholic carbonated drink) accompany the food.

Russian Orthodox Easter is celebrated between March 22nd and April 25th, in the Old Style calendar, or between April 4th and May 8th in the New Style calendar. The Sunday before Easter, in old-style observances, was known as Pussy Willow Sunday. Pussy willow branches were taken to the church, blessed, and taken home by the parishioners to be propped up behind religious icons.

Russian Easter starts the night before Easter day as churchgoers bring traditional sweet breads, desserts, and eggs to be blessed in the late evening. Near midnight, the priest opens the doors and leads a procession of deacons, altar servers, and parishioners around the church three times in a symbolic search for the body of Jesus.

Directly after the church services, a meal with eggs, butter and meat is eaten to break the Lenten fast. Games, such as egg-rolling, may be played, although those eggs which were previously blessed are usually eaten or placed near icons in the home.

The University of Texas' annual Paskha celebration is sponsored by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

For more information about the 2004 Russia Day or Paskha Celebration, please contact Terry Giles thgiles@mail.utexas.edu or 512-471-7782.

Hemispheres

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 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, go to <http://inic.utexas.edu/hemispheres/> and fill out the form at the bottom of the page.

Talking About the Taj Mahal in Your Classroom

This spring, the South Asia Institute has begun a new outreach project starting with the Austin Independent School District. South Asia Institute faculty and outreach coordinator will conduct workshops at the end of the K-12 school day at two Austin high schools. Participants will receive one credit of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) and, for further cultural exploration, a snack of savory samosas will be provided!

This project sprang from the queries the outreach coordinator has received asking about how to teach India and how to incorporate India into classes that teach world cultures, history and geography. By designing the workshop to have the presenters come to your school at the end of your day, we hope to maximize the impact we can have on teachers who are too busy to come to off-site workshops, but are interested in expanding their knowledge of India. We have planned to do one workshop on the UT campus to showcase the type of resources available to the teachers in the outreach office.

As this project is at the beginning of development, we are starting with a small number of local schools. Two after-school workshops at local high schools and one workshop on the UT campus for third and sixth grade teachers are planned for the spring semester. The high school workshops will be on ways to present the Taj Mahal in classrooms. We will highlight connections you can draw to help your students understand the Taj Mahal's importance in history and to understand it as a world monument. The elementary and middle school workshop includes topics such as South Asians

in Texas and the United States, drawing connections between Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., and a session devoted to exploring topics to be developed into a fall workshop and materials useful in elementary and middle school classrooms. These lucky participants will share in a tasty lunch from a local Indian restaurant.

Selecting the Taj Mahal as the topic for the beginning of this program seemed natural for two reasons. Firstly, the Taj Mahal is India's most famous building. Secondly, although the Taj Mahal is one of the best-known monuments in the world it is frequently also one of the most misunderstood. For instance, though often called a palace, in fact it was built in the seventeenth century as a mausoleum by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan for his wife. Examining the ways in which the Taj Mahal has been perceived reflects significant shifts in knowledge about India's past and the diversity to be found in its cultural traditions.

As this project develops in the coming years, a variety of South Asian presentations will be created for workshops not only in the Austin Independent School District but also in surrounding school districts.

If you are interested in having this workshop, or a different South Asian topic, at your school in the 2004 - 2005 school year contact Jordan Phillips at outreach@uts.cc.utexas.edu or at 512-475-6038.



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People and Place: Human Geographic Relations

A four-day workshop examining the impact of geographic forces on our
past, present, and future
June 8-11, 2004

How has the interaction between people and the physical environment affected our development? What impact, if any, has geography had on major historical events? How has the development of mankind changed the environment? And what lessons have we learned from the past that can help us plan our future? Join Hemispheres for an intriguing look at the relationship between physical and human geography, designed around the TEKS for geography, history, government, and science, technology and society.

Deadline for registration: May 14. Limited to 30 participants on a first-paid, first-registered basis. If space permits, others may be added after the deadline. Registration fee is \$50 per participant (nonrefundable, includes lunch, handouts, coffee, field trip transportation).

For further information or to register, contact:

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