Teaching and study of East Asia fostered by Ohio State seminaries

The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA), founded by the Freeman Foundation, is a multi-year initiative to foster a permanent place for the teaching of East Asia at the middle and secondary school levels. The objectives of the programs are accomplished through a lifelong approach to professional development. Teaching about Asia seminars, curriculum development, texts and resources, continuing education programs and study tours to East Asia.

Since 2004, the East Asian Studies Center at Ohio State has coordinated NCTA seminars around the state—in Akron, Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Marietta, Toledo, Wooster, and this year in Granville and Oxford. To date, these seminars have given more than 175 Ohio teachers a strong background in Chinese, Japanese and Korean history and culture, which they have passed on to Ohio middle and high school students.

Teachers are invited to enroll in the free NCTA seminars and uncover a wealth of information and experience on China, Japan and Korea. Teaching about Asia seminars are 1-week programs for 6th-12th grade teachers who wish to incorporate or enhance curriculum about East Asia in their classrooms. Each NCTA participant works with Ohio faculty members to create three lessons on East Asia as the final product of their seminar.

One exciting aspect of the NCTA program is the opportunity to experience China, Japan or Korea firsthand as a study tour participant—at highly subsidized rates. Renowned university professors and experts on Asian studies will lead participants on an academic tour of East Asia that helps the teachers inspire students. Typically two to three weeks in length, each tour accepts up to 20 teachers. Study tours include visits to sites of historical, cultural, political and religious importance. Offered annually by Indiana University and occasionally by Ohio State (so far, in 2003 and 2007), and starting this year, the Teaching about Asia seminars in Ohio benefit greatly from these first-hand experiences in East Asia. Any one after the completion of the seminar, the participants gather again to discuss the challenges and successes of incorporating East Asian content into their curriculums, and to continue their learning on East Asia.

Jenne wins Furniss Award for ‘Ethnic Bargaining’


In the book, Jenne, associate professor of International Relations and European Studies at Central European University in Budapest, explores the conditions under which groups radicalize their demands against state governments. Using field research conducted on seven minority groups in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Serbia, the book demonstrates that claims by ethnic minority groups have become more frequent since 1945, even though nation-states are generally more responsive to these claims. This finding runs counter to prevailing theories of ethnic conflict.

The reason this occurs, Jenne argues, is that minorities perceive an increase in their bargaining power, so they tend to radicalize their demands from affirmative action to regional autonomy to secession, in an effort to attract ever greater concessions from the central government.

The language of self-determination and minority rights originally adopted by the Great Powers to redefine boundaries after World War I was later used to facilitate the process of decolonization. Jenne believes that in the 1960s various ethnic minorities began to use the

Owen M. Gordin is a doctoral candidate in Political Science at Ohio State. His research focuses on the politics and economics of ethnic conflict.

Ohio State recognized as international organization of the year for global reach

The Ohio State University has been recognized as the 2009 International Organization of the Year by the Columbus Council on World Affairs. The award, presented in early March to President E. Gordon Gee, recognizes the university for its standing center of international education and its commitment to global outreach.

“The council has always recognized Ohio State as a national education leader,” said Patrick Terrain, the council’s president and CEO. “We feel that now is the right time to recognize the university because it is the leader of its globally literate college graduates who can play a leading role in fueling economic recovery worldwide.”

“As the nation’s largest campus, Ohio State has made internationalization one of its top priorities. It is essential that we apply our unparalleled resources to the world’s immediate and pressing problems,” said Gee.

The university continues to build upon its growing number of international activities that are critical in moving the university in a strategic and unified global direction.

- Approximately 15 percent of Ohio State’s students participate in a study abroad program before they graduate, with more than 1,800 students taking part in study abroad opportunities last year.
- The nearly 4,000 international students at Ohio State hail from 107 different countries.
- Ohio State has extended its reach from the classroom to the global community as more than two-thirds of faculty is involved in international activities, and more than 1,600 international scholars visit Ohio State each year.
- Ohio State currently has more than 100 active international agreements in place with universities around the globe.

The Ohio State University is the home of the Global Perspectives program, which fosters a deep understanding of global issues and an appreciation for cultural diversity. The program provides students with the tools they need to keep them healthy and safe,” said Dieter Wanger, Associate Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs. (continued on page 2)
Celebrating 10 years of Wolfe study abroad scholarships

This year marks the 10 year anniversary of the Wolfe Study Abroad Scholarship. More than 200 students have traveled to 40 countries as a result of receiving this prestigious $2,000 study abroad scholarship. The scholarship was established with a $1 million gift from the Robert F. Wolfe and Edgar T. Wolfe Foundation in 1999. Last year, John Wolfe, chairman and CEO of the Columbus Dispatch, presented Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee with another $1 million gift from the foundation at the ninth annual Wolfe Study Abroad Recognition Luncheon, doubling the endowment that supports the scholarships.

“The Wolfe scholarship has given students a chance to explore different social and economic cultures in another country,” said Dieter Wanner, Associate Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs. “These students may not have been afforded that type of international experience without this scholarship. We look forward to another decade of enriching the academic lives of our students through the Wolfe scholarship.”

The scholarship is the cornerstone of Ohio State’s study abroad programs and helps to enhance the educational experience of Ohio State students. The financial aid report provided by those scholarships has changed the lives of a growing number of students who have had the opportunity to participate in quarter or summer-long study abroad programs. Twenty-five scholarships, in the amount of $2,000 each, are awarded each year.

Querehua language and culture at Ohio State

Querehua, the widest spoken indigenous language of the Americas, is now a component of the Ohio State language curriculum. Collaboration between the Center for Latin American Studies and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese brings linguistic and native speaker; Professor Félix Julca-Guerrero, to campus to teach Quechua beginning in autumn quarter 2009.

“These courses will promote the development of the four language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. The curriculum provides a practical command of oral and written skills appropriate for everyday situations, and an understanding of the culture and role of the Quechua-speaking populations in Andean society,” explained Abel Trigo, director of the Center for Latin American Studies.

A living language and culture spoken by more than 12 million people in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina, Quechua has its roots in Tahuantinsuyo, the Incan empire that extended throughout the Andes. A Quechua renaissance has occurred in recent decades with transnational migrants bringing Quechua music and dance, literature and cuisine to a worldwide audience.

“The learning of Querehua language and culture offers multiple benefits. It is a fundamental tool for the understanding of the Andean region and is also important to those who plan to travel to the region to do volunteer work, teach English to students in schools and universities, participate in the OSU Medical School projects in Peru, or travel (Peru),” says Trigo.

In February, more than 70 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the Kasimamanta Yachaykuynan (Andean Exploration Workshop). A panel of Quechua specialists, Maureen Ahern (Spanish and Portuguese), Kenneth Andrian (History), and Juan Zavalla (Spanish and Portuguese) introduced the audience to the vibrant Andean culture and history and stressed the importance of studying the Querehua language and culture for those interested in doing research in the region.

The panel discussion was followed by a Querehua language lesson offered by special guest scholar and native speaker, Dr. Seraphin Coronel-Molina (Indiana University).

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“What course will you be taking at Ohio State? It was an easy choice. Dr. Bruns is one of the most eminent researchers in the field on the Andean region and is also important to those who plan to travel to the region to do volunteer work, teach English to students in schools and universities, participate in the OSU Medical School projects in Peru, or travel (Peru),” says Trigo.

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What department are you in at Ohio State? Dr. F. Bruns’s research group in the Department of Psychology.

What are your research/specialty interests? The main focus on my research is schizophrenia and the neurobiology of cognitive deficits seen in this disease. As the cognitive deficits present in schizophrenia are the most clear in treatment, our research focuses on understanding the regulation of the neural networks involved in executive functioning and the development of valid animal models for testing more efficacious, cognition enhancing pharmacotherapies.

How long have you been in the United States? A little more than a year (1 arrived in the beginning of March 2009).

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What have you been doing at Ohio State as part of your exchange visit? I have been working as a postdoc Dr. Bruns’s laboratory.

What is most surprising you about your experience in Columbus? “The snow day,” and the fact that the snow closed the city.

What has the hardest thing to adapt since we’ve come to Columbus? It is very hard to leave family and friends back home and also take a new course with a new network. It will be very hard to leave all my American friends when I move back to Sweden.

What is the most fun/exciting thing you’ve done since you’ve arrived at Ohio State? To actually be living in “The American dream.”

How has the Office of International Affairs helped you adapt to campus life? The door is always open at the Office of International Affairs, if ever anything goes very right. When you move to a new country you need help with visa issues, immigration papers, tax issues, where it is safe to live etc.

What is your degree in and where did you earn it? I have a Ph.D. in Neuropsychopharmacology from Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. The title of my thesis for doctoral degree: Modulation of prefrontal glutamatergic transmission and “step-up” of functional connectivity by antipsychotic treatment.

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