

WELCOME SPRING!

WACA/WIT Newsletter Vol. 2

I hope this newsletter finds all well across the country. Our goal is to keep everyone up-to-date on the news surrounding the World Affairs Councils of America/*World in Transition* Flagship Program. Included you will find:

- Congratulations to the Virginia Center for the Teaching of International Relations!
- Flagship Program Workshops Held To Date In The 2004-2005 Academic Year and Council Plans for The 2005-2006 Academic Year
- *Europe In Transition* Professional Development Program Offered By WACA National Office
- Forum on the SCIS Website
- WIT Workshop At The 2005 WACA National Conference
- Update On *South Asia in Transition*
- Important Things To Remember

Congratulations to the Virginia Center! The Virginia Center for the Teaching of International Studies (a partnership between the World Affairs Council of Greater Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University) has received a \$40,000 grant from the United States Institute of Peace and a \$36,000 grant from the Virginia Department of Education for a two-year professional development program centered around SCIS's forthcoming package, *South Asia in Transition*. The centerpiece of this program will be a one-week summer institute for teachers, to be held July 11-15, 2005. Many kudos to **Dr. John Rossi** (Co-Director of the Virginia Center and a Professor at VCU) and **Amb. Randolph Bell** (Co-Director of the Virginia Center and Executive Director of the Richmond Council) for securing the funding for this program!!

Flagship Program Workshops Held To Date In The 2004-2005 Academic Year and Council Plans for The 2005-2006 Academic Year. Many WIT workshops—small and large—have been held around the country this winter and spring.

The World Affairs Council of Oregon... In Oregon, **Karen Ettinger** has held 2 follow up workshops, with 58 teachers being trained. Three workshops are scheduled for April, including a daylong workshop on April 30 in cooperation with the Oregon Council for the Social Studies (OCSS). Karen has also conducted a survey of teachers using WIT materials in Oregon and gotten very positive reviews. **Greg Timmons** of the OCSS is completing a correlation of the WIT materials to Oregon state standards that should prove useful as the program moves forward in the state.

The World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas... The Dallas council is holding a two-day workshop in July for 25 teachers in the Dallas Independent School District (DISD). At this workshop a study of the effectiveness of WIT materials in helping Dallas area students improve their scores on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test will be initiated. This study will be finalized next year and the results will be shared in a future newsletter. Many kudos to **Loretta Williams** and **Jim Falk** at the Dallas council for getting the funding to carry out this study! Dallas plans a two-day workshop in August with 25 teachers from surrounding areas,

and Loretta and her colleagues are working on a grant to train 400 Dallas-area teachers over the next three years, with a goal of reaching 58,000 students.

The Pacific and Asian Affairs Council... **Adria Estribou** of the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) organized a daylong workshop for 17 teachers in February, and has several additional workshops planned for this spring. PAAC also has 3 workshops planned in 2005-2006, pending funding from different foundations.

The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh... In Pittsburgh, **Annie Prucey** has put together 5 workshops, with 48 teachers being trained. Several more workshops are planned for this spring, and a large workshop is planned for July in one of the states "hubs." Also, **Jim Wetzler**, who used to be the Pennsylvania Social Studies Education Advisor, is in the process of completing a correlation to the state's standards. This correlation should be of great use as the council looks to acquire funding through the state legislature and other sources.

Please remember that the 75 sets made available to partnering councils for the 2004-2005 academic year must be distributed by July 2005.

Europe In Transition Professional Development Program Offered By WACA National Office. Applications are in! Many, many thanks to **Jerry Leach, Ljiljana Komnenic, Heather Werner**, and **Kendra Link** in the WACA national office for developing an innovative professional development opportunity for teachers who use *Europe in Transition*. The 20 teachers selected—**all applicants will hear by May 1 if they have been awarded a slot**—will go to Washington June 28-July 1, 2005, to engage in an in-depth analysis and discussion of current EU developments. Activities will include meetings with representatives from the EU Commission, Capitol Hill, the State Department, think tanks, and the U.S. Trade Representative's office, as well as with European and American business and military leaders. National sponsorship funds cover all event costs in Washington, with selected teachers being responsible only for their travel expenses. In support of this program, SCIS is working with the national office to develop a forum on the SCIS website.

Forum on the SCIS Website. This forum will be dedicated to teachers and those involved or interested in the flagship program. Teachers will be able to discuss how they have used specific activities, ask questions concerning activities, resources, or opportunities, and, in general, network with other teachers using WIT (or other) materials. Council leaders will be able to talk about how the flagship program is working in their area, discuss their fundraising efforts, or hammer out the nuts and bolts of running a workshop, among many other issues. Please look for this forum on the SCIS website at <http://www.southerncenter.org/plugins/forums/index.php>.

WIT Workshop At The 2005 WACA National Conference. A warm-hearted thank you to all who participated in the *WIT* Workshop at the national conference. This workshop provided an important opportunity to discuss the flagship program and trade ideas on how it works in different settings. I especially want to thank **Karen Ettinger, Lisa Maruyama, Loretta Williams, Jim Falk**, and **Annie Prucey** for their input. Gracias!

Update On *South Asia in Transition*. The work on *South Asia in Transition* continues apace, with Julia White and her production team nearing completion on the video documentaries. The essays are in the final editing process and many of the activities have been written. Expect the new materials to be available this summer.

Important Things To Remember. Finally, for those councils partnering with SCIS in the flagship program, please keep in mind the following items as you move forward in your area:

- ✓ The 75 sets of *World in Transition* materials made available to partnering councils in 2004 must be distributed by July 2005.
- ✓ Each partnering council is encouraged to identify a master teacher to review the activities in the upcoming package, *South Asia in Transition*.
- ✓ SCIS will work with partnering councils to correlate WIT materials to state social studies standards.
- ✓ SCIS offers “matching grants” to each of its partners (1 set of materials for every set purchased in year 2 of the partnership, and 1 set for every 3 sets purchased in each subsequent year).
- ✓ After the flagship program is fully funded by a partnering council, it is invited to appoint a qualified representative to the Academic Advisory Board, which meets yearly to review the WIT materials.
- ✓ SCIS can offer fundraising help through foundation searches, sample grant language, flyers, FAQ sheets, etc.
- ✓ Partners are encouraged to place labels identifying their council on WIT materials.

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