

WACA/WIT News From Atlanta

WACA/WIT Newsletter Vol. 3

A warm hello to everyone from Atlanta! Our goal is to keep everyone up-to-date on the news surrounding the World Affairs Councils of America/*World in Transition* Flagship Program. A lot has been going on. Included you will find:

- Flagship Program Workshops and Plans
- A New Unit, *South Asia in Transition*
- WACA Program in Washington for Teachers Using WIT
- WACA/WIT Task Force Formed
- New Online Discussion Forum on the SCIS Webpage
- New Flyers Supporting the Flagship Program
- Grant Language/Web Language
- September 29 Academic Advisory Board Meeting

FLAGSHIP PROGRAM WORKSHOPS AND PLANS. In the 2004-2005 academic year, WACA/WIT workshops were held in eight states: Texas, Oregon, Virginia, California, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Illinois, and Georgia. Here are some highlights:

The **World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas** held two important workshops this summer, one in partnership with the Dallas Independent School District, and the other in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. The second workshop was for 52 teachers, drawing teachers from around the state and, indeed, even one from Louisiana. It was a great success, with teachers saying “it would be hard to improve this workshop” and giving presenters **Tim Murray**, **Bette Miller**, and **Joe Wicker** of the Dallas Council and **Carol McCollough** of SCIS the highest of marks. **Jim Falk**, **Beth Huddleston**, **Loretta Williams**, and their colleagues have received funding to train 75 teachers in 2005/06, 100 in 2006/07, 150 in 2007/08, and 200 in 2008/09.

The **World Affairs Council of Oregon** trained 75 teachers over the course of 2004/2005, including 35 at a very successful daylong workshop in April held in cooperation with the Oregon Council for the Social Studies (OCSS) and the Oregon Department of Education. **Greg Timmons** of OCSS put together a very user-friendly correlation of *WIT* materials to Oregon state standards for this workshop. **Maria Wulff** and **Karen Ettinger** of the Oregon WAC have held meetings with leaders in the Oregon Department of Education. They have several workshops planned for 2005/06 and should hear soon about a major funding proposal they’ve submitted for their program.

In Virginia, **John Rossi** and **Randolph Bell** of the **World Affairs Council of Greater Richmond** and the **Virginia Center for the Teaching of International Studies** organized a very successful one-week summer institute using drafts of the *South Asia in Transition* package. Seventeen teachers were trained to be trainers of the *South Asia in Transition* materials and will conduct follow up workshops around the state over the next two years. John was able to secure a \$40,000 grant from the **United States Institute of Peace** and a \$36,000 grant from the **Virginia Department of Education** to hold these workshops. The Virginia Center and the Richmond Council have conducted workshops covering the *Russia and the Other Former Soviet Republics*

in Transition, Africa in Transition, and Europe in Transition packages over the past several years.

The **World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh** organized nine workshops in 2004/2005, training 75 teachers. **Annie Pucey** and **Sky Foerster** have met with the Pennsylvania state social studies coordinator, **Jeff Zeiders**, to develop ways to continue the program in 2005/06, including working with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and other Intermediate Units, which coordinate the professional development of teachers for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Welcome to **Laura Kehrl**, the new Education Program Manager in Pittsburgh who will be working on the WIT program.

In July, the **Los Angeles World Affairs Council**, partnering with Los Angeles Unified School System, conducted a very well received workshop for 29 teachers. SCIS's **Diane Sloan** helped organize the workshop with LA's **Curtis Mack**, **Carlotta Dixon**, and **Candace Lopez**. A follow up workshop is planned for this fall to continue to introduce the WACA/WIT Flagship Program to Los Angeles teachers. **Park Cockerill** in Los Angeles has correlated *WIT* materials to California world history standards.

In Hawaii, **Adria Estribou** and **Natasha Chappel** of the **Pacific and Asian Affairs Council** (PAAC) organized three workshops in 2004/05, training 33 teachers. The council made a breakthrough in May by holding a workshop on the island of Molokai for the first time. In August, the council received \$2,300 grant from the Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation for a workshop on Maui this fall. A second grant has been submitted for a workshop focusing on the new *South Asia in Transition* package.

In Illinois, **John Rathbun** of the **Peoria Area World Affairs Council** conducted a workshop for six teachers in late June. Also, **Angela Weck** of the Peoria council has submitted a four-year grant to the University of Illinois European Union Center to train 50 teachers per year using *Europe in Transition*. This initiative came after a very successful workshop using *Europe in Transition* was conducted by **Don Stamford** at the UI European Union Center in early July. Thanks to **Kerri Taylor** and **Melina Berona** at the University of Illinois for helping get this initiative going. Also of note is the fact that John and Don are completing a correlation of the WIT materials to Illinois state standards.

Finally, I want to thank **Marilyn McAfee** and **Sandy Cook** of the **World Affairs Council of Jacksonville** for inviting me to Florida August 2-3. On August 2, we met with **Fred Schultz** of the **Schultz Center for Teaching and Learning** and had dinner with council board members. The next day in cooperation with the Jacksonville Council four successful WACA/WIT introductory sessions were conducted at a Duval County in-service day for teachers.

Overall, it has been a very good year for the WACA/WIT Flagship Program.

A NEW UNIT, SOUTH ASIA IN TRANSITION. SCIS's new educational package on South Asia will be completed late this fall. This package will cover Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, eight countries that together are only half the size of the U.S., but provide the home for over 1.4 billion people! As always, after listening

carefully to comments from many reviewers and advisors, we think this will be our best package yet. The *South Asia in Transition* video will be the first video in the series released on DVD. All of the other units will be available on DVD early next year.

WACA PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON FOR TEACHERS USING WIT. Many, many thanks to **Jerry Leach**, **Ljiljana Komnenic**, and the WACA national office for developing an innovative professional development opportunity for teachers centered on *Europe in Transition*. This very successful program was held June 28-July 1, 2005 in Washington and allowed 22 teachers from around the country to meet with representatives from the EU Commission, Capitol Hill, the State Department, think tanks, and the media, as well as with European Ambassadors. Teachers even got to meet Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice**. National sponsorship funds covered all event costs in Washington, with teachers only being responsible for their travel expenses. Applications for next year's program—possibly focused on *Africa in Transition*—will be sent out this winter.

WACA/WIT TASK FORCE FORMED. Through the efforts of Jerry Leach, a WACA/WIT Flagship Program task force was formed this summer. Jerry, Peter White, Curtis Mack, John Rossi, Lisa Maruyama, Sky Foerster, and myself are in the group. A first conference call has been held and a second is planned soon. Thanks to Jerry for getting this advisory body going.

NEW ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM ON THE SCIS WEBPAGE. Check out the new discussion forum for teachers and WACA leaders on www.southerncenter.org! Teachers can network with other teachers using WIT (or other) materials. Council leaders are 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. Please sign up and use this community-building space. Thanks to the WACA national office and the European Union Delegation of the European Commission for providing funding for this initiative.

NEW FLYERS SUPPORTING THE FLAGSHIP PROGRAM. Several new flyers have been developed to support the Flagship Program, including a “Did You Know...” flyer on how the *WIT* series is updated on the SCIS webpage and a flyer introducing the new discussion forum on the webpage. These flyers compliment other flyers already developed covering the *WIT* series and the Flagship Program. Please contact me if you have not received these materials, or if you would like other resources, such as letters from Colin Powell or Kofi Annan praising *WIT*, a powerpoint presentation covering *WIT* and the WACA/WIT Flagship Program, or executive summaries of evaluations of *WIT* conducted by independent reviewers.

GRANT LANGUAGE/WEB LANGUAGE. Councils in the WACA/WIT Flagship Program have partnered with a wide range of organizations as they have moved forward in their areas, from the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas to the EU Center at the University of Illinois. Each situation is unique, but organizations interested in conducting workshops, such as Federal Reserves, EU Centers, Asia Centers, etc., exist all over the country. To support your efforts, SCIS can provide sample grant language on *WIT*, as well as sample workshop budgets. Also, for those partner councils interested in broader coverage of the Flagship Program on their website, SCIS can offer sample website language and links.

SEPTEMBER 29 ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. On a final note, I'm looking forward to seeing all of you who will be coming down to Atlanta for the Academic Advisory Board meeting on September 29. This should be a great gathering and we look forward to getting valuable input into this important program.

Many Thanks to Our Sponsors:

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