

PIER Newsletter, Vol. 1, Num. 1
on Global Education Outreach
November 3, 2005

Welcome to the first edition of the Programs in International Educational Resources (PIER) Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you up to date on all the exciting activities happening at PIER, a program of the Yale Center for International and Area Studies (YCIAS). We'll also inform you about related community events and new educational resources, and provide tips on how to integrate international topics and current events into your curriculum.

International Week is November 14 – 18! Go to www.yale.edu/iew or www.yale.edu/ycias/pier for further information and International Week Activities!

Table of Contents

- I. Upcoming PIER Events
- II. Upcoming Community Events
- III. Recommended Teaching Resources
- IV. Culture and Current Events Corner
- V. Features
 - Recent Happenings at PIER
 - Yale Coop Language Program
 - Joel Heinrichs's Postcard from Britain

I. Upcoming PIER Events

Thursday, November 3, 2005

“Geography Action! Kickoff Event”

Luce Hall, 4:30-8:00 p.m.

National Geographic's annual conservation and awareness program is designed to engage students, educators and communities in taking action to protect the earth and its people.

This year's theme, “Migration: The Human Journey,” is designed to guide students in exploring their diverse heritages, trace the migration stories of their communities and others', and connect their personal geographies to the greater history of human movement. Keynote Speaker Patricia Pessar, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Yale Bachelor of Arts program in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, will speak on: "Transnational Lives, A New Phenomenon?"

For more information or to register, see <http://www.ctgeoalliance.org> or contact Janet Headley (janet.headley@yale.edu; 203-432-3429). 3 CEUs available.

Friday-Sunday, November 4-6, 2005

“Arab Dance Seminar”

Revive Center, New Haven, CT

Karim Nagi Mohammed and PIER-Middle East Studies present this exciting seminar featuring Nourhan Sharif , Amel Tafsout, Karim Nagi Mohammed, and Kay Hardy Campbell. The seminar includes three days of workshops and instruction and two dance party shows with live music and DJ! PIER Educators receive a 15% discount and are eligible to earn CEUs. Please contact greta.scharnweber@yale.edu to register. For further information, consult www.arabdanceseminar.com.

Saturday, November 5, 2005

“Teach Europe Seminar”

Luce Hall, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This annual workshop provides participants with information on the European Union and its role in today’s world, providing educators a unique opportunity to interact with specialists on the European Union. This year’s topics include workshops on European art, human rights, the recent EU referendums, and new EU policies on language curricula. Keynote Speaker: Professor Jolyon Howorth, Department of Political Science, Yale University.

For more information or to register, visit www.teacheurope.org. CEUs available.

Saturday, November 5, 2005

“You, We and the Other: Talking About Race in Latin America”

Luce Hall, Room 202, 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

This workshop addresses in three sessions the topic of race and class in Latin America. Is there racism in Latin America? How do social class and race relate in socio-economic and cultural contexts in Latin America? How is race constructed through language and in our daily lives? You will be introduced to conceptions of race and ethnicity in Latin America, with the opportunity to discuss and compare such ideas with a panel of scholars representing various world regions at the end of the day. Six CEUs available. For more information or to register, please contact carolina.belalcazar@yale.edu.

Thursday, November 10

“Understanding Iraq: A Toolkit for Reading the Media”

Luce Hall, Room 202, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Eric Davis, Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University, is a prominent researcher and public voice on Iraq, including the most recent US-Led war on Iraq. Professor Davis will guide us through some basic concepts pertaining to Iraq as a modern nation-state, giving historical and geographic background of the plethora of different players involved in the current conflict in Iraq. Emphasis will be placed on how to get at what's behind the headlines of media coverage on modern Iraq. Registration fee includes a Middle Eastern dinner, materials, and CEU processing fees. For more information or to register, contact greta.scharnweber@yale.edu.

Thursday, November 17, 2005

“Third Thursday: European Roots of Modern Art”

Luce Hall, 5 -- 7:30 p.m.

Presented by Christine Mehring, Assistant Professor, History of Art, Yale University
For more information contact Brian Carter at brian.carter@yale.edu or 203-432-3424.

Saturday, November 19, 2005

“The Dominican Republic”

Luce Hall, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This interactive workshop introduces the recently published text “Caribbean Connections: The Dominican Republic.” Teaching for Change writes that this book “provides a unique, reader-friendly overview of the history, politics and culture of the fourth largest Latino community in the United States. The 272-page book includes essays, oral histories, poetry, fiction, lesson plans and beautifully illustrated timelines and maps. Noted authors include Julia Alvarez, Edwidge Danticat, Junot Díaz, Rhina P. Espaillet, Pedro Mir, Josefina Baez and Sherezada Vicioso (Chiqui). Ideal as background text for students or book groups reading literature by Dominican authors, communities with Dominican-American students, and for everyone interested in this Caribbean country which has had a long history of U.S. involvement. Edited by Anne Gallin, Ruth Glasser, Jocelyn Santana with Patricia Pessar. Teaching for Change. A companion 74-page book is available with many of the key readings for students in Spanish.”

November 30, 2005

“Celebration of Africa: The Beginning of Understanding”

Brien McMahon High School and the Center for Global Studies

PIER’s program in African Studies brings to Brien McMahon High School a day jam-packed with activities designed to improve students’ understanding of Africa. Students will examine African realities in contrast to media stereotypes, discover anthropological evidence unearthing African history, discuss the importance of studying Africa, and enjoy the flavor of traditional African storytelling and drumming.

II. Other Upcoming Events

This sections lists events outside of PIER that we would like to bring to your attention.

Friday, October 28, 2005 through December 2005

**Sterling Memorial Library Photo Exhibit: "From the Caves to the Square,"
photographs of the Tiananmen Square movement of 1989 by David E. Apter**

Sterling Memorial Library, 120 High Street, New Haven

David Apter, the Henry J. Heinz II Professor Emeritus of Comparative Political and Social Development, writes: "It was here in the spring of 1989 that the generation that inherited the revolution began their protest movement in favor of democracy. It was a movement that ended tragically and yet it remains a monument to the unfinished business of the Chinese revolution.... This exhibition of photographs is a small homage to and testimony of the courage of those who tried to give voice to democratic aspirations."

Friday, November 4, 2005

“How to Use Paintings in the French Classroom”

Luce Hall, 5 p.m.

Anne Reverseau offers a series of language teaching activities using paintings. Her presentation will focus on “Eating and Drinking in French Art.”

November 2-8, 2005

“The 7th National French Week”

This week-long celebration of all things French will take place in schools and communities all over the US. For more information, see <http://www.frenchteachers.org>.

Tuesday, November 8, 2005

Alexis de Tocqueville and His Democracy in America

New Haven Lawn Club, 193 Whitney Ave., 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker Dr. James Schleifer won the Merle Curti Award given by the Organization of American Historians for the best work in the field of American intellectual history published in the preceding two years: *The Making of Tocqueville's "Democracy in America"*. Currently Dr. Schleifer is a Professor of History at the College of New Rochelle where he is also the Dean of the Gill Library. This event is sponsored by the Alliance Francaise de New Haven. For more information, see <http://www.afusa.org/af/newhaven>.

Join the Development Studies listserv for information on Yale's International Development Policy Speaker Series and other events! Go to <http://mailman.yale.edu/mailman/listinfo/development-studies>

III. Recommended Resources

PIER recommends the following excellent online educational resources to teachers.

EU-related curriculum is available at the official website of the European Union: <http://europa.eu.int/index.htm>. Find the link to the English page—this website is published in all the languages of the European Union—and look for links to the “Easy Reading Corner” and “Young People.”

Education About Asia, <http://www.aasianst.org/EAA/factoids.htm>, is a print magazine published three times annually. Recent sample articles include “Teaching Islam as an Asian Religion,” “Using Chinese Folktales in the Classroom,” and “Rice as Self: Japanese Identities Through Time.” Supplemental online materials also available.

To promote understanding of African geography, check out Schoolnet Namibia's interactive Africa map puzzle, used worldwide. Test out your own knowledge at <http://www.schoolnet.na/games/map/africa.html>

http://www.amideast.org/publications/free_resources.htm

A selection of free online resources for teachers about Arabs, the Arabic Language, and culture in the Arab World (compiled by Amideast, a Washington, DC based organization dedicated to promoting greater understanding of the people and cultures of the Middle East and North Africa.

Cultures of the Andes, at <http://www.andes.org/>, is a fantastic, kid-friendly resource containing photos, songs, jokes, legends, poetry and more from the Andean Mountains of South America.

“Youth are the world’s future diplomats. Start now!” The U.S. Department of State’s youth website provides interactive activities aimed at engaging children and youth in issues of diplomacy and international affairs. <http://future.state.gov/>

<http://iew.state.gov/> Provides information and games to celebrate International Education Week.

<http://www.ic21.org/> Provides lesson plans on the UN international days, resources, World Heritage materials, and information on how to join InerConnections 21, a program of UNESCO.

IV. Culture and Current Events Corner

Bring the world into your classroom by using these upcoming events and holidays and current controversies as teaching tools.

November 7 is **Russia’s “Day of Accord and Reconciliation,”** formerly known as the Day of the Great Revolution of October 1917. It was celebrated for 80 years and has become a tradition in Russia, not easily canceled. Why was this commemoration of the “October Revolution” celebrated in November? And why did Boris Yeltsin change its name in 1996? Explore these questions with your students to help them gain a greater understanding of the Soviet Union and contemporary Russia.

On November 8, **run-off Presidential elections take place in Liberia.** These are the first elections since Liberia’s 14-year civil war ended in 2003. Following the corrupt, murderous regime of Charles Taylor, democratic elections are critical. Leading candidates are a former soccer star and a former finance minister who, if elected, would be the first elected African head of state. For more information to help you follow these elections with your students, see www.allafrica.com/liberia

It is currently the month of **Ramadan**, and it is a good time to bring up the religion of Islam in social studies. Since October 4, Muslims around the world have been celebrating the holy month of Ramadan, a time dedicated to the remembrance of the Prophet Muhammad's reception of the Qur'an. During Ramadan, Muslims fast during the daylight hours, a practice which allows time for spiritual reflection and prayer while also teaching self-discipline, self-restraint and charity. Reading the Qur'an is an important part of Ramadan, and many Muslims will attempt to read the whole of the Qur'an at least once during the Ramadan period. Many will also attend special services in Mosques during which the Qur'an is read. It is common to have one meal (known as the suhoor), just before sunrise and another (known as the iftar), directly after sunset. Because Ramadan is a time to spend with friends and family, the fast will often be broken by different Muslim families coming together to share in an evening meal. At the end of Ramadan, this year falling on November 3, a big celebration takes place known as Eid-al-Fitr, the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast. During this celebration Muslims dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children and spend time with their friends and family. At Eid it is obligatory to give a set amount of money to charity to be used to help poor

people buy new clothes and food so they too can celebrate. For more information on Islam and Ramadan, see this set of online resources put together by the BBC:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/islam/>

V. Highlighted Features

High School Coop Language Program at Yale University

This year, Programs in International and Educational Resources (PIER) at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies (YCIAS) will offer instruction in a range of the world's languages — 13 language classes in all -- to high school students in the Greater New Haven area. Seventy students from New Haven public schools will be participating in the program for free thanks to funding from the Office of New Haven and State Affairs at Yale University.

The following languages will be offered: Arabic I & II, Mandarin Chinese, Irish Gaelic, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Japanese I, II & III, and Russian. The classes will be small group tutorials and will run from late October to May. Students will meet once a week after 4pm in classrooms at Yale University for an hour and a half.

The language program is open to students from all public, private, and parochial high schools in the greater New Haven area, from Fairfield to Waterbury, Middletown, and Madison. For students outside the New Haven Public Schools, the program costs \$350. In some classes, students or their schools, also have to purchase textbooks.

Students outside of New Haven can register directly with the Yale program or get more information by contacting Lesley Kent at 432-6238 by November 1.

A Postcard from Britain: Fulbright Teacher Exchange

Branford High School teacher Joel Heinrichs is spending this year on a Fulbright Exchange Program in the United Kingdom while Suzy Gudgeon takes over in Branford. The Fulbright Teacher Exchange provides opportunities for qualified educators to participate in direct exchanges of positions with colleagues from other countries for six weeks, a semester, or a full academic year.

Here, Joel recounts his experiences teaching in a British school. He welcomes your questions and dialogue and can be reached at joel_h_14@hotmail.com.

Teaching at British school is exciting, challenging, frustrating, confusing, and exhilarating every single day, although different days have different amounts of those ingredients. I teach years 7 through 10 and have about 300 students in total. I only see the majority of my classes only three times per fortnight. As tough as learning the names of all of my students has been, this task has proven to be simple compared to plethora of acronyms and terms used in the English education system. These acronyms and terms range from GSCE, A-Levels, TRL's, YTL's, Line team managers, NQT's,

CAL's. Not understanding these terms can be can make a teacher feel completely lost when attending the faculty meetings which seem to occur at as high a frequency as the English rain.

The students are generally younger than I am used to teaching, so I have had to adjust to the new age group. Many of the students have questions about life in the United States. Below is a brief list of the most frequently asked questions:

- Did you vote for George W. Bush?
- Is everybody in the United States really fat?
- Do you own a gun back in America?

Even with all the challenges, life in England has been great so far. My school and department have been welcoming and have offered large amounts of support and assistance. People have taken the time to answer my questions no matter how basic they may seem. Taking weekend trips to ancient battlefields, castles, and other historical sites has been wonderful.

-Joel Heinrichs

Recent Happenings at PIER

For more information on any recent events you have missed, or to learn how to obtain related resources, contact janet.headley@yale.edu.

On October 12, twenty-seven teachers attended a PIER event entitled "The UN at 60: Resources for Teaching and Learning." The event, in celebration of the United Nations 60th Anniversary, featured a talk by Jean Krasno, Executive Director of the Academic Council on the UN System.

On October 15, PIER and the Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies presented a workshop entitled "In Search of Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas." Twenty-seven participants had the opportunity to take an inside look at the Macchu Picchu exhibition currently on display at Yale's Peabody Museum, as curators guided participants in reconstructing daily life in Inca capital five hundred years ago.

PIER brought the two-day intensive workshop "An Introduction to the Arab World and Islam", featuring Audrey Shabbas of the Middle East Policy Council and AWAIR (Arab World and Islamic Resources), to The Center for Global Studies at Brien McMahon High School on October 15-16. Participants examined cultural geography, history, family and women in Islam.

On Friday October 28, 2005, PIER's own Max Amoh, Director of African Studies, was one of many presenters at the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies Conference. He addressed this year's theme, "Global Awareness: As We See the World and the World Sees Us", with a presentation entitled "Teaching about Islam in West Africa: Ghana and Senegal." Topics of other sessions ranged from free trade agreements to hip hop's role in American culture, from ancient Egypt to contemporary population growth,

Look for next month's PIER Newsletter in late November, filled with information on PIER's December and January events, additional classroom resources, and ideas on making your winter holiday celebrations truly global!