NCTA Alumni and Associates,

After last summer's successful Study Tour to Vietnam and Cambodia, we are once again teaming up with GEEO to offer an NCTA Study Tour to Tibet and Nepal-- see below for more information. Also, it never ceases to amaze us all of the wonderful things that our NCTA alumni do, especially during the summer months. From study tours, to leading student trips, to holding professional development workshops for colleagues our alumni are a busy, dedicated, and well-travelled group. So please take a look at the Alumni News section.

As always, if you have anything you would like us to distribute, please let us know.

All the best,

Brenda G. Jordan, Director

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Upcoming Opportunities & Resources for Teachers
2018 NCTA Tibet & Nepal Study Tour.

In the summer of 2018 we will be leading a two-week study tour to Tibet and Nepal. The tour "Looking Beyond Shangri La" will take place July 1-14, 2018 and will include visits to Kathmandu, Lhasa, Gyantse, and Everest Base Camp. Dr. David Kenley from Elizabethtown College and Dr. Patrick Hughes from NCTA Pittsburgh will serve as the "NCTA value-added" co-leaders to bring historical, cultural and pedagogical context to the tour.

To help defray the cost of this tour, we are offering a limited number of subsidies for this tour for NCTA alumni in good standing. For more information on these subsidies, contact Patrick Hughes at hughespw@pitt.edu. Alumni may also invite one adult guest to take part in this study tour.

All of the details of the tour can be found on the website of Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO), who is once again helping us to organize this tour. The tour is currently booked to capacity, but we do have a waiting list. For more information, go to: https://www.geeo.org/tours/NCTATibet/

This study tour is currently open to NCTA alumni of our four-state region of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia (and those who attended the Georgetown seminars in 2013-14).

War And Peace: Voices From Japan, an online NCTA seminar from FCCEAS

Starting in January, 2018, the Five College Center for East Asian Studies will be holding a 12-week online course that explores the experiences of the people of Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki during WWII and the post-War period. Teachers will be invited to consider what can be learned from listening to Japanese voices about war and peace, and how to use these insights in the classroom. The objective of the course is not to debate who was/is "right" or "wrong," but to carefully consider the experiences and voices of the people in Japan. The seminar will run from January 22-April 16, 2018 and will be led by Dr. Anne Prescott.
For more information on this seminar, the benefits that are offered to teachers, and to register, please go to:

https://www.fivecolleges.edu/fcceas/ncta/2018-ncta-online-seminar

Online Book Discussion Groups

Over the next few months Asia For Educators and the NCTA site at Columbia U. are offering a series of online book discussion groups.

- **Nanjing: The Burning City** a graphic novel by Ethan Young. Nov. 29-Dec 12, 2017
- **Such a Lovely Little War: Saigon 1961-63** by Marcelino Truong; and **The Best We Could Do: An Illustrated Memoir** by Thi Bui. December 13, 2017-January 23, 2018
- **The Good Earth**, by Pearl Buck, Graphic adaptation by Nick Bertozzi. January 31-February 27, 2017

To register for these online book discussion groups, go to:
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/announcements/2017/BookGroupsFall17.html

Webinar on *Falling Into the Dragon's Mouth*

On December 5, 2017 from 7:00-8:00pm, the Five College Center for East Asian Studies (FCCEAS) is holding a webinar featuring Holly Thompson, the author of *Falling into the Dragon's Mouth*, a 2016 verse novel about Jason Parker, a 6th grade boy in a seaside Japanese town who is trying to fit in.

To register for this webinar, please go to:
https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1324661207584911618

Resources for Teachers

Freeman Book Award

Last year the NCTA, the Committee on Teaching about Asia, and Asia for Educators established the **Freeman Book Awards** to recognize quality books for children and young adults that contribute meaningfully to an understanding of East and Southeast Asia. Here are the 2016 winners and honorable mentions for the Freeman Book Award:
Children's Literature Category

Winner: *My Night in the Planetarium* by Innosanto Nagara (Seven Stories Press) Non-Fiction - Set in Indonesia

The Indonesian-born graphic designer, Innosanto Nagara, shares "a true story about a child, a play, and the act of resistance" in his award-winning autobiographical picture book. Starting with a lightly humorous overview of Indonesian history, through colonization by the Dutch, he leads up to 1977, a pivotal moment in his life, during the brutal rule of President Suharto. Nagara's stunning illustrations depict a play performed in traditional Indonesian dance costumes created and performed by his father in which an unspecified army general is criticized. Police are sent to arrest his father and Innosanto and his mother flee from the production and hide in an adjacent planetarium. What could be a terrifying experience for a child becomes a night filled with the security of strong parental love and the magic of the stars. Nagara's newest work, along with his earlier books, show the heroic potential of ordinary people and the power of art to challenge injustice.

Honorable Mention: *Are You an Echo? The Lost Poetry of Misuzu Kaneko* by Misuzu Kaneko (Chin Music Press) Non-Fiction - Set in Japan

*Are You an Echo?* brings the lyrical poems and life story of now famous Japanese poet, Misuzu Kaneko, to an American audience. Her poems were lost for many years but are now popular with schoolchildren throughout Japan. The haunting title poem was played instead of commercials on public radio after the tsunami in 2011, helping to bring a million volunteers to the devastated seaside towns. Her poems capture Kaneko the thoughtful child observing nature and life by the sea and, later, the loving mother. Illustrations by Toshikado Hajiri complement the biography as recreated from Kaneko's diaries and her vivid poems. Even the tsunami and recovery are powerfully depicted. The poems, several printed in English and Japanese, are aimed at young readers. Encountering Kaneko's illness and suicide will require guidance from parents and teachers,
though, but current scholarship on early childhood education suggests that children are strengthened by seeing both darkness and light in life.

**Young Adult/Middle School Literature Category**

Winner: *Somewhere Among* by Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu (Atheneum Books for Young Readers)
Fiction - Set in Japan
Through the eyes of a young girl students can relate to the loneliness and fear of not-fitting in and not knowing the cultural cues encountered in entering a new school. Ema, the protagonist, is the daughter of an American mother and a Japanese father, living in Japan and happy with her home and friends. Her mother's pregnancy necessitates that they live for a semester at her grandparents' home, in suburban Tokyo, where Ema experiences more of Japanese culture while she navigates her way through it at home and school, and spends more time with her grandmother.

Winner: *The Night Parade* by Kathryn Tanquary (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky)
Fiction - Set in Japan
A fantasy story that will appeal to many middle school students, *The Night Parade* bridges past and present Japanese cultural customs. It is filled with wonder and imagination, as well as respect and admiration for cultural tradition, and provides a window into Japanese mythology.

Honorable Mention: *Falling into the Dragon's Mouth* by Holly Thompson (Henry Holt BYR/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group)
Fiction - Set in Japan
Told through the eyes of a middle school American boy who is living in Japan, students have a compelling account of issues ever present in society today and how to deal with them: bullying, feeling isolated, not fitting in, cross-cultural understanding, and how to survive teenage years. It is also a window into Japanese culture and school life, while exploring emotions and issues that all teenagers are constantly facing when "friend groups" dominate and exclusion is visible and difficult, especially when moving across the
Young Adult/High School Literature Category

Winner: *Every Falling Star: The True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea* by Sungju Lee and Susan Elizabeth McClelland (Amulet, an imprint of ABRAMS)
Non-Fiction - Set in North Korea
A timely and gripping autobiographical account of a teenage boy in North Korea. An authentic view of the "inside" of North Korea, and the reality of the life of ordinary citizens living under a regime of severe political constraints that has isolated itself from the world. Students will gain a better understanding both of why some North Korean people support the regime as well as why others try to escape. Excellent non-fiction read for high school students.

Honorable Mention: *Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story* by Caren Stelson (Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group)
Non-Fiction - Set in Japan
This biography told to Caren Stelson of Sachiko Yasui, who was a six-year old in Nagasaki when atomic bomb fell on her hometown on August 9, 1945. Unlike Sadako, the young girl who died from the bombing in Hiroshima and with whom students are familiar from the Peace Statue and the 1000 cranes, Sachiko Yasui has survived the effects of the bombing into adulthood and is able to relate the story of her life and work for peace. With historical narrative interwoven in a survivor's personal story, the complex historical events leading up to, during and post war become real to a teenager who may consider World War II ancient history. Relevant in our world today where nuclear issues, power politics and nuclear possession still dominate the news/our world, the story also represents how an affected country has turned to 'peace education' with the mantra to the world," never again."

China's Cultural Revolution in Memories: The CR/10 Project

CR/10 (Cultural Revolution: 10) is an experimental oral history project created by librarians at the University of Pittsburgh to provide a series of first-hand accounts of China's Cultural Revolution.
Revolution and its legacy. Each interview (conducted in Chinese, with translation text in English) lasts approximately 10 minutes, and the interviewees relate the experiences that left the deepest impression on them. This ongoing oral-history project, which began in 2015, aims to neutrally collect ordinary people’s authentic memories and impressions.

http://culturalrevolution.pitt.edu/

Key Issues in Asian Studies

The series Key Issues in Asian Studies has recently published revised and expanded editions to three of their popular titles.

- Japan and Imperialism, 1853-1945 by James L. Huffman
- Gender, Sexuality and Body Politics in Modern Asia by Michael Peletz.
- Understanding East Asia’s Economic ‘Miracles’ by Zhiqun Zhu

All of these books, as well as lots of other fabulous (and cheap!) titles are available a the Association for Asian Studies website at: http://www.asian-studies.org/Publications/KIAS

Alumni News

Sally Allan (Pittsburgh 2010) attended a Classrooms Without Borders study tour in Israel this past July, which she called "an excellent introduction to the country of Israel and the complex issues that the people struggle with." This experience was a study tour of artists and art professionals and one of the highlights of the tour was a home stay with Israeli artists. Sally will be making art for a show in Pittsburgh next June and a show of her students’ art the following year.

MaryLynn Barner (Lehigh 2015-16) attended the Stratford Hall Teachers Institute, a four-day residential institute on the property of the Lee Family in the Northern Neck of Virginia. This summer’s institute focused on the geography of the transatlantic slave trade from the Revolution to pre-Civil War. This was the second of a three-year long series on the geography of slavery. The Institute is free to teachers across the country, excluding travel costs and some meals.

Andrea Barnes (UPenn 2015) participated in The Open Doors program with NCTA this summer and in a seminar about Empires focusing on the Middle East, Africa and India. Currently, she is
teaching abroad in Shunyi district, Beijing at a Bilingual private school.

Michele Beauchamp (Elizabethtown 2008), Pam Burrett (Pitt 2002), Joanne Cho (Baltimore 2016-17), Sandy Gianella (Pitt 2007), Jennifer Gipe (2016 Lancaster), Ben O’Donnell (2016 Lancaster), Nancy Stanich (Pitt 2005), Angela Van Atta (Elizabethtown 2013), Matthew Williams (Pitt 2015), and Brenda Jordan (NCTA Pitt Director) participated in the NCTA Vietnam & Cambodia study tour this past summer. The tour was led by our ever-reliable and knowledgeable NCTA seminar leader (Elizabethtown & Lancaster) Dr. David Kenley. The group got the chance to explore Hanoi, where they could experience the hustle and bustle of Vietnam’s capital city. They took an overnight boat trip on Halong Bay where they experienced a number of breathtaking limestone formations. After an overnight train journey, they disembarked in Hue, where they could visit the historic sights of the Yiem Mu Pagoda and the Imperial Citadel. Next on the itinerary was a journey through the mountains to Hoi An, where they viewed houses that were centuries old and enjoyed the glamour of the shopping districts and art galleries. A plane ferried them to Ho Chi Minh City, where they saw the French-inspired Opera House and Post Office while enjoying the delectable offerings of the Street Market. Our teachers were also able to pay a visit to the Mekong Delta, where they navigated through the canals via boat. After a bus ride to Cambodia, they then were also able to see the sun rising over Angkor Wat and admire the sculptural beauty of Ta Prohm, along with several other Khmer temples. The tour was finished off with a final trip to Bangkok, from where they were able to fly home or continue their journeys elsewhere.

Sarah Duncan (West Virginia 2015-16) participated in a Fulbright Hays seminar to Thailand last summer, which she called an "an incredible experience!" See an article about her experiences in her local newspaper The Times Record here: http://www.thetimesrecord.net/pageview/viewer/2017-09-07#page=10
Mindy Fisher (UPenn 2017) was named the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Teacher of the Year for 2017. Mindy is a dedicated young woman, who teaches middle school in a poor section of Philadelphia. Entitled "Unsung Heroes", Mindy uses the texts *Red Scarf Girl*, *Lost Names*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank* to explore such essential questions as "What is a hero?"

Elisabeth Gambino (Baltimore 2013) has had quite the busy year. Elisabeth, who teaches visual arts at Bard High School Early College Baltimore, mentors new teachers and last year she worked as an Early College Fellow with the Bard High School Early Colleges network and developed model materials for a local to global educational praxis focused on student-led inquiry and real world action. She currently serves as a Grosvenor Fellow with National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions and returned from an Expedition in Southeast Alaska in August. Elisabeth is using material and ideas collected on expedition to build educational curricula that incorporate visual arts instruction, specifically visual storytelling techniques, with environmental advocacy. She is also writes a blog which will eventually include lesson plans and student work samples, working to update it weekly at [www.landandstory.wordpress.com](http://www.landandstory.wordpress.com). During this past summer, Elisabeth designed and delivered professional development for Maryland classroom teachers on incorporating visual arts into their content area through the Maryland Center for Creative Classrooms. She is also going to be leading a National Geographic certification training in MD for a group of visual arts teachers as part of the Grosvenor fellowship, and plans to continue to work with National Geographic Education on curriculum development. Elisabeth has recently been recognized as an Unsung Hero through Voya Financial for her "Digital Storytelling" project. Finally, Elisabeth had a solo show with paintings of native plants at the Maryland University of Integrative Health last spring and some of the artwork is available on her website: [www.elisabethgambino.com](http://www.elisabethgambino.com).

Karen Gaul (Pittsburgh 2008) continues to work with Winchester Thurston School's Peking Elementary visit. The Peking Elementary Visit welcomes students and teachers from Peking University Elementary School in Beijing and the most recent visit was her school’s sixth consecutive visit. The visit is a cross-cultural
experience that immerses the students and teachers from the program into WT's fourth and fifth grade classrooms.

**Cynthia Geesey** (UPenn 2013) participated in a National Constitutional Center seminar on the bill of rights, a Rendel Center seminar on the Supreme Court and the National Endowment for the Humanities landmark program on Thoreau: Living and Writing Deliberately.

**Patty Graff** (Pitt 2014-15) and **Diane Hendrick** (Pitt 2014-15) continue to offer at least one workshop for their students each year on the use of the *kamishibai*, a form of Japanese storytelling. They were chosen to present at a recent Literacy Conference at the University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg campus and were able to show the featured guest speaker how one of her books was adapted, with her permission, for use with the *kamishibai* stage.

**Bryan Hanrahan** (Pitt Greensburg 2014-15) led students on a trip via the "El Otro Lado" program to investigate immigration and the complexity of the border situation between the United States and Central America in February 2017. Bryan and his students investigated the issue of immigration from various perspectives with a focus on humanizing, accompanying, and complicating the situation. The trip provides students with a holistic view under a Catholic lens to help students develop their own thoughts surrounding many of the multifaceted issues.

**Tim Jekel** (Elizabethtown 2005) designed and is running a brand new semester class called: "The History of Revolution." Tim's class begins with an analysis of what "revolution" meant in the classical world, but the class then quickly moves to the Modern period with an intensive focus on the English Revolution and ending with the Chinese Revolution.

**Marcelous Jones** (UPenn 2015) and his mother have recently opened an Early Learning Center, called Discover Learn & Grow, located in Bristol Borough, PA. They previously operated and ran a Pre-K-Grade 5 school in Bensalem PA, but decided to close it and start Discover Learn & Grow in October 2016 to be better involved in the community. Discover Learn & Grow was selected as one of the 6 featured businesses in Season 2 of The Small Business Revolution. The series will air in 8 parts on Hulu and at [smallbusinessrevolution.org](http://smallbusinessrevolution.org). Their episode will air in November as
the second to last episode. According to Marcelous, "the show has brought us much exposure, but more importantly has given us an opportunity to better serve our community, educate children within our community and to become better small business owners".

Bridget Lambi (Pittsburgh 2015-16) made a big career change in the last year, and now she works for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the Learning & Development arena. She is the point-of-contact and onsite support person for when PwC has Japanese learners attend trainings in the US. She is the only person on the entire team of over 100 people who speaks Japanese and has spent any meaningful amount of time in Japan. Bridget also acts as a cultural liaison because of her connections to Japan. For many of the learners, this is not only their first time abroad working, but for most, it is their first time abroad ever. Bridget is glad that she is a resource that adds value to the firm with her knowledge of Japan and East Asia.

Grace Lee (Elizabethtown 2009) teaches Chinese at Wilson HS. She has been taking students on a 2-week study tour to China for the last 8 years and her school has been doing a semester student exchange with Shijiazhuang for 3 years.

Amy Liberatore (Bucknell 2009) took 10 students to Europe in June for 12 days and visited England, France, Switzerland, and Italy. She was also invited to attend the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and Institute of Play (NYC) HistoryQuest teacher training in Princeton, NJ in July. The focus was integrating game-like learning and authentic, student-centered projects into history curriculum.

Judith Loeber (Univ. of Delaware 2009) is now in her 17th year of teaching high school level Visual Art. Judith began to teach International Baccalaureate in Visual Art five years ago and also teaches AP ART. Judith recently completed a Masters in Gifted and Talented Education. She has also reviewed the National Art Education Standards and written the high school Delaware State DIVA art assessment with another Delaware high school teacher.

Kachina Martin (Elizabethtown 2009) published a review of the 2016 Franklin R. Buchanan Prize book Asian Art as a Teaching Resources Essay in Education About Asia, Volume 21:3 (Winter 2016). Her article can be found online at Education About Asia (search for "Asian Art"). Kachina has also taught her shibori (a Japanese textile dyeing technique) workshop at the Textile Museum of Oaxaca numerous times and now shibori is everywhere in Oaxaca, Mexico! People traveled from all over Mexico to attend her textile workshop, meaning that the history and beauty of shibori is being introduced to entirely new group of people, many of whom have had little to no knowledge of it previously.
BJ McElderry (Baltimore 2008) was elected to the advisory board for the Asian Arts and Culture Center at Towson University. She also has been collaborating with Citizen Arts, non-profit filmmakers, to bring film forums to local colleges and high schools. BJ did the pencil drawings for *The Adventures of Elliott Clinton Rat III, Journey on the Merrimack and Concord Rivers*, a chapter book by Ellen Arrowood Gaines and is currently working on the drawings for the sequel. BJ launched and co-directed (with a Chinese language teacher) *Adventures in Chinese* at Garrison Forest School, a summer camp for elementary school children to learn Chinese and to get acquainted with China's culture through STEAM activities, games, and sports. As the Confucius Classroom coordinator at Garrison Forest School, BJ hosts Asian films and food each month and is immersed in the plans for her school's annual Mid-Autumn Festival.

Natalie Miller (UPenn 2014) traveled to Spain, Portugal, and Morocco on a Funds for Teachers grant. The grant's purpose was to study religious tolerance during Spain's Middle Ages. Particular attention was paid to the Moorish rulers of Southern Spain. During the trip, she read parts of *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* by Maria Rosa Menocal. According to Natalie, she "really loved getting the opportunity to write and direct [her] own grant and course of study."

Eden Reff-Presco (Maryland 2006) travelled to Morocco, Senegal, and Burkina Faso to examine cultural relationships with the visual arts community, the state of art education, and its importance in contemporary society.

Stephanie Rizas (Maryland 2007) has written a review of the 2017 Buchanan Prize book, Anne Prescott's *East Asia in the World* for the journal *Education About Asia*. The article will appear in this winter's issue.
Matt Roberts (Pittsburgh 2007) took 20 students on a Service Learning trip to Peru for 9 days visiting Lima, Cusco, The Sacred Valley of the Inca, and Machu Pichu.

Y. Ming Rui (Pittsburgh 2013) led a CIEE High School Study Abroad in Nanjing, China as one of three program leaders for 40 students. The students were from all over the US in grades 9-12. Ming comments that "most of the students loved their learning and home stays" and "it was very hot in temperature but a very cool experience."

Cliff Scruggs (Baltimore 2007), who went to Japan in 2008 on an NCTA study tour, continues to give his Japan Powerpoint presentation to area schools, both public and private.

Ritsu Shimizu (Pittsburgh 2000-01) has been initiated as President of the Pittsburgh chapter of Ikebana International. The Pittsburgh chapter of Ikebana International is comprised with five different ryuuhha (schools). According to Ritsu, "The organization is quite old traditional institution, similar to Japanese society" and she's "surviving."

Shaloma Smith (Pittsburgh 2005) spent 8 weeks this summer studying advanced Chinese in Changchun, China on a State Department Critical Language Scholarship. She also studied tai chi every morning.

Jesse Staab (UPenn 2015) spent two weeks in Japan this past summer as part of a TEA-NCTA program led by Lynn Parisi. The program focused specifically on Tokyo and how the city has both projected and helped to shape the country's national identity. This was Jesse's first time traveling to Asia and it was an unforgettable experience.
Victoria Stetts (Bucknell 2007) traveled to South Korea this past summer. She was one of sixteen teachers from across the United States chosen to participate in a two-week study tour with the East Asian Studies Program at Indiana University at Bloomington, Indiana. She fulfilled a personal goal of dressing up in traditional clothing for a photo shoot, something that she has also done in China and Japan. She also took classes/workshops in painted Korean fans, traditional paper dolls, Buddhist lotus lanterns and hanji (paper) covered boxes.

Angie Stokes (Pittsburgh 2013) participated in the NCTA Indiana University Study Tour to South Korea, where she spent 16 sixteen days traveling around the country with a group of middle school and high school teachers from ten different states. They were able to fully experience the history, arts, culture, and food of South Korea due to funding from the Freeman Foundation and the coordination and leadership of NCTA and the East Asian Studies Center at Indiana University. Some of their activities included tours of an innovative elementary school and the top high school science academy in Korea, a presentation on the Korean education system made at Seoul National University, a tour of the DMZ, a temple stay, dressing up in traditional hanbok, and several hands-on art workshops.

Katherine Sukenik (Pittsburgh 2011) led a National SEED Project group for teachers at Falk Laboratory School. SEED is a national organization (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) https://www.nationalseedproject.org/. This broad survey course of social justice topics covered issues such as racism, sexism, ableism, ageism, etc. Addressing systems of oppression and racism was a very large part of the discussion, and according to Katie her "NCTA training really prepared [her] for providing more and better resources and perspectives from East Asia." Katie has also used the resources from NCTA in the effort to implement her school's new social studies curriculum with a social justice focus.

Jeff Tripodi (Pittsburgh 2015-16) took six students to Peru for a global student leadership summit in March, and is planning a study tour of Japan in June 2019.

Brian Wolovich (Pittsburgh 2007) was involved as a teacher working with CMU researchers to create and inform the framework

If you have any information about any upcoming Asia-related workshops, study tours, or seminars that you would like us to publicize, please let us know.

**Sincerely,**

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