



## The Columbus Academy: East Asia Institute

Columbus Academy students and faculty enjoy the resources and opportunities to explore Asian cultures both at home and abroad. Each year, 15-25 Columbus Academy students, faculty, and families participate in this cultural exchange program. Program options vary, but often include:

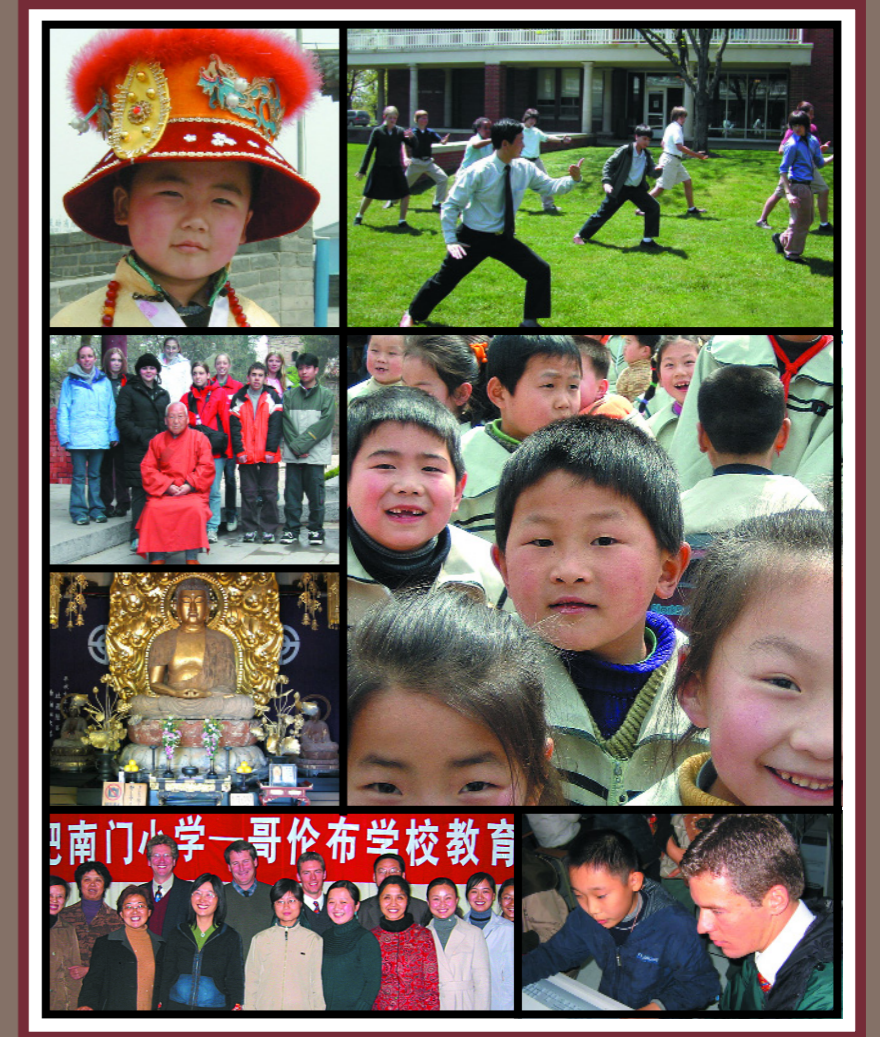
- *Hosting a visiting student from Columbus' Sister City, Hefei, China*
- *Traveling to China with fellow Chinese language students and parents— visits typically include sightseeing in Beijing, and a visit and home stay in Hefei*
- *Visiting and teaching opportunities for Columbus Academy faculty in Hefei*
- *A Senior Project trip for four seniors. This trip is a two-week exploration of China, India, or Japan, and includes sightseeing, service projects, and a home stay.*

Through the years, more than 60 members of the Columbus Academy community have participated in programs through the East Asia Institute. In addition to the cultural and language benefits offered, these programs provide a unique opportunity for our students to become familiar with and learn to function in an ever-changing world.

P.O. Box 30745  
4300 Cherry Bottom Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43230

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE COLUMBUS ACADEMY AT:  
614-475-2311 *main number*  
614-337-4309 *admissions*  
[www.columbusacademy.org](http://www.columbusacademy.org)

The  
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East Asian Studies

The  
Columbus  
Academy

# East Asian Studies & The Columbus Academy

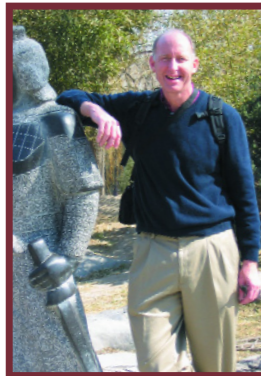


Kyle Tong

In the fall of 1994, I was approached by the Columbus Academy Headmaster and asked if I would consider developing a course around East Asian History, given my background in the subject area. Ten years later we have grown “a bit” beyond the Senior Elective into a wide array of programs involving Asian Studies!

Programs include several courses in the History Department, curricular literature connections in English, six years of Chinese Language study, speakers visiting campus, and exchanges and programs in China, Japan, and India. The East Asia Institute is fully endowed, growing, and a unique program in scope and depth for Central Ohio...and the United States. It will be exciting to see the growth continue in the coming years!

Kyle Tong Director,  
Columbus Academy East Asia Institute



John Mackenzie

*“...I was very hesitant to go for the usual reasons...didn't want to be away from home and work that long, too different a country, long airplane ride. But I am so glad I went! This was entirely different from traveling to a European country. It was very stimulating to be someplace where almost all my normal stabilizers didn't exist. I couldn't speak or read the language; I looked different from everyone; I had little idea what I was eating, etc., but I could enjoy it because the people were so kind and there is such a commonality to human nature. Also, there was so much to learn - a kind of sensory overload. Every day, I encountered several things that were totally different from anything I had seen before- it gave me a broader perspective on what I take for granted.”*

John Mackenzie, Headmaster  
Preliminary Program Visit, 2002



2005 Seniors Katie Watts, Brooke Schreiber, Sarah Morris, and Tracy Subisak in India

*“...On the last day we went down to a small village of 40 to help lay piping to create a more sanitary and efficient way to get water into the village. We ate lunch by a natural spring and were invited into the house of the leading village woman, Sushilla.*

*This experience in the house was the most powerful for me. I was so in awe sitting in that small 10' by 10' living room that also functioned as a bedroom and dining room for a family larger than mine. The lives of these people were so different from mine; I felt so grateful to be a guest in their house and to have met them. Despite all those differences there was still that human bond.”*

Brooke Schreiber '05  
Senior Project 2005: India, Thailand, Japan



Drew Frerking '03 and Ryo Sugashima '99 in Japan

*“The trips I took affected me in a way that I felt that I truly experienced Japanese life rather than simply touring Japan and missing some of the more beautiful and interesting things about life here.”*

Drew Frerking '03  
Summer Program in Japan: 2001 & 2002



Elaine Boaz

*“Most importantly, I now have connections with friends on the other side of the globe. Due to the organization of the program, which allows for in-depth experiences, the world has shrunk. An extra benefit of the program is the continuing contact that we have with our colleagues in Hefei. With each visit made by faculty the friendships extend. The eddies in this pool of friendship keep expanding and encircling more and more people. This program would not be nearly so rich if it were only a one time experience.*

*Professionally, because two Kindergarten teachers now have visited China, we have been able to incorporate a thematic study unit on China into our Kindergarten curriculum. We are excited to help our young students learn about ways lives are similar and different than ours in different parts of the world.”*

Elaine Boaz, Kindergarten Faculty  
Faculty Visits 2003 & 2005



Jeannine Subisak

*“The Columbus Academy is a unique institution in that it offers six years of language instruction in Chinese. Our students have continued their studies in college and find that they are placed immediately in advanced level language instruction. The CA Chinese language program has benefited tremendously from the East Asian Institute. Our students have had the opportunity to visit our sister schools in Hefei, China, written to pen pals in Chinese, hosted Chinese students in school and at home and have authentic language instruction by Hefei exchange teachers. In each contact through the exchange program the friendships have grown, the relevance of language study cemented, and their understanding of Chinese culture deepened. Through this program Academy students have been able to live the concept of being global citizens.”*

Jeannine Subisak, Chinese Faculty