

latespringedition2012

Celebration!





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818.845.0800 (Tel) | 818.845.0888 (Fax)
www.caisca.org
Jim McManus, Executive Director

Edited by:
Santee Mirell
Director of Professional Development

Design and layout by:
Tanya Enriquez
Director of Information Resources and Technology



Note from the Editor

The school year 2011-2012 is fast fading into history. There are always lots of reasons to celebrate at the end of a school year, and this year CAIS is celebrating, too. Thanks to your support it was a very successful year for our professional development programs, and we would like to share some of the riches with you.

We give thanks once again to Campbell Hall for hosting the Southern Regional meeting where over 1500 educators from sixty-four different Southern schools met on Monday, March 6, 2012. Dacher Keltner, featured speaker at the 2011 Northern Regional Meeting was our Southern Regional Meeting featured speaker as well. In addition to being a psychology professor at Berkeley, Dacher is an author and the founder of GreaterGood Science Center (<http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/>). The mission of the Center is to study wellbeing through the lenses of psychology, sociology, and neuroscience, and the website offers a wealth of information on “the science of a meaningful life.”

In one of the three presentations Dacher gave titled, “The Compassionate Instinct: A Darwinian Tale of Survival of the Kindest,” we learned that science supports Darwin in the matter of natural selection. However, how many know that Darwin believed that natural selection favors “the most sympathetic members” of a community because only in such a group could “the greatest number of offspring” be raised? In social and sexual selection, and in promoting the health and wellbeing of children, it is the kindest who are the fittest. You can find Dacher’s slides at www.caisca.org/event_info/235/CAISBTBG-2012.pdf.

Dacher was not alone, however, in sharing knowledge with us. Over 160 workshops and their presenters educated us in everything from building data cultures, to building teamwork in P.E. classes and training 21st century musicians, to mindfulness and mentoring, and vericomposting. Most of these presenters were from CAIS schools. In fact, all but twenty-one workshops were given by CAIS presenters, which has been true for all the Regional Meetings I’ve been a part of planning.

This year the articles that follow are not only from the Southern Regional Meeting, but from the Northern Professional Days as well. Over three hundred people attended twelve workshops, all of which, I am happy to say, were attended either by me, or our administrative assistant, Genevieve Goetz who, in addition to registering people for our programs, coordinates the Professional Days.

I learned how to talk about chocolate in Chinese at the Languages Day, about place-based learning and global warming at the Sciences Day, and how to use backward design in creating units at the Elementary Grades. Day. I also saw how Shakespeare is interpreted and performed in Korea, Brazil and cultures around the globe (that was the English Day), and how librarians can be and often are valuable onsite professional developers at the Library Day.

We are so grateful to and proud of our CAIS community. Thanks to our Professional Services Committees, to our host schools, and all of you who supported our professional development programs this year with your attendance.

Thanks also to Cam Sanders of MugsyCl!cks (www.mugsycl!cks.com) for the wonderful photos of the Regional Meeting!

— *Sandee Mirell*

PROFESSIONAL DAY IN ENGLISH

“ALL THE WORLD’S A STAGE”

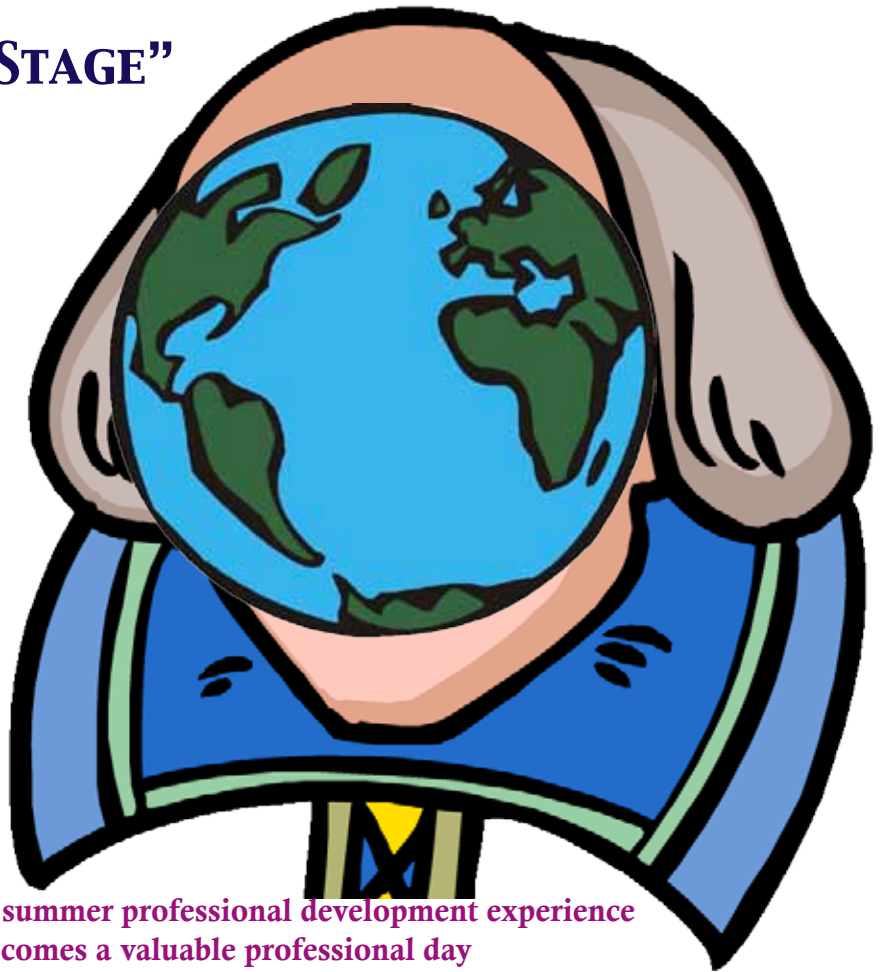
In the spring of 2011, I was chosen to serve as the upper school English representative for the CAIS’s Northern Professional Services Committee and, as part of my position, was tasked with bringing together educators K-12 for a professional day to discuss a current, fresh, and relevant topic in the discipline. I knew immediately what I wanted to center our gathering around: Shakespeare.

Now, the study of Shakespeare may not scream “current” and “fresh,” but, then again, you’ve probably never seen a Taiwanese hard-rock, gender-bending *Romeo and Juliet* or a Middle Eastern *Hamlet* set in the context of a political summit. I had not either until I met Professor Alex Huang, winner of the 2011 MLA Prize for Comparative Studies, is a co-creator of the Global Shakespeares project (<http://globalshakespeares.org/#>).

I had the pleasure of meeting Professor Huang during a summer course at Middlebury College’s Bread Loaf School of English in Santa Fe. Huang is simultaneously a master of modern media and a renowned Shakespearean scholar. In years past, Huang has travelled globally to study and speak about productions of Shakespeare across many different cultures. Thus, when guided by Huang’s energizing mix of global perspective and digital media, the Bard is anything but boring.



Dr. Huang in action



A summer professional development experience becomes a valuable professional day

Global Shakespeares, a project driven by Professor Huang, is an open access video and performance archive of contemporary global productions of Shakespeare plays. The project and its website are one of a kind in the world of Shakespearean scholarship, as adaptations from around the globe are catalogued and shared instantly. Through the project’s site, you can watch an inspiring array of Shakespeare productions from a Noh *Macbeth*, to a Brazilian *Midsummer Night’s Dream*, to an Italian *Othello* with puppets.

The vast potential of the Global Shakespeares project lies in its ability to allow teachers and students to openly and easily share remarkably diverse versions of Shakespeare’s work so that conversations about various cultural, political, and artistic influences in this global age are brought to the forefront through the medium of the Bard.

During the professional day, a three and a half hour session hosted at the Menlo School in Atherton, CA, Huang guided twenty-three visiting teachers (grades six - twelve) through the use of exciting and inter-

active digital media tools. He explained the value of digital literacy and collaboration, and even created a website full of resources

specifically applicable to secondary teachers. He also guided several break out sessions to allow the teachers the opportunity to apply the digital media tools to their exploration of the

Global Shakespeares project. As a result, teachers were able to construct thoughtful ideas about ways in which to infuse their classrooms with digital media and global productions of Shakespeare.

MARGARET RAMSEY
English
Menlo School
margaret.ramsey@menloschool.org



Margaret Ramsey and Dr. Huang