FAMILY DAY EVENT WAS HELD ON JANUARY 30, 2010

Family Day provided interactive hands-on activities on Asian art, languages, crafts, music, dance, fashion, cultures, customs, and food.

On Saturday January 30, UTSA’s East Asia Institute in collaboration with JASSA (Japanese American Society of San Antonio), along with the Korean American Association of San Antonio and Jones Korean Dance Group held a Family Day at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

The event took place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. An estimated 200 people were in attendance ranging from all different ages. The event was geared toward K-12 students to be able to explore and experience Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese and Korean cultures through hands-on activities, story telling, arts and crafts, music, and demonstrations.

From 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. JASSA had mini-lessons on how to make an “Uchiwa” fan, origami, and a Kabuto (samurai hat). 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. the Taiwanese and Chinese groups presented several short programs, including a dance sponsored by the Chinese Cultural Association led by Ms. Elva Adams.

The young dancers were dressed in beautiful red outfits and used traditional bells while they danced. Professor Wenjuan Guo of UTSA lectured about Chinese characters, language, and culture.

Chinese Paper Cutting Art: conducted by Danielle Xu, East Asia Institute Program Coordinator
Participants would rotate tables/stations which were set up to have different hands-on activities of the various cultures. The stations included Chinese lantern making, traditional Asian toys, paper cutting, calligraphy, Chinese culture lessons, and improvised feather hacky sack making.

Meanwhile, the Korean groups provided a Korean language/culture lesson, a Kimchi cooking demonstration (traditional Korean dish), a children’s storytelling, followed by a traditional Korean costume fashion show, a drum performance, and a dance performance. There were even some volunteers from the audience who participated in learning how to play the drums. Many of the participants also seemed to love the different Asian snacks provided, which included rice crackers, gelatin cups, and mochi desserts just to name a few.

After a long day of a fun-filled schedule, Family Day turned out to be a huge success. Many of the participants expressed how much they enjoyed the different activities and presentations and can’t wait for the next Family Day!