



Submitted photos

Coventry social studies teacher Ted Mitchell poses at the Kanegasaki farewell dinner with a traditionally dressed woman.

Globetrotting social studies teacher shows students world

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Special to the Times

COVENTRY—This social studies teacher travels the world and brings it all back into the classroom.

Ted Mitchell, a social studies teacher at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School in Coventry participated in his second study tour in East Asia last summer. He traveled with the Five College Center for East Asian Studies National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) program.

“This study tour has really helped me to bring East Asia into the classroom,” said Mitchell.

He said the program is very helpful and encourages teachers to travel and learn about different areas in the world. He received stipends for the 10 seminars that he was required to take in order to be eligible for the study tour as well as a stipend for classroom materials.

Mitchell said the purpose of the study tour, entitled “Korea and Japan in the 21st Century” was chosen to enhance the teaching of Japan and Korea in the classroom. While in Asia, the teachers heard lectures, visited cultural sites and schools. They also had a home stay experience in each country.

“Traveling was awesome,” said Mitchell. “We were on the go from early morning to late at night. I



The Gyeongju Bulguksa Temple in South Korea.

was so exhausted by the end of the day, but was experiencing so much.”

He said every minute of the trip was a learning experience, even at meal times.

“We ate fabulous food,” he said. “Every meal had cultural refer-

ences and explanations that gave us a deeper look into the cultures.”

During the trip, Mitchell documented all that he experienced, through the use of photos and videos. When he returned, he created web pages and power points that he used to teach his students.

“By putting the media together I was able to use all the information I gathered on my trip,” he said. “This is now available for other teachers to use and even expand on. I want to figure out how to best implement it.”

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Mitchell —

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He's presenting his work at the New England Regional Conference for Social Studies that will be held next March in Sturbridge, Mass.

"I'm able to use all that I've learned and integrate it into teaching," said Mitchell.

His website, www.fcceast-udytours.org, is packed with useful information and resources that anyone can use.

"Right now, this site is more geared for teachers," he said. "They can give students virtual tours."

He mentioned that anyone with creative input was more than welcome to take what he had posted and expand it into an even better teaching tool.

"I'm interested in teachers looking at it and asking themselves, what can I use to make it even more useful for my students," he said. "This is a rich culture with really neat people, I'm glad I had this chance to explore it."