

LE JOURNAL

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Spring Break 1999—Quebec, Canada Bonjour Quebec-Au Revoir les Etats-Unis!!!

On the evening of Friday, March 19, WVSC students accompanied by James Natsis headed north for Quebec, Canada to begin a Spring Break *extraordinaire*! Among student participants were Jana Morgan, Mardis Hall, Sherice Goff, Autumn Furby, Eric Bias, and Jason and Cherice Lewis. The trip was sponsored by the Office of International Affairs, Department of Modern Foreign Language, Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.

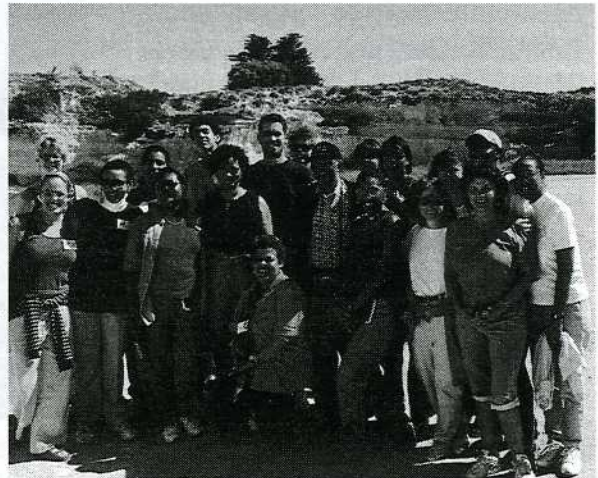
The group spent four nights in downtown Montreal including a day trip to Quebec City. Apart from the linguistic difference between Quebec and the United States—French is the official language in Quebec—students were intrigued with handling a foreign currency (the Canadian dollar) and navigating the metric system. In addition, where else can you go in North America and listen to French hip hop and rap, walk the narrow streets in a fortress city, see stop signs marked “Arrêt”, and eat at a PFK, or *Poulet Frit Kentucky*, a.k.a. KFC!

Spring Break 1999-South Africa “Somewhere over the Rainbow”

Adrienne Belafonte-Biesemeyer led a group of 18 students and other participants to South Africa on a nine-day Spring Break tour. The group visited Cape Town; Durban, the Indian cultural center of South Africa; a Zulu village; and Hoedspruit, a game reserve in the Kruger National Park.

The students toured the University of Cape Town and met with Memphela Ramphela, companion to Black Consciousness Movement Leader, Steven Biko. They were also led on a tour of Robben Island, the prison island where President Nelson Mandela was imprisoned for 18 years. The tour was led by Ahmed Kathrada, who was imprisoned with Mandela and is considered by some to be his right-hand man.

They also enjoyed the experience of the game reserve where they mixed and mingled with wild animals. They had breakfast with a wart hog and went on a morning walk accompanied by a lion and two elephants.



International Potpourri

The initiation for this year's *Alpha Mu Gamma* honorary society was held on Friday, March 12, in the State Dining Hall in Sullivan Hall on the WVSC campus. In addition to welcoming a number of students, the honorary society inducted Drs. Bob Hall and James Natsis as honorary members. After the initiation ceremony, Dennis Hedrick, O.D., shared a slide presentation on VOSH (Volunteer Optometric Service for Humanity) and on his experiences in Bolivia.

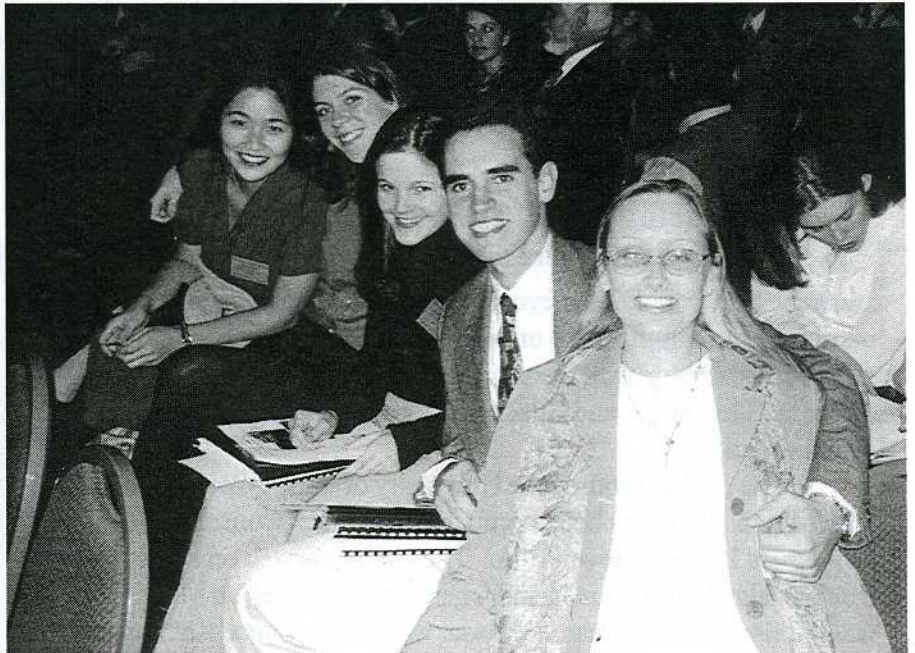
International Potpourri, cont.

International students and faculty gathered on Friday, March 12 on the second floor of the Student Union. This reunion, initiated by the students, was an effort to reinstate the International Student Union as well as to get together with others who may share a common experience. For international students and faculty who were unable to participate and would like to be brought up to date, you may contact Fatmata Koroma at 768-9014.



Students from the Introduction to International Studies class, as well as other WVSC students and faculty, participated in the International Student Festival at the University of Charleston campus on Wednesday, February 24. Each country had a booth featuring either a cultural display or samples of native foods. Also on display were student projects from one of the interior design classes. Some of the UC international students held a fashion show during the mid-afternoon hour.

Dr. Gerry Beller accompanied a group of WVSC students to the Harvard National Model United Nations that took place in Boston, Massachusetts on February 11-14, 1999. Student participants included Mayako Ushida, Alexandre Beltrao, Susan Scott, Bonnie Russell, and Amanda Davis. The students represented the country of Cyprus. Susan Scott maintains a WVSC Model UN website which can be accessed through the WVSC Office of International Affairs webpage. You may also go directly to <http://www.geocities.com/CollegePark/Hall/7715/Harvard.html>.



The Office of International Affairs is proud to announce that the proposed article "The Implementation of an Office of International Affairs: A Case Study," has been accepted for publication in the journal titled Education. The article, co-authored by James Natsis, T. Ford-Ahmed, and Paul Dezendorf of the Social Work department, will make public to a large audience the experience of West Virginia State College in bringing an international agenda to fruition thanks to the U.S. Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language grant. The article is scheduled to appear later this year.

Preparation for faculty visit to Benin, West Africa

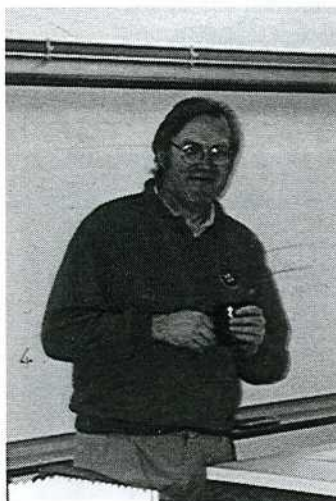
Drs. Ford-Ahmed and Natsis are working diligently with the 8 key faculty members in preparation for their work-trip this July to Benin, West Africa. The group will leave for Benin on July 6th following a one-month French language summer training session to be held on the WVSC campus. The group will study intensive French, Benin and African culture, and welcome several guest speakers. Officials from the University of Benin are in the process of preparing an itinerary for WVSC and University Benin counterparts.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The 8th Annual Multicultural/International Awareness Festival & Disabilities Day will take place on Thursday, April 29, from 10:00-2:00 p.m. on the Student Plaza (Rain location: Wilson College Union). The event is being sponsored by Collegiate Support and Counseling, and the Office of International Affairs. Activities include free campus picnic, music, dance, stepshow, folklore, international food sampling, fashion show, displays and booths and much more. For more information call 766-3168.

The WVSC Department of Biology and the University of Exeter (UE), United Kingdom

West Virginia State College and the Department of Biology are hosting five Presidential Visiting Scholars this Spring semester from the University of Exeter, Exeter, United Kingdom. The distinguished scholars include **Dr.**



Dr. Steven Hughes

David A. Stafford (Visiting Scholars Team Director) is Senior Research Fellow and Managing Director of his company, Enviro-Control, Ltd., Cardiff, Wales; **Dr. Stephen Hughes** is Senior Consultant to Unilever, PLC; **Dr. Mark McNair** is metals bioremediation consultant to numerous international mining companies; **Dr. John Bryant** is Chairman of Biotechnology Southwest; and **Dr. Hillary Lappin-Scott** is consultant to a number of international oil companies active in the North Sea. The visiting scholars are teaching Environmental Microbiology and General Microbiology in the Department of Biology. **Dr. Stafford and Dr. Mark Chatfield** (Assistant Professor in the department) are collaborating on a research project with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture's POWER project (a leading edge resource recovery technology of agricultural by-products).

In addition to research that involves the students in the Department of Biology and teaching, future plans are for student and faculty exchanges between the two institutions. Biology students from WVSC would pursue graduate degrees from UE and graduate students from UE would do their graduate research in the Department of Biology.

This is the Department of Biology's first international collaboration. It is the goal of the department that this be an on-going activity and to later include students from Africa and China.

VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

What students have to say about the new Introduction to International Studies class:

"Extra-ordinary' and so interesting, expanding our boundaries and horizons." *Ana O'Neill*

"Two thumbs up! Says Siskel. Great class-Love the discussions-Plenty of laughs." *Jana Morgan*

