

LE JOURNAL

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WVSC Acquires Computers for NUB Library

The project between West Virginia State College (WVSC) and the National University of Benin (NUB) entered into a new phase with the delivery of 26 computers and a printer to the NUB library during the month of December 2001. The project, financed by the International Development Partnership (IDP) agreement between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the College Fund/UNCF, will conclude at the end of May 2002. The 3-year library exchange project started June 1999. The two institutions are currently discussing activities to expand the partnership.



L-R: Alban Amimion, Genevieve Souhouenou, Pascal Gandaho, Theodore Sossouhounto, Honorine Colette Mensah

During the final months of the project, the NUB library will receive a delivery of current academic books (mainly in French), academic journal subscriptions, photocopy machines, and more computers. A two-week training session will be held at the NUB in late March to familiarize library professionals and faculty with the new equipment. The sixth librarian to participate in the exchange program, Paula Satoguina, arrived in March and will remain at WVSC for a period of 2 months.

WVSC has sent 3 librarians and computer services director, Bob Huston, to Benin on exchange during the course of the project. The WVSC Drain-Jordan library special collection on Benin will open June 22 during the 3rd Annual Middle States African Studies Association conference to be held at the WVSC campus.

The 3rd Annual Middle States African Studies Association (MSASA) Conference

West Virginia State College will host the 3rd Annual Middle States African Studies Association conference at the WVSC campus on June 19-22, 2002. This year's conference theme is "The Global Legacy and Application of the Vision of Booker T. Washington: Science, Technology and Education."

A ribbon cutting ceremony will offer MSASA conferences a unique opportunity to view the Benin Room at the WVSC Drain-Jordan library. The special collection of West African literature, artifacts and government documents is the only compilation of its kind in an academic institution in West Virginia. An exhibit featuring Chicago/Ohio artist Tanya Thompson will also be on display for the opening event. Ms. Thompson's "History Legacy: Preserving the Vision Through Sustainable Art" combines African and Native American artifacts of bones, shells, skulls and skins. It adheres to the agricultural and recycling vision Booker T. Washington championed and embodies his sense that education "opens the doors to the world."

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Please contact the MSASA conference website at www.wvsc.edu/msasa/ for more details.

Teaching Foreign Languages as a Career

Foreign Languages Coordinator for the West Virginia Department of Education, Deborah M. Harki, visited the WVSC campus in November to discuss "Foreign Language Programs in West Virginia Public Schools" with students preparing to teach in secondary schools.



Deborah Harki

The presentation included information on student requirements for certification, an update on state policies concerning foreign language requirements in the K-12 schools, the importance of foreign language acquisition, and an overview of the WV Department of Education website, especially the section on job openings.

Ms. Harki taught Spanish for 27 years before accepting her current position as the state foreign language coordinator 3 years ago. She taught her first year at Grafton High School in Taylor County and the next 26 years at Shinnston High School, in Harrison County, which consolidated into Lincoln High School.

Although her presentation addressed upper level students preparing to enter the public school system, she plans to return to WVSC to encourage beginning level students of foreign language study to enter the profession.

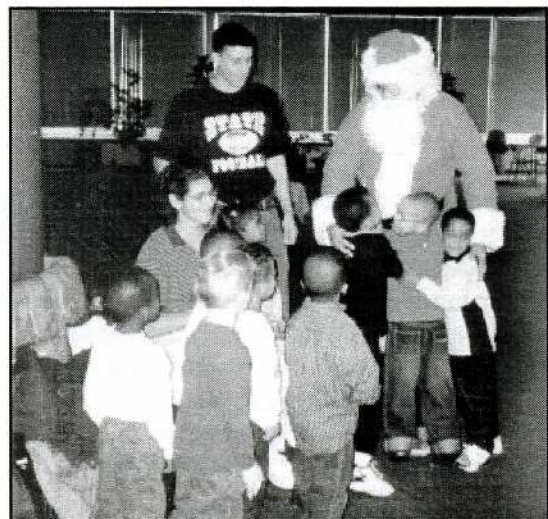
Alpha Mu Gamma's Festival de Navidad/Fête de Noël

The local chapter of the US national collegiate foreign language honor society, Alpha Mu Gamma, held its annual Christmas party at the WVSC Wilson Student Union in November for the children at the WVSC Child Development Center, across the street from Ferrell Hall.

Alpha Mu Gamma members read several stories to the children in Spanish including "Caperucita" (Little Red Riding Hood), "La Bella Durmiente" (Sleeping Beauty), and "Pinocho" (Pinocchio). The honor society provided lunch and gave each child a book. Dana Price (Communication 99) returned to his alma mater for the afternoon to play a convincing Santa Claus and animate the piñata activity.

Alpha Mu Gamma was founded in 1931. More than two hundred charters have been granted to chapters in the United States and Puerto Rico. Chapters are found both in state and private universities and colleges. The primary purpose of the society is to honor students for outstanding achievement during their first year of foreign-language study in college. However, students may be admitted at any stage of their college careers. Upon initiation a member receives a certificate of membership, and becomes eligible to wear the scroll-shaped gold key or pin of the organization. The current local chapter president is Kendra Ashley (Spanish Education). Señora Ashley and former chapter president, Malayka Knapp-Smith, organized the event along with other students and foreign language faculty.

For more information on joining Alpha Mu Gamma please contact the Modern Foreign Languages department chair, Mary Frye @ 766-3067.



Dana Price as Santa Claus

Diversity Initiatives from the Multicultural Affairs Office

The Multicultural Affairs Office distributed a needs assessment survey throughout the WVSC campus during the spring of 2001 semester. The survey had two goals: the first was to assess respondents' perceptions of the climate on campus in terms of diversity; the second was to determine the types of diversity programming desired.

A number of initiatives have been implemented during the 2001-2002 academic year. In September of 2001, Hispanic cultural activities were presented, Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals programming occurred in October, and Native Americans were featured in November. A week was also dedicated to French-speaking cultures in October. The spring 2002 semester will celebrate Black History Month in February, March will focus on Women's "Herstory" Month, and April will celebrate Appalachian Culture. It is our hope that the rest of the campus will join in honoring these populations during the upcoming months.

The Multicultural Affairs Director, Robin Guillory, is continuing her assessment this semester and would appreciate responses from as many students, staff and faculty as possible in order to continue programming events of interest to all. Please offer your insights and suggestions by completing the Campus Climate Survey inserted in this issue of *Le Journal*, and send it to Robin Guillory at Collegiate Support and Counseling, Campus Box 178. Your input is appreciated. Results of the survey will be published in the fall 2002 edition of *Le Journal*.



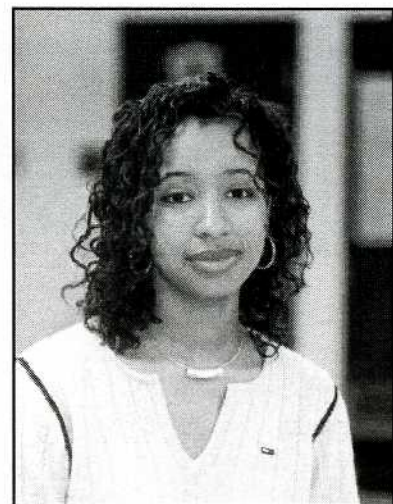
Native American display of fur pelts

Bahamian Student Making Changes and Making It at WVSC

By Rachel Johnson (Comm 02)

Picture moving miles away from home to a place whose name you've heard of a few times in your life. Making a switch from constant sunshine and a daily 85° temperature to a roller coaster temperature change; leaving behind all those you love and care for, a night life that never stops, activities to keep you busy during the day, limestone beaches, fresh mollusk every day, and a populace of 85% African decent. Some of us couldn't imagine such a drastic change in our lives, but that's Anya Valdes' experience everyday at WVSC. Anya is a 17-year-old Business Administration/Economics major from the Grand Bahamas, one of the beautiful islands of the Bahamas with a population of about 26,000 people. The Island was developed during the 1960s and is second to Nassau as the destination for most tourists.

"Why WVSC?" Anya explained that in her search for a college, she was looking for a small student-teacher ratio and reasonable tuition. "I really like the smaller classes here at 'State' and I've grown to like most of my professors," she confided. The ninth child in a family of ten who likes swimming, writing as an art, and playing basketball, Anya misses Junkanoo music and island food the most, but she's adjusting and maturing quickly. "Being away from home has made me more aggressive and has taught me more about people and how to interact in different ways. It's a humbling experience," she concluded.



Anya Valdes

