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West Virginia State College Film Crew Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro



WVSC film crew climb Mt. Kilimanjaro

Professors Daniel Boyd and Robin Broughton traveled to Tanzania with two WVSC students, Curtis Baskerville (communication), and Kevin Carpenter (media studies, graduate) over the Christmas holidays to collaborate on a film project with counterparts at the University of Dar es Salaam. The group climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro to shoot footage for "Makunto" a short musical production combining African and Appalachian oral traditions.

"Makutano," which means "Meeting Point" in Kiswahili, follows the birth, struggles and the reunification of centuries of mankind, symbolized through the journeys of an American and an African. The film follows the two travelers on their individual journeys and shows how they come to meet at the end of the movie atop Africa's spiritual mecca, Mt. Kilimanjaro.

In spite of 25 years of film experience, Boyd never stops learning from such projects. "I think what I learned most from this project," states Boyd, "is that raising the difficulty level of the real-life aspect of a project can also increase the personal awards and globally perceived values. Even by raising the difficulty bar significantly," Boyd continues, "I learned that very different cultures can still partner successfully on projects that serve a 'greater good' in our troubled world."

Professor Broughton offered advice to anyone interested in undertaking such an adventure in a feature article published in the *Charleston Gazette* (February 8): "Do your homework. Rehearse in your mind what your basic needs will be. Plan ahead so that your essentials are easy to get to. You will not be thinking clearly at altitude."

In 2002, Boyd shot two other films, "Duara" and "Sound of the Drum" with the University of Dar es Salaam as part of the TeleDrum program which brought together West Virginians and Africans for filmmaking projects. The Association of African Studies Programs (AASP) presented the 2003 François Manchuelle Award to the TeleDrum Program in recognition of its bringing attention to Africa in the Appalachian community as well as to the state's public schools and colleges.

Boyd will return to Tanzania during the summer with two other WVSC professors and one student to offer two new short courses—Computer Motion Picture Editing and Production Promotion and Distribution.

I N S I D E

Cyrus R. Vance Award Banquet	p. 2
Biological Research in Senegal	p. 2
WVSC-Ohio U Partnership In Nigeria	p. 4
WVSC-Prague Program	p. 6
Voice Of The Students	p. 14
El Español Es Mi Vida	p. 16
From Japan To West Virginia	p. 18

