Juniata Language in Motion

By Audi van Pelt
Staff Writer

Juniata College is the founder of the Language in Motion program. This is the tenth year they've been doing it. Language in Motion is Juniata College students presenting in high schools, middle schools, and elementary classrooms, to teach language and culture.

The students not only present in language classes, but social studies, art, biology, English, and music, among many others. Students present either as a requirement for a course, or they volunteer. The presenters get training before going in, to know what it's like. The student's who present are diverse, interesting, passionate, and have a strong second language knowledge and experience.

Juniata College has won awards for their Language in Motion program. In 2002, Language in Motion won the Andrew Heikell Award for Innovation in International Education and Pennsylvania Council for International Educators Bringing the World to Pennsylvania: K-16 Collaboration Award (2007)

Besides Juniata, there are nine other colleges in the Language in Motion program. Three of them are from Pennsylvania.

Visitor from Saudi Arabia

By Jackie Mock
Staff Writer

Mrs. Heather Jancula's seventh grade Geography class had a guest speaker named Dana Alswyan. Alswyan was from Saudi Arabia and came to speak about her life. The class was studying about cultures around the world, and Jancula thought it would be a great idea.

Alswyan talked about her culture, family, and personal relationships. In Saudi Arabia, the women have to cover their entire body. No skin, other than their eyes, is allowed to show. Men have to wear the long garments as well.

She also said that they are not allowed to go to the mall without their families. Finally, she told the class that there was a no dating rule. When they are in public, they are not allowed to show their feelings towards each other. She said it is considered offensive to go around showing affection towards others.

She told a story about what happened to one of the couples who were just married, and they got pulled off of the side of the road for something they didn't even do. The cop arrested them, so they tried to outrun the cop, and they ended up dying in a car accident.

From the Amazon

By Brooke Miller
Staff Writer

Isaúl Mauricio Andí Shigüango came to Tussey to speak to Spanish students about his native country Ecuador. He came from the Juniata College Language in Motion program.

He is from Ecuador but came to the U.S. to study Ecotourism. He is studying at Juniata College. Before coming to the U.S. he studied at Yachana Technical High School for three years. Yachana Technical High School is a foundation that helps students with low economic problems. After studying there, he came to Juniata College as an exchange student. He decided to study Ecotourism because he wanted to become a guide in the future. He also decided to study Ecotourism so he could teach people about the Amazon.

When asked what he liked about the area he said the weather, culture, and food are very different. He also said that people here are very nice. He thinks that the U.S. is a lot different than Ecuador, but in a good way.

He taught the Spanish classes about Ecuador and the Amazon. He showed the students pictures of Ecuador and explained many things about the Amazon and what it is like. Freshman Spanish student Alex Rhoads said, “I liked Mauricio’s accent.” Spanish teacher Andrea Wakefoose said, “I really liked the stories about his family, especially the ones about his grandmother.”

Dr. Deb Roney

By Melissa Jones
Staff Writer

Dr. Deb Roney is the mastermind behind “Language in Motion.” She’s been doing this since the fall of 2000, because during the spring they were searching for a grant.

Roney enjoys doing “Language in Motion.” She believes it’s very important for students and teachers to learn about different cultures, and she also enjoys seeing stereotypes being broken.

According to Roney, it’s unusual to have someone native. She thinks it’s very important for students here in the U.S. to see others who have been abroad. She also thinks that the sharing of cultures and different perspectives is important as well.

Photo by Christian Neville.

What do you know about... Saudi Arabia?

Did you know that Saudi Arabia...

• Is an Arabic-speaking country?
• Is divided into 13 providences?
• Has a central Government?
• Has the largest oil reserves in the world?
• Has had a rapid industrial expansion?
• Is known as the birthplace of Islam?

Photo used under permission of Francisco Chaves

Facts from the Amazon

The Amazon...

• Is located in South America
• Covers about 2.5 million square miles.
• Contains 20-40 million animals
• Is usually hunted by blowgun by the people of Ecuador

Source: http://www.discovery.com/