



A Bigger Picture

"What hurts Indians most is that our costumes are considered beautiful, but it's as if the person wearing it didn't exist."

—Rigoberta Menchu

Rigoberta Menchu is a young Quiche Indian woman from Guatemala. She is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, recognized for her leadership in fighting the oppression, exploitation, and discrimination faced by native people throughout the Americas. Her ability to learn the language of the culture that oppresses her in order to advocate forcefully for the people she represents is an inspiration to those of us who are dedicated to promoting social justice and cultural understanding.

My wife, Jane, and I have become especially sensitive to the plight of Indian children at risk because our daughter is one of those children. We celebrate that her adoption was finalized in November; she is now Maria Elizabeth Par Tun Fleisher. We are blessed to be the parents of our precious 4-year-old Elizabeth from Guatemala who teaches us every day about overcoming adversity, prejudice, and physical disabilities with courage, perseverance, and faith. We mourn for all the Indian parents and children in "beautiful costumes" who are victimized by a cycle of poverty and discrimination that is inescapable.

I am concluding my 13th and final year as director of the West Virginia Council of International Programs. We enjoyed yet another diverse and delightful group of international professionals this fall. Brief biographies of the participants appear on the next pages. The West Virginia University Extension Service has asked me to assume some new duties, and CIP will be coordinated by the Department of Foreign Languages. It is a bittersweet time for me as I look forward to new and exciting professional challenges and opportunities, reflect on 13 years of fond memories, and lament the need to step away from my intimate relationship with this remarkable program. I will forever be grateful to Extension for my time with CIP and what the experience has meant to my family and me. I am indebted to the CIP Board of Directors, past and present members, who are the true essence of the program. I feel that CIP is in good hands and will thrive in the future.

One of my newest undertakings that I am especially enthusiastic about is to help "internationalize" and "multiculturalize" the West Virginia 4-H Program. West Virginia University Extension Service reaches more than 40,000 youths annually through this wonderful youth development program. I am putting together a resource booklet for 4-H/youth development faculty, staff, and volunteers to help them include international themes, activities, and presentations in their future camps, club projects, and meetings. I am also coordinating a new precollege study abroad program in Guanajuato, Mexico, this summer for West Virginia high school students. The trip will feature Spanish instruction, host family living, and community service projects in partnership with Guanajuato high school students. Our second annual Spanish Immersion Camp for high school students is scheduled in July. The camp is staffed by native speakers, high school Spanish teachers, and WVU Spanish-speaking faculty. The program is conducted entirely in Spanish and introduces students to the history, literature, lifestyles, and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. All of these program initiatives are designed to convey why it is essential for West Virginians to know and understand the "persons who are wearing the beautiful costumes."

This past year has been filled with rich experiences and new relationships; 1999 promises even more. Words are never sufficient to properly express the larger-than-life, spiritual dimensions of doing international work. It is very difficult to quantify the impact of living in another culture, functioning in a second language, or collaborating for the common good with partners from various countries. People who do this understand. People who haven't deserve the opportunity.

Best wishes,



Richard L. Fleisher
International Extension Specialist

CIP Professionals Conclude 1998 Placements

Acharawan Israngkura Na Ayuthaya (Aoy)

Thailand

Field Placement: WNPB West Virginia Public Television and WVAPR West Virginia Public Radio

Aoy Israngkura Na Ayuthaya spent her early childhood in a fishing village, eventually studying Asian history and journalism at Thammasat University in Bangkok. She developed an interest in rural grass roots development and the part that media communications plays in education for development. She received her master's degree in communication arts with a specialization in development communication from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok in 1986. Acharawan has worked as a television news reporter, a government public relations planner, and a news writer. Aoy now lectures in communications and public relations at the School for Communications Arts, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, in Bangkok.

Cristiano Bezerra Carvalho

Brazil

Field Placement: Intensive English Program at West Virginia University, CALL Lab, Department of Foreign Languages

Cristiano Bezerra Carvalho originally planned to study engineering, but enjoyed learning and teaching English so much that he changed his mind. He received his licenciatura degree in English teaching and literature in 1995 from the Universidade Federal Do Espirito Santo in his home town of Vitoria. He teaches teenagers and adults at Point Language School, a private English institute, and also coordinates teacher training and social activities at the school. The school is planning to open a computer lab, so he will benefit from working in the WVU Computer Assisted Learning Lab.

Aim-on Charrurangsri

Thailand

Field Placement: Division of Family and Consumer Sciences at West Virginia University

Aim-on Charrurangsri is from a Thai-Chinese family that operates a wholesale bakery in a town 90 kilometers northeast of Bangkok. She began her studies in Bangkok in ninth grade and eventually developed an interest in rural family and child development. She completed her B.A. and M.A. degrees in home economics with specialization in family and child development at Kasetsart University. Aim-on has worked as a kindergarten teacher and as a child development officer. She is an instructor in the School of Home Economics at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, where her duties include curriculum planning and course writing.

Adriana Verginia Cortelatti

Brazil

Field Placement: Central Elementary School

Adriana Cortelatti received her B.A. in English language and literature from Federal University of Espirito Santo-Vitoria. She has taught English on many levels using a variety of methods, including the "audiovisual method" and the communicative approach. She presently teaches at both a junior high school and the private Point Language Institute.

Mamadou Cisse

Czech Republic, Mali

Field Placement: Office of Communications and Technology, West Virginia University Extension Service

Mamadou Cisse is from Mali, but has also studied and worked in the Czech Republic. He studied computer science in both countries, earning a master of science degree. He has worked in the Czech Republic as a computer programmer and a software engineer, but now hopes to return to his home country to teach computer science at the newly created University of Mali.

Ulrich Gerwe

Germany

Field Placement: Morgantown Area Youth Services Project

Ulrich Gerwe spent 18 months working in a youth center and decided to make youth social work his career. After completing his university studies, he worked in the administration of youth centers and employment programs and spent a year doing "street work." As a youth social worker, he has helped troubled adolescents through crisis management, drug counseling, and assistance finding employment and housing. He also has supervised adolescents in independent living situations. He presently works for the municipal government coordinating preventative youth programs and facilitating communication among youth organizations.

Fernanda Sales Pietroluongo

Brazil

Field Placement: Intensive English Program at West Virginia University, Department of Foreign Languages

Fernanda Sales Pietroluongo grew up in Rio de Janeiro but moved to Vitoria as a teenager. She studied English from an early age and began teaching English in her home as a high school student. She continued teaching as a teacher trainee at the Cecilian Abel de Almeida Foundation while studying English at Universidade Federal Do Espirito Santo. After earning her bachelor's degree and a scholarship to study in

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Britain in 1996, she was promoted to her present position at the foundation. As a professional EFL teacher, she teaches English to adults and children and plans courses.

Jeanette Tilley

New Zealand

Field Placement: West Virginia University Extended Learning Program

Jan Tilley received her home economics teacher's diploma from Dunedin Teachers Training College. She has worked in secondary school home economics education for many years, as a teacher, department head, and coordinator of school health programs. She is associate head of the Home Economics Department of the Correspondence School in Wellington, a school that delivers distance education to 20,000 primary and secondary students who live in isolated rural areas, attend very small schools, or are otherwise unable to attend conventional schools. She is also involved in curriculum planning.

West Virginia's CIP group included (from left),

front row,

Fernanda Sales Pietroluongo, Brazil;
Aim-on Charrurangri, Thailand;
Adriana Corteletti, Brazil;
Aoy Israngkura Na Ayuthaya, Thailand;
Cristiano Bezerra Carvalho, Brazil.

back row,

Ulrich Gerwe, Germany;
Rich Fleisher, CIP director;
Mamadou Cisse, Czech Republic, Mali;
Jan Tilley, New Zealand;
John Bretz, CIP assistant director.



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International Extension Program Highlights

WVU Multicultural Camp

The eighth annual Multicultural Camp was conducted July 19-23, 1998. Sixty-two students attended the camp, highlighted by the weeklong participation of international students from the WVU Intensive English Program and a white water rafting trip donated by USA-Raft. The camp provides students with opportunities to learn more about other countries and global issues, and to take their new knowledge to their schools and communities.

Peter Jensen, Extension agent in Morgan County, and Richard Fleisher co-coordinated the camp.

International 4-H Youth Exchange (IFYE) Program

Gretchen Riley from Hardy County is our 1998-99 IFYE delegate. She spent the fall semester in Germany. Her state-wide speaking tour is scheduled Jan. 18 - May 14, 1999.



We also hosted an IFYE delegate from abroad this year. Anu Kaljula from Estonia visited West Virginia from June 23 to Sept. 10. Anu is an engineer for the Estonian Map Centre. Beth Kleckner from Randolph County and David Takarsh from Marion County have been selected as West Virginia IFYE delegates for 1999-2000.

West Virginia CEOS International Student Scholarship

Celina Melgoza from Mexico, the West Virginia Community Education Outreach Service (formerly West Virginia Extension Homemakers) scholarship recipient for 1997-98, has been awarded this scholarship for a second year. She is a junior at West Virginia University, majoring in education. She prepared a booklet about her country with a focus on the life of Mexican women. Her slide set and script are available for use by CEOS members and 4-H groups. Her state tour is scheduled this summer.

Precollege Study Abroad in Mexico

The WVU Extension Service, in cooperation with the WVU Office of International Programs, is sponsoring a precollege

study abroad program for West Virginia high school students who have completed a minimum of two years of Spanish or the equivalent by the end of spring semester 1999. The program will be held from June 10-July 13, 1999, in Guanajuato, Mexico.

The fee of \$1,955 covers airfare, host family lodging, meals, daily Spanish classes, community service projects, insurance, field trips, and other amenities. The trip will be preceded by as many as three orientation and training workshops to be conducted at West Virginia University, where each high school student will be matched with a WVU student mentor. Up to 15 students will be accepted. Contact the International Extension Program for more information.

Guatemala Project

The Guatemala Project, which began in 1992, continues to expand and diversify. The project consists of exchange, development, and humanitarian activities in West Virginia and several communities in Guatemala. International Extension and Morgantown North Rotary Club coordinate the project in conjunction with Guatemala North Rotary Club.

In the village of El Carmen, a revolving loan fund continues to help support agricultural development for families. Well tests were completed in 1997, and progress continues for establishing a water distribution system for the community in 1999. Rich Fleisher gave presentations to many groups about our work in Guatemala, several of them with his wife Jane, a project volunteer.

Rich led a delegation of 11 faculty, students, and community volunteers to San Lucas Toliman, Solala, in 1998. The purposes of the trip were to continue and expand facets of the project, establish new opportunities for academic and community collaboration between West Virginia and Guatemala, educate the delegation and others about the plight of marginalized people in Guatemala, and conduct humanitarian work. The group included Extension faculty Guen Brown, Peter Jensen, and Ric MacDowell; CIP Board member Greg Juckett and volunteer Dennis Overman; and CEO member Suzanne Bryant.

Dennis Overman led a delegation of medical professionals, students, and volunteers to San Lucas last May. CIP Board member Sue Overman was a member of the delegation. Dennis will return in May 1999 with another delegation.

Spanish Immersion Camp (CHISPA)

The West Virginia University Spanish Immersion Camp (CHISPA) was conducted July 26-31, 1998 at Jackson's Mill. A total of 37 students attended, including 32 high school students from West Virginia, two from Spain, one from France, and two

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Intensive English students from Venezuela. Twenty-seven teachers, counselors, presenters, and volunteers included native Spanish-speakers from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Spain, and Venezuela.

The purpose of the Spanish Immersion Camp is to provide an intensive program for West Virginia high school students in a residential setting to improve their Spanish speaking and comprehension, and to help them learn about the diversity of cultures of the Spanish-speaking world through history, literature, art, music, dance, and drama. Camp activities included one-to-one and small group language instruction, classes about different Spanish-speaking countries, guest presentations, experiential learning activities, recreational activities with a Spanish theme, and a culminating Spanish humanities quiz bowl. The entire camp was conducted in Spanish.

The 1999 camp is scheduled July 25-30 at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

National 4-H Youth Development: Global Education Design Team

Rich Fleisher and former IFYE delegate Mary Williams represented West Virginia this summer on the National 4-H Global Education Team. A group of youth development and international education specialists and volunteers from throughout the United States met in Washington, D.C., to develop goals, objectives, and recommendations for the National 4-H Youth Development Global Education Program.

Copies of the design team's report are available by contacting the International Extension Program.

The Boys of War

The Globe and Mail
Toronto, Oct. 10, 1998

Northern Ireland. Iraq and Kuwait. Rwanda. Bosnia. Sri Lanka. Wars and civil wars are endemic in some countries and almost nonexistent in others. As Thomas Pynchon said, "Who can presume to say what...war wants."

Now, two psychologists at York University in Toronto are arguing that war usually can be explained by a relatively simple demographic equation. Take a population with a disproportionately large number of young men between 15 and 29. Deny these naturally aggressive males the possibility of finding a job or emigrating, and you have war's tinder.

Depleting the Earth

Guardian
London, Oct. 11, 1998

Humans have destroyed more than 30% of the natural world since 1970 with serious depletion of the forest, freshwater, and marine ecosystems on which life depends. Consumption pressure from increasing affluence has doubled in the past 25 years and continues to accelerate, according to a groundbreaking report from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the New Economics Foundation, and the World Conservation Monitoring Center at Cambridge.

The "Living Planet Report" says that the acceleration in environmental destruction shows that politicians who have been paying lip service to sustainable development have done little to generations a living planet," comments Nick Mabey, WWF's economic policy officer. "We knew it was bad, but until we did this report, we did not realize how bad."

Global Assessment Project in the Eastern Panhandle

The Global Assessment Project in the Eastern Panhandle—Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan counties—was a collaborative research project to document and assess the nature and potential of international economic development initiatives in the region.

The study was conducted by the WVU Extension Service and WVU Bureau of Business and Economic Research, in cooperation with the International Trade Development Council of the Eastern Panhandle. Scott Loveridge, director of Extension's Center for Community, Economic, and Workforce Development and director of the WVU Regional Research Institute, provided leadership for the project. The Extension team consisted of former graduate research assistant Iba N'Diaye, program specialist Alison Hanham, and Rich Fleisher.

The study resulted in a resource document of information and data about the climate and future potential for international business activities in the three counties.

The specific objectives of the project were to: (1) provide information about the characteristics and scope of international trade in the region, (2) identify the multiplier effects of international trade in the primary economic sectors, (3) characterize the current status of internationalization in the region, and (4) present an indication of the most promising international economic development opportunities.

Copies of the report are available from Extension.

Council of International Fellowship (CIF)

Exchange Opportunities Abroad—The Council of International Fellowship, the alumni organization affiliated with CIP, annually conducts exchanges for human service professionals throughout the world. Programs are similar to the training and work-related placements provided by West Virginia CIP.

Exchanges will be conducted in 15 countries in 1999. Placements are typically 4-10 weeks in length and are open to an average of 6-12 professionals per country. Further details are available by contacting the CIF coordinators directly:

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Conference 1999**

August 9-14, 1999

Leeuwenhorst Conference Centre

Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands

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