

Juniata College takes language out on the road

One of the most common high school experiences is the struggle to learn a foreign language. Wouldn't it have been great to have someone who spoke the language like a native visit the class? Wouldn't it have been great if a native of the country showed up in class?

Juniata College thinks so, too. A new outreach program, Language in Motion, will take students who have recently returned from the college's study abroad program, international students fluent in French, German, Russian and Spanish and students who have completed upper level language classes to area schools. The Juniata students will work on activities with high school language classes in Huntingdon, Bedford and Blair counties.

"I think this will build enthusiasm for language studies and study abroad for high school students and give Juniata students a very good opportunity to work together within

their community," said Deb Roney, Language in Motion coordinator and adjunct lecturer in English.

"For international students, it gives them another slice of American life, because high school is quite different from college."

The project, funded by a one-year \$5,000 grant from the Cooperative Grants Program of NAFSA Association of International Educators, is a pilot program with two components.

The first centers on classroom visits, where Juniata students bring in a language-based activity. The second component incorporates distance learning through such methods as e-mail exchange, Website building and video conferences.

Roney said the program will visit Huntingdon Area High School, Juniata Valley High School, Tussey Mountain High School, Williamsburg Community High School and Mount Union Area High School.

"We will come in with some prepared activities, but I believe giving high school language students the opportunity to talk with international students is invaluable," said Roney, who earned her doctoral degree in Slavic languages and linguistics.

"The students will also see that international students may struggle with language, too, whether it's English or something else."

The students involved in Language in Motion already have visited and observed several high school language classes and have participated in an intensive workshop on teaching methods.

The Language in Motion group will make at least two visits to each high school between January and April 2001. Once the program is established with a permanent funding source, Roney said she hopes to expand the program to other schools in the area.

Juniata program to help teach foreign languages

HUNTINGDON — Juniata College has developed a new outreach program called Language in Motion. It will allow students who recently returned from the college's Study Abroad program, international students fluent in French, German, Russian or Spanish and students who have completed upper-level language classes to visit and teach foreign languages at five area high schools in Huntingdon, Bedford and Blair counties.

The Juniata students will work on activities with each high school class over the course of several visits to the schools.

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Once the program is established with a permanent funding source, Roney hopes to expand the program to other schools in Intermediate Units 8 and 11.

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