

Cultural experience at HAHS foreign language festival

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If foreign issues and culture interest you, then the Huntingdon Area High School would have been the place to be during the week of March 26-30. During that week, students celebrated World Languages Month by hosting their own World Languages Week. Students were given the opportunity to showcase different cultures and ethnicities, including their own or one that interested them.

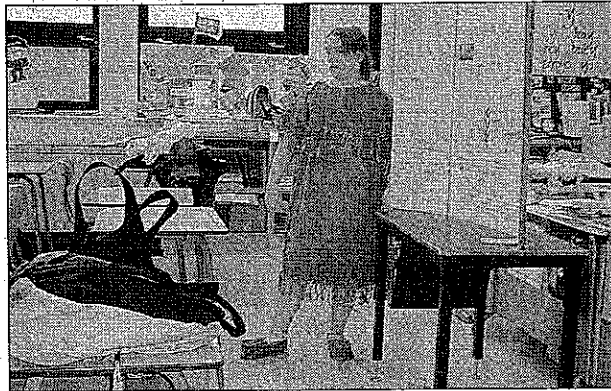
The exciting week was planned by two of the high school's foreign language teachers, Christine Gardner and Marilyn Goodsell.

Goodsell stated, "Planning for the festival began in February with the announcement that March was World Language Month. My colleagues and I did some brainstorming as to which activities would best encourage global thinking for all of our students."

Much time and effort went into the process even before the week began. "We encouraged students to participate by highlighting and sharing their individual ethnic backgrounds and interests," said Goodsell.

Mr. Tomlinson's classes celebrated with varied activities, including cultural presentations, cultural videos and ethnic foods.

The week commenced Mon-



Submitted photo

Jackie Kylor, who made by hand the Indian outfit that she is wearing, discusses the Trail of Tears for an HAHS class during Foreign Language Week.

day, March 26, when Elizabeth Snyder, a Juniata College Language in Motion student, came to present to the students about France during some of Goodsell's classes. She focused mainly on the ancient city of Rouen, where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. She shared about her visit to Rouen and her studies there. Later that day, another Language in Motion presenter came to speak about China, elaborating on the Chinese language and characters.

Beth Letcher, also from Juniata College Language in Motion, came to speak about China Tues-

day, March 27, to several of Goodsell's classes. She had spent time and studied in China and shared with the students many diverse pictures, personal anecdotes and information on the language, culture and people.

On Wednesday, March 28, the students learned about the flag's history in Burkina Faso from a presentation by Albert Bado. That day in Goodsell's classes, HAHS students Jackie Kylor, Alex Eby and Matej Baron gave individual presentations. Jackie Kylor informed the students of the Cherokee culture and the devastation left by the Trail of Tears. She

wore traditional clothing that she had made, giving the students an extra close look at the culture. The legend of the Coqui in Puerto Rico was presented by Alex Eby. She brought a guiro, a wooden musical instrument, which the students were permitted to play. Matej Baron gave a presentation pertaining to Slovakia, which is an area native to him, being he is from the Czech Republic. Later that evening, a banquet was held at the school for teachers, students, and parents. To be admitted students were required to bring a traditional dish of some sort including deserts, side dishes or main dishes.

On Thursday, March 29, Ashlee Knode and Jessica Hark both presented Japanese origami to the students, and Agatha Wagoner spoke about France. Karate presentations were held by Devan Glenn, Alex Eby, Kara Olivieri and Brandon Smith. Janelle Smith, Teresa Green, Natalie Gorman, Kim Jackson, Samantha Anderson and Sarah Dieke gave explanations of ballet schools and demonstrated French terms. Language in Motion student Julia Clause gave a presentation on France.

On the last day of the festival, Friday, March 30, Gabriel Lopez, a participant from Language in Motion, gave a presentation of his homeland, Ecalante, Ecuador. Another Language in Motion stu-

dent enlightened students about German culture.

Other student presenters included Amber Rosenburg, Vlad the Impaler; Samantha Shope, Egypt; Paul Patitsas, Greece; Sean Oswald, Italy; Livia Lima, Brazil; Amy Cassot, Peru; Danni Holmes, Trail of Tears; Valarie Corbin, Blackfoot Indians; Andrew Bhasker, India; Ugo Nwaobilo, Nigeria; Martin Zickler, Germany; and Eileen Xiao, China. Parents also had an opportunity to be involved. Iona Ballreich spoke about Germany, and Elena Tsayukova discussed Rus-

sia. National representative students from Grier School included those from Spain, France, South Korea, Pakistan and China.

Goodsell would like to thank "all those who gave their time, efforts and cooperation, including parents and high school staff." She continued, "They made the festival the huge success that it was." She would also like to give "an extra special thanks to Chris Gardner who gave her all, and also to Dr. Deb Roney of Juniata College's Language in Motion for providing outstanding student presenters."