

# People & Mountains

A Publication of the West Virginia Humanities Council

Winter 2004

## “The Journey of a Lifetime”

*Each summer, West Virginia teachers are invited to attend a summer teacher institute funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council and hosted by a state college or university. This two-week seminar provides a select group intensive study in a particular humanities subject, and the opportunity to earn graduate and continuing education credit. In June 2003, 19 teachers from 17 counties were chosen to attend Bethany College’s Japanese Institute.*

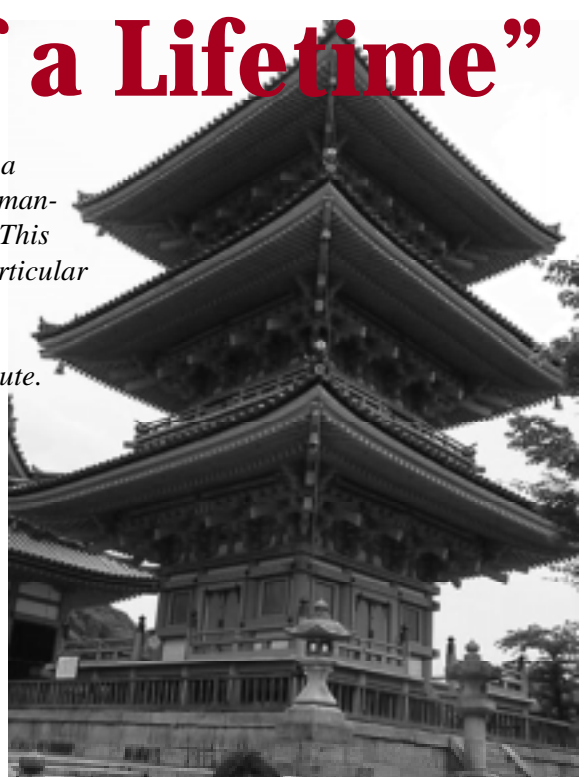
*The first week of the seminar was held at Bethany, where the teachers were instructed in the country’s customs, culture, and language in preparation for the second week — the journey of a lifetime — a trip to Japan and firsthand experience in the Land of the Rising Sun.*

*Dina DuCoffe-Perrone, a special education teacher from Mill Creek Intermediate School in Berkeley County, was one of the traveling teachers. She offers the following account:*

I arrived at Bethany College on a hot June afternoon. We had a lovely opening dinner and then began an intensive week of study. Many Japanese topics were covered, including the language, history, theology, geography, and other facets of this unique culture. We took part in a traditional tea ceremony, watched contemporary Japanese films, and tried our hands at haiku poetry and origami (with some very comic results).

The days flew by, filled with education and camaraderie. When we left Bethany, I knew our trip would be a

*Continued on inside back cover*



### Teacher Institute Grant Guidelines

The West Virginia Humanities Council invites college and university professors to submit proposals for a teacher institute on a humanities topic suited to the teaching needs of elementary or secondary teachers for the summer of 2005. This grant category was established to provide teachers with the opportunity for intensive study in the humanities to enhance classroom teaching.

The Teacher Institute grant deadline is September 1 with a maximum award of \$20,000. For more information, or to request an application, contact Humanities Council grants administrator Pam LeRose by phone at (304) 346-8500 or via email at [lerose@wvhumanities.org](mailto:lerose@wvhumanities.org). Guidelines and applications are also available on the Council’s website [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org).

**It’s A Wrap!**  
**This People & Mountains**  
**includes our 2003**  
**Annual Report.**

# An Important Year

Humanities Council program officer Mark Payne and I recently traveled to Welch to see Judge Booker Stevens of the circuit court — and no, neither of us is in trouble with the law.

Rather, we met with the judge to discuss Council plans to observe this year's 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision ordering the desegregation of schools.

Anniversaries have a way of focusing public attention, especially when historic events can be celebrated at significant sites. In 2003 we commemorated (West) Virginia's part in getting Lewis and Clark underway in 1803, with well-attended lectures in Harpers Ferry, Wheeling, and Huntington. Those areas were on the original itinerary, 200 years ago.

Likewise, we want to focus *Brown v. Board* programming in the historic centers of African-American population in West Virginia. Certainly, those places include Welch, and we were gratified by our reception there. Judge Stevens kindly offered the use of his courtroom in historic McDowell County Courthouse. That's exciting. It is hard to beat the dignity — not to mention the acoustics — of a courtroom.

As always, we will look for West Virginia angles as we explore *Brown v. Board*, knowing that the things closest to us mean the most. Sometimes these home truths reflect to our credit, and sometimes less so.

For example, our state's record of official compliance was exemplary. Governor Marland made West Virginia's position clear the day after the Supreme Court spoke. "Gentlemen," he announced to the press on May 18, 1954, "the decision of the Supreme Court is the law of the land. We shall abide by it." And, though the desegregation of West Virginia was by no means flawless, abide we did.

On the other hand, John W. Davis, one of the most successful lawyers to come out of our state and the 1924 Democratic nominee for president, argued for the segregationist side in the hearings before the Supreme Court. Both Marland and Davis are part of our legacy as West Virginians, and both merit our attention.

This is also an important year for the West Virginia Humanities Council, our 30th. We will announce plans for our anniversary, and for a proper commemoration of *Brown v. Board*, as soon as details are complete.

In the meantime, we wish you the very best as the new year unfolds.

Ken Sullivan

# Grant Guidelines

## Major Grants

Major grants have a budget over \$1,500 and support humanities events including symposiums, conferences, exhibits, and lectures. Maximum award: \$20,000.

Application Deadlines: February 1 and September 1

Number of Copies: 24

## Minigrants

Minigrants have a budget of \$1,500 or less and support small projects, single events, or planning/consultation needs.

Application Deadlines: February 1, April 1, June 1, August 1, October 1, and December 1

Number of Copies: 6

## Fellowships

Fellowships of \$2,500 are awarded annually to college humanities faculty and independent scholars to support research and writing projects.

Application Deadline: February 1

Number of Copies: 12

## Media Grants

Media grants have a budget over \$1,500 and support the planning, scripting, and production of projects intended to produce electronic or film materials, or a newspaper series. Maximum award: \$20,000.

Application Deadline: September 1

Number of Copies: 24

## Publication Grants

Publication grants have a budget over \$1,500. This category is available only to nonprofit presses and recognized academic presses and supports *only* the production phase of a completed manuscript.

Maximum award: \$20,000.

Application Deadline: September 1

Number of Copies: 24

*See the front cover for information on Teacher Institute Grants.*

*All grants categories have supplemental guidelines and applications. Call the Humanities Council at (304)346-8500 for copies. These materials can also be found online at [www.wvhumanities.org](http://www.wvhumanities.org).*

*Continued from front cover*

great experience. We were a tired group of West Virginians when we landed at Nagoya Airport on Tuesday evening. After our first meal in Japan at a noodle shop, we all headed to bed.

Our first day was wet and humid. We visited Nagoya Castle and Toyota's Museum of Technology. We walked and rode through the city. One of the things that struck me was that every inch of space was used in some way: as a garden, as a rice paddy, or as a parking space for the hundreds of bicycles that are the main source of transportation in Japan. After this long day, we had dinner with Kenneth Crockett, director of the State of West Virginia Japanese Office.

The next day, we rode the bullet train to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. The bullet travels about 170 mph, yet does not feel like it is moving at all. Kyoto's ancient temples filled us with awe.

The gardens and buildings were beautiful, but the best part was the opportunity to speak with Japanese students who were also visiting these places. I lunched with middle school girls who giggled as they tried to communicate with us.

Friday morning we left Nagoya and traveled to Handa City for the part of the trip I was most looking forward to — visiting an elementary school. But first, we were expected at City Hall to meet the mayor. As we approached the city council chambers, the workers stood and applauded. We were guests of honor, a strange but joyful experience.

After speeches and tea, we boarded our bus and drove to Hanazono Elementary School. The classes were crowded and hot, but the students were excited by our presence and I was impressed by their courtesy and discipline. The principal spoke of educating the heart, as well as the mind, and I could see the results.

After touring, we were taken to different sixth grade classrooms, where the students had prepared "cultural exchanges." They dressed one West Virginia teacher in full kimono. Some of us saw plays or heard a flute concert; some were treated to special goodies. My students brought in items and asked me to guess their meaning or use. Then a surprising thing happened. The children cleaned the room, served lunch to their classmates, cleaned up, and did other chores. Students cleaned the bathrooms and swept in front of the school. All of the children worked and all of them seemed happy. I couldn't wait to show my Berkeley County students the pictures of Japanese schoolchildren.

Part of this institute's program was a home stay,

where we would live with a Japanese family for the weekend. I was nervous about this. How would we communicate? Would it be awkward? I met my host family before a party to welcome us to Japan and I was concerned to learn that the mother, Nubuko, could not speak English. We would have to depend on Takako, her 20-year-old daughter, to translate for us.

Before we had much of a chance to talk, the party started. They asked our group to wait outside. When they invited us in, it was to a standing ovation from 200 people. I felt like a movie star. The food and the entertainment were exceptional. Then we took part in the entertainment as we struggled through "Take Me Home, Country Roads." The Japanese all seemed to know the famous West Virginia song, and they wanted to hear it from us.

It is hard to describe my weekend with the Yamaguchis.

Although there were barriers to our communication, I have never been treated so generously. Everyone was kind and helpful. I attended an assembly at the local elementary school and a dance rehearsal at the community center. I was often the only Western person in the room. I

enjoyed watching and sharing with my host family, who would sometimes just break into song. By the time Sunday came, I did not want to leave.

The next day was a whirlwind trip to Tokyo, including a cruise around Tokyo Bay and a last chance to shop for souvenirs. Tired, we slept our last night in Japan and boarded our plane for home the next day.

This experience was well planned by our leaders, Sachiko Wood and Fujiko Sawtarie of Bethany College. They thought through every detail, so that we would be saturated with a different culture and bring it all home to West Virginia's schoolchildren. I am indebted to them for the richness of my Japan encounter.

*Hundreds of teachers have participated in West Virginia Humanities Council Teacher Institutes. These institutes have covered diverse humanities topics such as Appalachian Folklore, Women and Writing, Southern Appalachian Literature, and Shakespeare. Participants return to the classroom invigorated and brimming with new ways to teach.*

*Another teacher summed it up: "[The Japanese Institute was] one of the most amazing experiences of my life! The confidence, knowledge, and respect that come from this are immeasurable. When my students ask, 'Why would someone pay for you to go to Japan?' I will tell them, 'Because they care about you!'"*

*"We were a tired group of West Virginians when we landed at Nagoya. After our first meal at a noodle shop, we headed to bed."*

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# West Virginia Humanities Council Celebrates its 30th Anniversary in 2004

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**J**anuary 2004 finds the West Virginia Humanities Council celebrating not only a new year, but also a special milestone — its 30th anniversary.

Initially called the Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy (CHAPP), the Council was formed in 1974 at the invitation of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its initial mission was to increase civic participation among West Virginia's adults by funding programs on public policy issues. After several years, the organization began to make grants for a wider variety of humanities programs. The 1980s saw two more major shifts in the organization's focus — its growth from a purely grantsmaking institution to one that also initiates and manages its own programs, as well as the inclusion of schoolchildren and adolescents among those it serves.

In recognition of this evolution, in 1990 the organization was renamed the West Virginia Humanities

Council. Exciting work continues. With the purchase and renovation of the historic MacFarland-Hubbard House, the Council has its first permanent home. Its flagship project, *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*, is nearing publication. And in fiscal year 2003, the Council returned more than \$568,660 to the public in the form of grants and direct programs.

The Council sees 2004 as a time to take stock and work with donors, the board of directors, and the community. Executive Director Ken Sullivan says, "Anniversaries are a natural opportunity to reflect. We'd like to spend the new year talking with supporters about how we can strengthen our Council, the services we offer our communities, and how to solidify the financial base from which we operate those services."

Anniversary-related events will be scheduled throughout 2004. Stay tuned!

*The West Virginia Humanities Council gratefully acknowledges support from the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Office of the West Virginia Secretary for Education and the Arts; and foundations, corporations, and individuals throughout the Mountain State and beyond.*

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