

# Hornets observe International Week

By MICHAELA SMITH  
JVHS Reporter

It is important for students to learn about different countries and cultures, and that is precisely what Juniata Valley High School students experience during International Week. International week has become quite the annual tradition at JV and, each year, various presenters from both JV and Juniata College come to talk with students about their cultures.

The week included various presentations. Many Language in Motion students from Juniata College presented on cultures like Russian and French. Other presentations were given by JV faculty on international trips and a Penn State student teacher, Max Palmer, presented on Argentinian culture where he studied abroad. With all the presentations over the week, there were three that stood out.

Bushra Ebbes, an international student at Juniata College from Pakistan, gave a very moving presentation on both her life in Pakistan and her new life in America. Ebbes explained that she really liked the education system; however, she disliked some of the discrimination. She sought to break the stereotype that many people have of those who come from the Middle East. She was not used to discrimination and was not expecting to find it here.

"I was told that some people will stare at me because I dress differently, but that was all I expected," stated Ebbes. "However, during my first few weeks in the United States, I was walking at Raystown Lake with my friend. A lady told her child to stay away from me and moved her to the other side of the sidewalk. I am still not sure if she did this because of me, but I got that feeling."

Eleventh grader Breanna Leidy found the presentation to be very interesting. "I really enjoyed learning about Pakistan and the stereotypes found in different countries. It was pretty eye opening. A lot of people have the wrong ideas," Leidy explained.

Later in the week, Dr. Kébir Sandy, a visiting professor at Juniata College, presented on Morocco. He talked about the different languages spoken in the country, national holidays, religious holidays and the different stereotypes found in the country.

"You will not find someone in the country who does not speak at least three or four languages," Sandy stated. He

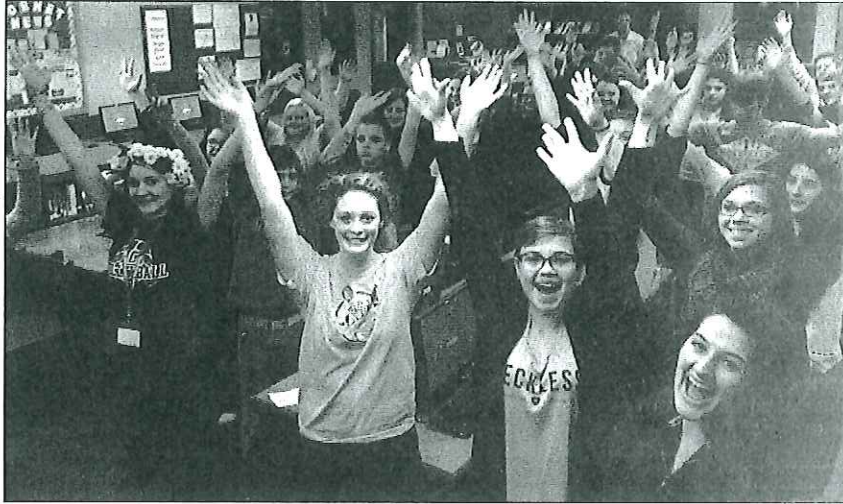


Photo by LAURA CARPER

Juniata Valley High School teacher Andra Sipols, who grew up in a Latvian home, taught students of various grades a dance from a popular music video from Latvia called "Es Skrienu," or "I Run," as part of JV's annual International Week. Front row, from the left, are Sipols, Michaela Smith, Lauren Payne, Rachel Payne and Zoe Giles.

speaks Moroccan Arabic, which is the language mostly spoken there. Sandy also spoke about eating habits and explained how, because of his religion, he washes his hands and face before he eats. "Food is like a gift that we should thank God for!" Sandy exclaimed.

"Morocco is not that different from America as media says it is," stated ninth grader Jacob Leydig after listening to Sandy's presentation.

On Thursday, one of Juniata Valley's own teachers shared about Latvia. Andra Sipols, JV English teacher, grew up in a Latvian home. Although she was born in the U.S., her family is from Latvia, a small European country on the Baltic Sea. "Growing up, I only spoke Latvian. I didn't learn English until I was in pre-school," explained Sipols. "I still speak it with my family today."

Sipols shared photos of the country, stories about her time at a Latvian summer high school in Three Rivers, Michigan, and even shared videos of the Latvian Song and Dance Festival where thousands of dancers and singers collaborate to perform. She also shared a video of her dancing with her classmates at her graduation from the Latvian summer high school.

"Latvia is a very beautiful country and, recently, the tourism has really grown," explained Sipols.

"I loved hearing about her culture and seeing pictures of how beautiful Latvia is," exclaimed 11th grader Brook Grove.

Sipols ended her presentation by showing students a very famous music video called "Es Skrienu," or "I Will Run" by Latvian pop artist Lauris Reiniks. "The end of the music

video has a really fun flash-mob dance and I wanted to teach it to the students," stated Sipols. "I was really pleased with how well they performed it."

The students were excited to learn the popular Latvian dance and many even downloaded the song from iTunes later that day. "The dance was so much fun and I had a great time learning it," stated 11th grader Zóe Giles.

Without even leaving the high school library of JV, students were able to "travel" to various parts of the world. "It's interesting learning about countries that you don't hear very much about and talking about the different stereotypes that sometimes come with them," stated junior Rachel Payne. "International Week is a really cool way for us to learn about the world and how unique each culture really is."

## CCA students celebrate Harvest Day

By ERIKA CARBAUGH  
CCA Reporter

Thanksgiving is pretty important at Calvary Christian Academy. It's a time to thank God for all he has done.

Junior Naomi Slippey said, "I try to be thankful year round, but Thanksgiving is a day I set aside to really thank God for everything."

Because CCA wants to inspire this attitude in all of its students, a day was set aside in November to be Harvest Day.



The Daily News  
Huntingdon, PA