

# Ten Years of Fostering International Education

By Becky Byrd Lofstead



Sophia Peterson, FACDIS co-director, discusses conference themes with panelists (from left), Richard Smoke of Brown University, Dennis Pirages of the University of Maryland, and Immanuel Wallerstein of SUNY-Binghamton.

West Virginia University history professor Jack Hammersmith, the designer of many courses on East Asia, recently led 12 West Virginia public school teachers during five weeks of study and travel in Japan. Patricia Mulvey of Bluefield State College, David Bard of Concord College, Alan Jenks of WVU, and Roland Williams of West Liberty State College, studied in Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, or Iraq for four weeks this summer. Several other professors recently developed a study guide, *Area Studies Through Film*, that integrated audio-visual and printed materials of Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa.

Hundreds of faculty and public school teachers have had these opportunities because of an organization dedicated to improving international education in West Virginia. The West Virginia Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Studies, or FACDIS, was formed ten years ago to respond to the professional needs of international studies and foreign language faculties in the state.

Twenty two- and four-year colleges and universities in West Virginia are members of the consortium, which has its headquarters in Woodburn Hall on the university campus. According to FACDIS founder/consortium co-

director Sophia Peterson, professor of political science at WVU, the state's colleges and universities have limited funds to send faculty to professional meetings and conferences. As a result, faculty are unable to take advantage of professional exchange opportunities with others in their specialization areas. That's where FACDIS plays a big role.

Since its founding, the consortium has addressed the professional development needs of some 250 faculty who teach one or more courses with significant international content to more than 6,000 students annually throughout West Virginia. Hundreds of public school teachers who teach



University and college presidents discussed the role that higher education institutions play in fostering international education. From left are, Clyde Campbell of West Liberty State College, Ronald Ohl of Salem-Teikyo University, Gregory Atkins of Bluefield State College, and Neil Bucklew of West Virginia University.

thousands more in the public schools have also benefitted from FACDIS programs.

Major projects include sponsorship of annual workshops in international studies, summer institutes for public school teachers, a travel grant program, symposia, support for the development and revision of courses, distribution of teaching materials developed by FACDIS faculty, a free loan program of audio-visual and simulation materials, and a quarterly newsletter.

"The single most substantial FACDIS project, the Annual Workshops in International Studies brings scholarly expertise to West Virginia, facilitates professional exchange among our faculty and demonstrates current printed and audio-visual materials, all to enrich and reinforce instruction," Peterson said. "I should point out that this conference is provided to members at no personal expense. More than 100 faculty attend our annual workshop. We pick up the cost of meals, lodging and program materials — everything but travel (which the colleges and universities provide) — as well as honoraria for academic experts.

For some, this is the only professional development experience they will have all year."

John Maxwell, associate professor of history and FACDIS co-director, believes these types of faculty development activities improve morale.

"Attending a conference or symposia in one's field is an opportunity to grow personally and to bring new ideas into the classroom," he said.

To provide support so more faculty could attend this year's 10th Anniversary Workshop and Conference last November at Lakeview Resort and Conference Center in Morgantown, FACDIS was awarded grants totalling \$36,000 from the MacArthur Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace and the West Virginia Humanities Foundation. The theme for the conference, "Agenda for the 21st Century: Global Cooperation," paid particular attention to the global environment, North-South issues and the peace and security of the world.

Senators Robert C. Byrd and John D. Rockefeller IV served as honorary co-chairmen for the event, and speakers of national

and international renown joined state leaders in addressing the theme.

Participants included state business leaders, legislative leaders, representatives of governing boards of higher education (both public and private), state and county school officials, members of the governor's administration, and higher education faculty and administrators.

The keynote address featured Joan Martin Brown, special advisor to the director and chief of the Washington office, United Nations Environment Programme for North America.

Ambassador Samuel Lewis, president of the U.S. Institute of Peace, gave the Senator Jennings Randolph Address on Peace and Security. Featured panelists linking the conference themes in a session titled, "State of the World," included: Dennis Pirages, professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland, speaking on the environment; Richard Smoke, professor of political science at Brown University, addressing peace and security; and Immanuel Wallerstein, distinguished professor of sociology and



Joan Martin-Brown was the keynote speaker at the tenth anniversary FACDIS conference.



Ambassador Samuel Lewis gave the Senator Jennings Randolph address.

director of the Fernand Braudel Center at SUNY-Binghamton, addressing North-South issues.

Peterson said FACDIS operates on an annual budget of \$24,000 which is provided by the University of West Virginia Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the State College System of West Virginia, institutional membership dues and WVU. Over a ten-year period, however, FACDIS has funded special projects through external grants of almost half a million dollars.

"All our travel opportunities are supported through external grants and fellowships from the Humanities Foundation, the Department of Education, the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars and other public and private commissions and centers," Peterson said.

Original funding for the creation of FACDIS came through a three-year grant of \$199,000 in

1980 from the U.S. Department of Education. "With just a small investment, FACDIS has brought in an enormous amount of external money to this state," Peterson said, estimating the funds to be in the neighborhood of \$450,000.

The creation of summer professional development seminars for public school teachers at WVU and Marshall is another high priority of FACDIS. Summer institutes first held in 1987 and 1988 will become annual events beginning in 1991 with support from the West Virginia Department of Education.

In addition to faculty opportunities, study abroad services for students also have been enhanced through FACDIS. Centralized information sharing, student advisement and assistance with study tours have helped meet increased student interest in and demand for travel abroad programs.

The consortium also is involved

in demonstrations of innovative teaching techniques. One such project resulted in inaugurating the statewide Model United Nations Security Council in which approximately 175 students from ten institutions participate each year. This event continues annually and is now organized by the Collegiate Society of International Affairs at WVU and other participating institutions.

Throughout the year, FACDIS makes available audio-visual and simulation materials to members. Through an initial \$28,000 investment in 1980 and the purchase of an additional 100 A-V items by the WVU Library, a loan program was established. To date, these materials have been loaned out more than 2,000 times, and members are kept abreast of current materials through an updated catalog.

As a result of the FACDIS approach to inter-institutional cooperation, the organization was

awarded the G. Theodore Mitau Award for Innovation and Change in Higher Education by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in 1987. The award, Peterson stressed, is

given to colleges or universities that "break new ground" in order to meet changing education needs.

While Peterson and Maxwell co-direct the consortium, each campus has a study abroad

advisor and an institutional representative who assists the FACDIS office in communication and planning. A steering committee assists the co-directors in decision-making.

### WVU Active in International Area

Contributions in the area of international programs and activities at WVU generally fall into three categories: activities of individual faculty members, exchange programs and agreements and enhancements of campus resources to support international activities.

#### Some Faculty Activities:

- Research on resource conservation and development in West Africa, Korean and Sino-Japanese relations, conflict resolution and arms race modelling by faculty in the department of political science.
- Faculty of the College of Agriculture and Forestry involvement in cooperative teaching, research and service projects in Spain, Mexico, Venezuela, New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Ecuador, and Botswana.
- Projects in China, India, the Philippines, West Germany, Egypt, Thailand, Mexico, Australia, and England by faculty members in the College of Human Resources and Education.
- Appointment of a faculty member in the College of Mineral and Energy Resources as consultant to the United Nations to assess the development of mineral resources in Kenya.

#### Exchanges:

- The Regional Research Institute organized United States participation in the

second American-Bulgarian Seminar in Regional Economic Development and Environmental Management with National Science Foundation support. The Institute also sponsored visits of WVU researchers to Bulgaria, Hungary and Scotland under cooperative research agreements.

■ The Department of Chemistry has secured grants for cooperative research and exchange visits with chemists in Hungary, England, West Germany and the Soviet Union.

■ The Department of Education Administration hosted a month-long visit by the Dean of the College of Education Administration at East China Normal University in Shanghai to begin to develop an academic exchange program between the two institutions.

■ Two students from the School of Journalism participated in an internship program in the London Bureau of the ABC television network through financial support provided by the Frank Kearns Memorial Endowment.

■ The School of Social Work co-sponsors an annual International Conference on Social Welfare with Buykko University in Japan and Kang Nam College of Social Welfare in Korea and will host the spring 1991 conference.

■ The department of mining engineering has established exchange programs with the China University on Mining and Technology and the University of Wallongong in Australia.

### Enhancement of Campus Resources:

■ The College of Business and Economics and the College of Arts and Sciences have developed a dual-degree program in international business. Students will major in a foreign language and one of the four functional areas of business. Efforts also are under way to develop international internships and student exchange opportunities for students in the program.

■ The Office of International Programs has been established and a new director appointed who is working with members of the university community to establish short- and long-range goals for university activities.

■ Academic units throughout campus continue to develop courses designed to promote and enhance international development such as "Women in International Development" and "Introduction to American Education."

■ Extension and Public Service conducted two multi-cultural camping programs for public school students with support from the West Virginia 4-H Club Foundation, the West Virginia Humanities Foundation and other private sources.

■ The Office of Student Life and the Office of Academic Affairs have created an international student advisor immigration specialist position to assist international faculty members in attaining residency status.

— Becky Lofstead