


**MEXICO,**  
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very little English. I talk with her a lot, and she always asks me how to say different words in English," said Lackey in an e-mail interview.

"She taught me how to sew and wants to teach me how to make a traditional Mexican meal."

Lackey left for Mexico on July 25 in the midst of sweltering heat in the United States.

Unexpectedly, the temperature in Queretaro has not been extremely warm. The weather was not the only thing that differed from her expectations. Lackey did not expect Mexico to be unclean and old-looking.

"I didn't expect to see Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants, VW Beetles (the old ones), connected

houses, or many indigenous (native) people. I thought there would be more large families," said Lackey.

"I have gone shopping, to the movies, out to eat, to the club, and to Six Flags. My host mother has also taken me to see the historic downtown area, museums, cathedrals and markets," Lackey said.

The initial culture shock alerted her to the forthcoming experience.

"Culture shock was a trip. When I am with other students in the international program (which includes students from the United States, Canada, Germany, France, and Brazil) I speak English. In my classes and at home I speak Spanish. It is strange to speak English for a while, then to hear people speaking mostly Spanish. I thought

there would be more people here that speak English," said Lackey.

Lackey said she enjoys meeting the other international and Mexican students, although she finds it more difficult to speak Spanish with other international students.

"There are some international students here that speak Spanish better than English, so it is good to be able to practice my Spanish with other Mexicans. I have to interview people about customs or culture for many of my homework assignments, so it's good to know people so I don't have to ask strangers," Lackey explained.

The structure of the academic program differs from what she has become comfortable with throughout school. All exams are during the last

week of the month and are broken down into the first partial, second partial, third partial and final.

"I'm taking grammar, conversation, literature, and composition to help improve what I have already learned at WSSU. When I return, I will have a better understanding of the Spanish language. I want to be able to communicate better with Spanish-speaking people, and I hope to find a Spanish internship when I return so that I can continue to practice my Spanish," Lackey said.

"Without the support of my family, friends and staff at the from the university, I would not have been able to make this trip."

There are three other students from Winston-Salem State who have taken advantage of the

opportunity to study abroad in the program coordinated by Dr. Olasope Oyelaran, the director of the Office of International Programs.

Clarissa Williams, a senior mass communications major, and Bobbi Lynch and Tamara Hughes, both senior English majors, are also exploring the Mexican culture.

By Dec. 12, the date that Lackey returns, she will have had plenty of licuado (milk, bananas, sugar, and cinnamon mixed in the blender to a thick consistency), practiced reading Spanish subtitles while the television is on mute, exercise - jumping around to techno-latina, and enough elotes and mixed "Saturday-morning" breakfast cereals to last a lifetime.

**PAGEANT,**  
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and fitness, artistic expression, and presence and Poise.

Fountain modeled a black swimsuit in the lifestyle and fitness portion. As her talent, she sang "How Many Times."

She hopes that more African-Americans will participate in the pageant. She said it is an opportu-

nity to win scholarship money and address issues that hinder our society.

"I want to reach out to the youth to teach them that violence is not the way to solve problems. I feel that it is more difficult for youth in our society, because of all the destruction that is going on," said Fountain.

Although she did not come away with a victory this time, she plans to

compete again next year. Preparation for the pageant was somewhat different from others that she has been involved with.

"We had to do everything ourselves, our hair and makeup. I did enjoy the experience, and I will prepare more for next year's competition," she said.

In addition to her love for pageants, she enjoys

working her part-time job, drawing and poetry.

She labels herself as an ambitious woman who enjoys balancing school priorities, work and personal endeavors.

Her parents, Carol and Dennis, have been consistent in motivating and supporting her.

They both own businesses and her mom is working on her master's degree. She said watching

her mom's success has shown her that anything is possible.

Fountain knows that to be a winner in a competition of this nature that she has to be primed more than any of the other competitors.

She said, "I know what to expect now, and I will begin now to condition and equip myself for a more successful outing next year."

**PLAN,**  
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faculty and staff was the continuation with the concept of the university clock tower. The decision was that it was the most needed element for the university, as a place for the identity of the university."

The plan divides WSSU into seven sectors that would include the main campus sector, which would notably house a student activities center and would be behind the Thompson Student Center. It would also house a fitness center, movie theater, bowling alley and other activities.

The fine arts district sector would have the fine arts department possibly moving to a refurbished and expanded Hauser Building, which would link with K.R. Williams Auditorium.

A freshmen village would house lower classmen in the existing area between Moore, Dilliard and Atkins, while the upperclassmen would live on the other side of MLK in the southern sector.

The historic district, which recently had the opening of the newly refurbished Simon Green Atkins house, will be the focal point.

The northwest sector would house health science, computer science and physical science.

The eastern sector will hold the relocated School of Education, which would be on the lower practice field and would be the destination point of the pedestrian mall.

The athletic facilities would also be between Bowman Gray Stadium and the Anderson Center.

But what weighed on the minds of many of the fraternities and sororities

was how their plots fit into the plan.

Dr. Melody Pierce, the vice chancellor of Student Affairs, said, "The plots that are currently there will be reconfigured. The plot area will remain as the plot area."

"Due to the configuration, some of the plots have to be moved anyway, because of the pedestrian mall. So what were going to do is reconfigure all of them so that everyone will have equal space. The entire area will be cleared, and we are coming up with a design which will give equal space for everyone."

As for the time span and cost of the entire process, Hodge said that it would cost about \$7 million.

"The pedestrian mall is going to take about a year to construct. We're talking about that long before we see the conflict," said Hodge.

**THREADS,**  
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which Dobbs and Thompson are both a part of. The list is expanding as the students' clothing line gains recognition.

"We met some people from the Livingstone modeling troupe and kept in touch," said Dobbs. "Then they came at us one week and asked if we could make them 10 outfits in two weeks."

Immediately, JA-BI-ACH got to work, getting sizes and demonstrating routines for the group to model the apparel.

Students at WSSU are beginning to hire JA-BI-ACH to create nontraditional pieces for them. Charlie Davis, a senior history major, is having the men design her cheerleading letterman jacket.

"I had had a pullover made for a friend and a

tie for my boyfriend," said Davis.

"I was very pleased with his (Dobbs) work, so I'm having him do my letterman jacket."

Davis said being different and unique are important to her. Promoting black businesses is even more important.

"Black people fail to realize that they don't give back. They've got the money now, but they give it to white businesses."

Dobbs and Thompson say this is just the beginning for JA-BI-ACH. They plan to turn it into an enterprise. Thompson, who describes himself as a person "about growth and change" is extremely confident in this.

"When you wake up your sheets might be JA-BI-ACH, your doorknob might be JA-BI-ACH, and when you turn on your TV, that might be JA-BI-ACH, too."