



# STUDENT Features

## WSSU student has overcome his limitations

By Maria Singleton  
ARGUS REPORTER

"I'm not Japanese, I'm not Chinese, I'm not Korean — I'm Mong." Lenny Vang replies in response to a question concerning his ethnic background.

"I want my people to be known for my accomplishments," he says. Vang is a freshman biology major from California. The fourth of seven children (1 stepsister, 1 stepbrother, 1 biological brother and 3 biological sisters), Vang aspires to someday have his own business in hopes of being able to support his family later in life.

Vang suffers from cerebral palsy, a disorder usu-

ally caused by brain damage at or before birth and marked by muscular impairment and often poor coordination. However, Vang does not feel that his condition plays a part in the way that he is, or ever was, perceived by his peers.

"I was popular in high school," he says. "People said that I was sweet, outgoing and kind, and I stood up for other people. Here at Winston everybody treats me like everyone else," he says.

Vang made the decision to attend Winston-Salem State University on the grounds that he felt that he wanted to be different from the rest of his friends who were mainly going to stay in California. Vang says that while



Argus photo by Keith Caesar  
**Lenny Vang chose WSSU over several other schools.**

not overly exceptional, another factor that contributed to his choosing WSSU was his SAT score. He did not say exactly what they were, although he did say that he had at least three other schools to choose from including

Wake Forest University and basketball rival Johnson C. Smith University.

Unfortunately for the aforementioned institutions, Vang ultimately chose to become a Ram because it just felt right for him.

There are a few older relatives in Vang's family who view him as "slow" because of his speech impediment. However, it is quite evident that his physical condition had no effect on his mental capabilities.

Vang is a self-proclaimed "computer freak" who extends his help to anyone in need of assistance.

Like most people in this "age of the computer," Vang is also a frequent Internet user. Besides being

open-minded, he also has a highly diverse interest in all genres of movies and music.

He could think of no definite favorite when it came to movies, saying instead that he likes "them all — romances, comedies, horror, action ... everything."

On the music scene, Vang says he is a fan of rapper Ludacris, with "Roll Out (My Business)" being his favorite song on the "Word of Mouf" album.

In addition, Vang enjoys playing the piano and is currently in the process of learning how to be a deejay; he borrows an older brother's equipment from time to time in order to

practice.

One of Vang's only regrets about leaving his home in California was having to abandon his friends in pursuit of an education on the East Coast.

As would be expected, he misses hanging out with them but maintains contact with his friends as often as possible. Regardless of the transitions that Vang has had to go through on his journey, he is happy to have made the decision to attend WSSU.

"I miss my friends, he says, "but I'm making new friends with [Andre] Chinn and my new roommate... he's a nice guy."

## Langston Hughes' works are focus of Read-In Chain

By Nicole Ferguson  
ARGUS NEWS EDITOR

Winston-Salem State University participated in a national kick-off to Black History Month on Feb. 3.

The African-American Literature Read-In Chain was sponsored by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English.

The Read-In Chain, an

annual tradition, sets a goal to help promote literacy and particularly to promote the reading of African-American literature.

On a regular basis, the chain includes the reading of all black authors and poets, but this year was a bit different. This year marks the centennial of Langston Hughes' birthday.

The legendary artist received tribute for his accomplishments as the entire Read-In Chain was dedicated to his works.

The chain works just like a chain.

The readers are the links, and the oratorical aspect of the program represents the links being joined together. One by one, right after the other, registered readers read

their favorite Langston Hughes work. Once all the readers, composed of students and faculty, finished reading, they were allowed to read another selection.

The chain lasted for an hour. Not all of the readers simply read their Hughes works. Many performed the

great artist's work. Loagie Meachum sang "Miss Blues Child."

Others, such as Larry Leon Hamlin, read Hughes' work with passion and were full of personality.

"I am very pleased with the turnout," said Elwan-

da Ingram of the about 50 people in attendance. Students enjoyed the Read-In Chain experience.

"I really enjoy poetry, and I enjoy Langston Hughes' (work)," said Billy Ingram, a sophomore business/English major.



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