

Noteworthy

Deaton Receives Fulbright

Staff Reports

Joanna Deaton, a graduating senior from New Cumberland, PA, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in South America. The grant, the first to be awarded to an undergraduate MHC, is a full grant and includes round-trip travel to the country where she will study, a stipend, books, limited health insurance, and a maintenance allowance.

Deaton will study at La Universidad de la Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia, where she will pursue her master's degree in "Communications in Latin America." She will graduate from MHC next fall with a double major in English and communications and a minor in theatre and film.

According to her, the awarding of a full grant to someone just completing an undergraduate program is unusual, and, therefore, even more of an honor. The program allows the option of conducting individual research in an area of interest or pursuing an advanced degree.

Deaton wanted the master's degree and this new program at the university in Bogota fits perfectly into what I want to do," she says. She feels this is where she is meant to go as she was in Bogota recently with the Friendship Force. While there, she made friends with several students who took her to the elite-run school and helped her pick up her studies.

There is still some unrest in Latin American countries; and, if possible, I wanted to avoid public universities. My new friends knew of this program at Universidad de la Javeriana and helped me find more information about it."

Ultimately she hopes to use her communications and language skills--she is conversant in Spanish--to become a foreign correspondent for a U.S. agency or to write for a Colombian newspaper. Because there are no Spanish-language newspapers in Bogota, but most Colombians speak English, many buy newspapers such as the New York Times just to practice their Spanish, not for the news value. This gives Deaton a third career possibility, that of starting an English-language version of a Colombian newspaper.

Back to Nature with Taxonomy Class

By Becky Homer
Editor-in-Chief

When asked where they spent Spring Break, most students respond, "Florida" or "home." However, one group of MHC students had an answer which seems a bit unusual: "Well, we went to the swamp."

Dr. Don McLeod's plant taxonomy class did just that: they visited several southern swamps, investigating flora and fauna native to the areas into which they travelled.

The purpose of the expedition was to be exposed to and attempt to learn about and collect plants from the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. As one of the course requirements, McLeod's students have to compile an herbarium, or collection, of 100 species of plants representing 38 different families. The group takes shorter field trips on a weekly basis to do this, but an extended trip such as this one gave them the opportunity to gather specimens of plants they would not normally have had the chance to obtain.

The group visited such places as Dreher Island State Park on Lake Murray, SC; Hunting Island State Park near Beaufort, SC; The Hostel in the Forest in Brunswick, GA; and the Okefenokee Swamp near Folkston, GA.

The highlight of the trip was the visit to Okefenokee, which spanned two days. "The place is covered with old live oak, some in excess of six to seven feet



At the Hostel in the Forest: Preparing plants collected en route from Hunting Island that day with a peacock.



Discussing the ecology and beauty of the maritime forest at Hunting Island.

in diameter, with the crowns (treetops) spanning 125 to 140 feet," said Travis Smith, a senior who assists the class.

While there, the group took a five-hour canoe trip into the swamp, covering about eight

miles and sighting more than thirty alligators which ranged in size from two feet to over twelve feet. They also walked three-fourths of a mile on a wooden boardwalk through the swamp in the pouring rain to a tower in order to try to spot Sandhill Cranes. All members of the group braved the elements on this successful adventure, and Smith voiced the opinion of many of the group: "You really have to love nature and wild things to enjoy a 4,000 foot walk in that kind of rain, but I would have done it if it had been three miles, just for the chance to see Sandhill Cranes." The species of crane which they sighted is very rare.

Members of the crew who spent the week in the wilderness were Ed Hellier, Tony Foster, Travis Smith, Georgia Harrington, Karen Sauls, Lisa Rhodes, Tonya Diston, Rhonda Calloway, Traci Oliver, Dawn Willis, Laura Hawk, Henry Young, Del Ponder, Don McLeod, Stephanie Smith, and Fuller McLeod.

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