



# Bluefield State College

## **ISO Travels to Washington, DC for Annual End-of-Year Trip**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 2, 2017**

After a very active year for the Bluefield State College International Student Organization (ISO), members—or, at least, twelve of those who could escape for a few days away from their school work along with the club’s three advisors—ventured to the nation’s capital, Washington, DC, from Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, April 30, 2017. Students from Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, The Gambia, Canada, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Venezuela, New Zealand, Zimbabwe, and the United States, were represented.

Celebrating a year of accomplishments, including revising and expanding the club’s email list, creating a club banner, conducting regular twice monthly club meetings, hosting a Welcome Reception for International Students in August of 2016, participating in a community BBQ and Voter Registration Outreach in September of 2016, celebrating UN Day in October of 2016, touring the nuclear bunker and observing the Christmas lighting and participating in the sing-a-long at the Greenbrier in December 2016, distributing roses in honor of International Women’s Day in March 2017, participating in the BSC Career Fair in March of 2017, assisting with the BSC 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Regional Technology Conference in April of 2017, participating in the community event of “Taste Around the World” in April of 2017, in addition to revising its constitution and electing new officers for the next academic year, amongst other activities, the ISO was ready for a break.

International Initiatives Director, Professor Sudhakar Jamkhandi arranged—with funding from the office of Dr. Guy Sims, Assistant to the President for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and the Title IX and Title III Coordinator at BSC—for the students and advisors to stay in the accommodating Virginia Suites in Arlington, Virginia, right near the Potomac River and only ten minutes from the White House. Friendly staff, under the direction of Ms. Martha Valenzuela and Mr. Alexander Constantinou, including Mr. Mohammed, Ms. Veronica, Mr. B, and Mr. Jordan, attended to ISO members’ needs and preferences, and students reported that the accommodations were secure, relaxing, and a welcomed respite.

After a long six-hour journey by van on Friday, students checked into their rooms at The Virginia Suites and enjoyed a fun-filled filling dinner at Piola Italian Restaurant before heading out for a few hours before retiring for the night.

On Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, ISO members and advisors toured the National Museum of the American Indian where they learned some of the history of the original inhabitants of the Americas, their relationships with the emigrating European settlers, and the long series of failed

treaties which became known as “bad paper”. As well, the third floor of the four-story museum has a number of very interesting photos, captions, videos, and historical depictions of the Great Inka Road, an early engineering marvel of the native peoples which is more than 20,000 miles long, crossing mountains, tropical lowlands, rivers, deserts, and linking in a vast network the Inka Empire’s many villages and peoples from Cusco, which was the spiritual center of the Inka world, to the farthest reaches of their civilization stretching from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile. In 2014, the United Nations cultural agency, UNESCO, recognized the monumental achievement of the Inka Road by designating it as a World Heritage site.

Saturday’s lunch was had at the Corner Bakery Café inside the National Press Building and, afterwards, members had to navigate through nearly 200,000 participants in a People’s Climate March on Washington, marking Donald J. Trump’s first 100 days as President of the United States. With the temperature reaching a sweltering 91 degrees Fahrenheit by 3:00 p.m., ISO members headed past the large crowds which surrounded the Washington Monument and took in visits to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial before calling it a day and heading back to The Virginia Suites for an excellent seafood dinner at the Quarterdeck Restaurant and another venture out into the DC nightlife.

With aching legs and tired bodies, the group embarked on its journey home on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, on a beautiful, sunny, and breezy day with blue skies, making it home to Bluefield in the early evening. It truly was an adventure to remember.

The ISO is thankful for all of those who contributed to a successful year of activities, fellowship and comradery, and learning. With continuous support from BSC President Dr. Marsha V. Krotseng, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Angela Lambert, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dr. JoAnn Robinson, as well as Dr. Guy Sims and Dr. Sudhakar Jamkhandi, mentioned earlier, members of the ISO can surely say that: “We are all in this together.”

Accompanying photos are for BSC publicity purposes only.

For additional information, contact either ISO President Jelena Jevtić at [jevtic\\_jn@live.bluefieldstate.edu](mailto:jevtic_jn@live.bluefieldstate.edu), or Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D. at [ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu](mailto:ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu) or 304.327.4034.

 <h1 style="text-align: center;">Bluefield State College</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">International Student Organization (ISO)</h2>			
<b>Jelena Jevtić</b> <b>President</b>	<b>Shonté Cargill</b> <b>Vice President</b>	<b>Marta Briales</b> <b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Thais Nogueira Nunes</b> <b>Secretary</b>
Kim Reed	Angela Wassum	Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.	

<p>ISO Advisor  <a href="mailto:kreed@bluefieldstate.edu">kreed@bluefieldstate.edu</a>  O: 304.327.4114  Office: D119</p>	<p>ISO Advisor  <a href="mailto:awassum@bluefieldstate.edu">awassum@bluefieldstate.edu</a>  O: 304.327.4450  Office: C107</p>	<p>ISO Advisor  <a href="mailto:ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu">ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu</a>  O: 304.327.4034  M: 512.924.2364  Office: B120</p>
<p>To be added to or deleted from the <b>ISO email listserv</b>, send a message requesting either to be added or deleted to <a href="mailto:ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu">ccavell@bluefieldstate.edu</a>.</p>		
<p>ISO meetings are held twice a month on the first and third Mondays of each month during the fall and spring semesters at 11:00 a.m. in the Greek Lounge of the Othello Harris-Jefferson Student Center on the BSC Bluefield, WV campus.</p>		



# Bluefield State College

## International Student Organization

*E pluribus unum. "Out of many, one."*

**Our diversity is our strength!**

