Flag dedication ceremony celebrates the world

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OF THE IN MOTION STAFF

Tuesday, November 14, 2000, Global Friends, the international student organization at DBCC, presented the Flag Dedication Ceremony in Building 37 on the Daytona Beach Campus.

President Clinton and the secretary of education declared the week of November 13 the International Education Week, and for the first time in 33 years, the executive office has addressed the international education at DBCC. Several events were organized to celebrate the special occasion and to bring together the approximately 350 international students that pursue their education at our college.

DBCC celebrated the kick-off event for the week with the Flag Dedication Ceremony, attempting to identify the 52 countries that our international students represent. Under the leadership of Nao Tsuurumaki, the president of Global Friends, and with the assistance of faculty advisors Judy Campbell and Ray Cornelius as well as

Director of Student Activities Bruce Crook, the flags have been collected and can now be viewed in Building 37.

Dr. Kent Sharple, the president of the college was also present at the ceremony and shared his thoughts with the audience. "As a community college, we are aware of the growing interdependence of the nations of the world and of the rich domestic multicultural diversity that we enjoy," said Dr. Sharple. "It is our duty and responsibility to ensure that our students are prepared to meet the challenges of this new global economy that we are all facing, and one way to accomplish that goal is to welcome international students to college, so both parties can benefit from the opportunity to experience the world in the classroom," Dr. Sharple continued.

It is indeed a great chance to expand your cultural horizons and make friends that could share with you their traditions and backgrounds. For Valerie Stevens-Duckie, a Jamaican native and mother of five, the Global Friends club is a prime example of the unity among the students at DBCC.

"Global Friends made it possible for many of us to feel home away from home," Valerie said at the ceremony.

This is very important, especially when you are alone here, hundreds if not of miles away from your family.

Nao Tsuurumaki came all the way from Japan, but in spite of the distance, he adapted to college life with the help of his friends from the club.

"Although this is an organization, and we have duties to perform, Global Friends is so much more," Nao said. "We meet outside school and try to help those of us who need it. It is also a very interesting experience because each student is unique and brings his or her own culture, ideas and perspective on things, and that makes it so interesting," Nao added.

Yvan Martino, who was a citizen of...