

International Bulldawg Newsletter

April 2007

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Welcome from the Center

Aretha Jones – Cook Associate Dean and Director

I am so very pleased with the programming from the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center in the month of February and March. The activities provided in these months were great demonstrated examples of working together for the students we serve. Thank you again for record breaking attendance at our February and March activities. The staff at the center hopes that you are preparing for your final exams, and most of all that you will do well. If any of you need a quiet place to study or prepare for your exams, let the staff know and we will provide you with that space. We still have a few more events this semester and as always I am looking forward to seeing you there. To our students that are graduating; thank you so very much for choosing Mississippi State University. As you continue your journey, remember us here at the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center, send other students to us, let us know where you are and what you are doing every once in a while. We would love to hear from you. Continue on this precious journey of life with much happiness. HAPPY SPRING EVERYBODY!!

International Fiesta 2007

One of my favorite days of the year is a particular Saturday early each spring. For the years I've lived in Starkville the International Fiesta has been a highlight for me and my family. From the early days when it was held downtown through its transition to the MSU campus, I've looked forward to the food, the music, the cultural displays, the dancing, as well as the chance to visit with so many friends.....and did I mention the food? The festivities actually begin the week before the Fiesta with a daily display of flags downtown. There will also be an international film festival at 7:30 Monday through Thursday evenings (April 9-12) in the OTC classroom at the Sanderson Center. (Please check our website at www.wneighbors.org for a complete schedule.) This year's International Fiesta will be held on April 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Junction. Besides the cuisine, displays, and entertainment, there will be piñatas and other games and activities for children. In addition, the Fiesta will be followed by a match on the drill field between the MSU Cricket Dawgs and Ole Miss. When people think about cultural diversity in the U.S., their minds often go to Los Angeles, New York, or Atlanta, but we have the opportunity right where we are to experience an amazing variety of cultures and to meet people from seventy plus countries. The International Fiesta is about experiencing that diversity in many forms. Come for the food, stay for the entertainment, and get to know neighbors from around the world. *Contributed by Diana Bridges President World Neighbor Organization*



Songkran

Songkran is an ancient Thai New Year celebration according to the Thai solar calendar that usually falls on April 13 of each year and lasts for 3 days. In the first day morning, merit-making rituals are performed and offerings are made to the Buddhist monks. Buddha images are bathed with perfume water in a gesture of respect. On the second day, a family day, youngsters pour perfumed water over the elders' hand in a gesture of respect, and the elders bless them. In the afternoon of the three days, teenagers and children play the water-splashing ceremony and other festivities which is the most fun-filled part of the celebrations. <http://www.tat.or.th/>

Contributed by Ms. Peerawan Wiwattananon. Thai Students and Scholars Association

Special Days for the Month

April 2007						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

April 1 April Fools Day

April 6 Spring Holiday

April 8 Easter Sunday

April 9 - 12 World Neighbors Film Series

April 13 Thai, Cambodian & Laos New Year

April 14 International Fiesta

April 18 Zimbabwe Independence Day

April 21 Cotton District Arts Festival

April 28 Cricket World Cup Closing Ceremony



“Elephants spray water on motorcyclists during a festival to mark Songkran, or Thai New Year, which falls on 13 April.”
BBC News

Songkran celebrated in Thailand



Indian Student Association's Maroon Vibes II



Maroon Vibes II consisted of competitions in the areas of singing, dancing, and a fashion show on March 24th in Lee Auditorium. The Universities that came were Millsaps, University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi University for Women, Jackson State University, and Mississippi State University. A panel of judges decided on the winners in each category. Dr. Stephen Cottrell and Mrs. Renuka Shivaji were two of the many judges picked for this event. The program started with a colorful display the Indian flag colors and kites suspended from the stage ceiling. The stage was designed by architecture students. The winners of various competitions were:

Singing (Duet and Solo): Mississippi State University
 Fashion Show: Mississippi State University
 Instruments: University of Southern Mississippi
 Regional Dance: Millsaps
 Classical Dance: Millsaps
 Bollywood/Fusion: Mississippi State University



Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe, officially the Republic of Zimbabwe and formerly Republic of Rhodesia, is a landlocked country in the southern part of the continent of Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. It borders South Africa to the south, Botswana to the southwest, Zambia to the northwest, and Mozambique to the east. The name Zimbabwe derives from "dzimba dzemabwe" meaning "houses of stone" in the Shona language. Its use as the country's name is a tribute to Great Zimbabwe, site of the capital of the Munhumutapa Empire. (Wikipedia)

Events and Announcements

International Film Series:

April 9 – 12, 2007

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:30pm.

Location: OTC room Sanderson Center

Movies: Swing Girls, House of Flying Daggers, Yasmin and Sonar No Cuesta Nada.

International Fiesta : April 14, 2007

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: The Junction (Location will change if it rains)

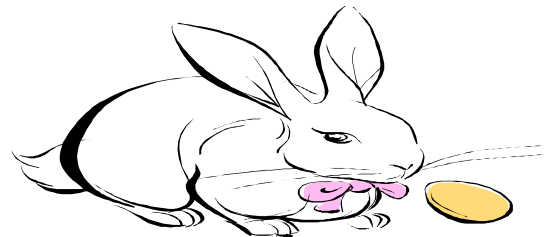
This festival includes a parade of flags, food, handicrafts, fashion shows and entertainment by various international student organizations.

Cricket Game : April 14, 2007

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Location: Drill Field (The game will be cancelled if it rains)

Teams: MSUCC and Ole Miss.



Easter

Easter, also known as Pascha, the Feast of the Resurrection, the Sunday of the Resurrection, or Resurrection Day, is the most important religious feast of the Christian liturgical year, observed between late March and late April (early April to early May in Eastern Christianity). It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which his followers believe occurred on the third day after his death by crucifixion some time in the period AD 27 to 33. In the Roman Catholic Church, Easter is actually an eight-day feast called the Octave of Easter. Easter also refers to the season of the church year, lasting for fifty days, from Easter Sunday through Pentecost. (wikipedia)

Celebrating Diversity

Colors

My skin is kind of sort of brownish
 Pinkish yellowish white.
 My eyes are grayish blueish green,
 But I'm told they look orange in the night.
 My hair is reddish blondish brown,
 But it's silver when it's wet.
 And all the colors I am inside
 Have not been invented yet.

By Shel Silverstein

(Contributed by Jonathan Bishop)

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