

## International Bulldog Newsletter

April 2008

Volume 3, Issue 4

### *Welcome from the Center*

March has been an exciting as well as turbulent month for MSU. Women's History Month always attracts great talent and speakers to campus and this year we had Civil Rights lawyer Vanita Gupta, a host of faculty and staff at International Women's Day, and a fantastic cast for V-Day Monologues. Right here on our beautiful campus we hosted the grand opening of our newly renovated Colvard Student Union. HCDC had a wonderful open house that attracted a host of visitors. As April sets in we have the International Fiesta and Unity Week celebrations highlighting diversity and the coming together of various people on campus. We slowly have started winding down as finals' week approaches; so good luck with your exams and various final projects.

### *International Women's Day (March 8)*



*Photos: Jackie Park*

International Woman's Day (IWD) is a very important and special day for many people across the world. It has a global message for everyone: a message of progress and hope. It's about celebrating being a woman. It's about recognizing women's achievements and success. It's a national holiday in nearly two dozen nations, including China, Italy and Russia, but in some countries people don't even know about this day. Here at MSU, we want people to know and we want women to talk. This year Holmes Cultural Diversity Center's International Women's Week programming consisted of a presentation about the history of IWD and the different issues that women face throughout the world; a panel discussion about the abuse of female bodies by Female Genital Circumcision and plastic surgery, and screening of a Senegalese movie 'Moolaade' covering the issue of Female Genital Circumcision. Many female issues need resolving worldwide. We all have potential but not necessarily a voice, so we need help and support! We have something to say and definitely want to be heard! We are all very different and yet have much in common. We want to be respected for what we are. Happy Women's Day!

*Article contributed by Elvira Gayfullina*

### *African Night (Feb. 24)*

If you happened by the Colvard Student Union late one Sunday night in February, it is possible that the rhythmic beating of drums accompanied your steps. The source of the drum beats that resonated throughout the stairwells of the Union and off the surrounding

### *Events for the Month*

National Poetry Month &  
 Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 2008						
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27	28	29	30			

- April 1 International Film Series:  
 My Big Fat Greek Wedding
- April 2 Let's Speak on It
- April 2 International Film Series:  
 Organize Isler (Organized Jobs)
- April 4 International Tax Workshop
- April 4 International Film Series:  
 Chak de India
- April 5 International Fiesta
- April 7-13 Unity Week: Celebrating  
 Multiculturalism
- April 12 Maroon Vibes
- April 13 International Children's Day
- April 18 Zimbabwe Independence Day
- April 27 Sierra Leone Independence Day





*Photos: Arif Qayyum*

buildings was African Night. The African Student Association (ASA) hosted their annual event. The night is a celebration of African culture and a presentation of that diverse and rich culture to the people of MSU and the surrounding community. Besides the joyous music and abundant amount of information, there was also food of a traditional African variety. ASA fed almost 300 people ensuring that both their belly and their head would be full by the end of the night. As part of the festivities, there were several countries represented during an informative slideshow presentation that highlighted each respective country's attractions, culture, history, and other unique qualities. ASA members presented the information on their countries. The drum line also consisted of ASA members. Dr. Robert Damm, associate professor of music at MSU, drummed alongside the ASA members. Renowned musician Bernard Woma also added to the music. Woma played with passion and command on a traditional African instrument known as the gyil. Along with Woma, there was another special guest in attendance, Togbui Bakata, a Ghanaian tribal king and professor of manufacturing technology at Jackson State University. Bakata was the keynote speaker and guest of honor. Black Voices of MSU also performed at the event adding a soulful Gospel sound to the mix. Having traveled to Uganda, East Africa, the night was a resounding reminder of the beauty of African culture. Though I may not be able to return to Uganda anytime soon, I can hopefully enjoy the annual reminiscences that African Night provides. If you were unable to attend then you missed a unique and enjoyable experience. If you did attend then you know this to be true. Until next year, let us remember Africa as it was presented on that night – beautiful and rejoicing.

*Article contributed by Brent McLemore*



### *V-Day Monologues (March 25)*

Vagina Monologues is a play written by Eve Ensler. She traveled around the world listening to different women's stories which were sad, happy, funny, painful and horrifying. She then decided to tell their different stories. The award-winning play features monologues recited from the perspective of different women. Each speech

## *Events and Announcements*

### **April 2: Let's Speak on It**

Presenter: Dr. LeKeisha Williams  
Location: Mitchell Memorial Library  
Time: 7:00pm

### **April 4: International Tax Workshop**

Presenters: Dr. Stephen Cottrell & Ms. Shaz Akram  
Location: Swalm Building – Eastman Auditorium  
Time: 2:00pm  
Sponsor: Office of Admissions and Scholarships

### **International Film Series:**

Presenters: World Neighbors Association & Holmes Cultural Diversity Center

### **April 1: My Big Fat Greek Wedding**

Location: Taylor Auditorium  
Time: 7:00-9:00pm  
Sponsor: Pakistani Student Association

### **April 2: Organize Isler (Organized Jobs)**

Location: Rogers Auditorium  
Time: 7:00-9:00pm  
Sponsor: Turkish Student Association

### **April 4: Chak de India**

Location: Rogers Auditorium  
Time: 7:00-9:00pm  
Sponsor: Indian Student Association

### **April 4: Let's Speak on It**

Presenter: Dr. LaKeisha Williams  
Location: Mitchell Memorial Library  
Time: 12 Noon

### **April 5: International Fiesta**

Present: World Neighbors Association  
Location: The Junction  
Time: 10:00 am  
Sponsor: ESL

## **Unity Week: Celebrating Multiculturalism**

**April 7: How to Day: Learn how to tie a African headscarf, use chopsticks and apply Henna - Drill Field 11-1pm**

**Silent Auction - Drill Field 11-1pm**  
**Wall Project starts**

**April 8: Dunking Booth, free pizza, popcorn**  
**Silent Auction - Drill Field 11-1pm**



Photos: Kristen Hines

confronts topics such as love, rape, sex, mutilation, birth, and others. This year "Vagina Monologues" were performed at MSU by 15 women, who were students, faculty and staff members. This year's event was dedicated to the women of Katrina in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. The event raised almost \$500 due to the generous donations of the students, community people, staff and faculty. This money was donated to the Women of Katrina and the Gulf South and the Rape Crisis Center in Columbus. The 90-minute show brought about a storm of cheers and laughs. It was moving, sad and funny. It aims at trying to create a better, more respectable attitude towards women. The Holmes Cultural Diversity manages to bring the most diverse and educational programs to MSU's campus. Erika Celeste with the help of Shaz Akram directed and produced the monologues. It was a night to remember long after the laughter and the applause died down. *Article Contributed by Elvira Gayfullina*

### *Iranian New Year Celebration*

**Norooz** - The Persian or Iranian New Year is a national holiday in Iran and some other Middle East countries. As nature starts its rebirth Iranian people kick off its traditional celebration. This holiday was celebrated by the whole diverse MSU population and the Iranian Student Association. The beautifully decorated Ballroom in the Union became a cozy Iranian nook that attracted people of different ages and backgrounds. When one entered the ballroom one saw beautiful table arrangements and a beautiful stage display. Every item had its own meaning: a few coins, representing wealth, a basket of painted eggs, representing fertility, a copy of the holy Quran and a goldfish in a bowl of water representing fertility and life. We wish everybody a wealthy and happy life! Happy Norooz! *Article by Elvira Gayfullina*



#### **Zimbabwe**

The red stripes represent the blood shed for independence; the yellow represents the country's mineral wealth; the green symbolizes Zimbabwe's agriculture and the land; the black stripe represents the African people; and the white stands for peace. The Great Zimbabwe bird is a national symbol and the red star behind the bird represents socialism.



#### **Sierra**

The green stripe represents agriculture, the country's natural wealth and its mountains. The white stripe stands for justice and unity, and blue represents the Atlantic Ocean and the harbor of Freetown, the country's capital.

## *Events and Announcements*

(Continued from 2)

**April 9: Writing on the Wall:  
Canned Food Pyramid Competition  
Silent Auction - Drill Field 11-1pm**

**April 10: Tearing Down the Wall:  
Diversity Award Recognition –  
Student Organization  
Silent Auction concludes  
Drill Field 11-1pm**

**April 11: Barbeque 11-1pm Drill Field  
Native American Pow Wow  
Location: The Junction  
Time: 6:00pm-10:00 pm**

**April 12: Native American Pow Wow  
Location: The Junction  
Time: 10:00am-10:00pm**

**April 12: Maroon Vibes  
Location: Humphrey Coliseum  
Time: 6:00pm  
Sponsor: Indian Student Association**

**April 13: International Children's Day  
Location: Drill Field  
Time: 1:00-3:00pm  
Sponsor: Turkish Student Association**



### **Fun Facts around the World!**



The first city in modern history to reach 1 million people was London in 1811.



Using satellite-surveying techniques, scientists have determined that Los Angeles, California is moving east. At a rate estimated to be about one-fifth of an inch per year, the city is moving closer to the San Gabriel Mountains.

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