

# International Bulldawg Newsletter

February 2008

Volume 3, Issue 2

## Welcome from the Center

February is dominated by red and ebony. Red is the color of the Chinese New Year celebrations and ebony symbolizes Black History Month. So much is going on in this historical month. Some of you would wonder why just one particular month commemorates the struggles of centuries of a group of Americans? It's a very important month in American history. It is dedicated to highlighting growth, overcoming struggles, innovation, strength, awareness and renewal. It is synonymous with everything positive and we hope that you can attend some of the Black History programs.

The Chinese New Year Celebration is one of the largest celebrations organized by the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars, faculty, staff and Chinese community around the Golden Triangle area of Mississippi. Currently MSU has 113 Chinese students enrolled, around 86 faculty/staff/researchers and a visiting group of 23 special exchange students through the School of Engineering from the prestigious Beijing Institute of Technology. The Associate Dean of Engineering, Dr. Roger King, through a special exchange program brings these students to MSU. The Chinese students despite being in tough graduate and undergraduate programs make concerted efforts to bring the colors, taste and sights of China straight to MSU.

## Cultural Catwalk

Cultural Catwalk is a performance sponsored annually by the HCDC Peer Counselors and Peer Ambassadors for everybody to see and enjoy different cultures. It was a real catwalk where students were couturiers and models. Many student organizations took part in this show including African Student Association, NACH, Models of Distinction, Ballroom Dance Club, Indian Student Association and Fashion Board. Clothes are an integral part of our life and traditional attire plays a very important part in many cultures. Identifying with a certain type of attire specifically showcases your identity dependent on occasion or location. MSU students had a chance to see what kind of dress people wear in different parts of India, Africa and America. MSU Fashion Board presented American outfits. That was a wonderful show full of different colors and music. Thanks to the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center and all its members for this great event! Let's keep on exploring the world in MSU! *Contributed by Elvira Gayfullina*



*Students performing at the Cultural Catwalk.*

## Entries for the Month

### Black History Month



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**Feb. 4 Sri Lanka Independence Day**

**Feb. 6 Let's Speak on It**

**Feb. 7 Black History Month Jeopardy**

**Feb. 7 Chinese New Year**

**Feb. 7 Korean New Year**

**Feb. 7 Vietnamese New Year**

**Feb. 8 Chinese New Year Party**

**Feb. 12 Lyceum Series**

**Feb. 12 Chile Independence Day**

**Feb. 14 Valentines Day**

**Feb. 16 Lithuania Independence Day**

**Feb. 18 Gambia Independence Day**

**Feb. 24 African Night**

**Feb. 24 Estonia Independence Day**

**Feb. 27 Dominican Republic Independence Day**



*Students performing at the Cultural Catwalk.*



### Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is one of the biggest traditional holidays in China. Some Chinese people take several days off from work to celebrate the New Year. You might notice that Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year. This is because Chinese New Year is based on lunar calendar. The New Year begins on the first day of the first lunar month and ends on the 15<sup>th</sup>, when the moon is brightest. Chinese people like to wear red clothes especially on these days. This is because red color symbolizes fire and, according to Chinese legend, it can frighten evil spirits and bad luck away. This year Chinese year 4706 begins on Feb. 7.



### Korean New Year

Most Korean people celebrate New Year, also known as “**Solnal**,” twice a year. Some celebrate it on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and some celebrate it on the first day of the Lunar Year. Usually, it last about three days. Family gathering and sharing foods are traditional ways to celebrate New Year. On the New Year, Korean people eat traditional rice cake soup called “**Tteok Guk**.” For fun, Korean parents usually say to their small children that they need to eat a bowl of Tteok Guk in order to get one year older. Therefore, it’s a common happening to see that the younger brother in a family eats more bowls of the soup than his older brother and declare that he is the older brother now.

## *Events and Announcements*

### **February 6: Monthly Lecture Series**

#### **'Let's Speak On It'**

Topic: “The Answer is Yes”

Presenter: Dr. Stephen Middleton - Director of the African American Studies Program, MSU

Location: Library Auditorium

Time: Noon - 1:00 p.m.

### **February 7: Black History Month Keynote**

Address: Mr. Joe L. Dudley, Sr., President and CEO of Dudley Products, Inc., one of the world's largest manufacturer's and distributors of hair-care and beauty products.

Location: Lee Hall Auditorium

Time: 7:00 p.m.

### **February 8: Chinese New Year Party**

Presenter: The Association of Chinese Students and Scholars (ACSS)

Location: Wise Center Auditorium

Time: Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. on the first floor in the cafeteria and the program starts at 7:15 p.m.

Fee: \$6.00 per person

### **February 14: Valentine Party**

Presenter: World Neighbors Association (WNA), and English as a Second Language (ESL)

Location: Coskrey Auditorium, Memorial Hall

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

This event is free and open to everyone.

### **February 24: African Night**

Presenter: African Student Association of MSU

Celebrating Africa’s food, music, dance, countries and attires.

Location: Student Colvard Union Ballroom

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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



Ice cream was invented in China around 2000BC when the Chinese packed a soft milk and rice mixture in the snow.



Four of the five fastest land animals live in Africa - the cheetah, which can run at an amazing 70 miles per hour, wildebeest, lion and gazelle.



## Vietnamese New Year

Vietnamese New Year, also known as **Tết**, is the most important and popular holiday in Vietnam. Vietnamese New Year is also based on lunar calendar. Therefore, it is celebrated on the same day as Chinese New Year. Vietnamese peoples visit their family and family alters during Tết. Although Tết is a national holiday among all Vietnamese, each region and religion has its own customs. Tết in the three Vietnamese regions can be divided into three periods, known as *Tết Nguyên Đán*, *Giao Thừa*, and *Tân Niên*, representing the preparation before Tết, the eve of Tết, and the days of and following Tết, respectively.



## About Valentine's Day

When you go to a grocery store and look around, you can figure out what's our next holiday even before looking at your calendar. We all know the pattern of holidays. After we see a lot of intentionally scary Halloween goods, we see some turkeys, and then finally we see Santa Claus; and we know that we have survived another year. These days when you go to the same grocery store, you will see XL size stuffed beasts holding cute red heart-shaped boxes. And you know what's inside those boxes—chocolates for Valentine. I came from South Korea, and I can say that I am pretty familiar with Valentine's Day. Like in America, we also celebrate Valentine's Day. However, we celebrate in a different way. Valentine's Day in Korea is the day when girls give chocolates to the boys they like. I realized that in America, it's open to both genders. You might wonder when the Korean boys can express their love. The boys wait exactly one month from Valentine's Day. March 14 is called "White Day," and it is the day for boys to give candies to girls who gave them Chocolates on Feb. 14. And here is the fun part. There is another day called "Black Day." You might already notice the irresistibly negative impression of this name. This is a month later from White Day. 14th of April is for the poor single people whom didn't receive any chocolates or candies on Valentine's Day or White Day. Those people then get together and eat extremely popular black noodles called "Za-Zang-Men," and comfort each other. Though, I should say these days are created in order to have fun together instead of being depressed together. I think it is always fun to know how different countries celebrate the same holidays. If you say that you know about White Day and Black Day to Korean students you meet on the campus, I am sure they will be very surprised. And, they will appreciate your knowledge about South Korea. Lastly, I do wish you all have a great Valentine's Day this year. I might have to look forward to eating the black noodles again this year though. *Contributed by Jackie Park*



*Saint Valentine of Terni and his disciples. 14th Century France.*



## Sri Lanka

The green stripe represents Sri Lanka's minority Muslims and the orange stripe the minority Hindu Tamils. The yellow represents Buddhism and the crimson stands for a long life. The golden lion is an ancient symbol of the people and the sword is a symbol of authority. The pipul tree leaves are a Buddhist symbol and come from the tree, under which Gautama is said to have received enlightenment and become Buddha. Individually the leaves represent love, compassion, sympathy and equanimity.



## Chile

The red stripe represents the blood of patriots who fought for Chile's independence. The white stripe symbolizes the snow of the Andes Mountains; while the blue stripe represents the sky. The star on the flag stresses the fact that Chile is a Unitarian republic, and not a federal republic.



## Lithuania

Lithuanian's flag colors are based on the country's traditional national dress - the yellow stripe represents the sun, Lithuania's fields of wheat and prosperity; the green symbolizes the country's forests, flora and hope; and the red stands for the blood spilt for independence, courage and the people's love for Lithuania.



## The Gambia

The red stripe represents the sun shining on the Gambia River and the blue represents that river, which runs through the centre of the country and the centre of the flag. The green symbolizes the land, forests and agriculture and the white stripes stand for unity, peace and purity.



## Estonia

The colors of the national flag represent Estonia's history, nature and folk costumes. The blue stripe represents faith, loyalty and devotion as well as the sky, sea, and lakes. The black symbolizes the dark past and suffering of the Estonian people as well as the traditional black jacket of the Estonian peasant. The white represents striving towards enlightenment and virtue, hope and freedom. White also symbolizes the color of birch bark and snow, and Estonian summer nights illuminated by the midnight sun.



## Dominican Republic

The blue in the Dominican Republic flag stands for liberty; the color red for the fire and bloodshed of the struggle for independence; and the white cross symbolizes the sacrifice of the people.

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