

International Bulldawg Newsletter

January 2007

Volume 2, Issue 1

Welcome from the Center

Aretha Jones – Cook Associate Dean and Director

Happy New Year and welcome to the January issue of the international newsletter. The HCDC staff hopes you will find these articles useful and interesting. In this issue we wanted to focus on ways in which different cultures celebrated the New Year. We would like to hear from you if you have information to share about how your culture celebrates New Year, if at all. We are trying to put together a file on different New Year culture celebrations. The staff will be putting together some great programs for minority and international students in 2007. HCDC hopes you will continue to join us in our year long celebration of the many cultures at Mississippi State University. I sincerely hope that each of you will have a great semester and 2007!!!

The front desk smile

Jerrie Bishop

As I sit at the front desk, I talk with all the students about their adventures during the holidays. It's a treat to watch the faces of the International Students who enter our office for the first time with an apprehensive expression on their face, change to expressions of relief and relaxation after receiving all the information that they had requested and learning things that our center has to offer them. I've also enjoyed having conversations with the International Students about their travels abroad. Hearing about the fun they had while they were home with friends and relatives and the problems that they may have encountered at the airports. The most interesting thing I heard from most of the students was that they did nothing at all but lounge around all day in "PJs" and relax. They all seemed very excited to return to MSU. Happy New Year and welcome back students!

Modern Day New Year Celebrations around the World

January 1 marks the end of a period of remembrance of the passing year, especially on radio, television, and in newspapers, which usually starts right after Christmas Day. Publications often have year-end articles that review the changes during the past year. Common topics include politics, natural disasters, music and the arts, and the listing of significant individuals who died during the past year. Often there are also articles on planned or expected changes in the coming year, such as the description of new laws that often take effect on January 1. This day is traditionally a religious feast, but since the 1900s, has become an occasion for celebration the night of December 31, called New Year's Eve. There are often fireworks at midnight. Depending on the country, individuals may be allowed to burn fireworks, even if it is forbidden the rest of the year. It is also a memorable occasion to make New Year's resolutions, which they hope to fulfill in the coming Year; the most popular ones in the western world include to stop tobacco smoking or drinking, or to lose weight or get physically fit. In all countries that use the Gregorian calendar, with the exception of Israel, New Year's Day is a public holiday. For many of those countries, if January 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then the Friday before or the Monday after will be a public holiday. (*Wikipedia*)



Special Days for the Month

January 2007						
M	T	W	TH	F	S	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	31				

Jan. 1 New Years Day

Jan. 1 Cameroon Independence day

Jan. 1 Haiti Independence day

Jan. 1 Sudan Independence day

Jan. 4 Burma Independence day

Jan. 11 Chad Independence day

Jan. 15 Martin Luther King day

Jan. 20 Star gazing from MSU's Observatory

Jan. 26 Australia Independence day

Spotlight on our Campus....

Our campus is home to a number of state of the art research centers. One of these places is the Laboratory of Animal Functional Genomics directed by Dr. Erdogan Memili at the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences. In this research laboratory, many students and scholars from around the globe work enthusiastically to solve mysteries of life at the beginning of development. The research programs are focused on better understanding and improving animal development and genetics, and are ultimately aimed at enhancing human and animal health. For more information, visit

<http://www.msstate.edu/research/memili/>

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968)



He was a famous leader of the American civil rights movement, a political activist, and a Baptist minister. In 1964, King became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (for his work as a peacemaker, promoting nonviolence and equal treatment for different races). On April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1977, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Jimmy Carter. In 1986, Martin Luther King Day was established as a United States holiday, only the fourth Federal holiday to honor an individual (the other three being in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, George Washington, and Christopher Columbus). In 2004, King was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. He was known as a great public speaker. Dr. King often called for personal responsibility in fostering world peace. King's most influential and well-known public address is the "I Have A Dream" speech, delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.. (Wikipedia).



Burma

Officially **Union of Myanmar** is the largest country by geographical area in mainland Southeast Asia. It is also known as **Burma** or the **Union of Burma** by many bodies and states which do not recognize the ruling military junta. On 4 January 1948, Burma achieved independence from the United Kingdom as the "Union of Burma". Subsequent name changes were on 4 January 1974, to the "Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma"; 23 September 1988, to the "Union of Burma" and, since 18 June 1989, the "Union of Myanmar". Myanmar is bordered by the People's Republic of China on the north, Laos on the east, Thailand on the southeast, Bangladesh on the west, and India on the northwest, with the Andaman Sea to the south, and the Bay of Bengal to the southwest. (Wikipedia).



Australia

Officially the Commonwealth of Australia, is a country in the Southern Hemisphere comprising the mainland of the world's smallest continent and a number of islands in the Southern, Indian, and Pacific Oceans. Neighboring countries include Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea to the north, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the French dependency of New Caledonia to the northeast, and New Zealand to the southeast. The mainland of Australia has been inhabited for more than 42,000 years by Indigenous Australians. After sporadic visits by fishermen from the north and by European explorers and merchants starting in the seventeenth century, the eastern half of the mainland was claimed by the British in 1770 and officially settled through penal transportation as the colony of New South Wales on 26 January 1788. As the population grew and new areas were explored, another five largely self-governing Crown Colonies were successively established over the course of the 19th century. On 1 January 1901, the six colonies became a Federation, and the Commonwealth of Australia was formed. (Wikipedia).

Events and Announcements

The Martin Luther King Day Unity Breakfast and Program (Jan. 15)

Monday, January 15, 2007 at the Bost Extension Center Auditorium. The breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the program will start at 8:00 a.m. The keynote speaker for the program is Mr. Mike Espy, former Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and a former U.S. Representative from the 2nd District of Mississippi. The breakfast and program is an annual event sponsored by Mississippi State University and the community to honor the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There is no cost to attendees. The breakfast is free and open to everyone.

Star gazing from the observatory (Jan. 20)

World Neighbors Association invites the international students to a beautiful field trip to the MSU observatory at South farm to watch the moon, stars and planets through telescopes on Saturday night, January 20. Students and WNA members will need to be outside the Cullis Wade Depot (by football stadium) at 6:30 p.m. They will then be transported to the Observatory which is on South Farm. This event is most suitable for adults and suggest that folks dress warmly because there is no heat in the Observatory and people will be outside, as well. If it is a clear night, we will be able to see planets, the craters on the moon and stars. If the weather is very cloudy and/or rainy, we will need to cancel this event.



Sudan

Officially Republic of Sudan (Arabic: **سودان**) is the largest country by area in Africa and the largest Arab country by area. It is bordered by Egypt to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, Eritrea and Ethiopia to the east, Kenya and Uganda to the southeast, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west, and Libya to the northwest. It is the tenth largest country in the world by area. (Wikipedia).



Chad

(Arabic: **تشاد** (*Tšad*); French: *Tchad*), officially the **Republic of Chad**, is a landlocked country in central Africa. It is listed by *Foreign Policy* as one of the world's top 10 failed states. It borders Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, the Central African Republic to the south, Cameroon and Nigeria to the southwest, and Niger to the west. Due to its distance from the sea and its largely desert climate, the country is sometimes referred to as the "dead heart of Africa". (Wikipedia).

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