

International Bulldawg Newsletter

January 2008

Volume 3, Issue 1

Welcome from the Center

Welcome back everyone. Welcome to all our new students. The Holmes Cultural Diversity Center is very excited to announce that we have a new home in the Colvard Student Union. We are more conveniently located for all our students to visit and utilize our services. The staff and students affiliated with the Center are always on hand to assist so feel free to drop by Suite 220 and chat.

We hope you all had a much needed break from a hectic semester. As we settle into a new year and a new semester we must mention a few of the international events that have affected many of our students. Throughout this year, let us continue to show support to our Pakistani and Kenyan students and their families who have witnessed much violence in their home countries during the past few months.

MSU International Students Outreach Projects

Anas Shqair, a Jordanian graduate student in the computer science and engineering department, was invited to speak to the students of Armstrong Middle School's VIVA Drama class about his country. Anas was invited on Monday Jan. 28 by Jessi Collier a 7th grade student who wanted a speaker to talk about Jordan as part of her project about foreign countries.

The presentation took place at the Drama Club in the school, with an audience of 15 students in the age group of 12-14 years. The presentation lasted for an hour in which Anas talked about the history of Jordan in the ancient & modern ages, royal family, population, food, customs, sports and the famous places in Jordan such as Petra and the Dead Sea.

This experience was very exciting and enjoyable for Anas. He was really impressed by the students who were really smart and willing to learn. Anas hopes that more meetings like this will encourage cross cultural communication between different cultures as well as give everyone the opportunity to understand and respect each other.

Contributed by Anas Shqair



Anas with students from the Armstrong Middle School

An American Graduate Student's Perspective

In a society so connected to the world around it through trade and commerce, entertainment and media, and the realm of politics, the globalization of our campus is undeniably necessary. It seems in fact that it is a small world after all, and our campus should reflect this if students are to be fully prepared for the world that awaits them once they leave. Yet, I believe the reflection of our campus is struggling to portray this globalization. And although efforts are made, it is assumptions made that prevent students from taking advantage of

Entries for the Month National Mentoring Month

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

January 2008						
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	31		

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- Jan. 1 Brunei Independence Day
- Jan. 1 Haiti Independence Day
- Jan. 1 Cameroon Independence Day
- Jan. 1 Samoa Independence Day
- Jan. 1 Sudan Independence Day
- Jan. 1 Chad Independence Day
- Jan. 1 Nauru Independence Day
- Jan. 4 Myanmar Independence Day
- Jan. 16 Let's Speak On It
- Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 26 Kuwait Independence Day
- Jan. 31 Cultural Catwalk

existing opportunities to become more culturally conscious and active in their global citizenship.

For example, each semester HCDC hosts or co-hosts several opportunities for students to experience the world around them through international events. However, many of our American students take international events for granted assuming that if it is an event sponsored by an international organization then it is exclusively for that particular organization. American students can be spotted sporadically in the crowd of people at these events, crowds that are vastly dominated by an international presence. Yet despite intentions, many of our international groups are unable to draw American students. And unfortunately, discouraged or apathetic international groups become less intentional in their efforts to create and advertise their events as inclusive of all cultures.

As an American student, I find that there is tremendous benefit to these events. Not only do I gain valuable knowledge regarding respective international cultures and an increased awareness of international events and issues, I gain friends. International programs should not be viewed as just for international students. Instead, international programming should be viewed as part of the holistic educational process of all students. *Contributed by Brent McLemore.*



Brunei

The coat of arms on the Brunei flag is a crescent (symbol of Islam) joined with a parasol (symbol of monarchy), with two gloves on both sides. Below the crescent is a ribbon. The crescent and ribbon have Arabic inscriptions which translate to "State of Brunei, Abode of peace" and "There is no deity but God, Muhammad is the messenger of God".



Cameroon

Red, yellow and green are the pan-African colors and the pattern of the flag is similar to the French Tricolor. The green color in the flag symbolizes the rich forest vegetation of the country's southern region, as well as signifying hope for a happy future. The red represents independence and unity; while the yellow represents the savannas in the north and the sun as the source of Cameroon's happiness. The star symbolizes the unity of the country.



Samoa

The red base represents courage. The blue stand for freedom and the white represents purity. The five stars symbolize the constellation the Southern Cross, representing the stars Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon, which is smaller because it doesn't shine as brightly as the other stars in the constellation. The cross represents Samoa's geographical position in the world and its link to New Zealand, which also incorporates the Southern Cross on its national flag.



Sudan

Red, white, black and green are called the pan-Arab colors and have been historically linked to the Arab people and Islamic religion for centuries. The colors stand for Arab unity and independence. The red stripe represents Sudan's struggle for independence and the sacrifices of the country's martyrs. The white represents peace, light and optimism. It also represents the White Flag League which was a nationalist group that rose up against colonial rule in 1924. The black represents Sudan; in Arabic 'Sudan' means black. It also represents the black flag of nationalists who fought colonial rule during the Mahdist Revolution, late in 19th century. Green represents Islam, agriculture and the prosperity of the land.

Events and Announcements

Jan. 21: MLK Jr. Unity Breakfast

Location: Union Ballroom

Time: 7:00am

Jan. 31: Cultural Catwalk

Location: Lee Hall Auditorium

Time: 6:00 pm

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).



Haiti

The Haitian flag is an adaptation of the French national flag. The blue stripe represents the union of black Haitians and mulatto Haitians, who are represented by the red stripe.



Kuwait

Red, white, black and green are referred to as pan-Arab colors and have been linked to the Arab people and Islamic faith for centuries. The colors on the Kuwait flag represent Arab unity and independence and are used in the flags of many countries in the region. The green stripe represents the fertility of Arab nations and the black represents the defeat of enemies. The red stands for the blood of the defeated enemy while the white symbolizes honor and purity.



Myanmar

The Blue represents peace and endurance. The red symbolizes courage and gallantry, and the white stands for purity and honor. Together, the cogwheel and ears of rice represent the country's industry and agriculture, as well as the union of the workers and the peasant class. The 14 stars above the 14 cogs represent the 14 states that form the Union of Myanmar.

For suggestions, comments or contributing to the monthly newsletter email Shaz Akram at Sakram@iso.msstate.edu
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