

International Bulldawg Newsletter

March 2008

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Welcome from the Center

International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900's. When one looks back at this time period, it is easy to see that these were turbulent years fraught with radical thought processes. Annually, on March 8th, several events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate their achievements. According to United Nation's statistics, the majority of the 1.3 billion absolute poor are women. Even though women's access to healthcare and education has increased, they still receive less pay than men for the same work. Women are constantly exposed to violence, with rape and domestic violence being two top causes for disability and death in women of reproductive age worldwide. This year, the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center has chosen Female Circumcision as the main theme of MSU's International Women's Day. In many third world countries women are intimidated and forced into compliance under the pretense of religion. On March 5th a Russian exchange student will show a presentation, followed by a panel discussion and a film. This program has been co-sponsored by the Gender Studies Program, Health Education and Wellness, Counseling Center, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, and Amnesty International, Mississippi State University. How can we make a difference at MSU? We need to act locally by creating an awareness of the issues that face many third world countries. We need to create a safe, bright, equal, and rewarding future for girls worldwide. The UN theme for 2008 is 'Investing in Women and Girls.' We would like to send a special message to everyone to appreciate their mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, aunts, and female friends.

2008 Year of the Rat - Chinese New Year

This year on February 8, 2008, the Chinese New Year Party was held at the Wise Center. I am a big fan of Chinese parties on Campus. (At least, I am a big fan of Chinese food!). It was my second time to participate in the Chinese New Year Party, and I had so much fun. Compared to last year, this year the party was more organized, and there was enough food for everyone. Last year, unfortunately, there was not enough food, so some of the audience (including myself) had to watch the great Chinese performance with an empty stomach. However, for this year, the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars put forth great efforts to improve the party and not to repeat the same mistake from last year. The performances were fantastic as usual. The Little Swan Dance Team performed three times that night with great applause from the audience. Many members of the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars also performed Chinese traditional songs and skits. However, the Chinese skits were difficult to understand. Shamefully, I am currently taking Chinese IV in MSU, but I couldn't pick up any words from the skit. However, I could say that those talented Chinese student actors and actresses performed very well just by looking at their acting. For this reason, it was sad for me to see some of the non-Chinese audience start to leave the party. It would be much better if there were English translations of the lines on the screen, so even the non-Chinese audience can understand and enjoy the skits.

Events for the Month

National Women's History Month

March 2008						
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- Mar. 1 Bosnia and Herzegovina Independence Day
- Mar. 2 Morocco Independence Day
- Mar. 5 International Women's Day (Film/Panel Discussion)
Moolaadé: Female Circumcision
- Mar. 5 Let's Speak On It
- Mar. 6 Ghana Independence Day
- Mar. 7 International Tax Workshop
- Mar. 12 Mauritius Independence Day
- Mar. 14 Andorra Independence Day
- Mar. 20 Vagina Monologues
- Mar. 20 Tunisia Independence Day
- Mar. 21 Namibia Independence Day
- Mar. 24 Women's History Month Keynote Address
- Mar. 25 Greece Independence Day
- Mar. 26 Bangladesh Independence Day
- Mar. 28 International Tax Workshop
- Mar. 31 International Film Series

It was very interesting to see how Chinese people celebrate their New Year. When I looked around the audience, I saw many people in different ages and different ethnic group. It is a good sign that many people with different backgrounds are interested in other cultures. I really enjoyed the Chinese New Year Party, and I hope that next year my Chinese will be improved.

Article contributed by Jackie Park



Photos: Elvira Gayfullina

Sankofa: African American Museum on Wheels

Sankofa is a word rich in meaning that is derived from the Ghanaian language. It is actually more like a short proverb than a single word. "Use the wisdom of the past to build the future" is the lesson it teaches. It is an appropriate and profound word to associate with a museum on the history of African Americans, which is precisely what Angela Jennings, curator and founder of Sankofa African American Museum on Wheels, thought when she placed it at the front of her museum's title.

Recently, Angela and her husband brought Sankofa to the campus of Mississippi State. For two days, February 20-21, in the Colvard Student Union, Sankofa told the story of African Americans reaching back as far as the slave trade days of 1860 and bringing it forward to our present day doorsteps.

The museum is full of pieces that bring the story of the African American journey to life for those that walk through its displays. From African art to slave receipts to emancipation literature, powerful images of the Civil Rights Movement, and the numerous displays of African American inventions, the journey is clear and detailed and leaves a lasting impression on the observer.

As a white man, I found that the journey was sometimes hard to swallow. Gruesome images leading up to the Civil Rights Movement portray a cold, callous, and indifferent White race resistant to change.

Events and Announcements

March 5: International Women's Day (Film/Panel Discussion) Moolaadé

Location: McCool-Taylor Auditorium

Time: 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

March 5: Monthly Lecture Series 'Let's Speak On It'

Presenter: Dr. Ann Bailey

Location: Library Auditorium

Time: Noon - 1:00 p.m.

March 7: International Tax Workshop

Special workshop for training international students on how to file taxes.

Present: Dr. Stephen Cottrell & Ms. Shaz Akram

Location: Swalm Building-Eastman Auditorium

Time: 2:00 PM-4:30 PM

March 24: Women's History Month Keynote Address

Presenter: Attorney Vanita Gupta

Location: Lee Hall Auditorium

Time: 7:00 PM

March 28: International Tax Workshop

Special workshop for training international students on how to file taxes.

Presenters: Dr. Stephen Cottrell & Ms. Shaz Akram

Location: Swalm Building-Eastman Auditorium

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

March 31- April 4: International Film Series

Presenters: World Neighbors Association & Holmes Cultural Diversity Center

Location: McCool Hall, Taylor Auditorium

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM



Comprehending it takes work. Understanding it is impossible. But regardless of what might be said, much has changed. However, it is in the spirit of "Sankofa" that we must travel on. Much is still lacking in the fulfillment of a noble man's dream. We must move forward with the wisdom of our past. Not being crushed by the weight of guilt but inspired by the hope this wisdom offers.

Although the journey of the museum belonged to African Americans, its message belongs to us all. So may the wheels of the Sankofa museum continue to carry its story and message into the hearts and minds of those it encounters along its journey.

Article contributed by Brent McLemore, MSU Graduate Student



Community Outreach to a Local Girl Scout International Troop



World Thinking Day-Turkey

Reaching out to the international community in Starkville is a part of the Girl Scouts International Troop mission. The troop is the only international Girl Scouts troop in Starkville and Mississippi. Led by an Indonesian graduate student, Sandra Wattimena-Woolfolk (Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology), twelve girls from different ethnic and religious backgrounds meet on Sundays from 4:00-5:30 PM at the Crossroads International Friendship House. In February, the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world celebrated World Thinking Day (February 22), a day when they are thinking of and celebrating each other. As a part of the celebration, the troop invited Dr. and Mrs. Karsi (originally from Turkey) to give a presentation about their country. Dr. Karsi is an assistant research professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, MSU, and Mrs. Ozlem Karsi is a homemaker. They shared with the troop members, leaders and some of the parents, the geography, culture, unique places, and important days that Turkish people observe and celebrate such as Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha. They brought with them various beautiful hand-knitted items and a wooden craft that Dr. Karsi made when he was a teenager. Mrs. Karsi had also prepared Turkish dishes so that each of us had an opportunity to taste wonderful Turkish food e.g. grape leaves, poca and baklava. She had also prepared Turkish tea and coffee. Everyone enjoyed the meal and learned about Turkish culture. The presentation was also a reminder that each of us is part of a global community. The Girl Scout International Troop (also known as Troop 653) is sponsored by World Neighbors Association and is open to daughters of international students and scholars (as well as Americans) who are in K-6 grade. Do you have a daughter who you think may enjoy doing activities with other international girls? Or, do you simply just want to find out about what we do? Come by and visit us. You can also contact Sandra at sww3@msstate.edu or visit the website <http://gstroop653.clubspaces.com/>.

Article contributed by Sandra Wattimena-Woolfolk

National Women's History Month

Women's History Month is an annual declared month in the United States that highlights contributions of women in history. International Women's Day (IWD) is marked on March 8 every year. It is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women. Started as a political event, the holiday blended in the culture of many countries (primarily Russia and the countries of former Soviet bloc). In some celebrations, the day lost its political flavor, and became simply an occasion for men to express their love to the women around them in a way somewhat similar to Mother's Day and St Valentine's Day mixed together. In others, however, the political and human rights theme as designated by the United Nations runs strong, and political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner. The IWD is also celebrated as the first spring holiday, as in the listed countries the first day of March is considered the first day of the spring season. (Wikipedia)



Finding Delicious American Food in Starkville - for International Students

If you're interested in experiencing some unique American culture in regards to food, particularly of the Southern persuasion, allow me to give you a few spots around town worthy of experiencing. When it comes to good Southern style cooking, you have to try out the lunch specials offered at Cappe's Steakhouse or the Veranda. If you're not able to make lunch, try Cappe's Steakhouse for dinner. If unique atmosphere is what you desire, Stromboli's and Dave's Dark horse Tavern are the perfect pair. In addition to the distinctive character of these restaurants, they also have great pizza. Perhaps Bar-B-Que is the craving of your belly. If so, Little Dooney's and Petty's are right up your alley. Speaking of "Up Your Alley," there is a restaurant bearing this name that offers a unique dish called tamales. You have to try these Southern style Mexican treats. If a good American burger suits you, you have to check out Christy's Hamburgers or Mugshots Bar and Grill. Finally, for desert, you have to try the custard at Bop's. However, I must caution you. It can become addictive. You can find a complete listing of Starkville's restaurants at www.starkville.com.

Article Contributed by Brent McLemore





Bosnia and Herzegovina

The three points of the triangle stand for the three nation theory of Bosnia, representing the people who make up the nation. These are the Croats, Bosniaks and Serbs. The white stars represent Europe and they are meant to be infinite in number.



Greece

The nine stripes are said to stand for the nine syllables of the Greek patriots' motto: 'Eleutheria e Thanatos' meaning 'Freedom or Death'. but another theory states that they also symbolize the nine Muses, the goddesses of art and civilization. The blue and white colors represent the Greek sea and sky combined with white clouds and waves. The white also represents the purity of the country's struggle for independence and for freedom. The cross symbolizes Greek Orthodoxy which the established religion of the country.



Bangladesh

The green base color of the Bangladesh flag symbolizes the greenery of Bangladesh with its vitality and youthfulness. The red circle represents the rising sun and the blood as well as the sacrifices that the Bangladesh people have made in order to gain independence.



Mauritius

The red stripe represents the country's struggle for independence; the blue symbolizes the Indian Ocean, which surrounds the island nation; the yellow stands for a bright future for Mauritius following its independence; and the green represents the evergreen vegetation of the land and its agriculture.



Andorra

The Andorra flag is made up of vertical bars, running left to right. The vertical bars are blue, yellow and red with the coat of arms in the center. There are two versions of the Andorra coat of arms - the French coat of arms and the Spanish coat of arms - due to the political situation in the country.



Tunisia

Red is a traditional color of Islam and was the color adopted by the Ottoman Empire who ruled Tunisia from late 16th century until 1881. It also came to represent resistance against Turkish supremacy. The crescent and star are traditional symbols of Islam and are also considered to be lucky symbols. The white circle represents the sun.



Morocco

Green and red are traditional colors of Islam, which is Morocco's official religion. Red is also the color of the reigning Moroccan dynasty. The Seal of Solomon represents the link between God and the nation.



Namibia

The chairman of Namibia's National Symbols Subcommittee described the Namibia flag as follows: Red - represents Namibia's most important resource, its people. It refers to their heroism and their determination to build a future of equal opportunity for all; White - refers to peace and unity Green - symbolizes vegetation and agricultural resources. Blue - represents the clear Namibian sky and the Atlantic Ocean, the country's precious water resources and rain; and the golden-yellow sun represents life and energy.



Ghana

The Ghana flag makes use of the Pan-African colors - the red stripe represents the blood spilt during Ghana's struggle for independence; the yellow stripe symbolizes the mineral wealth of the country; and the green represents the vegetation and fertility of the nation. The black five-pointed star symbolizes African freedom and the African people. Ghana was the first African nation to feature these colors.

Flag information: WorldFlags 101.com

Fun Facts around the World!



The longest official city name in the world is: Krungthep Mahanakhon Amorn Rattanakosin Mahintara Yudthaya Mahadilok Pohp Noparat Rajathanee Bureerom Udomrajniwes Mahasatarn Amorn Pimarn Avaltarnsatit Sakatattiya Visanukram Prasit. It is the official name of **Bangkok, Thailand**.



In **Caracas**, the capital city of **Venezuela**, it is customary for the streets to be blocked off on Christmas Eve so that the people can rollerskate to church.



We usually think of **Montreal, Canada** as a cold weather city, and **Paris, France** as a much warmer city than Montreal, but the fact is that Montreal is south of Paris.