

International Bulldawg Newsletter

May 2007

Volume 2, Issue 5

Welcome from the Center

Aretha Jones – Cook Associate Dean and Director

I hope your plans for the summer are going well. I hope you were able to get all of the courses that you wanted and needed this summer. Please stay in touch with your advisor about course selection. During the month of May, we are celebrating “National Asian Pacific American Month.” On May 1st we will co-host a reception for faculty, staff and students. At that reception Dr. Foglesong will recognize Ms. Susmita Parikh for her forty years of service to Mississippi State University. The center will distribute an Asian American FACT sheet on the contributions and achievements of Asian Pacific Americans to this country. We will also be showing an Asian film later this month. The National Asian Pacific American Month (NAPAM) theme for May is “Lighting the Past, Present and Future.” NAPAM is a federal celebration signed by the U.S. Congress on Oct. 28, 1992 under the administration of former president George Bush. The HCDC staff is ready and willing to assist you in any way possible over the summer months. Please don’t hesitate to contact the staff or myself if you have any questions or other concerns. Let’s continue to remember and pray for the families of our colleagues and students who lost their lives at Virginia Tech recently. Stay safe!!

International Fiesta 2007

An ominous thunderstorm was predicted on April 14, the day set aside for the annual International Fiesta celebrations this year. The Fiesta got pushed back to the middle of April due to several conflicts like the famous Bulldawg weekend and the Easter weekend. The World Neighbors Organization had never needed to arrange a rain location in prior years. Just a few days before the Fiesta Saturday the WNA officers started monitoring the weather conditions very closely. Finally on Friday a rain location was secured from the help of the Holmes Cultural Diversity, and the Division of Student Affairs. So many great people came together this year with the university wholeheartedly supporting the colorful fiesta celebrations and despite all odds it turned out to be a huge success. Starting with introductions from the city, Matt Cox, Student Affairs Associate Vice President Dr. Harris, and Student Association leaders the Fiesta was officially declared open. Colorful dances from the Little Swan Dancers to an amazing fashion show consisting of so many countries, India, the continent of Africa, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China, Mongolia, South Korea and some other local groups suddenly lit the stage with color. Attires were gracefully modeled by current international students representing their countries. Dances by our lively Indian students, Native American Students, MSMS Students, and Swan Dancers attracted several Starkville residents. A feast prepared by the Muslim Student Association, Sri Lankan Student Association, Korean Student Association, Indian Student Association, Social Justice Committee of the Department of Housing and Resident Life and the Irani Student Association tantalized the palates of many students and local residents. Food from different parts of the world was brought right into Mississippi State University. Display tables were set by the African Student Association, Muslim Student Association and the Irani Student Association showcasing clothes and handicrafts. The Irani Student Association exhibit won the first prize. The also put up an exhibit at the Starkville Arts festival held in downtown Cotton district a week later. Children enjoyed their hands painted with henna, which the Pakistani Student Association was handling. Many out door games were canceled due to inclement weather but the piñata prevailed attracting several children to a tree behind the Newell Grissom Gym. The weather was unable to dampen the spirits of the Starkville community, MSU’s international community and people from neighboring Columbus, Louisville, Maben, Tupelo and Tuscaloosa on the day of the fiesta. Please visit WNA’s website at <http://www.wneighbors.org/index.html> for further information on how to become a member or help in next years Fiesta. Membership in WNA counts as community service so you will be helping a non-profit organization which totally relies on university and local community support. *Written by Shaz Akram*

Special Days for the Month

May 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				

May 1 Asian Pacific American Month Reception

May 4-5 Commencement

May 9 Romania Independence Day

May 15 Paraguay Independence Day

May 15 Asian Film

May 15 Austria Independence Day

May 24 Eritrea Independence Day

May 25 Jordan Independence Day

May 26 Georgia Independence Day

May 26 Guyana Independence Day



The Pakistani Student Association was busy creating beautiful henna designs for tattoo lovers on the Fiesta this year. An artistic and rather physically demanding task, the end result is always worth the effort.



Anthonia Eseyin MSU's 2006-2007 Fulbright scholar dressed in traditional Nigerian attire (called Bou-Bou) stands elegantly in front of the flags of the world. She has completed her research in extracting, obtaining and processing bio oils from corn stalks as an alternate to fossil fuel. She will be returning to Nigeria where she will defend her PhD degree and continue her job as a professor in the University of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

International Student Essay Writing Competition

SpeedyPin.com Phone Card has launched the International Student Scholar Award, a scholarship for international students currently attending a college or university in the United States. Applicants will compete in an essay contest for \$500 (USD) of financial assistance for higher learning expenses. The winner will be chosen on June 15, 2007.

You can find complete details here: <http://speedypin.com/phone/card/scholar-award.html> Contact Devin Poole @ Email: devin@speedypin.com for further info.



Romania

Romania is a country in Southeastern Europe. Romania borders Hungary and Serbia to the west, Ukraine and Moldova to the northeast, and Bulgaria to the south. Romania has a stretch of sea coast along the Black Sea, and the eastern and southern Carpathian Mountains run through its center. The modern state of Romania was formed by the merging of the Danubian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia in 1859. Its capital and largest city is Bucharest, the sixth largest city in the EU. Romania joined NATO on March 29, 2004, and the European Union (EU) on January 1, 2007. Romania has the seventh largest population and the ninth largest territory in the EU. (*Wikipedia*)



Paraguay

Paraguay, officially the Republic of Paraguay is a landlocked country in South America. It lies on both banks of the Paraguay River, bordering Argentina to the south and southwest, Brazil to the east and northeast, and Bolivia to the northwest, and is located in the very heart of South America. The name "Paraguay" is derived from the Guaraní word *paraguay* meaning "from a great river". The "great river" is the Paraná River, which produces the greatest amount of hydroelectric power in the world. (*Wikipedia*)



Eritrea

Eritrea is a country in northern East Africa bordered by Sudan in the west, Ethiopia in the south, and Djibouti in the southeast. The east and northeast of the country have an extensive coastline on the Red Sea, directly across from Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The Dahlak Archipelago and several of the Hanish Islands are part of Eritrea. Eritrea was consolidated into a colony by the Italian government on January 1, 1890. The modern state of Eritrea gained its independence from Ethiopia following a thirty-year war which lasted from 1961 to 1991. Eritrea's constitution adopted in 1997 stipulates that the state is a presidential republic with a unicameral parliamentary democracy. The constitution, however, was never ratified. Eritrea is a multilingual and multicultural country with two dominant religions (Sunni Islam and Oriental Orthodox Christianity) and nine ethnic groups. The country has no official language, but it has three working languages: Tigrinya, Arabic, and English. (*wikipedia*)



Jordan

Jordan, officially the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is an Arab country in the Middle East in western Asia. It is bordered by Syria to the north, Iraq to the north-east, Saudi Arabia to the east and south, and Israel to the west. It shares with Israel the coastlines of the Dead Sea, and the Gulf of Aqaba with Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. (*Wikipedia*)

Events and Announcements

May 1 Asian Pacific American Month: A reception is being held at the John Grisham Room at the Mitchell Memorial Library from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. This reception is hosted by the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center and the Office of the President to celebrate the Asian Pacific Americans that live in Starkville and MSU.

The U.S. Census Bureau lists more than 25 such groups (ethnicity) under Asian Pacific American -- Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipinos, Indian, Pakistani, Korean, Japanese, Cambodian, Laotian, Indonesian, Thai, Burmese, Malaysian, Taiwanese, Sri Lanka, Bangladeshi, and native Hawaiians, Polynesians, New Zealanders and Australians. As Americans, they contribute to the strength of the United States, help shape its future and share in its promise and opportunity. Join us to celebrate this month.

May 4 – 5: Commencement. Have a fun summer break and be safe wherever you go.

May 15: Asian Film (time and location to be assigned)



Georgia

Georgia, known officially from 1990 to 1995 as the Republic of Georgia, is a country in Eurasia to the east of the Black Sea, most of which is located in the South Caucasus, while a portion of the territory lies in the North Caucasus. It shares borders with Russia in the north and Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan in the south. Georgia is a unitary, emerging liberal democratic nation-state with an ancient historical and cultural heritage. Georgian civilization stretches back for more than three thousand years of history with a unique literary and artistic heritage. Culturally, historically, and politically Georgia is considered part of Europe; however, the official geographic classification of the country varies according to different sources. Sometimes Georgia is considered a transcontinental nation. (*Wikipedia*)



Guyana

Guyana, officially the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, is the only nation state of the Commonwealth of Nations on the mainland of South America. It is north of the equator but in the tropics and is located on the Atlantic Ocean. Guyana is bordered to the east by Suriname, to the south and southwest by Brazil and to the west by Venezuela. It is the third smallest country on the mainland of South America and approximately the size of Great Britain. Guyana is the only South American country whose official language is English, and is one of only two remaining countries on mainland America whose traffic still drives on the left. Guyana is an Amerindian word meaning "Land of many waters". The country can be characterized by its vast rain forests dissected by numerous rivers, creeks and waterfalls, notably Kaieteur Falls on the Potaro River. Guyana's tepuis are famous for being the inspiration for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 1912 novel *The Lost World*. The country enjoys a friendly, multicultural society, high floral and faunal biodiversity, prize-winning rum, British Colonial architecture and Demerara sugar. (*Wikipedia*)

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