

International Bulldawg Newsletter

November 06

Volume 1, Issue 2

Welcome from the Center

Aretha Jones – Cook Associate Dean and Director

Welcome to the second International Bulldawg Newsletter and thank you for the positive feedback from our first newsletter. We would like to invite you to join Holmes Cultural Diversity Center in the celebration of the activities listed on the November calendar. The HCDC staff hopes you will join us in the celebrations of cultural and religious festivals planned by our international students. By participating in these activities we show our commitment to the international students and staff at Mississippi State University. This is another opportunity to develop relationships, increase our cultural awareness, and promote a better understanding of diversity and world peace. The staff at HCDC wishes to thank you again for your continued support.



Deepotsav 2006- Week long MSU Diwali Celebration

Recently, the MSU Indian Student Association celebrated its week-long annual Diwali celebrations from Oct 15-21, 2006. The event was composed of various cultural exhibits like Rangoli (art drawn using colored chalk powder). This is usually drawn in front of houses and is a symbol used to welcome guests. On the same day a Mehndi (temporary South Asian tattoo) competition also took place. These tattoos are usually drawn on hands during festivities or marriages in the Indian culture. Other events include an Indian Jeopardy Competition in which many teams participated. The association also organized a singing competition that featured songs from Bollywood (Indian) movies. On Thursday, the association played a movie "Diwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge" in Simrall Auditorium. A dance celebration, featuring Garba and Dandiya dances, (popular dances from the Western Indian state of Gujarat) was organized at the Sanderson Center. The final cultural extravaganza was on Saturday, Oct 21 attended by 300 students and families from nearby towns. The association had put together a cultural program featuring fifteen performances. The event featured cultures from all parts of India including north, east, south and west. It was a full scoop of cultural dose that made the students nostalgic and educated the non-Indians about the diversity that is synonymous with one of the oldest civilizations on earth. The event began with a catered dinner, followed by a two hour cultural program and a DJ (dance) party. The association had to postpone the firework display (due to rain), which then took place a week later on Sunday (Oct 29, 2006).

The MSU Indian student association is one of the largest and most diverse cultural and social student organization at Mississippi State with members from many different countries including India, United States, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The association is very active in addressing the needs of all its members which include not only Indian students but all MSU students. ISA encourages all MSU students to become members and participate in its events. *Written by Shailesh Oswal Vice President ISA.*



Poland

Poland, officially the Republic of Poland, is a country located in Central Europe. The Polish state was formed more than 1,000 years ago and reached its golden age near the end of the 16th century under the Jagiellonian dynasty, when Poland was one of the largest, wealthiest, and most powerful countries in Europe. At the time, Poland had one of the world largest and most vibrant Jewish communities. In 1791 the Sejm of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth adopted the Constitution of May 3, Europe's first modern codified constitution, and the second in the world after the Constitution of the United States. Soon afterwards, the country ceased to exist after being partitioned by its neighbors Russia, Austria, and Prussia. It regained independence in 1918 in the aftermath of the First World War as the Second Polish Republic (*Wikipedia*).

Special Days for the Month

November 2006						
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		

Nov 1 Antigua and Barbuda Independence Day

Nov 2-11 International Games

Nov 9 Health Management Workshop

Nov 9 Cambodia Independence Day

Nov 11 Poland Independence Day

Nov 12 International Games Closing Ceremony

Nov 22 Lebanon Independence Day

Nov 12 International Games Closing Ceremony

Nov 13-17 International Education Week

Nov 23 Thanksgiving: First Methodist Church/ WNA International Student Luncheon

Nov 25 Suriname Independence Day

Nov 28 Mauritania Independence Day

Nov 30 Barbados Independence Day

Nov 30 Yemen Independence Day

Dec 2 Last Saturday Shuttle run for fall 2006



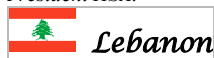
Cambodia

The Kingdom of Cambodia is a country in Southeast Asia with a population of more than 13 million. Cambodia is the successor state of the once powerful Khmer Empire, which ruled most of the Indochinese Peninsula between the 11th and 14th centuries.

A citizen of Cambodia is usually identified as "Cambodian". "Khmer", which strictly only refers to ethnic Khmers, is also used. Most Cambodians are Theravada Buddhists of Khmer extraction, but the country also has a substantial number of predominantly Muslim Cham, as well as small hill tribes (*Wikipedia*).

Hispanic Student Association Activities

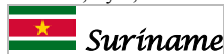
The Hispanic Student Association (HSA) is developing various cultural activities on campus during fall 2006. Recently, HSA presented an exhibition at Mitchell Library related with the Latin-American traditions and culture. This exhibition named "Hispanic Proud" was offered to commemorate the 'Hispanic Month' and included interesting information associated with the countries that fall under this organization. Other significant activities include development of their MSU 'CINE CLUB'. The purpose of the movie club is to display superior Spanish movies. The CINE CLUB was founded a year ago and used to show only Spanish language films; however, since spring 2006 films from different cultures are being presented; the last one was Troy, an extraordinary fictional story of epic dimensions. This film was shown at the Swalm auditorium and free pizza, ice-cream and cold drinks were served to the students. The next film to be shown this month will be an Argentinean production, 'The Official History'. This movie has won several awards worldwide. The HSA is also offering community service for students who need practice and help in learning Spanish. Sports are also strongly connected with the Latin-American culture; especially Soccer dominates this culture because of its historical World Cup performances and world renowned players. The Latin American team that will play in the 2006 International Games at MSU. It has already started training to defend the Gold medal it won last year. Finally, all of the students who are interested in having fun, dancing to Latin music in a beautiful environment, have the opportunity to do so at 'The Abby' a restaurant in downtown Starkville. Cesar Castillo, the previous HSA president, organizes great Latin parties and admission is free. Further activities that the HSA is planning are participation in the International Fiesta and development of a project named "Life: On-campus Botanic garden." *Written by Eduardo Arias President HSA.*



Lebanon

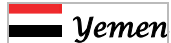
Lebanon, officially the Lebanese Republic (Arabic: *دولة لبنان*), is a small, largely mountainous country in the Middle East, located at the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea. Until the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990), the country enjoyed remarkable regional prosperity. It was considered the banking capital of the Arab world and attracted large numbers of tourists, to the point that the capital Beirut became widely known as the "Paris of the Middle East" and Lebanon was widely known as the "Switzerland of the Middle East" due to its financial power.

After the end of the war, there were widespread efforts to revive the economy and rebuild national infrastructure, with the first positive results becoming evident in recent years. By early 2006, a considerable degree of stability had been achieved throughout much of the country, Beirut's reconstruction was almost complete, and an increasing number of foreign tourists were pouring into Lebanon's resorts. However, the commencement of the 2006 Israel-Lebanon conflict on July 12, 2006 brought mounting civilian and military casualties, great damage to civilian infrastructure, and massive population displacement. As of September 2006, the Lebanese government has been acting out an early recovery plan aimed at reconstructing destroyed property in Beirut, Tyre, and other villages in southern Lebanon. (*Wikipedia*)



Suriname

Suriname, officially the Republiek Suriname, is a country in northern South America. Other common names are Surinam or Sranang. It was formerly known as Nederlands Guyana, Netherlands Guiana or Dutch Guiana. It lies in between French Guiana to the east and Guyana to the west. The southern border is shared with Brazil and the northern border is the Atlantic coast. Suriname is the least populated country in South America. It is the second smallest as well (*Wikipedia*).



Yemen

Yemen, officially the Republic of Yemen (Arabic: *جمهورية اليمن*), is a Middle Eastern country located on the Arabian Peninsula in Southwest Asia. Yemen is composed of former North and South Yemen. It borders the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden on the south, the Red Sea on the west, Oman to the northeast and the rest of the country borders Saudi Arabia. Its territory includes the remote island of Socotra, about 350 kilometres (217 mi) to the south off the coast of East Africa (*Wikipedia*).

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

Details of HCDC's activities are available by contacting the center or visiting our website www.hcdc.msstate.edu

Events and Announcements

International Campus Games (Nov. 2 – 11)

The 3rd Annual International Games will be held at MSU from Nov. 2 – Nov. 11. The Department of Recreational Sports and Holmes Cultural Diversity Center are collaborating in this event. There are almost 300 international and American students participating in the games this year.

Health Management Workshop (Nov. 9)

A special workshop for international students has been arranged at the Library Auditorium from noon- 1pm on Nov. 9, 2006. Health related issues will be discussed. Tips on how to keep students safe and protected from the flu and allergy season will also be discussed by Jennifer Fuller from the Health Center. Mark your calendars and try to be there. This will be a very useful session for international students.

International Games Closing Ceremony

(Nov. 12) A multicultural ceremony following the age old tradition of the international Olympics will conclude the international games on Nov. 12, 2006. The MSU Ballroom Dance Club, the Starlight dancers, all international student associations and National Pan-Hellenic Council will be performing at the closing ceremony. Food will also be served from different parts of the world which will be prepared by the international student associations. This event is free and open to all MSU students, faculty, staff and Starkville community.

International Education Week (Nov. 13- 17)

The International Education week is sponsored by the Department of State throughout the United States. It celebrates and promotes international education and exchange between the United States and other countries. This week long event will be hosted by the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center. It will start with the Lyceum series Alvin Ailey dance performance on Nov. 13 at 7:30pm at Lee Hall on Monday. On Tuesday we will be showing a film from Iran at the Library Auditorium from 6- 8pm. On Wednesday an internationally renowned global warming documentary "An inconvenient Truth" by ex-Vice President Al Gore will be shown at Lee Hall from 6- 8 pm. The week will conclude with a panel discussion on world politics and the changing scenario of the educational world. All these events are free and open to all MSU students, staff, faculty and Starkville community.

Thanksgiving Holiday and Lunch (Nov. 23)

Throughout history mankind has celebrated the bountiful harvest with thanksgiving ceremonies. Before the establishment of formal religions many ancient farmers believed that their crops contained spirits which caused the crops to grow and die. Many believed that these spirits would be released when the crops were harvested and they had to be destroyed or they would take revenge on the farmers who harvested them. Some of the harvest festivals celebrated the defeat of these spirits. Harvest festivals and thanksgiving celebrations were held by the ancient Greeks, Romans, Hebrews, Chinese, and Egyptians. In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom. By the middle of the 19th century many other states also celebrated a Thanksgiving Day. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of thanksgiving. Since then each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, usually designating the fourth Thursday of each November as the holiday. All international students and families are invited at noon to the Student Life Center, 200 West Lampkin St. Starkville for its annual free Thanksgiving Lunch.

