

## International Bulldawg Newsletter

October 2007

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### Welcome from the Center

The Holmes Cultural Diversity Center has invited an international writer to speak on Campus on October 15. Ms. Bapsi Sidhwa is a Pakistani/American writer settled in Houston, Texas. She wrote the book *Water*, which was made into a film by Indian Director/Producer Deepa Mehta and was shown on campus on International Women's Day in March earlier this year. Her books like *An American Brat*, *The Crow Eaters*, *Ice-Candy Man* and *Water* will be available at Barnes and Nobles for purchase. Bapsi's campus wide talk will be followed by a book signing session. Do find the time to listen to this extremely talented writer speak on the Indo-Pakistan partition, women issues that plague South Asian countries, as well as the transition as an emigrant to America. She also belongs to a very small minority of people called Parsis (Zoroastrians – if you are not born one it is very difficult to become one and of which less than 100,000 exist worldwide). We encourage you all to participate in the logo competition for International Education Week. We have exciting prizes in store for the best two entries. We have changed the contents of the Independence Day focusing this year on the colors of each country's flag.

### Chinese Moon Festival, Fall 2007

The Chinese Moon Festival is also known as the Mid-autumn Festival. Chinese culture is deeply imbedded in traditional festivals. Just like Christmas and Thanksgiving in the West, the Moon Festival is one of the most important traditional events for the Chinese. This year the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars held their annual Chinese Mid-Autumn Party on Sept. 30, 2007 at the First United Methodist Church. Around two hundred students and faculty members joined and celebrated the Chinese Festival. The students provided a program consisting of various Chinese dances and songs to entertain their guests. Along with the entertainment, refreshments and traditional Chinese Moon cake was served at the party. Mid-Autumn Festival provided an opportunity to the audience to garner a greater understanding and appreciation of the Chinese culture much.

The Moon Festival is full of legendary stories. Legend says that **Chang Er** (a legendary lady in the famous story, "Chang Er flying to the moon") flew to the moon, where she has lived forever after. You might see her dancing on the moon during the Moon Festival. The Moon Festival is also an occasion for family reunions. When the full moon rises, families get together to watch the moon, eat moon cakes, and sing moon poems. With the full moon, the legend, the family and the poems, you can't help thinking that this is really a perfect world. That is why the Chinese are so fond of the Moon Festival. The Moon Festival is also a romantic one. A perfect night for the festival is a quiet night without a silk of cloud and with a mild breeze from the sea.

*Contributed by Haiqing Zhu & Jackie Park*



### Special Days for the Month

#### National Disability Month

October 2007						
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			

- Oct. 1 Nigeria Independence Day
- Oct. 1 Cyprus Independence Day
- Oct. 2 Guinea Independence Day
- Oct. 4 Lesotho Independence Day
- Oct. 4 Decades of Diversity
- Oct. 8 Croatia Independence Day
- Oct. 15 Campus wide talk by South Asian Fiction writer: Bapsi Sidhwa
- Oct. 15 Book Signing by Bapsi Sidhwa
- Oct. 15 Deadline for International Education Week Logo Competition
- Oct. 16 Bapsi Sidhwa presenting at the Honors Forum/Let's Speak On It
- Oct. 18 Azerbaijan Independence Day
- Oct. 23 Alcohol Awareness
- Oct. 24 Zambia Independence Day
- Oct. 25 English Movie ("A Beautiful Mind")
- Oct. 26 International Games Begin
- Oct. 26 Turkish Republic Day Celebration
- Oct. 27 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Independence Day
- Oct. 31 Halloween Night





### Croatia

The Croatian flag consists of three equal sizes, horizontal stripes in the pan-Slavic colors red, white and blue. In the middle is the Coat of Arms of Croatia. The red-white-blue tricolor has been used as the Croatian flag since 1848, symbolizing the Pan-Slavic colors. While Croatia was part of Yugoslavia its tricolor was the same, but it had a five-pointed red star with a yellow border in place of the coat of arms. The star was replaced by the coat in May of 1990, shortly after the first multi-party elections. The current flag and the coat of arms were formally adopted on December 21, 1990, about ten months before the proclamation of independence from Yugoslavia. (Wikipedia)



### Azerbaijan

The flag of Azerbaijan is one of the national symbols of Azerbaijan and consists of three equal horizontal bands, from top: blue, red, and green; a white crescent and an eight-pointed star (Rub El Hizb) are centered in the red band. The eight points of the star stand for the eight branches of the Turkic people. The blue band is the color of the Turks, the green is for Islam and red is for progress. The official colors and size were adopted on February 5, 1991. The flag is used on land as the civil, state and war flag, and at sea as the civil, state and naval ensign and naval jack. The specific shades of the national flag were laid out in a 2004 law. (Wikipedia)



### Zambia

The flag of Zambia was adopted in October 24, 1964. It was slightly modified in 1996. The green on the flag stands for natural resources and the red symbolizes the struggle for freedom, the black for the people of Zambia, and the orange for mineral wealth. The eagle represents the people's ability to rise above the nation's problems. It was designed by Mrs. Gabriel Ellison, OGDs, MBE, who also designed the national coat of arms and many of Zambia's stamps. (Wikipedia)



### Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

The flag of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was adopted on October 21, 1985. It is composed of three vertical bands of blue, yellow and green with three diamonds centered in the yellow band and arranged in a V that stands for Vincent. These diamonds recall Saint Vincent as the "gems of the Antilles". Blue represents the tropical sky and the crystal waters, yellow stands for the golden Grenadine sands, and green stands for the islands' lush vegetation. The previous flag had a realistic palm leaf emblazoned with the coat of arms of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. (Wikipedia)



### Nigeria

The flag of Nigeria was designed in 1959 and first officially hoisted on October 1, 1960. The green bands represent the forests and abundant natural wealth of Nigeria while the white band stands for peace. The designer was a student from Ibadan, Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi. (Wikipedia)



### Cyprus

The Flag of Cyprus came into use on August 16, 1960 under the Zürich and London Agreements, whereby a constitution was drafted and Cyprus was proclaimed an independent state. The national flag features a map of the entirety of the island, with two olive branches below (a symbol of peace) on white (another symbol of peace). Cyprus is the only country to display its land area on its flag. The map on the flag is a copper-yellow color, symbolizing the large deposits of copper ore on the island. (Wikipedia)



### Guinea

The flag of Guinea was adopted on November 10, 1958. In keeping with other flags in the region, the Pan-African movement's red, yellow, and green colors are used. (Wikipedia)



### Lesotho

The current national flag of Lesotho, adopted on October 4, 2006, features a horizontal blue, white, and green tricolor with a black mokorotlo (a Basotho hat) in the center. The design, introduced to honor the 40th anniversary of independence, is reportedly intended to reflect a peaceful orientation for the country. (Wikipedia)

## Events and Announcements

### Oct. 13 Eid-ul-Fitr - Arabic **ال فطر عيد**

North American Muslims typically celebrate the day in a quiet way. As the day depends on the sighting of the moon, often families are not aware that the next day will be Eid until the night before. Different methods for the determining the end of Ramadan are used in each particular community. The day is determined by the natural phenomenon of sighting the crescent moon. North Americans on the East Coast may celebrate Eid on a different day than those on the West Coast. Typically, a Muslim family in the West will wake up very early, dressing in new traditional clothes and going to the nearest congregational prayer group to pray. The prayer may be held at the local mosque, a hotel ballroom, or a convention center. The Eid prayer is very important, and Muslims are encouraged to pray in a large gathering because of the rewards. After the prayer there is a Khutba (speech) in which the imam gives some sort of advice to the Muslim community and usually Muslims are encouraged to end any past animosities they may have. After the prayer people hug and wish each other happy Eid and exchange gifts. They also call friends and family all over the world wishing them a happy Eid. As most North American Muslims come from all parts of the world, one particular kind of food cannot be identified as served on this day. Since many North American Muslim families are immigrants, traditions for celebrating Eid may differ. New York's iconic Empire State Building is to be lit up in green in honor of Eid starting this year.

### Oct. 15 Lee Hall Auditorium

6: 00 pm - 7:30 pm

Campus Wide talk by internationally renowned fiction writer Bapsi Sidhwa followed by book signing. This event is free and open to everyone.

### Oct. 16 Griffis Hall, Honors Forum Room

'Let's Speak on It' 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Guest speaker: Bapsi Sidhwa. This event is free and open to everyone.

### Oct. 25 Sanderson Center OTC Classroom

6:00 pm – 8: 00 pm

Film: A Beautiful Mind

This event is free and open to everyone.

### Oct. 26 Sanderson Center Sundeck

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Turkish Republic Day Celebration by the Turkish Student Association (TSA). The association has planned an exciting night of food, music, dance and a film. This event is free and open to everyone.

### Oct. 26 – Nov. 4 International Campus Games



## Halloween

Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, costume parties, Halloween festivals, bonfires, ghost tours and participating in traditional autumn activities such as hayrides (with haunted themes). Halloween originated under the name of *Samhain* as a Pagan festival among the Celts of Ireland and Great Britain. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried versions of the tradition to North America in the nineteenth century. Other western countries embraced the holiday in the late twentieth century.

For suggestions, comments or contributing to the monthly newsletter email Shaz Akram at [Sakram@iso.msstate.edu](mailto:Sakram@iso.msstate.edu)

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