

# International Bulldawg Newsletter

September 2007

Volume 2, Issue 9

## Welcome from the Center

Sept. 15 -Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Month. On Sept. 12th, we bid farewell to our Director, Mrs. Aretha Jones-Cook. We wish Mrs. Cook luck and best wishes in her new job at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She embarks on yet another challenge of setting up a highly effective Diversity Center for students. We have seen HCDC grow immensely in the last four and a half years that she worked at MSU. She brought in very high profile public speakers which not only enriched the student knowledge but that of staff, faculty and the larger Starkville community as well. She also secured external funding for the National Youth Sports Program. She implemented the Native and Hispanic American student organizations as well as assisted in implementing the International Student Council. She facilitated many diversity workshops and training sessions for students that addressed diversity support and initiatives at MSU. We thank her for providing us her visionary leadership. This issue is dedicated to her. Ms. Maria White has taken over as Interim Director. Feel free to drop by at the Center and meet Ms. White.

### Farewell Mrs. Aretha Jones-Cook



### Fall Cultural Trip to Memphis

My name is Elvira. I'm from Russia. I'm an exchange student in MSU for one year under the Eurasian Undergraduate Exchange Program (UGRAD). And I'm really happy that I came here because I have an opportunity to meet a lot of new interesting people, see a lot of wonderful places and get very valuable knowledge! I had a chance to get all these things at the same time during the trip to Memphis, Tennessee that was organized by Holmes Cultural Diversity Center. We were there for one day but it seemed like we spent one week. Our fun started when we didn't even get on the bus. We met all the students from France, Germany, Canada, Turkey, Bangladesh, Jordan, Republic of Korea, India, Italy, Nepal, China, Peru, Tanzania, Ghana, and the USA and then got to our two International shuttles. The first place we saw was a very luxurious hotel The Peabody. Then we went to National Civil Rights Museum. We liked it very much! We heard the history of Civil War and struggle for freedom; we saw a lot of movies about that time. Such words like "opportunity", "dedication" and "dream" are so associative with the name of Martin Luther King. Actually many thoughts expressed in that time are still very vital. "If there is no struggle there is no success" (Frederick Douglass) is the motto of many people who know that in order to be a success you have to overcome some obstacles. I liked this museum very much because it made me think. Our world is still not very peaceful, but I have a dream that it becomes better! Beale street...Blues... Elvis Presley...A lot of music! It was so great to see that street! We took so many pictures, that I won't forget it definitely! It mustn't be forgotten. It's just impossible! I want to thank Shaz Akram and all staff of Holmes Cultural Diversity Center for that trip! It wasn't just an opportunity to see new place, it was so great chance to learn more and find so many interesting people! People who became my friends. What more do I need?! *Contributed by Elvira Gayfullina. To join the Russian Student Association email Elvira at [erg65@msstate.edu](mailto:erg65@msstate.edu)*



## Special Days for the Month

September 2007						
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- Sept. 1 Uzbekistan Independence Day
- Sept. 2 Vietnam Independence Day
- Sept. 3 Qatar Independence Day
- Sept. 6 Swaziland Independence Day
- Sept. 7 Brazil Independence Day
- Sept. 8 Indian Student Association welcome party (Udbhav, 2007)
- Sept. 9 Memphis cultural trip
- Sept. 9 Tajikistan Independence Day
- Sept. 13 -October 12 Ramadan
- Sept. 13 Muslim Student Association's fast-a-thon
- Sept. 15 Nicaragua Independence Day
- Sept. 15 Costa Rica Independence Day
- Sept. 16 Mexico Independence Day
- Sept. 16 Papua New Guinea Indep. Day
- Sept. 21 Armenia Independence Day
- Sept. 21 Belize Independence
- Sept. 21 Malta Independence
- Sept. 22 Mali Independence
- Sept. 22 Bulgaria Independence Day
- Sept. 27 Hispanic Awareness month film: 'Volver'
- Sept. 28 Discrimination in Housing Presentation by Kathleen Gasparian
- Sept. 30 Botswana Independence Day

## Indian Student Association: UDBHAV - 07



The Indian Student Association organized a fall welcome back event "UDBHAV - 07" on September 8 in the Lee Hall auditorium from 6 PM to 11 PM. The event mainly focused on new Indian students that came in fall 2007 and gave an opportunity for them to exhibit their hidden talents. The event was a huge success with an attendance of 250 members, which not only included Indians but also internationals and Americans. We served Indian food for every body, and Dr. Bill Kibler addressed the function as a guest speaker. The event included programs like Indian dances, Singing, Instrumental music and fashion shows. The performers mesmerized the audience with their awesome performances. We also organized a game show for all the new students and gifts were presented to the winners. The Indian medley dance performed by two African American students, Kendrick and Jamey (graduates from the Mathematics Department) along with two Indian students Phani and Perneet turned out to be the highlight of the entire event. The event ended with a DJ party and everybody dancing to Indian and western music. This event was a great indicator of the Indian Student Association spicing up MSU with their diverse activities. *Contributed by Phani Krishna Karnati*

## Annual MSU Muslim Student Association Fast-a-Thon

The Muslim Student Association had their annual Fast-a-Thon on Sept. 13 at the Palmeiro Center. It was a huge success with almost 200 people attending the charity program. The association raised \$600 for the Boys and Girls Club in Starkville. Dr. Bill Kibler, Vice President of Student Affairs gave opening remarks, referencing the influence of great men like Ghandi, Muhammad (PBUH), and Martin Luther King on mankind. He stressed the importance of being ethical, truthful, and just particularly in uniting different faiths. The advisor of MSA Dr. Sullivan gave a presentation on Ramadan. Arif Qayyum the president of MSA stated that the fast-a-thon always managed to draw and unite all the diverse students on campus. Many people from the Starkville community had cooked various ethnic foods for the occasion. Everyone broke fast at 7: 05 pm with dates and grapes after the call to prayer was made. The president of the local Boys and Girls Club Chapter Mr. Mike Kassouf said he was very happy with the money that was raised and said it would go a long way to help their cause. *Contributed by Arif Qayyum*



### Brazil

Brazil is the largest and most populous country in Latin America, and the fifth largest in the world in both area and population. The Brazilian population tends to concentrate along the coastline in large urban centers. While Brazil has one of the largest populations in the world, population density is low and the inner continental land has large areas of low population. It is a multiracial country composed of European, Amerindian, African and Asian elements. The official language is Portuguese, and it is the only Portuguese-speaking country in the Americas. Catholicism is the predominant religion, though Protestant communities have experienced significant growth in the last decades. Brazil has the largest Roman Catholic population in the world. Brazil has a diversified middle-income economy with wide variations in development levels, with mature manufacturing, mining and agriculture sectors. Technology and services also play an important role in the economy, and are growing rapidly. Brazil is a net exporter, having gone through free trade and privatization reforms in the 1990s. Brazil's economy outweighs that of any other South American country. (Wikipedia)

## Events and Announcements

**Udbhav - 07: Sept. 8, 2007 at Lee Hall Auditorium 6:00 - 11:00 pm.** The Indian Student Association present their Fall welcome party. Dinner and Cultural show event. The guest speaker will be Dr. Bill Kibler (VP of Student Affairs).

**Fast-a-thon: Sept. 13, 2007 at Palmeiro Center, Griffis Hall 6:30 - 8:30 pm.** The Muslim Student Association present their annual fast-a-thon dinner (breaking of fast) followed by a presentation. The guest speaker will be Dr. Bill Kibler (VP of Student Affairs). Funds raised will be donated to the Boys and Girls Club, Starkville.

### Ramadan: Sept. 13 - Oct. 11, 2007

All Muslims around the world fast for thirty days during the month of Ramadan (the month in which the verses of the Holy Quran were revealed to the prophet Muhammad (PBUH)). During this month families come together and donate generously to charity for various causes. MSU has over 200 Muslim students and faculty enrolled or teaching. We wish all of them a very happy Ramadan.

### Rosh Hashanah: Sept. 13-14, 2007

All Jews around the world celebrate Rosh Hashanah as the Jewish New Year and Day of Judgment, in which God judges each person individually according to their deeds, and makes a decree for the following year. The holiday is characterized by the special mitzvah of blowing the shofar.

### UMOJA - 2007: Sept. 25 at the Drill Field

from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. HCDC will be hosting their annual Umoja program. The word Umoja comes from the Swahili language meaning unity. The purpose of this program is to bring minority and transfer students together to show what all MSU has to offer for them.

### Hispanic Awareness Month Movie: Sept. 27, 2007

'Volver': Spanish film by Pedro Almodovar shown at Sanderson Center conference room from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. This event is free and open to everyone.

### Know your rights! Discrimination in housing for international students: Sept. 28, 2007.

Session held at the Swalm Auditorium from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Presented by Kathleen Gasparian from David Ware & Associates. We encourage all international students to attend this event. It's free and open to everyone interested.

### Mid-Autumn Festival (Chinese Moon Festival):

Sept 28 at the United Methodist Church CLC room from 6:30 - 9:30 pm.

The Association of Chinese Students and Scholars present their Annual Moon Festival. Traditional moon cake, fruit and drinks will be served. This program is free and open to everyone. Students will be performing dances as well as singing traditional Chinese songs.

Location: First Methodist Church at 200 West Lampkin Street.



Divya plays the Sitar at UDBHAV 07



### Costa Rica

Costa Rica is a Republic in Central America, bordered by Nicaragua to the north, Panama to the south-southeast, the Pacific Ocean to the west and south, and the Caribbean Sea to the east. Costa Rica was the first country in the world to constitutionally abolish its army. In 2005, Costa Rica had an estimated population of 4.43 million people. As of 2007, the majority of Costa Ricans are descendants of white Spanish settlers (3,307,107). Costa Rica is an active member of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. Costa Rica holds a seat on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and on the United Nations University of Peace and many other international organizations related to human rights and democracy. (Wikipedia)



### Mexico

The United Mexican States is a country located in North America. It is bounded on the north by the United States; on the south and west by the North Pacific Ocean; on the southeast by Guatemala, Belize, and the Caribbean Sea; and on the east by the Gulf of Mexico. The United Mexican States comprise a constitutional republican federation of thirty-one states and a federal district, Mexico City, one of the most populous cities on Earth. Covering almost 2 million square kilometers, Mexico is the fifth-largest country in the Americas by total area and 14th largest in the world. With a population of almost 109 million, it is the 11th most populous country and the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world. As the only Latin American member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 1994, Mexico is firmly established as an upper middle-income country. Elections held in July 2000 marked the first time that an opposition party won the presidency to the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional: PRI), that held it since 1929, culminating a process of political alternation that had begun at the local level since the 1980s. (Wikipedia)



### Nicaragua

Nicaragua is a representative democratic republic and the largest nation in Central America. It is also the least densely populated with a demographic similar in size to its smaller neighbors. The country is bordered by Honduras to the north and by Costa Rica to the south. The Pacific Ocean lies to the west of the country, while the Caribbean Sea lies to the east. Falling within the tropics, Nicaragua sits 11 degrees north of the Equator, in the Northern Hemisphere. At the time of the Spanish conquest, Nicaragua was the name given to the narrow strip of land between Lake Nicaragua and the Pacific Ocean. Chief Nicarao ruled over the land when the first conquerors arrived. The term was eventually applied, by extension, to the Nicarao or Niquirano groups that inhabited that region. The Nicarao tribe migrated to the area from northern regions after the fall of Teotihuacán, on the advice of their religious leaders. According to tradition, they were to travel south until they encountered a lake with two volcanoes rising out of the waters, and so they stopped when they reached Ometepe, the largest fresh-water volcanic island in the world. (Wikipedia)



### Qatar

Qatar is an emirate in the Middle East and Western Asia, occupying the small Qatar Peninsula on the northeasterly coast of the larger Arabian Peninsula. It is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the south; otherwise the Persian Gulf surrounds the state. Qatar explicitly uses Sunni law as the basis of its government, and the vast majority of its citizens follow Hanbali Madhhab. Hanbali is one of the four schools (Madhhabs) of Fiqh or religious law within Sunni Islam (The other three are Hanafi, Maliki and Shafii). Sunni Muslims believe that all four schools have "correct guidance", and the differences between them lie not in the fundamentals of faith, but in finer judgements and jurisprudence, which are a result of the independent reasoning of the imams and the scholars who followed them. Because their individual methodologies of interpretation and extraction from the primary sources (usul) were different, they came to different judgements on particular matters. Shi'as comprise less than 10% of the Muslim population, the vast majority of them foreigners mainly from Iran. Most of Qatar is Muslim. (Wikipedia)



### Malta

Malta is a small and densely populated island nation comprising an archipelago of seven islands in the Mediterranean Sea. A country of Southern Europe, Malta lies south of Sicily, east of Tunisia, and north of Libya. The country's official languages are Maltese and English. Roman Catholicism is the most practiced religion. The islands constituting the Maltese nation have been ruled by various powers and fought over for centuries, most recently the United Kingdom. Malta is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. It has been a member state of the European Union (EU) since 2004 and it is currently the smallest EU country in both population and area. (Wikipedia)



### Bulgaria

The country of Bulgaria lies in Southeastern Europe. One of the cradles of European civilization, Bulgaria fostered the world's oldest known writing system, found engraved on the over 6000-year-old Gradeshnitsa tablets. Currently preserved in the Vratsa Museum. Though relatively small in terms of territory and population, Bulgaria's continuous historical wealth throughout prominent cyclical eras of growth, decline and medieval renaissance rivals that of the much larger and more populous countries of China, India and Egypt. The population has been in decline since the early 1990s and the current population is over 7.7 million people. This includes a large number of residents that live outside of Bulgarian territory. In 2006 Bulgaria attracted 5 million visitors for the whole year. To date in 2007, Bulgaria has attracted 4 million visitors. (Wikipedia)



### Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia, formerly part of the Soviet Union. It shares borders with Kazakhstan to the west and to the north, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the east, and Afghanistan and Turkmenistan to the south. Uzbekistan has a wide mix of ethnic groups and cultures, with the Uzbek being the majority group. In 1995 about 71% of Uzbekistan's population was Uzbek. The chief minority groups were Russians (8%), Tajiks (officially 5%, but believed to be much higher), Kazaks (4%), Tatars (2.5%), and Karakalpaks (2%). It is said however that the number of non-indigenous people living in Uzbekistan is decreasing as Russians and other minority groups slowly leave and Uzbeks return from other parts of the former Soviet Union. (Wikipedia)



### Vietnam

Vietnam is the easternmost nation on the Indochina Peninsula. It is bordered by China to the north, Laos to the northwest, and Cambodia to the southwest. On the country's East Coast lies the South China Sea. With a population of over 85 million, Vietnam is the 13th most populous country in the world. The country is listed among the "Next Eleven" economies; according to government figures GDP, growth was 8.17% in 2006, the second fastest growth rate among countries in East Asia and the fastest in Southeast Asia. (Wikipedia)

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