

# 31st Annual **INTERNATIONAL FIESTA**



**A celebration of the diverse cultures in our community through  
music, dance, food, & games!**



**MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY™**

# Welcome to the 31st Annual International Fiesta!

Dear Friends and World Neighbors,

On behalf of the World Neighbors Association and the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center, we are excited that you have joined us at the 31st Annual International Fiesta. This spring event brings international culture and traditions from around the world to Starkville and Mississippi State University. We are glad neighboring communities also join us in this celebration of diversity.



Starting with the parade of flags, the day is filled with colorful expressions of costumes, displays, entertainment and cuisine. Please take time to sit and watch the authentic songs, music, and dance from all corners of the globe. We encourage you to take the time to purchase and enjoy the amazing cuisine with unique spices and textures. Visit the display booths that provide insight to each country's culture and don't forget to ask questions. Children of all ages are invited to visit the "children's area". There are numerous games, activities and learning centers and, of course, inflatables to use up some excess energy. This is an opportunity to learn and make a friend. It is so important in our globalized society to understand each other – what better way than talking together.

Many thanks to the sponsors and supporters of the fiesta, without your help this day would not happen. We are glad that Mississippi State University and the Starkville community can join hands to organize such an important cross-cultural event. We also extend a special thanks to all the officers, committee chairs, and volunteers who make this event so successful every year due to their hard work, creativity, and visions.

The organization would love to have YOU join us in planning and organizing the Fiesta in future years. Please let us know by stopping by the "Volunteer table" at the central circle and leave your name and number or email so we can contact you.

We hope you enjoy your tour around the world without having to buy an airplane ticket!!!  
Sincerely,

Joan Mylroie & Kei Mamiya

World Neighbors Association and Holmes Cultural Diversity Center



# International Fiesta

# HERO



## Ra'Sheda Forbes

This year, we honor Ra'Sheda Forbes for her many years of dedicated time and effort to make the International Fiestas a wonderful successes. Ra'sheda has served as the President and the Secretary of the World Neighbors Association (WNA), the facilitator of our cultural activities, the volunteer coordinator, and the contests coordinator. Under her leadership in the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center (HCDC) at Mississippi State University, Ra'Sheda played an important

role in facilitating and developing partnership between HCDC and WNA. The partnership symbolizes the relationship between Mississippi State University and the City of Starkville and has led to scale up the International Fiesta and other international programming such as the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for International Community. We are very thankful for her leadership for the past years.

Ra'Sheda currency serves as the Vice President for Access, Diversity and Inclusion at MSU after her role as the Director of HCDC and the Assistant Vice President for Multicultural Affairs. She leads the division and strives for inclusive excellence on campus through various initiatives. Ra'Sheda provides vision and leadership to effectively integrate inclusion into the work of MSU, working closely with university leadership and the university community to shape and implement investments, plans and strategies aligned with institutional goals and creating a welcoming environment for all.

Ra'Sheda Forbes was born and raised in Meridian, MS. She is the daughter of Dale and Cassandra Boddie. She has an older sister, LaShonda Boddie, and a younger brother, Antoine Boddie. She is married to Ra'Mon Forbes. They have 3 handsome boys: Ethan (10 years old), Levi (7 years old), and Seth (2 years old). She enjoys reading, fishing, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Thank you for our Hero and for all that she does!

# Order of Events

## Masters of Ceremonies

- Buthina Driouche
- Christopher Walrath
- Elaine Rush
- Evan McClelland
- Sean Dyess

## Opening Ceremonies

- Parade of Flags
- National Anthem - TrebullDawgs
- Retiring of Flags – Rex O'Neill

## Welcome Messages

- Lynn Spruill, Mayor of Starkville
- Ra'Sheda Forbes, Vice President for Access, Diversity and Inclusion

## Performances

- Jembe Den – Music: Africa
- Starkville Chinese School – Dance 1: China
- Indigenous Students & Allies Association – Dance: Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian
- Nepalese Student Association – Dance & Song: Nepal
- Starkville Chinese School – Dance 2: China
- Korean Pop Culture Club – Dance: South Korea
- Olga Ponomareva – Song: Russia
- Evan McClelland, Kiley McClelland – Dance: Bangladesh
- Filipino Student Association – Dance: Philippines
- Vietnamese Student Association Fan Dancers – Dance: Vietnam
- Japanese Club – Dance: Japan
- Starkville Steppers – Dance: USA
- The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Sciences Naach Dance team – Dance: USA
- Maroon T a.k.a Tair Masharipov – Song: Turkmenistan

## Awards and Farewells

Hit the Piñata will take place at 12:30 and 2:00 p.m.

\*See back of program for location\*



# Contests



Main Dish



Dessert



Display



## Judges

Amy Wilber

Ania Dyer

Brien Henry

Delaney Vampran-Foster

Jennifer Sublett

John Rodgers

Le’Roy Davenport

Patrik Nordin

Thierry Czarnecki

Thomas Bourgeois

Ty Stafford

Vicki Leach

# Participants

**African Student Association**

**Association**

**Bangladesh Association at MSU**

**International Institute**

**Baptist Student Union**

**International Student Advisory Board**

**Brazilian International Student Group**

**Iranian Student Association**

**Bridgeway Church**

**Japanese Club**

**Caribbean Student Association**

**Latino Student Association**

**Chinese American Citizens Alliance**

**Mita's Himalayan Kitchen**

**Department of Geosciences**

**MSU Amine Club**

**Downtown Martial Arts Academy**

**MSU Spanish Club**

**EcoCAR Community**

**MSU Taïdo Karate Club**

**Engineer's Without Borders**

**Muslim Student Association**

**Filipino Student Association**

**Nepali Student Association**

**First Baptist Church Starkville**

**Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers**

**German Club**

**Sri Lankan Student Association**

**Guyana, Columbia & Nigeria**

**Starkville Chinese Club**

**Hispanic Women Club**

**Starkville Chinese School**

**Indian Rasoi Kitchen**

**Starkville Multi-Cultural Lions Club**

**Indian Student Association**

**Indigenous Students & Allies**



# Sponsors

## Platinum

College of Engineering  
Dean of Students' Office  
Department of Geosciences  
Graduate School  
International Institute  
Phillips Wealth Planners

## Gold

Kiwanis Club of Starkville

## Silver

Spruill Property Management

## Special Thanks

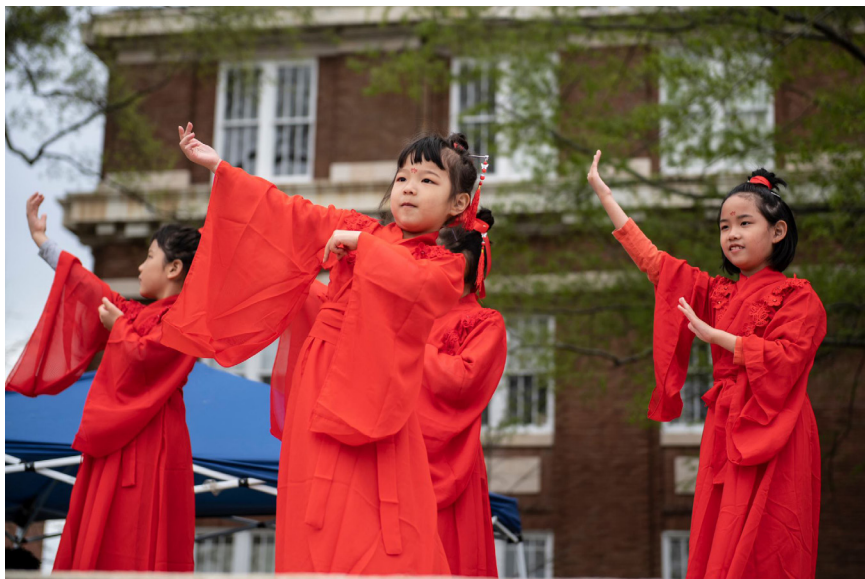
Anita Nischol  
Joe Ferguson  
John Mylroie  
Karalina Kastsiuchenka  
Marketing & Communication, Division of  
Access, Diversity and Inclusion  
Maroon Volunteer Center  
MSU Event Services  
MSU Facilities Management





# World Neighbors & Fiesta History

The mission of this The World Neighbors Association is international sharing and caring. The purpose of this organization is to facilitate activities that promote intercultural exchange among international students & faculty and community residents. The goals are to assist students/faculty to become part of the community and encourage residents to understand and appreciate the countries and cultures of international students and faculty with the ultimate goal of developing friendships among the groups. The WNA was organized in 1987 and this is the 31th International Fiesta (started in 1991). WNA is a volunteer organization and anyone is welcome to become part of the group to carry out diversified international activities and cross-cultural programs. Please give your name and email to the volunteer desk if you would like to be part of this group.







# Holmes Cultural Diversity Center

The Holmes Cultural Diversity Center (HCDC) strives to enhance the college experience of students at Mississippi State University. As a “home away from home” for students, the center is committed to cultivating a welcoming and inclusive environment that supports traditionally underrepresented student populations. We are dedicated to aligning retention factors by creating opportunities to implement holistic approaches to student success and degree attainment. Additionally, we support students by connecting them to resources and opportunities that assist them to grow intellectually, develop personally and professionally, and improve their overall wellbeing. Our goal is cultivating equitable pathways that empower students to learn, live, and lead in a global and ever-changing world.



# Officers

## President

Kei Mamiya

## Treasurer

Ruth de la Cruz

## Executive Committee

Alina Nigmatullina

Bonnie Renfroe

Chacha Scroggins

Elaine Rush

Jean Ferguson

Joan Mylroie

Joby Czarnecki

Rob Brown

Sandra Woolfolk

Tracy Nash





**Thank you for joining us on a  
trip around the world!**



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. International Institute                     | 31. International Student Advisory Board |
| 2. Starkville First Methodist Church           | 32. Latino Student Association           |
| 3. Indigenous Students & Allies Association    | 33. Guyana, Columbia & Nigeria           |
| 6. Caribbean Student Association               | 34. Bangladesh Association at MSU        |
| 9. German Club                                 | 38. Sri Lankan Student Association       |
| 10. First Baptist Church Starkville            | 39. Indian Rasoi Kitchen                 |
| 12. Baptist Student Union                      | 40. Nepali Student Association           |
| 13. EcoCAR Community                           | 43. Engineers Without Borders            |
| 15. Bridgeway Church                           | 44. Indian Student Association           |
| 16. Downtown Martial Arts Academy              | 45. African Student Association          |
| 17. Chinese American Citizens Alliance         | 48. Hispanic Women Club                  |
| 19. Iranian Student Association (IrSA)         | 49. Starkville Multi-Cultural Lions Club |
| 20. Department of Geosciences                  | 50. Ukrainian Community in Starkville    |
| 21. Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers | 53. Starkville Chinese School            |
| 22. Brazilian International Student Group      | 54. Filipino Student Association         |
| 23. MSU Anime Club                             | 55. Vietnamese Student Association       |
| 24. MSU Spanish Club                           | A. Programs & T-Shirts                   |
| 25. Starkville Strong                          | B. Volunteer Check-in                    |
| 26. Japanese Club                              | C. Origami                               |
| 27. MSU Taiko Karate Club                      | D. Geography Quiz                        |
| 28. Muslim Student Association                 | E. Face Painting                         |
| 29. Mita's Himalayan Kitchen                   | F. Photo Booth                           |
| 30. Starkville Chinese Club                    | G. Judges Table                          |
|  | H. Pinata                                |