

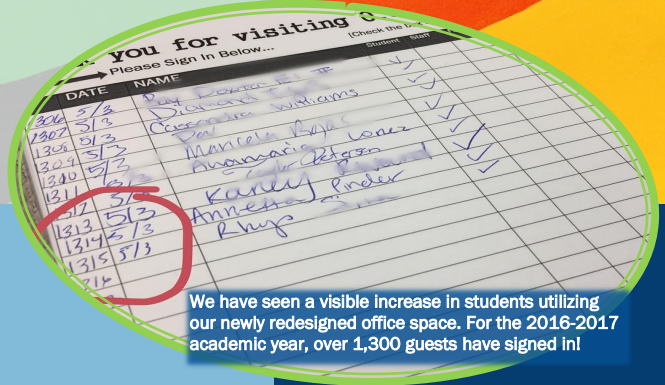
# Spring 2017

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- Cultural Vogue
- New CORES (2017-2018) eboard retreat
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- Spartans Will. Power
- 24th Annual Dia de la Mujer Conference
- 10th Annual Race In the 21st Century America Conference (collaboration with James Madison College)
- 2017 MAGIC Peer Assistant Interview and selection
- Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month events
- CORES end-of-the-year banquets
- Cultural Remix
- MAGIC
- and much more!



Top photo: Members of the Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Planning committee. Middle photo: Alliance eboard meeting. Bottom photo: ICAs for Mason-Abbot & Snyder-Phillips Hall team.



We have seen a visible increase in students utilizing our newly redesigned office space. For the 2016-2017 academic year, over 1,300 guests have signed in!



The back office space of OCAT also underwent a redesign with the intent of creating a more welcoming student friendly environment.



# Support. Advise. Guide.



Advisors from the CORES (Council of Racial & Ethnic Students) and COPS (Council of Progressive Students) met to discuss on-going resources and strategies for supporting our student leaders.



Students from CORES, COPS and other multicultural organizations hosted a panel centered on student activism at the 10th Annual James Madison Race Conference.



OCAT was joined by Women's Council Advisor, Lydia Weiss, and Dr. Terry Frazier, for a student leadership retreat with members of CORES at Kellogg Biological Station.

Providing support for our student leadership is one of OCAT's top priorities. This support takes shape in many ways including serving as advisors for the four organizations that make up the Council of Racial & Ethnic Students (CORES). These advisors include Meaghan Kozar for Asian Pacific American Student Organization (APASO), Juan Flores for Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU), Emily Sorroche for North American Indigenous Student Organization (NAISO) and Jasmine Lee for Black Student Alliance (BSA). Jasmine is the Neighborhood Engagement Director for East Neighborhood and has provided outstanding support for the past couple of years to the students from BSA and will continue to co-advise the organization during the fall 2017-2018 academic year with OCAT Coordinator, Dreux Baker.

team. CORES advisors are actively involved with all CORES eboards helping to guide them through effective program planning, the funding process, and the challenges with managing teams. Each year advisors begin the year with a collective CORES retreat while simultaneously assisting with individual group retreats. With the guidance of Dr. Terry Frazier, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs & Services, last spring we placed a greater emphasis on meeting early with newly elected eboards for the following year. In addition, Dr. Frazier helped to establish more effective communication between CORES advisors and the Council of Progressive Students (COPS) advisors.

A successful retreat took place this spring at the Kellogg Biological Station where eboard members from APASO, CRU and BSA united in learning about each other's organizations while also beginning planning for collaborative programs for the fall. The result of this retreat was planning of the CORES & COPS Multicultural Buffet.

The following pages highlight some of the many programs CORES groups hosted this past spring.

We welcomed Emily Sorroche to the OCAT staff this summer. Emily will serve as NAISO's new adviser and an Intercultural Aide (ICA) supervisor. Her history goes back many years with OCAT while she was a student at MSU. She was Secretary for NAISO's eboard, part of the Pow Wow committee and served in both the MAGIC Peer Assistant and Senior Peer Assistant roles. We are thrilled to have her part of our



OCAT welcomed Emily Sorroche as part of their professional staff. Emily will serve as both NAISO's Adviser and an Intercultural Aide (ICA) supervisor.





APASO pageant



APASO's 35th Annual Banquet

### apaso highlights include

- APASO Pageant
- Cultural Vogue
- "Tea Time" community discussion series
- Cultural Remix
- Promoting Mental Health Awareness 5K (Collaboration with Point at MSU and Mental Health Awareness Club)
- Kay Ulanday Barrett at MSU (Collaboration with Alliance of Queer and Allied Students and Council of Students with Disabilities)
- AAPI Monologues
- APA inQUEERy (Collaboration with Color Me Queer)
- CORES/COPS Retreat
- APASO Banquet

*Cultural Awareness & Leadership Development*

### Black Student Alliance

# BSA



Cultural Dance Night

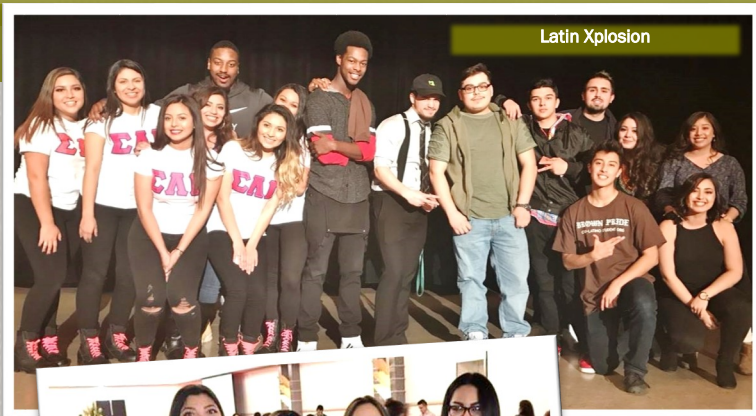
### bsa highlights include

- Mr. & Miss Black MSU Pageant
- General Assembly Meetings
- MSU in DC (Collaboration with NAACP)
- BSA Executive Board Informational
- Black Solidarity Conference
- BSA Town Hall: For Us, By Us
- Exploring Black Femme Leadership (Collaboration with Color Me Queer)
- Cultural Remix
- CORES/COPS Retreat
- Cultural Dance Night (Collaboration with Jewish Student Union and the David Project)
- B.L.A.C. Awards
- Mandatory Black Celebratory Informational
- and much more!



BSA eboard members at MSU's MLK Conference





Latin Xplosion



Dia de la Mujer Conference

## cru highlights include

- Bi-weekly General Body Meetings
- Empowering Latina Women
- Latinx for Social Change: Obstacles and Privileges
- Cultural Remix
- Latin Xplosion
- Una Noche con/A Night with Selena
- Queering the Latinx Community (Collaboration with Color Me Queer)
- CORES/COPS Retreat
- Dia De La Mujer Conference and much more!

*Cultural Awareness & Leadership Development*

## North American Indigenous Student Organization

# NAISO



NAISO eboard members hosting 1st general body meeting for Spring 2017 "Semesters & Subs"

## naiso highlights include

- Semesters & Subs
- Quill Work Valentines
- Archery
- The David Project
- Language Bingo with NAISO
- Documentary Series
- Cultural Remix
- Movement in Native American Cultures
- Pre-Pow Wow Event
- 34th Annual Pow Wow of Life
- CORES/COPS Retreat
- Graduation Dinner
- and much more!



34th Annual Pow Wow of Life



On Thursday, March 23rd, OCAT in collaboration with Residence Halls Association (RHA), and University Activities Board (UAB) hosted Cultural Remix, a cultural, music and arts event that is a smaller version of Spartan Remix that takes place at MSU each fall.

This year's theme of "Breaking Walls, Building Bridges" was an amazing

the planning committee, Cultural Remix was a space where students could celebrate differences rather than use them to divide communities.

Cultural Remix highlights included a variety of cultural performances that were both traditional and modern, featuring dance, hip-hop rappers, poetry, and much more. Complementing the artistic performances on stage was the art exhibit curated by MSU Junior, Gabriel Seck. The art exhibit featured a visual variety of MSU undergraduate and graduate students. Representatives from the Broad Art Museum were invited to judge the talented artists.

Other highlights included a

cultural catwalk fashion show where students dressed in attire that represented their identities. Students came dressed in cultural and modern clothes. Culture was also represented in the selection of foods where a buffet included samosas, chicken wings, kimbab, etc.



MSU's Counseling Center engaged Cultural Remix participants in a "Spartans stand against bullying" campaign.



# Cultural Remix

opportunity for students of diverse communities to unite in a space promoting positivity. Through the tireless efforts of diverse student leaders who were part of

[www.ocat.msu.edu](http://www.ocat.msu.edu)



Art exhibit curated by MSU Junior, Gabriel Seck.

As part of MSU's campus-wide Martin Luther King, Jr's life and legacy celebration, OCAT partnered with MSU's Center for Service Learning & Civic Engagement (CSLCE) for their community art project by creating a banner. The banner was signed by students and other MSU community members answering ways they would break the silence on issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, etc. The banner incorporated the hashtag #breakthesilence as a way of creating campus-wide awareness. The banner was then put on display at MSU's Museum.



Hip hop artist, D.A.Y. (DScholar)



Positive messages were featured on these delicious MSU Bakers Cookies.



# 34th Annual Pow Wow of Life

The North American Indigenous Student Organization of MSU hosted the 34th annual Pow Wow of Life on April 15, 2017 at the Jenison Fieldhouse.

The Pow Wow of Life gave opportunities for people of the Indigenous communities in the greater Lansing area to learn from elders about Native American traditions. This event also served as an environment to educate about Native American culture.

The Pow Wow of Life included performances and demonstrations of various crafts, arts, dances. There were also vendors who offered a number of traditional Native American goods.

## Cultural Pride



Traditional Pow Wow Dancers.

## Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Kick-Off



Members of the AA&PI Heritage Month Planning Committee pose with guest performer, Ruby Ibarra.

Each year in recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, MSU celebrates with a "Kick-Off" event in April. Although May is the nationwide recognized month, many of these celebrations honoring the histories, legacies and struggles of those with the AAPI community take place in April to coincide with MSU's academic calendar.

This year's AAPI Kick-off took place on April 28th and featured the talented rapper, spoken word artist, and music producer, Ruby Ibarra.



Ruby Ibarra performing at the Kick-Off.

This event incorporated APASO's annual monologues, an event that embraces the power of sharing our story. Through a variety of mediums, the AAPI community created a space of empowering and understanding. Some of the students within the Asian American Introductory class shared their final digital storytelling projects at the event.

## International Engagement in Mexico (IEM)



International Engagement in Mexico students visiting Campeche Mexico.

The International Engagement in Mexico program (IEM) is a study-abroad program that gives students the opportunity to travel to one of four cities in Mexico each Spring Break. The program is very popular with 128 student participants in the 2017 trips. Students who participated were given the opportunity to choose between four cities to travel to: Merida, Campeche, Puebla, and Huatulco. In each city, participants were divided into four agency groups. These groups worked Monday through Friday volunteering with senior citizens, children and youth, people with special needs, and in orphanages. Students were also given the chance to see popular tourist attractions in the cities.

Program director Juan Flores said that in the program, students had an impactful experience in whichever city they went to. He appreciates that because of IEM, students were able to further develop their cultural competency and think about the world from a global perspective.



# Dia de la Mujer Conference

On Saturday, April 8, 2017 Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU) and the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions (OCAT) collaborated with a number of sponsors and volunteers to host the 24th annual Dia de la Mujer Conference. Their combined efforts were made to inspire and educate over 500 attendees throughout the Midwest.

Attendees were able to choose from a series of nearly 30 workshops that were centered around the theme, Shaping Our Future: Independientes y Seguras, ¡Mujer! (Independent and Safe, Woman!) Workshops focused on self-empowerment and the building of trust in oneself. The topics discussed in workshops included:

- Resumes and Interviews
- Women in College and how to stay motivated
- Immigration and "What you should know"
- The Return of our Nahuatl Ceremonial songs
- Ni de Aqui Ni de Alla: Navigating Higher Education as an Undocumented Student
- Finding Your True Self Through Traditional Indigenous Ceremonies

Dia de la Mujer featured Dominican actress, writer, producer, and owner of Latin Hollywood Films production company Kiki Melendez as the keynote speaker.

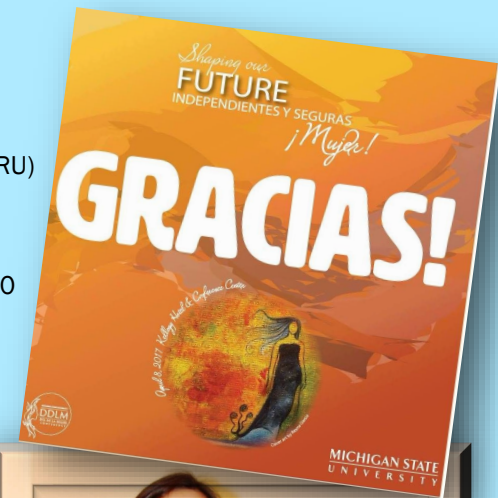
## Special features:

- Presentation of the Maria Zavala Award to Danielle Marie Lopez from the College of Natural Science
- A fashion show presented by the models of designer Guadalupe Quero from Grand Rapids, MI
- Presentation of the featured art contest winner Reyna Garcia from Grand Rapids, MI
- Guest speakers: MSU Sous Chef Melissa Martinez and MSU Sociology professor Dr. Isabel Ayala

Participants noted that some of the reasons for attending DDLM included exposure to networking opportunities, making friends, and professional training. Many said that the conference inspired them to go to college, attend MSU, learn more

about the sponsors for the conference, and not give up on their personal and professional goals. The biggest highlight from Dia de la Mujer was that the conference itself served as a great cross-cultural learning opportunity.

Dia de la Mujer is open to everyone regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, and so on. It is an annual event, so look out for this conference every year!



(On right: Aleida Martinez Flores honors Danielle Lopez with this year's María Zavala Award)



(On left: Recognizing this year's Keynote Speaker, Kiki Melendez)



(Fashion show featuring the designs)



(Some of the members of the 2017 DDLM planning committee.)



# ICA/MRULE Program



## ICAs

(Intercultural Aides) conducted 264 roundtable discussions throughout all 5 neighborhoods, every Monday and Tuesday throughout the school year. At RTDs, we had a great diversity of students attend, from various racial and cultural backgrounds and life experiences. Some of the topics discussed included: educational inequity, racial identity, history of U.S. immigration and xenophobia, mass incarceration, cultural appropriation, Native indigenous peoples, stigmas of mental health, Islamophobia, gender norms, environmental justice, and many more topics that students want to explore, learn, and talk about.

ICAs conducted focused outreach to over 1000 Spartan Success Scholars in the residence halls, to provide support in their academic and social transition to MSU and college life. ICAs had weekly interactions with Spartan Success Scholars, inviting them to the numerous cultural and social events on campus, informing them of various academic resources on campus, and provide a caring and supportive hand to first-year students.

ICAs engaged in different service projects throughout the year. In April 2017 as part of MSU's Global Day of Service, almost 100 ICAs and other MSU students traveled to Detroit and partnered with Neighbors Building Brightmoor, a long-time service partner of the MRULE program.



MSU's College Advising Corps first day of training for these MSU/ICA alumni! (from left to right: Antoine Douglas, Jess P. Hernandez, and Austin Whitted.)

If you would like more information about the **ICA/MRULE Program**, please contact:

Mosaic | 49 Abbot Road | MSU Union, Room 226 | East Lansing, MI 48824 | (517) 432-7153  
| 49 Abbot Road | MSU Union, Room 332 | East Lansing, MI 48824  
| 964 Hubbard Road | Hubbard Hall, Room G43 | East Lansing, MI 48825 | (517) 353-9260

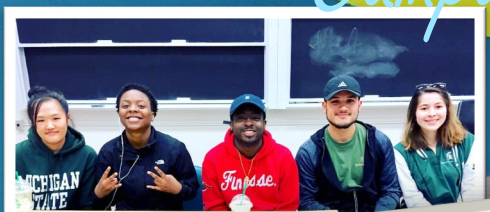
[www.mrule.msu.edu](http://www.mrule.msu.edu)





(High School Session at the "Race in 21st Century America Conference.")

# Campus Visits



(Student panel for campus visit by 6th, 7th and 8th graders from Dickinson Academy in Grand Rapids)



tour MSU. We were fortunate to have been able to spend some time talking about the wonderful opportunities that MSU has to provide.



OCAT staff pictured with OCAT Alums, Rolando Gonzalez (2nd from left) and Guillermo Avilez (3rd from left)



## "Latinos to College"

(Guest Speaker, Sein Benavides)



(Assistant Director of Migrant Student Services, Elias Lopez shares his story with the students)

In partnership with the Lansing School District and Latino faculty/staff at Michigan State University, *Latinos to College* was an exciting day that focused on inspiring career paths for area Latino youth. Part of the Lansing Pathway Promise initiative, this daylong trip to MSU offered students from local Lansing middle/high schools of Sexton, Everett and Eastern and opportunity to explore "real-world learning" with the aim of helping "give them a distinct edge for career and college readiness."

Throughout the day, students were inspired by the words of various Latino faculty/staff and community members while also participating in career-related breakout sessions focusing on Engineering, Bio Technology, and the Performing Arts. Over 100 students participated in this fantastic event. Kudos to Diane Hernandez-Wojda who led this initiative for OCAT!



## Latino Achievement Gala

The Latino Achievement Gala is signature collaborative event hosted by Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU) and the Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions. This celebratory event, held in the Lincoln Room of the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, highlights the achievements of Latinx students and community members. The Gala recognizes leadership and the contributions of students and community members who participate in CRU events throughout the year. At the 2017 Latino Achievement Gala, several awards were given out to recognize students who actively participated in community service, affiliate organizations, Todos Organizados Para Cuidar Estudiantes Scholarship recipients, Dia de la Mujer conference committee members and workshop presenters, and new and current CRU executive board members. One of the main highlights of the event is the commemoration of Latinx graduates from Michigan State. The Latino Achievement Gala offers an opportunity for these graduates to receive graduation stoles, celebrate with their friends and family, and share a short speech in front of their peers. The ceremony also featured Student Keynote speaker, graduate Graciela Sanchez, and Guest Keynote speaker Adam Torres.



OCAT had an opportunity to provide graduating MSU students with crafts to decorate their graduation caps.



NAISO graduate students with NAISO eboard members

# Graduation

## APASO Banquet

The 35th annual Asian Pacific American Student Organization (APASO) Banquet was held at Gourmet Village restaurant in East Lansing. The event featured guest speaker Stephanie Ly who is an alumna of Michigan State and previously served on the executive board of APASO. At the event, graduating seniors of the Asian American community at MSU were honored with recognition from community members and graduation stoles to congratulate them on their campus involvement. At the Banquet, there were also awards that highlighted diversity and programs that were given out to APASO affiliate organizations in categories such as Asian American Advocate/Activist Award, Best Event of the Year, and more.



Recognizing graduating MSU students at the Latino Achievement Gala.

## African American Celebratory (Black Graduation)

African American Celebratory (AAC), also known as Black Grad, is an annual event that celebrates the achievement of Black students at Michigan State who are graduating in the Spring semester or the upcoming Fall semester. The 2017 African American Celebratory event was held in the MSU Auditorium and hosted a number of Black graduating seniors, their families, and friends. To celebrate the graduates accomplishments, there were performances from dance team Urban Dreams, singer Sean Holland, and speeches given by Honors College Dean Dr. Lee June and graduate Amber Camille. One of the main highlights was the speech given by Keynote Speaker Michael Odin, who is the founder of Black Celebratory. The 2017 AAC was one of the best celebratory event in years. African American Celebratory would like to send a special thanks to the executive board members who planned the event: Janae Jones, Talaya Bates, Lamont Davis, Alton Kirksey, Shanika Kidd, Briana Moss, Jazmine Walker, and their advisor Dr. Genyne L. Royal.



Recognizing graduating MSU students at APASO's 35th Annual Banquet.



Recognizing graduating MSU students at the African American Celebratory.





Closing session with renowned motivational speaker, Eric Thomas.



Experiencing our greater Lansing community at Lake Lansing South.

We completed our twentieth year of OCAT's summer transitional program, Maximizing Academic Growth In College, better known as MAGIC. Over 125 students participated in the summer program aimed at helping prepare students for the rigors of academic life at Michigan State University. Through MAGIC, participants attend workshops introducing them to campus resources while networking with faculty, staff and community. This is an intensive introduction to campus life with an intentional aim towards student success. Highlights from this year are always our featured motivational speakers, Dr. Eric "ET, the Hip-Hop Preacher" Thomas and DeAndre Carter.



Much of our success for the MAGIC Program relies on the relationships with campus partners. (L to R: Amber Benton from James Madison College, Dr. Terry Frazier Asst. Vice President for Student Affairs & Services, OCAT Coordinators Emily Sorroche and Meaghan Kozar and Brody Engagement Director, Kelly High McCord)

MAGIC participants also benefit from the knowledge and experience of their Peer Assistants, current MSU students who often times attended MAGIC as participants themselves. MAGIC PAs lead teams 8-12 students guiding them throughout the course of the week.

In addition to the workshops acclimating MAGIC participants to MSU life, our hope is to help them connect to the Greater Lansing community. This year we brought participants to Lake Lansing to explore the beauty in the surrounding area.



Dr. Maybank, Vice President for Student Affairs & Services provides some inspiring parting words on the last day of MAGIC.



Group photo of MAGIC Week three taken with Officer Dwayne Jones during his "MSU Police and Working with the Law" session.

### MAGIC Week Three!

In collaboration with MSU's Migrant Student Services (MSS), OCAT hosts a shorter week three of MAGIC primarily made up of students who are part of the College Assistance Migrant Program Scholars Initiative. Although the week is shorter in length, the focus of this week is to introduce students to campus resources and providing them with valuable tools aimed in promoting student success.





*connecting diverse peoples, programs,  
and ideas to enhance student success*



## Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions

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