

## The Cultural Aide Program (41 years and counting...)

### Team of the Year Award

Each year the award for Cultural Aide *Team of the year* is a highly anticipated honor. While all the teams did a fantastic job, this year three teams stood out. These teams included the **North team** (Mason-Abbot/Snyder-Phillips/West Circle), the **Brody A team** (Rather, Emmons, and Armstrong halls), and the **Holden team**. Ultimately we chose the Holden team as *Team of the year* based on student outreach, programming, collaborations, and team chemistry to name a few reasons.

This award along with recognizing our graduating seniors and academic achievements of our students took place at the "**1st Annual OCAT/OSS (Office of Supportive Services) Recognition Banquet**" held at the Lansing Center on April 29, 2010. It was an extraordinary evening filled with laughs and fond memories as we celebrated the accomplishments of OCAT's and OSS's 2010 graduating seniors!



2009-2010 Cultural Aide Team of the Year: **Holden** (from left to right) Makinson Surin, Micaela Flores, Nicole McGowan, Christlynn Chelladurai, Brian Shockley, Anitha Subramanian and Meaghan Kozar (Area Coordinator for Holden with her son, Jai)

## 2010 Graduating Cultural Aides

**Lovneet Bhullar:** Will be returning to her home country of India and will pursue graduate studies in India for Human Nutrition starting Fall 2010.

**Giacomo Cirrincione:** Was the student speaker at the College of Ag & Natural Resources' graduation commencement. This fall, he will begin MSU's Student Affairs Administration Masters program, and serve as an Asst Hall Director for the Dept of Residence Life. He aspires to one day become a future Area Coordinator for OCAT.

**Linda Chhong:** Will be working with Americorps VISTA, as a site coordinator at a designated school in Phoenix/Mesa, Arizona, conducting needs assessments for resources in school and community night, aimed at reducing school dropout rates. After her one year term, she plans to pursue graduate studies.

**Christopher Fan:** Will be interning this summer in Cape Town, South Africa, working with youth from underprivileged areas that focus on for-youth/by-youth leadership initiatives. After the summer, he hopes to work with Americorps' CollegeBound in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Megumi Hirohara:** Will be working for a Japanese-based company in Novi, Michigan, and hopes to pursue graduate studies in the future.

**Aditya Jain:** Will be returning to India and joining his father in their family business. After a couple of years of experience, he plans to attend graduate school in India.

**Roman Krivochenitser:** Will be conducting research at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel for nuclear translocation of MAPK pathways (i.e. cancer research) this summer, and then he will return to MSU College of Human Medicine to begin his first year en route to an MD degree while also hoping to pursue an MBA.

**Nicole McGowan:** Will be doing her internship with Detroit Public Schools as a part of her fifth year program in the College of Education.

**Rachel Moore:** Will be attending the Univ of South Carolina to pursue a degree in Masters of Social work beginning in the fall of 2010

**Catalina Natal:** Is pursuing a job at Great Lakes Dredges & Docks as a site administrator as well as applying for the Peace Corps to teach ESL. After this, she hopes to attend graduate school in clinical psychology.

**Brian Shockley:** Will begin his new career at Altria Sales and Distribution as the territorial sales manager in Novi, MI.

**Afreen Syed:** Will be attending the Masters in Public Health Program at MSU in fall 2010 as well as applying to optometry school in the hopes of doing a dual degree with both of these.

**Abraxas White:** Will be returning to Washington D.C. and may work with a psychiatric institute. She plans to get certified as a yoga instructor and is interested in pursuing graduate studies that incorporate alternative medicine with psychology.

**Marvin Yates:** Will be serving in Teach for America in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Global Youth Services Day Event in Detroit, MI | 2   |
| Re-cap of Spring 2010 OCAT Cultural Events...  | 2-3 |
| MAGIC Summer 2010 update                       | 3   |
| IVAC Toronto Trip                              | 4   |
| IVAC Oaxaca 2011 Trip                          | 5   |
| FOCUS conference                               | 6   |
| OCAT 2010-2011 calendar                        | 6   |

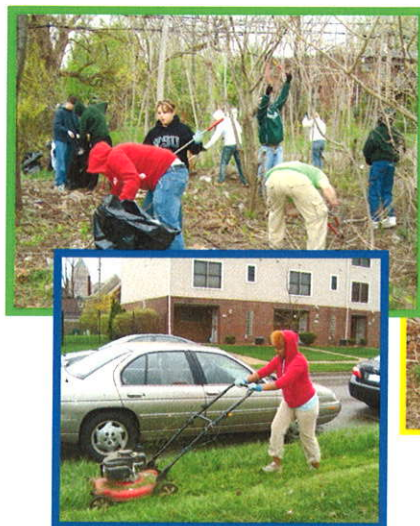
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## "Global Youth Services Day"—Detroit, MI

On April 24th, OCAT in collaboration with Student Life brought over 30 MSU students to Detroit, MI to participate in a day of service. This initiative was part of the worldwide 22nd Annual Global Youth Services Day (GYSD), which is "the largest service event in the world and is now celebrated in over 100 countries" (for more information about GYSD visit <http://gysd.org/about>). This event was also hosted by YouthVille Detroit (for more information about YouthVille Detroit visit <http://www.youthvilledetroit.org/about/index.html>). MSU students participated in cleaning up a vacant lot overrun

with trash and debris. By cleaning up the lot, students helped to beautify a lower income neighborhood just outside the YouthVille Detroit center. After their hard work, they were rewarded with a dinner at a nearby Soul Food restaurant.



## Cultural Events @ OCAT during the 2010 Spring Semester

### American Indian Awareness...

The North American Indigenous Student Organization, NAISO, held their 27<sup>th</sup> annual student "Pow-wow of Love" at Jenison Field House February 13 & 14, 2010. They attracted American Indian dancers from around the Great Lakes area, served American Indian food, held an Elder's Circle and organized American Indian craft projects for the general public. They attracted 1,500 people to this event and hope to share American Indian culture with more people next year. For more information on NAISO go to <https://www.msu.edu/~naiso/>



### Also...

NAISO advisor, Pat Dyer-Deckrow, hosted a Cultural Aide Training & Development session at the Nokomis Learning Center in Okemos. She shared her history as an American Indian and member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.



At the Nokomis Learning Center in Okemos during a Cultural Aide Training & Development session.

### Black/African American Awareness...

Among the events that took place this semester highlighting Black/African American Awareness was BSA's (Black Student Alliance) annual "Black Pearl Gala" held on Saturday, April 17th at the Kellogg Center. This event honors and recognizes student leaders in the MSU community.

\* \* \*

(Mark your calendars for the annual "Black Power Rally" that takes place each year near the end of October!)





### Latino/a Awareness...

The **17th Annual Día de la Mujer Conference (DDLMM)** was held on March 20, 2010 at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University. Nearly 500 people attended the conference throughout the day. The one day event offered thirty workshops for participants that attracted grandmothers, mothers, college, high school and elementary school students. The workshops covered perspectives on health, culture, self-development, professional networking, media and political representation. These workshops

were facilitated by Latina experts in the identified areas. Compared to the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual DDLMM the year before the number of participants increased by more than one hundred and the overall quality of the conference improved significantly. **ALSO....**

**Latin Xplosion** was held February 19<sup>th</sup> at the MSU Auditorium. Latin Xplosion is an annual Latino based Cultural show at Michigan State University. Led by *Culturas de Las Razas Unidas (C.R.U.)* and coordinated by OCAT, it is the largest showcase of Latino performances by Latino students at MSU. This year's theme was "Carnival" and over 600 people from the university and the community attended the show.



Maximizing Academic Growth In College

### M.A.G.I.C Summer Program update...

Please help us welcome incoming MSU freshmen students participating in the *Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions'* **MAGIC (Maximizing Academic Growth In College)** program during the weeks of **July 11-16<sup>th</sup>** (week one) and **July 18-23<sup>rd</sup>** (week two). Each week OCAT welcomes a group of 100-125 student participants. MAGIC students participate in a variety of exciting, informative, and engaging activities and workshops that get students familiar with MSU's campus. Sessions for this summer include the following guest presenters/workshops:

- Writing/Math/Managing your Student Acct./Diversity workshops
- "Making the Grade" (a panel featuring MSU professors—Dr. Pero Dagbovie, Dr. Sheila Contreras, Dr. Andrea Louie, Dr. Gordon Henry and more!)
- Goal Setting w/Mr. Eric Thomas
- Time is of the Essence w/Mr. DeAndre Carter
- Staying Emotionally Healthy—Ms. Carmen Gear AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

*Maximizing Academic Growth In College*

### Outstanding & Exceptional Cultural Aide Honors

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Year OUTSTANDING

Emi Bulica  
Jonathan Callahan  
Rodney Dennis  
Micaela Flores  
Joshua Haun  
Raegaan Johnson  
Mario Lemons  
Camille Marrero  
Sharmaake Sabrie  
Brian Shockley  
Anitha Subramanian  
Lydia Vanderbilt

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Year EXCEPTIONAL

M.J. Crawford  
Brent Mitchell  
Jez Vedula

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year OUTSTANDING

Caleb Artrip  
Max Surin  
Christlynn Chelladurai  
Alex Boone  
Jasmine Fountain

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year EXCEPTIONAL

Jazmin Bailey  
Megumi Hirohara  
Emeka Igwe  
Roman Krivochenitser



### Asian Pacific American Awareness...

This year the *Asian Pacific American Student Organization (APASO)*, OCAT and APASO's 11 affiliate groups brought to campus **Wong Fu Productions**, a trio of Asian American film producers to headline "Night Market." This event took place on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and was a celebration of APA heritage month (officially recognized during the month of May).

\* \* \*

Also celebrated this semester was the bi-annual **Lunar New Year Show**, celebrating the "Year of the Tiger" and held at the Auditorium on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.



## International Volunteer Actions Corps (IVAC) updates...

By Carlos Fuentes, Assistant Director—Internationalizing The Student Experience

### "IVAC / LGBT Toronto Service Project 2010"

The day after finals, fourteen students and myself headed to Toronto, Ontario for a full week of learning on how to get along with people from different cultures, how to be a global citizen and social justice issues that challenge the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community. The project was a partnership between the **International Volunteer Action Corps** and the MSU **LGBT Resource Center**. The group was made up of six Chinese students, one Korean student, two Latinos, and six majority students. Some of the team members identified themselves as LGBT.

Group members volunteered at a food bank, a homeless shelter for men and at the Lesbian Gay Archives for Canada. Students worked diligently for 4 hours per day at each site. After volunteering, the group would come together to reflect on what they were learning through their volunteer and social experience. Presentations and learning circles on global competencies, global citizenship and LGBT social justice issues were also conducted. After these powerful and deep learning sessions, the group would dine at various ethnic restaurants within the surrounding area. After dinner, many students went to the LGBT neighborhood to go dancing.

A site visit was made at "The 519," a non-profit agency that assists the LGBT community. The group explored the LGBT neighborhood during the day and night. At the conclusion of the trip, students were asked to identify three things they planned to do over the next year at MSU based on their experience. Here are some of their responses:

*"Be open to know more different people, friends of different culture and background."*

*"Be more involved with LGBT Resource, be a better ally for the transgender community."*

*"Be more active and involved with LGBT things on campus."*

#### What happened on this trip?

- Lots of deep learning.
- Deep trusting friendships and relationships were created between international students and US students and staff.
- A better understanding of Social Justice issues in the LGBT community.
- And lots of fun!

Many students walked away with a better understanding of the oppression that the LGBT community goes through. Many LGBT allies were created. Unfortunately, however, there were some very eye-opening incidents that took place as well. A Chinese student on our team was physically assaulted by a white male in Toronto. A team member's parents, who live in Toronto, was on the verge of disowning their daughter because she was associating herself with people who are not "normal" (this being in reference to the LGBT focus of the project). These two critical incidents, among others, catalyzed the group. It made the global competency and the LGBT social justice aspects of the project become more real. The experiences the group shared were priceless. The positive evaluations that every student filled out at the end of the week is also a testament of this project's success. From my point of view the experience that we all shared was one of the best service groups I have ever been a part of (and there are around forty!). The group doesn't want to stop seeing each other. We have had two dinners back at MSU within one week with more plans in the future.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved with IVAC, please call (517) 353-7745 or email at [ivac@msu.edu](mailto:ivac@msu.edu). If you would like to contact the MSU LGBT Resource Center, you can call them at (517) 353-9520 or via email at [lbgtrc@msu.edu](mailto:lbgtrc@msu.edu).

Hope to hear from you!

Carlos Fuentes  
Advisor, IVAC  
Assistant Director—Internationalizing The Student Experience



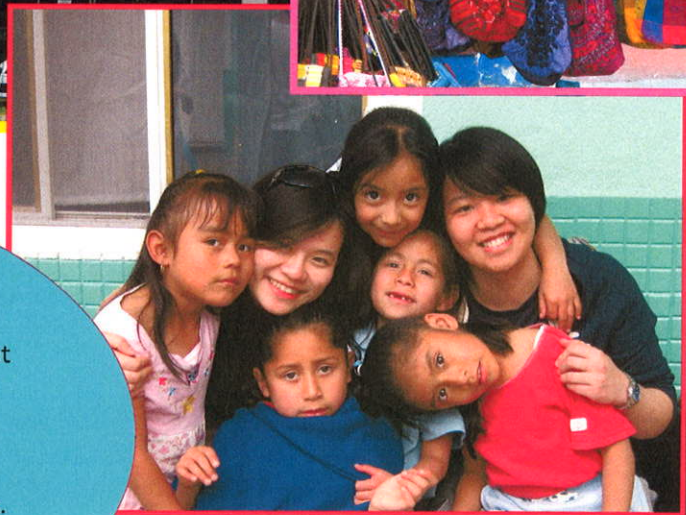
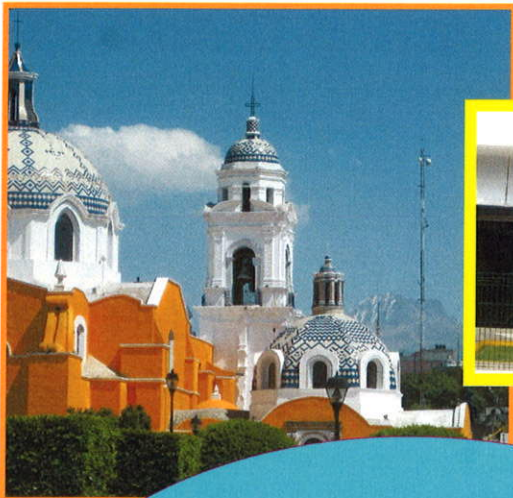


## Upcoming IVAC trips for Winter Break and/or Spring Break to **Oaxaca, Mexico!**

It may seem a bit early to be thinking about your plans for **Winter Break 2010-2011** but IVAC is already planning a service project to **Oaxaca, Mexico**. The dates of the service project will be from *Monday, December 27, 2010 thru Saturday, January 8, 2011*. IVAC will be recruiting International students, students of color and majority students. We will be volunteering at a non-profit agency that works with children who work on the streets, who work in the local market places or who come from families where there is domestic violence. We will be volunteering 4 hours per day. Although we do not know exactly what we will be doing, it will involve some of the following: painting, cleaning, organizing, tutoring math and interacting with youth.

IVAC uses the service-learning model to teach global citizenship. Daily group reflections will take place in order to process and reflect on what students are learning from their volunteer, group, and Mexico experience. We call these "reflection sessions." These sessions create an environment where deep learning occurs. Students will also learn about what it takes to successfully navigate other cultures through the process of living and working together. Students create, on their own time, meaningful relationships with other student participants who come from different cultures, countries, religions and world views.

Oaxaca (pronounced "whah hah kah") is located in Southern Mexico and is warm year round. It has a high indigenous population. It also has a strong Spanish colonial flavor through its architecture. Oaxaca is a city of approximately one million people. There are many cultural sites located in the vicinity. If you like Mexican food, you will be in heaven since Oaxaca is well known for its culinary arts.



**Congratulations** to IVAC for winning the **ASMSU & RHA Award** for *Internationalizing the Student Experience*. This award was presented at the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Life Leadership Awards Ceremony** held April 20 at the MSU Union.

The award is presented to a student organization for planning and implementing programs that foster relationships among domestic, international, and/or racial-ethnic students. At the heart of internationalizing the student experience is "impacting lives," such that students view themselves and their world in a broader global context.

## "International Engagement in Mexico Spring Break 2010"

Can't make the Winter Break Trip to Oaxaca, Mexico? Don't have Spring Break plans? Want to earn **class credit**? Want a life-changing experience? Then this program is for **YOU!**

\*\*\*\*For more information contact: **Carlos Fuentes** ([fuentes@msu.edu](mailto:fuentes@msu.edu)) / (517) 353-7745



### Become a... Cultural Leader @ OCAT!

- Cultural Aides!
- MAGIC Peer Assistants!
- C.O.R.E.S e-boards!
- Internships!
- Work-study!
- Mentoring!
- and more!

For more information,  
check our website at:

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

### Multicultural Center (MCC)

MSU Union Building  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
(517) 432-7153

### Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions

339 Student Services Building  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1113  
(517) 353-7745

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Ideas to Enhance Student Success!*

## F.O.C.U.S 2010 Conference



The **21st Annual F.O.C.U.S (Foundations of College Undergraduate Success)** took place on Friday, January 29, 2010 in the MSU Union. This conference was a collaborative effort of the Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions (OCAT), Office of Supportive Services (OSS), Undergraduate University Division (UUD), and the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources (CANR), and the Office of Assistant Provost for Academic Student Services. This year we had over 200 students/faculty and staff attend an afternoon filled with workshops centered on student success, career development and provided resources for helping students reach graduation. We had a diverse group of presenters including Mr. Deandre Carter (in the above picture on the left). Our opening speaker was Dr. John Lee, from MSU's Counseling Center and our evening keynote speaker was Dr. Pam Bellamy, Director of GEAR UP/College Day Programs and Educational Talent Search. Both gave fantastic and inspirational speeches!

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### 22nd Annual FOCUS Conference?

The FOCUS committee has decided to outreach to students earlier by having the FOCUS conference in the fall rather than the traditional start of the spring semester. The conference is scheduled for **Friday, October 1st, 2010** and will feature keynote speaker, **Dr. Tom Rios** (the former Director of OCAT and now the current Assistant Chancellor for Student Affairs University of Wisconsin—Whitewater).

*Questions about the FOCUS conference, contact the OCAT office!!!*

### Mark your calendars for OCAT events during the 2010-2011 Academic Year (including Summer 2010)...

#### July

- MAGIC week one (July 11-16th)
- MAGIC week two (July 18-23rd)

#### August

- Cultural Aide Team Coord. Training (Aug. 15th)
- Cultural Aide Training (Aug. 16-27th)
- Cultural Aide Retreat (Aug. 23-24th)

#### September

- OCAT / OSS Welcome
- Spartan Remix (Sept. 9th)
- Chat with OCAT (Sept. 17th)

#### October

- FOCUS conference (Oct. 1st)
- Chat with OCAT (Oct. 15th)
- Black Power Rally (end of October, Date TBA)

#### November

- Chat with OCAT (Nov. 19th)

#### December

- International Volunteer Action Corps' (IVAC) "Winter Break Service Project" @ Oaxaca, Mexico (December 27-January 8, 2011)

#### January

- Chat with OCAT (Jan. 21st)

#### February

- Cultural Aide Interviews (for 2011-2012)
- Pow Wow (Feb. 12-13th)
- Chat with OCAT (Feb. 18th)
- Latin Xplosion (end of Feb. Date TBA)
- Cultural Vogue (end of Feb., Date TBA)

#### March

- Chat with OCAT (Mar. 18th)
- DDLM (Mar. 20th)

#### April

- Chat with OCAT (Apr. 15th)
- OCAT / OSS Recognition Banquet (Date TBA)

#### May

- IVAC Toronto Service Project (May 7-14)

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*For more information about upcoming  
events, please contact OCAT at  
(517) 353-7745 or visit: [www.ocat.msu.edu](http://www.ocat.msu.edu).*