

Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions

Cultural Connection NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016—Spring 2017



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

Welcome to OCAT's fall 2016 semester newsletter! What an amazing year it has been so far. We are ecstatic to share with you the exciting changes that have taken place within our programming initiatives, our work to empower diverse communities, and most significantly the move towards creating a more welcoming and student-friendly environment within our office space located on the 3rd floor of the Student Services building.

Moving away from the online Cultural Connection e-newsletters, we hope this bi-annual newsletter provides a more comprehensive overview of our programs, services and accomplishments in one stop!

the MSU community while also supporting and providing our students with the leadership skills needed to create culturally educational programs. We cherish our seasoned leaders whose passion inspires us and embrace our emerging leaders who are increasingly finding their voices.

Inside

Director's Welcome, pg. 2

Cultural Awareness, pgs. 3-4

Leadership Development, pgs. 4-7

CORES, pgs. 6-7 & 12-13

Community Outreach, pg. 9

Spring 2017 overview, pg. 10

Advising, pg. 11

Cultural Remix, pg. 14

Pow Wow, AA&PI Month, & IEM, pg. 15

DDL M Conference, pg. 16

ICA-MRULE, pgs. 5 & 17

Graduation, pg. 19

MAGIC program, pg. 20



OCAT hosted prospective students from the Milwaukee Academy of Science to lunch, a campus tour and a Q&A session about MSU & OCAT resources.

This newsletter is divided into several different categories that helps explain the purpose of the Office of Cultural & Academic Transitions. These categories include "Cultural Awareness," "Leadership Development," "Academic Transitions," and "Community Outreach." In many instances, these categories overlap where we focus equally on providing cultural awareness to

This newsletter demonstrates the pride we take in programs that have long-standing traditions, as well as our ability to encourage innovation. Perhaps the greatest innovative aspect of this semester has been the redesign of our office space (see image on the left and above). The abstract design of the Sankofa bird coupled with the vibrant choice of colors merges our respect for histories and traditions with the possibilities of change. There have been numerous benefits as a result of the office redesign, one of which is an increase in the flow of student traffic at OCAT. From the start of the semester through the middle of December,

we have had over **675 guests** sign-in!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. We love what we do and hope it shows!

www.ocat.msu.edu

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Director's Welcome

Wow! I can't believe it's the start of Spring Semester 2017. Fall Semester 2016 was filled with so much excitement. We started our initiatives in July and August with the exciting and successful sessions of MAGIC, our summer transition program for incoming MSU freshmen. We had the opportunity to meet, orientate, educate and connect with 200 wonderful new students. I can't wait to review the great grades from their 1st semester here at MSU.

Fall Semester started with a "huge bang" with our annual Spartan Remix. This year's event was one of the most well attended and successful events to date. If you missed it, you missed the "true essence" of MSU. We have been blessed with the opportunity to impact hundreds of students through the following OCAT Programs: MAGIC, Spartan Remix, Leadership Institute, Success Series, ICA Program, 'Real Talk', and OCAT Open-house!

The OCAT Staff is committed to assisting you in successfully navigating this university. Please feel free to contact us and if we can't resolve your issue, we will "connect" you to the person(s) that can help! Speaking of OCAT staff, we want to say a fond good-

bye to two wonderful OCAT staff members. We wish all the best to Ms. Leslie Hernandez-Ortiz as she begins her new life in Alabama and Ms. Pat Dyer-Deckrow who has retired after 26 wonderful years at MSU. We will begin the search process for Pat's open position early spring semester. As we say goodbye to these two women, we are welcoming a new staff member, Mr. Dreux Baker, a former Cultural Aide, who will be working with the Intercultural Aide Program.

Spring Semester 2017, we will again have a wealth of programs including the Success Series (hosted by Dr. Eric Thomas) every Tuesday at 6:30pm in Erickson Kiva. Please review this newsletter and our website for upcoming events.

We look forward to seeing you in 2017!

Sincerely,

Murray Edwards,
Director



Congratulations to Pat Dyer-Deckrow on her retirement after 26 years as MSU!

Congratulations to Leslie Hernandez-Ortiz on her move to Alabama after working at MSU for 12 years!



Welcome to Dreux Baker, our newest OCAT employee, who started in October 2016!



Cultural Awareness & Leadership Development

One of OCAT's most exciting events has to be Spartan Remix, an outdoor cultural festival that takes place on the Thursday after Labor Day. This year we were blessed once again with an opportunity to bring diverse communities together in celebration of music, art and culture. This event is among the few large scale events at MSU that focuses on cross-cultural diversity. However, did you also realize that this event centers on leadership development? Each summer, both seasoned and emerging leaders devote numerous hours into making this event a success. The planning committee is divided into three subcommittees, which include "logistics," "outreach," and "publicity" and are led by Committee Chairs, who are then supervised by the Remix advisors and Student Coordinator. Simultaneously the entire group works together on the artistic components of the event including, securing performers, artists, poster concept and design, t-shirt design, promotional trailer design and much more!

Jessica Steinert Photography 2016



Graffiti artist, Freddie Diaz

Throughout the summer, in addition to planning this awesome event, students learn about each other through mini-presentations focused on cultural pride and identity that take place at each planning committee meeting.

[VIEW SPARTAN REMIX RECAP VIDEO HERE!](#)
(Shot by DPB Productions)

Get Involved.

- outreach chair/committee members
- logistics chair/committee members
- public relations chair/committee members
- artists
- musicians
- poets
- photographers
- videographers



Traditional Pow Wow dancers performing at Spartan Remix



Beatboxer, Mike Lee performing at Spartan Remix

CORES

(Council of Racial & Ethnic Students)

The diversity of Spartan Remix is unmatched as many of the leaders in the CORES, which is made up of APASO (Asian Pacific American Student Organization), BSA (Black Student Alliance), CRU (Culturas de las Razas Unidas) and NAISO (North American Indigenous Student Organization) along with various student organizations within COPS (Council of Progressive Students) showcase talent from their communities, providing a preview for the larger events coordinated by their communities throughout the year. OCAT's coordinators serve as advisors to the CORES eboards and assist them in all aspects of the organization's planning, implementation, and budgeting of their programs.



Some of the members of the 2016 Spartan Remix planning committee



"Vigil of Solidarity"



Interactive art project facilitated by artist and MSU Alum, Adriana Abundis

Leadership Development

Our 2nd session for OCAT's **Leadership Institute** was offered this fall nearly doubling the number of graduating participants from last year's group. We reviewed our program and made some exciting adjustments, which included opening the program up to freshmen as well as meeting for four consecutive weeks rather than bi-monthly. We also adjusted our topics slightly to include an overall "Leadership 101" and "Professionalism" session in addition to the "Intercultural Competency" and "Responsible Activism." The overall response from this year's cohort was very positive. Here's a glimpse of the feedback we received:

"It is a great program that allows individuals of all backgrounds to come together and interact w/each other. That is such a beautiful thing. MSU needs more of that."

"10/10; Very good; Love the energy; Pertinent & relevant speakers"

"Every time I left the sessions, I felt motivated and excited about my life, even if I didn't feel like attending that day."

"This is a great experience for everyone. I would definitely love if you did a 2nd session of this in the spring."

Several of the students who participated in this Leadership Institute opted to continue their leadership development by participating on the "Cultural Remix" planning committee. This large event (which is a smaller spin-off from Spartan Remix) will take place sometime this March.

www.ocat.msu.edu



"Leadership 101" session at OCAT's Leadership Institute



Fall 2016 Graduating Leadership Institute Cohort



Some members of the 2017 Cultural Remix planning committee

Intercultural Aide Program (ICAs)

For nearly 48 years, the Intercultural Aide program has been a staple in OCAT for developing outstanding student leaders who have gone on to have outstanding careers. Several of our current OCAT staff members including Murray Edwards, Juan Flores, and Dreux Baker have all served as past ICAs. This year 78 ICAs serve MSU's campus in the residence halls helping students academically, socially and personally.

Current OCAT staff members leading the Intercultural Aide program are Maggie Chen-Hernandez, Carlos Fuentes, Tiffany Toriumi, Rob Biddle and Dreux Baker. Their time is spent supervising, advising, guiding, and developing these amazing student leaders. Through the years, the program has undergone some exciting new changes. This spring, the ICA staff will participate in the arduous task of interviewing and selecting next year's ICAs.



Tour of the OCAT office during Fall ICA training



ICA, Taylor Peterson helping to promote Spartan Remix



2016-2017 Intercultural Aides

For more information on the ICA program, visit: www.mosaic.msu.edu



Api/a dialogues



Night Market



"Our Culture's not a Costume"

APASO highlights include

- Spartan Remix
- APASO Fall Kick-Off
- Tea Time Community Discussions
- API/A Dialogue
- Community Activism
- MSU Homecoming Parade
- Night Market
- "Our Culture's Not a Costume"
- Affiliate Roundtables
- Cultural Vogue Planning Committee
- Ribbon cutting of newly renovated Vincent Chin heritage room
- and much more!

Cultural Awareness & Leadership Development



BSA eboard members at the 44th Black Power Rally



BSA eboard retreat



Performance at the 44th Black Power Rally

Black Student Alliance

BSA

BSA highlights include

- Welcome Black Week
- Spartan Remix
- 44th Annual Black Power Rally
- "Birth of a Nation" Film Screening
- Harambee
- Community Activism
- "Our Culture's Not a Costume"
- Post-election Healing Spaces
- MSU Homecoming Parade
- MSU vs. U of M Tailgate
- Ribbon-cutting of new office space in Hubbard Hall
- Collaborations with affiliate organizations
- Black on Track Study and Stress Relief Week
- and much more!



Protest at ASMSU meeting



Latinx townhall



CRU eboard members

CRU highlights include

- Spartan Remix
- Latinx Townhall
- Organizing campus-wide protests against hate
- 13th Annual Brown Pride
- MSU Homecoming Parade
- “Our Culture’s Not a Costume”
- Post-election Healing Spaces
- Ribbon-cutting of newly renovated CRU room in Wilson Hall
- Bi-weekly general body meetings and much more!

Cultural Awareness & Leadership Development

North American Indigenous Student Organization

NAISO



“Indigenous People’s Day”



NAISO eboard members hosting 1st general body meeting



MSU Homecoming parade

NAISO highlights include

- Spartan Remix
- “Indigenous People’s Day”
- MSU Homecoming Parade
- Round Dance of Love
- Talking Circle
- Community Activism
- Native Fall Feast
- Bi-weekly General Body Meetings
- “Our Culture’s Not a Costume”
- Ribbon-cutting of newly renovated NAISO room in Hubbard Hall
- Black-ash Basket Weaving
- De-stress before finals
- and much more!

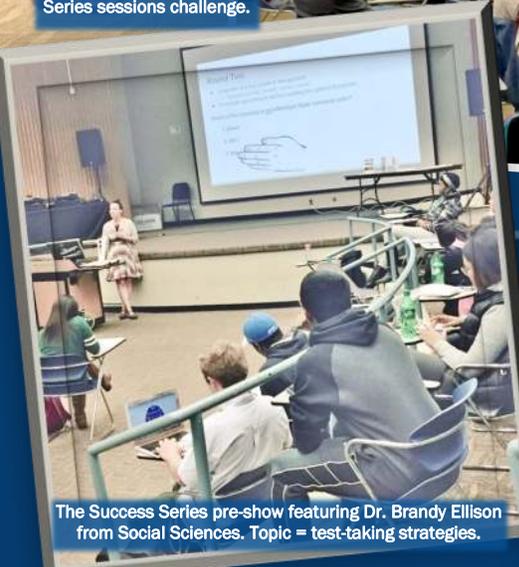
Academic Transitions



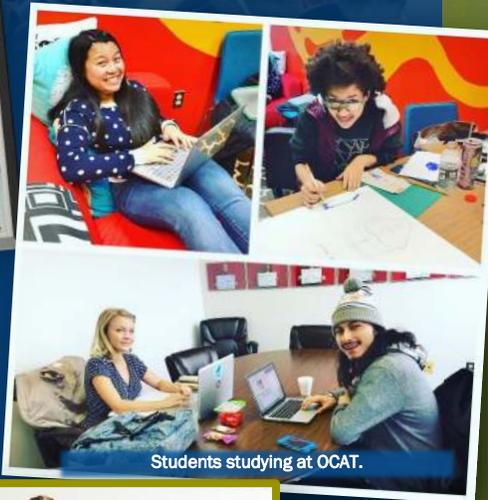
Winners of Eric Thomas' no party/attend Success Series sessions challenge.



Success Series session with Eric Thomas



The Success Series pre-show featuring Dr. Brandy Ellison from Social Sciences. Topic = test-taking strategies.



Students studying at OCAT.



The fall 2016 MAGIC Success Initiative relies on the awesome work of our Peer Assistants.

Success Series

For a second year, OCAT is blessed that Dr. Eric Thomas (aka ET, the Hip-Hop Preacher) has committed another year towards the Success Series. The Success Series is a weekly motivational and support program for MSU students designed to inspire success academically, personally and professionally. Some of the topics for this semester included "mental toughness," "overcoming adversity," and "driven by destiny."

While Eric is available about 90% of the time to present on powerful topics that help students stay motivated and focused, he has also graciously coordinated a diversity of phenomenal speakers to speak at the Success Series in his absence. This year these powerful speakers included Yolanda Moore (two-time WNBA Champion), TJ Tyus (CEO Strength 2 Be) and Dr. Ty-Ron Douglas (Author of "Border Crossing Brothas").

Continuing from last spring, the Success Series begins with a half-hour devoted towards providing students with tips, skills and strategies for their academic success. Once again, we have been fortunate to partner up with Dr. Brandy Ellison from the College of Social Sciences who facilitates these sessions.

www.etinspires.com

Studying at OCAT

Another benefit for OCAT's office redesign was the reconfiguring of the office space into a relaxing and study-friendly environment. We definitely saw the impact of changing the environment with a record of over 675 guests that signed in when they stopped by.

MAGIC Success Initiative

This fall we continued our 1st year follow-up with our MAGIC students by hiring several of our summer Peer Assistants to assist with outreach for our students throughout the academic year. Our Peer Assistants did an excellent job of helping 1st year MAGIC students make a successful social, cultural and academic transition to college life. MAGIC is OCAT's summer transition program for incoming MSU freshmen.

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Community Outreach



Inside the South Side Community Coalition.

Outreach toward the MSU community took form in many ways this semester, which included both on and off-campus events. Off-campus, Carlos Fuentes once again led a group of volunteers to host a Halloween party for the kids at the South Side Community Coalition. The event included games and prizes, food and a special performance by MSU's Breakdance Club.

Fuentes, along with several campus partners also coordinated *Taking it to the Streets, part II* that took place on October 22nd in the Greater Lansing area.

On-campus, Juan Flores led the 14th Annual Thanksgiving Unity dinner formerly known as "Homies Giving." This event provides a delicious dinner on Thanksgiving day to the many undergraduate and graduate MSU students who are unable to travel home for the short holiday break. The dinner fed over 400 MSU Spartans.

Thanksgiving Unity Dinner.

Halloween party at South Side Community Coalition.

Spartans Will. Power



Serving a delicious meal at the Thanksgiving Unity Dinner



Speaking to a group of prospective MSU students.

Spring 2017

- APASO pageant
- MLK Banner Awareness Project
- Reverse Career Fair
- Success Series
- Intercultural Aide interviews and selection
- Cultural Vogue
- New CORES (2017-2018) eboard retreat
- Pow wow of Life
- 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-

you for visiting (check the box)

Please Sign In Below...

DATE	NAME	STATUS
1304	5/3	✓
1307	5/3	✓
1308	5/3	✓
1309	5/3	✓
1310	5/3	✓
1311	5/3	✓
1312	5/3	✓
1313	5/3	✓
1314	5/3	✓
1315	5/3	✓
1316	5/3	✓

Handwritten names in the table include: May-Louise, Doreen Williams, Monica Lee, Anwarul Haque, Karly Under, Annette, and Rhya.

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.

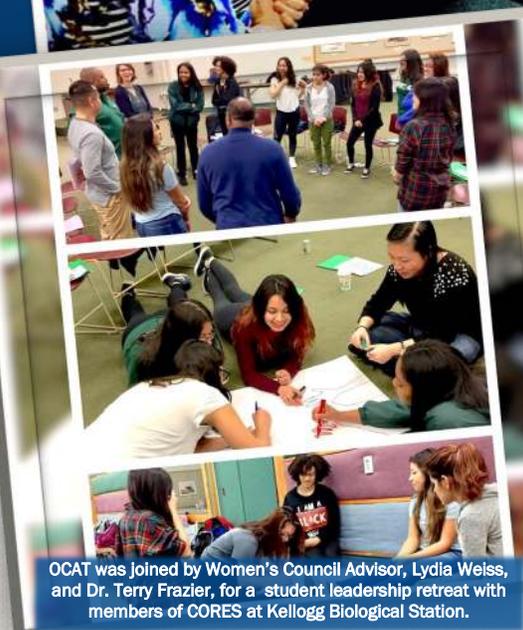




Advisors from the CORES (Council of Racial & Ethnic Students) and COPS (Council of Progressive Students) met to discuss on-going resources and strategies for supporting our student leaders.



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.

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

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



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



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 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!



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 opportunity for students of diverse commu-

nities to unite in a space promoting positivity. Through the tireless efforts of diverse student leaders who were part of 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, kimbap, etc.



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



Cultural Remix

nities to unite in a space promoting positivity. Through the tireless efforts of diverse student leaders who were part of

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 Cook-

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.



Traditional Pow Wow Dancers.



Cultural Pride

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

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

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.

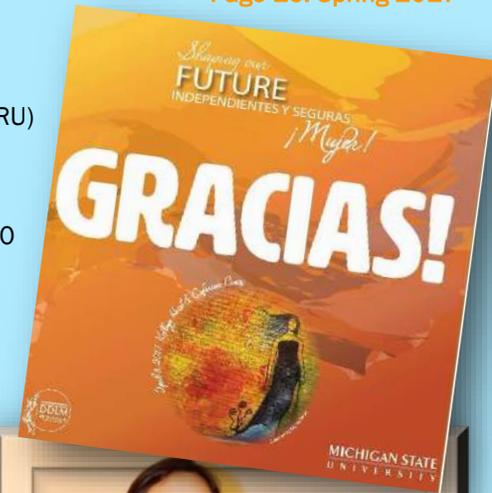
Special features:

- 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 Maria 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.



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



(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)

Throughout the year, OCAT staff members have the opportunity to welcome prospective students who are visiting Michigan State University. These visits take shape in the form in campus tours, student panels, or in connection with campus programming and events. This past year, we met with a range of students from Detroit to Grand Rapids, in state and out of state. All these students share an interest in pursuing higher education and we do our best to make a positive influence in their decision post high school.

We are so proud of our MSU/OCAT alums who have reached out to our office because of their positive experience with our office. Two of our former students now working at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley brought a cohort of students to

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



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.



M.A.G.I.C. 2017



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*



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