

Diversity Development Office Rolls Out New Publication For Alumni

Greetings to you from the Office of [Diversity Development](#) at [Oregon State University](#) (OSU)! I am Mercedes Benton, a 1999 OSU alum, that currently serves as the Coordinator for Diversity Development. I am excited about our first issue of ORIGINS, an e-newsletter for Alumni, Friends, and/or former Staff Members of the Cultural Centers at OSU. The name *ORIGINS* was chosen because for our collective communities to move forward in the present, we need to have a sound understanding and connection to our past. Therefore the aim of this publication is to maintain a connection with the people that have been instrumental in creating and sustaining the rich legacy of the Cultural Centers, as well as provide an update of the current state of affairs at the [Asian & Pacific Cultural Center](#), [the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center](#), [Centro Cultural César Chávez](#), and the [Native American Longhouse](#). We will also include articles from our friends and colleagues at the newly formed [Pride Center](#) which supports the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities at Oregon State University.

Some of the new initiatives that Diversity Development is working on include the development of a long range facilities plan with an end goal of generating finances to build new centers to replace each of the existing facilities; implementation of targeted outreach to first year students of color about the Centers through staff testimonials regarding their experience at OSU; and providing professional development opportunities for student staff by offering in-depth staff trainings, in-service workshops with presenters from across the country, and funding for some staff to attend conferences and seminars. A highlight of this past year's professional development was sending six student staff to [NCORE](#) (National Conference On Race & Ethnicity in higher education) in NYC to present about "Student-Coordinated Cultural Centers: A Unique Model," a session highlighting the many successes and challenges of having student-run cultural centers at OSU. The presentation was wildly successful and generated a lot of interest nationally about how we have four distinct buildings and programs that work together to build a better and more inclusive campus environment.

Inside this newsletter, you will find articles about each of the centers by the student coordinators. On the last page, you will find instructions about how you can give back financially to the various centers. If you have any thoughts, feedback, or suggestions that would make this publication better or if you know of other people that should be receiving this newsletter, please feel free to email me at Mercedes.Benton@oregonstate.edu.

Working toward a brighter day,

Mercedes Benton



Students & Mercedes at NCORE presentation in NYC.

ASIAN & PACIFIC CULTURAL CENTER *By Shaun Palakiko*

The 2004 – 2005 academic school year held some new bench marks at the Asian and Pacific Cultural Center (APCC). The focus was to get people to come back to the center. When meeting with the Advisory Board, they shared that events were moving away from the center into more central locations. Of course, location has always been a challenge for the APCC which was the reason for moving events. However, we rose to the challenge this year by holding most of our events at the center.

Some of our biggest events, drawing 200+ people, were our BBQ's at the center. We would serve a full course meal such as teriyaki chicken, rice, salad and beverages. Attendees were very appreciative of the event. Another popular event we had was the Henna Night with help from students representing the Indian Student Association. There were really unique designs and many smiling faces. One of our more meaningful events was a Candlelight Vigil in the wake of the tsunami affecting Southeast Asia. It was held in the evening in front of the Memorial Union. Those in attendance shared how the tsunami has affected them as well as prayers in different tongues.

Looking forward to the 2005 – 2006 academic school year, the APCC will continue its great tradition of service to the students of OSU in the areas of education, retention and socialization. Also, we will be focusing more on the clubs and organizations that use the APCC and how we can help them to accomplish their goals. This past year, the Asian/Pacific American (A/PA) Council was formed in attempts to unite the different organizations and collectively contribute to the A/PA Community. Next year, the APCC will have spaces made for these organizations to store binders, files or anything that will help to carry on the mission of the organization.



Mike Roman and Shaun Palakiko (right) at Henna Night last spring.

PRIDE CENTER *By Gretchen Bates*

The Oregon State University Pride Center offers programs and support services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning and intersexed members of the OSU community and their allies. The Pride Center is a safe space for all members of our community to explore aspects of sexual orientation and gender identity in an open and non-judgmental atmosphere. We strive to create an inclusive environment committed to social justice, honesty, integrity, and equality in all of our daily interactions.



The New home of the Pride Center

Throughout the academic year, our seven-person staff works to create programs and events, educating the campus about issues affecting the queer community. We work on programs such as Queer History Month, National Coming Out Day, Trans Day of Remembrance, World AIDS Day, Queer Pride Week, and Lavender Graduation. In addition to programming, the Pride Center offers resources such as a library with over 600 books, informational clipboards, computers with internet access, free printing, as well as a safe and comfortable space for students to eat lunch, study, and hang out.

The Pride Center (originally called the "Queer Resource Center") was formed on March 14th, 2001 after its budget was unanimously passed in a Student Fee's Committee meeting. Over 300 people attended this meeting and advocated both for and against the creation of this new center. We began our first years of operation, working out of a temporary space located within the Women's Center. Eventually our Advisory Board Members and Student Coordinators identified a more permanent location on the Southeastern edge of campus. Arrangements were made, and at the start of the 2004-2005 school year, the Pride Center opened its new doors in the permanent location.

NATIVE AMERICAN LONGHOUSE *By Khrystal Johnson*

For the past few years at the Native American Longhouse, the two biggest events have been the Salmon Bake and the Klatowa Eena Powwow occurring annually during spring term. This year is going to be a big year for the Native American Longhouse. This year we will be celebrating and honoring Native Heritage Month in November. There is a calendar of events filled with programs for every week. There will be art shows, artists, dancing, crafts nights, movies, fry bread, lots of speakers and lots of interesting topics and things to do.

This happens to be the 30th anniversary of the organization of the Native American Longhouse. It was established in this location in 1975. We will also be having a dinner and honoring the previous alumni and people who helped in its establishment. This event will occur near the same time as the Klatowa Eena Powwow. The Klatowa Eena Powwow and the Salmon bake will both occur in the spring around May.

For the past couple of years we've also included a variety of other events to entertain the surrounding community. Last year one of the events was a small volleyball event. It was a chance for people to relax and have some fun playing volleyball. The year before last we held an event at the Longhouse entitled 'A Cookie for you Cutie'. It was held near Valentine's Day and was meant for the community to be able to come into the Longhouse and use an artistic approach to making keep sakes for that special someone. Some other events we have been including are blessings of the longhouse, craft nights, traditional dancing and singing and movie nights. This year our hope is to incorporate more of those types of events with a lot more traditional classes like arts & crafts and dancing and singing. People seem to enjoy them.

LONNIE B. HARRIS BLACK CULTURAL CENTER By Uzo Ukeagu

Good cheer and greetings to all. The Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center (BCC) offers support services, leadership development opportunities, events and programs for African and African-American students as well as other students. Each academic year, the center's staff members develop and implement different educational and social activities/programs with the explicit aims of providing a home-away-from-home for all students of color and to educate the OSU and Corvallis community on issues concerning our social and political circumstances and heritage.

For the 2005 – 2006 academic year, the center hopes to continue with its long tradition of service to African and African-American students, as well as all other Oregon State University students in the areas of education, college retention, community networking, and socialization. One of the main focuses this school year is to increase the center's visibility at Oregon State University. We believe that the current external renovations to the building out will help to draw more students in and that our welcoming smiles, and good cheer, will keep them returning. The center also now has wireless internet connection available and this will contribute to the use of the center for educational activities.

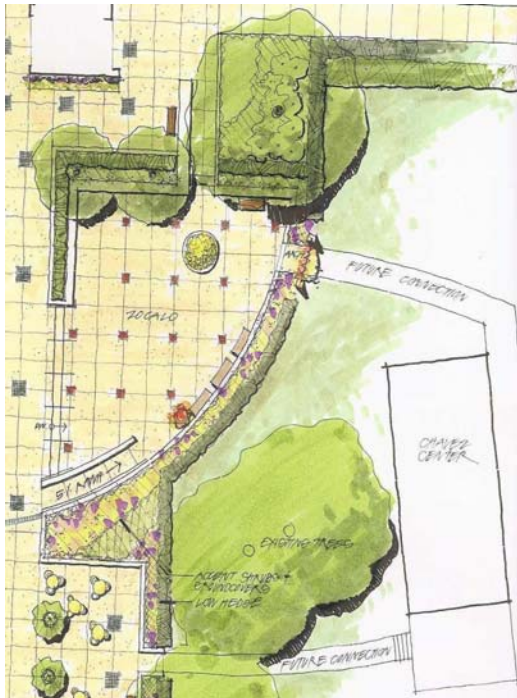
"We believe that the current external renovations being carried ... will help to draw more students in."

To help achieve another aim of the center, a new office is being created on the top floor. This new office space will cut down on queues for computer use and will also provide a place where staff members can accomplish their duties faster and efficiently. We welcome you, our alumni, to visit for fun, sit down and share with us your experiences in the current labor market, and any advise as to how to get ahead in our chosen professions.

CENTRO CULTURAL CÉSAR CHÁVEZ By Carlos García

As another school year is set to begin the staff at El Centro Cultural César Chávez are very excited and looking forward to the upcoming school year. We are committed to continue with the Centro's mission to support different ethnic and cultural people's pursuit of their educational goals and retention of their culture. We are excited and invite all to participate in an event that is already planned: the Women Confronting Globalization speaking tour, where women activists from Zapatista communities in Chiapas will present in November. Our biggest event of the year is our annual Cesar Chavez Tribute Week scheduled for the Spring of 2006. This year we hope to make it a much larger celebration for the entire community.

Along with a new staff (only two returning staff members) the Centro's physical appearance has also been going through some changes.



Over the summer the Centro received a new paint job, no longer is it the little white house, but the little brown house. Coming by the Centro you will not recognize our surroundings as we now have two new neighbors— a new dining facility and a four-story parking structure that will complement a renovated and expanded Reser Stadium. The CCCC Advisory Board and student leadership has been working closely with both project leadership to mitigate the impact of these changes around the Centro. One of the changes in the area will be an improved outdoor area between the Centro and the new dining facility. A plaza/zócalo is being patterned after a traditional Mexican zócalo or town square to further integrate the dining facility/parking structure with the Centro Cultural César Chávez. In addition, it will reinforce the Center's role on campus.

Emulating the basic elements of a zócalo, the plaza/zócalo will:

Provide a gathering place to encourage and support campus life, cultural understanding and the use of the dining facility

Celebrate the Chicano/Latino/Hispanic culture

Create an open-air market atmosphere

Introduce a human scale to soften and reduce the impact of the new parking garage and the expanded Reser Stadium.

Art that depicts the contributions of Latinos and Chicanos in the United States will be prominently displayed throughout the plaza/zócalo. A bust of César Chávez will be a focus; a bas-relief that depicts the images of Latino/Chicano struggle, success, and perseverance will also highlight the area. Benches, increased foliage, plants and custom tiles throughout the Plaza/Zócalo will also add uniqueness to the area. The artists selected to provide the art for the project are Lisa Reinertson and Susan Shelton. For more information on this project or have any questions in general contact CCCC Advisory Board Member, Javier Cervantes at 541-737-9031 or the Centro External Director, Carlos Garcia at 541-737-3790.

The Centers Need YOUR Support!

Oregon State University is unique in having cultural centers that celebrate and support students from underrepresented student populations. Financial donations to the Centers are always welcome; each donation helps increase the programming and services we can offer to the students, staff, faculty and community at Oregon State.

If you would like to contribute to our work at the Centers, there are several options available to you:

To pay by debit/credit card online:

1. Go to the [OSU Foundation](#) and fill out the form.
2. In the 'Giving Information' section under 'Other,' please put the Center's name in the 'Designation Description' box.
3. After you click 'Submit' you will receive an email confirming your gift, and a receipt will be sent by the U.S. Postal Service for your tax records.

To pay by debit/credit card over the phone:

If you prefer to make your gift over the phone, please call toll free 800.354.7281 or 541.737.4218 to make your donation.

To pay by check:

1. Make your tax-deductible check payable to 'OSU Foundation'
2. On the memo line write the Center's Name
3. Mail your check with a letter stating the organization you are giving towards to:

OSU Foundation
50 SW 35th Street
Corvallis, OR 97333

To pay by cash:

1. Show up at the OSU Foundation (50 SW 35th Street, Corvallis, OR)
2. Ask for your money to be sent to the foundation account for the Center you designate.
3. You will be required to fill out a short form with your name, address, and email address so we can send you a receipt of your generous gift.

SPOTLIGHT: PROMISE INTERN



My name is Teri Young and this summer I have been working in the Office of Diversity Development as an intern through the PROMISE Program. This summer has been very busy with multiple projects in addition to the everyday work here in the office. Change was definitely an action item over the last few months. One change I'm excited about is the creation of an online program planning system. We hope to reduce coordinator paperwork and at the same time link the system to input programming details into an Access database to be used in assessment of the Cultural Centers. Other changes I've been able to work on are participating in two candidate search committees for Student Involvement/ASOSU and participating in the Bias Response Team in creating protocol in regards to bias incidents. To round off the summer, I've also been representing Diversity Development and the Cultural Centers during the START programs for prospective students and am currently in the process of coordinating a program for OSU CONNECT week to introduce the Cultural Centers to incoming students. I've enjoyed working with the summer coordinators, the Diversity Development staff, as well as the Student Involvement staff and ASOSU. This summer has provided me with valuable knowledge of the networks that keep our Centers operating. It's been fun, busy, and at times a little crazy! I definitely look forward to coming back this fall and resuming my work as an administrative assistant in this office, but I am appreciative that I was able to participate in this undoubtedly rewarding experience.