

## Committee Begins To Tackle Long Range Facilities Issues

Greetings! I cannot believe that we are in the midst of another fall term at Oregon State University and I am beginning my fourth year as the Coordinator of the Diversity Development Office! We have a lot of exciting things to report to you about the Cultural Centers and the student leaders that have been dedicated to running and operating the facilities that we have. One of the key initiatives that we are moving forward is a formation of a steering committee that is charged with making sure that we have a community-based process for the Cultural Center Building Replacement Project. The committee is made up of students, faculty, and staff that will work to develop a vision statement for the project, to interview and select an architecture firm to design schematics for the new buildings, and to devise a plan to carry forward the vision.

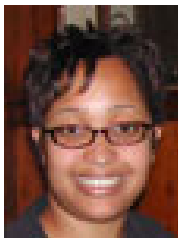
In winter term, we are very excited about bringing the distinguished Dr. Shakti Butler, Executive Director of World Trust Educational Services, to campus to present a half-day workshop to all of the Cultural Center Staff. Dr. Butler has produced and directed documentaries such as "The Way Home" and her newest video, "Making Whiteness Visible." During her workshop, she will be discussing Multiracial and/or Biracial Identity Development. We are still finalizing the details of this presentation and her visit to Corvallis, but we are extremely thrilled for this professional development opportunity for the Cultural Center Staff.

This past summer, the Diversity Development Office was fortunate to have a PROMISE Intern, Hiram Cervantes, who researched and created a documentary about the Cultural Centers. We are hoping to premiere the documentary at the beginning of winter 2007 during the MLK campus celebrations. We also will be putting the DVD online, so that more people can learn about the history of the cultural centers.

For future newsletters, we also are still very interested in spotlighting former cultural center staff members and finding out what you all are doing now. If you are interested in participating in this endeavor, please email [Mercedes.Benton@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Mercedes.Benton@oregonstate.edu) with your essay/article. Because of space, essays under 500 words would be greatly appreciated and submitted essays are subject to review and may be edited to fit into allotted space.

Finally, I want to continue encouraging you to give back financially to the Cultural Centers. All of the Centers desperately need your support. Any gift that you can make, no matter how small the amount, will help the Centers to further their missions and continue the rich legacy that began many years ago. On the last page of this newsletter, 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](mailto:Mercedes.Benton@oregonstate.edu).



Working toward a brighter day,

*Mercedes Benton*

Coordinator  
Office of Diversity Development

## ASIAN & PACIFIC CULTURAL CENTER *By Michelle Nguyen*

This summer started off with a bang as Steven Fang and I, Michelle Nguyen, were brainstorming ideas for an event given by the Asian & Pacific Cultural Center. Being fortunate to have two summer coordinators for the Asian & Pacific Cultural Center this summer, we wanted to get the ball rolling on ways to improve the center as well as different events that we wished to see the center take part in. With so many possible events to have, Steven and I finally decided on a water war. We thought this would be a great way to cool off, have fun, and also work on team building with people from all walks of life. Our "Water War in the Quad" was definitely a nice way to spend the afternoon as balloons went flying and exploding everywhere. Needless to say, many people walked away soaked but also with smiles on their faces. We learned a lot about organization and communication through throwing this event. In addition, we also learned to have a good time while doing it.



*Michelle (center) and others at Chai Tea Event at the APCC in 2005.*

After seeing the endless possibilities of the APCC this summer, we are really excited for this coming year to begin. We would really like to see more events that incorporate the community and discuss cultural issues and concerns. Another thing that we would like to build upon is the atmosphere of the center. The center is a place where anyone can come to hang out, watch T.V., use the internet, study, or even take a nap. We would really like to make more people aware of our center and its resources by increasing its visibility on campus through ads and by word of mouth. Finally, we would really love to make better use of the entire center by creating more space for personal use.

## NATIVE AMERICAN LONGHOUSE *By Christy Brady*

Greetings from the Oregon State University Native American Longhouse. The 2005-2006 academic year was great for the Longhouse. We accomplished many of our goals and have started to take on new ones. While providing Native and non-Native students a place to learn and become involved with Native culture, we were able to implement over 22 events throughout the year. We also saw more students utilizing the resources and coming into the Longhouse.

Our most successful event this past year was the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Salmon Bake held May 17, 2006 during lunch at the MU Brick Mall. The Salmon Bake drew a crowd and we fed over 500 people with fish that was donated from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Grand Ronde, OR and the Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, OR. Our special guest Carol Craig, the public information manager for the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Department, spoke to our guests about the importance of fish and tribal treaty rights for the Native communities.



*Christy (left) posing for a picture during work at the Longhouse.*

At the end of the school year came word that the OSU senate passed our business plan for the first phase of building a new Longhouse. We are still a ways away from a new Longhouse, but with this initial commitment and contribution from OSU it will help us get on our feet and start making our dream of a new Longhouse come true. Phase one consists of hiring contractors to analyze our needs and design a new structure replacing the current deteriorated Longhouse. This will allow also preliminary architectural designs for the Longhouse allowing an important starting point for a capital campaign to build a new center. With this first phase funded we are now looking for resources to cover phase two and three.

## CENTRO CULTURAL CÉSAR CHÁVEZ *By Alfredo Madrigal*



A few of the upcoming activities that will be going on at the Centro Cultural César Chávez will include an all-center BBQ that will take place at the Native American Longhouse, and an Open House that will take place at the Centro which will include a trip to Dixon Recreational Center.

The upcoming fall events that will take place at the Centro will include an Multicultural Tailgater, and Spanish conversation nights. Another major event that will take place in the year will include a César Chávez tribute month that will include a honorary dinner, dance, workshops, and discussions. I hope to see you all there, and have a good fall season.

## LONNIE B. HARRIS BLACK CULTURAL CENTER By Uzo Ukeagu

Good cheer and greetings to all from the staff members of the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center. As another school year is set to begin the staff members of Lonnie B. Harris Cultural Center are looking forward to the upcoming school year. We at the Lonnie B. Harris Black Cultural Center remain committed to continuing with the BCC's mission to support the educational, social, and psychological growth of African and African-American Students, as well as students from other ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Planning for various events to be hosted by the center has already begun and we are excited to invite you all to following events scheduled to be held as follows:

- 1). Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- 2). Black History Month Dinner, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- 3). Juneteenth Celebration, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006

All events are will be held at the Main-Ballroom in the Memorial Union, and you can check out the Center's website (<http://www.mu.oregonstate.edu/blackcc/>) for updates on Keynote speakers.



*Uzo Ukeagu, External Coordinator at the BCC*

Last academic year, the four cultural centers were award a \$200,000 grant from a very unique capital funding opportunity; a loan repayment of about \$2.4 million became available for capital projects at OSU. Collectively, the Cultural Centers created a business plan that asked for \$50,000 per center to be used for Phase I and II of establishing entirely new structures for the centers. After presenting to the Student Incidental Fees Committee and the Undergraduate Senate, we were approved for monies totaling \$200,000 for the centers. The \$50,000 is to be used to hire architects to assess the current structures and the needs of the center-specific community and finally design a new building. With an actual design in hand, we hope to attract potential donors in order to come closer to attaining the structures we so desperately need. Last academic year, the External Coordinator, as well as some of the Coordinators from the other cultural centers on campus, got the unique opportunity to present two different presentations at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Chicago, Illinois. Their presentation highlighted Oregon State University's unique model of having student-coordinated cultural centers, separate but equal cultural centers, and also discussed the importance of student lead activism on campus.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, the center hopes to continue with its long tradition of building a home-away-from-home for all of our community members. We invite you, our alumni and friends, to be a part of events at the Center by emailing your suggestions and ideas for events to [bcc@oregonstate.edu](mailto:bcc@oregonstate.edu). We hope to see you soon at the center and an event or two.

## DIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE By Teri Young

This summer, I started work on a Peer Institution Review project that will be used to assess opportunities and programs offered through our office and centers compared to those of other universities. I have been working with six other universities across the nation, surveying their structures, experiences, and opinions. It has been interesting to learn about the struggles and successes of other universities, and many have been excited to form new networks and connections with our school. I hope that this project will open up a pathway for collaboration and unity in purpose. I hope to finish my research by the end of November and at that point will pass on my findings to the participating schools.



*Teri (second from the right) and staff at NCORE in Chicago.*

This fall, has been full of changes. Our office hired Chris Weldon as the new Web Coordinator for this year and he is great to work with. With the Graduate Teaching Assistants moving upstairs, that meant switching desks to make room for everyone. Now that the dust has settled, we are getting back into our routines. Another new development is my having been elected for a seat on the Undergraduate Senate representing the College of Business. In fact, there is quite a handful of Cultural Center staff on the senate this year. It was been rewarding to be able to effectively voice concerns for my college as well as on behalf of the Centers. Being involved in ASOSU has really opened my eyes to how our university works and what needs and what resources we have. I hope to be able to somehow make a positive difference this year as a senator representing each population that I am a part of. There are so many exciting things in store for this year and will definitely keep you posted on what's new!

Diversity Development  
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## The Centers Need YOUR Support!

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*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.

## Contact US!

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