

## ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL CENTERS BEING CONDUCTED

Greetings again! I hope that this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. The color scheme of this newsletter was selected to stand in solidarity with our friends and colleagues at Virginia Tech given the recent events that happened on their campus. We wish them peace and healing during this difficult time.

The Cultural Centers have accomplished a lot over this past academic year. One of the projects that is currently underway is an assessment project to understand and quantify the role the Cultural Centers play in the retention of students. Samantha Predoehl (Diversity Development Graduate Teaching Assistant), Dante Holloway (Internship Student), and Chelsea Ruediger (Internship Student) have worked hard to create and develop tools to gain this information. Current students have been sent a link to an online survey to complete and there will be focus groups conducted at the end of this term with current staff about their experiences with the Cultural Centers. The last piece to be developed is an alumni survey to hear from past employees and graduates that were involved with the Cultural Centers during their time at Oregon State University. More information about this project will be forthcoming.

We are still pursuing the building replacement project and hope to have secured an architectural firm to create conceptual designs for each new building. A steering committee has been spearheading this effort and have been meeting diligently to make sure that each community needs will be addressed with this process. We hope to have the design work finished by Spring Term 2008. Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions by email at [diversity.office@oregonstate.edu](mailto:diversity.office@oregonstate.edu).

I wanted to introduce the Internal and External Coordinators for the 2007-2008 academic year: Vincent Vuong & Olivia Steinhoff (Asian & Pacific Cultural Center), Amber Caulkins & DaMarcus Redeau (Lonnie B Harris Black Cultural Center), Emanuel Magaña & Isis Ilias (Centro Cultural César Chávez), Kristen Lycett & Christy Brady (Native American Longhouse), and Jerred Taylor & Ingrid Udd (Pride Center). Sam Lee, the current APCC External Coordinator will be the new PROMISE intern this summer for the Diversity Development Office, where he will create marketing materials for Cultural Centers. The new graduate teaching assistant for Diversity Development is Luke Sugie.

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, if you know of other people that should be receiving this newsletter, and/or if you are interested in submitting an article as an alumni, 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

## NATIVE AMERICAN LONGHOUSE By Mikhelle Gattone

The fall and winter term has been great for the Longhouse. We had a great turnout for our Open House in September serving up Indian Tacos with buffalo meat. We also had great events following with discussions about Indigenous Day, a Midnight breakfast, Puppet Show: Native style, Make a Movie Night around stereotypes facing Native people, Movie Night, and Acorn Soup demonstration. We also had a great event put on by the Office Assistants where we had two drums, a flute player, and Native dances. This upcoming term will top that. We will have craft nights every other Tuesday at 5pm in the NAL. Also every other Thursday we will have a craft night as well where we will work on projects to give away at our annual Pow wow being held May 19th-20th at Mac Alexander Fieldhouse. Corresponding with this, every other Thursday there will be drum practice and hopefully OSU Native students will create their own drum circle.



NAL Staff take time to pose for a picture during work at the Longhouse.

We are starting the long, but well worth it, work for the Salmon Bake that will take place May 17th. Also this term we will redo the Office Assistant event since it went off so well on March 8th in the MU Lounge. We also did two events for MLK JR day: one for kids where the Longhouse made the front page of the Gazette Times and the other was titled Red Power, Black Power. We also had an event with a Native Alaskan, Mr. Mallott, who talked about Native Alaskan issues. We also had great success with our 'Calling All Natives' where the Longhouse staff, Native American Student Association, and American Indian Science and Engineering Society got together in Indian Education and called all the Native OSU students and personally invited them to the Longhouse and upcoming events.

As far as projects go we are working on updating our library by doing a book drive and at the same time cataloging the books and making the list available from the Longhouse webpage. We've even discussed a NAL Library Card.

## CENTRO CULTURAL CÉSAR CHÁVEZ By Desirée Segura



Desirée (left) at the Native American Longhouse Open House.

¡Saludos! It has been quite a year for the Centro Cultural César Chávez (CCCC)! Here are some of the events we have done so far this year:

**High School Visits**--The Centro invited Woodburn High School to explore college life at Oregon State University and a "home away from home." The students were able to sit in on a class of their choice and participate in class conversations. We were very pleased with the turnout as well as the response from OSU to the high school students.

**Día de los Muertos**--The CCCC was able to participate in celebrating el Día de los Muertos with M.E.Ch.A., as well as other Latino/Chicano organizations on campus. There was a ceremony, pan dulce, and a wide variety of other activities open to the public and free for all! Children's events were held simultaneously.

**Cultural Events**--We had the opportunity to explore many different sides of Latino/Chicano culture through Aztec dancing and indigenous conversation panels, as well as a slew of poetry slams and social dances.

**César Chávez Tribute Month**--The month of April was used to commemorate the life and legacy of César Chávez. This included a number of events including a symposium surrounding farm worker's rights and exploitation, a day of action, a dinner and dance. Erlinda Gonzalez-Berry was our keynote speaker for the dinner.

Here are some upcoming events:

**Community In Service**--This day is intended to invite all of the campus cultural centers and the community to participate in the upkeep of our land. We will invite everyone to participate in a campus beautification with a barbecue immediately following. Dates and times will be announced, but we are looking into May.

**César Chávez Tribute Day**--The mayor of Corvallis designated April 26th as César Chávez Day. Many of the Latino/Chicano organizations on campus are coming together to show the film "Walkout," a recount of the national walkout movements across the nation in the 1960's. We invite everyone to join us!

More events will be announced as they formulate. If anyone is interested in being more involved with the CCCC or helping with any event, we would gladly accept. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can reach us at [ccc@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ccc@oregonstate.edu) or 541-737-3790.

### ALUMNI Corner

We want to spotlight former cultural center staff members and find out about 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.

## ASIAN & PACIFIC CULTURAL CENTER *By Sam Lee*

Hello Everyone! The Asian & Pacific Cultural Center (APCC) staff is hard at work this year in serving the students on campus and our surrounding community.

**Programming:** We are consistently hosting events, forums and programs that promote our promise of awareness and diversity for the betterment of our surrounding OSU community. It has been a goal for this year's staff to host programs that will draw people to the center and help in spreading understanding about issues that are faced throughout our various communities.



*The Asian & Pacific Cultural Center*

**A New Center:** We are working hard in getting a new center! Many ideas have come up from the Advisory Board, APCC alumni, and supportive community members such as remodeling, relocating, extending and building a totally new center. As of right now, the APCC is currently looking for areas around campus that may be suitable for a brand new center that will be able to accommodate multiple groups at one time, host big events, and be easily accessible for students. We are all very excited at the future prospects in getting a new center so please if you can help out in any way possible, whether it is in donations or ideas and comments, please do so!

**APAHM:** Asian Pacific American Heritage Month! As spring term is just around the corner the APCC staff, in collaboration with the APA Council and our Advisory Board, are hard at work for planning APAHM in May! The center is in the middle of planning events that accommodate the vast cultures and traditions that make up the three letter acronym APA. Please visit the APCC website ([www.mu.orst.edu/asiancc](http://www.mu.orst.edu/asiancc)) for further information on event dates and times.

**INSIDE:** Currently the APCC is going through a lot of physical changes. The staff recently had great ideas in making the center a more welcoming and accommodating open space that will draw people to come and visit. We have changed and moved a lot of things so come in and check it out! The APCC is constantly working hard in providing a place where people feel welcome and are able to come relate, ask questions and relax. Thank you for all your support and I hope to see you at the center!

## LONNIE B. HARRIS BLACK CULTURAL CENTER *By Joakina Modé*

This is my first year as the Lonnie H Harris Black Cultural Center's (BCC) Internal Coordinator and I must say that the workload is heavy but enjoyable. This past term was quite hectic with the many events that took place. The events that took place during Black History Month kept me and the BCC staff quite busy. Events ranged from educational film series to an enlightening dinner that incorporated Black History from America and other places as well.

Black History Month this year seemed as though there were more people from the Oregon State community involved. Although this is my first year as the center's Internal Coordinator, I have been involved with the center since I was a freshman at the university. I have been able to see programs evolve. I must say that this year's Black History Month evolved tremendously. There were several different people who worked with the BCC to make sure events took place; such as the Black Student Union, the Anthropology Department, the Sigma Delta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, as well as other organizations. I feel that the collaboration with different group contributed tremendously to the success of our programs. In the future for other events I would like to see the same type of effort and teamwork that was shown for Black History Month.

Another aspect of change within the cultural centers, especially the BCC is the effort to branch out and work with other departments. In years past I noticed that it was always the Black Student Union and the Black Cultural Center putting on events. But throughout the term there have been several other organizations that have we have reached out to and vice versa. This helps with the visibility of the BCC and dispels myths that the center is only for that particular culture.

In conclusion, I am looking forward to an exciting spring term. I know that our Activities and Community Outreach Coordinators have a lot of fresh and unique ideas. I know that spring term of 2007 will be full of great activities that will benefit all of Oregon State's Campus.



*Joakina is the Internal Coordinator at the Black Cultural Center*

## PRIDE CENTER *By Jerred Taylor*

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.

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.

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## 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.

## Contact US!

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