

Bridges

Newsletter
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MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

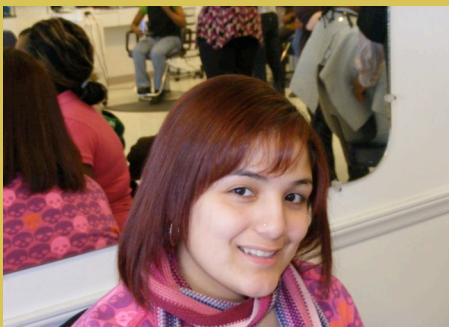
Words from the Coordinator

Fatima Rodriguez Johnson

I am excited to bring the "Bridges" newsletter to you. The goal of "Bridges" is to encourage an appreciation for diversity here at Geneseo by promoting events and highlighting much of the work being done by our multicultural student organizations.

This semester ends my first full year as a member of the Geneseo campus community. Starting before the academic year actually began gave me more time to work with so many wonderful student organizations including groups such as ACE (ACCENTS Council for Enrichment), Hillel, and Pride Alliance. ACE, under the leadership of Ahmed Sheikh, planned and implemented the 2008 Winter Ball where approximately 400 students enjoyed music and cultural activities. Hillel, under the direction of Kylee McClain, Hillel Rochester, coordinated the Oxfam Hunger banquet.

Salon Secrets Open House



Crystal Valez, LSA President
with a flat iron style.

Through my work with Hillel, I was invited to Hillel's national conference in Washington D.C. And this year, Geneseo's Pride Alliance joined the CampusOut coalition, where area colleges meet to address concerns of LGBTQ students. Their membership became formal following our attendance at the CampusOut conference in Rochester.

In addition to working with so many great students, it has been exciting to work with dedicated faculty and staff. By partnering with College Union and Activities, the Access Opportunity Programs, the Asian/Asian American and Black/Africana Studies departments the campus was able to benefit from the opening of the MOSAIC (Multicultural Organization Space for Activities, Inclusion and Collaboration), on the Lower Level of the College Union, the Faculty, Staff and Student of Color Meet and Greet, Kathy Lee's, "The Myth of the Model Minority" and Prof. Haasan Jefferies's, "History of the Black Power Movement."

The Offices of Campus Auxiliary Services and Multicultural Programs have been working in partnership with Nancy Least, owner of Salon Secrets to develop strategies for providing appropriate hair care services for students of diverse cultural/ethnic backgrounds.

Salon Secrets *continued*



Donte Ray receiving an edge up from barber, Tyrone Hall



Rajone Morris very pleased with her roller set style.

Since December 2007, the following steps have been taken:

- A student focus group was held with Nancy Least
- An open house at Salon Secrets on Route 20A included eight students (5 females, 3 males) receiving services free of charge while providing important feedback to salon staff
- Both salon locations have acquired licenses for providing barber and beautician services
- Tyrone Hall is tentatively scheduled to begin providing hair cutting services on campus beginning Fall 2008
- A corporate Mizani representative trained Salon Secret staff in relaxing hair techniques
- Mizani products are available for purchase in the campus salon and are used for serving natural and relaxed hair

We will continue to move forward and encourage students to share their thoughts and ideas with us at multicult@geneseo.edu

Race and Campus Culture Teach In

By Beth McCoy, Teach-In, Chair

In the last several years, concerned community members have brought to Geneseo's attention racialized rituals such as "ghetto" and "thug" parties. These parties are one symptom of a larger need to begin a conversation about the ways that racial inequities--including white privilege--intersect with campus culture and the College's efforts to meet its mission and goals. Well before the events of last fall, many community members said that they did not know about similar racial incidents reported on

and near our campus. The grassroots Race and Campus Culture Teach-in emerged to help our community learn about historical and national contexts of these incidents, and their connections to larger systems of power. The work of the Teach-in began in Summer 2007 and culminated on Sunday, March 9, 2008 with over 400 participants. We are indebted to the support of the following: The Office of the Provost, Milne Library, Residence Life, The Office of Multicultural Programs, and the Africana/Black Studies program.

"The work of the Teach-in began in Summer 2007 and culminated on Sunday, March 9, 2008 with over 400 participants."

Peek into Geneseo's Multicultural Groups

Introducing SHAKTI by Chiara Guardo:

Shakti, the South Asian student organization is one of Geneseo's most diverse student-run clubs. Shakti has always attracted people from all walks of life to celebrate and learn about the beautiful, rich, and varied cultures of South Asia.

SHAKTI performed in a variety of events this year. The annual Diwali Festival, funded by ACE, attracted over 100 people from all parts of campus, including students, faculty, and staff, to the Inter-Faith Center for an evening of free food, crafts, and music. Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, celebrates the triumph of knowledge over ignorance and of good over evil. Although specific to the Hindu faith, Shakti's unique Diwali celebration gathered people of all faiths around tables filled with Rangoli,

Dia painting, and other traditional crafts performed at Diwali celebrations. It was a great success, and there are plans to repeat and expand the celebration next year.

In addition to Diwali, Shakti also presented its annual dinner and show on April 26, 2008. This year the executive board strove to bring issues such as racism and religious conflict to center stage, but still kept the audience laughing and smiling. As usual, Shakti brought energetic bollywood, hip-hop, and bhangra routines to an audience of over 300 people, with choreographers also introducing Raas to the line-up. A good time was had by all, both performers and audience members alike.



Introducing KASA (Korean American Student Association) by Heidi X.



The purpose of the Korean American Student Association is to unify individuals from all backgrounds to share in and experience Korean culture through various educational, social, and recreational programs.

KASA hosted a number of events including:

-Fall Picnic @ Highland Park

- Lip Sync in which they were awarded 3rd place 2007
- Secret Santa
- Winterball
- Adopt a Family
- Late Knight Karaoke
- Broomball Intramurals
- Volleyball Intramural Champions 2007
- Korean Comedienne Tina Kim
- Spring Picnic @ Highland Park
- North Korean Awareness Week
- Korea Night "Best Korean Week Ever"



Peek into Geneseo's Multicultural Groups continued

We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of:

Geneseo Chinese Cultural Club

GODA

Hillel

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Japanese Culture Club

Muslim Student Association

PRIDE Alliance

ThiNK North Korea

Nomyn's Action Coalition



2008 Sabor Latino: "Carnaval Sabroso," sponsored by the Latino Student Association

Concentric Stories, a performance for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration



SAVE THE DATES:

**Faculty, Staff and Students of Color Meet and Greet
Aug. 28**

**Multicultural BBQ
Sept. 6**

**Latino Heritage Month
Sept. 15-Oct 15**

**Cultural Harmony Week
Oct. 18-24**

Black Student Union presents, "Fashion Ova-Style, It's a Caribbean Thing."

