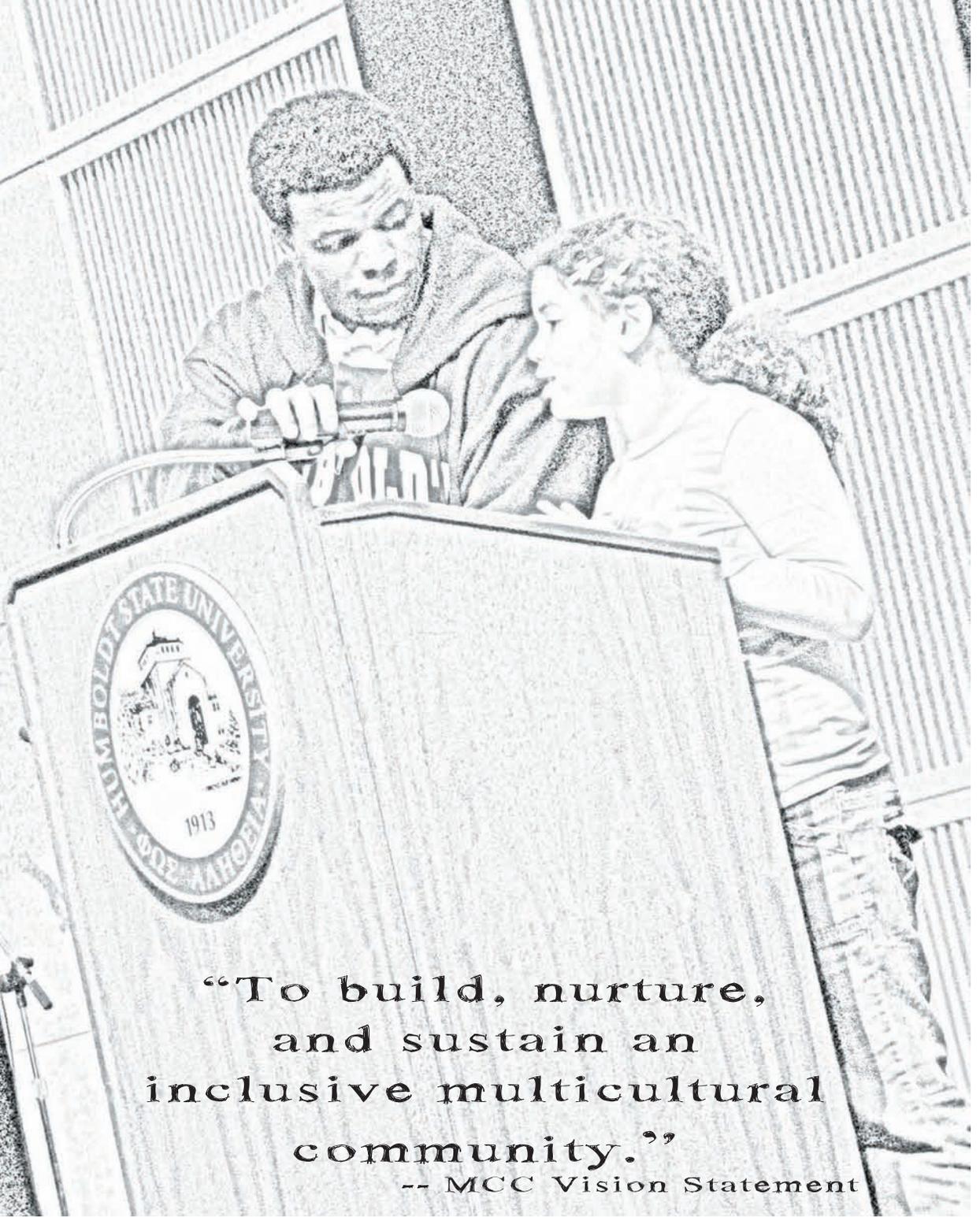


Spring 2007 Issue

# CULTURAL Times

Humboldt State University

Multicultural Center



**“To build, nurture,  
and sustain an  
inclusive multicultural  
community.”**

-- MCC Vision Statement

# Table of Contents



- 3 Education Encounter**
- 4 Black Liberation Month**
- 5 Celebración Latina**
- 6 Asian Heritage Week**
- 7 Outstanding Achievements**
- 8 Walking in Two Worlds**
- 9 Leaders, Mentors, and Rolemodels**
- 10 Student Expressions**
- 11 Graduates**
- 14 Framing Spring '07**



Front Cover: Education Encounter keynote speaker, Tim'm West, and workshop presenter Olivia Robinson. Tim'm incorporated Olivia's experiences which she shared in a workshop entitled "Listen! The Kids Are Talking: LGBTQ Conversations in Elementary Schools". The workshop focused on a case study of Olivia's own experience as a local second grader and her attempts to introduce LGBTQ topics to her class.

The Cultural Times is the official newsletter of the HSU MultiCultural Center. It is funded by the Associated Students of Humboldt State University. The views expressed in the content of the Cultural Times are not censored or reviewed by the Associated Students. The Cultural Times invites students, staff, faculty, and community members to contribute work and to share experiences and points of view. All correspondence regarding this publication should be sent to:

MCC Cultural Times  
HSU MultiCultural Center  
1 Harpst St.  
Arcata, CA 95521

Copies of all correspondence should also be sent to:  
Associated Students of Humboldt State University



## Cultural Times Staff

### Editor

Jessica Wang

### Contributors

Mel Shaw  
Jodie Olympia  
Marylyn Paik-Nicely  
Shyama Kuver

### Photographers

Amar Georgeson  
Matthew Courtis  
Ellen Chen  
Iquo Effiong

### Graphics Designer

Matthew Courtis

# Staff

**Director**

Marylyn Paik-Nicely



**Administrative Assistant**

Jerri Jones



**Outreach Coordinator**

David Bracamontes



Johanna Barahona



Nikkia Brown



Matt Courtis



Iquo Effiong



Antonette Jones



Donsheka Lyle



Danielle White



Michael Myvett



Cristy Her



Verletta Massey



Stephanie Joseph



Vynessa Ortiz



Dominique Diaz



Jessica Wang



## Community Coordinators

**Asian**

Xiaozhen "Ellen" Chen



**African American**

DaVonna Foy



Melanie "Mel" Shaw



**Latino**

Yvan Guzman



**International**

Jodie Olympia



**Native American**

Ruby Tuttle



**Queer**

Brandie Wilson



**Education Encounter Coordinators**

Shyama Kuver



Fernando Paz



# EDUCATION ENCOUNTER: “CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE”

By: Shyama Kuver

**T**he 2007 Education Encounter was an amazing experience. The event sparked dialogue and created opportunities for networking. Having a space for spontaneous encounters brought people together to organize collectives and work for change.

The Education Encounter was an amazing way to remember Eric Rofes, our beloved activist, writer, educator, and friend. As participants went from workshops to speakers to special events, Eric's spirit was alive and present as people remembered his dedication to education and his drive to make positive change. His dedication became our motivation to do the same.

There were so many great speakers, workshop presenters, special events and a great turnout. It was a learning experience for both the participants and those who helped organize the event. We believe that this event will continue to be a strong force to build, continue and sustain the dialogue that is needed to make a positive change in our communities.



Registration and Volunteer “Dream Team”!



Educator and writer Rick Ayers was a quick and fabulous fill-in for his brother Bill (Bill had to cancel at the last minute because of a family medical emergency)



Madhu Prakash inspired and enlightened participants with her words and stories.



Activist Adrienne Maree Brown shares her experiences as a community organizer and activist.



Conference Co-Coordinator Fernand Paz fires up the masses!

With gratitude and appreciation:

The MCC Staff sends a BIG THANK YOU to the following who provided funding for the 2007 Education Encounter. Without your financial support, we could not have had a successful event.

Associated Students  
Center for Excellence, Collaboration & Inquiry  
HSU Diversity Programs Funding Committee  
Office of the President  
College of Professional Studies  
Office of Student Life  
Office of Student Affairs  
Office of Academic Affairs  
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences  
College of Natural Resources and Sciences

HSU Faculty Development  
College of the Redwoods Office of the President  
Indian Teacher & Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP)  
Northern Humboldt Union High School District  
North Coast California AIDS Project (NORCAP)  
Queer Humboldt  
Sigma Theta Tau  
Ford Foundation Arts Education Initiative  
Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation  
The California Endowment

# Humboldt State University BLACK LIBERATION MONTH

## Rebuilding & Reclaiming Our Community for the Revolution

By: Melanie Shaw

This year's Black Liberation Month was a new experience. The planning committee decided not to create programs to educate white folks and spaces for them to dwell in the same conversations that we host everyday. Our month was designed around our community with four themes to support our dialogue: 1) The Black Experience, 2) The Power of Love, 3) Deconstructing the Melting Pot, and 4) Food for the Soul. We wanted to promote cultural nationalism and create spaces where we could educate ourselves and acknowledge our own cultural differences. We would first begin by reclaiming our space and then work towards rebuilding and preparing our community for the change.

We kicked off the month with a silent student protest to reclaim the space on the University Center Quad. This gave us the momentum that we needed to build and connect with other communities of color. During the month we featured two keynote speakers. Ise Lyfe whose poetic lyrical verses allowed us to envision a place beyond the struggle, and Jacqueline Featherstone who spoke about mobilizing around the struggle and connecting cross culturally to build stronger alliances. Traditionally, the month came to a close with Soul Food Dinner where family and friends shared cultural food and dialogue about the continuation of liberation beyond February.



# Celebración Latina



Celebración Latina is a week-long event that focuses on the diversity of the Latino community. It begins on Cesar Chavez Day, March 30, and this year the City of Arcata sponsored a wonderful community gathering that included Latina writer Helena Maria Viramontes as a keynote speaker. The week continued with Loteria, the Mexican game of chance and a workshop on the objectification of body image, specifically women of color, and how this is tied to violence against women.



La Paz, a Chicano hip hop group from Los Angeles, returned to HSU to share musical messages of social justice and change. Celebración Latina culminated with a salsa dance featuring local band, Ponche. The dance brought people from all backgrounds to HSU, and they danced 'till midnight.

Celebración Latina is a collaborative event sponsored by M.E.X.A. de Humboldt, Gamma Alpha Omega, and Latinos Unidos.



# Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration

By Jodie Olympia

The Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration was a week-long string of events with the theme “Witness the Evolution of Asian American Arts.” This annual event was held on April 8 – 13 and was sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (APASA) and Global Connections club (GCC).



On Sunday, April 8, **One World Taiko**, a Taiko drumming group from Seattle, performed at the Kate Buchanan Room. Taiko is a contemporary style of Japanese drumming that incorporates dynamic and fluid movement as well as heart-pounding percussion. A slideshow about the tradition and history of Taiko both in Japan as well as in the United States followed the performance.

The next evening, students from various Asian and Pacific Island cultures performed traditional and modern songs and dances from their respective cultures. Craig Kuromada (HSU staff) taught the participants some traditional Japanese folk dances from the mid-summer *Obon* festival. There was also a writing demonstration showing the similarities and differences between Chinese, Korean, and Japanese characters. Participants learned the basics of each system of writing.



Eliot Chang of Comedy Central fame performed at the KBR to a packed and responsive audience on April 11. After the show, he led a discussion and fielded questions on portrayals of Asians in the media as well as his own experiences as an Asian American comedian.

The next evening Daeng Khoupradit, who just finished her study abroad in Thailand, presented a slideshow of her pictures and fielded questions on her experience. Afterwards, there was a screening of *Beautiful Boxer*, a film about a famous transgender Muay-Thai boxer. This event is part of the Global Connections Club World Tour Cultural Exchange series that happens every Thursday at 7 p.m.



Then on Friday, April 13, Mary Chen screened *Saving Face*, an Asian American film dealing about the issues of family, the generation gap, mother-daughter relationships, being pregnant out of wedlock, and coming out within the context of Asian American cultural norms. A discussion of the movie followed.

This was a very successful Heritage Celebration. APASA and GCC thank the MCC and Associated Students for their support and funding.



# OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR

**CHRISTINA ACCOMANDO**

I can remember vividly meeting Professor Christina Accomando in the fall of 1997. She came to the MultiCultural Center, introduced herself, then started asking me about our programs and events and how could she support us through her classes. Our first collaboration was a local West African drumming group who shared their music and culture at our Monday evening “Cup of Culture.” What a great event!

The Vine Deloria, Jr. Room (then known as the MCC conference room) was packed with people. In fact we even had people hanging outside the windows!

From our first encounter, Christina has contributed her ideas and resources to the MCC’s programs. She has presented workshops at the annual Diversity Conference and Black Liberation Month. She has helped with the Q-Fest – giving our students ideas for films and speakers. The MCC is blessed to have such an involved, supportive and resourceful faculty in our community

Congratulations to Christina Accomando, HSU’s 2006 – 07 Outstanding Professor! At the MCC, you are Outstanding every year!

Mahalo nui loa,

Marylyn Paik-Nicely and the MCC Staff



# OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

Three students from the MultiCultural Center received awards at the annual Outstanding Students Award Ceremony and Reception on Monday, April 23. HSU Students who make a difference on our campus, in our community and in the world were recognized and honored at this ceremony. Congratulations to Shyama Kuver who received the award for Outstanding Contribution to an Associated Students Program, Fernando Paz who received the Al Elpusan Award for Activism, and Mel Shaw who was selected as HSU’s Outstanding Woman of the Year!

We are so proud of you.



Shyama Kuver



Melanie Shaw



Fernando Paz

# Walking in Two Worlds

By: Jessica Wang and Marylyn Paik-Nicely

*(Note from Marylyn Paik-Nicely: As HSU attempts to recruit more students from underrepresented communities, it is essential that there are staff and faculty who are members of these communities to better serve our dynamic student population. It is not about quotas or affirmative action; it is about mentors, role models, building community and student success. The following feature article about Kevin Simmons, EOP academic advisor, written by Jessica Wang and Marylyn Paik-Nicely illustrates the importance of community, compassion, shared experiences, and the role culture plays in student success.)*



**K**evin Simmons (Rogue River/Salish) graduated from a catholic high school in Milwaukie, Oregon. His mother worked several jobs in order to send Kevin and his siblings to a private school. He was homecoming king, student body president and junior class president. He pursued the goals and positions that were “important in the western world.” When summers arrived, Kevin traveled back to the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in the high deserts of central Oregon to be with his father, who is his connection to his Indian identity. All summer Kevin reconnected with his Rogue River Indian family and community.

“We call this ‘Walking in two worlds’ where you keep your Indian-ness, take care of family and still be successful in a white man’s world,” said Kevin in an interview. “My Mom drove an old car that made a lot of noise, so when we pulled up alongside the brand new BMW’s and Jeeps of my schoolmates, you can imagine all the (stereotypical) jokes and harassment.

Those years were struggling years, but they have only made me stronger and the person I am today.”

Kevin graduated from HSU in 2001 with a major in Native American Studies. He played on the HSU football team, was an active member of the American Indian Alliance (AIA), drummed with the HSU Drum (INRSEP), and also volunteered at the MCC Diversity Conferences. He was connected to the Native American community on and off campus, and he participated in programs that focused on social justice and inclusion. Kevin also met his wife, Robin, at HSU. They have four children: Kaelyn, Makai, Shasta and Seq-Hiya. Robin, Kevin and their children are familiar faces at Indian gatherings on campus and off-campus. They are continuing the tradition of

giving their children a strong sense of self and connection to their Indian identity, heritage and community.

Kevin currently works as an academic advisor for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at HSU. Because of his life experiences, he understands the struggles and challenges that many underrepresented students have when they come to Humboldt County. He understands the importance of being connected to community and finding strength in identity and culture. Students find comfort and safety when talking with him, because his story is oftentimes their story.

“I believe that everyone I meet is a brother and sister given to me by god,” said Kevin. “My philosophy for life is being thankful for what god has given me. I don’t want to sound cliché, but I do work everyday to be thankful for my wife, children, work and students.”

And the campus community is thankful to you, Kevin Simmons, for all that you do for students and their success at HSU.



# LEADERS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW



## MENTORS



## ROLEMODELS



# Expressions

## *This Moment of Love*

*By Jodie Olympia*

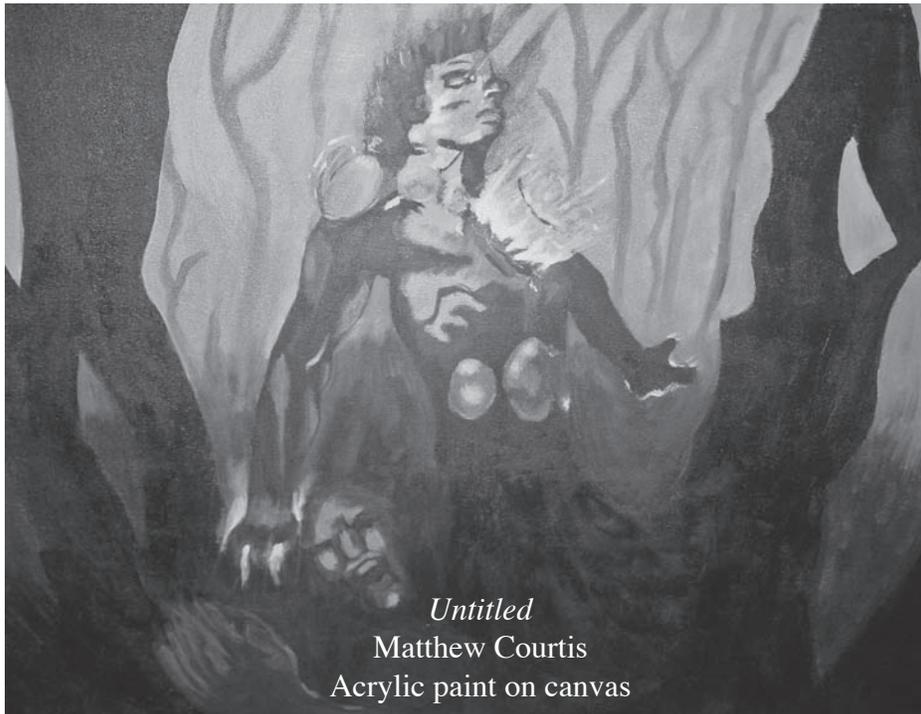
*I want to love you  
in every single moment we share  
I want to hear your every word  
feel your every sigh  
and taste every tear*

*I want to be with you  
at this very moment of love  
I want to witness every look  
and every emotion  
that plays on your face*

*I want to share with you  
this moment that will last  
forever may be a dream  
but I will keep this one  
glittering moment*

*And when it's time to part  
I can truly say  
that I have loved you  
In every single way  
And so at the break of day*

*I can say goodbye  
I can let you go  
I can leave with  
the memory of you  
and the love we shared*



*Untitled*  
Matthew Curtis  
Acrylic paint on canvas

## **Finals Week at the MCC**

The MCC will be open from 5:00PM to 10:00PM on Sunday and 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday through Thursday during the week of finals, May 6 - 10. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and other beverages along with healthy and unhealthy snacks will be served all day and into the evening. Take a break from the Library and stop in for a snack and relaxation. The computer lab will be open, and the Vine Deloria, Jr. Meeting Place will be open for study groups and/or socializing. Good luck on your finals!



# Graduates



Name: Nikkia Monique Brown  
Major: Child Development/Family Studies  
Hometown: San Diego, CA.

After graduation I will take a year off before I enter into grad School so I am entering into the workforce after college to gain experience.

Things I miss most about the MCC are Jerri, the food, the couches, and the meaningful conversation with my peers.

Some of my fondest memories are the Game of Life during the Diversity Conference of 2004 and the community receptions.



Name: Brandie Renee Wilson  
Major: Sociology  
Hometown: Porterville, CA.

After graduation I will be a student of HSU's master's program in which I will be staying in Arcata.

Something that I will miss about the MCC will be the guidance and encouragement that is so desperately needed for persons like myself and other marginalized groups.

The MCC has taught me that if I see a civil justice issue concerning not just my own group that I should not be quiet about it, but bring it to light.

My fondest memory of the MCC is the mentorship that I have received. I will miss the times in which I need someone to run life situations by and David will not be their for that logical overview of what is really going on in my life. I had never had a mentor until I came to joint the MCC, and that will remain with me for the entirety of my life.



Name: Matthew Courtis  
Major: Art Studio  
Hometown: Turlock, CA.

After graduation, I plan to get a summer job or take an art course. After the summer, I'll take a semester off to work on my portfolio in order to prepare me for graduate school. I hope to attend the Academy of Art University in San Francisco and get my Master's degree in Graphic Design.

I will definitely miss the people that I've met through working with the MCC.

The MCC has helped me grow as a graphic designer because I was able to gain more experience while improving my portfolio.

My fondest memory is the staff retreat rafting trip because it was lots of fun and was a great bonding experience with the other MCC staff mebers since I was a fairly new member at the time. Great times!



Name: Antonette Jones  
Major: Interdisciplinary Studies  
Minor: Art Studio  
Hometown: Apple Valley/  
Riverside, CA

After graduation, I plan on staying around the area while I volunteer in the community before applying to grad school.

Somethings I'll miss the most are the food, the great supportive staff, Marylyn, Jerri, David, and my co-workers who are also great friends.

The MCC has been a tremendous influence on my growth while in college. They provided a supportive, familial place where there was always something to eat, and good advice when needed.

Every moment of my involvement with the MCC has been my fondest memory. If I had to pick just one though, it would have to be our team-building rafting trip. I will miss everyone at the MCC, thanks for all the wonderful memories.



Name: Melanie “Mel” Shaw  
 Major: Social Work  
 Hometown: Compton, CA.

After graduation I am attending Graduate school to get my Master’s in Social Work. My hope is to go out of state for school. In the future, I will be teaching social justice and urban development at the university level so look out for me.

The MCC provided a sense of home for me away from home so I will miss everything about it. Marylyn feeding her hungry kids, Jerri telling us to actually work and all the fun times we have shared together.

I appreciated the MCC allowing me to take my job over and beyond it’s expectation. This year working for the MCC has been the most humbling of all of my years at the MCC and in college but they trusted in me to get the job done and I will be Forever grateful for it.

It’s so hard to choose one fond memory but I have always enjoyed the holiday times especially the Multi-cultural elephant game during Christmas. David always gets these weird gifts and I love to take other staff member’s gifts knowing I don’t want them but just to make the game more fun. (My little secret hehehehe)



Name: Jessica Wang  
 Major: Journalism  
 Hometown: Lakewood, CA.

After graduation I hope to do something in the field of journalism, PR, or marketing. Ideally I would like to work for a couple of years and go on to get my MBA.

The MCC has provided a supportive community and I will miss all the friends and people who have helped me grow. The events were always fun and the I will cherish the laughs and tears we’ve shared. I will miss Jerry’s honesty, Marylyn insight, and David’s laughter.

The MCC gave me an opportunity to work with some of the greatest peers who made me understand the fight for social justice and an understanding for all cultures and backgrounds.

My fondest memory are of the MCC retreat when we went rafting, the holiday party where I lost the bedsheets to Matt and eating Marylyn’s homemade chili.



Name: Daeng Khoupredit  
 Major: International Business  
 Hometown: Santa Rosa, CA.

After I graduate, I want to take time off from school for awhile so I can travel. Teaching in China for a year sounds appealing. After traveling abroad, the world doesn’t seem so big anymore. But eventually, I would like to pursue a Green MBA.

I will miss the love, support, understanding and the family atmosphere.

The MCC has given me the tools to grow into a person that is understanding and openminded to other cultures in addition to responsibilities that have helped me become a leader with all of the events that were available for me to become involved with.

Some fond memories include the foods that MCC provided which were gave me a taste of home. Thanks a whole bunch Marylyn!!



Name: Verletta Massey  
 Major: Cellular Molecular Biology  
 Minor: Chemistry  
 Hometown: Monrovia, CA.

After graduation, I will be attending UCLA post bachelor Program at their medical school

I will miss Jerri, Marylyn, the Food, hanging out in the office, and sleeping on the Couches.

Some fondest memories include working the events. It was fun working behind the scenes and I love the fact that we got to taste great food.



Name: Fernando Paz  
 Major: Ethnic Studies & History  
 Minor: Broadcast Journalism  
 Hometown: Norwalk, CA

After graduation, I will apply to graduate school and/or begin to look for work in my local community.

I was only at the MCC for a year, so I will miss meeting new people.

The MCC helped me grow by connecting me with other people doing the kind of work I am doing through providing resources to facilitate that process.

My fondest memory will be the Education Encounter this year.



Name: Jordana Ria Alvarez Olypia  
 Major: International Studies/  
 Cultural Studies  
 Hometown: Apple Valley/  
 Riverside, CA

After graduation, I will have fun. I will change the world and maybe become famous in the process.

I will miss everyone, especially Marylyn, Jerri, and David.

The MCC has given me so many opportunities to expand my worldview. It has enhanced my classroom and individual learning. It has given me a space where I can feel safe while exploring alternative perspectives and unlocking hidden stories.

The events the MCC puts on are not only educational, but give students opportunities to connect with other students who share the same concerns. The MCC is where a lot of coalitions between student activist groups are formed. But I will always remember with fondness coming into the MCC and hanging out at the computer lab with friends and allies while doing homework and sharing our experiences in school dealing with issues of diversity.



Name: Shyama R. Kuver  
 Major: Journalism/Mass  
 Communication  
 Hometown: San Francisco/  
 Antelope, CA

After graduation, I want to help change the world for the better through good work with good people. From the very core of my being I want to simply help people... I also want to continue writing, which I see as a great agent to create change. I have been looking at grad schools... which one I'll be attending I'm not sure yet but I will definitely get my Masters. Other than that I will continue to travel, use my creativity and keep an open mind for optimal growth.

I will miss every one at the MCC. I will miss all the people who I have met here because every one here has helped in my growth as not only a student but as a person. I will also miss the laughter we've shared.

Through working with the MCC, I have been pushed to be a better person, a better student, a better community activist. By bringing together such a diverse group of people with so many different perspectives I couldn't help but see things differently. By bringing all of these people together my knowledge of the world, not only internationally but locally has grown.

There are so many great times spent at the MCC. But I have to admit all of the block parties and trips to the pumpkin patch have been tons of fun. Every Diversity Conference meant so much to me. The Ed. Encounter really helped me grow in a lot of ways. I have really enjoyed all of the parties we've had, the holiday parties, block parties, and of course the parties at Marylyn's house!



Name: Michael Myvett  
 Major: Psychology  
 Hometown: Los Angeles, CA.

After graduation, I plan on getting a second bachelor's degree in Art Studio with an emphasis in graphic design at HSU. After HSU I plan to attend University of California, San Diego and get a Masters in Fin Arts. This degree will help me in my dream in becoming a video game producer. I hope to get a producing job at Activision.

The only thing I will really miss are my fellow employees. They were one of the many reasons that I keep coming back to this enlightening job.

My fondest memory at the MCC was when Hazel gave me the stripper nickname Midnight.

My fondest memory of working at the MCC would be talking to Jerry.

## Community Graduation Ceremonies

On May 11, the day before Commencement, the different communities will host special graduation ceremonies. This is a very special time for graduates and their families and friends. Graduates express their deep gratitude for the support from their families and recognize others who have contributed to their success at HSU. Each ceremony is unique to the cultures of the communities. Everyone is invited!

Friday, May 11, 2007

4:00 – Asian Pacific Islander Lei Ceremony in the Klamath River Room (JGC)

5:00 – Black Graduation in the Fulkerson Recital Hall (Music Building)

6:00 – Native American Sash Ceremony in Azalea Hall (McKinleyville)

7:00 – La Otra Graduacion (Latino community ceremony) in Kate Buchanan Room

**Congratulations Class of 2007!!!!**

# FRAMING SP. '07



MCC Grad Bash – Hawaiian Style!

Saturday, May 12

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

MCC Parking Lot

Honoring the Graduates and Families  
of our multicultural community

Celebrating a major milestone

Acknowledging all who have supported and  
contributed to the success of our Graduates

Stop by for food, fun, music and HUGS!

Featuring the music of HFSU Alum Johnathon Rivera  
(all the way from Hawaii)

**A big THANK YOU to  
these businesses who  
donated prizes to our  
fundraiser -  
Drawing for  
Diversity:**

Heart Bead  
Redwood Yogurt and Creamery  
Miller Farms  
Figueiredo's Movies  
Holly Yashi Jewelry  
Digital Deli  
PartyLite - David Bracamontes

**Fall 2007 Events**

**August**

Thursday, Aug. 16 - HOP/MCC Welcome BBQ

Monday, Aug. 20 - Classes Begin!

**September**

Friday, Sept. 7 - Annual Multicultural Convocation  
3:00 – 6:00 PM

KBR

Sept. 20 or 21 - Latino Heritage Month Speaker  
KBR

Romeo & Juliet Hip Hop Production  
TBA

**October**

Oct. 8 – 12 – Indigenous Peoples Week

Thursday, Oct. 11 - National Coming Out Day  
KBR

Gross Cultural Queer Film Festival (Q-Fest)  
Thursday, Oct. 18 – Chocolate Reception & Kick Off  
4:00 – 6:00 PM

Oct. 19 – 21 – Q-Fest Film Screenings  
KBR

**November**

Friday, Nov. 2 – Dia de los Muertos  
KBR

**MultiCultural Center**

1 Harpst Street • Arcata, CA 95521-8299