

From the Desk of Our Director

“Embracing our past, enhancing our present to inspire our future”

A New Year is a time to compose a warm welcome for the up and coming year. I hope for all your desires and wishes to come true and I expect the same for you and your loved ones.

We would like to send heartfelt wishes to all. Let this year bring you health, joy and cheer!

Michiko Nakashima-Lizarazo



Upcoming Events

January 2, 2012	Back to School
January 6, 2012	1 st Hispanic Area council Meeting Senate Chambers, Union Building 1:00pm to 2:00pm
January 11, 2012	Hispanic Area Council “Meet and Greet” Ballroom A, Union Building 4:00pm to 6:00pm
January 17, 2012	Martin Luther King Jr. Walk Marshall White Center in Ogden 9:00am to 1:00pm
January 18, 2012	WSU Annual Career Fair All ballrooms, Union Building 9:00 am to 3:00pm
January 20, 2012	Staff Party Wildcat lanes, Union Building 6:00pm to 9:00pm
January 27, 2012	Black Scholars United “Get to know” Lair and Wildcat Lanes 6:00pm to 9:00pm
February 9, 2012	Undocumented Student Webinar and discussion Room 404, Union Building (Sky room) 10:30am to 12:30am



J.D. Marett and Andres Morelli helping out at the Help Portrait event at the Marshall White Center, one of many successful community service efforts we helped.

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Contact us at **801-626-7330** weber.edu/multicultural
Text "MSC" to 469-579-2390 to receive updates via WSU mobile.

AIC POW-WOW

This year we will be hosting the 40th Annual Pow Wow at WSU. We want it to be one of the best Pow Wows that we have had in many years.

People from all over the inter-mountain west, including all of the other colleges and universities in Utah along with the citizens of Ogden, and all of the surrounding communities will be coming to attend this Pow Wow.

It will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 11:00a.m. (doors open), to 11:00 p.m. in the WSU Union Ballrooms. There will be dance competitions, drum competitions, specials, fry bread, and Navajo Taco sales as well as multiple Native American Arts and Crafts booths available.

This will be a day of sacred celebration and fun with Native dancers and drummers coming from over 40-50 different tribes. You can expect the Pow Wow to be colorful, entertaining, and enjoyable for all who attend. Hope you put the date on your calendars. See you in March.

By: *Joselyn Rodarte*



January 2012
Issue Four



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A Monthly Insight into Multicultural Life on the WSU Campus

Meet our MSC
Study Assistants and Outreach Team



Luis Martinez
(Math)

Luis is available:
Monday 11:30-1:30
Wednesday 12:30-1:30
Friday 11:30-1:30
Multicultural Student Center



Marilyn Dominguez
(Math and Nutrition)

Marilyn is available upon request. For Contact information please contact the Multicultural Student Center at 801-626-7330



Alberto Gomez
(Tech Coordinator)

Alberto is the Outreach Tech Coordinator at Odyssey Elementary School where he teaches students how to properly use the computers and search the web safely



Maria Huerta
(Education Coordinator)

Maria is the Outreach Education Coordinator at Odyssey Elementary School. Her job is to create educational activities; students can participate in for them to have fun while learning.

Asian/Pacific Islander Area Council *SPLIT*

In November the Asian/Pacific Islander area council experienced a big change. For quite some time members of the council have wanted to split and form two different councils. Toa Club President, Kady Dumaguin, pointed out that the Asian and Pacific Islander cultures are “two completely different cultures that both contain many subcultures.” Dumaguin also feels that one senator cannot adequately represent both cultures. President Dumaguin also would like for the two groups to be free to have their own cultural activities without needing to accommodate other traditions. Many members of the area council felt the same way including the council’s senator and the advisor.

This commonly held sentiment is why Senator Lam Nguyen made a proposal to the senate: split the council into two groups so that Asian students and Pacific Island students at Weber State would each have their own area councils and their own senatorial representation. Senator Nguyen expressed feeling inadequate as a representative for the Pacific Island student population expressing that “each group deserves better representation.”

MSC Advisor, Eveni Tafiti, who has presided over the council for several years, is happy to see the change. According to Tafiti, “the Federal government separated the two ethnic groups in the national census long ago” and it only makes sense for Weber to do the same. Tafiti also feels the separation is necessary because the student population for the two cultures has increased over the years and “with the council split, each group can now receive separate budgets to facilitate activities.”

Council members Karl Finai and Sifa Heimuli fully support the split agreeing that the two cultures are too different to just be lumped together. According to Heimuli, “Polynesians tend to be loud and very outgoing while Asians tend to be much more reserved. Neither is better, they are just different”. Finai feels that activities will have more participation.

As a result of the efforts of many, the council was split by unanimous vote in senate meeting. All parties involved support the change, seem to be pleased with the results, and look forward to new possibilities with the new semester.

By: *J.D. Marett*

Pictured from left to right
Lam Nguyen and Eveni Tafiti



Ceremony of Excellence

Recognizing Outstanding Seniors

On March 22 the Multicultural Student Center will be recognizing the "Top 10 Seniors" in the Alumni Center here at Weber State University with an elegant awards ceremony.

The Ceremony of Excellence has a purpose to acknowledge the hard work of our culturally diverse seniors with their academic accomplishments and participation with the Multicultural Student Center over the years. These outstanding seniors and their families will receive invitations inviting them to this memorable ceremony. In order for a student to receive this award they must be a senior, have a GPA of 3.2 or higher, and be part of the Multicultural Student Center.

These "Top 10 Seniors" and their families will be invited to join the ceremony with formal invitation. The ceremony will begin with a social hour with light refreshments and music. After the social hour the presentations will begin in the main ceremonial room where each "Top 10 Senior" will receive a special recognition of their own. Upon recognition these students will receive a Kente Cloth, along with a framed Certificate of Excellence.

Each senior will have the opportunity to provide a short story about their childhood, achievements, and successes.

The Multicultural Center currently has two staff members who have received this award which are Teresa Holt and Jacqueline Smith. We look forward to recognizing the "Top 10 Seniors" of 2012.

By: Michelle Diez



TO'A CLUB

The definition of TO'A in many cultures of Polynesia is Bravery and Strength. In the Tongan Culture the word TO'A represents the will one has to succeed. TO'A represents the bravery it takes to overcome whatever obstacle is in your way and the strength to come out on top. As a member of both the TO'A club and the Weber State Football team I find it necessary to draw "TO'A" from my Tongan heritage.

I find occasion every day to muster up the bravery and strength to succeed, whether it is finding the mental strength to go the extra mile in the weight room or the bravery to ask a question when I don't understand a problem in class. During the Fall 2011 semester many students eagerly joined a newly resurrected club – the TO'A club.

The club bravely ventured into the unknown and found success hosting a canned food drive, a night at the wildcat lanes, and lastly a dance in the ballroom. As we reflect in a spirit of thanksgiving for those who made those events possible, we look forward in a spirit of the New Year to new events. Let us all go forth with courage and strength to overcome our individual challenges.

-Joseph "SIFA" Heimuli

Winter Solstice

Award Ceremony

Winter Solstice is a time of year that represents the start of winter; and on December 13th, 2011, we were all given a little taste of Mother Nature's fury. But that didn't stop us from attending our annual winter luncheon at the *Sonora Grill* in Ogden, UT.

Other than the Multicultural Student Center staff, those that attended were Weber State staff supporters as well as representatives from our community supporters and sponsors. After our food was served we were treated to an array of awards given out to our fellow peer mentors for exceptional displays of hard work and great attitudes.

We thank all those that attended and supported the MSC as well as those continuing to support us in all that we do to help the great students of Weber State University.

By: Chelsea Bybee

CONGRATUATIONS 2011 WINTER SOLSTICE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

Annie Garcia (Service Award)
"Life is unpredictable, so make a plan."

Natalia Munoz (Excellence Award)
"A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him." –David Brinkley

Lawi Lomiko (Initiative Award)
"Only those who want it bad get it."

Isaac Farley (Teamwork Award)
"Against all odds trod-on 'till tomorrow." -Matisyahu

Kim Phan (Integrity)
"Two things are infinite, the universe and the human mind."

John David Marett (Inclusion Award)
"Nothing is worth more than this day." - Goethe

Viviana Felix (Leadership Award)
"Have the courage to follow your dreams. It's the first step towards attaining your destiny." – Nikita Koloff

Black Scholars United

Welcome back people!! I hope your break was fantastic and you are ready for this coming semester. BSU has a lot lined up this semester.

First on the list is the Pizza and Bowling Social on January 27th. This will be held from 6 pm-9 pm at the Lair & Wildcat Lanes.

This is an excellent time to come and meet the new BSU members as well as learn more about the upcoming events.



Pizza and refreshments will be served. We will also have our booth set up on January 11th and 25th in the Union Building from 10 am to 1pm. BSU T-shirts are also for sale for 10 dollars.

We here at BSU hope that you will have a great semester and remember to stay focused. ☺

By: Lawi Lomiko

American Indian Council

Being part of the Multicultural Student Center (MSC) area council gives students the opportunity to celebrate their culture.

The American Indian Area Council (AIC) does so by having their Pow Wow that brings people from all over Utah to Weber State University. This year their 40th annual Pow Wow will be held in the Union Building ballrooms on March 10th. They are expecting over 1,000 people to attend. Moreover, the celebrations start in March at the University of Utah, which is the first university to start the Pow Wow celebration.

The MSC along with the AIC hope to have sufficient donations to have 10 different types of competition, these would be under the categories of Drummers and Dancing. There will be a small charge of \$3 for the entrance of this event.

In addition, traditional Native American food like fry bread and Navajo tacos will be available for purchase.

This will be another great cultural event Weber State University students can attend that will help educate on traditions that seem lost but are very well alive.

By: Viviana Felix



Hispanic Area Council

This year we started out with vacancies in our senate position, but do not worry, that has been resolved.

We would like to welcome Viviana Felix as our new 2012 Hispanic Area council Senator.

HAC began the year with a "meet and greet" social on January 11, 2012! It was a great turn out, light refreshments, and pizza was served.

For this semester HAC is planning to have several events, including Viva Frida (Art Gallery), Cinco de Mayo feast, and hopefully joining forces with other ethnic area councils to create a big fashion show event.

That is all for now, we will keep you updated with more information. For now, have a Happy New Year and a great semester!

By: Maria Rodriguez Mata



From the S.T.E.P.S Desk

Farewell to Jacqueline Smith

Dear friend,

It seems like yesterday that you first attended a BSU meeting. From that moment you began to be a part of BSU thus making the club better with your innovations and leadership. I knew you were pre-destined to be someone great. After you came into my office and expressed your academic concerns and needs, I was impressed with how you were able to relay to me the myriad of things needed in order for you to be successful. Only then I felt that after that very meeting things began to work well for you. Things began to work well for the Center too. You became a part of it.

Jackie (aka Jaxs), I am very proud of you. It was wonderful to see you as a student with strong goals and ambitions and then eventually evolve into a co-worker. I have seen many students fail, and to see you achieve, lets me know as well as others know that one can follow his or her dreams... if only they stay focused and determined... So dear friend, I am proud of you. We ALL shall miss you.

Have great success in all that you do. Always.

Jody P. Perkins
Steps Interim Manager

