

Ethnic Diversity Newsletter



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Editors: Lindsay Bolstad & Vang Xiong

Department of Ethnic Studies



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

In Loving Memory of Cynthia Spee

November 7, 1956 - October 26, 2012



Cynthia Lyn (Hyde) Spee was born November 7, 1956, at a military hospital in El Paso, TX, the daughter of Carl and Madeline (Jakobe) Hyde. As a young girl, Cindy moved with her family to Minnesota and the Mankato area. She attended school at Loyola Catholic School in Mankato and worked as a Custodian Assistant to help pay her tuition, often coming in early or staying late to take care of the work she had to do. Cindy later graduated from Loyola Catholic High School.

In 1976, Cindy moved to Fairmont and worked at the Redwood restaurant and at Madsen's Grocery Store. On March 18, 1978, Cindy was united in marriage to Lowell Spee at the United Methodist Church in Fairmont, MN. Together the couple made their home on a farm near Fairmont where they were blessed with three wonderful children, Dirk, Joseph, and Kim. Years later, they would welcome a son-in-law, Paul into their family and considered him their fourth child. Cindy and Lowell farmed the family farm from 1978 to 2005. During that time, Lowell began

to pursue a college degree in law enforcement and during the times that he struggled to balance everything, Cindy reassured him and was the driving force in him completing his education.

Cindy was a wonderful woman who loved to help people no matter what the situation. Her volunteer work started at the Fairmont area schools while her children were in elementary school, this is where she ran the laminator from 1984 to present and read to kids on a weekly basis in the last few years. She was an adult leader for the Fairmont Go-Getters and Alcohol Decision Team for the local 4-H group. She taught Sunday school for 6 years. She proudly drove school bus part-time for Fairmont and presently for GHEC and Martin County West. Cindy volunteered at St. Luke's Nursing Home for 2 years and was later hired as a CAN in 2011 where she worked weekends for 10 years. She shaved her head for St. Baldrick's Childhood Cancer fundraiser, taught firearms safety for the DNR for 10 years, helped at the Borderline Cruiser Car shows, donated over 5 gallons of blood, volunteered at the Methodist Church for various activities, volunteered for her internship at Laurels Peak in Mankato, and was an avid supporter and volunteer for Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and the Fairmont Thin Blue Line Wives. Cindy was honored to receive the Friends in Education award.

Cindy was so proud of her children and the work that Lowell does through the Police Department. She was not one to sit idle and let life pass her by. Cindy continued to try and better herself by attending classes at MSU in Social Work. She was an organizer, taking on any task and taking pleasure in seeing it be completed. Through all the good deeds that Cindy did, she looked at it as making the world just a little better place. Her zest for life and kind and caring ways will be missed by all those that knew her and called her their friend. In her death, Cindy continues giving and caring for others by giving the gift of life and being an organ donor. Cindy passed away Friday morning, October 26, 2012 at the Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Fairmont, MN, having reached the age of 55 years, 11 months, and 19 days.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband, Lowell Spee of Fairmont, MN; children, Dirk Spee of Champlin, MN, Joseph Spee of Champlin, MN, and Kimberly Hitzemann and her husband, Paul of Jackson, MN; her mother Madelin (Jakobe) Hyde of Mankato, MN; mother-in-law, Esther Spee of Fairmont, MN; sister, Vivian "Vicky" Kair of Mankato, MN; brothers, Carl Hyde and his wife, Terry of Salt Lake City, UT, Michael Hyde and his wife, Vicky of Enterprise, AL, and Jeffrey Hyde and his wife, Eae Whang of Eagan, MN; brother-in-law Greg Reinhart of Lewisville, TX; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

The family requests memorials be given in Cindy's name to the Early Risers Kiwanis Coats and Mittens for Kids program, Life Source Organ and Tissue Donation, American Heart Association and Martin County 4-H.



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

7th Annual North Central Regional Conference

November 10, 2012

by
Dalton Crayton

The National Black Graduate Student Association held its 7th Annual North Central Regional Conference at Minnesota State University, Mankato on November 10, 2012. This year's theme was *Preparing for the Future While Reflecting on the Past.* There were seven speakers and six breakout sessions. The breakout sessions commenced with MSU students. Mr. Obie Kipper an alumni provided the keynote address.

The conference speakers included:

- Dr. Kimberly Geer, Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Dr. Barry Reis, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research
- Mr. Obie Kipper (luncheon keynote speaker)
- Dr. Michael T. Fagin

And the breakout session included:

- Dr Raymond Asomani-Boateng
- Dr. Johnson Afolayan
- Dr. Kebba Darboe
- Dr. Roaj Sethuraju
- Mr. C .Maxille Moultrie

The National Black Graduate Student Association created the regional conference to provide opportunities for region specific terms to be discussed. It also provides a time for Black graduate students to come together, network, and receive professional development. Regional conferences also provided exposure to the national organization, the benefits of a membership, and relationship building.

The North Central Regional Conference included the states of Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. In addition, this conference offers great sessions on navigating the graduate school process, community partnering, negotiating identities, as well as thinking about the commitments we have and should have as budding Black Scholars. For more information, please contact Dalton Crayton (North Central Regional Representative) dalton.crayton@mnsu.edu or Dr. Michael T. Fagin (Executive Board Advisor) michael.fagin@mnsu.edu



**National Black Graduate
Student Association Conference**

March 2013

by
Dalton Crayton



The National Black Graduate Student Association (NBGSA) celebrated its 25th conference in Dearborn, Michigan, in March 2013. This organization was founded twenty-five years ago, at the University of Michigan by six graduate students, Robert Sellers, Todd Shaw, Robert Brown, Daria Kirby, Lisa Brown and Thomas LaVeist. These outstanding visionaries were honored with a reception entitled “A Night with the Founders.”

This year’s conference annual meeting had a number of national and international renowned speakers which included: Dr. Terrell Strayhorn, Ohio

State University, Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education, Dr. Kay Thompson Rogers, Jackson State University, Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones, Florida State, Dr. Pamela Felder, University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Jerlando Jackson, University of Wisconsin- Madison, and the major highlight of the conference was Dr. Molefi Kete Asante, Temple University, who has published over 70 books and 400 articles.

Another highlight of the conference was the NBGSA Rising Scholars program. The objective of the Rising Scholars program was to bring 30 high school junior students from the Detroit area to attend the conference. The goal of the Rising Scholars is to give high school students an opportunity to gain knowledge and information about the college admission process. Twenty-five students were assigned mentors from the NBGSA Executive Board. The mentees will be contacted once a month to determine their admission status and academic progress.

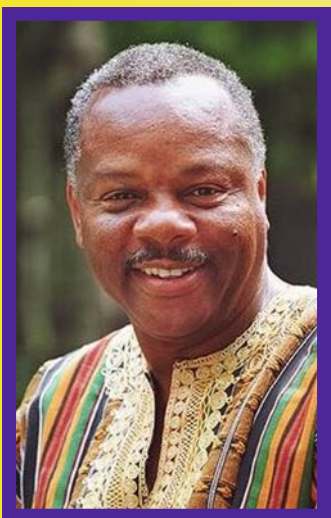
The conference also maintained its Annual Recruitment Fair which attracted 25 universities from around the country to recruit graduate students. The National Higher Education Recruitment Consortium also attended the College Fair.

Lastly, the NBGSA North Central Region consisting of 10 states in its region was given the Region of the year award. The North Central Region Representatives for the 2012-13 academic year were: Dalton Crayton, Minnesota University Mankato, and Abayomi Israel, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

National Black Graduate Student Association Conference

37th Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Student Leadership Conference by Michael Fagin

The 37th Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Student Leadership Conference once again reached a high level of success attracting over 1000 participants who included delegates and the general public from communities throughout Minnesota and the upper Midwest. The conference also drew participants from the Southern University in the state of Louisiana whose delegates consisted of potential graduate students for Minnesota State University, Mankato. Delegates from the conference also came from a number of two year institutions in the MNSCU system, namely Normandale Community College, Inver Grove Community College, Minneapolis Technical Community College, and a number of private and state supported colleges and universities. This year the conference also drew a number of youth attendees. Youth came from the Minneapolis public school system in collaboration with the Minneapolis Park Board and students from the Austin high school in Minnesota.



The primary goal of the Pan African Conference is to build student leadership and provide opportunity for academic scholars, students, professionals, and community leaders to discuss issues that affect African people on a local, national, and international level. The student involvement this year was at an all-time high with over 25 students presenting papers and participating on panel discussions. The student presenters came from private institutions as well as institutions in the MNSCU system. Major speakers for this year's conference included trustee Clarence Hightower, President of the MNSCU Board, who spoke on the need for continued education and self-assessment in the African American community, Dr. George Amedee, who provided an excellent presentation on the 2nd term of the Obama administration. Two other major speakers spoke on the 2nd term of the Obama administration namely Dr. Tamrat Tademe, professor of human relations at St. Cloud University who spoke on the dynamics of institutionalized and systemic racism affecting the second term of President Barack Obama. Ms. Marilyn Stanton, a medical Administrative Fellow cleared the air on the Affordable Health Care for

America Act and illuminating her presentation with the subtle and acceptable psychological/political racism of people referring to the Affordable Health Care for America Act as Obama Care. The conference allowed community and civic leaders in the state of Minnesota to present their views on the state of Blacks in Minnesota. Senator Bobby Joe Champion and Senator Jeffery Hayden provided their viewpoints. The panel of community and civic leaders was chaired by Obie Kipper, a recipient of the Minnesota State University Diversity office of Diversity distinguished alumni reward.

A major impact of the conference was felt by the presentations of Mary Whitney speaking on domestic violence and Lissa Jones emphasizing the current state of affairs for African American peoples. The conference also this year maximized the use of technology by having a speaker in a different state participate via satellite technology joining the panel on the significance and history of Black mid wives. On Friday evening March 1st, 2013, the noted television Judge Greg Mathis provided an excellent presentation on taking personal responsibility and not allowing forces of prejudice and discrimination to control one's ability to achieve and reach their maximum potential. His presentation was presented to a maximum crowd in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom which was open to the general public and the entire MSU learning community.



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

37th Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Student Leadership Conference

The culminating event of the conference which also drew a maximum crowd on Saturday night March 2nd, 2013 in the CSU Ballroom was the Mr. & Ms. Pan African Talent Ceremony in which MSU students were selected as the Mr. & Ms. Pan African Conference Talent ceremony winners. Mr. Cortez Hollis was chosen as Mr. Pan African and Jazzmin Williams as Ms. Pan African 2013.

The planning for the 38th Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Student Leadership Conference has begun setting the conference dates for February 26th -March 1st, 2014. One of the major keynote speakers for the 38th conference is the noted Black scholar Molefi Kete Asante who has authored over 70 books and 400 articles.





DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

3rd Annual Midwest Ethnic Studies Conference

Thursday, April 4, 2013

by

Michael Fagin

The Department of Ethnic Studies hosted its 3rd Annual Midwest Ethnic Studies Conference on April 4th, 2013. This year's conference brought to MSU a very distinguished leader and educator Mr. Sebastian Hernandez. Hernandez, a civic leader and educator, has a long history of promoting quality education for Latinos and other groups of color in Minnesota. Mr. Hernandez stressed during his presentation the need for educators and the general public to not settle for the widening achievement gap between Latino and White students. The conference also provided the opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to serve on a panel, which addressed the unique needs and concerns of culturally different groups and new immigrants. Emphasis was placed on the specific problems new immigrants have in acculturating to the way of life in the United States of America. Issues and concerns confronting African American people and other minority groups in the criminal justice system were presented by Vincent DeLusia, Emeritus faculty at Minneapolis Technical Community College. His topic of discussion was entitled the "Black Holocaust".

Dr. Sherrise Truesdale supported the Ethnic Studies conference by assisting the department in securing Dr. De-Lusia to present a keynote address. Dr. Truesdale, to our learning community, was also felt by her volunteering to prepare ethnic foods for the conference. Professor Hanh Huy Phan once again put in countless hours helping to prepare an ethnic based meal for students. Professor Phan was also helpful to secure and recommend speakers for the conference. The enrollment for this year's conference included over 70 students taking the conference for credit. Students enrolled for the conference all received individual conference packages prepared by Barbara Doust who assisted Dr. Fagin in the overall implementation of this year's successful conference.

Another highlight of this year's conference was the keynote presentation given by adjunct professor Mr. Thomas Heffernan who provided an overview of the history, culture and temporary issues faced by Black Americans in the Afro Punk music movement. The overall attendance of this year's conference exceeded 250 students, which included students majoring in various disciplines. Dr. Wayne Allen and Department Chair Dr. Kebba Darboe motivated graduate and undergraduate students to participate in this year's event, extending extra credit for their participation. Mr. Dalton Crayton, pre-doctoral fellow in the Ethnic Studies Department, assisted the logistics of securing food, setting up the conference layout and donations. The success of this year's conference was largely due to the spirit and cooperation of the Ethnic Studies Faculty, undergraduate and graduate students. The Ethnic Studies Student Organization (ESSO) also assisted in making this year's conference a success.

Save the date: The 4th Annual Ethnic Studies Conference will take place on April 2nd – 4th, 2014, working in collaboration with the Asian American Program located in the Office of Institutional Diversity. The future direction of the Ethnic Studies Conference is directed towards making it a national event. The well-established Beauty of Cultures created by pre-doctoral fellow/assistant professor Vang Xiong will be expanded and integrated into the overall Ethnic Studies Conference gaining it national recognition.

Annual Midwest Ethnic Studies Conference

Hmong National Development Conference

Author: *Va Yang*

This year the Hmong National Development Conference was hosted in Fresno, California at the Radisson Hotel. The theme name for the 2013's conference is called "*The Journey Forward: The Next Chapter of Hmong American*". It was a great experience for me to attend this conference. I learned a lot from the presenters and their workshops on Hmong American community in the 21st Century. I also got the opportunity to meet and network with many Hmong scholars and students across the country. The greatest thing that I took away from this conference is the opportunity to expose to the many great Hmong leaders and professionals out there in the Hmong community. It was an eye-opening experience for me.

On Friday, the first workshop that I attended was the "*Opening Ceremony for the HND Conference.*" The keynote speaker was Mr. Pha Mouavangsou. In his speech, he addressed some of the important key components why higher education is important to the Hmong community and how education opens a new door for his life. Mr. Pha shared his personal story that he was a high school dropout, a teenage-single father, a former gang member and ended married in very young age. Mr. Pha stated that one of the things motivated him to go back to school is his family, especially to be a role-model to his sons. He didn't return to school until the age of 24. Since then, he had obtained an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, and a master's degree. Currently, he is pursuing a doctor's degree in Educational Leadership at California State University, Fresno. He also the current Dean to the College of Technology and Sciences at Fresno State. After I heard Mr. Pha's story, I could relate my own experience with his life journey. Like himself, I didn't return to college until I was 20 years old. At first, I thought I could not make it into college because I was told by one of my White high school teachers that "Asian and refugee like you will not make it through college due to your family being low-income and your English and writing skills don't match the University's level of education." Now that I am a junior at MSU, Mankato and hoping to graduate with my bachelor's degree in the spring of 2014, I want to go back and proof to my high school teacher that anyone can be successful if an individual person puts his heart and mind to it.

The second workshop that I attended was titled: "*Hmong Students' Experiences in Higher Education*". In this workshop, the presenters talked about why Hmong people are still in the bottom with the lowest-graduation rate compares to all other Asian Americans in higher education. I learned that one of the problems is because Hmong parents and American teachers don't have good communication during parents/teacher conference; whereas the parents do not understand the education world and curriculum at the schools, and the White teachers do not understand the language and cultures of the Hmong/parents. Other problems are because majority of the Hmong students are first-generation high school/college students where they have to do everything by themselves and have limited access/resources to support them in higher education, as well as their parents do not read or write in English. It was concluded that some of the solutions for K-12 school level, Hmong parents need to trust the teachers, and at the same time, for the teachers to have basic information and understanding about the Hmong community, culture, and history.

The third workshop that I attended was called: "*Hmong and American: from Refugees to Citizens*". In this workshop, the presenters discussed what it means to be Hmong in America. Majority of the Hmong in the United States are US citizens – but how exactly do they identify themselves, either just "Hmong" or "Hmong Americans"? In this workshop, I actually learned what it means to be Hmong and American living in two different worlds and cultures. I got the opportunity to share my own experience with other participants as well. It was a great workshop to learn from Hmong scholars and their field of studies/researches. I've gained a lot of knowledge, experiences, and networking from this conference. I am thankful that the Ethnic Studies Department & ESSO supported me in attending this conference. Without their support, I would not get to experience this great opportunity within my community.

Students' Experiences at HND Conference



Author: Mai Xee Vang

As the Vice-President of the Ethnic Studies Student Organization, I was given the opportunity to attend one of the largest Hmong conferences in the country, which was held at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California on Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 6. Founded in 1993, Hmong National Development Conference has been a great way for students, faculty, and staff to communicate and network with other local people and businesses across the United States. By attending this conference I've met many successful scholars, business men/women, CEOs, and non-profit organizations' leaders; who started out with nothing and ended up running and being CEOs to their own businesses. I've also learned a lot about the Hmong community and how we can help each other to achieve higher goals.

Out of the many workshops that HND offered during the conference, I can proudly say that I've picked up many useful stories and tips from these workshops. By listening to their stories it has given me more motivation to set my standards higher and to know that if they can do it - I can do it too. One of the greatest things I learned from the conference is that in order to be noticed by society, you'll have to be the first one (to be an employer not an employee) to start something (and taking risks) in order to be a leader that everyone looks up to, as well as sharing your ideas with others and put in more than anyone else can ever put in.

To sum it all up, I want to thank the staff and members of ESSO for giving me such an opportunity to travel such a distance to attend this amazing conference. Without the help from such a wonderful group here on campus I would of never had such a tremendous experience.



Author: Kee Yang

HND was a very exciting and eye opening experience. I learned a lot about business and business management. The workshops at HND were very educational. The people that were invited as speakers were all good choices. They had a lot of successful stories to share with the audience. There were many workshops going on at the same time of the three days — so I was unable to attend all of them. I was very impressed of the many Hmong Americans who are very successful in their businesses. It was an eye-opening experience for me. Even more surprise is when they all gathered into one place and shared their ideas to the younger generation—what a great start of the next chapter of the Hmong. Overall, HND was worth the experience going and I would recommend this conference to anyone who is interested.

HND

Soul Calling
A Photographic Journey Through the Hmong Diaspora
 by
Irma De La Guardia

I had the privilege to attend Joel Pickford's extraordinary presentation where he took the audience through an in-depth journey of the generational changes members of the Hmong Diaspora experienced as they arrived and settled in California, USA. Pickford is a passionate photographer who captured the emotional undergo of the Hmong refugees as they left behind their country and adapted into a different culture. His book, *Soul Calling*, was published on September 1, 2012 including 200 of Pickford's remarkable photographs and two narrative essays.



Pickford started his ethnographic project by photographing the arrival of thousands of Hmong refugees. The photographs exposed the audience to the reality Hmong refugees faced by traveling thousands of miles away from home. There is a profound meaning in every photograph that gives a feel of the fascinating story behind each and every one. The audience was moved by Pickford's narrative that accompanied every image describing his journey with the Hmong groups.



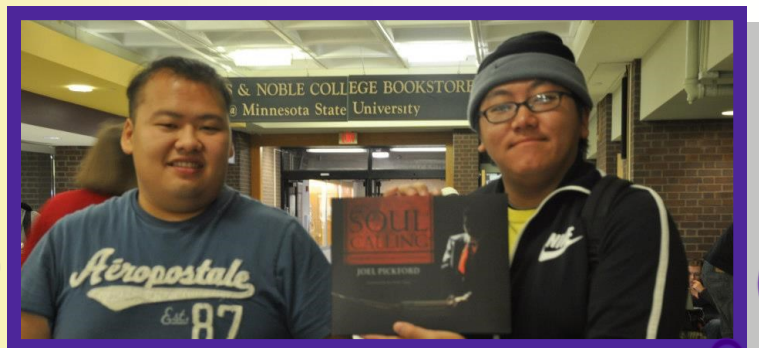
The presentation concluded with a drawing. The prizes included a copy of the book signed by Joel Pickford or a lucky bamboo plant.



Winners:

- Book - *Karina Clennon*
- Book - *Emily Deubauski*
- Bamboo - *Peter Xiong*
- Bamboo - *Sarah Thielen*
- Bamboo - *Ross Miller*

Soul Calling





DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Historical Hurts, Contemporary Responses: One Day Symposium

by
La'Betra Chambers

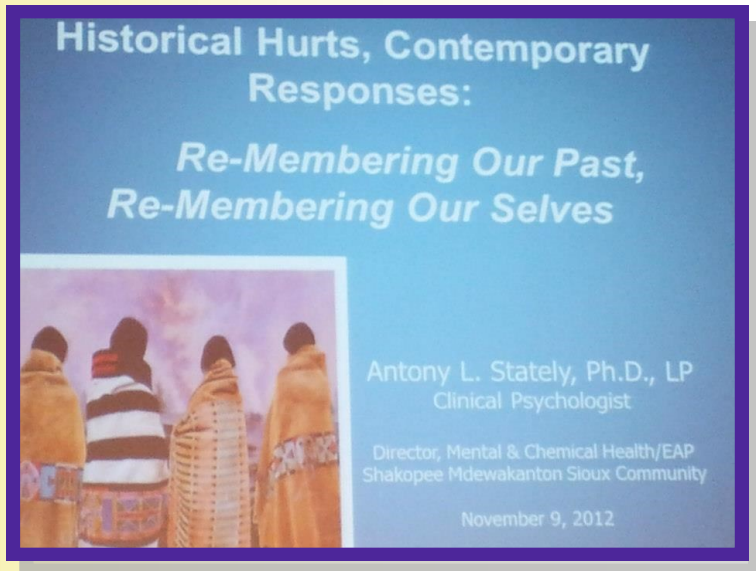
On Friday, November 9, 2012, I attended the “*Historical Hurts, Contemporary Response: One day Symposium*” at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN. The day was filled with new experiences and useful information. I attended the conference along with Professors Phan & Xiong and the members of the Ethnic Studies Student Organization and the American Indian Student Association. The symposium attendees included a diverse group of people from St. Paul and surrounding areas. The day consisted of a keynote speaker and two group session options in the afternoon.

The keynote speech was led by Dr. Antony L. Stately. The name of his speech was “*Re-membering Our Past, Re-Membering Ourselves*”.

Dr. Stately began by discussing the definition of historical trauma and how it applies to our country and other societies throughout the world. The keynote speaker was very passionate about his topic and informed about the subject matter. His speech was a great introduction to a growing issue worldwide that has many long-term mental and physical implications.

The second half of the Symposium consisted of two group sessions. Session one was titled *Historical Trauma: A Closer Look* and Session two was titled *Personal and Community Responses*. Since I was new to the subject matter I decided to attend session one because I felt it might give me more insight into the material. The session was led by three instructors from Metropolitan State University. Each had a very personal and touching story to share about their experiences with hurt communities and other related subject matter. It was a very intimate and interactive session with the participants encouraged to share and ask questions as well.

The Historical Hurts, Contemporary Responses Symposium was a wonderful learning experience. The speakers involved with the symposium were all very passionate about the topic and were able to make all of the material interesting and current. One day, I hope there isn't a need for such a symposium but until that day, I hope that the symposium organizers will continue to educate people on this important topic so that the concerns of the hurt and damaged will continue to be heard.





DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

The Beauty of Cultures Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Ethnic Studies Department & Institutional Diversity

Present:

The Beauty of Cultures

Wednesday, March 20th
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
CSU Hearth Lounge

Free & Open to the Public

Celebrating Cultures Through Ethnic Performances

For more information, please contact
Vang Xiong (vang.xiong@mnsu.edu / 507-389-5874)

Individuals with a disability who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event, please contact the Disability Service at (507) 389-389-2625 or 800-627-3529 (ADES) TTY at least 3 days prior to the event.

- With thanks to:**
- * Ethnic Studies Department
 - * Institutional Diversity
 - * Chicano Latin-American Student Association
 - * Hmong Student Association
 - * Ethnic Studies Student Association
 - * Elizabeth & Wynn Kearney International Center
 - * International Student Association
 - * Someria Student Union
 - * Black Student Union
 - * OASIS
 - * Multicultural Affairs
 - * Dao Lan Dance Studio



THE BEAUTY OF CULTURES		THE BEAUTY OF CULTURES	
Programs		Programs	
11:00 - M.C. Tuohi Neenoma & Sara Yae		12:15 - Afro-Columbian Che Mpagala	C.L.A.S.A
11:05 - Welcoming Remarks	Dr. David Jones Vice President of Student Affairs	12:20 - "T'ai Cui Li Hmoob Tsoj Cai"	Niang Nomsa Daj
11:05 - Institutional Diversity	Dr. Henry Meunz Dean of Institutional Diversity	12:25 - Hecatomas of the Sky	Mala Dances
11:10 - Multiculturalism & Diversity	Dr. Kimberly Greer Dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences	12:30 - Bassi Mada	BioFreaks
11:15 - Beauty of Cultures	Professor Heidi-Hay Phan Ethnic Studies Department	12:35 - "Xyoo Tshab"	H.S.A
11:20 - Opening	Ellen Wilson & Elizabeth Magyler	12:40 - Kubaas	Deborah Dickson & Tam McConley
11:25 - Traditional Thai Dance	Niang Nomsa Daj	12:45 - Charming Dance of Peacock Princess	Niang Nomsa Daj
11:30 - Welcome to the Freshlow	BioFreaks	12:50 - Hip Hop Dances	Shawn Vae
11:35 - "Can You Hear Me"	Bindy Wanda	12:55 - Green Dai	Mala Dances
11:40 - Music of the Drums	Mala Dances	1:00 - Wash vs. Strong	BioFreaks
11:45 - Sokode & Allago	Deborah Dickson & Tam McConley	1:05 - Conso la Floe	C.L.A.S.A
11:50 - The Change	Shawn Vae & Bee Julia Vang	1:10 - Kavaa Dance	Tai Tai Henry & Koi Koi Henry
11:55 - "Welcome to the Circus"	Tongmet Xiong	1:15 - Slnke Youa Bann	Deborah Dickson & Tam McConley
12:00 - Chinese Dance	Niang Nomsa Daj	1:20 - Eatam of the Phoenix	Niang Nomsa Daj
12:05 - Sing Sing Sing	BioFreaks	1:25 - We see Hmong	Mala Dances
12:10 - Somali Song	Ahdihibi Ahdihibi	1:30 - Bakhata-Talhal	C.L.A.S.A
		1:35 - Whalaa	Shawn Vae



Beauty of Cultures



Ethnic Studies Student Organization

In Fall 2012, the Ethnic Studies Student Organization's members elected their executive officers for the academic year of 2012-2013. Officers were elected with brief details about the election process from their advisor, Vang Xiong, along with interested candidates' speeches. The members nominated the following students to serve in the executive board.

President: Va Yang

Vice-President: Mai Xee Vang

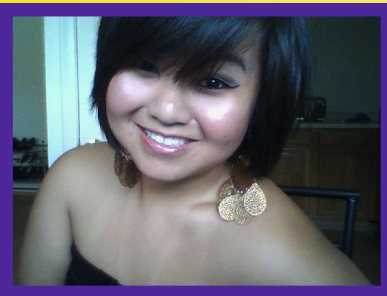
Secretary: Pathy Xiong (Fall Term) & Song Yang (Spring Term)

Treasurer: Sura Vue

MEET YOUR OFFICERS



Hi, my name is Va Yang. This is my third year at MSU, Mankato and majored in Ethnic Studies. As the former Treasurer of the Ethnic Studies Student Organization and with the experiences that I have had, I decided to run for the president's position in the academic year of 2012-2013 and was elected to be the new president. It is an honor for me to serve in this club and lead a new chapter for ESSO members. There are many things to do for the year, such a Lucky Bamboo Sale, Graduation Flower Sale, Community Resource Fairs, HND, Halloween & Thanksgiving Pot Luck, Snow Tubing & Wow-Zone, and etc; so I wanted to welcome everyone to the club and get involved. I look forward to meeting each one of you, new and return members. Welcome to ESSO 2012-2013 academic year!



Hi! My name is Mai Xee Vang. I am the Vice-President of ESSO. I am currently a sophomore studying in the field of Psychology. I am very easy going and I love to laugh at the littlest things. I absolutely love people with a sense of humor and a contagious laugh. I have a passion for dancing and singing; I've been stage performing since 12. My favorite hobbies are photography, cooking, and reading novels. I am a very busy person; so busy that I sometimes forget to sleep. As an ESSO board member, I enjoy seeing the diverse faces every time there's a general meeting or gatherings that we have. I love hearing all about the great ideas that students can come up with. Ideas such as fundraising, traveling to places, fun outdoor group activities, and attending conferences. My favorite activity/event in ESSO are gatherings that we have held, such as the beginning of the school year picnic/potluck. It gives everyone a chance to get to know each other more, hang out, eat and chit chat. Other events that I still enjoy doing are ice breakers, which we usually do at the beginning of each general meeting. I feel that it gives everyone a chance to break out of their boxes and feel comfortable with each other. For the future of ESSO, I hope to see even more diverse faces from all over the world attending our general meetings. I also hope that ESSO students get a chance to attend as much conferences as we can, so that it will benefit us in the future academically and also in the professional world.



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES



Hello there! My name is Pathy Xiong and I am an undergraduate student at MSU. I'm majoring in Ethnic Studies and with a minor in teaching math and TESL. My hometown is Brooklyn Park, MN. I am the Secretary of ESSO during fall semester 2012. This is the second year I have been active in ESSO and I love it! We've done so much from the time I've started such as volunteering to clean ESSO's highway and selling Lucky Bamboos. Being in ESSO, I have gotten to know so many great people and was also granted a chance to show my leadership skills. I want to encourage others to join this group because it is a great experience to have. If you have any questions regarding ESSO, don't hesitate to email me at pathy.xiong@mnsu.edu.

ESSO



Hello everyone! My name is Song Yang and I am a non-traditional student. I am the Secretary of ESSO during spring semester 2013. I have been an active member in ESSO since 2011. As a non-traditional student with a family, college life was overwhelming for me before I joined ESSO, especially when I am new to the campus. ESSO was introduced to me by a couple of my professors in the Ethnic Studies Department, and from there, I took the initiative to join ESSO and met many new friends from many diverse backgrounds and in different ages, as well as gotten the opportunity to meet with our diverse student body during our ESSO events. Being in the club, I've gained great leadership skills and have learned many new things from the officers, members, and advisor. I also had the opportunity to travel outside of MSU to cultural events and learned many great things from our diverse ethnic communities. Two of my favorite events throughout the year that I enjoyed most are the "*Beauty of Cultures*" and the "*Annual Midwest Ethnic Studies Conference*."



Hi, my name is Sura Vue and this would be my third year here at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I am an Ethnic Studies major and my future goal is to get my master's degree in Counseling and Student Personnel. This year, I served as the Treasurer for the Ethnic Studies Students Organization. I really enjoy being in ESSO because of its friendly community and the multiple events that the organization hosted and attended throughout the year, such as: the *Hmong National Development Conference*, *Native American Symposium*, *Domestic Violence in the Reservation*, and even smaller events like the "*Open Season*" discussion about Chai Shoua Vang's case. These events, whether big or small, have all impacted me to see the world in a different perspective. When it comes to student organization, I would like to see our organization grows bigger and be a more well-known RSO, not only just for the small things that we do but also for the big things that we bring to MSU, including our diverse cultures and languages. Along with this, I would also like to see our members and organization being a big part in embracing diversity throughout campus and in everywhere else where diversity is needed.



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Ethnic Studies Student Organization

by

Lindsay Bolstad



The Ethnic Studies Student Organization (ESSO) is a growing Recognized Student Organization in the Minnesota State University, Mankato community. The purpose of ESSO is to encourage events, discussions, and exchanges among a variety of students, faculty, and community members in regards to the complex issues surrounding diversity and subordinate groups.

ESSO membership has increased in recent years, and the group has been very active in the 2012-2013 academic year. Members have been participated in events such as: *Open Season* documentary viewing and discussion, Mankato Vietnamese Catholic Community Picnic, Hmong Resource Fair in St. Paul, Historical Hurts and Contemporary Responses symposium at Metropolitan State University, Hmong New Year events across Minnesota, Institutional Diversity's 42nd Annual Diversity Dinner, Family Education Forum, the Ethnic Studies department's Beauty of Cultures, and the Hmong National Development Conference in California.

Giving back to the community is another value that ESSO members share. This year, ESSO conducted 2 book drives for third-world countries. The group received an award from World Wide Bookdrive and collected over 2,000 books! ESSO also actively cleans their adopted highway in Mankato.

The ESSO executive board planned many events this year for members to have fun! Some new things implemented include ESSO gym nights at MSU's Rec Center, member birthday celebrations, and a t-shirt design contest. The group started the school year with a Beginning of the Year Picnic. Members brought diverse foods to share at potluck gatherings for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Valentines Day. The potlucks always include fun games such as costume contests, relay races, and bingo. ESSO makes the most of the Minnesota winter with activities like ice skating at All Seasons Arena, snow tubing at Mount Kato, and bowling nights at Wow Zone. The group will finished off the year with the End of the Year Picnic and weekend camping trip at Whitewater State Park.

In order to participate in all of these activities, ESSO members have made many efforts to raise funds for the group. Some fundraising efforts include: collecting aluminum cans, selling Avon products, and conducting Lucky Bamboo Plant fundraisers. The pretty bamboo plants you see in offices around MSU are likely from ESSO! The group also sells roses at MSU's graduation commencement ceremonies in the fall and spring.

Last, the executive board likes to recognize the participation and dedication of ESSO members. The Fall 2012 Member of the Semester is Peter Xiong, and Lindsay Bolstad is the Spring 2013 Member of the Semester. Keng Vue won awards for both the best and scariest Halloween costume. The Avon Fundraiser award went to Lindsay Bolstad. Pathy Xiong, Va Yang, and Peter Xiong won awards for their hard work conducting the graduation commencement flower sale. Winners of the Highest Score at Bowling Night award include Linda Yang, Yer Lee, and Sang Yang, who won twice in a row!



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES





DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES



ESSO

Students' Academic Experiences



Author: Keng Vue

My favorite part of ESSO is the meetings; it's where all the events happen and where students continue to impact the University's community. It's also one of the best parts of ESSO where students and advisors come together and make things possible for a great college life experience. One thing that impacted me in this organization is the friends and teamwork that we build together as a proud RSO. I enjoy those great moments we shared during our general meetings and those great events that our officers and members made possible for the University's community and surrounding community to get involved on campus like the "Beauty of Cultures"! I hope for the future of ESSO, we will continue to keep envisioning our success and to become even more diverse so that we can learn together as college students and future leaders. I also hope for the future of diversity, that everyone will come to learn that no one is superior to others — we all created equal because we are all human beings; therefore, by coming together as a community, we can achieve a history greater than war and tragedies.

My favorite Ethnic Studies class is American Racial Minorities with Professor Xiong. I enjoy the education that Professor Xiong has engaged us with by sharing his life experiences and connecting students with subject matters. It gives students a better understanding about diversity and ethnic minority people. My favorite activity in the class is watching the "What Would You Do?" videos about homeless people and how others view this minority population. The videos are really surprising and sad because of how people react to certain groups of people, like the homeless, just because they have nothing does not mean they are not human beings. I was shocked to see that there are so many people out there in the community who would not care for homeless families. In the video we watched, when a homeless person fell down on the sidewalk, no one came to his aid but when a well-dressed woman fell, most passers would lend their help. From this activity, I learned that many minorities like the homeless and others are being disrespected because of their status. I hope that someday, people will come to understand that we all are "human beings" and we should help each other. This activity was indeed one of the best activities I have been educated by Professor Xiong. He helped me and my classmates to see the world from the eye of the minorities. I must say, Ethnic Studies helps improve the relations we have within society today and may impact future generations' perspectives on communication, culture, physical appearance, and personality.



Author: Barbara Doust

As a past graduate of Ethnic Studies I loved everything about the program and I hope it continues so that all students can learn about diversity whether through history, or current issues our communities and nation face today. Every faculty member was helpful with my education and that is why I pursued a Masters after completing my Bachelors. Each one took part in my success because they cared, and it does not stop once you leave the program. Every class that the program teaches you does so about past, present and future. The classes opened my eyes about oppression, discrimination, racism, and all the other isms of the world. Each was a great learning experience. Knowledge also came in the form of activities. The Ethnic Studies department holds many activities throughout the year for learning through conferences and events where people of all cultures can share. My time in the Ethnic Studies program will always be remembered fondly and cherished. Many thanks to each and everyone.

DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Author: Abdullahi Abdullahi

My name is Abdullahi Abdullahi and I am double majors in Political Science and Ethnic Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I am the President of the Somali American Student Union, a member of the Phi Sigma Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, a community organizer for the Immigrant Somalis, an election coordinator for the DFL, as well as an active member in the speech team, pre-law society, and a mentor to other students. What I enjoy about being an Ethnic Studies major is to learn the experiences of the ethnic minorities', literature on minority people and their history, society, political issues, and many other cultural studies on American racial minorities in the United States. My favorite Ethnic Studies class is ETHN 402: Ethnic Research Methods/Skills because the course deals with scientific methods, cross-cultural issues, hypothesis, different methods, data collection and professional skills in a multi-disciplinary field. Upon graduation, I plan to attend law school in order to become a lawyer so I could give back to my own community and to many other minority people and their communities. I want to "thank you" the Ethnic Studies Department and its faculty for their support in these many years in my study here



Women of Courage & Vision

Minnesota State University, Mankato students, faculty, and staff were nominated and honored at 13th annual Women of Courage and Vision Reception. This year's reception was presented by the President's Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Center on March 21, 2013. Recipients enjoyed delicious food and musical entertainment by the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines chorus. Women from the department of Ethnic Studies and Ethnic Studies Student Organization (ESSO) were well represented among the hundreds of women nominated as a woman of courage and vision.

Picture Captions:

Top Photo: Pauline Lex, Song Yang, Vice President David Jones, Professor Hanh Huy Phan, Irma De La Guardia, Alisha Phandanouvong, Quita Paul, and Professor Vang Xiong.

Bottom Photo: Song Yang, Lindsay Bolstad, Pauline Lex, Dr. Sherrise Truesdale, La'Betra Chambers, Irma De La Guardia, and Alisha Phandanouvong.



E.S. Scholarship Recipients

Author: Lindsay Bolstad



As a first-generation college student paying for my education with student loans, I feel very fortunate to be enrolled in the Ethnic and Multicultural Studies Masters program at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Throughout my academic career, I have strongly valued high academic achievement, community service, and student leadership. In 2012, I graduated summa cum laude with a 3.86 GPA, earning a Bachelor of Science in Ethnic Studies, Minor in Sociology, and Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership. Attending events, conferences, and workshops, such as a historical trauma symposium and a lecture given by survivors of Japanese American internment, is also important to me.

I have been actively involved in the Mankato community in the past three years, including an internship with Committee Against Domestic Abuse. I have also volunteered with the American Civil Liberties Union Racial Justice Project, African Family and Education Center, and Mankato Wacipi. One of my favorite activities in the community has been facilitating Prejudice Reduction Workshops through the Greater Mankato Diversity Council.

My leadership skills continue to develop throughout my academic and professional career in the department of Ethnic Studies. For one year, I served on the executive board of the Ethnic Studies

Student Organization as Secretary and I currently work as a Graduate Assistant for the department of Ethnic Studies. These experiences have helped me to develop skills in public speaking, assertiveness, professional accountability, and leading by modeling.

My passion for social justice has been prevalent since childhood and stems from my diverse and multicultural family. I was enrolled in the Social Work program when I took Professor Phan's American Racial Minorities class. Professor Phan's lecture inspired me to use my privileges as a member of the dominant group to advocate with those that are oppressed and have little voice. It was then that I changed my major to Ethnic Studies.

My passion for social justice continues to grow the more I learn about the values and history of different cultures, as well as the injustice oppression experienced by minority groups. I sincerely hope that others will benefit from my work in Ethnic Studies five, ten, fifty years from now. I see myself teaching Ethnic Studies courses, conducting diversity trainings, and working for a nonprofit organization that addresses the needs of oppressed populations. As a member of the dominant group, I have the responsibility to reach out to privileged populations and encourage collaboration between majority and minority groups.

Ethnic Studies Scholarship Recipients

E.S. Scholarship Recipients



Author: Va Yang

During my high school years there wasn't any class that taught students about different ethnic groups or races in America. There were classes like US Government and World History but they only focused the history of the "White Men" – who claimed to be the fathers and discoverers of America; little do we know about the Native Americans – the kindness people who were willing to share "Mother Earth" to outsiders. Throughout the semesters in high school, we began to learn a little more about the slaves, how the "White Men" controlled the blacks under the masters and Christian's bible. There has been a lack of information about the true stories of the four major American racial minorities: Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanic or Latino Americans, and Asian Americans. I strongly believe that there is a need in changing K-12 grade school's social studies to have a bigger picture on how America become the country as it is today if without the help and contribution from these minority populations. Fur-

thermore, during my journey in high school, I also feel there is a missing story about my people, the Hmong. Never did my teachers mention about the Hmong's history in social studies class, even when the highest student population in my school was Hmong; nothing mention about us. Since I attended MSU, Mankato - I took many Ethnic Studies courses and learned so much about the history of my people and the histories of the four American racial minorities who never get the chance to be discussed in K-12 grade level. I love the way how Ethnic Studies faculty shared with their students about their life experiences as minority individuals ---- things that my classmates and I got to see the world "through their eyes." I learned how to appreciate my culture and at the same time open-minded to other cultures and religions. Ethnic Studies changed me, changed how I see the world and how I can become a productive member in my community and in the mainstream community, and how I could become a future leaders to the younger generation and an allies to other underserve communities. It is my goal to pursue in this field so I could keep my culture alive and being a future role-model to the community where I come from.

Five years from now I will graduate with my bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies and would like to continue into the master's program in Multicultural & Ethnic Studies. It is always my goal to stay in MSU, Mankato and finish my study in this field. I also hope to become a future graduate assistant in the Ethnic Studies Department and work side-by-side with my professors to build this program and department into a new chapter for our diverse student body and help to recruit more students into the program because this is an important field for future student leaders to understand about the minorities as the U.S's population is changing in the next 50 years where majority will become minority and minority will become the "majority." With the skills, education, and knowledge from Ethnic Studies, I am sure that I will benefit to many recognized student organizations on campus as I am very involved and out-going with other organizations and diverse students. I always look up for new challenge in this field and hope to bring these new skills to be shared with my peers.

I will use the Ethnic Studies scholarship to help pay for my college tuition since I am from a low-income family and first-generation college student. In college, money is always an issue for me; I tried to stay away from the dormitory to reduce my college expense as I'm a full-time student and have no job. Currently, I live off-campus with my brother and we are fortunate enough to have my parent help pay for our apartment. To tell you the true, this scholarship would help me purchase textbooks for my classes so my parents won't have to use their monthly foodstamp and cash from the government to help me in my college living situation. I can assure you that with the support from the Ethnic Studies Department and faculty, I can be succeed in my study and completed the degree on time.

Graduate Assistants



Deri-Jot Malie, Apaol-Gop, Slama-Aleekum, Abonano, Deeli-Jot, Gunda! My name is Lero Odola and I'm a non-traditional student at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I speak five different local languages in South Sudan apart from Arabic and English. I'm a refugee from war-torn South Sudan. I escaped the Sudan regime's brutality about twenty years ago. My dream is to earn the highest college degree that I can so I can give back to my community and share the college life experience that I've had to other non-traditional students to pursue their dreams. My experience with Minnesota States University, Mankato has been remarkable. I have served humbly on the student advisory board for two terms. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Ethnic Studies and Law Enforcement from the College of Social and Behavioral Science in 2011. Currently I'm pursuing a master's degree in the Ethnic Studies Department's graduate program. I plan to do my internship at the United Nations in New York City, during spring



Hola! I am Irma T. De La Guardia, a graduate assistant in the Ethnic Studies Department. As a Latina from Panama City, Panama, I grew up surrounded by a culturally diverse environment. Having received a bilingual education, I am fluent in both Spanish and English. In May 2011, I graduated from the University of Minnesota, Crookston with a B.S. in Business Management, including a minor in Organizational Communication. My experience in the Ethnic Studies Department at MSU has been rewarding both educationally and personally. I have enhanced my knowledge on different cultures not only through research, but through interactions with wonderful individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. I look forward to the rest of my collegiate career at MSU. If you see me around, feel free to approach me; meeting new people is always fun. Nos Vemos!



Greetings! I am Lindsay Bolstad from St. Paul, Minnesota. This is my first year as a graduate student in the Ethnic and Multicultural Studies program. I recently graduated from MSU with a Bachelor of Science in Ethnic Studies, minor in Sociology, and certificate in Nonprofit Leadership. My interests in the field are juvenile justice, multicultural education, and oppression of women. Being a Graduate Assistant in Ethnic Studies is an extraordinary learning experience. Working with the Ethnic Studies students and faculty has given me many opportunities for academic and spiritual growth. I hope the department continues to encourage diversity and multiculturalism so future generations can create a more equitable world.



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Graduate Assistants



Hi, My Name is La'Betra Chambers. I am a second semester graduate student in the Ethnic and Multicultural Studies program here at MSU Mankato. I am originally from Waterloo, Iowa. I have currently been living in Bloomington, Illinois. I attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. I studied International Relations/German with a minor in Intercultural Certification. In the Ethnic Studies program, I have learned so many things about what culture is and how it defines and influences us as human beings. My time as a graduate assistant in the Ethnic Studies department has also been a wonderful learning experience. It has helped me to learn more about my capabilities. I have always loved to travel and to learn about others. I have lived in Germany where I studied the language and South Korea where I taught English to Korean students. I hope to use my Ethnic and Multicultural degree on the international stage to help others.



Hello, my name is Alisha Phandanouvong. I am Laotian American. I was born in the United States and my parents are from Laos, which they migrated to the United States as refugees. It was a very different experience for me as a Laotian American because back in the day, I had trouble identifying who I am. As I major in Ethnic Studies I figured out who I really am for sure. I have lived in the state of Minnesota my whole life in a suburb called Chanhassen, and I have lived in Mankato for my school years. I received my bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato. With my major I am hoping to learn more about other cultures. In addition, I am hoping to assist minorities in my future career.

Graduate Assistants





DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES



Student Activities



DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Good News from Dr. Kebba Darboe *Chair of Ethnic Studies Department*

Academic Year 2012-2013



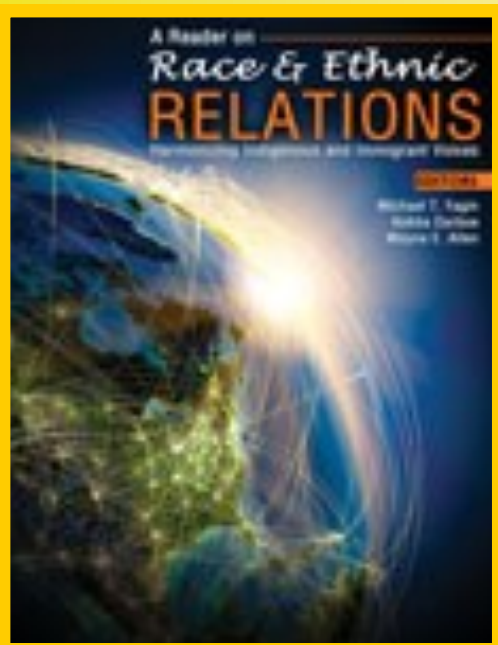
The faculty of Ethnic Studies research agenda continues to be ambitious and productive as evidenced by the publication of a book in 2012: *A Reader on Race/Ethnic Relations*:


Fagin, Michael T., Kebba Darboe & Wayne E. Allen (2012). *A Reader on Race/Ethnic Relations: Harmonizing Indigenous and Immigrant Voices*. Kendall Hunt, Publishing Company

An extremely important aspect of scholarship is disseminating research results widely and to audiences where research findings can have the greatest impact. In this context, faculty collaborated with peers and students to conduct and share their research interests, findings and experiences with national and international scholars, for example, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in South Asia.

In addition to the publication of a book, faculty, two pre-doctoral fellows, and students have been involved in various activities, for example, Beauty of Cultures, National Black Graduate Student Association Conference, and Third Annual Midwest Ethnic Studies Conference. Through faculty and students involvement in various activities, they have been of service to the University, Mankato community, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Department of Ethnic Studies. The responsibility and genuine commitment of faculty and students to academic and diversity issues is the price we pay for doing great things in this globalized world.

There is no time more fitting to say thanks to all faculty, students, program faculty, alumni and friends. Remember our doors are open for your visits. Your comments and suggestions for further improvement in our program are also welcome at any time.





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I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON:

- Serving as a professional mentor**
- Providing an internship**
- Contributing to the Ethnic Studies Development Fund at the Minnesota State Foundation (tax deductible)**

THANK YOU!

Please tear off, fold, and place in an envelope addressed to:
Department of Ethnic Studies
109 Morris Hall
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mankato, MN 56001

Or email this information to kebba.darboe@mnsu.edu

