

# Cultural Times

MultiCultural Center, Humboldt State University  
Spring 2011

**Marylyn  
Paik-  
Nicely**



**MULTICULTURAL CENTER  
PERSON OF THE DECADE**

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Members of the Chinese Student Scholars Association sing at the Lunar New Year Celebration. | Photo by Andrew Ly

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Cover design by Derek Lactaon

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Copies of all correspondence should also be sent to Associated Students of HSU.



## Editor's Note

I first met Marylyn Paik-Nicely when I was a freshman. I would see her at various events, smiling in the background, moving about trays of food, laughing and talking with people, making them feel welcome and appreciated.

Her work-hard demeanor, gentle smile and consistent desire to make sure I was fed at all times made me feel at home. It made me feel like, no matter how far away from my own family I might have been, I was at home around Marylyn.

For over a decade, she has been the architect of MultiCultural Center (MCC) events and programs that promote diversity and tolerance. Her work has challenged this campus to think in new ways and to celebrate the differences among us.

As Marylyn plans to retire after next spring, I hold my breath in anticipation of how this school will attempt to replace her.

While we at the MCC are happy to see Marylyn prepare for new and exciting adventures, we also acknowledge that we are losing one of the figureheads of diversity on the Humboldt State campus.

We are sad to let her go, but we want to use this issue of the *Cultural Times* to show her our appreciation and gratitude before she leaves.

Marylyn Paik-Nicely is the *Cultural Times*' Person of the Decade.

She is the individual at this university who, we believe, has contributed most over the past 10 years to a broader idea of acceptance and tolerance.

She worked tirelessly after the passing of Eric Rofes to continue his legacy of fighting for equality for the queer community by creating the Social Justice Summit. This year, Marylyn and her student coordinators examined desire as a means toward social justice.

Marylyn was central in planning the California Big Time and Social Gathering. The yearly event brings Native California tribes from all over the state to the our campus for a weekend in April. While the event is still in its infancy, Marylyn's direction and passion have secured it a spot on HSU's yearly calendar.

Her efforts also helped to ensure the continued celebration of events like Indigenous Peoples Week, the Lunar New Year, Black Liberation Month, Dia de los Muertos, and the Q-Fest (Qross Cultural Queer Film Festival) at Humboldt State University.

These events and accolades are by no means exhaustive, but they speak on several levels to the commitment Marylyn has to this campus and its many faces.

We will miss you, Marylyn, but we want to thank you and wish you well in all your endeavours next year and off into the horizon.

Aloha.

-Derek Lactaon

# What's Going on at the



Office Manager Amanda Staack

1.

The MCC bids adieu to office manager Anna Leff-Kich who moved over winter break to Berkeley, CA. Good luck on all of your new adventures, Anna!

While we're sad to see Anna go, we're ECSTATIC to welcome Amanda Staack to the MCC staff as the new office manager. Bienvenidos!

2.

3.

With the help of the Chinese Student Scholars Association, we celebrated the Lunar New Year and the Lantern Festival with the Humboldt State campus and community. We enjoyed learning about new traditions from many different parts of China and being able to share that with the event visitors. With the money collected from "feeding the lion," CSSA & MCC donated \$200 to the students affected by the Tea Gardens fire.

We hosted the 4th annual California Big Time and Social Gathering with a record turnout. The event recognized Jack Norton's instrumental work in creating the Native American Studies program at Humboldt State University. It is the only stand-alone Native American Studies program in the California State University system.

4.

5.

We brought Tim'm West, Amber Hollibaugh, Cherrie Moraga and Waawaate Fobister to campus for the Social Justice Summit. Seniors Brittany Britton and Ian O'Brien organized a spectacular event. They chose the theme "Desire" as a means of achieving social justice.



Tim'm West speaks at the Social Justice Summit. | Photo by Catherine Wong

We will have our first-ever Rainbow Graduation Celebration for HSU's LGBTQ community. We're hoping to add it to our annual list of other cultural graduations. Please join our LGBTQ community as we honor the activism and academic achievements of our graduates.

6.

7.

Director Marylyn Paik-Nicely announced her planned 2012 retirement. We're sad to see her go, but happy that we get to spend this next year with her. We're confident that the HSU administration will find someone to take on the lofty job of filling her shoes.

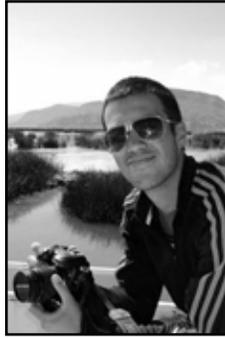
# MultiCultural Center...

## 2011 Graduates



The MCC was one of the first places that I got involved with at the University when I arrived back in 2006. I never realized until I wrote this how much the MCC was involved in my life. Thank you!

*Brittany Britton*



The MultiCultural Center has been a fantastic outlet for me to learn about myself and other cultures. I hope their programs continue to impact people at Humboldt.

*Derek Lactaen*



The MCC has made me:  
 -Grow  
 -Stay in HSU  
 -Enrich my culture and given me the opportunity to share it with different people.  
 -Proud  
 -Feel important and part of this University

*Natalie Hernandez*



I don't think I would have succeeded in college without the MCC. Four years ago I walked into the MCC as a scared freshman looking for the Queer Student Union meeting and found a space where I could launch from. I will forever be grateful to the staff and students at the MCC. All my love,  
 Ian

*Ian O'Brien*



The Multicultural Center has been my home away from home. Although, I spent my senior year at Florida International University, I still feel that Humboldt State and the MCC has been my home away from Los Angeles.

*Jackelyn Valladares*



Special thanks go to the lovely ladies at the MultiCultural Center; from left to right, Office Manager Amanda Staack, Director Marylyn Paik-Nicely and Outreach and Social Justice Programs Coordinator Mona Mazzotti.

| Photo by Derek Lactaen

## Spring 2011 Student Staff

Aaron Guerrero, Alicia Bell, Andre Perez, Brittany Britton, Bryan Fiallos, Calvin Li, Cherry Sripan, Catherine Wong, Derek Lactaen, Edwin Vazquez, Elizabeth Cortez, German Gordo, Hanakekua Joao, Ian O'Brien, Jackie Robinson, Janin Silvis, Kyla Winthers-Barcelona, Luis Cruz, Melissa Estrada, MolinJiang, Natalie Hernandez, Nora Chatmon, Robert Chandler, Roy Molina, Ruby Buentello, Shareen McFall, Stephanie Espinoza, Tou Thao, Travon Thomas, Vinson Parker, Yvette Gonzalez

Your Voices:

# What are you most looking forward to during the Year of the Rabbit?

By German Gordo



“I want to be less of a procrastinator.”

**Emily Culhance**  
**Freshmen**  
**Environmental Science**



“Another chance to go to China during the summer. Become more complete in my skills and try to use all parts of my brain. Also, I want to pass the HSK Chinese Fluency Test.”

**Matthew Thompkins**  
**Junior**  
**International Business**



“I am looking forward to writing the nobel prize for literature...”

**Mark Julian**  
**Senior**  
**International Studies**



“I want to meet ambitious people because I feel I would learn a lot from them.”

**Caroline Zapata**  
**Freshmen**  
**Social Work**



“I want to succeed academically during the Year of the Rabbit. I want to make more American friends. I hope that HSU keeps getting better and better.”

**Yaru Gong**  
**Sophomore**  
**International Studies**



“I am looking forward to passing all my courses and having a fairly stress-less semester and summer.”

**Alison Lawrence-Toombs**  
**Sophomore**  
**Undeclared**

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**The MultiCultural Center celebrates the Year of the Rabbit.**

By Derek Lactaon

A yellow lion parades through the room, weaving around people who smile and take pictures. Its mane is a tangle of yellow silk with sequins and other ornaments. Its wooden eyes are brightly decorated and animalistic.

This semester the MultiCultural Center (MCC) celebrated the Year of the Rabbit with many events, but the Lunar New Year celebration started the festivities.

Several hundred people gathered in the Kate Buchanan Room on Feb. 3 to join the MCC and the Chinese Student Scholars Association in celebration.

The Lunar New Year recognizes the first day of the year according to the lunar and lunisolar calendars. The traditional East- and Southeast Asian holiday goes by other names like the Chinese New Year and Asian New Year. Countries like Japan, Vietnam, Korea and others celebrate the same event, but in different ways.

The literal translation of the name of the Chinese holiday is "Spring Festival" and is sometimes called by that terminology.

The holiday lasts for two weeks and culminates with the Lantern Festival, which falls on the 15th day.

At this year's celebration, Chinese exchange students sang several songs, played instruments and performed traditional dances.

Many of the exchange students from China are from Xi'an in the center of the country; however many of them have ethnic histories that stretch beyond China's borders into countries like Mongolia and others.

## The Chinese Zodiac

Animal	New Year Dates
Rat	Feb. 7, 2008
Ox	Jan. 26, 2009
Tiger	Feb. 14, 2010
Rabbit	Feb. 3, 2011
Dragon	Jan. 23, 2012
Snake	Feb. 10, 2013
Horse	Jan. 31, 2014
Goat	Feb. 19, 2015
Monkey	Feb. 8, 2016
Rooster	Jan. 28, 2017
Dog	Feb. 16, 2018
Pig	Feb. 5, 2019



**Yaru Gong performs at the Lunar New Year celebration.**  
| Photo by Andrew Ly

# SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT 2011

A review by Kyla Winthers-Barcelona

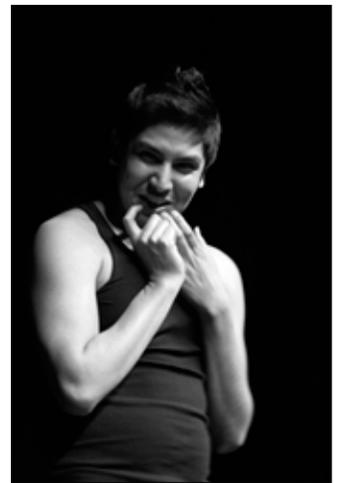
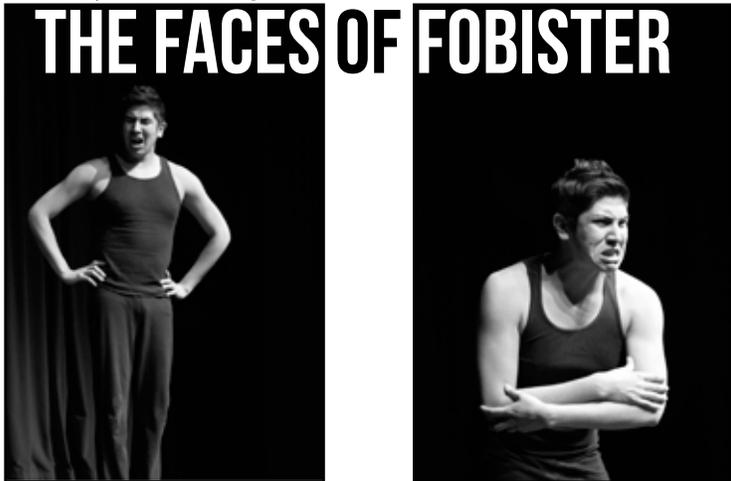
By being a part of this event, I have witnessed the voices of the victims of societal issues and have been able to dissect and comprehend what is affecting these minority groups. I have learned approaches toward solutions for creating a better social structure that satisfies all members of our society.

Through exploration and listening to the speakers at the Summit, I have developed a better understanding of the queer community as well as other underrepresented communities that I fall into. My ability to identify with some of the perspectives that were discussed at the conference inspired me to learn even more about justice within our society.

I could tell that each individual who attended, including myself, was able to take a lot from what was presented and discussed. I highly recommend this event to all individuals for self exploration, personal development and involvement with justice in our society. ■

COVERAGE CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

Photos by Catherine Wong and Derek Lactaen



# AGOKWE: anishnaabe word for two spirited- a person with a balance of male and female spirits

By Derek Lactaon

For the 2011 Social Justice Summit, the MultiCultural Center, in collaboration with the Humboldt State Theater Department, brought in Waawaate Fobister to perform, lead a workshop and speak as part of the keynote panel.

Fobister is a Canadian playwright and actor whose debut work "Agokwe" won six Dora Mavor Moore Awards in 2009 (awards for Toronto performing arts).

The play deals with the emerging attraction between a hockey player and a traditional Ojibwe dancer. The one-man play has Fobister playing all six roles in "Agokwe," all of which are very different.

Fobister is self-described as two-spirited, an indigenous North American term for an individual who fulfills a traditional mixed gender role. Fobister wrote the play using life experience and the shared experience of coming out on the reservation.

The Cultural Times sat down with Fobister after his performance of "Agokwe" to ask him a few questions:

Cultural Times (CT): What was your inspiration for the play?

Waawaate Fobister (WF): It's a complex question... it's inspired by true events about a time I was in high school living on a reservation up in Canada. As a native performer, there are not a lot of roles out there. My art manager said, "If you want to be portrayed as a native, you have to write your own stuff."

CT: Was "Agokwe" an attempt to tell your story or to preserve the language, culture and traditions of your people?

WF: It was a mix. It was a mix of looking for work as an actor and telling my story.

CT: How do you prepare for all of your roles? They're so different and you transition so quickly and smoothly between all of them.

WF: As an actor, you have to do your homework and spend time with each character. I find my characters through physicality and I walk around in it. I had to live inside the characters. I know where they live and their stories.

CT: Your play was inspired by true events, but were all of your characters? For example, Betty Moses, was she real?

WF: Betty Moses was inspired by a few women back home who I knew.

CT: What about Michael? [The hockey player]

WF: Michael was a hard character because it's a really uncomfortable place to be. He's so butch, and I'm not.



*I want my native people to find life again. They are lost in this new world.*



*-Waawaate Fobister*

CT: What are you working on right now?

WF: I'm working with Native Earth Performing Arts on a native cabaret that will explore native sexuality and sensuality.

CT: What message do you want people to take from "Agokwe?"

WF: I just want them to be moved in some way. I want them to laugh or to make them uncomfortable in some way or make them cry. I don't please everyone.... I can't please everyone.

CT: Your play deals a lot with two-spirited people and how the Anishnaabe traditionally approached them. Is that something you're trying to revive or bring back?

WF: Well we were colonized, you know. They were taking the Indian out of the Indian and the idea of the two-spirit thing went with it. It's a little bit controversial. You know there are steps you have to take to become Agokwe and so it's kind of a controversy. But it's important to do it and share the story.

CT: If in ten years from now "Agokwe" is still in the headlines, what do you want it to have changed or addressed, if anything?

WF: There are a lot of suicides happening in northern communities with native youth. I want them to stop. I want my native people to find life again. They are lost in this new world.



# Person of the Decade

# Marylyn Paik-

**The Cultural Times recognizes Marylyn Paik-Nicely as the MultiCultural Center Person of the Decade for her tireless contributions to diversity and tradition on the Humboldt State campus.**

By Catherine Wong

For more than a decade, the Humboldt State MultiCultural Center has been blessed with the presence of Marylyn Paik-Nicely. As director, she has organized and orchestrated the Multicultural Convocation, Autumn Moon Festival, Indigenous People's Week, the Campus Dialogue on Race, New Year Spring Festival, Social Justice Summit, and Big Time every year. More importantly, as a leader, she has brought the MultiCultural Center (MCC) together as an open family. And the Center is lucky that after all of her devoted work, she has decided to extend her MCC career for another year.

Paik-Nicely has been the director of the MCC since September of 1997. She was born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii and still calls Hawaii home. She graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a degree in Interdisciplinary Asian Studies and received her Certificate of Study in Public Relations from HSU.

Mona Mazzotti has worked under Paik-Nicely for the past four years. In that span of time, the two of them have worked on more than 30 events together. "I don't think she ever thinks that anything she ever does is perfect," said Mazzotti. "After an event she is always looking to make it better. She's always looking for people's opinions and consensus about what they

think we could do to improve. I really appreciate that because in life, and in other departments, it's not always like that. It's very top-down. She's not like that."

As a leader, Paik-Nicely supports from the bottom-up. Andre Perez is a student working at the MCC. He has worked there for almost a year now. He finds Marylyn to be a comforting person. "Whenever we've had an event to plan out she's always, 'It's going to be good. It's going to be great,'" said Perez. "She's one of the easiest people to work for. In most situations where most people would be stressed out, she doesn't yell at all. She thinks logically."

In her time at the center, Paik-Nicely's influence over her staff and coworkers has created a family unit instead of a workforce. During events Paik-

Nicely's name badge reads "Aunty Marylyn." Said Perez, "I couldn't imagine working at the MCC and not having Marylyn."

Paik-Nicely's contributions to the school do not go unnoticed by the administration. Provost Rob Snyder said, "The students just put in a tremendous amount of work and I suspect that Marylyn really facilitates that and bring out the best in the students. The projects really are impressive. They do a great job."

Snyder also noted how involved Paik-Nicely is within the campus community. "She's been so willing to be active in so many different activities and events and organizations," said Snyder. "Marylyn's someone you see engaged in things all over the campus so that's nice; she's willing to take on all sorts of activities.

"I think that a big part of the events is trying to understand and appreciate one another. The Chinese New Year Festival is a good example," said Snyder. "We're very different folks and we have to figure out how to live and work with one another. I think these events are important for doing that."

Paik-Nicely is also well-known

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As a moth  
Me ke

-Hanake



Outreach Director Mona Mazzotti and Marylyn Paik-Nicely pose for the camera. | File Photo

# Nicely

for her appreciation for good food among her coworkers. “Before I started the job, the woman that was the intern in my position had told me about how Marylyn takes her rice very seriously,” said Mazzotti.

“So we were having a staff meeting and making stir fry and Marylyn asked me to fluff the rice...I was fluffing the rice in the rice cooker and she came storming across through the MCC, ‘Stop stabbing the rice!’ She just freaked out and she grabbed the paddle out of my hand, and she taught me how to fan it properly.”

“Now I think she’s actually jinxed me because I cannot cook rice. I thought I could cook rice before. Apparently I can’t. I’ve tried since and failed.” Mazzotti’s friendship with Paik-Nicely has followed their years of working together. “We had her 60th birthday party and fundraiser for the MCC in January. We got our food, brought it back to the table, and the rice was mushy. We’re like, ‘Oh no, Marylyn’s going to hate this.’ Luckily, she was so busy that she never noticed and the party was going so great that it would have just ruined her day.

“She told me though that before she retires she’s going to teach me how to do it,” said Mazzotti. “My favorite thing probably has to do with her

and food, but the rice will stick with me forever.”

Said the Provost, “It would be hard not to notice Marylyn, I think. She’s clearly a leader and you see her in leadership roles. I think she’s worked really hard to make the MultiCultural Center an important part of our efforts to help students succeed on campus and that’s clear to me. “I hope that we could get someone who could do just as good a job coming in,” he continued. “I want Mary-

lyn to do what is good for her. She needs to do that. That’s what I want to see with her. I wish her all best on all this.”

“Well, she’s my boss, but over time she’s become my friend,” said Mazzotti. “After she announced her retirement, it made me put into perspective just exactly the relationship that she and I have. She’s been a mentor for me on-the-job and a role model, not only as a woman but a mother.”

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e aloha

Paikua Joao



Person of the Decade: Marylyn Paik-Nicely speaks at the Social Justice Summit.  
| Photo by Catherine Wong

# Social Justice Summit Workshops

By Stephanie Espinoza

At the keynote panel, Cherrie Moraga, Amber Hollibaugh, Waawaate Fobister and Tim'm West discussed the issues about their own sexual desires, how these events categorize them into specific categories and transform them in different ways.

They went into detail about how people are often too afraid to express themselves or be who they want to be without being judged. They also talked about how desire is a human trait since everyone desires something in life, whether they desire water, food, sex, pleasure... they all intertwine with each other, said the speakers.

They articulated that all these issues are very complex because a person cannot explain one by itself, since desires are all connected with each other in some way or another. They also explained about how women have been targeted and now is the time to take a stance and do something about it.

The speakers explored how language has transformed how people communicate and how it has evolved

in order for people in a community to communicate with each other and see what needs to be done in order to make themselves feel better and help each other. Desires let people be true, we are able to let go and an enormous possibility is opened. Desire, said the speakers, is what everyone wants, yet what people cannot fully obtain because of the societal pressures that tell us what to do.



Amber Hollibaugh speaks about desire, shame, sexuality and aging at the Keynote Presentation  
| Photo by Derek Lactaen

# Workshop Samples

## The Coat Hanger Project

By Stephanie Espinoza

During the Coat Hanger Project Workshop, Mira Friedman of the Humboldt State Health Center, along with a panel from Clergy for Choice, discussed what the Coat Hanger Project is and what it symbolizes in our society.

The project fits into Planned Parenthood education and showcased a graphic documentary, which was optional to workshop participants. This workshop offered the audience to watch the documentary *The Coat Hanger Project*, which focuses on the rights of women to decide what to do if they get pregnant and the legal battle that has taken place to fight for women's rights for their reproductive system.

The project is named for the extreme measure of getting an abortion with a coat hanger in light of previous federal anti-abortion laws in the United States. The documentary revealed how many women die of bleeding from coat hanger abortions, and survivors often have serious health consequences after.

Abortion is still a hot-button topic in present time since it is so divisive, there are those that support it while others do not. The Coat Hanger Project argues that, "It is a personal decision, not a legal debate," which thereby means that abortion should be legal.

Clergy for Choice of Humboldt County is a religious group of people that, "Believes that human life is holy. That is why [they] believe in your right to choose to be a parent or not" where they offer support to women that are battling to decide what to do if they are pregnant and what's the best decision for them.



Social Justice Summit attendants gather in the Kate Buchanan Room to listen to Amber Holibaugh | Photo by Derek Lactaen

In the workshop, presenters also talked about Planned Parenthood that offers services to women to prevent unwanted pregnancies and offer counseling and support if needed. The intense documentary reveals the real struggle women go through in order to do what is best for themselves and their families.

It also presents interviews with women that had illegal abortions and discusses the consequences of undergoing an abortion and the rationale for deciding to do it. The Coat Hanger Project continues to fight for women's rights and will advocate to achieve them and protect a woman's choice. ■

## Sexy Communication

By Cherry Sripan

At the Social Justice Summit this year, we had many awesome workshops that screamed out for our desires. One of the workshops that attracted many people was the Sexy Communication Workshop. Yes, let's learn how to communicate with our partners about sex EFFECTIVELY and in SEXY way!

The presenters Corrina Wells, Marry Sue Savage and Mira Friedman thought it would be a fantastic idea to have a workshop where people can have a discussion about sex in a fun way since, as they said, we live in a society that represses sex. More importantly this workshop tried to encourage people to think about consent and the importance for both partners to agree to have sex.

HOW YOU CAN EXPRESS YOUR SEXUAL DESIRES?

\* Consent is number one! Make sure your partner wants to do it. On the other hand if you want it, say YES!!! Consent with enthusiasm.

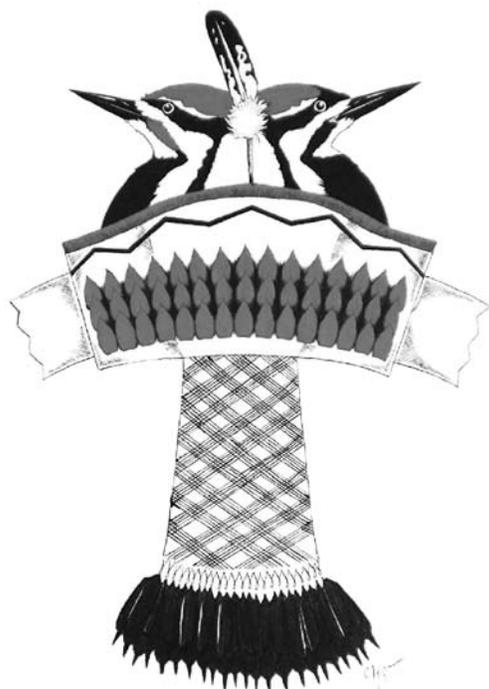
\* KNOW YOURSELF! Know your desires. Ask yourself, "What do I want? What do I like?" Know your body, it's important to get in touch with yourself.

\* Acknowledge how beautiful bodies are, all over, all bodies... ■



Presenters Corrina Wells, Marry Sue Savage and Mira Friedman | Photo by Cherry Sripan

For the 4th year in a row, Humboldt State University hosted the California Big Time and Social Gathering to celebrate California's indigenous peoples from across the state.



# *The California Big Time*

By Cherry Sripan, German Gordo and Stephanie Espinoza

It is important to educate ourselves about other cultures, to learn about other customs, to interact with diverse people to broaden our cultural horizons and to break stereotypes.

Hearing about a particular group is very different than interacting and getting to know that group at a personal level.

On April 9, the California Big Time and Social Gathering took place on the Humboldt State University Campus.

The MultiCultural Center collaborated with many HSU groups to host the fourth annual event.

At the Big Time, many American Indians from across the state and other community members gathered together again to share their traditions, to educate, to display their art, to interact with the gen-

eral public, but most importantly, to show the rest of the Humboldt community the beauty of their culture.

For the past several years, Big Time organizers have selected an elder to honor at the event. This year, the Big Time recognized Professor Emeritus Jack Norton for his ground-breaking work in starting the Native American Studies Program at HSU. It is the only stand-alone Native American Studies program in the California State University system.

Norton expressed that “the best benefit from an event like the Big Time is that we all have lessons to learn about: respect toward each other, living well, and having dignity are the things that we most benefit from this event”

He added that The Big Time event

questioned him “whether the things we do either enhance or harm our perspectives and actions as it pertains to an interaction with different people, but in particular our Native American people in this event.”

The Big Time was filled with beautiful people interacting with our HSU staff and student body. Everybody at the event was engaged in the activities happening.

From booths that displayed art and sold Native American products to the regional dances and traditional foods, everyone had something to learn, something to appreciate and somebody new to meet.

Ruthie A. Maloney sold quilts, pillows and intricate jewelry with ram native designs.

“It is important to have the Native American community in the Big Time event

because it an advantage for Native American students to share their culture since it brings them all together,” said Maloney.

The Big Time exposed the public to misconceptions about the Native American community.

University President Rollin Richmond attended the event.

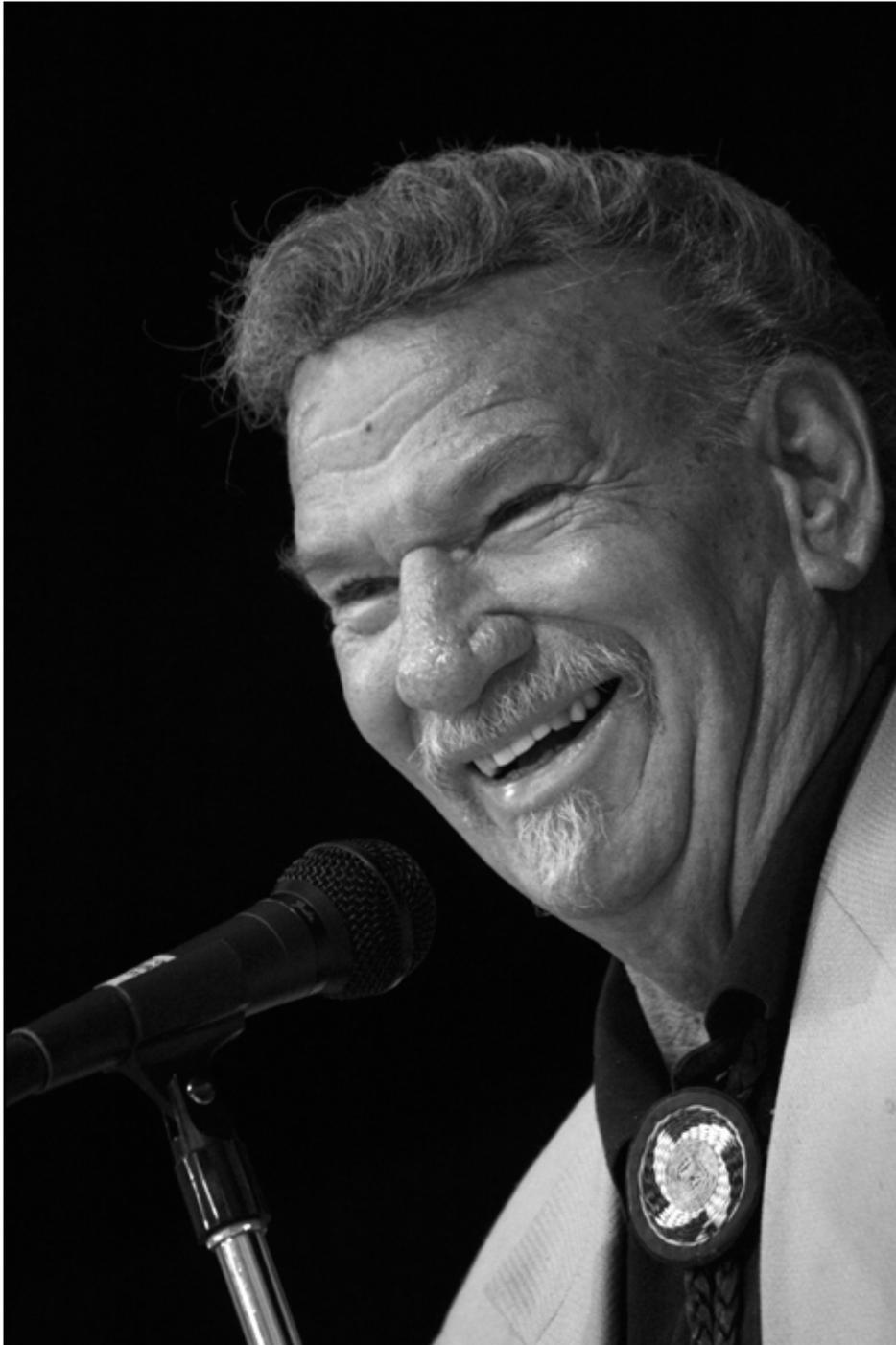
“I always enjoy The Big Time event. For a person like me, I need to be educated about other cultures, and this is a great way to get that,” said Richmond.

Continuing to have the Big Time in the future allows more generations to learn

about Native American culture.

This event will continue to educate the public as well as the American Indian community about the cultures and customs.

President Richmond added that “The Big Time event brings a lot of people to campus, people who wouldn’t come normally. Sadly, we have a very low number of Native American students in this school, the lowest I think. The future depends on education.” ■



Jack Norton speaks at the American Indian Community dinner while being honored.  
| Photo by Catherine Wong

“Teaching  
the  
**beauty**  
of  
the  
California  
**native**  
tribes  
and  
expressing  
my  
**gratitude**  
is  
what  
unites  
us  
as  
*human*  
beings.”

—Jack Norton

# Return to the Motherland

The MultiCultural Center values different cultures and the experience of learning about them. Two of our students, Calvin Li and Matthew Thompkins, tell their stories of going abroad and how living in a different society, or going back to a familiar one, impacted them.

By Calvin Li

My year in China went by so fast, and I'm still shocked my adventure ended. My year abroad has been a one-of-a-kind experience, and I will never forget it. I have no regrets in going there because I met a lot of amazing people. I would not have traded that experience for anything else in the world. I got to make many friends there that I will never forget.

Being in China, I was slowly reunited with my roots and heritage, including teachers, some friends and family, many of whom I have never met before. It was really awesome to meet my long lost relatives in Fujian Province from my father's side. It was very special to meet them because I do not know many people on my father's side of the family. Spending the National Day with them and Mid-Autumn Festival was really great. When I arrived I was told "Welcome Home" because I had finally come to see my ancestral land. It was my first time there, and they said that this is my home, which made it even more special. Even though we just met and spent only a few days together, they treated me as if we had know each other forever.

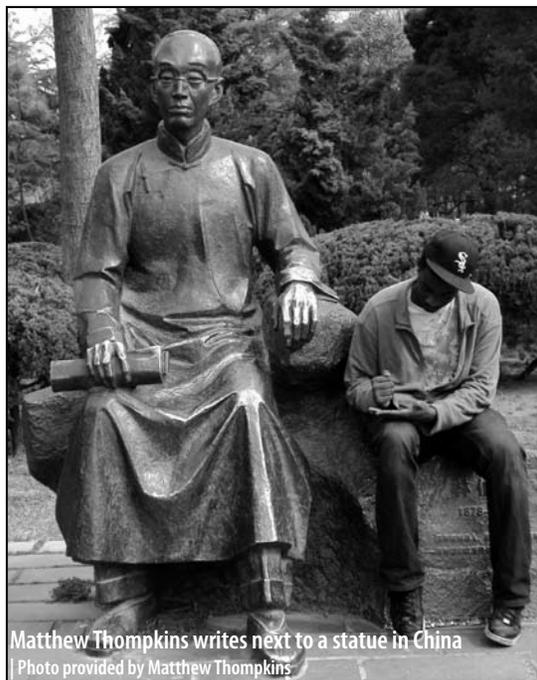
A unique thing about Xi'an was how multicultural it is. There are different kinds of ethnic groups living there, along with different cuisines. When people think of China, they think of one face, but there are 56 different ethnic groups in China, 56 different faces.

My experience in China would not have been as great if I didn't have my two awesome roommates, my cool landlord and the good friends I made there. This experience in China would also not have been so enjoyable if I hadn't met the many exchange students from China that came to HSU to study abroad. Since meeting them, I have learned a lot more about Chinese culture. I had always wanted to study abroad and then the exchange students I met here at HSU suggested that I should go to China. It turns out that this was the best decision I ever made.

Like all good things, everything must end. I am not going to write goodbye here because I hate saying goodbye. I know I will meet these people again one day, so there won't be any goodbyes for now. It's a consequence I must face for running around the world, but I'm not willing to pay that price yet.

## My China Experience

By Matthew Thompkins



Matthew Thompkins writes next to a statue in China  
Photo provided by Matthew Thompkins

Before China, I didn't really know what my path was. I was a good student before with decent grades and an impressive resume, but I wasn't sure what I really wanted to do.

I originally wanted to go to Japan and learn Japanese, but Humboldt did not offer the courses and didn't have a program that sent you abroad. So I knew I wanted to study abroad and my only option was China. Little did I know what was in store for me.

A vast culture and society opened up my eyes and it was simply amazing. Before China I didn't really know I had certain gifts. China was like a mirror for me; it allowed me to soul search and find my talents. I had one goal, and that was to learn Mandarin in six weeks. Unfortunately, it took a year but the hard work and experiences helped me learn it.

My six months there were a blast, I lived like a king. I was treated with respect and I had access to just about anything. I made wonderful relationships when I was there, relationships that will last forever, and the traveling experiences were epic. I saw the Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Da Yan Ta, and many, many more.

While on my trips, I would study Mandarin so that later I would not forget because I knew the places I was visiting would help me remember the words.

I had a Chinese tutor/Sensei who taught me everything I know, and I had a gorgeous girlfriend who also helped me learn Mandarin. I met many businessmen who were impressed with my skills and hoped to see me in the future.

I conducted an experiment when I was in China, and I met people from around the world. Hopefully one day I will see all the people I met and we can sit back and remember those days in the hot classroom writing characters 40 times each, and many lost-in-translation moments. I'd do it again in a heartbeat; China showed me my inner talents and gave me a unique path that I will pursue.



Calvin Li stands at the Tulou Building (Earthen Building) Fujian Province, October 2009  
Photo provided by Calvin Li

## MCC'S OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

### **Brittany Britton—Outstanding Contribution to an Associated Students Program**

“She is an inclusive leader who leads by example. She is compassionate and understands the challenges that students, especially underrepresented students, face when they come to a school such as HSU.”—Marylyn Paik-Nicely

### **Natalie Hernandez—Outstanding Contribution to a Campus Club, Program or Organization**

“She is an innovative leader, who is committed to acquiring and sharing knowledge, believes in the power of community to initiate change, passionate about social justice and equity, and has the confidence and vision to transform the world.”—Mona Mazzotti

### **Derek Lactaen—Outstanding Contribution to an Associated Students Program**

“He has elevated the Cultural Times with the creation of a first-ever Publications Team he supervises. His undying commitment and professionalism are evident in how he leads by example.”—Mona Mazzotti

### **Roy Molina—Outstanding Contribution to an Associated Students Program**

“He has such a global perspective of people working together for change and justice; he is always “connecting the dots” as to how the MCC can be more effective in our work and programs by including others in our projects.”—Amanda Staack

### **Ian O'Brien—AI Elpusan Award for Student Activism**

“His energy is always so positive and focused on facilitating positive change on this campus, in the community and the world.”—Marylyn Paik-Nicely

### **Nina Surbaugh—Outstanding Contribution to a Campus Club, Program or Organization**

“Her contributions to ITEPP, the MCC, the NAS department, Indigenous Peoples Week, and especially the HSU California Big Time & Social Gathering are priceless.—Marylyn Paik-Nicely

Jie Zou dances at the Lunar New Year Festival.  
| Photo by Catherine Wong



**THE *Marylyn Paik-Nicely***  
**SPACE FOR**  
*Sharing*

To remember retiring MultiCultural Center Director Marylyn Paik-Nicely, her work and her legacy, the Cultural Times will dedicate the following pages to a collaborative space in her name. They contain submissions from individuals of different backgrounds, ethnicities, ideologies and beliefs, but their voices will be heard. This staff hopes that next semester's Cultural Times will continue to feature this space as a way of honoring Marylyn's work. Student submissions are the heart of the Cultural Times, and the staff welcomes any print form from members of the HSU campus and community or email submissions to [mcc@humboldt.edu](mailto:mcc@humboldt.edu).

# My Name

**BY NICOLE UMayAM**

There are several tactful ways to ask the question, yet none of them are flattering.

"Your skin is so pretty! What is it?"

"Where are you from?"

Washington.

"No, I mean where are you from?"

"What's your nationality?"

Born here.

"You know, your real nationality?"

"What mix are you?"

It doesn't matter how kindly-worded, what they are really asking is "What are you?"

They used to be afraid of miscegenation, you know.

The theory goes that if two people from different races get together they would jumpstart armageddon, or at least produce less than capable children – quite the abomination.

These kids can't even multi-task at being brown and acting white.

"What are you?"

No, I'm not adopted, I just don't look like my parents.

So don't.

Don't call me half.

Don't tell me I only got this job to earn you diversity points.

Don't tokenize me as your sidekick backup.

Don't assume I'm good at math by default.

Don't make a census form that says White, Black, Asian or Hispanic? Choose ONE.

I may not fit in the bubble, but I'll tell you what I am.

I am proud.

My family's food is salty and delicious.

They taught me to karaoke and to laugh at everything

Give them five minutes and your sides will split--

They've taught me a few things about splitting.

I am the brink of an uprising.

I am the face of your future.

I am a combination of everything that is right in this world

And everything that is wrong.

"What are you?"

Shouldn't you ask for my name first?

# A World in the Soul of a Poet

By Matthew Lutwen

There's a world in the soul of a poet

Where all voices are heard

Where truth is beauty

And food means full

Where heads turn to the poor

And everyone's the same height

But there's a war in the soul of the world

Where society committed treason on reason

Where dirty money is the reason we're breathing

And we're still cold

Unfed like we want beauty instead

What price does it take to fix the past's mistakes

When today we only use half the bread that we break

Like when it happens to them it just raises our score but when it happens to us, we pray to the Lord

Like love isn't true unless you sacrifice your soul, like endless nights loving are the only way to come home

Like one isn't pretty unless three are ugly, like one isn't happy unless three are struggling

Yea there's a war in the soul of the world

And until the poets take control and the people rise up,

We're shit out of luck.



## Reflections by Janine Silvis

Asian-Pacific Islander Community Coordinator

When I look back at the photos I took during the Chinese New Year Festival celebration at Humboldt State University, it is clear to me that the images produced demonstrate a sense of strong family. The people are happy, smiling, having a good time as if they have known each other for ages. Perhaps some do, but these photos are a testament to the strength of the Asian Pacific Islander Community.

Over the two years I lived in the International Living Learning Community on campus, and in both years I was lucky to have really intelligent, wonderful, and bright Chinese Exchange roommates who then became really active with the International Programs

office. They tried to teach me about the importance of this holiday, but it never really hit me until I printed these photos.

It was explained to me that this celebration was about being with the ones you love—your family and your friends.

People have this amazing sense to find others and relate to them in new situations. And these photos demonstrate the new families that are being created at this university. Life long friends are being made. I will never forget my old roommates, I will never forget even my old neighbors,

but this year I realized that this holiday celebrates those connections.



# FINALS WEEK

May 9<sup>TH</sup>–13<sup>TH</sup>

**MCC Open Late  
& Snacks Provided**

Please join the MultiCultural Center and  
HSU's American Indian Alumni Association

for our annual Grad Bash!

Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM

MCC Parking Lot

bar-be-que, karaoke, music

Please bring your family  
for post-commencement fun!!

## Graduation Celebrations

The first **Rainbow Graduation Celebration** at HSU will be held on Saturday, May 7, 4:00 to 7:00PM in the Great Hall, College Creek Apartments.

Community graduation celebrations will be held on Friday, May 13. The schedule is subject to change, so please call the MCC to confirm time and location.

### **All Native Sash Ceremony**

5:00PM at the Native Forum

### **Asian Pacific Islander Lei Ceremony**

5:30PM at the Goodwin Forum

### **Black Graduation Celebration**

6:00PM in the Kate Buchanan Room

### **Graduación Latina**

7:00PM at the Arcata Community Center

## **Are You Down for Social Justice? Do You Want to Work at the MultiCultural Center?**

Help coordinate and participate in great events and activities, such as:

Annual Multicultural Convocation

Latin Independence Celebration

Community Receptions

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

Indigenous Peoples Week

National Coming Out Day

Qross Cultural Queer Film Festival

Campus Dialogue on Race

Lunar New Year

Black Liberation Month

Social Justice Summit

California Big Time & Social Gathering

AND SO MUCH MORE!!!!

Positions Available:

Community Coordinators (Asian Pacific Islander, African American/Black, Native American, Latino, International)

Social Justice Summit Coordinators

Q-Fest Coordinator (1 semester only)

Graphic Designer

Cultural Times Editor

Journalism Staff

Office Assistants

Applications Accepted August 22, 2011

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

—MCC Vision Statement