

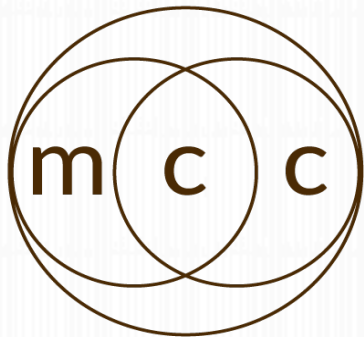


Cultural Times

Spring 2018

Back to Our

Roots



**MCC**

MultiCultural Center



CCAЕ Students @ California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Education Student-Scholar Conference, UC Davis February 2018

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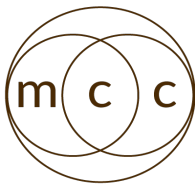
**AACAE**

African American Center  
for Academic Excellence



**LCAE**

Latinx Center for  
Academic Excellence



**MCC**

MultiCultural Center



**ITEPP**

Native American Center  
for Academic Excellence



Scholars  
Without  
Borders

## Note from the Editor

“The wind cooled her sun kissed skin, the proof of her life’s hard work”

In the MultiCultural Center we aim to give students a safe space, a home away from home. Here I have found the family that I was able to choose without being related by blood. We want other students to also find that here. We want students that travel ten, twelve hours to feel comfortable, to have a space to be themselves.

Since this is my first editorial assignment I wanted to leave you all with a little piece of me, hence why I included the two photos and poem. The verse at the top is a small reminder of my grandmother, my pillar.

I hope that students find the comfort of home in one of the centers, just like I did.

Good luck to all in everything you’re planning and may the summer be as bright as ever.

~Joselin Dorado

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

**ADPIC**

ASIAN, DESI, & PACIFIC ISLANDER COLLECTIVE

# TEAM MCC



**Ana Diaz Santillan**, Campus & Community Dialogue on Race Coordinator  
**Andres Velez**, Logistics & Administrative Specialist  
**Angelica Munoz**, Newly Admitted New Student Outreach Coordinator  
**Ava Mark**, International Community Building Coordinator  
**Branden Mark**, Asian, Desi, & Pacific Islander Community Building Co-coordinator  
**Celyna Ramos**, Queer Community Building Coordinator  
**Christian Sanchez**, Leadership Education Specialist  
**Clara Nieblas**, Community Building Liaison  
**Deema Hindawi**, Social Justice Summit Co-coordinator  
**Elizabeth Phillips**, Social Justice Summit Co-coordinator  
**Eric Ayala**, Queer Community Building Co-coordinator  
**Joselin Dorado**, Community Building Liaison/*Cultural Times* Editor  
**Luz Espinoza**, Intercultural Intersectional Specialist  
**Makito Takahashi**, Cultural Resource Librarian  
**Matilda Bunchongchitr**, Asian, Desi, & Pacific Islander Community Building Co-coordinator  
**Nikki Xiong**, Student Leader Organizer  
**Rabia Yalcin**, Event Development Specialist  
**Sandra Sandoval**, Student Leader Organizer

**Mona Mazzotti**, Coordinator/ CCAE Publicity Specialist/*Cultural Times* Advisor  
**Amanda Staack**, CCAE Budget Manager



# Lunar New Year: Year of the Dog

The Lunar New Year Celebration is an event hosted by the Asian Desi Pacific Islander Collective (ADPIC) and the MultiCultural Center (MCC). Lunar New Year, Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival is typically celebrated by many Asian countries, including but not limited to, China, Macau, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines who also follow the Lunar calendar. It is an event that signifies the welcoming of the New Year and is a time of reflection, sharing shared traditions, and gathering with friends and family.

This Lunar New Year, the Year of the Dog, ADPIC and MCC, along with other campus and community members came together to celebrate and share the traditions through presentations of New Year history, traditional foods, and special performances by the Korean Culture Group, Chinese Language and Culture Club, the MCC, and by community members, Gary Ronne, who welcomed in everyone with traditional drumming, Dr. Kai Chu and Eileen Moy who graciously demonstrated the Guqin and Pipa (traditional Chinese instruments) and their innovative traditional character computer software. To bring upon good luck for the new year, a special guest performance by Eastern Ways Martial Arts highlighted the event with a traditional Lion Dance.

Although, this event was one that ADPIC enjoyed sharing with the campus and community, it is important to note that by sharing traditional and contemporary performances, traditional foods, traditions practiced at home, and language, ADPIC hopes to promote enjoyment, understanding, and education of the different cultures that encompass these Asian countries as well as provide ADPI identified students that customarily celebrate this festival back at home a taste of home here at Humboldt State.

Since ADPI students are often unable to attend celebrations and festivals while at Humboldt, it creates a disconnect and makes it hard for students to make Humboldt their new home. Therefore, we provided this space for students in hopes that by demonstrating a supportive community exists; Humboldt can be their home too. It is our hope that HSU students, faculty and staff, and Humboldt community will learn and gain an insightful appreciation for our cultures and traditions.

By Matilda Bunchongchitr and Branden Mark,  
ADPI Co-Coordinators





Photos by  
Kawai Navares and  
Branden Mark



# SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT



The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Justice Summit was a huge success this year. We brought the amazing Climbing Poetree to campus as the keynote of this life changing event. We had some drawbacks that made the Summit more difficult for us to accomplish as students. Having to postpone and substitute the summit keynote performance wasn't easy, but we made it work. We were still able to create a successful and enjoyable event that was attended by many. Changing our schedule around made the event less accessible to some, but we did what we were able to do still having a successful event and staying true to our theme "Who am I? Back to our Roots."

- Deema Hindawi



## Our Resistance to Eradicate Sexualized Violence: Working Towards a World Without Fear

Take Back the Night 2018 is a month of events to bring awareness to sexualized violence as a tool/tactic/form of oppression. As a tool/tactic/form of oppression, the nature and prevalence of sexual assault is often directly tied to the intersecting identities of survivors. As such, sexual assault cannot be adequately addressed without an understanding of how different marginalized groups are at risk for sexual assault in different ways. Along with education we, the Take Back the Night Committee, aim to cultivate spaces where survivors of sexual assault feel supported and validated, and where allies can stand in solidarity with survivors. We seek to acknowledge legacies of resistance, change culture, and strengthen our community through a collective effort to dismantle systemic oppression. This event is hosted by the Womxn's Resource Center along with other organizations that organize around sexual assault and domestic violence prevention.



# 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDIAN BIG TIME & SOCIAL GATHERING



Photos Courtesy of Humboldt Area Foundation Native Cultures Fund

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual California Indian Big Time & Social Gathering is a celebratory event commemorating Indigenous tribal people throughout California, exploring shared traditions and ceremonial singing and dancing. HSU student, Bryce Baga, a member of the Santa Rosa Tachi-Yokut Rancheria, a senior Native American Studies major participating in the ITEPP program stated, "I liked how I was able to watch the demonstrations we read about in my Native American Studies course, as well as seeing the vibrant intersectionality of diverse California Indians. We try to capture the essence of California Indians and the beauty illustrated through nature, dances, and songs." Big Time was established from the community, which decided cultural displays were necessary, especially with recognizing the land of the Wiyot Tribe where Humboldt State University rests. Furthermore the designation "Big Time" is representative of the significance of social gatherings among the 110 federally recognized and 78 unrecognized California Tribes, and must be distinguished from the powwows common among tribes across the United States.

The overall turnout was larger than previous years. I enjoyed the presence of joy throughout the space and the connections made. There was a lot of vendors selling artwork, crafts, and Indian Tacos. This year's dance performances include Red Cedar Drum Group and the Kibby Family, Su Nu Nu Shinal - Kashia Pomo, Tolowa Nation, Maidu Traditionalists, Native Women's Collective - Flower Dance, Mankillers Women's Drum Group, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, and Northern California Brush Dance. The campus was thoroughly indulged in CA Indian communities and spirit. The way I best described "Big Time" was similar to a family reunion that united tribes and community members together in honoring generations' worth of art, music, and literature. It was great to see so many youth participate in the demonstrations wearing their regalia and reciting traditional songs.



This event is one way HSU administration demonstrates its commitment to the academic success of Native American students. It provides a great networking opportunity for tribal students to meet with HSU Native alumni who are professionals throughout the Nation. The campus also provides outreach to younger Native students to visit and tour the campus. In fact, little students participate in the Animal Tales event, where they get to meet Native students and faculty and explore the Wildlife Building and Fisheries. Members of the Council of American Indian Faculty & Staff (CAIFS) joined forces to make the campus as hospitable to the families of current and potential students, according to the Coordinator of ITEPP Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond.

By Ketly M. Sylla

ITEPP Community Outreach Staff





# Global Connections Club's International Fashion Week

International Fashion Week is a new series of events brought to HSU by the Global Connections Club (GCC). The week began with a rummage sale on the UC Quad to raise club funds, followed by the big event, the International Fashion Show on Wednesday night to express cultural appreciation through traditional and popular cultural clothing. The week ends with a fun "photoshoot" on the UC Quad. International Fashion Week originally became an idea because the GCC wanted to host another big event before the end of the year, but the main purpose of International Fashion Week was to educate and learn about particular fashions in different cultures. Models and participants shared traditional wear, formal wear, popularized fashion, and even casual clothing. As it is the club's favorite activity, participants also danced in their clothing. Daniel Gomez danced Ballet Folklorico, Mikayla Kia danced Hula accompanied by Mirai Kusumoto, and there was a special performance by the dance group HIJACK. International Fashion Week was both educational and fun. We hope to see the series of events happen again next year!

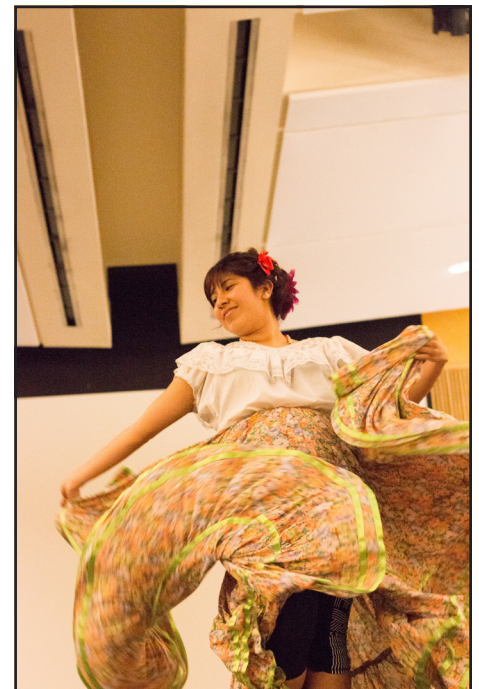
By Mikayla Kia



Auxilia Josephina Clint Joseph representing clothing of India.



Center of International Programs staff member Alice Caria explaining the significance of kimonos worn by the IELI students.



Angelica Huerta modeling clothing from the region of Sinaloa in Mexico.

## Undocumented and Unafraid: A Year in the Life of Scholars Without Borders

Scholars Without Borders (SWB) is reaching a one year anniversary. We take time to acknowledge accomplishments and struggles that have incurred. Since the opening of the Center in April 2017, SWB has strived to build capacity to educate staff, faculty, and students about current state and federal legislation, the struggles that Undocumented, AB 540 and DACAmented students face, and hold accountability so that a safe learning environment is accessible to everyone regardless of citizenship status.

Over the last year, SWB hosted nine (9) Undocumented Student Ally Trainings (USAT's). Seven of those trainings happened on campus and were delivered to: Liaison Network-composed of faculty and staff across different departments, MultiCultural Center student staff, 2018 Social Justice Summit-composed of students and community members, Raza Educational Empowerment Day-composed of local high school students, Retention through Academic Mentoring Program (RAMP)-composed of student mentors, Associated Students-composed of clubs, campus staff, and faculty members. The other two USATs were delivered at Del Norte County NOW Equity and Diversity professional development conference-composed of primary and secondary teachers and community members, and College of the Redwoods-community college with attendance composed of students, staff, and faculty. This high number of trainings was achieved with the help of three student trainers that were hired in Spring 2018 with lottery funds. In the coming Academic Year SWB envisions to deliver an intermediate and possibly advanced training.

In order to establish a space that serves and integrates students, in the Fall of 2017 SWB traveled to Sacramento State University for a DREAMER conference. In the Spring of 2018 SWB was able to send a representative to the Chancellor's office for its first ever UndocuCenter gathering. By attending the DREAMER conference and the UndocuCenter statewide gathering, SWB has been striving to equip, link, and develop a plan to better serve the Undocumented, DACAmented and AB 540 population at HSU and in the region.

Collaboration with Centro del Pueblo (CDP) (Peoples' Center) a local, grassroots, volunteer-run organization, allowed SWB to bring a One Justice Bus to help with DACA renewals in September 2017. Also, for Day of the Death (Dia de los Muertos), SWB collaborated with MCC, LCAE, Centro del Pueblo, Arcata Mainstreet, HSU MEChA, and the Multicultural and Diversity

Center at College of the Redwoods (CR) to celebrate this cultural event and provide workshops, create two sawdust murals, and share and provide awareness to this celebration. The day's celebration started in College of the Redwoods, and then moved to HSU. In the evening SWB hosted a sawdust workshop that led to the creation of a mural. SWB was able to bring artist Lilia Valencia Duran from México City, México.

SWB hosted a three day event, World Without Walls, with keynote speakers: HSU professor Leena Dallashah, Jayda Raspberry & Hamid Khan, and Will Prada. This event's purpose was to bring awareness about the dehumanization of people that occurs when the idea of having walls is implemented in many places around the world. This included not only the US-México imaginary line, border, but also walls within the prison industrial complex.

It is important to note that with three student mentors, Karla Sanchez, Anayeli Auza, and Christi Molina-Ceja, Dr. César Abarca (Social Work), volunteer Samyrha Saba and others who volunteered their time, SWB managed to get off the ground from scratch in the Fall of 2017. SWB student peer-mentors and volunteers take the time to constantly seek ways and strategies that will maintain afloat the dream of Scholars Without Borders.

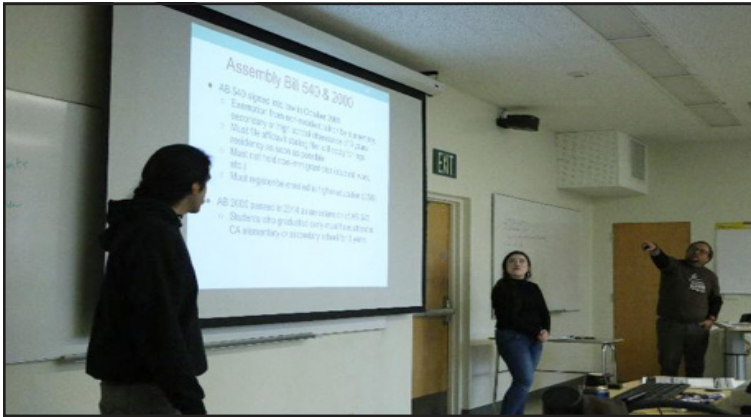
By Carlos A. Sanchez,  
Student Mentor/Coordinator



MultiCultural Center Staff; USAT December 01, 2017, during their training

# USAT (UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT ALLY TRAINING) SCHOLARS WITHOUT BORDERS

Scholars Without Borders (SWB) was founded by a partnership between the Finding Resources and Empowerment through Education (F.R.E.E.), a student organization with faculty members in April 2017. It was a direct result of many years of students' organizing and activism that led to the creation of the center. The motivation was to create a space where students who come from marginalized communities find a space that recognizes them as who they are. SWB is striving to bring itself afloat and help to provide resources along with empowerment for a better navigation for undocumented, AB540, and DACAmented students. Developed and implemented by FREE, SWB along with Student Trainers have continued to provide USATs to educate, inform and expose what it is like to be an undocumented, AB540 and/or DACAmented student. For the '17-'18 academic year SWB has conducted 7-9 trainings.



Social Justice Summit USAT March 02, 2018  
(Pictured left to right: Carlos S., Christi, and Cesar)



November 13, 2017

Blessed to have dinner con Dolores Huerta.

La heroína del movimiento como también la inspiradora de una multitud de estudiantes. Dolores vino al MCC para compartir su tiempo y sentarse a platicar con estudiantes.



Con su sencillez muchos estudiantes se levantaron inspirados para seguir con su educación y claro con la causa.

# MultiCultural Center to Open Clothing Swap Closet

Most of the MultiCultural Center staff got the opportunity to attend CaCCCHE, the California Council of Cultural Centers in Higher Education Student-Scholar conference, this past February where they were able to participate in different workshops in hopes to implement new programs or forms of support for the students that seek their services.

Here is how the closet implementation comes in. The Queer Co-coordinators, Eric Ayala, wanted to recreate one of the many things he learned in the trip. A space where students could feel free to swap their clothing so that they could feel comfortable in what they wear. He knows that some individuals don't feel comfortable in their own clothing. Due to society's norms and prejudices, these individuals decide to hide their true identities, wearing the clothes that they know will be accepted by others.

In his own words, Eric describes what the implementation of the closet means to him, "So I got the idea of the closet from CaCCCHE in Davis and the point of the closet is that it is meant to help people become comfortable in the clothes that they are in. To me the clothes I wear say something about me and although I know that might not be true for others I want folks to feel comfortable with what they are in. Because for me, when I feel like I look good in something then I feel good. I want others to experience that as well! I know shopping for clothes and just looking for clothes can be hard so I wanted this to be a comfortable little sustainable place for folks to look around and make a cute outfit where they look good so that they can feel good! My hopes for the closet is to just make folks feel happy with what they want to wear and how they want to wear it."

In collaboration with Eric's closet initiative, Community Liaison, Clara Nieblas, also wanted to do the same for big people. As a body positive promoter, she got the idea of a "Fat Clothing Swap" after going to one of the many clothing swaps put up at school, she was upset at not being able to find anything in larger sizes. She has had a couple of successful clothing swaps by now, and hopes that it continues to grow, giving full bodied students the opportunity to find clothing in their size so that they could also find that comfort many people look for.

# Graduación Latinx 2018

By Fernando Paz, (Coordinator, Latinx Center for Academic Excellence) & Marissa Sanchez (Latinx Center for Academic Excellence, Event Coordinator)

The tradition of hosting a culturally themed graduation celebration for Latinx students at HSU began in 1992 with Raza graduation. It was born out of a spirit of celebrating expressed shared values, differing experiences, distinct histories, and the multi-dimensional identities that encompass the Latinx experience in higher education.

26 years later, we are continuing the tradition of hosting a cultural graduation for students who self-identify as Latinx at Humboldt State University. Last year we hosted the largest graduating class with 222 students registered to participate, 114 of which actually participated in the cultural graduation coming together to host 906 family and friends, which brought us to 1,020 people in attendance of the Latinx cultural graduation for 2017.

This year we are aiming at surpassing that number! We currently have 236 students registered for the cultural graduation celebration. We are estimating on having close to 1,500 people in attendance.

The growth in numbers is not surprising considering that 33% of HSU's population self-identify as Latinx. Last year the number of students registered for the cultural graduation took us by surprise, and we had to make last minute adjustments to accommodate. We cancelled our reservation of the Van Duzer Theater and searched for a more appropriate space to host our guests. The Lumberjack Arena was the only place we could find for such a thing. Within the span of a couple of months and with the help of various offices, departments and individuals across campus we were able to pull off this historic event.

This year's event is again at Lumberjack Arena. We will be providing a program with Folclórico Dancers, as well as the very popular band La Mancha. There will be cake and refreshments in addition to a yearbook/program which will be given to the graduating students at no cost.

Due to this year's budget crises, the LCAE has operated all year without funding. Despite that, we have made great efforts to fundraise so that we could have the means to host a successful event for our students, their friends and families. Our fundraiser efforts have included hosting film screenings with different academic departments where we have sold snacks and treats

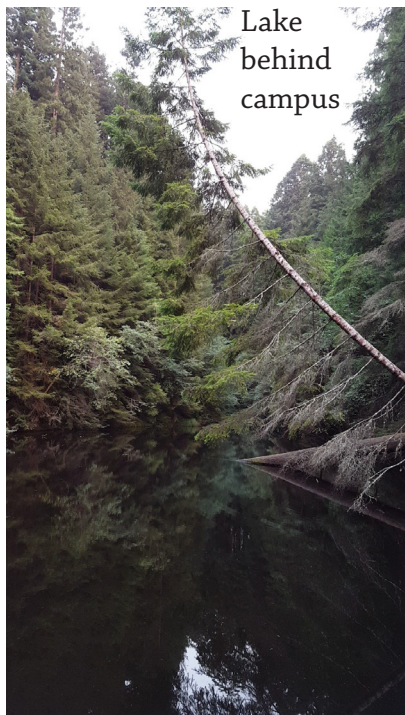
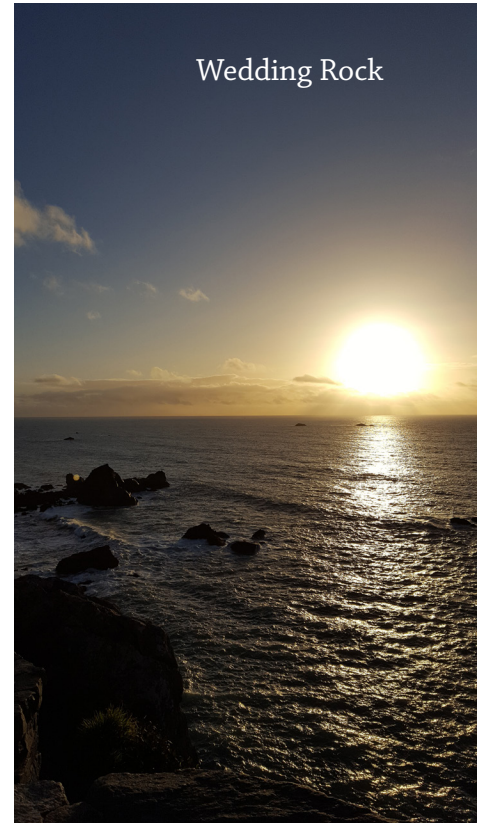
for the viewing audience as well as selling candy bags filled with some of our favorite Mexican candy. Our biggest fundraiser this year has been the El Movimiento dance we hosted on March 30th wherein we were able to fundraise \$1,822.75 for this year's Graduación. We accept donations through our HSU advancement account. If you are interested in donating, go to our web page <https://lcae.humboldt.edu/> and click on the "Make a Donation" link on the right side of the screen.

It is our hope and aspiration that the cultural celebration for students will both inspire students that are attending HSU to continue to work towards the goal of finishing their degrees and invite local community members to consider Humboldt State University as a place to send their children whether or not they are of Latinx decent. Let this be an acknowledgement of their legacy for the students that will follow them.

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## Photography

by: **Adrienne Banh**



# My Life

Today I'm writing about my everyday life.  
I usually write about love and heartbreak,  
today I'm writing about how I feel day by day.  
I have friends, brown, white, a spectrum of colors  
religions, faiths, and hardships.  
Can't we see we are all the same?  
Human beings.

But society tends to classify us all  
by facial characteristics,  
the texture of our hair,  
the way we like & prefer to dress.  
I see no difference, I see the love,  
the "carnalismo," the support.  
I don't care if you dress emo,  
if you wear traditional clothing from your home country,  
or that of your parents'.  
Si crees en la Virgen,  
en Buddha,  
mother Earth,  
or in no one at all.  
I love and respect you  
as long as you respect my beliefs and my being.

But I can't be blinded to all that those like us,  
People of Color, have gone through.  
My experience is a little different than most "illegals"  
as society often calls us.  
I came here as a tourist  
just overstayed my permit.  
It was grandpa's decision.  
He an American citizen by birth.  
I, a twelve-year-old girl with no say.

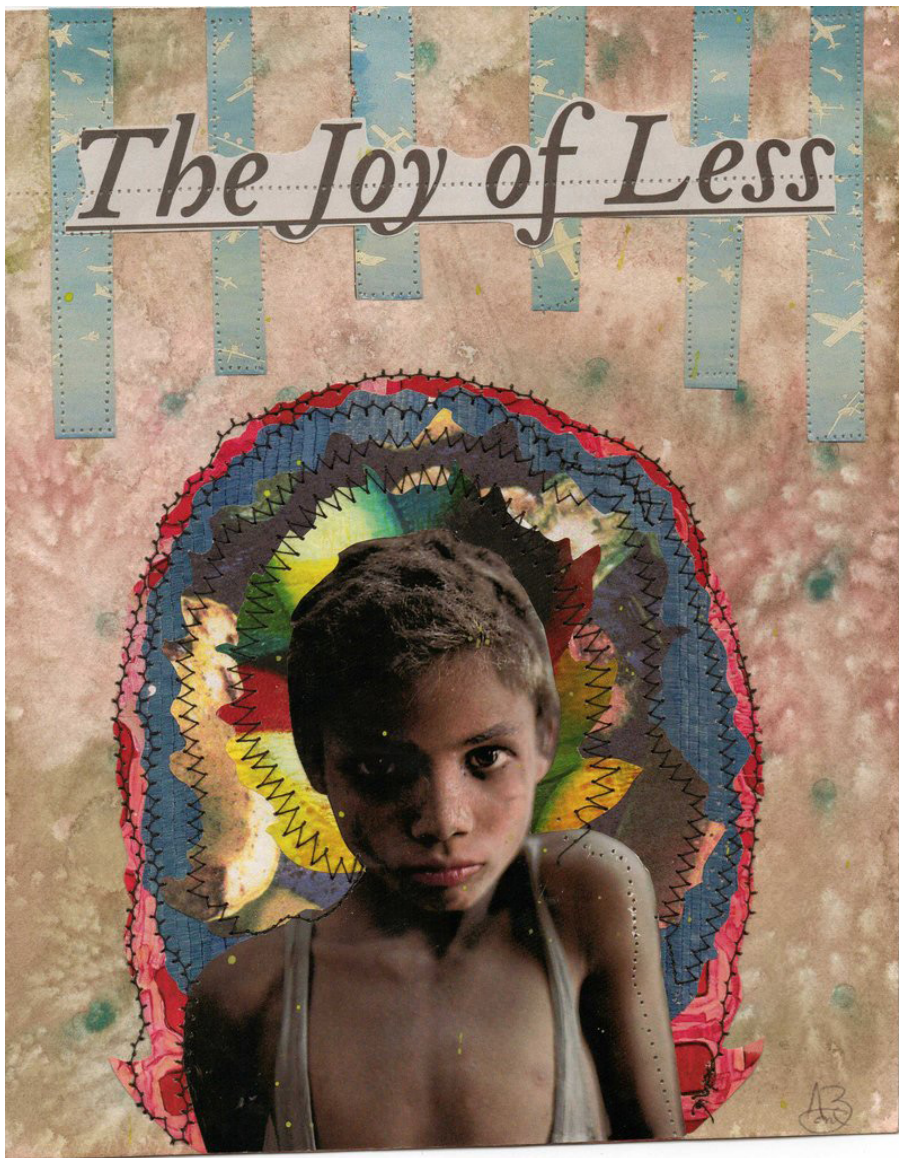
People called me "mojada,"  
and I felt sorry for myself.  
Not because of the meaning of the word,  
but because I feel I was more privileged;  
I didn't suffer walking through hot deserts;  
nor did I cross the Río Bravo like so many more have  
done.  
I came in a plane, with a Visa and passport.

But now I can't even go out without fearing the hate  
we got out of the shadows,  
we were allowed to have jobs,  
and continue our educations,  
we had a few years in the light.  
Today people are trying to push us back into the shadows,  
but we won't allow them.  
I am tired of hiding who I am,  
I am tired of trying to decide where I'm from.  
I am Mexican,  
I was born there 28 years ago.  
I am American,  
I've lived here for 15 years.  
I no longer speak perfect Spanish.  
My English is not the best.  
I have an accent when I get nervous  
and also speak very fast and stutter.  
I think in Spanish and speak in English.  
I think in English and speak in Spanish.  
I sometimes struggle to understand.  
I sometimes struggle to be understood.  
But all in all,  
I am here,  
this is my voice,  
and I will be heard,  
hoping to speak for all those that won't, due to the fear.



**"Beauty in Grey"**

Poetry and photo by Joselin Dorado



**"The Joy of Less" By Anne Bond  
Mixed Media Collage, 2010**



**"Peaceful Sight"  
By Joselin Dorado**



**Art by Kassandra Rice**

# CCAE Graduating Staff

**Grecia Alfaro-Ruiz,**  
Sociology Major  
Lantix Center

Working for the Latinx Center for Academic Excellence (LCAE) has come with many challenges and rewards. The direct forms of institutional and interpersonal racism that people in my community and communities alike are faced with were extremely evident while I was working at the Center. Through these challenging experiences I have also witnessed the resiliency of my community and our commitment to moving forward. Even with the frustrations I encountered I am ultimately glad to have had the opportunity to have worked at the LCAE. The Center is at its very early stages and because of this I know it is faced with countless limitations, but because of this I look forward to seeing how it develops.



**Eric Ayala**  
Sociology, Multicultural Queer Studies minor  
MultiCultural Center

I am one of the two Queer Community Coordinator at the MultiCultural Center. Having this position and being apart of the Cultural Centers has been such an amazing experience. I have been able to meet so many incredible individuals who are passionate and driven to make change. The MCC was my home away from home and the support system that I was able to create is amazing. As I walk the stage this May, I am filled with so many emotions because I would have never thought I would have made it out of this institution, but I survived and conquered. As I walk that stage I am doing it not just for myself but for my mom and grandma. I also want to show other Queer kids and Latinx folks that we can do it! We can make it and werk that stage because we own it!

Best,  
Eric



**Matilda Atitaya Bunchongchitr**  
Wildlife Conservation Biology/  
Applied Vertebrate Ecology with a  
minor in Geospatial Science and  
Psychology  
MultiCultural Center

The Centers, and the MultiCultural Center in particular, represent a space, a home, in which I can be me, and just me. When I'm in and among the people who work and visit the MultiCultural Center, I no longer feel the constraints of the identities society places upon me. I don't feel the weight of being Asian, a woman, a model minority myth. I'm just me and whatever and whoever I want to be.

The Centers also serve as a stronghold against all the social injustices that so many of us face on campus, in the community, or at home. It is that strong backbone, that iron clad fist, that fierce unyielding refuge battered yet still stand strong and firm to its beliefs and the beauty of those scars and bleeding wounds have never failed to leave me in awe.

Thank you!







**Gabrielle Fox**  
Psychology  
Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence

My time at HSU, albeit brief, was a transformative experience for me. The isolation that encloses this community helped me shift from the fast pace of a city life to a more relaxed flow that enabled me to explore who I am as a person instead of becoming overwhelmed by my surroundings. Working in the Cultural Centers on campus helped HSU feel more like a home, for I found solace in being able to describe the struggles I was facing with someone who knew what I went through and how I could continue to push past it.

**Carolina Keiko Gonzalez**  
Psychology Major/ Spanish Minor  
Latinx Center

El Centro has become a second home for me! Our Cultural Centers at HSU are great places to meet new people with similar stories and backgrounds. Moving from a predominantly Latino neighborhood in Los Angeles to Arcata was a challenge, but the Centers became a place where I felt comfortable and felt like I could be myself again. When I come into the Centers I know I am surrounded by love, support, and acceptance. My time working at El Centro has taught me so much about professionalism while also reminding me that it's OK to keep my culture a priority. I'm going to miss it and all the people I've met.



**Branden Mark**  
Business Administration: Finance  
MultiCultural Center

When I first came to HSU in 2010, I had no idea what kind of journey I would be embarking on. It has been a long time coming and I am happy yet sad I am finishing my time here. I'm glad that I am finally graduating but sad because I won't be seeing the wonderful people I've met during my time here. I am very fortunate to be able to work alongside my sister and coworkers, who I can happily call my friends. While working in the MCC, I became more involved on campus and I was able to meet so many inspiring many student leaders as well as accomplished people like Climbing PoeTree, Dolores Huerta, and Aswath Damodaran. But the most inspiring person I've met is my partner, Sofia, who has helped me all along the way here at HSU. I could have not done my many accomplishments without her <3 I am so glad the things that led me to this point in my life, happened. I found that the path you embark on may not be the one you choose but you still get to enjoy all the beauty along the way and get to the destination you always dreamed of.

**Ana Maria Díaz Santillan**  
Social Work  
MultiCultural Center

For starters, I'm not really sure how I made it this far. These past four years at Humboldt State have been the hardest four years of my life. I've had many things happen to me that have shaped the person that I am today. I made it though, and I think that makes me pretty badass. My freshman year I wanted to leave Humboldt so bad. I remember it being September and I was already looking for other school to transfer to. One day I decided it was time for a change. I decided to get involved with Ballet Folklorico de Humboldt. I also decided to join the Women's Rugby team. I finally felt happy again. I love these people. The memories I've made with these teams are irreplaceable. They are going to be my friends forever. One of the first performances I had with the folklórico group was Dia de los Muertos at the MCC. I remember walking into the MCC in preparation for the performance, and I was instantly welcomed by all of the friendly staff. I felt at peace. The MCC has become my home away from home. I found a place where I could be myself. Whether that was at the MCC, the dance studio, or the rugby pitch; I felt alive. I found people that had the same ideas as me. I met people that looked like me. These groups of people inspired me to be my best. They pushed me to do better. I will always be thankful for meeting such wonderful people. They say college is the best time of your life... Actually... I'm not sure who said that but it's true. I would just like to acknowledge my fellow coworkers, my ruckin rugby sisters, and my lil folkloristas. Y'all mean the world to me. Thank you for accepting me. <3 (And also s/o to my family, wouldn't be here without them either.)

With love,  
Anita



## Raymond Ocelotl

Business Administration (Finance)

Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence

I began working at the Cultural Center Fall 2017 and was very excited to be staffed in an environment that allowed me to interact with powerful student leaders on campus. Within my experience I learned that the Cultural Center provided a space for student leaders to fully engage themselves in activism while developing their own set of skills for the professional world. I am extremely grateful to be in an environment where coordinators push students, such as myself, to take on tasks that I wouldn't have been given the opportunity of if I hadn't been employed here. Thank you to all the Coordinators and students that made working at the CCAE one of my most favorite jobs I have had & congratulations to the rest of the student leaders who are graduating!

## Elizabeth Phillips

Communications

MultiCultural Center

My time at Humboldt State has been a rollercoaster. I transferred up to HSU because it was the only CSU I could try to afford. Even though the downs were pretty low, it was the highs that kept me going. Finding a community at the MultiCultural Center shaped my years on campus. I am so thankful for everyone I have met in my time here, and I am excited to continue my education at American University. Catch me at my future inauguration into US or International politics. :)



## Marissa Sanchez

Theater Arts

Lantinx Center

We are seeds.

*Somos semillas.*

We have basked in the warm kisses of the sun and have had to endure harsh winters.

*Hemos disfrutado de los cálidos besos del sol y hemos tenido que soportar duros inviernos.*

We have been so deep into the ground that all we saw was darkness and we have bloomed from what seemed like concrete.

*Hemos estado tan enterrados en la tierra que todo lo que vimos fue oscuridad y hemos florecido de lo que parecía ser concreto.*

We come from a line of seeds that have thrived in the most unforgivable of environments and heard the voices of our ancestors say, "Nos trataron de enterrar, pero no sabían que éramos semillas".

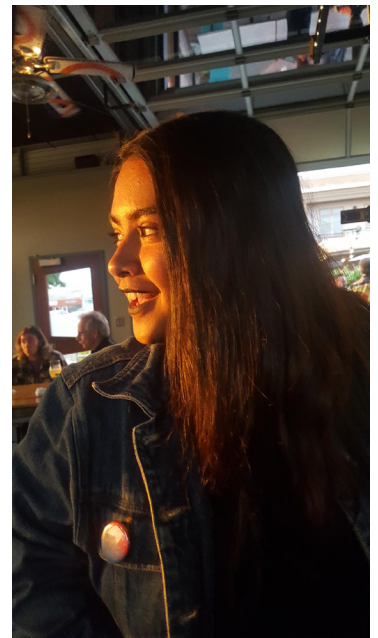
*Venimos de una línea de semillas que han prosperado en los ambientes más imperdonables y hemos escuchado las voces de nuestros antepasados decir.* "They tried to bury us, but they didn't know we were seeds".

We have learned to love our thorns and our blossoms and will always fight to keep our roots deep into the ground and our branches stretched up towards the skies.

*Hemos aprendido a amar nuestras espinas y nuestras flores y siempre lucharemos por mantener nuestras raíces en lo profundo de la tierra y nuestras ramas estiradas hacia los cielos.*

When the sun turns over the Earth, we will whisper to the seeds that are too afraid to sprout saying, "They tried to bury us, but they didn't know we were seeds".

*Cuando el sol gira sobre la tierra, susurramos a las semillas que tienen miedo de brotar diciendo:* "Nos trataron de enterrar, pero no sabían que éramos semillas".



**Amber Rivas**  
Latinx Center

As a Latina pursuing a career in the STEM field and coming from South Los Angeles, it was important for me to find my community here at Humboldt State. Yet, most importantly, after finding my community, I had to make it feel like home. I decided to work in the Latinx Center for Academic Excellence to help advocate for a moment of time for Latinx STEM students to congregate and be able to find that sense of community that we need to support each other. Many of us are in the STEM field, but I feel that we have not been able to get to know each other to build a community. My position as the HSI-STEM Center Liaison has entailed me to work closely with the HSI-STEM grant and how those efforts are helping to bridge students coming from low income communities, first generation, and Latinx and underrepresented students to become successful in the STEM field. Moreover, the grant serves as a tool to retain these students for them to graduate with their bachelors from HSU.



**Cameron Rodriguez**  
Film Major  
African American Center

Making the adjustment from urban neighborhoods to a rural area encapsulated in time has been a strenuous one. Throughout my own and the experiences of others, I have somewhat learned how to adapt to not only this environment but others as well. My adaptability however does not justify the incidents that have occurred within the five years that I have attended HSU. The cold weather and slow nature of Humboldt has not only turned me cold but has also prepared me for the overt and covert adversity and racism that I will face outside of school. The mental and emotional anguish it takes to survive in Arcata has ironically instilled in me the mission statement of HSU. I have learned how to be a socially conscious artist, in order to shine a light on the systematic degradation and oppression of students within a Primarily White Institution. Working for the African-American Center for the Academic Excellence has shown me ways to counteract against the system in a logical and productive manner. Through the planning of events and the various interactions, I have made. The AACAE has essentially helped me become a stronger person. Like the quote by M. Orvilla on the Center's wall "no history; no self, know history, know self." I hope to look back to the past for aid whenever I feel lost.



**Sandra Sandoval Ruezga**  
MultiCultural Center

My name is Sandra Sandoval Ruezga, and I will be crossing the stage this semester. I am an Environmental Studies major with an emphasis in Community Organizing. Having worked at the MCC was one of the best experiences I have had on campus. The way that universities are structured do not allow for conversations to happen between classmates, especially within lecture based classes. The MCC was able to disrupt this cycle. My coworkers are some of the nicest and most passionate people I have ever met. I am glad that I was able to be given this opportunity. Cultural centers are important because they are able to give students a much needed home.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS CALENDER

EVENTS LISTED BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MCC AND MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT US AT: [WWW.MCC.HUMBOLDT.EDU](http://WWW.MCC.HUMBOLDT.EDU)

FRI, MAY 4 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>Q-GRAD CELEBRATION</b>	4-6PM	KATE BUCHANAN ROOM
MAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> -11 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>FINALS WEEK</b>	MCC OPEN FOR STUDY SESSIONS & SNACKS!	
		MAY 6 <sup>TH</sup>	6PM-10PM
		MAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> -10 <sup>TH</sup>	10AM-6PM
		MAY 11 <sup>TH</sup>	10AM-2PM
THURS, MAY 10 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>ALL NATIVE GRADUATION</b>	6-8PM	KATE BUCHANAN ROOM
FRI, MAY 11 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>CULTURAL GRAD CELEBRATIONS</b>		
	•ASIAN, DESI, & PACIFIC ISLANDER	2-4PM	GOODWIN FORUM
	•BLACK HERITAGE GRADUATION	4-6PM	KATE BUCHANAN ROOM
	•GRADUACIÓN LATINX	6-8PM	LUMBERJACK ARENA
SAT, MAY 12 <sup>TH</sup>	<b>HSU COMMENCEMENT</b>	8:30AM	REDWOOD BOWL

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BY: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018

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