

The MULTICULTURAL MIRROR

One School  Many Cultures

Relaunching the Multicultural Mirror



Photo courtesy of Helen Fotino

Peace and Joy to you from the Multicultural Affairs Committee. We wish all the best for you and yours in the coming New Year. It is our endeavor to report to you cultural happenings here and from the world around us. We look forward to working with you in achieving this goal

This edition of the Multicultural Mirror includes articles about the School's MLK Day event, annual Taste of Culture, assorted student groups, the Cultural Audit, and a trivia quiz. Enjoy!

- Cheryl Quiney and Diane Nixon, MAC Co-Chairs

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Taste of Culture - Page 2



Notes from Student Groups - Page 3

2



Culture Point - Working among the Navajo - Page 5

3



Trivia Quiz - a chance to win a prize! - Page 6

4

The Multicultural Mirror is produced by the Multicultural Affairs Committee of the School of Dentistry, University of Michigan, and is edited by [Elisabeth Rodriguez](#) in BMS.

In Honor of Martin Luther King: Yes, We Can - Reflecting on Diversity

On MLK Day this year, January 19, 2009, 2-4:30p, the Dental School's celebration will include presenting the annual Ida Gray awards to a faculty member, staff member, and student who have helped to further the cause of diversity within the School.

In addition, the MAC will host a "Diversity Café." The Café affords us the chance to discuss various

diversity topics, including the School's Cultural Climate Audit. There will be time set aside to gain deeper insights into the selected topics. Refreshments will be served.

More information will be available in the new year; please watch your e-mail.

Taste of Culture: Getting to Know You

This year the annual Taste of Culture was moved from the spring of the school year to the autumn in hopes that new members of the school would have the chance to get to know a little bit about the rich diversity within the School by literally getting a Taste of Culture. The event, held on September 16, drew many people from across the School to the Sindecuse Atrium where a large array of different foods were available. Featured foods included Cheryl Quiney's peach cobbler, D2 Student Shana Jones' shrimp potato salad, and Liz Rodriguiz'

yummy oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. A good time was had by all who attended, and the members of the MAC are looking forward to hosting this again next autumn.



Photos courtesy of Henry Temple.

Getting to Know all About You: Diversity Audit



In 1994/1995, the leadership team of our School brought together a diverse group of faculty, staff and students as the Multicultural Initiatives Committee (MCI). With the help of two outside consultants, Drs. Mark Chesler and Beth Reed,

this group conducted a cultural audit. One component of this audit surveyed students, staff, and faculty of the School. The results were summarized in a report. In addition a tablebook provided detailed information about the answers to each question overall and broken down by respondent groups such as students/staff/faculty), gender, and ethnicity/race.

In 2006, School leadership asked the chairs of the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC), which is the group formed after the MCI to implement the recommendations that resulted from the '94/'95 Audit, to assess the change over time since the last audit. In collaboration with the School's Strategic Assessment Committee (SAFCo) and the University's ADVANCE

Continued on Page 6



Photo courtesy of Russell Taichman

Notes from the School's Student Groups

We have seen the posters and flyers around the Dental School. We've gotten the e-mails announcing upcoming events that they're putting on. But, who are these student groups, who participates, and what are they doing next? For answers to these and other questions, please read on.

Student Council

The Student Council is responsible for communicating among individual students, various organizations throughout the dental school community, and between students and faculty. This communication is designed to stimulate interaction between students and faculty members. Student Council members are selected by general class election. To achieve these goals the Student Council attempts to conceive, plan, and execute appropriate projects for the good of the dental school community and the profession as a whole. Some of the activities in which Student Council has participated include:

- * Faculty-student mixers
- * Welcome Back reception
- * Dental Health Day
- * Mouth guard program

- * Coordinating student participation in campus visit interviews
- * Sponsoring fundraisers for the community
- * Faculty Awards Banquet

The student council meets on the first Monday of every month at 5:15pm in room G550. Everyone is welcome to join us at our meetings and participate fully. If you have any questions concerning student council and what it can do for you, you should contact someone on our Executive Board.

- President - Ben Poest
- * Vice-President - Javier Johnson
- * Treasurer - Eric Skulsky
- * Secretary - Piper Huber

-submitted by Ben Poest, D3

Muslim Dental Students Association

The recently established Muslim Dental Students Association (MDSA) aims at increasing diversity awareness within the dental school. An annual presentation includes practical information for dental students regarding religious and cultural

Continued...

More Student Group News (Continued)

considerations when treating Muslim patients. The MDSA is also an organization of academic support and mentoring for undergraduate dental students. In the future, the MDSA hopes to work with other organizations in community service projects to increase general oral health literacy. All students are welcome and encouraged to participate.

*-submitted by Zahid Ahmed, D3
MDSA President*

UM Asian Dental Student Organization

The UM Asian Dental student organization (UMAD) exists to address and support the needs of students of Asian descent at the dental school, and to promote cultural sensitivity and understanding. Our core values are awareness, community, and outreach.

UMAD participated in several outreaches in 2008. In February we partnered with UAAMSA (United Asian American Medical Students Association) for the annual Asian Pacific American Health and Culture Fair in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium. We were able to provide oral health and hygiene information for 200 participants from the Ann Arbor community passing through Med Sci II (...good memories of anatomy lab). In addition, Nancy Lam (class of 2008), Kim Lin, and Amy Liao (2009) presented a

More Student Group News (Continued)

workshop on links between systemic and oral health.

In May we teamed up with Wayne State's APAMSA (Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association) and the Filipino Community Center in Detroit for their annual health fair. We worked with Dr. Sitchon from Livonia who did basic screenings for over 40 attendees. Mabuhay!

Finally this past November, we returned to Detroit at the Korean Cultural Center of Michigan to distribute oral health educational materials. Of course, we always conclude our outreaches discovering new yummy places to eat in Detroit.

We're looking forward to more activities the rest of this school year! If you would like to get involved or would like more information, please contact Amy (D4) at aliao@umich.edu.

-submitted by Amy Liao, D4



A WORLD OF HOLIDAYS

December 2008

Universal Human Rights Month

6 - [St. Nicholas Day](#) (International)

7 - [Pearl Harbor Day](#) (United States)

8 - [Bodhi Day](#) - Buddha's Enlightenment (Buddhist)

8 - [Eid al-adha](#) (Islamic, Muslim)

8 - [Immaculate Conception](#) (Roman Catholic)

12 - [Virgin of Guadalupe](#) (Mexico)

13 - [Santa Lucia Day](#) (Sweden)

16-25 - [Las Posadas](#) (Mexico)

22 - [Hanukkah*](#) (Jewish)

22 - [Winter Solstice](#)

25 - [Christmas](#) (Christian, International)

26 - [Kwanzaa](#) (African-American - Dec. 26, 2005 - Jan 1, 2006)

31 - [New Year's Eve](#) (United States, International)

January 2009

1 - [Feast of St. Basil](#) (Orthodox)

1 - [Japanese New Year](#) (Japan)

1 - [New Year's Day](#)

5 - [Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday](#) (Sikh)

6 - [Epiphany or Twelfth Day](#) (Western Christian)- [Three Kings' Day](#) (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic)

7 - [Ashura](#) (Islamic, Muslim)

7 - [The Nativity of Jesus Christ](#) (Orthodox)

13 - [Lohri](#) (Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh)

16 - [Religious Freedom Day](#) (United States)

19 - [Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday](#) - Observed (United States)

20 - [Inauguration Day - more](#) (United States)

26 - [Chinese Lunar New Year](#) (China, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam)

26 - [Republic Day](#) (India)

26 - [Tet Nguyen Dan](#) (Vietnam)

More Student Group news

Student American Dental Hygienists' Association

The Student American Dental Hygienists' Association (SADHA) is the student branch of the national dental hygiene professional organization, the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA). SADHA supports, empowers, and develops student professionals through education, leadership, advocacy, and community outreach initiatives. Student members support the mission of ADHA by promoting the highest standards of dental hygiene education, licensure, practice, and research.

-submitted by Lindsey Bolduc, DH2

CP Culture Point

Culture Point is an attempt to inform and educate the reader about cultural points of interest. We would like to publish articles from members of the School community reflecting on experiences within their own cultures or with other cultures. Just to get the ball rolling, we are reprinting below an essay that was first published in the Fall, 1998, issue of the Mirror. It was written by Dr. Victor Sandoval, a former member of the faculty here who is now the Chair of Professional Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Dental Medicine.

Immediately upon graduating from dental school in 1975, he spent one year on the Navajo Reservation in northwest New Mexico and six years in private practice in Albuquerque. In this piece, Dr. Sandoval reflects back on those experiences and how they sensitized him to many of the issues involving the provision of health care in multicultural settings.

The setting on the Navajo reservation was a unique multidisciplinary hospital and outpatient clinic with many interactions between physicians, dentists, nurses, and other allied health care personnel. One physician's assistant, all of my dental assistants, and many nurses and clerical personnel were Navajo. Interestingly, the Navajos on staff practiced "conventional medicine," yet called upon their traditional "medicine man" as needed. They were comfortable accessing both kinds of medicine, yet to an "outsider," the two modalities could be viewed as mutually exclusive. It became obvious that practitioners had to accept and respect the presence of these two modalities that were essential to the total health of the population.

Explaining dental procedures to a patient was frequently a big challenge. There are no Navajo equivalents for many of the procedures that we were about to provide. So often one observed patient and dental assistant

Continued on Page 6

World of Holidays (cont.)

February, 2009

[American Heart Month](#)

[National Black History Month](#) (United States)

- 1 - [Super Bowl XLIII](#), Tampa, FL
- 2 - [Groundhog Day](#) (United States)
- 2 - [Imbolc](#) (Wiccan)
- 4 - [Rosa Parks Birth Anniversary](#)
- 5 - [Constitution Day](#) (Mexico)
- 9 - [Tu b'Shvat](#) or [Tu B'Shevat*](#) (Jewish)
- 11 - [National Foundation Day](#) (Japan)
- 12 - [Abraham Lincoln's Birthday](#) (United States)
- 12 - [NAACP](#) Founded
- 14 - [Race Relations Day](#)
- 14 - [Valentine's Day](#) (United States)
- 16 - [Presidents Day](#) (United States)
- 20-24 - [Carnival / Mardi Gras](#) (Brazil and elsewhere)
- 22 - [George Washington's Birthday](#) (United States)
- 24 - [Flag Day](#) (Mexico)
- 25 - [Ash Wednesday](#) (Western Christian)

March, 2009

Awareness/Educational Month for: [Deaf History](#) , [Greek-American Heritage](#) , [Irish-American Heritage](#) , [Mental Retardation](#) , [Chronic Fatigue Syndrome](#) , and [Multiple Sclerosis](#)

[National Women's History Month](#)

- 1 - [St. David's Day](#) (Welsh)
- 6 - [World Day of Prayer](#)
- 8 - [International Women's Day](#) (United Nations)
- 8 - [Daylight saving time](#) begins (3/8-11/1)
- 10 - [Purim](#) (Jewish)*
- 17 - [St. Patrick's Day](#) (Ireland, United States)
- 20 - [Spring Begins](#)
- 21 - [Naw-Ruz](#) (Baha'i, Persia)
- 21 - [New Year's Day](#) (India)
- 25 - [Feast of Annunciation](#) (Western Christian)

The Back Page

Prayer Rooms Available

There are now prayer rooms available to all members of the Dental School community, although they are specifically designed for the needs of those of the Islamic faith. They are located in Rooms 3374a and 2374a and are open for 5-10 minute periods of time whenever they are not in use for regular business

Culture Point (continued from Page 5)

laughing between them, trying to reconcile the subtleties between an ancient language and a "modern" form of treatment.

A favorite story of mine occurred during my year on the reservation. It characterizes the pride they held for themselves as well as the attitude toward those of us who were not native to the area. The hospital system utilized a series of "outpost clinics" many miles away, linked by short-wave radio. The Navajo staff mostly used their native language to communicate. One day someone from the Federal Communications Commission apparently happened to monitor a conversation and decided to inform them about FCC regulations forbidding speaking in "foreign languages" over FCC lines. The response was swift and curt from the Navajo staffer: "For your information, this is Navajo country, and the only 'foreign' language I ever had to learn was English!" Needless to say, there was no reply.

If you would like to write a piece for this column, please contact [Liz Rodriguiz](#).

Mirror Trivia Quiz

Send your answers to [Liz](#) in BMS, Room 3228-c, by 1/16. Correct answers will be put in a drawing for a gift certificate to the Taft Society store.

- 1) Barack Obama will be inaugurated as the 44th President, but how many men have actually been President before him?
- 2) How many days are in Hanukkah?
- 3) What calendrical event do Paul Revere and Grandmaster Flash have in common?



Photo courtesy of Jerry Mastey.

Kenneth May, DDS, MS, is an Associate Professor in BMS / Prosthodontics and the Director for Multicultural Affairs.

Cultural Audit (continued from Page 2)

Program, MAC developed surveys for current and recently graduated students, staff, and faculty. These surveys consisted of two separate sets of questions that were merged together. First, most of the questions of the 1994/95 audit surveys were included in these new surveys. Second, questions of the ADVANCE Program's own survey designed to assess the climate for women and men at the University of Michigan were added. The resulting surveys were provided as web based surveys. The MAC will publicize the outcome(s) of the latest Cultural Climate Audit next year.

- submitted by Cheryl Quiney