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Spring 2008

### Cultural Times

Multicultural Center

*Humboldt State University*

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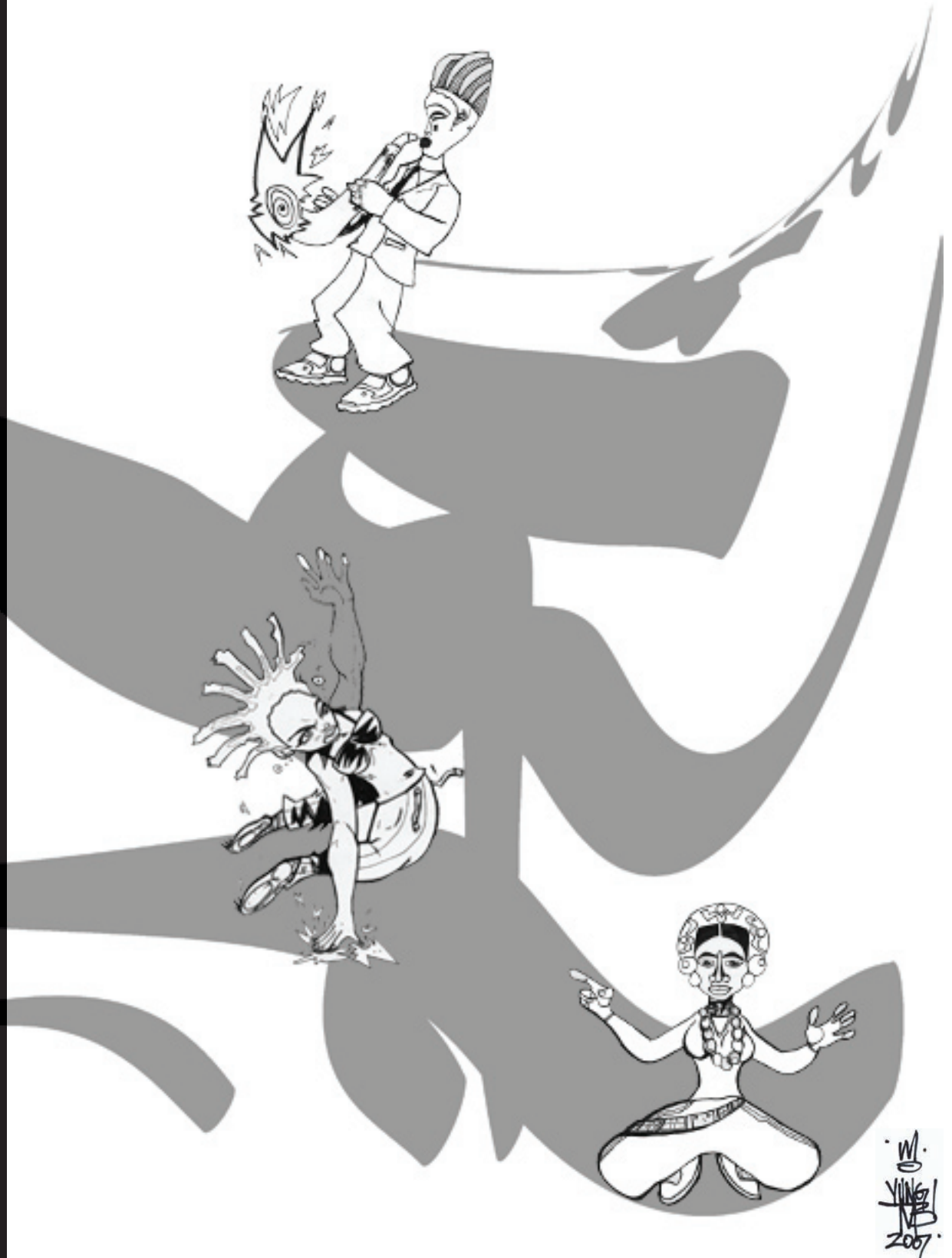
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Humboldt State University • MultiCultural Center

# CULTURAL TIMES

SPRING  
2008



Reclaiming Soul: "Remember Something Ancient • Imagine Something New"

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**The MCC congratulates  
the graduating class of  
2008! Please bring your  
families and friends to the  
Multicultural Grad Bash on  
Sat., May 17 from 5-7pm @  
the MCC parking lot.**

The Cultural Times is the official newsletter of the HSU MultiCultural Center. It is funded by the Associated Students of Humboldt State University. The views expressed in the content of the Cultural Times are not censored or reviewed by the Associated Students. The Cultural Times invites students, staff, faculty, and community members to contribute work and to share experiences and points of view. All correspondence regarding this publication should be sent to:

MCC Cultural Times  
HSU MultiCultural Center  
1 Harpst St.  
Arcata, CA 95521



Copies of all correspondence should also be sent to:  
Associated Students of Humboldt State University

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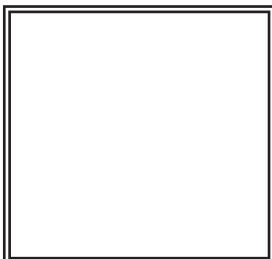
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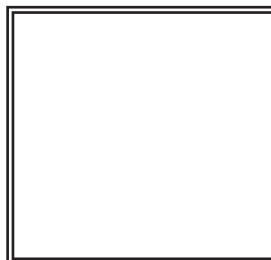
Our Ohana



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**Editor**

Tatiana Cummings

**Graphic Designer**

Tarikh Brown

**Director**

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**Office Manager**

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**Outreach & Social Justice Coordinator**

Mona Mazzotti

**Website Development Coordinator**

Daeng Khoupradit

**Associated Student Liason**

DaVonna Foy

**Housing Liason**

Piya Bose

**Staff Members**

Aaron Perez

Brianna Schwab

Calvin Li

Christy Her

Etana Sharon White

Dominique Diaz

Donsheka Lyle

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Gabrielle Burgos

Gabriela Girona

Iquo Effiong

Jessica Moreno

Johanna Barahona

Kor Yang

Luis Romero

Michael Myvett

Porscha Cobbs

Shanta Robinson

Shengyi Wang

Yvette Gonzalez

## Community Liasons

**Asian**

Xiaozhen "Ellen" Chen      Phi Nguyen

**Social Justice Summit Coordinators**

Rogelio Molina      Stephanie Guel

**Latino**

Yvan Guzman      Omar Garcia

**International**

Luc Lusamba

**African American**

Courtney Terry      Taisa Grant

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## *Congratulations Dr. Cheryl A. Seidner*

By Marylyn Paik-Nicely



Cheryl A. Seidner was born, raised and continues to live on the land of her ancestors, the Wiyot people. Her mother, Loreta, was from Wigi at Tuluwat, and her father, Bill, was from Wiyot River (Eel River) at Fernbridge. She has served her people as Tribal Chair for 12 years. On the national level, Seidner has served twice as the regional Vice President for California at the National Congress of American Indians in 1997 – 99 and 2005 – 07. Whether in Eureka, Sacramento

or Washington, D.C., Seidner is talking about the issues, concerns and successes of the Wiyot Tribe, other small tribes, and the tribes of California. She brings the voice of her people to the circles of influence, and that voice is heard loud and clear.

On May 17, 2008, during the HSU Commencement Ceremony for the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences at 3:30 PM, Cheryl A. Seidner will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters, an Honorary Degree from the California State University Trustees. This honorary degree recognizes excellence and extraordinary achievements of individuals in their fields, honors outstanding service to the CSU, HSU, the United States, or humanity at large, and recognizes individuals whose lives and significant achievements serve as examples of the CSU's aspirations for its diverse student body.

"I am truly honored to receive a doctorate from the CSU Trustees," said Seidner. "I'm just an Indian kid from a 20-acre reservation. I'm blown away!"

Yes, Dr. Seidner, you may be "just an Indian kid" from a small reservation, but you have truly created landmarks on your action-packed life's journey. On the HSU campus, the success of EOP students, Indian students, and other students of color is your landmark. In the community, the City of Eureka returning 40 acres of Indian Island to the Wiyot Tribe is your landmark. In Washington, D.C., our legislators understanding issues such as water rights and indigenous rights of California tribes is your landmark. And this is just the beginning of a long list of your accomplishments and landmarks.

On July 31, 2008, Dr. Seidner will retire from HSU after 28 years working with the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). We will all miss her beyond words, but we know she will continue to share her culture, her adventures, and her wisdom and knowledge with us. We just have to call her on the 20-acre reservation called Table Bluff!

Congratulations, Dr. Cheryl A. Seidner. We are proud of you!

Our



By Laura McNaughton

Supervisor, mentor, friend, are just some of **Piya Bose's** remarkable attributes. She has been a devoted advocate for so many individuals in our campus community. Her knowledge, compassion, and motivation to make the world a better place have shined through in her four years at Humboldt State. Working as a Residence Life Coordinator, Piya has touched the lives of so many students. Through this work, she has been an active educator and advocate for education, social justice and equality.

In all the work that Piya has done here at Humboldt State, the students are always her number one priority, and whatever path Piya travels on, she will not only be successful as a citizen of that community and the world, but she will also be a true agent of change. Piya, Thank you for all the work you have done here at Humboldt State. You have left a legacy, and we will all truly miss your hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment.

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By Daeng Khoupredit

Friends are the most important ingredient in this recipe of life, but to myself and to many current and past members of the Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (A.P.A.S.A), **Ken Nakamura** has been an invaluable advisor, a words-o-wisdom-mobile, role model, a great listener, beholder of the needed signature, and friend. While juggling being a sociology professor, department chair, director of the Masters in Social Work Program, and on the chair board of Humboldt Area Foundation (just to name a few), he still finds time to sit with us while we plan our various club activities.

Unfortunately for HSU and the community (but not for Ken), he will be retiring this year and moving to a warmer climate to be closer to family. Due to that fact, A.P.A.S.A and the MultiCultural Center would like to thank him for all of his hard work and the footprints he has left behind. "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. But some stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same."

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### *MCC Welcomes New Addition to the Family*

By Daeng Khoupredit and Tatiana Cummings

**Mona Mazzotti** joined our MCC family at the beginning of this spring semester after a long and thoughtful search. She comes to us with a multitude of talents with experience in graphics and web design, community outreach, and organizing.

#### **Fun Facts:**

- She is a local native, Wailaki, from the Lost Coast
- Alumnus of Eureka High and Humboldt State
- Earned a degree in Art Studio with a minor in Art History
- Studied figure painting in Greece
- Thinks her son, Nikko, is a star (#32)
- In love with her cat Maozer
- Addicted to crossword puzzles
- 2008 Big Time Potato Dance winner

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# Black Liberation Month

By Taisa Grant

The essence of love, pride and resistance was the theme for the Afrikan Liberation month celebration. The Black Student Union coined this year's inherited month, "Afrikan Liberation" for many reasons. One being that it is necessary to acknowledge the complexity of liberation.

We wanted to focus on the Afrikan Diaspora of people, who struggle against imperialism, here in North and South America, as well as those that are abroad around the world facing injustices. And most deliberately, to acknowledge the constant struggle for liberation in the homeland. Secondly, we wanted to complicate these ideas of liberation by recognizing that a small majority have inherited the earth, and therefore are in control of dictating the lives of the masses. With this understanding, we recognized not only that if the homeland-negritude isn't free, all Afrikan people won't be free, and this analysis extends to the rest of the world. This is what influenced the organization of the month into five themes.



The first week kicked off, with a community reception and a Black Town Hall meeting for all to come and express injustices, whether personal or institutional, taking place here on campus or off. The second week was coined Arts week which consisted of art displays around campus and in the community produced by Afrikan artist. The third week was indigenous week; we named this week indigenous week for two reasons, one being we believed we are all indigenous to Mother Earth although very much colonized and displaced from our indigenous knowing. Finally we ended with resistance week where we gathered all that we learned and put it into action. We said resist imperialism, resist being a slave to a system that serves a minority, resist a system that thrives and exists solely on the exploitation of the majority.

Only if a radical shift in ideology takes place will liberation for all be possible. One month does not accomplish this; however it is a way to make liberation and the true manifestation of that, a vision. But a collective wave of action on the part of many



is crucial to the liberation from fascist governments and racist exploitative institutions that haunt and destroy all that lives. If we don't stop this destruction now, signs have appeared around the globe that Mother Earth will. Those that suffer now and dutifully take orders will be the first to go. Come on people lets be a part of the greater whole and take our rightful place. Ya Basta!



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## Social Justice Summit

By Stephanie Guel & Rogelio Molina

As coordinators for the 2008 Social Justice Summit, we would like to thank those of you who attended the 2008 Social Justice Summit. On behalf of the MultiCultural Center and its association with Humboldt State University, we welcomed the opportunity to engage and reflect on the past to move us into the present and the future.

The Social Justice Summit, formerly known as the Diversity Conference, was about coming together to share in community building, community support and action. This year's goal was to bring together various communities through the arts and activism.

Having been a part of this institution and community for the past six years has given us the enthusiasm to use education as a tool for change. The Social Justice Summit gave us not only the opportunity to share with the North Coast a few days of engaging in arts and activism from the channels of social change but a chance for us to learn more about ourselves.



## Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration

By Phi Nguyen

Everybody has his/her own culture. Wikipedia defines cultures as "refers to patterns of human activity and the symbolic structures that give such activities significance and importance." We, Asian students at Humboldt State University, also have our own cultures. However, the Asian population on campus is less than 5 percent. Defining the Asian cultures takes lots of efforts. Therefore, every spring we always put on Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration with the main purpose to define our cultures and to raise awareness in the predominant white culture.



This year's event was held April 3-April 16. We had several interesting activities including an evening of poetry reading, which highlighted poets from the local and campus community, the Asian Purposeful Dinner, round table discussion, a Sarong workshop by Donna Clark, Japanese/Chinese tea ceremony, and a performance by Hawaiian roots reggae band, Natural Vibrations. The Asian Purposeful Dinner provided food from Hawaii, Cambodia, Philippines, India, and Vietnam. Following the dinner was an opportunity for anyone interested to have a hand with the karaoke machine.

The round table discussion was the highlight of the whole celebration. We dialogued about the challenges Asian Americans face in this society due to stereotypes and discriminations that other people have regarding Asian Americans. The Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration ended with great success. The event not only gave us an opportunity to redefine ourselves but to raise awareness of the Asian community on this campus.



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## California Big Time & Social Gathering

By Mona Mazzotti

The first HSU California Big Time & Social Gathering took place in the West Gym on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12, thanks to the vision of the NAS/ENIT Club members. Last Fall they had an idea of bringing back HSU's Pow Wow but with emphasis on California traditions. With the help of the MCC & other campus support, along with various community organizations, their dream was realized with great success. It's estimated that over 1,000 people were in attendance.

As a local Native American community member, HSU alumnus, and now MCC staff member, I was professionally as well as personally pleased with the days events. I met many past acquaintances there as well as family I hadn't seen in quite awhile. It was a treat to see all those Native faces in one room! I also walked away with the title "2008 Potato Dance Champion!" Well, I actually share that title with my dance partner Mike Reilly (HSU's Associate Vice-President of Enrollment Management). We out-danced 12 couples for over 30-minutes with a potato wedged between our foreheads—not an easy feat.

Thanks to all those who worked and volunteered at HSU's 1st California Big Time. Without all of you it wouldn't have been possible.



## Africa Unveiled

By Iquo Effiong

They say Africa is the cradle of civilization, the Motherland, but with the lack of an Africana or African American studies program here at HSU. This has slowly changed over time, for the past year with the help of Luc Lusamba, the International Community Liason for the MultiCultural Center. It all started last semester when he gave two presentations titled

"Africa Unveiled". These presentations were so popular among the students that they were presented again earlier this semester. These presentations focused on the history, and culture and the many stereotypes of Africa. Along with Africa Unveiled, Luc has given other presentations such as America the Discovered Land, and Europe the Cradle of Western of Civilization. If there is one thing to know about Africa, it is that Africa is not a country but a continent with countries with various cultures, language and people.



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*The MCC congratulates the class of 2008. Thank you to the following graduates for their good energy, amazing activism, and passion for justice.*



**Name:** Ana Barba

**Major:** Ethnic Studies

**Future Plans:** I will be interning with the Black Panther office in Berkeley.



**Name:** DaVonna Nicole Foy

**Major:** Social Work

**Future Plans:** I want to advocate for social justice, foster youth rights and be a voice for humanity.

**Quote:** "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." -Gandhi



**Name:** Elisa Ocegüera

**Major:** Ethnic Studies

**Minor:** Anthropology

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend grad school at San Francisco State to obtain a masters in Ethnic Studies.

**Quote:** "No matter how much I walk, I'll never reach it. So for what purpose does utopia serve? The purpose it serves: In order to walk."  
-Eduardo Galeano



**Name:** Louie Rodriguez

**Major:** Broadcast Journalism

**Minor:** Indigenous Studies

**Future Plans:** I want to pursue a PhD and work for or start a multimedia non-profit and teach media production.



**Name:** Luc Lusamba

**Major:** Sociology

**Future Plans:** I hope to work with International Students on the university level.

**Quote:** "No matter how long the night is, the day always rises." Proverb from Democratic Republic of the Congo.



**Name:** Taisa Grant

**Major:** Ethnic Studies Focus: Social Justice

**Future Plans:** Get my teaching credential and start my own school for K-12 for my community back home.

**Quote:** "Know thyself."

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Name: Yvan Guzman

Major: Ethnic Studies

Minor: History and Native American Studies

Future Plans: I hope to attend grad school at San Diego State University or San Jose State University and get my masters in Chicano Studies/Mexican American Studies



Name: Tarikh Brown

Major: Art Studio

Future Plans: To get a good job and buy a home. Work for a couple years then own my own design studio. To inspire the next generation through positive thinking and art. To travel the world and create timeless comic books and a novel someday very soon.



Name: Enisha Mill Clark

Major: Social Work

Minor: Communication and Leadership Studies

## *Tatiana Cummings*



The three years I've spent here at Humboldt has been a roller coaster filled with ups and downs. Even though I didn't like it up here at first, I've grown to love and appreciate the opportunity of being in an institution of higher learning. I've learned so much about myself that I didn't know before. Humboldt State has helped prepared me for the real world that awaits. After finishing up in the fall, I plan on going to graduate school and furthering my education in a Masters in Sports Administration or Strategic Public Relations.



# GRADUATES



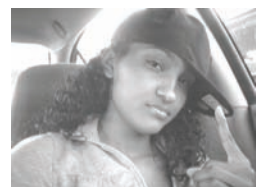
My time at Humboldt was very...interesting. It took a lot of time to get use to the town, people and smells. I enjoyed he small classes within my major and I loved how all my professors knew me. That made me have a very good relationship with all of them for the most part. My major is Journalism with an emphasis in Public Relations and my area of study is Graphic Design. I plan to work in a Public Relations firm, then own my own Public Relations firm after several years. After graduation, I will intern at a make-up and hair agency with hopes of being offered a position after I finish my last class which is Biology.

*Autumn Lewis*



Being at Humboldt has broadened my educational goals and allowed me to grow as a person. I have learned many different things being here and won't ever forget them. I've had the experience of a life time and a lot of memorable events that happened while I've been here. I have made many accomplishments and have been through a lot during my journey. I can say that, I am here and thankful and very proud of myself to have made it thus far . My future goals are to attend "School of Social Work" for my Masters degree and work in a hospital with disabled children.

*Dominique Díaz*



## MultiCultural Center Event Calendar

Events listed below are subject to change. For more information about the MCC and the most up to date information about our events, please visit us at [www.humboldt.edu/~mcc](http://www.humboldt.edu/~mcc)

### May

Thursday, May 1	May Day Block Party	11:00 am - 2:00pm	@ MCC Parking Lot
Friday, May 2	Poetry Is Not a Luxury	7:00pm	Goodwin Forum
Sunday May 4	5 de Mayo Celebration	6:00-8:00pm	Goodwin Forum
	Silver Sunday Dance	8:00-midnight	Goodwin Forum
May 12-15	Finals Week	Good Luck!!	Sancks @ MCC
Friday May 16	Black Graduation	5:00pm	Kate Buchanan Room
	Latin@ Graduation	5:00pm	D St. Neighborhood Center
	Native American Graduation	6:00pm	Azelea Hall, McKinleyville
	Asian Pacific Islander Graduation	4:00pm	Goodwin Forum
Saturday, May 17	Multicultural Grad Bash	5:00-7:00pm	@ MCC Parking Lot

### MultiCultural Center

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