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Spring 2013

### Cultural Times

Multicultural Center

*Humboldt State University*

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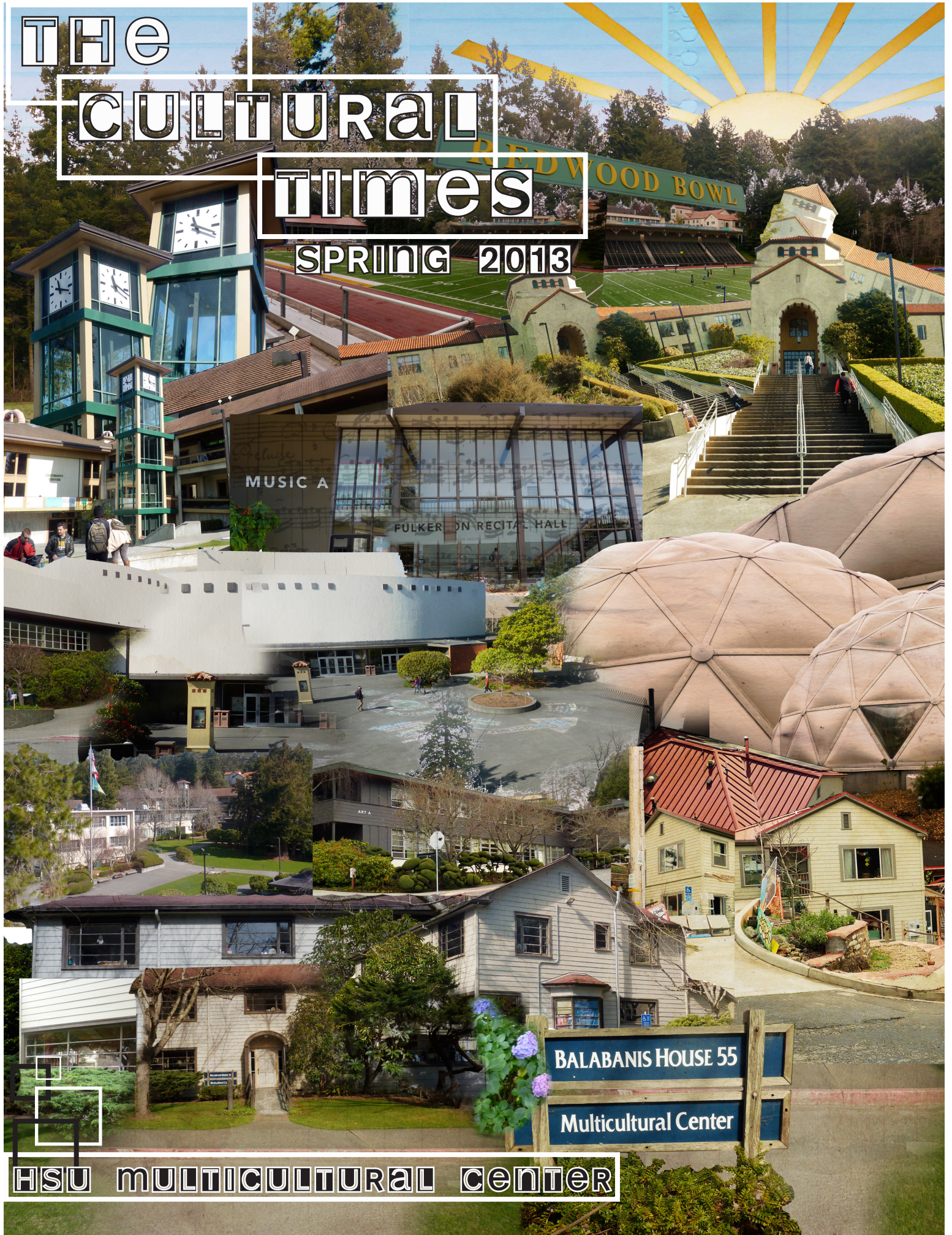
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# THE CULTURAL times

SPRING 2013



HSU MULTICULTURAL CENTER



Do You Want To

# PUBLISH YOUR WORK?

The MultiCultural Center's *Cultural Times* is looking for writers and contributors. We are looking for:

**Artwork**

**Poems**

**Stories**

**Photos**

and anything else that is related to  
**Social Justice, Ethnicity, Community, and Multiculturalism.**

Please submit work to [mcc@humboldt.edu](mailto:mcc@humboldt.edu) subject line: *Cultural Times* by Fri., Nov 1, 2013

The *Cultural Times* is the official newsletter of the MultiCultural Center which is funded by the Associated Students of Humboldt State University. The views and content of the *Cultural Times* are not censored or reviewed by the Associated Students. All correspondence regarding this publication should be addressed to:

**HSU's MultiCultural Center**  
***Cultural Times* Editor**  
**Humboldt State University**  
**Arcata, CA 95521**  
**or call**  
**707.826.3364**

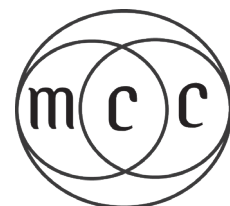
All responses from readers or letters to the editor of the *Cultural Times* will be published, unedited, if requested. Copies of all correspondence should also be sent in writing to:

Associated Students  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, CA 95521

Funded by



Associated Students



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## Letter to the Editor

Lucina Morelos Gonzalez

This is a farewell to the Editor of the *Cultural Times*, Julian Cabezas. It isn't about who he is because he is many different things to many people. But it is certain that he is an extraordinary being, one-in-a-century type of man. His reach expands beyond those of typical co-workers, peers or comrades. Julian grows on you. To those of you that have never interacted with him, it is likely that his wisdom and humanitarian charisma will somehow trickle down to you.

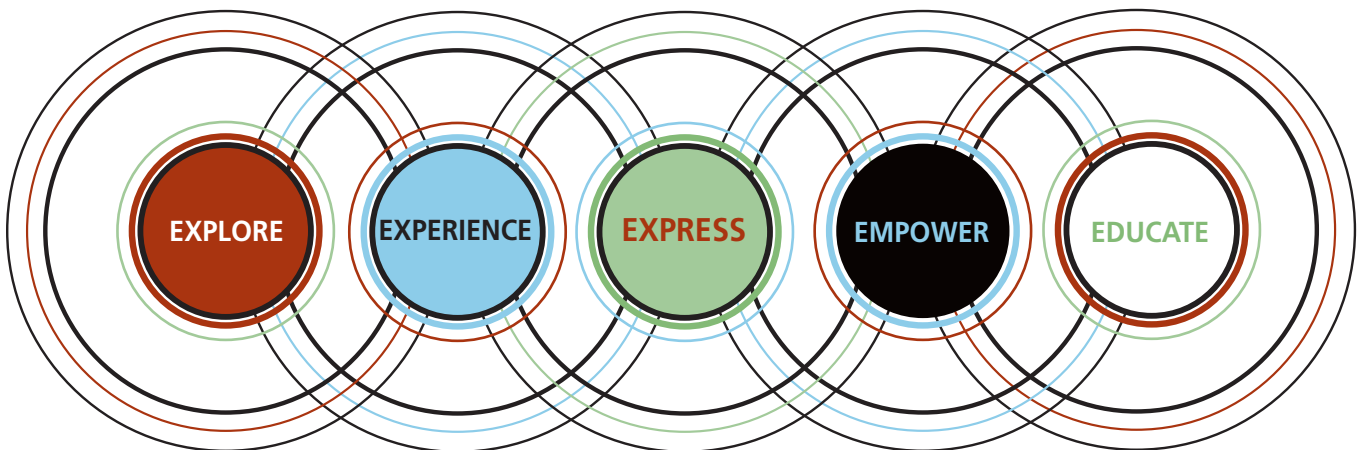
I met Julian in his first semester here, the Fall of 2011. And he quickly wrapped himself among the rest of us that it became difficult to remember how it was before he arrived. I am partially writing this because my personal growth is owed to him and partially because he deserves it. Not saying that anyone else doesn't. He is a leader who has made changes, spiritually and intellectually, through empathetic words. Julian, you have broken down many personal barriers, those that have been institutionalized in society, the toughest of barriers. And what I want to celebrate is that you have accomplished it just by being you. I am so excited for you and your future and I know great things await you. I think it's safe to say that you will be sorely missed on campus.



# Spring 2013 MCC Family

Rashod Berkley, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Xuan Bernal, Events Staff  
 Ruby Buentello, Student Office Manager/Graduación Latin@ Coordinator  
 Julian Cabezas, Cultural Times Editor  
 Bea Castillo, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Jasmine Cooper, Office Assistant/Events Staff/Black Grad Coordinator  
 Jamaeca Dedrick, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Lamont Douglas, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Melissa Estrada, Events Staff  
 Bryan Fiallos, Queer Community Building Coordinator/Q-Grad Coordinator  
 Erin Harris, African American Community Building Coordinator/Black Grad Coordinator  
 Dylan Inskip, Events Staff  
 Hanakekua Joao, Asian & Pacific Islander Community Building Coordinator  
 Alaisha Johnson, Events Staff  
 Clarissa King, Graphic Artist  
 Dena Lactoen, Events Staff  
 Daisy Lopez, Events Staff  
 Angie Lua, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Stephan McAuliffe, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Devina Miller, Native American Community Building Coordinator  
 Carlos Molina, Latino Community Building Coordinator  
 Lucina Morelos Gonzalez, Latino Community Building Coordinator  
 Chrissy Myers, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Grace Padilla, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Juan Quezada, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Tyrus Rouse, African American Community Building Coordinator  
 Victoria Sacramento, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Alana Souza, Office Assistant/Events Staff/Asian and Pacific Islander Lei Ceremony Coordinator  
 Cherry Sripan, International Community Building Coordinator  
 Tou Thao, Events Staff  
 Kyla Winthers-Barcelona, Office Assistant/Events Staff  
 Marylyn Paik-Nicely, Director  
 Mona Mazzotti, Outreach & Social Justice Programs Coordinator  
 Amanda Staack, Office Manager

Email us at [MCC@humboldt.edu](mailto:MCC@humboldt.edu) to join our family!





## Letter from the Director

Aloha from Marylyn, Director of the HSU MultiCultural Center (MCC), and mahalo (thank you) for reading our *Cultural Times*, the collective voices of the MCC and the many communities we serve. A big thank you to our Publications Team, Julian, Clarissa, and Mona for another awesome *Cultural Times*!

The spring issue of the *Cultural Times* is always bittersweet for me. We have so much to celebrate - a successful Social Justice Summit, Black Liberation & Heritage Month, California Big Time, Makahiki, Lunar New Year...just to name a few of our events. And we honor and say goodbye to our graduates, which is always very sad for me. I am so proud of all of you, but this means your journey will take you somewhere away from HSU and the MCC. Saying goodbye is never easy.

Congratulations to our graduates: Emanuel Delgado, Bryan Fiallos, Julian Cabezas, Asad Haider, Tou Thao, Melissa Estrada, Xuan Bernal, Daisy Lopez, David (Two Sticks) Arwood, Gabriela Garcia, Mayra Gutierrez, Ariana Gonzalez-Arzola, and Alfredo Esparza! Please keep in touch with the MCC!

In the fall of 2013, HSU will celebrate its centennial birthday, and the MCC will celebrate its 20th! Yes, MCC is turning 20, and we hope many of our alums will return to HSU to celebrate 100 and 20! The first of many celebrations will be held during Homecoming, Sept. 27-29, 2013. We'll be sending invitations for our Birthday Block Party, emails, notices on FaceBook, Twitter, and Tumblr. Be sure we have your current contact information, and start saving for the journey back to Arcata and your home-away-from-home when you were a student at HSU. We look forward to seeing all of you back at the MCC.

I want to thank our amazing student staff—the foundation of the MCC. We cannot do all the social justice, community building, and cultural programming without you. And a big thank you to Amanda Staack and Mona Mazzotti, MCC professional staff. All of you have been the BEST staff at HSU.

Have a relaxing and sun-filled summer!

Me ke aloha,  
Marylyn Paik-Nicely





## Social Justice Summit 2013

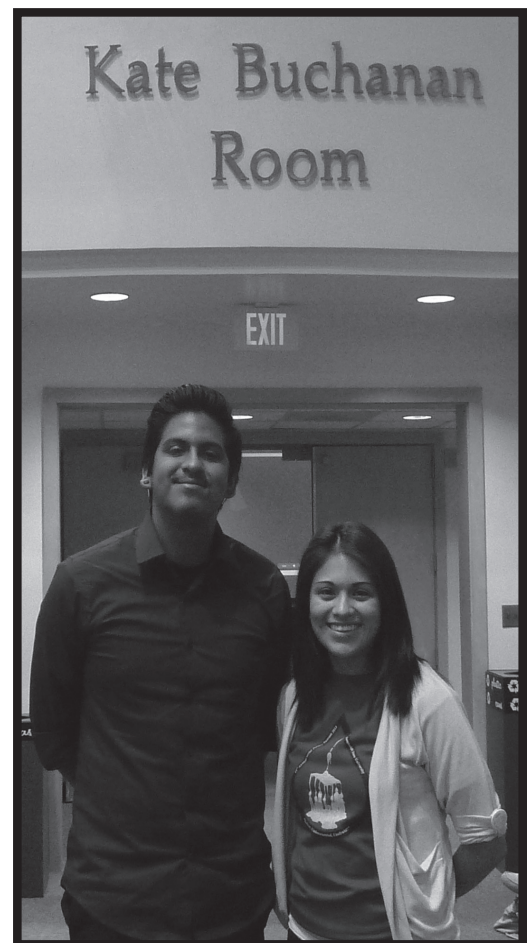
We would like to begin by thanking all the people who made the 2013 Social Justice Summit a possibility. We are more than pleased on the outcome of the Summit. As we began the process of coordinating the Summit, we found ourselves questioning how we wanted this subject to be perceived. We then decided collaboratively that we would focus in on all people who remain and are labeled as undocumented, therefore calling it, "United. Undocumented. Unfraid!"

We live in a nation that ignores the struggles of minorities. Yet, we continue to give political power to those who choose not to take action. It is because of the lack of support that we decided to shift the Summit as a method to provide needed resources for the undocumented community but also those who wish to learn. As the day hit we were pleased with the involvement of students but were disappointed with the lack of presence of faculty and staff. It was a moment of frustration that only affirmed the idea that Humboldt State lacks the ability to welcome students from different backgrounds.

Overall, we believe that the struggle has not ended. The 2013 Social Justice Summit was only a beginning to the needed awareness of this issue. We hope that by providing the experiences of the undocumented community we planted a seed of change to what media portrays. Although we provided a lot of information, we still believe that there is much more to be learned. There is knowledge that remains hidden from people. We also feel that all of us need to reach out to our communities in order to understand their struggles.

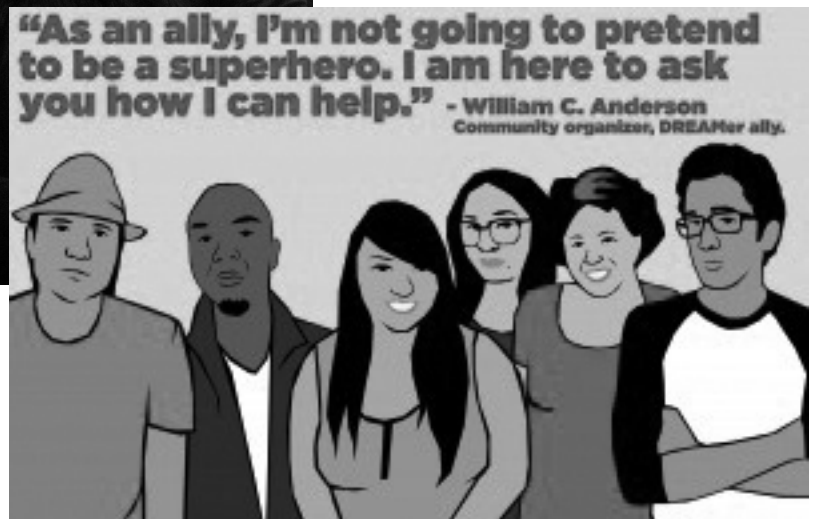
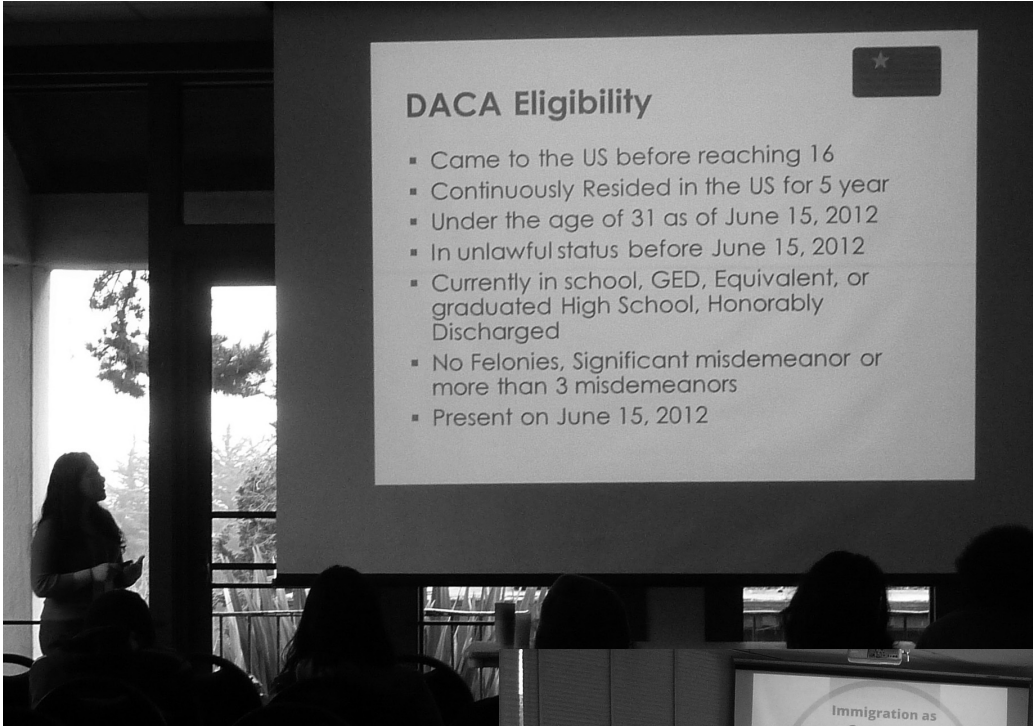
It was a great learning experience to see how our goals would be carried on. We have met a lot of people who are also passionate about the undocumented community. Through this event we were able to recognize people who are active allies and therefore can create a collective work to develop resources and bring to light their stories. We left with a lot more than we came in with. We have learned from others around and we hope people pass on the knowledge. This is an issue that can only be solved by the U.S Congress, and in order for that to happen we must work collectively and remember that all social injustices are inter-sectional with one another.

In solidarity,  
Samuel Romero Barron and Gabriela Garcia Cruz  
2013 Social Justice Summit Coordinators



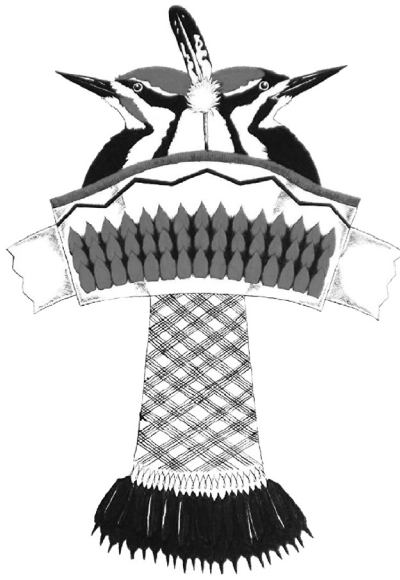


## "United, Undocumented, Unafraid!"



## HSU California Big Time & Social Gathering

Devina Miller



This year's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual HSU California Big Time and Social Gathering was yet another memorable event filled with performances by several indigenous tribes, as well as a new Knowledge Sharing Project. Starting with the opening blessing, students gathered at the center of the event to participate in a smudging and song. Volunteers were wearing green t-shirts, and performers in their regalia hurried past to their positions and own preparations.

Our very own HSU drum group opened with the Big Time. The rest of the day consisted of tribes from all over California, one from Oregon and a group from HSU's Dansa Azteca led by Emanuel Delgado. Students, staff, and town folk gathered to observe the performances and seek out goods from vendors.

A new addition to this Big Time was a Knowledge Sharing Project developed in collaboration by the MCC and the Center for Indian Community Development, to teach all who were at the event about California tribes. Posters, maps, and did-you-knows were presented around the building to inform people of our three objectives: what a Big Time is, HSU sits on Wiyot ancestral lands, and

the names of three Californian tribes. The Big Time was successful in sharing cultural traditions of indigenous tribes, diverse songs, dances, and regalia. Staff and volunteers did an excellent job in keeping this event together and presenting an event of cultural importance and the diversity of the rich Indigenous cultures around us.

### Thank you NativePerformers!

HSU Student Drum

Red Drum

Flower Dance Demonstration

Indian Card Game Tournament

Grand Ronde Canoe Family

Tolowa Feather Dance Group

Karuk Dance Demonstration

Table Bluff Youth Brush Dancers

HSU Danza Azteca(Chicauhca Tlahu Cuauhitl  
"Strong Red Tree" in Nahuatl)



Tolowa Feather Dancers

Photo courtesy of Two Rivers Tribune



# "Poetry is Not a Luxury"



Poetry is not only dream and vision; it is the skeleton architecture of our lives. It lays the foundations for a future of change, a bridge across our fears of what has never been before.

(Audre Lorde)

"Poetry is Not a Luxury" is a space where we acknowledge just that; poetry for oppressed peoples is not something we do for leisure but rather for survival. Far too often that pen and pad is the only space willing to listen to our thoughts. Often times it is the only safe place to speak. "Poetry is Not a Luxury" is an event that we put on every year, so we can facilitate a safe space for people of color and our allies to share their thoughts and beliefs. We recognize that this is not necessarily a space we can find readily available on campus, so we make it ourselves.

Cherrish Robinson  
Organizer for "Poetry is Not a Luxury"

## Outstanding Student Awards 2012-2013

### Outstanding Contribution to a Campus Club, Program or Organization

David Arwood  
Julian Cabezas  
Emanuel Delgado  
Hanakekua Joao

### Best Poster Presentation to a Professional Association

Emanuel Delgado

### Outstanding Contribution to an Associated Students Program

Melissa Estrada  
Daisy Lopez  
Tou Thao

### Award for Excellence in Community Service

Xuan Bernal

### Al Elpusan Award for Student Activism

Bryan Fiallos  
Gabriela Garcia, *Recipient of Award*

### Outstanding Student of the Year Recipients

Gabriela Garcia  
Emanuel Delgado

## Diversity at HSU: Spring 2013 Art and Essay Contest

*The Office of Diversity and Inclusion will publish the recipients entry in the Dissecting Diversity Report 2013, which will include both a first person narrative on the individual's experience of "diversity" on the HSU campus. The Cultural Times is highlighting the MCC staff winners Xuan and Julian. Congratulations!*

### My Reality, Mi Rialidad

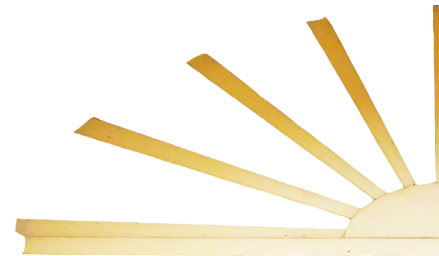
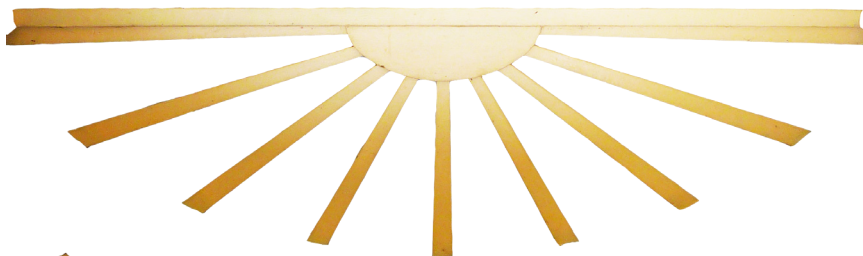
Xuan Bernal

My reality, my identity, is an invisible one. My birthplace has shaped my life. Part of my identity is overlooked because my immigration status is a taboo. I am supposed to be in the "shadows." Not having legal status affects every single thing I do on or off campus. While HSU tries to make me feel included, this is not a reality. Little things like community service are made difficult because of background checks that could lead to immigration holds. The fear is real and there isn't one day that my legal status does not affect my academics, my financial situation, my housing, and even my social life.

There are very limited staff and faculty that I could disclose my legal status to. I can relate to the LGBTQ community and how part of their identity is in a "closet" and mine is in the "shadows." Coming out about my status is not an easy or comfortable experience, ever! I let people know about my status out of anger, sadness, joy, anxiety, irritation, and to let people know I cannot do things other students can. I disclose my status because I am tired of lying and hiding such a critical part of my life. There is a bitter sweetness when I hear about friends talk about opportunities like studying abroad, internships, and scholarships that I cannot even apply for.

There is always anxiety whenever I seek a service on campus. I am sexually active and my health is important, and I won't forget the first time I went to get tested. I had saved up to pay for the testing fees since I thought I wouldn't be eligible for free testing because of my status. My nurse asked me why I was paying out of pocket if the service was free; all I had to do was fill out a form. I have a fear of forms because most forms I have encountered require a social security number. The nurse was baffled that I wanted to pay for the tests. I was tired of being uncomfortable, and I made her feel uncomfortable by letting her know I was undocumented and do not qualify. There is always either an awkward silence or an "oh" after I let someone know. She stepped outside and came back to let me know I didn't need one. It made my day, but forms still intimidate me.

My home on campus is the MultiCultural Center. I feel safe. The staff there have done more for me than anyone else on campus. My immigration status is not an issue; it's just a part of who I am. I was given the opportunity to be who I am and share it with the world through the Social Justice Summit. Diversity along with opportunities are what students in my situation need. I dream that one day the rest of the campus is as inviting, and I can do what other students do regardless of my status.





### Humboldt Help,

*I am a student at Humboldt State University. I am getting in contact with you to let you know that I self-identify as transgender. My name appears on files as Jazmine Cabezas, but I prefer to go by Julian Cabezas and not be outed on the Moodle system/discussion boards and therefore to the students in my classroom. I will be putting Julian Cabezas on my assignments and would appreciate it if you could edit my first name on the Moodle system. If you have any questions for me regarding this, please don't hesitate to contact me. My email address is \_\_\_\_\_*

*Thank you in advance.*

"I will change it right now, but the system that populates students in Moodle may just change it back."

Hello, my name is Julian Cabezas

My Student ID Number is \*\*\*\*\*

I do not exist-

On Moodle, my official class roster and you can't email me.

I am one of the MANY MANY

Students on the Humboldt State campus with documentation issues.

"We would love to help you with this, but we are not in charge of changing user information. There is another system that populates Moodle with user information"

What system is in charge of sustaining cisgender privilege?

On a daily basis, I am out-ed as transgender by this system.

I am not in charge of changing the dynamic but here is a start.

I am asking for protection, a safer space,

We want to be acknowledged and respected.

Across the campus we are discriminated by gender segregation.

Emails addressed to me use salutations like "Ms." and pronoun "she".

I worry for my life in the restrooms and locker rooms,

And yet, there are so few that I am left with a lack of options.

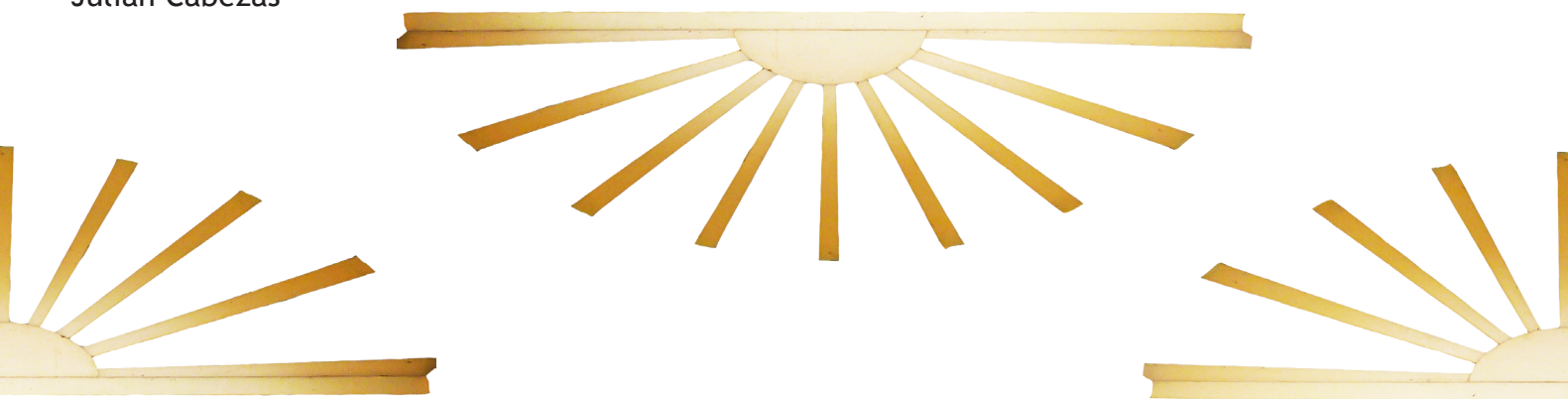
I don't want to be out-ed because my diversity is too problematic-  
For the system.

This is not asking for much,

This is a request for acknowledgement: we exist.

We are all in charge. Diversify the system. I want this to be known.

—Julian Cabezas



## Senior Highlights for Spring 2013



### Gabriela Garcia Cruz

Major: Political Science

I was the co-coordinator of the 2013 Social Justice Summit. Being part of the MCC has inspired and opened my eyes to the world around me. It has motivated me to learn more and diversify myself. I plan to attend U.S.F. and get my M.A. in International Studies. One day I hope to travel the world and help others as they have helped me.

### Emanuel Delgado

I am a Geography Major. Marylyn and the MCC helped me get the Danza Azteca group: Chicaucan Tlah Cuahu- itl started through fundraising for regalia and instruments and finding the most appropriate place to practice: the Native American Forum. After graduation, I plan on going to the National Geographic Headquarters in Washington, D.C. to complete an internship for the summer. After, I will attend San Diego State University to pursue a Master's Degree in Geography. They offered me funded Graduate Assistantship that covers tuition and registration fees.





# Melissa Estrada

Major: Spanish Education

My first experience with the MCC was during EOP summer bridge. Mona, Marylyn, and Jerri were facilitating an ice breaker, and I was captivated by their awesome energy and knew that I wanted to get closer to these amazing mujeres. I started off as an office assistant and then was blessed by being asked to be a coordinator first for the Latin@ community and later for the Social Justice Summit. Agreeing to these positions was the best move I made my whole career here. The MCC has not only provided me with opportunities to make new friends, have great food and share millions of laughs, but they gave me a home away from home and a family I will always treasure. The MCC is such an amazing space that is always welcoming and full of life. Through the ups and downs of college life you know you

have your support group who always has your back no matter what. I will always hold my MCC family very close to my heart, and I will never forget all the good times we had. This is the beginning of a new journey and no matter what paths we all take just know that you will always be a part of my family. Thank you, to all of you, for making my years here at Humboldt State a life changing experience. I wish nothing more but the best for all of you, and I just want to leave off with a few lines from my favorite poet, "Be grateful for blessing Don't ever change, keep your essence. The power is in the people and the politics we address."

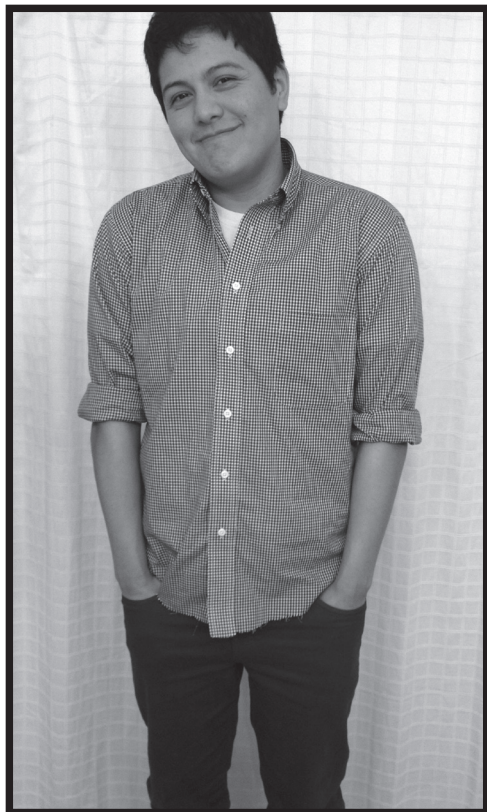


# Bryan Fiallos

Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies with a minor in Ethnic American Lit.

The MCC has been a home away from home, a family that always has your back, and a voice that used to be lost but now found. With that voice I plan to write for those who were not given the power and privilege to speak up for themselves, their families, or their communities.





## Julian Cabezas

Major: Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
with an Ethnic Studies pathway  
Minor: Ethnic American Literature

The MultiCultural Center has been a place of welcome, comprised of a legacy and a future of beautiful individuals. I've gotten the best kind of love here; the type that helps you grow.

My aspirations: public interest law, working for an organization that is about this life, and being a great parent one day.



## Mayra Gutierrez

Major: Social Work  
Minor: Native American Studies

I began attending MCC events immediately after entering HSU. The first event may have been the Latin@ Reception and from there on I felt as if the MCC was my second home. I'm researching AmeriCorps programs and then I want to join the PeaceCorps. Traveling, lots of traveling, if my wallet will allow it.



## Asad Haider

Major: Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Worked with Eric Rofes Center and Women's Resource Center. Organized Holi the "Festival of Colors".





## Xuan Bernal

Major: Environmental Science, Policy Option

"The MCC is my home. It has given me lifelong friendships. The MCC has a way of bringing me inner peace."

Coordinator of the Social Justice Summit '12 along with Melissa Estrada and workshop presenter for the Summit '13

## Tou Thao

Major: Psychology

The MCC is my family. I am honored and blessed to be a part of this great family (besides my own of course). The MCC has provided me a new vision for my future. My plan for the future is to attend graduate school in Counseling Psychology and to start a network of organizations and people to help perpetuate information and knowledge acquisition before, during, and after college. That is my dream—to create a knowledgeable society.



## David Floyd Arwood II

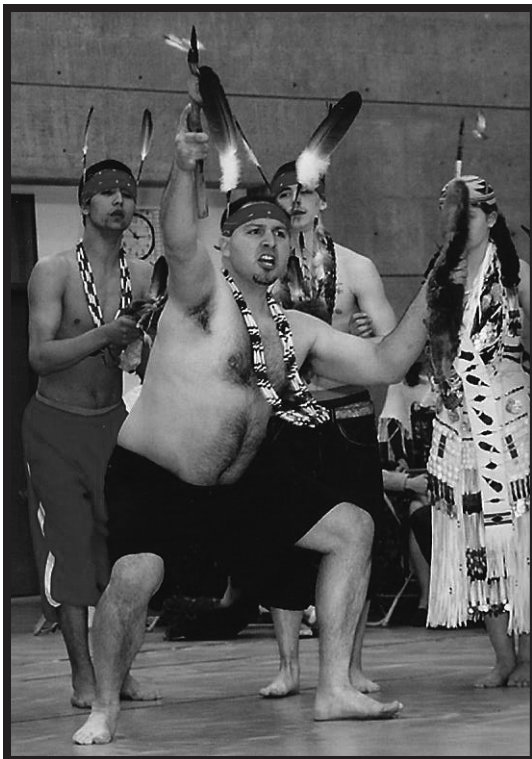
I am also known as Two Sticks. I completed a lifelong dream by graduating from HSU with a Bachelor's Degree. I follow my father Big Stick and older sister Michelle as Humboldt Alums. I'm proud to represent the Davis/Charley family of Ti Bar and wish to express my gratitude to all my family, with special thanks to my father, Auntie Cecilia, Uncle Ron, and Marlette Grant-Jackson for their positive support and belief, which provided the energy needed when things got tough.

During my time at HSU, I participated in cultural demonstrations during Indigenous Peoples' Week, presented on 'Indian Identity' at the California Indian Conference and to a group of future HSU teachers, and organized an intertribal culture class at United Indian Health Services. The HSU Big Time, an annual celebration of local indigenous people that draws well over 1,000 people. It provided me with the opportunity to lead a dance group and start a traditional card game tournament.

Currently learning to speak Karuk. I look forward to spending time working with my daughter Aurora on her upcoming Flower Dance, my business Arwood Art, being on the Klamath with more regularity, and contributing to the ongoing process of strengthening the Spirit of the Karuk Arara. My best ideas for culture classes and projects come from community members like you, and I value all the suggestions received at [www.arwoodart.com](http://www.arwoodart.com).

"If I condemn a person, than I am the oppressor, and not the friend who also knows what it is like to suffer." - Carl Jung

- mateek nee kevrikih
- may you live a long life





## Ariana Gonzalez-Arzola

Major: Social Work and Spanish

CA Big Time and Social Gathering Volunteer Coordinator

My first MultiCultural Center event was my freshman year, 5 years ago. I knew right from the start how special and amazing this center was because of the welcoming and supportive staff. I got involved with the CA Big Time and Social Gathering my second semester of freshman year and have been volunteering ever since. Coming to House 55 gave me the opportunity to know more about The Womyn's Resource Center, and I began working there the following year. The MCC and WRC have been amazing spaces where I have learned to empower, motivate and love myself and the diverse people around me. The MCC and WRC have been my home for 5 years and have allowed me to meet so many amazing and inspiring folks. Being a part of these spaces has made my time here at HSU much more meaningful and I will definitely miss them. <3

## Daisy Lopez

My major is Art Education and Studio Art. I joined the MCC last fall, 2012. I am grateful for the experiences and friends I have gained due to the MCC. I've enjoyed being involved with various events that pertain to all the attributes the MCC provides to HSU students as well as the community. After graduation, I'd like to apply my skills gained through my education here at HSU and work with our youth teaching and creating art!



## Alfredo R. Esparza



Major: Music-with an emphasis on Composition

The MCC has always helped me throughout my college career by offering services that I never knew were available to me, guidance, and a cultural awareness that helped me identify with my Latino heritage. I plan on continuing my education by attending a Masters program for composition. After completing my education, I have dreams of opening up my own studio to work with fellow artists and spending the rest of my life creating music for all to enjoy.



# Artist Space



Jasmine Cooper  
**"Some Things Are too Precious to Lose"**  
Low fire ceramics

An art for thought—I have always been a selfish artist, creating things merely to get rid of a feeling or understand an emotion. As a psychology student, I understand this may not be the best way to cope, however it works wonders for my art major. This has been my strategy in ceramics for the past 5 years. When starting a new piece I usually work in one of two ways: create then analyze, or analyze then create. Because of this my work has always dealt with commentary.

This piece is called "Some Things Are too Precious to Lose". I made this piece for everyone I lost and everyone I'm afraid to lose.



Humberto Montano  
**"Wave Scape"**

Being an Artist for 3 years now has already changed my mentality inside the world and in ways of creating art. Acrylic paint and mixed media is my partner with art because I believe it creates the most interesting effects towards my pieces and gets closer to what I am trying to explain. It has been a battle of struggle and discipline between life and art to receive success. Life is a great inspiration towards my art; not being afraid of experimenting or failure is a great strength within self and art because I am always looking for a solution. There is never an ending when it comes to abstract art because there can always be something more simplified. A never-ending world of shape and color is the realm that I am entering. I am ready to experiment with this abstract path and battle with the theory of balance inside color.



Lamont Douglas, Jr.

When I wake up in the morning the first thing I think about is, what am I wearing today? Fashion to me is just as important to me as eating or breathing. It's a part of me, it's who I am. It's my story. I take pride in my fashion sense. I dress to express, not to impress, but I don't mind the compliments I get. I think of my outfits as ensembles because to make a good outfit you have to pick the right colors, fabric, shape etc. It shows when I take time into picking out the right shirt, and jeans and shoes. Sometimes, I want each piece of clothing to complement each other or sometimes, I want them to be complete opposite from each other. I dress depending on how I'm feeling. If I'm feeling good that day then I'll get really dressed up. If I don't feel so hot I'll just wear some sweats and a sweater. I like being up to date with everything and that shows throughout my wardrobe. I have a lot of inspiration for most of my ensembles, through fashion websites, stuff I see when I walk through campus; I like to take

different looks and bringing them together. If I didn't have fashion I wouldn't have an expressional outlet. I'd go crazy without my clothes and shoes. I think everyone uses their clothes and shoes to express something, whether it be their occupation, status, mood, etc. Being at HSU, I feel I can express myself anyway I want and not be judged for it. First coming to HSU after Spring Preview I didn't think people would really be into the way I dress, but surprisingly people seemed to take a liking to what I would wear, and that made me feel really good and just want to look nice, even better the next day.

### Save the Date!

Join us in celebrating the MCC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and HSU's Centennial. Come say hello during our Birthday Block Party from 2-4PM on Homecoming Weekend September 28, 2013

**FINALS WEEK**  
**MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>–17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MCC OPEN LATE**  
**& SNACKS PROVIDED**

### Cultural Grad Ceremonies

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Asian Pacific Islander Lei Ceremony  
 4-6PM at Goodwin Forum

Graduación Latin@  
 5-11PM at Arcata Community Center

Black Grad  
 6-9PM at Kate Buchanan Room



## Holi

Asad Haider

## Pan-Asian Pacific Islander Perspective

*Editor Note: The Holi article has purposely been placed on the last page to showcase the color in the "Festival of Colors".*



Photo Courtesy of Mark Larson

My original fascination with Holi came from Bollywood films. My teenage years were filled with me and my other Desi friends hitting up those special theaters that played Bollywood flicks. Growing up in the Inland Empire in southern California, far away from Pakistan or India, Bollywood films sometimes were the only connection to the mother lands so to speak. I first saw a Holi mela in the film "Mohabbatein". As many Bollywood flicks, there was a point in the film where everyone broke out into seven minute dance piece. What was unique about this one was that there was a grip of random colored powder being thrown around. Not only that,

the people were all dancing, partying enjoying each others company. Now I understand that Bollywood films are just a mainstream representation of a certain class' lifestyle in India. However, there was something about the mela that was going on. Holi was always represented as a communal celebration. One in which members from all walks of the community were participating in. This fascination prompted me to research Holi and its history.

Holi was previously known as Holika. There are descriptions of Holika in texts such as Jaimini's Purvamimamsa-Sutras and Kathaka-Grhya-Sutras. Over the centuries, the meaning of Holi has changed, but the festivities have been the same. There is a lot of mythology attached to Holi. Most of the stories talk about good conquering over evil. My favorite one is the legend of Kaamadeva. After Shiva's partner, Sati, left this world, he became unattached and the world started to feel that effect. In order to revive Shiva's love and passion, the gods requested Lord Kaamadeva to help bring Shiva back to his normal self. Kaamadeva shot an arrow into Shiva while he was meditating. The arrow upset Shiva, causing him to destroy Kaamadeva. However, the arrow rejuvenated Shiva's passion and led him to marrying Parvati, daughter of the mountains. Later, Rati, Kaamadeva's wife, requested of Shiva that he revive Kaamadeva. To which Shiva happily agreed to do. Holi also has a biological aspect. Holi takes place at a time of year when winter is ending and spring is starting. Winter sometimes makes some of us lazy and groggy. Participating in Holi is supposed to help us get out of that. Playing loud music, dancing, and participating in festivities with your peers is supposed to serve as a restart/re-charge event. There is an emphasis on the community when it comes to Holi. Holi is a time where people are supposed to put their differences aside and enjoy each others company. It is said that Holi is a time that enemies become friends.

I wanted to bring Holi to our campus because of the community aspect of Holi. It does not require much participation. All that's required is that you come in some clothes you do not mind getting dirty, bring some water and colors, and of course your positive energy. All kinds of people can interact with each other with a simple throw of water or powder. It is a simple and very fun event. Seeing the turn out for Holi, I was very pleased. I saw some people I work with, some from my previous classes, and some I had never seen before. What I was particularly pleased to see was fellow Desis show up and some international students. I feel that the event was a success in that it created that Holi environment. What I wish I had done was educate people more on the history of Holi and it's meaning. I have gotten feedback about the event and for the most part it has been positive.

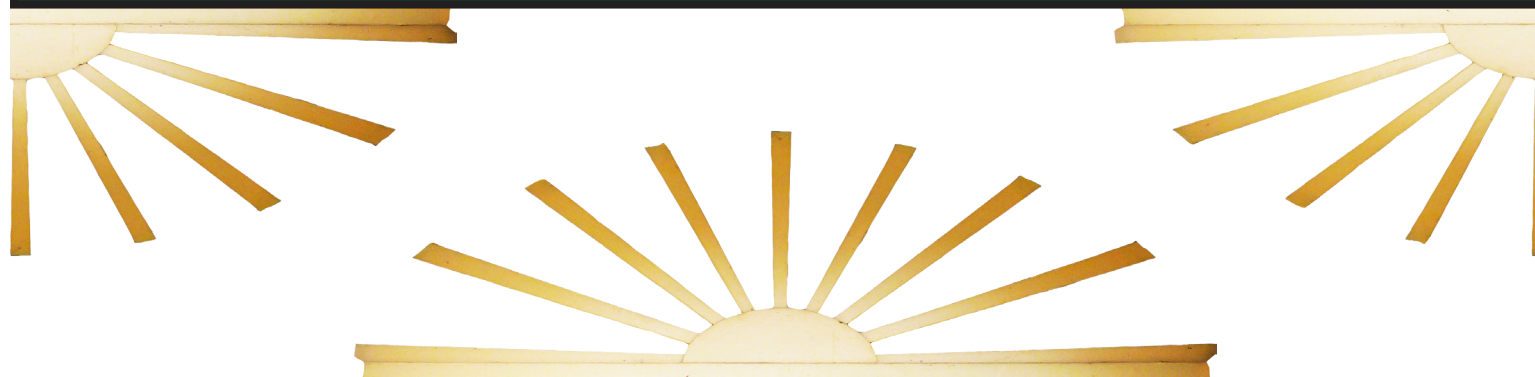


Photo Courtesy of Sheris Talavera

# 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.humboldt.edu/multicultural](http://www.humboldt.edu/multicultural)

Sat, May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Q Grad Celebration	4PM	Goodwin Forum
May 13-17 <sup>th</sup>	Finals Week		Good Luck!
Fri, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Cultural Grad Ceremonies		See page 18
Sat, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	HSU Commencement	8:30AM	Redwood Bowl
Sat, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	MCC Open House Receptions	10-6	MCC



Are you down with Social Justice?  
Want to get paid to learn job skills?  
Work with us at the MultiCultural Center!

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

- *Multicultural Convocation*
- *Latin Independence Celebration*
- *Moon Festival*
- *Indigenous Peoples Week*
- *National Coming Out Day*
- *Qross Qultural Queer Film Festival (Q-Fest)*
- *Campus Dialogue on Race*
- *Lunar New Year*
- *Black History Month*
- *Social Justice Summit*
- *California Big Time & Social Gathering*
- ...and so much more!

Paid Positions available in Fall:

- African American Community Coordinator
- Asian Pacific Islander Community Coordinator
- CA Big Time Volunteer Coordinator
- Cultural Times Editor
- Graphics Coordinator (Filled)
- Latino Community Coordinator
- International Community Coordinator
- Native American Community Coordinator
- Office Assistants
- Q-Fest Coordinator (1 semester)
- Queer Community Coordinator
- Social Justice Summit Coordinators

Applications are available at:  
MultiCultural Center  
House 55