

GO EXPLORE!

La Salle University's Multicultural and International Center

Spring 2008 Newsletter

TO CHINA...AND BACK



International Education Coordinator, Melinda Mas-saro, and Dr. Charles Desnoyers in the History department traveled to China with 11 La Salle students during this past Spring Break. The class examined the loss of culture and history due to globalization. The class started off in Beijing where they climbed the great wall (Mutianyu), visited the Forbidden City,

Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Hutong housing village and had a traditional tea ceremony with La Salle's student, Xin Xin's family at their home in Beijing. After Beijing the class traveled to Xi'An where they visited the Terra-Cotta warriors, learned how to barter in Chinese and biked the 9 mile wall around the city. The last city they visited was Dalian. In Dalian they

stayed at the Dalian Medical University (DMU). They met with representatives from DMU, taught in classrooms, danced in the squares with the locals and visited the DMU hospital. During Spring 2007 alone there were around 10 other travel study programs that ventured to places such as the Czech Republic, England, Guatemala, Ireland, and other places around the globe.



Top: The students from the China travel study strike a pose despite the rain. **Next:** A group of students send greetings of peace during the Mexico travel study. **Left:** Cherylyn Rush, Coordinator of Multicultural Education chats with Priscilla Nantieh, a Junior student during the Multicultural and International Center Fall Reception. **Above:** Group picture in Love Park during a Center City outing after the International student orientation day.



CHERYLYN RUSH, MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Hello! I'm Cherylyn Rush, the Multicultural Education Coordinator here at La Salle University. The mission of the Multicultural and International Center (M&IC) is to serve as a support and resource for the advancement of cultural pluralism on campus. The Center provides a wide range of services that enhance and support the academic and personal development of students of diverse backgrounds. Stop in and get information on multicultural leadership and study abroad; articles and guides for cultural and racial awareness; and scholarship, fellowship, employment and internship information for students of diverse backgrounds.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you to come and see me about any of your college needs. I am truly devoted to assisting you with succeeding at La Salle University!

"Although we are in different boats you in your boat and we in our canoe we share the same river of life." – Chief Oren Lyons, Onondaga Nation



SHONTA COLLINS, INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR; INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

I loved my role at the M&IC. I had the honor of working with international students and assisting them with obtaining a visa to study in the US. At LaSalle, the person in this position has the opportunity to bring a hands on approach and to personalize the student-administrator relationship. The international students at LaSalle bring a rich culture from abroad and are always welcome to engage within American culture, thus, fostering personal and educational growth. I encourage all students to meet and discuss their unique cultural and travel experiences so that we can become a better and united human race. A little background about me: I have studied for a semester in Senegal, W. Africa; other travels include France, Germany, Italy, Spain, England, Mexico and Canada. I hold a Master of Public Administration, focusing on International Development/Affairs. My future interests includes working as an International Educator at home and abroad, opening clinics abroad and participating in humanitarian work. In addition, I also enjoy running and completed the ING Miami Marathon, 26.2 miles on January 28, 2007!! I will be moving on to a new career in March 2008, but have enjoyed the time I've been here!



MINDY MASSARO, INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR; STUDY ABROAD

Hello! My name is Melinda Massaro, I am the new International Education Coordinator for study abroad. Though I am new to the Multicultural and International center, I am not new to La Salle. Before my current position, I was the Late Night La Salle Coordinator in the Programming Center. In addition, I have lived in China and England and traveled around Europe and Australia. Living abroad is an experience of a lifetime; I encourage students to study abroad. We currently have four study abroad programs; Ireland, Italy, Mexico and Australia.



BETSY WILSON, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hello everyone! I'm Betsy Wilson and I'm the administrative assistant at M&IC. I'm the first one that you meet at the door and I'll do all I can to assist you with your needs. Please stop by soon!

FROM ANNA MELNYK ALLEN; ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS:

I lead the University Life staff, on behalf of the Division of Student Affairs. I enjoy being involved with the staffs of the Programming Center and the Multicultural and International Center. Having the Privilege of being in students' lives is not something to take lightly, and I especially treasure the opportunity to be with students as they work toward their goals. I currently sit on the Commencement Committee, the Calendar Committee, New Student Experience Team, Student Press Committee, Charter Celebration Committee, among others. One of my favorite times of the year is helping our community and its students prepare for graduation-The DSA Student Awards Ceremony and Commencement Speaker Selection allow some of our finest students to shine. I enjoy music of almost all kinds, enjoy playing the piano and guitar. I've been married to my husband, Chuck for almost 24 years, and we enjoy our two children very much. After over 27 years of working at La Salle, I still can't think of a place I'd rather be.



Anna Allen with La Salle's Explorer mascot.

MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS HIGHLIGHT

La Salle University has several multicultural organizations that are dedicated toward educating and increasing awareness about domestic and international cultural affairs. The following is a list of those organizations including information about who to contact if you are interested. All organization meetings times are TBA unless otherwise noted.

A/ASIA (American Asian Student Intercollegiate Assoc.): CREATING AWARENESS OF ASIAN CULTURE BY SERVICING THE UNIVERSITY AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.

Simon Larano, President/Advisor: Dr. Tri Van Nguyen

AASL (African-American Student League): PROMOTES AWARENESS, SELF-ESTEEM, AND SELF-RESPECT THROUGH QUALITY PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FROM A MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE.

Vanessa Levros, President/Advisor: Cheryl Ruffin

LASALLE STEP TEAM Vanessa Cole, President and Captain/Advisor: Professor Shantia McCoy

CCA (CROSS-CULTURAL ASSOCIATION): PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LA SALLE STUDENTS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS AND CELEBRATING THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY WITHIN THE LA SALLE COMMUNITY.

Chiara Deleon, President/Advisor: Ms. Shonta Collins, M&IC

OLAS (ORGANIZATION OF LATINO AMERICAN STUDENTS): DEVELOPING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF LATINO CULTURE AND PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY.

Angelica Mota, President Advisor: Dr. Luisa Ossa.

GOSPEL CHOIR

TBA, President/Richard White, Director/Advisor: Bernice Patton

RECEPTION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS

International Classroom and other universities hosted a reception on October 12th, 2007 in the Chinese Rotunda at Penn Museum at 3260 South Street.

The event was extremely successful. LaSalle was well represented with 45 students and administrators. The administrators included: Ms. Shonta Collins, International Education Coordinator, Dr. Richard Nigro, Provost, Dr. Joseph Ugras, Dean, Elizabeth Scotfield, Director of the full-time MBA program, Ms. Cherylyn Rush, Multicultural Education Coordinator, Ms. Melinda Massaro, International Education Coordinator, and Ms. Kate Akyuz, International Student Recruiter. Furthermore, 10 members of the Cross Cultural Association (CCA) volunteered their time to set-up, our very own Neo-African Drums and Dance performed, and the Multicultural and International Center also worked to have food donated from El Azteca Mexican Restaurant, and Frank's Deli.

LaSalle moves forward in international education by participating in events through the International Classroom at Penn. LaSalle's Multicultural and International Center's International Education Coordinator, Shonta Collins, co-hosted the reception at Penn that attracted a crowd of over 1,100 people from over 90 countries. In conjunction from food from around the world there were performances by a Filipino student group, Indian fusion dance group and as mentioned before LaSalle's Neo-African Drums and Dance. Students and administrators at La Salle continue to lead Philadelphia colleges and universities in multicultural education and awareness.



Attendees at the reception sample a vast variety of ethnic food combinations.



Left: A performer plays the accordion at the reception. Lower Left: Students pose outside of the reception building. Below: This figure shows the cultural demographics of the new international students at La Salle.



WORLD CULTURES FAIR 2007

For another year many joined in the festivities of the World Cultures Fair on October 4th. This year was the fair's 7th anniversary.

The World Cultures Fair is an event held annually at LaSalle University sponsored by the Cross Cultural Association (CCA), to promote the diversity of multicultural groups on campus.

The event was a great chance for students from different cultures and unique backgrounds to come and share great music, ethnically inspired foods, information about the different organizations. Also, many students gained a better picture of what it's like to study abroad. Students got to sample a wide variety of food ranging from Hispanic, Indian, Korean, American and European. There were over 300 guests making the World Cultures Fair this it's most successful year yet.

Cross Cultural Association (CCA) would like to thank the hosts of volunteers, CCA members, faculty, staff, and students who shared in this occasion with them. A special recognition goes out to the facilities management, Administrative Services, student organizations, and sponsors that contributed to the continued success of World Cultures Fair.

Please direct questions, comments or suggestions to deleonc2@lasalle.edu and CollinsS@lasalle.edu. We look forward to seeing you next year in 2008!



This tapestry displays a snippet of the cultures of the world. The multicultural and international center has many resources about these countries and you can also learn about travel study and study abroad programs.

AN INTERNATIONAL REUNION: BY VI VU, M&Ic GRADUATE ASSISTANT



Angelica and Godwin reunited at La Salle years after he taught English in the Dominican Republic.

"The world is so small," the young lady excitedly began her story. The man nodded in agreement. Her name is Angelica and his is Godwin. They met in the Dominican Republic eight years ago and were unexpectedly reunited by La Salle's Multicultural and International Center Reception in September.

Godwin was born in Nigeria, West Africa, and ventured to the Dominican Republic to teach English as a second language in a school there in 1998. A bright, disciplined, and idealistic teacher, he fell in love with the country, so he stayed for five years. While there Angelica, a native to the Dominican Republic became his pupil. The amiable and intelligent young lady considered him her favorite teacher for the reason as Angelica recalled, "He is a smart teacher!"

In 2003, Godwin left the Dominican Republic for the United States. Angelica was in high school at the time. Each followed a different path, but both brought them to La Salle. Four years later, they ran into one another at the reception for international and multicultural students hosted by the Multicultural International Center at La Salle. Godwin started a conversation with Angelica without realizing that she was his former student. She however, recognized her teacher's face immediately! However, the relationship now is different.

They are no longer teacher and student. Now they're schoolmates! This is the first semester for Godwin at La Salle. He is now a Nursing major at La Salle. This change may be puzzling for some, but it's crystal clear to Godwin. He is merrily writing a new chapter of his life. Angelica will be constructing one soon herself as she is going to graduate with degrees in Finance and Marketing this May and perhaps join Johnson & Johnson. She has carefully planned for this next stage of her life. Angelica and Godwin are La Salle. La Salle is strengthening the wings of their dreams.

LA SALLE UNIVERSITY MULTICULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL CENTER

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MCIA WebPages: www.lasalle.edu/services/mcis/m_a.htm

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – SPRING 2008

JANUARY: 2008

21 MLK Leadership Day-King's Dream – January 21, 2008

FEBRUARY: 2008

AfricanBlackAmericanHistoryAchievementsMonth – February

7 Chinese New Year – Year 4706 (2008) year of the Rat

<http://phillyfunguide.com/blockbuster.php?id=12>

20 "Emergence-See" by Daniel Beaty, an explosive solo tour de force featuring slam poetry, multi-character transformation, and song.

Feb. 20 @ 8:00pm, Dan Rodden Theatre – Free Admission

Check the portal for more detailed information:

<http://www.lasalle.edu/students/dean/portal/BlackHistoryMonth/>

21 Travel Study Interest Meeting for Faculty, 12:30pm – Location TBA

MARCH/APRIL: 2008

Women History Month – Check back for events!

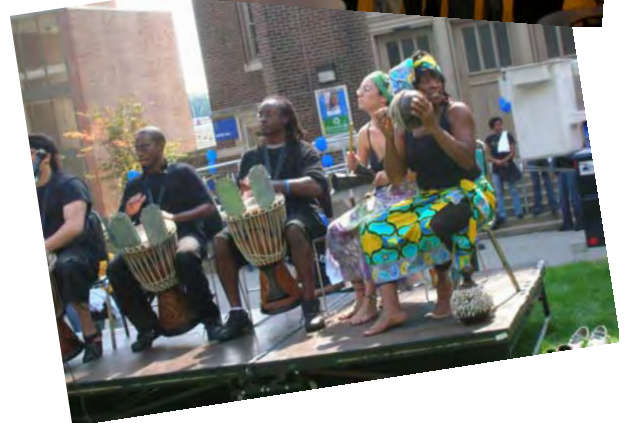
HALT (Anti-Hate) Week – March

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month - March-April

MAY: 2008

10 Multicultural Recognition Ceremony & Reception– May 10, 2008
2:00pm–4:00pm Dan Rodden Theatre

11 Commencement – May 11, 2008



We also take Passport and International Student Identity Card photos!!!

