



Expressions

The Newsletter of The Office of Multicultural Affairs

April 2009

From The Director — Bill Green '77



Bill Green '77 and Chloe Stull-Lane '08

Spring Time Greetings from Manitou Heights!

This edition of *Expressions* is filled with the hope, joy, and excitement which typify the climate change from winter to spring.

The semester has brought new life through a variety of MACO and campus activities. This edition features and high-

lights *Asia Weeks Celebration*, *Harambee Conference* “Keep Your Money, I Want Change!” *MCAN* with its new name, *MASS* (Multicultural Alumni and Students of St. Olaf Network), *The St. Olaf Gospel Choir*, *Senior Profile* – Ying Lor '09, and *A Blast from the Past* Photo Show, and *Upcoming Events*.

Also, I would like to encourage you to attend the upcoming Senior Banquet on May 6th and the Alumni Weekend Celebration May 22nd - 24th. These events will feature the return of alumni, some for the first time since graduation. I, along with the entire community look forward to hearing their stories of post-St. Olaf and welcoming them back.

Alumni Weekend will feature two receptions; Saturday, May 23rd at 3pm in the MACO Office (Buntrock 111) for all alumni, but specifically those in reunion years – 1969, 1974, 1979, and 1984, and Sunday, May 24th at 11am for all graduates, family, and friends. Bring your camera and take it all in! For more information and registration, visit the Alumni Weekend web site at: <http://www.stolaf.edu/alumni/celebration>.

Again, thank you for reading, and we enjoy and look forward to hearing from you.

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Asia Weeks

Asia Weeks 2009 began on Thursday, April 2nd with the *Opening* in the Crossroads of Buntrock Commons.

On Friday, April 3rd members of ACA, HCO, and Team Tibet served a variety of Asian foods at the Diversity Awareness House. Bruce Dalgaard, Executive Director for the Center for Experiential Learning and Professor of Economics and Asian Studies, hosted an *Asian*

Issues Dialogue on April 8th focusing on the “Asian Economy in Light of the Global Economic Crisis.”

Faculty, staff, students and visitors were treated to the *Taiko Drumming Group*'s performance during Community Time on Thursday, April 9th, as well as *Theatre Mu*'s performance of “*FOB*” at 7:30pm that evening.

Alumnae Frida Bou and Kali Johnson discussed

the Asian American experience, while at St. Olaf and post-graduation, during dinner on Monday, April 13th.

Always an Asia Weeks favorite, *Rice Bowl* was held on Tuesday, April 14th, with members of HCO taking home first place this year.

The *Closing Extravaganza* was held on April 15th featuring Hmong egg rolls and steam rolls! Delicious!

Our Staff

- Bill Green '77— Director
- Lynn Higgins—Admin. Asst.

Student Workers

- Shiquita Bradford '09
- Fish Gebreyesus '11
- Antonio Jennings '11
- Huguette Kihutu '11
- Mejenta Littsey '11
- Cheryl Philip '10
- Kristina Poplavska '09
- Jose Ramirez '09
- Kyla Riley '11
- Alisha Woodson '12
- Sue Xiong '09
- Nou Yang '11
- Tiffany Cunningham '12— Student Editor

2009 Harambee Conference

- Tiffany Cunningham '12



Harambee members Cheryl Philip and Tseten Lobsang with Keynote Speaker, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs.

April 4th proved to be a busy Saturday on campus. There were several events going on at the same time, but one particular group of students wiped the sleep from their eyes early in the morning, and opened their ears and minds to learn about change. These students attended the **2009**

Harambee Conference. This year's theme was **"Keep Your Money, I Want Change!"**

Professor Jennifer Kwon Dobbs served as Keynote Speaker for the conference. She is a new addition to the English Department, teaching courses in creative writing and poetry. Professor Dobbs came to the podium and began speaking of "Dreaming Together." With her words she painted a portrait of the world, the things we encounter, and the elements of life we often deal with, but do not have to accept. Listening to her speak was rewarding because of the eloquence and grace in her speech. After we dreamed together, she proceeded to direct us in "Writing Together." At our tables (each consisted of five or six people), we each wrote down five things we dream about and five verbs. We were then asked to write the phrase "When I dream, I see..." and add one thing and one verb, thus creating a small poem. We then shared our small poems and put them together to create one, ending with "When I dream, I see me." Through

this exercise, we learned how together, our individual voices can create one voice that is strong and inspiring.

Next, we heard from Antonio Jennings, a sophomore from Atlanta, Georgia. He spoke to us about communities [often impoverished and urban] calling in "Code Blue" and not being heard. Jennings saw the need for resources and improvement in the community around him, and formed an organization called "Each One, Reach One." He then shared with us that through his involvement, he has been touched by the individuals he has helped and how they have had a positive affect on his life. While listening, it was obvious to all that Jennings continues to be genuinely loyal to his organization, and he has a real love for the people.

Finally, Mr. Bruce King, Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity, spoke about St. Olaf and his vision for the future. King supports unity amongst the many "diverse" groups on campus and he is committed to visibly increasing diversity displayed around campus.

These three diverse speakers equipped students with valuable tools that can be used to begin enacting change. Everyone can reach beyond the parameters of St. Olaf and start working on changing the world.



Students attending a workshop during the Harambee Conference.

2009 MACO Banquet Speaker



Mary LaGarde '91 will be the distinguished alumni speaker at the 2009 MACO Senior Banquet on May 6th. Mary was active in Harambee, the Student Board of Regents, and was the Senator at Large during her time as a student at St. Olaf.

Currently Mary works for the Little Earth of United Tribes in Minneapolis as their Vice President for Community Partnership.

In 2008 Mary was the recipient of the *Individual Support & Leadership Award* by **The Ann Bancroft Foundation** which recognized her contributions to the greater community working with women and children.

News Around Campus

MULTICULTURAL ALUMNI NETWORK NAME CHANGE

The Members of MCAN voted on a new name, which is now officially: The MASS Network or The Multicultural Alumni & Students of St. Olaf Network. We plan to provide more consistent communication around upcoming events via email, snailmail, and Facebook.

We welcomed a new addition to the St. Olaf "MASS" family with our Vice Chair, Mario Paez's new baby boy. Joaquin Guadalupe Paez was born Tuesday March 31, 2009 at 2:20am. He weighed 7lbs 14oz with a length of 20.5 inches.

MASS will begin web site updates and provide a new tool to allow alumni the ability to opt-in as a MASS member through our Alumni & Parent web site - more to come!

For questions/details contact:

Joy Quaidoo at akosua1975@hotmail.com

ST. OLAF GOSPEL CHOIR PERFORMS IN CHAPEL



The St. Olaf Gospel Choir, under the direction of Darrin Thomas, performed in Chapel April 7th. To view this performance go to:

<http://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia/streams/chapel/archive-chapel.cfm>

The Gospel Choir is scheduled to perform at the MACO Banquet on May 7th.



Senior Profile — Ying Lor '09

- Trisha Salkas '09



With his decision in selecting St. Olaf as his college of choice, Ying Lor left behind the east side of St.

Paul (along with his eight siblings and a freshwater fish tank). Through his hard work and dedication over the past four years, Ying will walk away from St. Olaf with a positive experience. Two aspects Ying appreciates most from his experience at St. Olaf are the liberal arts education he has received and the fun

and exciting life in residence halls. In addition to his academics, Ying has set aside time to be actively involved in many activities on campus such as intramural sports (including soccer, flag football and volleyball), and multicultural student organizations such as Hmong Culture Outreach (currently Co-Chair), Harambee, Team Tibet, and serve as a mentor for both TRiO's Education Talent Search (ETS) and Reaching Our Goals (ROG).

As the weather gets warmer, Ying is excited not only for longer days and more sunshine but for graduation in May. Ying will be graduating with an Asian Studies major. During this interim 2009,

Ying traveled abroad to Thailand taking a course in Sociology/Anthropology: "Culture, Institutions and Interactions," which had a profound impact on him.

His plans beyond St. Olaf include exploring working for a non-profit organization in Minneapolis and/or St. Paul, and attending graduate school to pursue a degree in business. As a result of his experience at St. Olaf, particularly his interim course in Thailand, Ying is considering eventually returning to Thailand and take part in non-profit work to address the social disparities of education and income, and human rights.

April 2009
St. Olaf College

Multicultural Affairs and Community Outreach
1520 St. Olaf Avenue
Northfield, Minnesota 55057

Phone: 507-786-3060
Fax: 507-786-6000
E-mail: multicultural@stolaf.edu

A Blast From The Past

Email your photos to:
multicultural@stolaf.edu

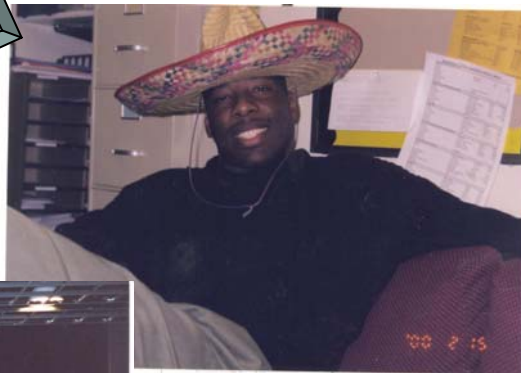
Dean LaRue Pierce showing his fun side in 2000.



Mr. Green and his son Bill II in 1991.



HCO members dressed up and excited at the 2000 Hmong New Year.



Upcoming Events

May 2009

MACO Senior Banquet — May 6 @ 5:30 pm in Sun & Gold Ballrooms

MASS Alumni Reception — May 23 @ 3 pm in Buntrock 111

MACO Senior Reception — May 24 @ 11am in Buntrock 111

Commencement — May 24 @ 2pm at Manitou Field

MACO Opening Reception — September 9, 2009 7pm in Valhalla

Latino Heritage Month — September 15 to October 15, 2009

Native American Weeks — October 19 to 30, 2009

Hmong New Year — TBD

Diwali Festival — November 7, 2009

Africa Weeks — November 9 to 22, 2009

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday — January 15 to January 18, 2010

Black History Month — February 8 to 28, 2010

Asia Weeks — April 5 to April 18, 2010

Harambee Conference — April 10, 2010

Viva La Raza — April 26 to May 7, 2010

MACO Senior Banquet 2010 — Sunday, May 2, 2010

MACO Senior/Alum Reception — May 23, 2010

Looking Ahead



For more information on any of these events please contact our office at 507-786-3060 or email multicultural@stolaf.edu