Calligraphy Gift For MSA

By, Nadir Sharif ’08

Muslim Students Association received a gift of calligraphy for the prayer room from Dr. John C. Reed, a Bucknell Alumnus. Dr. Reed, class of ’66, came back to Bucknell in 2006 and paid a visit to his old family home—the Newman House. Dr. Reed, while getting a tour of the house from Father Moran, inquired if similar facilities existed for religious minorities on campus, including Muslims. It was then that he contacted Rev. Ian Oliver, who in turn contacted the Muslim Students Association (MSA). Dr. Reed expressed his desire to give a gift to the Muslim community at Bucknell.

Dr. Reed requested Mohamed Zakariya, a good friend and patient of his who happens to be a renowned calligrapher, if he would like to work on a project for the MSA. Mr. Zakariya agreed and after several discussions and suggestions for what verses should be used, the work was scheduled for presentation on October 19, at Homecoming 2007.

The presentation ceremony was held in the Muslim Prayer Room in Roser Hall, attended by President, Mrs. Mitchell, Rev. Ian Oliver, faculty from the Art and Religion departments in addition to MSA members. Both President Mitchell and Dr. Reed talked about the need for diversity in today’s world and the importance of making a sincere effort to understand and tolerate differences.

The presentation was given a twist when it was revealed that two pieces of calligraphy were being gifted instead of one. The presentation was followed by an hour of open interaction between all those in attendance. The conversations were accompanied by delicious middle-eastern delights—thanks to dining services.

Celebrating Kwanzaa

By, Langston Tingling-Clemmons

Kwanzaa is often misunderstood as a black holiday or even sometimes as a replacement for Christmas. It is neither an alternative nor a replacement; Kwanzaa is conversely a distinct holiday that includes traditions and the merriments of all different celebrations. Kwanzaa means “firs fruits” in key Swahili, a language often spoken in Kenya and other East African Nations. This holiday is symbolic of the first harvest of the New Year on the African continent.

DID YOU KNOW?

• Total international Undergraduate population is 101.
• Students come from over 45 countries
• 15% of all the students at Bucknell are multicultural

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It also serves to pay homage and honor the ancestors. (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

The holiday promotes the following of seven principles (the N'guzu Saba) that all should try to apply to your life: Umoja (Unity), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith).

Kwanzaa was founded by Dr. Ron Karenga in 1967. The holiday often calls to decorate households with objects of art, African cloth, and the wearing of African garb, and fresh fruits that represent African idealism. It is customary to include children in Kwanzaa ceremonies and to give respect and gratitude to ancestors. Moreover, libations are shared, often with a common chalice, “Kikombe cha Umoja” passed around to all those in attendance at the celebration. Most important is the “Kanora,” or candleholder, which holds seven candles to represent the seven days and principles of the holiday. All Kwanzaa celebrations, however, are not monotonous. Each household has its own diverse traditions. There is truly no right or wrong way to celebrate the holiday. It is encouraged that people of all races, creeds, ethnicities and religious beliefs take part in its celebration because Kwanzaa’s principles and celebration embodies the spirit and life of all.

Wacky Wednesday

By, Erica Lopatofsky

Wacky Wednesdays give students a moment to take a break from class work and just have some fun! One Wednesday night a month, students from all over campus gather in the Cultural Center Lounge at around 10pm to eat some delicious food, like wings, snacks and sodas and play a variety of board games. (The Cultural Center has a GREAT collection of games!). For most students, it’s a chance to interact with their peers outside of classes and spend time with people they can’t see on a regular basis. It’s the perfect time to let loose and just relax.

Usually 30-60 students attend Wacky Wednesday and even though the event is supposed to end at midnight, students hang around until 2am.

Join us on Wednesday, January 30 at 10pm in the Cultural Center Lounge (1st floor, Vedder Hall).

Club Profile: BASE

By, Rajaa Qadri ’10

BASE stands for Brothers and Sisters Empowered. The organization tries to educate the Bucknell community on African-American issues and heritage, promote among its members a sense of community, and provide support group for minority students on campus.

You don’t have to be African American to be a part of BASE. Any full time Bucknell student having an interest in African Culture is welcome to join BASE. Every year, BASE organizes the Kwanzaa dinner on campus. In addition, BASE holds an Artistic Expression night. One Wednesday a month, members of BASE and friends gather at Uptown to recite poems and songs. BASE has also started a Big-Little tradition on campus. They match upper classmen with freshmen in order to promote a sense of community and provide the freshmen with resources on campus while making them feel comfortable with other students.
Multicultural Chairs to BSG

By Alice Lakian ’09

The Multicultural Committee is an integral part of Bucknell Student Government as it is the central connection to the multicultural population on campus.

The co-chairs, Alice Lakian ’09 and Rosy Kim ’08 act as the link of communication between BSG and other multicultural organizations on campus. They lay emphasis on gathering information concerning all multicultural on goings and events that occur frequently throughout the year.

The existence of this committee on BSG relates the importance of cultural awareness and diversity issues to the students and university as a whole and the co-chairs proactively maintain this principal element of education.

The intentions of the multicultural chairs for the semester remain in hopes of strengthening the Bucknell campus as a whole, strengthening its inclusive aspects while celebrating the presence of various cultures.

Thus far, this semester the Multicultural Committee has successfully participated in many events that focus on raising awareness and supporting various cultural facets of campus.

They began the fall with an 8am wake up call to join the AIDS walk and the following week participated in the “Stop the Hate Rally”. More recently, the committee and other members of BSG partook in an exciting venture being the first ever Gulu Walk on Bucknell’s campus to raise awareness about child soldiers in Africa. These events promote an interconnection between students, faculty, and staff, various organizations and global issues which is a central goal of BSG’s Multicultural Committee.

Currently, the committee is working on developing a diversity training, or cultural competency program that they hope to eventually be a requirement for all leadership organizations on campus, from BSG to OA’s, student clubs to faculty departments.

The committee is intending to make this a collaborative effort, therefore the design and contributions for the program will stem from Bucknell students, faculty and staff. They hope to complete this program by next Fall.

Country in Focus: Ecuador

By, Carlos Espinosa ’08

General Facts:
Capital: Quito
Population: 13.4 million
Currency: US dollar
Official language: Spanish

About the Flag:
The main colors of the Ecuadorian flag are yellow, blue and red. The flag is similar to that of Colombia and Venezuela because once all of these were a part of Great Colombia whose flag was similar. Ecuador has as its unique trait the coat of arms: it is made up of the condor poised to protect the land, Chimborazo, Ecuador’s highest mountain, and the Guayas river coming from the mountain range.

History:
The region’s first inhabitants are traced back to around 10,000 BC with settlers mainly in the coast and highlands. Many different groups emerged and came under one rule with the Incas. In 1532 AD, Spanish conquerors took over the Incas. In 1822, Ecuador got its independence from Spain and became a Republic.

Geography:
Ecuador consists of 4 main geographical regions. From east to west come the Amazon jungle, the Andean mountain range, the coast, and the Galapagos Islands.

On October 31st, instead of celebrating Halloween, Ecuador celebrates the birth of the coat of arms, made 107 years ago.
Culture:
The population of Ecuador roughly falls under the following: 40% mestizo, 40% Natives, 15% Spanish descent and 5% African descent.

Sources:


Mark Your Calendar!

- Nov 28 Civil Rights Spring Break Trip Application Deadline
- Nov 30: International Coffee Hour: Indian Chai, Vedder Cultural Center Lounge, 4-5:30pm
- Dec 01: Multicultural Gala, Larrison Dining Hall, 10pm-1am
- Dec 01: Kwanzaa, Hunt Hall, 6pm

For making contributions to Bison Spectrum, contact Rajaa Qadri, rq001@bucknell.edu

International Student Services
Multicultural Student Services
MCOP
125 Vedder Hall
570-577-3794

Cultural Center Hours:
Monday-Friday: 8:30-4:30
Monday-Thursday: 7-10pm