

Ethnic Diversity Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

Minnesota State
University, Mankato

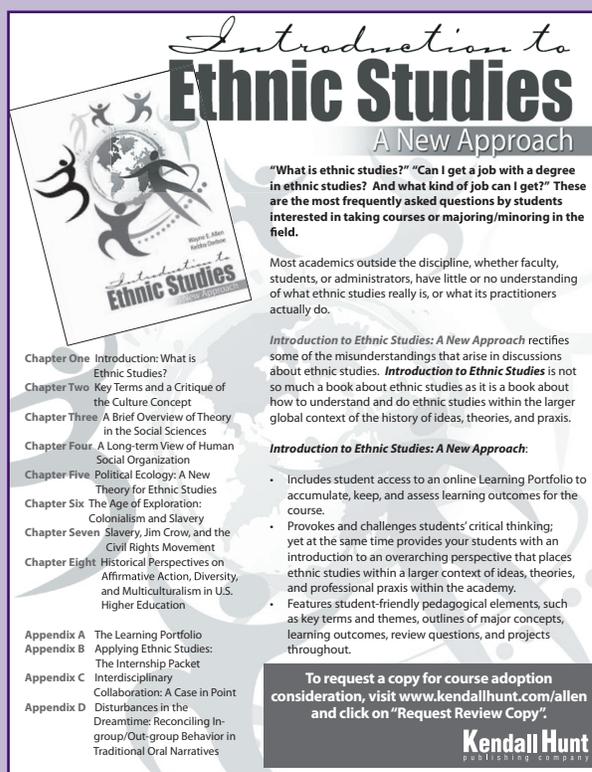
Volume 11, Issue 1
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Good News from Chair, Dr. Kebba Darboe

Publication of a new text book:

The high quality education students receive in the ethnic studies program is based on a strong record of faculty teaching, research, and publication. Students and faculty often collaborate in research efforts and practicum. To date, two faculty members published a book: Drs. Allen, Wayne E. & Kebba Darboe. (2010). *Introduction to Ethnic Studies: A New Approach*. Kendall Hunt Publishing Company. We want to thank assistant professor and graduate students for their contributions to the textbook: Vang Xiong, Thomas Heffernan and Mridusha Allen.

The book is dedicated to the following: Professor Hanh Huy Phan, tireless teacher, leader, champion, colleague mother, sister, and friend; and Professor Emeritus Napoleon A. Chagnon, for being a scout and pioneer who made the crooked paths straight; and Lawrence Dean "Larry" Allen, for where would we be without our brother.

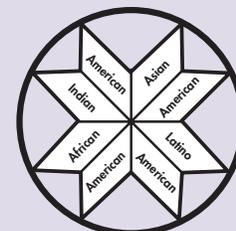


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Mission Statement

"The Department of Ethnic Studies, an interdisciplinary program, is academically committed to promoting multicultural and ethnic knowledge, skills and values both within and outside the United States and to preparing our students for effective participation in the culturally diverse global community."



BEAUTY OF CULTURE

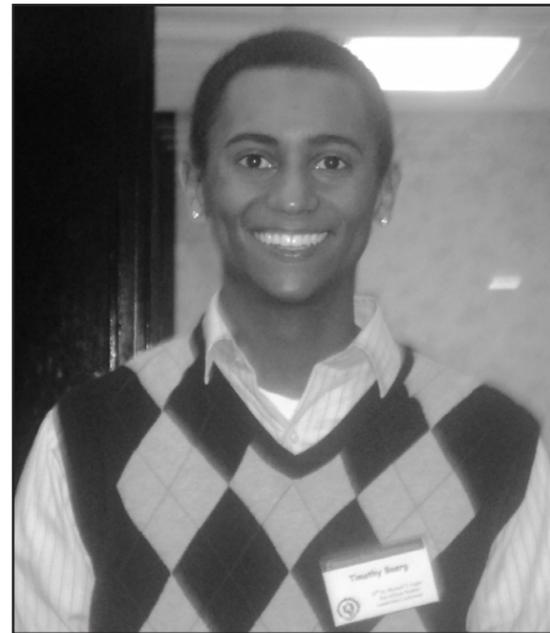
Vang Xiong, co-founder of the Beauty of Cultures, along with sponsors of the Department of Ethnic Studies and the Institutional Diversity Office, hosted the 4th annual "Beauty of Cultures" event on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 in the CSU Hearth Lounge. Students from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds and student organizations attended and performed in the program. The masters of ceremony include ethnic studies graduate student Malinda Dean along with undergraduate Charles Langhorne. A beautifully poised Asian Indian dance was performed by Nicki Lee and her dance group. Elementary students Emporess-Esther Dean and Fatima Bana performed a

traditional Ugandan dance which was inspired by the Watoto orphan choir. One of the last performances was exceptionally done by Nuer Traditional Dancers, who displayed their rhythmic drumming. Every year the event and performers come together and astound the audience. Please share your cultural background through music, art, and dance in this upcoming fall 2011 with your fellow students, faculty, staff; and help make Minnesota State University, Mankato gain a deeper appreciation of culturally diverse backgrounds. If you are interested in performing, please contact Vang Xiong via e-mail at: vang.xiong@mnsu.edu or office phone: 507-389-5874.

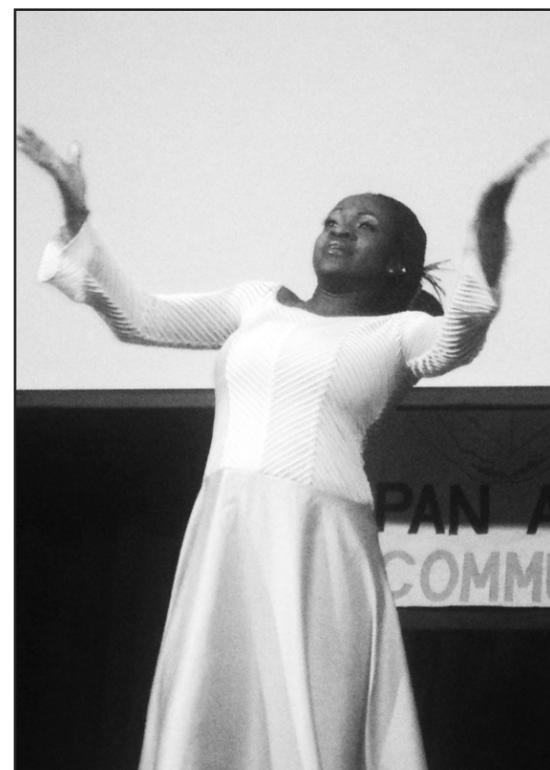




PAN AFRICAN STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RENAMED AFTER FOUNDER AND LEGEND, DR. MICHAEL T. FAGIN



The 35th Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Student Leadership Conference was a great success this year, 2011. There was a diverse panel of presenters from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, and occupations. The four day conference started with the Pre-Conference 10th Annual Somali Cultural Day. This was followed, from Thursday through Saturday, by intellectual and thought provoking panel discussions, which covered topics such as hair texture, color caste systems, African Diaspora, black business, and much more. The keynote speakers were Tamrat Tademe, Spike Moss, and Reverend Jerry McAfee. Entertainment included spectacular traditional Nuer Dancers, Minnesota State University Mankato Step Team and Burnsville High School Step Team. The 35th Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Student Leadership Conference was once again an outstanding event. Please attend and participate in 2012.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!!!!

The Department of Ethnic Studies is pleased to recognize the following scholarship student recipients for the academic year 2010-2011

Barbara A. Doust and Carole Vang are the winners of the Tim Price Award.

Nayoung Heo is the winner of the Global Ethnic Diversity Award.

Dewayne Dobbins is the winner of the Ethnic Studies Achievement Award.

In order to actively support and award students scholarships to our students, we must have yearly donations from our alumni, colleagues and friends. Please consider a tax deductible contribution to the Department of Ethnic Studies' foundation account for scholarships (Account #: 335814). For more information, please contact Dr. Kebba Darboe by telephone at 507-389-5014 or by e-mail at kebba.darboe@mnsu.edu. Thank you again for providing us with your continued support for the students and ethnic studies program.

FACULTY AND GRADUATE ASSISTANTS FOR ETHNIC STUDIES

Department of Ethnic Studies Graduate Assistants for 2010-2011 year: Miho Chisaki, Nayoung Heo, Thomas Heffernan, and Malinda Dean. We want to extend our warmest appreciation to the office manager, Cynthia Veldhuisen and faculty, which include Dr. Michael T. Fagin, Professor Hahn-Huy Phan, Dr. Wayne Allen, Professor Vang Tou Xiong, and Dr. Kebba Darboe who is the Chair.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES HOSTED A SPRING SEMESTER POTLUCK

Department of Ethnic Studies hosted a "Spring Semester Potluck." The event was held at the Intercultural Student Center and many students, faculty and staff attended it. Professor Phan gave great support by providing the food and drinks. I was a very warm and entertaining event. On behalf of students, faculty and staff, we express our warmest thanks to Professor Phan for a job well done.

Diversity grows as majority dwindles

Minorities make up almost half of births

USA TODAY, JUNE, 2010

By Haya El Nasser and Paul Overberg
USA TODAY

Record levels of births among minorities in the past decade are moving the USA a step closer to a demographic milestone in which no group commands a majority, new Census estimates show.

Minorities accounted for almost 49% of U.S. births in the year ending July 1, 2009, a record high, according to data released Thursday. They make up more than half the population in 317 counties — about 1 in 10 — four states (California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Texas) and the District of Columbia.

The USA TODAY Diversity Index shows increases in every state since 2000. The index was created to measure how racially and ethnically diverse the population is. It uses the percentage of each race counted by the Census Bureau — white, black, Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian — and

Hispanic ethnicity to calculate the chance that any two people are from different groups. The scale ranges from 0 (no diversity) to 100.

The 2009 national index is 52, up from 47 in 2000. That means that the chance of two randomly selected people being different is slightly more than half. In 1980, the index was 34, a 1-in-3 chance.

The level of diversity varies widely from region to region — from as high as 79 in Hawaii and 68 in California to as low as 10 in Maine and Vermont and 13 in West Virginia.

Much of the rapid growth in diversity is driven by an influx of young Hispanic immigrants whose birthrates are higher than those of non-Hispanic whites, creating a race and ethnic chasm and a widening age gap. "There are more than 500 counties which have a majority of minority children," says Kenneth Johnson, demographer at the University of New Hampshire's Carsey Institute. "The population is changing to minority from the bottom up."

Nationwide, 48.3% of kids under age 5 are minorities, while 19.9% of people 65 and older are.

In Gwinnett County, Ga., near Atlanta, one of seven counties where minorities became the majority last year, 88% of the under-20 population was non-Hispanic white in 1990. In 2009, 42% was. "The whole county just flipped," Johnson says.

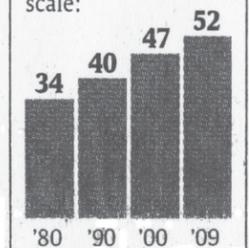
Other highlights:

► The nation's median age inched upward to 36.8 from 36.7 in 2008.

► The fountain of youth is in Utah, where 9.8% of the population is 5 and under (the highest of any state) and the median age is 28.8 (the youngest).

Diversity index

The probability that two people chosen at random would be of a different race or ethnicity on a 0-100 scale:



Source: USA TODAY analysis of Census Bureau data

By Julie Snider, USA TODAY

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**PLEASE KEEP US POSTED.
WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Name (Mr./Ms./Mrs./Dr.): _____

Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

Home Address: _____

E-mail: _____

I AM: Alumni- Year Graduated: _____, Degree: _____

Friend of the Department of Ethnic Studies

Other

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON:

Serving as a Professional Mentor

Providing an internship

Contributing to the Ethnic Studies Development Fund at the Minnesota State Foundation (tax deductible)

THANK YOU!

Please tear off, fold, and place in an envelope addressed to:

Department of Ethnic Studies, Minnesota State University, Mankato,
109 Morris Hall, Mankato, MN 56001

Or e-mail this information to kebba.darboe@mnsu.edu