

AHANA HOTLINE

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Hispanic Heritage Month

Bryan Leyva '10 and Eduardo Dorado '11

Celebrations are taking place across the country to recognize the independence, culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. National Hispanic Heritage Month took place from September 15 to October 15 and, the Hispanic Heritage Month Planning Committee (HHM), sponsored by Student Affairs and the Office of AHANA Student Programs, brought this celebration to Boston College.

Throughout the month, we had a diverse number

of events and panels that attracted both students and faculty all throughout campus. We began the month with an amazing Opening Dinner in the Yawkey Center to inaugurate the month. Then, we had some panels, which touched on the issues of immigration and latino/a gender and sexuality. We also had panels on service and immersion trips, and bilingual education and the minority drop out rate.



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Life Profile of Maxine Hong Kingston

Prof. Min Song

Maxine Hong Kingston has won many awards, including the National Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and a National Humanities Medal awarded to her by President Clinton. Her books have been best sellers and have each generated an enor-

mous body of literary criticism. It's been said that at one time her first book, *Woman Warrior*, was the most widely taught literary text in American colleges and universities. All of her books continue to be read and discussed widely, and have inspired a whole gen-

eration of Asian Americans, women, and everyone else who seek to confront the difficult problems of racism, gender inequality, war, and justice.

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Letter from the Editors

Hello Readers!

This is an exciting year for all of us, including everyone at the Office of AHANA Student Programs (OASP). This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the coining of the AHANA acronym. The Office and student organizations are both holding exciting events in honor of this occasion throughout the year.

To highlight a few articles in this issue.. Hispanic Heritage Month was successfully held for the first time ever on the BC

campus through the hard work of the co-chairs, Bryan Leyva and Eduardo Dorado. Also, we have our first ever featured faculty writer, Professor Song, who graciously submitted an article about Maxine Hong Kingston. In addition, be sure to check out the faculty profile on Professor Frederick as well.

For all our new readers to the AHANA Hotline, be on the look out for updates and upcoming publications as well. There are new issues published twice a semester.



Jane Park '10

Justin Woo '11



Hispanic Heritage Month (Contd.)

To end the month, we had a full day of activities, performances, and fun planned for the whole Boston College community. Boston College hosted the university's 1st Annual Latin Soul Arts Festival, an exploration of Latin Arts and culture at Boston College.

There were two parts to the festival. The first explored Latin Arts through a day packed with competitive and folkloric Latin dance performances, BC dance group performances, different styles of band performances, a theater production titled "THE *DEPORTEE'S WIFE*", poetry and spoken word performances by students, alumni and faculty, several art exhibitions (student and professional) and demonstrations, and a Hispanic book fair.

The second half was titled "Finalmente" and it marked the closing celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month and also the kick-off event for the year-long celebration for the 30th Yr. Anniversary of the AHANA Acronym. It was composed of a reception, a concert by our very own premier Jazz Ensemble, BC bOp! titled "Sabrosura: The Flavors and Rhythms of Latin Music", and Friday Night Live-Latin Soul, which featured a fashion show, and dance expo with dance groups from around New England.

For more information about the Hispanic Heritage Month, go to our website at www.bc.edu/hhm or e-mail the Co-chairs of the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee Bryan Leyva, A&S '10 (leyvab@bc.edu) and Eduardo Dorado, CSOM '11 (dorado@bc.edu).

Please go to

<http://www.youtube.com/user/bcchronicle> to check out some wonderful footage of the Latin Soul Arts Fest!

Maxine Hong Kingston (Contd.)

Kingston began her life as the daughter of Chinese hand-laundry owners operating in Stockton, California. Their store was situated in a rough part of town, and her whole family struggled to make ends meet. She helped her parents out as she grew up, like so many immigrant children of small business owners before and since. She eventually went on to get her undergraduate degree at Berkeley, just as the anti-Vietnam War movement was gathering its full steam and racial minorities of all kind were becoming more self-aware. It was at Berkeley where she met her husband, Earl King, an actor. Together, after graduation and marriage, the couple moved to Hawai'i, where they lived for about a decade. The influence of these years can be found in her books, especially when her characters "talk-story" to one another. In her most recent book, she sends her characters to Hawai'i during the Vietnam War where they seek to live out their pacifist ideals in an environment fully mobilized for organized military violence, a fact that inextricably seeps into their daily lived lives even as they seek ways to find reprieve from it.

In an interview, Kingston claimed that she had no idea what she was doing when she sought a publisher for the first time. She put a list of literary agents together and contacted them one after another with her unsolicited manuscript. Miraculously, this strategy worked. She found an agent who sent her manuscript along to Knopf, which

may very well have been the largest and most prestigious press of her time. This resulted in the publication of *Woman Warrior*, a formally rich work that has been an essential guide for generations of academics and non-academics alike for building a viable Asian American



Maxine Hong Kingston

politics, and for envisioning broad, mutually supportive coalitions across a diverse range of peoples. She then went on to write *China Men*, a memoir which focuses on the men in her family. Her third book, *Tripmaster Monkey*, is a formidable novel, set in San Francisco during the late 1960s and featuring a colorful character named Whittman Ah Sing. It is full of cultural allusions and adventures that evoke a whole way of life as it morphs into

another, exploring in the process the meaning of this crucial era for the Asian American characters at its center. At least one prominent critic has declared this her masterpiece, in large part because of the daring she exhibits in embracing a mixing of tongues and idioms.

One comment seems certain when considering the trajectory of Kingston's literary works. They have not fallen back upon tried and true forms, but rather have demonstrated a restless intelligence focused on trying to tell stories in new ways. *Woman Warrior* is stylistically complex and rich in meaning, reflecting right from its opening vignette the struggle with meaning and perception that its narrator engages. By *Tripmaster Monkey*, we

find Kingston has moved onto a new set of concerns: about the ethics of refusing to fight in any war, the power of aesthetics to substitute for violence, and the creative elasticity of language. These themes and the highly allusive prose she employs to explore them make the book difficult to read, and may cost Kingston readers. But it also shows Kingston to be an author of uncompromising vision.

This may finally be an accurate way to describe her most recent work, *The Fifth Book of Peace*, which begins with a harrowing recounting of the ways in which Kingston lost her original manuscript—a sequel to *Tripmaster Monkey*—to a fire in the Oakland Hills. Provocatively, she wonders if the devastation and the ruin that she witnessed isn't a way for those who have been fortunate enough not to experience war firsthand to make sense of what follows in its aftermath. As one firefighter she quotes observes, the serene landscape reminded him of the fields he witnessed as a soldier in Vietnam defoliated by weapons rained down from the sky. It then goes on to describe how writing draws her back from the depression that followed, eventually culminating in a recreation of the lost manuscript and concluding with a vivid account of the work she has been doing teaching creative writing to Vietnam War veterans. As this latest work attests, Kingston has not given up striving for new ways to tell stories, and in this way she has sustained and renewed her conviction that art—whether it be defined capaciously as the writing of a book, teaching, or even the living of one's life—has an enduring political value.

Filipino American Heritage Month

Melissa Flores '10

Established in the year 1988, the Filipino American History Month is celebrated in the United States during the month of October. Every year, the Philippine Society of Boston College (PSBC) invites the Boston College community to celebrate with them and learn the rich, unique culture of the Philippines and the history of Filipino Americans. This month-long celebration holds importance to PSBC because it immerses its diverse membership and the wider BC community in Filipino and Filipino-American culture and history, and it also allows the membership to meet new people, bond, and become a part of the PSBC family. This year they have planned 5 events that highlight the culture, tradition, food, people, and the influence of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans ranging for social to educational.

Upcoming Events:

Filipino American Psychology: A Book Reading with Dr. Kevin Nadal. – Thursday, October 22nd, Fulton 511 7:30PM

Cosponsored by the Psychology Department and the GLBTQ Leadership Council, Kevin Nadal, Ph.D., a professor, psychologist, performer, activist and author, will be doing a reading from his book entitled "Filipino American Psychology: A Handbook of Theory, Research, and Clinical Practice," which was released in June of this year. Some of these topics he will be speaking about include: racial/ethnic identity development, colonial mentality, gender and sexual orientation issues, and Filipino American history. As a stand up comedian and spoken word artist he will be performing as well.

Halo-Halloween – Come dressed in your costumes! Thursday, October 29th, 8:00PM

Filipino American History Month closes with an event where PSBC serves and teaches guests how to make a Filipino dessert called "halo-halo" and allows its membership to bond within the intimate setting of a dorm room. Halo-halo, meaning "mix-mix," is the perfect way to describe who we are as Filipino and Filipino Americans and as a club. It is a dessert made of shaved ice, evaporated milk, and an assorted sweet beans and fruit. Filipino and Filipino-American identity and culture has influences from so many different cultures around the world due to its rich history including times of colonization. All of these cultural influences are a part of who we are today, and the diverse membership of PSBC alludes to this idea of "mix-mix" as well.

30th Anniversary Celebration of the AHANA Acronym

For the past 30 years, the AHANA acronym has served as a way to describe individuals of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent. Coined in 1979, its creation stemmed from objection to the word "minority," which negatively defined students of color as "less than" in comparison to their white counterparts. Through a community process initiated by students, the term "AHANA" was derived to replace usage of the word "minority." Acting as ambassadors for their peers, two students, Alfred Feliciano and Valerie Lewis, proposed the term to the University's Board of Trustees where it received overwhelming approval. Since then, the "AHANA" concept has helped to recognize and celebrate the cultural differences present in our society.

Unspoken: Voices of America - Wednesday, October 21st; 6:00-8:00 pm; Devlin 101 & McMullen Museum

This collaboration with the McMullen Museum will bring students, staff, and faculty to the current exhibition of First Hand Civil War Era Drawings from the Becker Collection. The event will begin with a panel discussion to provide historical context to the drawings and talk about the social implications of that history for the AHANA community today.

30 Years AHANA Spirit: Robsham Reception - Thursday, October 22nd; 6:30-8:00 pm; Robsham Theater (Reception: Gate 1st Floor Lounge) Hear from prominent past student leaders as they speak on the role of the AHANA Acronym in their student experience at BC. View a timeline of the AHANA Movement and learn about a vital piece of our school history. Afterwards, visit the reception to mingle with alumni and enjoy a variety of desserts provided by BC's culture clubs.

AHANA Faculty Profile: Professor Rhonda Frederick

Justin Woo '11

Last week, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Professor Rhonda Frederick, an Associate Professor in the English Department and the director of the African and African Diaspora Studies Program. She spent her undergraduate and graduate years at the University of Pennsylvania, finished a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh, and finally found her calling at Boston College. Professor Frederick has been teaching at Boston College since August 1998.

As we chatted in the beautiful and spacious African and African Diaspora Studies Program offices on the third floor of Lyons Hall, Professor Frederick emphasized the importance of having interdisciplinary studies at Boston College. She explained that each major should have a racial and ethnic component because it spreads across all subjects and careers, especially in today's continually growing multicultural society. All majors, including English, History, Chemistry, and Biology, have a connection with the peoples and histories of AHANA. Interdisciplinary study programs such as the African and African Diaspora Studies Program help enliven and enrich students' perspectives and also helps im-

prove their career skills in interacting with people of diverse backgrounds in their futures.

The African and African Diaspora Studies Program offers a minor as well as an independent major. Its wide variety of courses range from "Religion in Africa" to "Ethnic Theater Studies." Some of the courses are cross-listed with other departments, which often satisfy university core requirements. One of Professor Frederick's favorite courses is "Jamaican Culture & Globalization." The class explores how Jamaican culture has influenced and has been influenced by global movements of goods, services, and people. It also investigates identities and backgrounds within the diverse Jamaican culture. Courses within the African and African Diaspora Studies Program can range from the broadest of genres to the most detailed study. One can most definitely find an interest in the wide-selection of courses offered by the African and African Diaspora Studies Program.

For more information about the African and African Diaspora Studies Program, please visit: <http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/aads/home.html>

Prof. Frederick



Student Submission: Original Artwork

Yongbok Hwang '11



Chess



Hands

Student Submission: A Freshman's Perspective

Kelly Le '13

A month has only gone by and it seems as if everything is moving in such a fast pace that I don't have any time to stop think about my day or plan for tomorrow. I started my summer off in a intense but fun, six-week transitional summer program called Options Through Education (OTE). The mission of the program was to prepare a selected group of diverse students who have demonstrated potentials and leadership in spite of challenging educational and financial circumstances. So far, OTE has been the highlight of my experience here at Boston College because it introduced me to great people whom I've learn to love and confide in whenever I needed a problem. I have happy to know that although only a couple of days after actual school started, I knew where to go for assistance I needed including class change, financial issues, etc.

Currently, it has been a great month; I've been introduced to new friends and learned about their stories. Everyone seems to very welcoming and very open with one another. I've enjoyed all the general meetings and free food at the different cultural groups on campus, including the Vietnamese, Korean, China, and Cape Verdean Student Associations. As a member of two completely different dance groups, Phaymus Dance Entertainment and KSA's Aerok, I've been able to dance with great people who have passion for what they do. This passion inspires me on and off the dance floor to make sure everything I do is to the fullest with nothing holding me back; especially being members of the AHANA Leadership Academy (ALA) and Asian Caucus's Freshman Academy (FA), I find myself striving to input my voice into some of the issues currently at BC.

For me, college is not like high school, the workload is more intense and I find myself sleeping later and later every night, but at the same time I know I'm not in this position alone. I enjoy all of my classes. My day usually starts at ten or eleven and ends either at two or four. I have dance practice four times a

week and I meet with FA and ALA once a week. I guess you can say I have a pretty busy schedule but I don't complain. I have found a method of managing my time enough to do everything, meetings, homework, and practices, and still have time for my friends, three-hours dinners, and fun!



Kelly and her OTE small group

Student Submission: Poem

Jamila Jones '11

Cursed to Blessed

Upon my birth I carried a bag,
One that weighs me down to the point
Of being dragged
Marked words like alcoholic, drug addict, abuse, depression
Lack of education, molest, insecurity, oppression
Children out of wedlock, single parent, poverty, confusion
Getting fast money, through the lottery illusion
Crushed spirits, separation, broken hearts
Negligent fathers, we, as a family are torn apart

But if this bag were gravity,
I defied every law
I am the first flying person that you ever saw
I am sober, drug-free, filled with so much joy
I am educated, highly respected, secure,
Strong-willed, my spirit cannot be destroyed
I am childless, single, prosperous, and very sure
I have a plan and through that I know I can conquer
I am in college and through me my generation
Has made their advances
I have increased all of our financial chances
But not only for my family, but for my race
I'm hoping that people in this world
Can see beyond my face

Beyond my place of my birth,
But look at what I contributed
to this earth
Look at my intellect and what
I have to offer
Look at my ideas and dreams
that I have fostered
Look at me, and where I am today
Because of me, you can see the wise
decisions I have made

Did you know?

Calculus & Chemistry Tutoring:

This service is free to all Boston College students and no appointment is needed.

- Mondays & Wednesdays, 5pm to 7pm @ 72 College Rd – Calculus & Chemistry
- Tuesdays, 7pm to 9pm @ Cushing Lounge (Newton) - Calculus

\$uccessful Start:

The goal of the \$uccessful Start program is to ensure that Boston College's students are financially-literate for their lifetime by offering a series of workshops and seminars.

- Thursday October 29: Budgeting 101 in Fulton 145 at 4:30pm to 6:30pm
- Tuesday November 3: Budgeting 201 in Devlin 227 at 4:30pm to 6:30pm
- Tuesday November 10: Budgeting 301 in Devlin 227 at 4:30pm to 6:30pm
- Wednesday November 11: How to file your own taxes in Devlin 221 at 4:30pm to 6:30pm

48 Hours:

48HOURS is a weekend experience open to all first-year students who are interested in finding ways to take advantage of BC's intellectual, social, and spiritual resources. Interaction with professional staff and senior student leaders will help all students gain a fuller understanding of the possibilities and challenges of a Jesuit education. Applications are online at www.bc.edu/48hours; please direct questions to verdague@bc.edu.

Professors and Pastries:

Come enjoy delicious pastries while meeting new students and professors! All events, 3:30--5:00 pm in Gasson 100.

- Wednesday, October 21: The Study of Humanities and Preparing for the Law
- Thursday, October 29: Living Ethically and Contributing Socially
- Wednesday, December 2: The Fine and Performing Arts

What did you think?

We want to hear from you!

If you want to write for the AHANA Hotline, all you have to do is send an email to oasp@bc.edu.

Also, don't forget to look out for the **AHANA Mini-Feed**, a bi-weekly email that gives announcements about important scholarship, internship, career, research, and various event information. If you don't get the email, contact oasp@bc.edu.

