



# Ethnic Diversity Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF ETHNIC STUDIES

## The Mahkato Wacipi Pow-Wow—Dance

By Dr. Wayne Allen

Pow Wow, in Dakota Language Wacipi, means dance. It is the time that Native American people meet together, dance, sing, renew old friendships, and make new ones. This is also a time to renew Native American culture and preserve the rich heritage of American Indians. The Mahkato Wacipi Pow-Wow began in 1972 with the help of Dakota Spiritual Leaders like Amos Owens, Mankato Bud Lawrence and Jim Buckley. Every year, it is always held on the third weekend of September at Dakota Wokisuye Makoce, known as Mankato Land of Memories Park.

Dr. Wayne Allen presented on the Education Day at the Mahkato Wacipi Pow-Wow. He works very closely with the American Indian community. This is Dr. Allen’s 27th year as a presenter. He was told by both students and teachers alike that his presentation is one of the most popular.



Pow-Wow opening ceremony dancers



Dr. Allen shows his art works to some students inside his Tpee—a communal lounge at the Pow-Wow

Minnesota State University, Mankato

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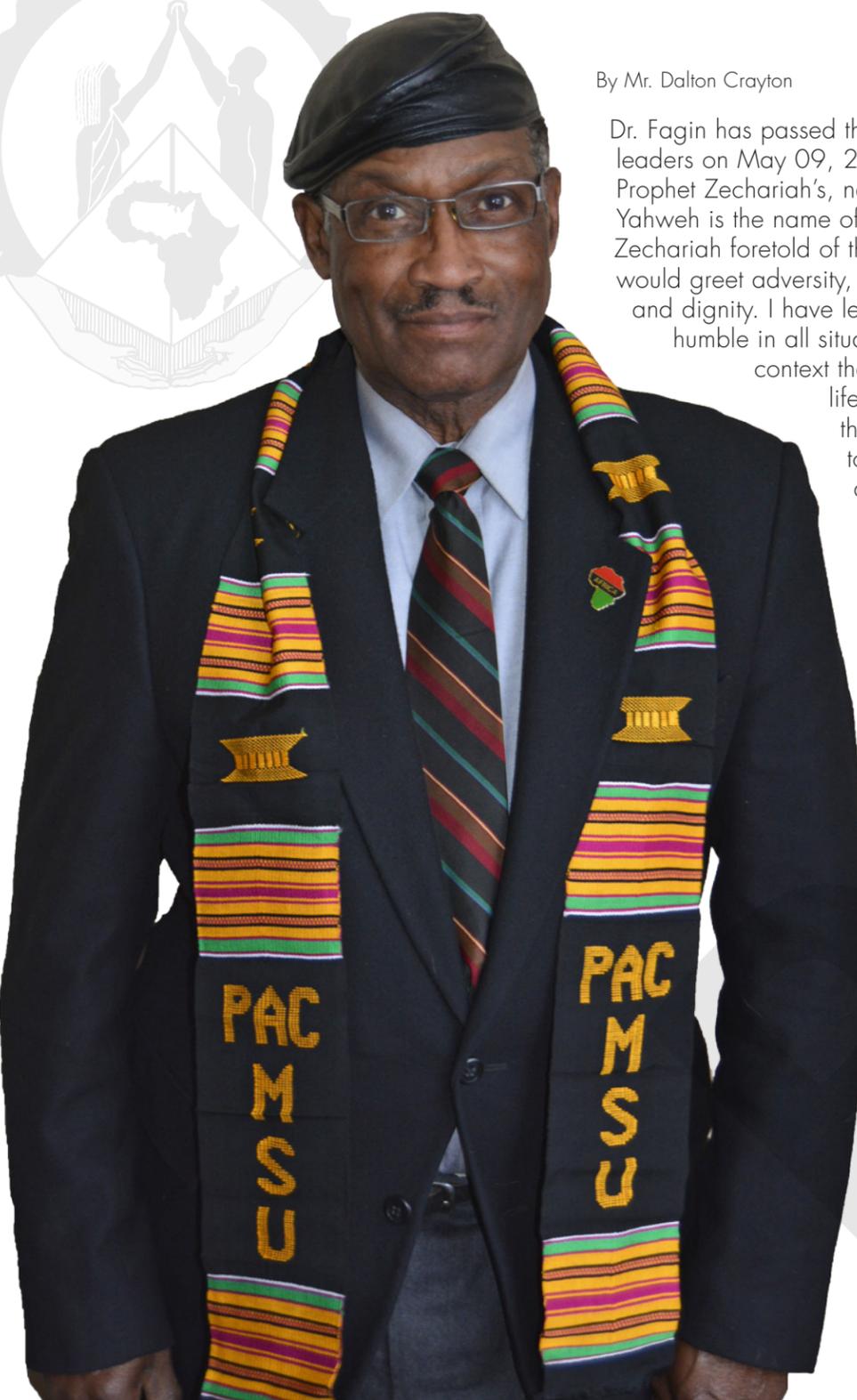
### Inside this issue:

- Pow wow, 2014. . . . . 1
- Honoring Dr. Michael T. Fagin . . 2
- Good News: SBS Student Leader Award to Ms. Faith N and faculty achievements . . . . . 3
- Academic Curriculum Initiatives . 4
- The 27th Annual National Black Graduate Student Association Conference. . . . . 5
- Tribute to Mrs. Mridusha Allen by the Chair . . . . . 6
- Please Keep Us Posted . . . . . 8

### 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.”

# Honoring Dr. Michael T. Fagin, the Icon of Diversity and Inspiring New Leaders on Minnesota State Mankato campus



By Mr. Dalton Crayton

Dr. Fagin has passed the bright torch to inspiring new leaders on May 09, 2015. According to the Old Testament Prophet Zechariah's, name means "Yahweh Remembers?" Yahweh is the name of God in the Old Testament. Prophet Zechariah foretold of the coming Messiah-Jesus Christ, who would greet adversity, humiliation and death with humility and dignity. I have learned from my Bible readings to be humble in all situations. It is in this biblical prophecy context that Dr. Fagin foresees people facing life challenges. The most important thing that I have learned from Dr. Fagin was to face life challenges with humility and dignity.

I met Dr. Fagin in the fall semester of 2000 at Southern University in New Orleans (SUNO). Dr. Fagin promised me a graduate assistantship when I completed my Baccalaureate degree. He kept his promise to get me a graduate assistantship and I became a Maverick. During the last 15 years, Dr. Fagin has been my mentor and academic advisor. A person like Dr. Fagin comes around and into students' lives once every 80 years. I want all of you to remember that Dr. Michael T. Fagin, will always be my Vice President. Best wishes to Professor Emeritus as he begins a new career.

## Good News on Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievements

### Student Success

- In 2015, Ms. Faith Neumann is the recipient of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Student Leader award

The faculty members regularly attend workshops, seminars and professional conferences focusing on teaching and learning. For example,

### Professor Hahn-Huy Phan

- Professor Phan, undergraduate students taking ETHN 203W: Perspective on Asian Americans, along with graduate students Ms. Shoko Nakamura, Tomoko Matsui and two graduate assistants attended the Global Connections in Southern Minnesota conference, October 2014
- Professor Phan is involved in many student activities on the campus of Minnesota State University and Mankato community

### Professor Michael T. Fagin

- Dr. Michael T. Fagin icon of racial/ethnic diversity on Minnesota State University campus was honored by faculty and staff of Ethnic Studies Department
- He organized the 39th Dr. Michael T. Fagin Pan African Student Leadership Conference, February 25-28, 2015 at 7700 France Ave S. Edina, Minnesota
- In his honor the conference will be annually organized on the campus of Minnesota State University
- He organized also the 5th Annual Midwest Ethnic Studies Conference April 8-9, 2015, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- He plans to change his career and begin a new one—we wish him all the best
- Service is the rent we pay for living—well done
- Dr. Fagin was the commencement speaker at the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences graduate ceremony on May 09, 2015. He shared his life experiences and wisdom in a poetic style to 2015 graduates

### Dr. Wayne Allen

Dr. Allen continues to supervise internships for both the undergraduate and graduate students.

- Every year, he continues to organize student volunteers for the Mankato Wacipi (Mankato Powwow) and Education Day.
- Fall semester 2014, he has a student intern assisting with Education Day at the Mankato Wacipi (Mankato Powwow)
- Some of the students and Ethnic Studies Department have received recognition awards for their tireless efforts in this American Indian cultural event
- Dr. Allen works very closely with the American Indian community
- Achievement: this is Dr. Allen's 27th year (2014) as a presenter. He was told by both students and teachers alike that his presentation is one of the most popular

### Dr. Kebba Darboe

- Dr. Darboe earned two certificates from the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning: 1) Professional Learning Communities for Department Chairs, 2013-2014 and 2) Program-Level Assessment Certificate Program, September-October 2014
- In 2014, Dr. Darboe earned also a Certificate from the Office of the Provost in collaboration with U.S. Education Delivery Institute Workshop: 1) Academic Mapping: Charting a Pathway to Success

### Mr. Dalton Crayton, Pre-doctoral Fellow

- Excellent report on attending and participating at professional conferences, for example,
- Mr. Crayton conducted research and made presentations on the State's Role on Land Development in Louisiana on October 28, 2015 at the Southern University, New Orleans

(Good News - continued on page 4)

(Good News - continued from page 3)

- 39th Pan African Student Leadership Conference, February 25-28, 2015 at 7700 France Ave S. Edina, Minnesota
- Hosted the National Black Graduate Student Association(NBGSA), Regional Conference November 8- 2014, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- The 5th Annual Midwest Ethnic Studies Conference April 8-9, 2015, Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Mr. Crayton attended and presented with ten students the National Black Graduate Student Association National Conference(NBGSA) April 8-12, 2015, Jacksonville Florida

- Mr. Crayton attended and presented with 20 students the 26th National Black Graduate Student Association National Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, May 28 – June 1, 2014

Active involvement of the faculty in research serves not only to make them better professionals but also enhances the quality of both the undergraduate and graduate programs. Many faculty members have collaborated with undergraduate and graduate students in their research efforts. The opportunity to work on basic or applied research is essential for undergraduate students aspiring to pursue graduate study. In addition, faculty members often take a mentoring approach toward the graduate students with whom they form partnership in research endeavors. Finally, members of faculty do collaborative research with other faculty members from the Departments of Geography and Sociology and Corrections.

## Tribute to Mrs. Mridusha Allen: Grief is the price we pay for love... (Parkes, C. M., 1998)



Mridusha Shretha

By Kebba Darboe, Chair

Mridusha (Shretha) Allen was born on Friday, January 28, 1984 in her parents' home in Kirtipur, Nepal to Mr. Mahesh Shretha and Mrs. Yesuda Shretha. Mrs. Mridusha Allen, age 30, of Springfield, Minnesota died on November 10, 2014, near Courtland as the result of an automobile accident. Mrs. Mridusha Allen's life was too short but had incredible meaning. Words cannot express the sorrow and impact her life has on the lives that she touched. In this context, a fitting tribute is the four lines of verse or stanzas from the Poem: "Early Death" by Hartley Coleridge, English writer and poet (1796 – 1849).

*She passed away like morning dew  
Before the sun was high;  
So brief her time, she scarcely knew  
The meaning of a sigh...*

Ms. Mridusha Shretha attended a Montessori School named Holy Cross in Sonada, St. Mary's Girls' High School through grade 10 and the Little Angels College in Kathmandu, Nepal. Upon completing her degree with first division distinction at Little Angels, she came to Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2003.

Ms. Mridusha, at the University, began to study Physics and Dance. She took an Ethnic Studies class and quickly fell in love with racial and ethnic diversity studies. Following that experience, she changed her major to pursue a dual degree program in Ethnic Studies and Dance. In 2007, she earned her B.S. degree in Ethnic Studies and a minor in Dance. After completing her B.S. in December 2007, she and her husband, Wayne Allen, were married in Mankato, and they honeymooned in Puerto Rico, a place they both considered as a dream spot for their future visits. On January 06, 2010, she gave birth to her son Mahesh Lawrence Andrew Allen, the jewel of her existence. After completing the baccalaureate degree, Mridusha pursued a graduate degree program and earned her Master of Science in Ethnic and Multicultural Studies in 2011. Dr. Darboe, was her academic advisor, and she wrote her Alternate Plan Paper on: "Arranged Marriages: A South Asian Feminist Approach to Understanding Women's Status in South Asian Society." The choice of her topic was on women issues throughout the world, inspired by the work of Former Secretary of State and U.S. Senator, Mrs. Hillary R. Clinton. The attached photograph taken in New York City shows from left to right: Patti Kenner, Mridusha Shrestha Allen, former Secretary of State and U.S. Senator Hillary R. Clinton, Professor Julie Radnor, Manisha Shrestha, and Mrs. Clinton's Personal Secretary.

Mrs. Mridusha Allen leaves behind her husband Wayne, her three children Liam, Fiona, and Mahesh Allen, her mother and father, Mahesh and Yesuda

Shrestha, her elder sister Manisha Shrestha, her brother-in-law, Pujay Shrestha, and their son Jaman, her paternal grandmother, Lila Devi Shrestha, her brother-in-law Larry and sister-in-law Lisa Allen, many aunts and uncles, sisters, brothers, cousins, and many family and friends in Nepal and Darjeeling, India, as well as in the United States, including her best friends Mary Ellen Frame, Sarah Johnson, and Faith Allen. In addition, Mridusha's professors include Louis Schwartzkopf, Hanh-Huy Phan, Kebba Darboe, Michael T. Fagin, Elden Lawrence, Sebastian "Bronco" Lebeau, Glenn Peterson, Julie Kerr-Berry and Wayne Allen.

She was defined by a sense of purpose, humility, strength, talent and beauty. She was beautiful in heart and soul. The joy and caring that she brought to her siblings were unconditional. According to Dr. Allen, her husband, she was the voice of calm and a compass in the family—a woman of good nature. her son, our son Mahesh is the Prince of the Ethnic Studies family....I will always remember her salutes by repeatedly calling me Dr. Darboe, Dr. Darboe...even when I asked her to call me by my first name—a sign of respect for people.

In the days since she left us, there have been countless tributes and expressions of affection and respect including the Nepalese students. The people we love will ALWAYS live in our hearts—well Mridusha, you will always live in our hearts. We will cherish your memory for a lifetime. May God bless Mridusha and may you rest in eternal peace.



# Academic Curriculum Initiatives

## Change in Academic Policy: The 3+2 Program

Faculty approved the 3+2 Program and submitted it via the Curriculum Design System (CDS)

- The 3+2 Program is an accelerated graduate program that combines undergraduate and graduate level courses, that is, double count for a minimum of 12 credits
- Both courses will appear on the student's transcript, for example, ETHN 400: Cultural Pluralism and ETHN 500: Cultural Pluralism
- Students can apply after completion of 60 credits and maintain a grade point average of 3.0

### Rationale

- We want to hold on to our majors thereby increasing the number of students in the graduate program
- The 3+2 Program is cost effective for students
- We place high priority on recruitment and retention of our students
- Interested students are encouraged to apply for the 3+2 program

### Academic Mapping: Academic Year 2014-15

Faculty created four undergraduate Degree Maps for completion in four years

Bachelor of Science Degree in Ethnic Studies (baccalaureate degree) requires a minimum of 120 semester hours of credit.

1. Major Emphasis: Public/Government
2. Major Emphasis: Business/Corporate
3. Major Emphasis: Local Community and Human Services
4. Major Emphasis: International Community and Human Services

### Faculty also created two maps for the graduate programs

1. Online Graduate Diversity Certificate, 18 credits
2. Master of Science in Ethnic and Multicultural Studies, 33-34 credits

### Purpose of Academic Maps

- To provide a flowchart of course offerings by term, for example, Term 1 - Fall Semester, Term 2 - Spring Semester, etc., so that students can plan their course selections
- To assist academic advisors with information about student's academic progress
- To help prospective students, for example, high school and transfer students make informed decisions on their coursework before seeking admission or transferring to Minnesota State University-Mankato
- To assist academic advising that is important to student success, for example, retention, degree completion, career readiness, civic engagement, etc.

Note: all the academic maps are available on the Minnesota State University Home page at: <https://share.mnsu.edu/acadaff/AcademicMappingTemplate/Forms/MyItems.aspx>

### Common Course Outline

- In addition, faculty completed and submitted via the Curriculum Design System (CDS) student learning outcomes for both the undergraduate and graduate level courses
- Purpose is to improve student learning through assessment of each course's goals and objectives—measurable outcomes
- The student learning outcomes at the program level, for example, Ethnic Studies are consistent with the mission and goals of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Minnesota State University Mankato

# The 27th Annual National Black Graduate Student Association National Conference (NBGSA)

## April 8-12, 2015, Jacksonville Florida

By Mr. Dalton Crayton

The National Black Graduate Student Association (NBGSA) held its national conference on April 8-12, 2015 in Jacksonville, Florida under the theme "Global Impact: Expanding Horizons & Bridging the Gap between Academia & Community." The conference drew many graduate and undergraduate students from around the country.

The (NBGSA) was founded in 1989 at the University of Michigan. Since its inception the NBGSA has provided graduate students with critical resources to enrich their academic and social experiences. The NBGSA is the nation's largest interdisciplinary black graduate student organization and is dedicated to addressing the needs of black graduate students. Members continue to use their scholarship and service to enhance campuses, communities, and the world.

The annual conference and meeting of this organization provides a platform for scholarly research to be presented, networking and social opportunities. Delegates from universities around the nation present their work in round table discussions and poster sessions. Many delegates also enjoyed interacting in general sessions, seminars, and workshops facilitated by nationally recognized scholars.

The keynote speakers for the conference included Dr. Dennis Kimbro, Clark University, Dr. Cassandra Brown, Jackson, Mississippi Public School System, Dr. Edward L. Wheeler, President of the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta Georgia, Dr. Breyan Haizlip, Walden University, Howard University and Dr. John Williams, Florida State University.

The students, staff and faculty from Minnesota State University, Mankato presented at the conference on the following topics: Graduate Internship: Dr. Maria Baxter-Nuamah, Students of Color on a Predominantly White Campus: Earleen Crayton, John Harper, Cortez Hollis, Rihanna Jones, London Stewart and Larry Tucker. Master Mentality Disorder: A Case Study on Cultural Perspective in Relation to Privilege: Faith Neumann.

A major highlight of this annual event is its College Career Fair in which national and international universities are represented. The College Career Fair continues to be an excellent event to expose undergraduate students to graduate school opportunities and to assist Master and Doctoral students in their search for employment.



From left to right: Ms. Maria Baxter-Nuamah, Mr. Cortez Hollis and Ms. Rihanna Jones



Mr. & Mrs. Dalton and Earleen Crayton

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