

# Ethnic Diversity Newsletter

Department of Ethnic Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato

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<http://www.mnsu.edu/ethnic/>

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## Accountability and Accomplishment

Yueh-Ting Lee, Ph.D.\*

An institutional accreditation or program review means both accountability and accomplishment. For example, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in North Central Association (NCA) has five criteria for an institutional accreditation or a re-accreditation. They are: a) Mission and integrity; b) Preparing for the future; c) Student learning and effective teaching; d) Acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge; and e) Engagement and service. Coincidentally, the Department of Ethnic Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato, has started the process of the 2005-2006 program review. In lieu of the HLC's five criteria exactly, we focus on the following areas: the mission and goals of the Department that are based on the University's mission and goals; student academic achievement, faculty achievement, the effective operation of the program with regard to its enrollment, credit hours and number of majors, minors and graduate students, efficient use of budget and facilities, and future directions.

Regardless of a program review or institutional accreditation, the purpose of this process is to make an institution or academic program accountable. However, in many areas, a program review or re-accreditation is a way to summarize what an institution or program has accomplished since our last review or re-accreditation. For example, in 2000, we revised our mission statement to read: "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 functioning across the culturally diverse and global community."

What have we accomplished primarily since 2000?

Following our departmental mission, we have redesigned and implemented our undergraduate program (BS) and a freestanding graduate program (MS) in Ethnic and Multicultural Studies. We have also initiated an undergraduate joint minor in Ethnic Studies and Humanities and a graduate diversity training certificate program. Our annual reports and assessment results demonstrate that our students have gained more multicultural knowledge, values and skills. Other important initiatives or projects we have completed include, but are not limited to: having received more external grants; having engaged in more ethnic and community learning (i.e., fieldtrips, projects related to "learning by doing," internships) and scholarly work (e.g., more publications and conference presentations); having sponsored more cultural activities/events; and having developed global cultural

programs (e.g., international study tour, international scholars' visits). We have updated our curriculum, and have constantly supported the University's culturally related projects. We have also involved more students in our research. Our undergraduate and graduate enrollment and the number of majors, minors and graduate students have increased significantly; so have our credit hours (FTE). Students' scholarships have also been enhanced. We have had more interaction between students, faculty, and internal and external constituencies (see the previous issues of *Ethnic Diversity* newsletter via [www.mnsu.edu/ethnic/](http://www.mnsu.edu/ethnic/)).



All these were accomplished due to the excellent teamwork of our faculty, students and staff as well as the support from various colleagues and groups/constituencies. I am greatly appreciative of all of them. We are very proud of these accomplishments as well as the Department of Ethnic Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato that has become one of the outstanding diversity studies programs, not only in the state, but also in the nation.

## Reference

<http://www.mnsu.edu/ethnic/NEWS%20LETTER.htm>

## \*Acknowledgement

I want to thank Ms. C. Veldhuisen, Professors H. H. Phan, W. Allen, L. Posas, K. Darboe, J. Quinones, S. Singh, E. Savundranayagam, F. Slocum and many other Ethnic Studies Program faculty members and friends for their wonderful support for me as a chair in the past five years. Effective in the end of June, 2005, my new contact info is: Yueh-Ting (Y-T) Lee, Dean and Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, Minot State University, 500 University Avenue West, Minot, North Dakota 58707 ([y.lee@minotstateu.edu](mailto:y.lee@minotstateu.edu)).

## Faculty Perspective on Pre-College Summer Program

**Kebba Darboe, Ph. D., Department of Ethnic Studies**

Heightened concerns about the under-representation of students of color in the Corrections Program, led to the creation of a Pre-College Summer Program, by three faculty members at Minnesota State University Mankato. Two of the three faculty members (Luis Posas and Kebba Darboe) teach in the Department of Ethnic Studies. The Department of Sociology and Corrections will administer the program for two weeks in July, 2005. The target population is students of color from grades 7 through 12. The majority of participants come from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and southern Minnesota. There are two sessions, and grade levels of participants are: 7, 8 and 9 attend the first session from July 6 through 9, and 10, 11 and 12 attend the second session from July 10 through 15.

The purpose of this program is to respond to the needs and challenges of students of color by providing them educational opportunities and career options. Through experiential approaches to learning students will gain knowledge and skills in four areas. First, increase student understanding by empirically examining social science theories such as criminology, race and ethnic relations. Second, explore through education the root causes and types of crime in society, and the impact on class, race and gender. Third, raise the awareness of social inequality especially in the Criminal Justice System by addressing issues relating to victim discounting, and racial profiling. Fourth, achieve student growth through critical thinking and dialogue. In this connection, professionals or guest speakers will share their experiences with students.

A Pre-College Summer Program has proven to be one of the most effective ways of changing the lives of young people. It can mean a difference between creating a positive future for someone and foreclosing it. In addition, it is beneficial because universities like Minnesota State University, Mankato can easily identify a pool of qualified potential candidates to meet future recruitment needs.

## Ethnic Studies Department's Snapshots

### Visiting Professor Lucy Luo Zhang from Southwest Normal University in China

Thanks to the help and support from Dr. Bill Wagner (Interim Dean) in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dr. Rosemary Krawczyk (Chair of Psychology Department), and Mr. Thomas Gjersvig (Director of International Programs), Prof. Lucy Luo Zhang arrived in the Department of Ethnic Studies in January 2005.

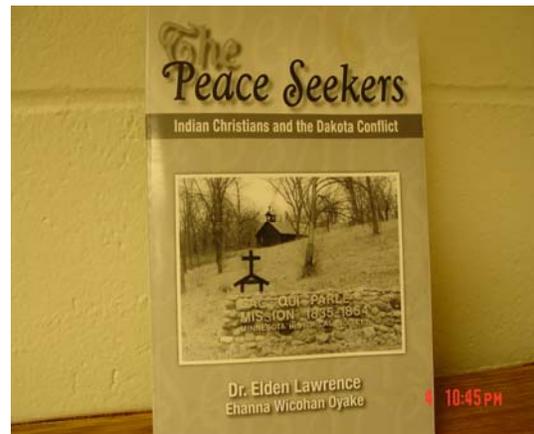


Working with Dr. Lee, Lucy has been doing a comparative study of the Hmong people in China and in the USA.

### Dr. Elden Lawrence's talk about his recent book

On February 18, 2005 Dr. Elden Lawrence made a warming appearance to celebrate the printing of his book "The Pease Seekers: Indian Christians and the Dakota Conflict" (2005, South

Dakota: Pine Hill Press) at Ostrander Auditorium on the Minnesota State University, Mankato.



As part of a public lecture sponsored by the Ethnic Studies Department and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at MSU, Dr. Lawrence discussed "Community, Harmony, and Native American History" by detailing the trying times of his life but interjecting poignant tales of Native American history as well.

### China Study Tour (March 11-20)

On March 11-20, Dr. Lee led a group of 23 faculty and students to Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. This was an eye-opening experience for all our faculty and students from Minnesota State University, Mankato. For more pictures about this study tour, please visit <http://www.intech.mnsu.edu/leey/>



## Ethnic Studies Major Andrew Schons' Reflection on China Study Tour

In our whirlwind study tour of China, we were introduced to ancient Chinese history and the cultures accompanying the past centuries many eras and dynasties. The Chinese population cherishes all of these in varying degrees, their sentiments shown through efforts of preservation and tributes from the Terracotta Warriors and the Forbidden City to key chains and charms bearing the image of Mao. However, one of the most pertinent and influential components of our excursion was the direct contact with the contemporary and developing China seldom seen in American media, and actual discussions with people we had met along the way.



(Above is a picture of interaction between the students from Minnesota State University, Mankato and students from Beijing Normal University in China. The first left is Mr. Andrew Schons)

I believe these encounters are what truly put concepts of "cultural relativism" into perspective, by allowing for the physical exchange of ideologies and customs. It is important to establish this trip as an experience, something beneficial. The China Study Tour

also provided the opportunity to understand roles played within the global community. As we continually throw around terms and labels such as "diversity" around our campus, it is only by establishing a holistic perspective that we can relate to individuals outside our personal milieu, regardless of political, cultural, or geographic boundaries. Being placed in a foreign environment and among its peoples permitted us all to establish a better approach to "others" and a stronger sense of self, at the individual level and as a member within a world of individuals, where underlying commonalities supersede misconceptions and prejudice.

## Chicago's Annual Ethnic Studies Conference

On March 23-27, several faculty members (Professors Luis Posas, Hanh Huy Phan, Kebba Darboe, and Visiting Scholar Lucy Luo Zhang) and our graduate students (James Burnett, John Wilcox, and Ahmed Sufyan) participated in and made presentations at the annual conference by National Association for Ethnic Studies in Chicago.



(Above are part of faculty and student presenters, K. Darboe, J. Burnett, L. Posas, and Lucy Zhang; H. H Phan, J. Wilcox and A. Sufyan are not present in the picture).

## MSU Undergraduate Student Research Conference

Several undergraduate students who worked with Dr. Lee (Sandy Vue, Susanne Nelson, Kristina Mansky) delivered their research papers at the annual MSU undergraduate research conference in April. Kristina Mansky's paper on racial profiling was judged as the best paper in the conference.

# Professional Events and Research Activities

(January 15 — June 1, 2005)

## Cross-Cultural/Ethnic Accomplishments

**Wayne Allen** (2005) earned a Faculty Teaching Certificate, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Minnesota State University Mankato.

**Raymond Asomani-Boateng** (Program faculty) (2005) earned a Faculty Teaching Certificate, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Minnesota State University Mankato.

**Raymond Asomani-Boateng** (program faculty) (2005) presented a paper entitled "*Burrowing from the past to sustain the present and the future: Indigenous African Cities and sustainable urban development in contemporary Africa*" at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Urban Affairs Association, April 13-16, 2005. Utah: Salt Lake City. He also received a Faculty Research Grant (\$5,000) to pursue a research project in Accra, Ghana, West Africa. The project is about "*Waste to Wealth: Market and Commodity Queens and the composting of market organic waste in Ghana's urban areas: Case of Accra.*"

**James Burnett** (Graduate Student) (2005) presented a paper on *Hood II Hood: Breaking the Curse* at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference, March 24-26, Chicago.

**Kebba Darboe**. (2005) earned a Faculty Teaching Certificate, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Minnesota State University Mankato.

**Kebba Darboe** (2005) presented a paper entitled "New immigrants in Minnesota: Somali Immigration and Assimilation," at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference, March 24-26, Chicago.

Queen Esther Booker and **Avra Johnson** (2005) presented a paper entitled "A Study in Implementing a Neutral Network Model to Assess Unauthorized Attempts to a County Hospital's Physical Computer Systems" at the IABPAD Conference, Dallas, Texas

Scott Granberg-Rademacker, **Avra Johnson** and Jacob Helton (2005) presented a paper entitled "Jockeying for Volunteers: Non-Profit Competition for Volunteers in a Second-Class Minnesota Metro-Area" at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois

**Avra Johnson** (2005) delivered a presentation entitled "My Place: A Discussion of African American Women" at a Forum for Women's Issues, YWCA, Mankato, Minnesota

**David Laverny-Rafter** (Program Faculty) is serving on the MSU Campus Sustainability Working Group which is bringing faculty, staff,

students and community members together to discuss sustainability initiatives.

**David Laverny-Rafter** (Program Faculty) (2005) presented a paper on "Sustainable Transportation Planning in Dublin, Ireland" at the Sustainability Conference, March 2, at MSU.

**Yueh-Ting Lee** (2005) published a book chapter entitled "Birds of a feather flock together: Categorical thinking, stereotyping and ethnic identity" (*Ren yi qun fen, wu yi lei ju: Lei shu xing siwei he minzu ren tong gan*). In X. Wang & G. L. Liu (Eds.), *Advances in social and behavioral sciences* (pp. 100-112). Chicago, IL: Interpress, Inc and Beijing: Tsinghua University Press.

**Yueh-Ting Lee** (2005) published a book chapter entitled "Dr. Sun Yat-sen's ethnic/national motivation and enhancing Chinese-ness in globalization." In S. Lu & X. Tian (eds.), *Taiwan in the Eyes of Chinese-American scholars: Critical analysis of Taiwan's society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century* (pp. 409-430). Taiwan, Taipei: Show-wei Publishing Co.

**Yueh-Ting Lee, Norasakkunkit, V, Liu, Li, Zhang, J, & M. Zhou** (2005). *Taoist altruism and wateristic personality: East and West*. Paper presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for the Cross-Cultural Research, February 23-27, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**Hanh Huy Phan** (2005) chaired a session on identity, multiculturalism, and globalization at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference, March 24-26, Chicago.

**Luis Posas and Yueh-Ting Lee** (2005) presented their paper, "Psychological inquiry into stereotypes and racial profiling: Theoretical perspective on using racial and non-racial cues in law enforcement" at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference, March 24-26, Chicago.

**Luis Posas** (2005) chaired a panel on racial contact and conflict in the Mid-west: Social and psychological theories and findings at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference, March 24-26, Chicago.

**Luis Posas** (2005) presented "Foreign Investment and Population Redistribution: A Socio-historical Analysis of the Honduran Case," Midwest Sociological Society Meetings, March 31-April 3, Minneapolis.

**Luis Posas** became Chair Elect (2006-2007) of the Sociological Practice Committee of the Midwest Sociological Association.

**Fred Slocum** (Program Faculty) (2005) presented the paper, "The Impact of Racial Stereotypes on Cognitive and Affective Responses to African Americans." at the Southern Political Science Association's annual conference, January 6-8, in New Orleans. He also was chair and discussant for the panel "Race and Ethnicity in the States."

**Fred Slocum** (Program Faculty) appeared as a guest expert on race and politics on KMSU's Human Race Radio, a series of programs focusing on diversity-related issues. The program will air on KMSU, 89.7 FM Tuesday, February 8 at 10:30 AM.

**Fred Slocum** (Program Faculty) (2005) was chair and discussant for the panel, "Inter Group Racism," at the Midwest Political Science Association conference, Chicago, April 7-9.

## Support and Sponsorship of Ethnic and Cross-Cultural Events/Activities

In January, 2005, the Ethnic Studies Department co-sponsored the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

On February 18, the Department of Ethnic Studies and the College of Social and Behavioral Science organized and sponsored a university-wide lecture on "Community, Harmony and Native American History" given by Dr. Elden Lawrence in the CSU Auditorium.

**Fred Slocum** (Program Faculty) has been invited to participate in a five-week National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar, "Faulkner and Southern History," University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, June 13-July 15.

**Ahmad Sufyan** (Graduate Student) (2005) presented a paper on *Effects of globalization and Muslims in Western world* at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference, March 24-26, Chicago.

**John Wilcox** (Graduate Student) (2005) presented a paper on *Ethnonationalism, Multiculturalism and Racism in Australia, Japan, and in the USA* at the National Association for Ethnic Studies Conference, March 24-26, Chicago.

In February, Prof. H. H. Phan in the Ethnic Studies Department organized the celebration of Vietnamese New Year and the Department also participated in and supported the Black History month and the Pan African conference.

On March 8, the Women's Studies Department and Ethnic Studies Department co-sponsored Kathy Najimy's lecture on campus along with other offices.

On April 13-14, the Ethnic Studies Department co-sponsored "The Culture of Poverty" workshop with the College of Education and many other offices.

## Excellent Undergraduate Students: Who's Who

**Greg Lessard** (Ethnic Studies) is the recipient of several awards for his academic excellence and his dedication to serve the students, the University, and the community.



**Amber Elzen** (Ethnic Studies) has been involved in research projects, coauthored a publication and presented at the Undergraduate Research Conference.

**Brianne Setterland** (Ethnic Studies) is an outstanding student who is involved in numerous community activities, both on and off campus.

## Graduation and Congratulations

**Congratulations to our graduate students** who completed their MS degrees in our Department in May 2005! They are Charissa L. Blue whose research dealt with American Indian mascots and the impact of misrepresentations on American Indians; James Burnett whose research was about social security restructuring as partial reparation for slavery and its aftermath; Charles M. Elton whose research pertained to diversity training and the changing workforce; Timothy Gardner whose research focused on queering

polyamory: Configurations, public policy, and lived experiences; and Sophia Ponce whose work was related to *guranerismo*.

**Congratulations to E.S. undergraduate students** for having graduated in May, 2005! They are Khadra Abdallah, Amber Elzen, Amanda Frank, Adam Jama, Gregory Lessard, Michael Meyer, Susanne Nelson, Kristy Olson, Joseph Riska, Christian Schemmel, Brianne Setterlund, Justin Severin, Mogos Tesfagiorgis, Corrine Vellance, and many other students.

## Ethnic Department Faculty: Personnel News

### The transition of the Department

**Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee** assumes decanal services and responsibilities at the College of Arts and Sciences at Minot State University in North Dakota in the end of June, 2005. Kudos to Dr. Lee for his scholarship and innovative leadership style to both the Department of Ethnic Studies and MSU-Mankato! **Dr. Luis Posas** is nominated chairperson to succeed Dr. Lee.

### Three New Faculty Hires 2005-2006

**Dr. Elden Lawrence** (Native American Specialist) is hired on a two-year visiting professor position and two candidates are hired on tenure-track positions as assistant professors: **Dr. Kebba Darboe**, (African American Specialist) and **Maricela DeMirjyn** (Latino American Specialist).

## Ethnic Studies Scholarships

The Department of Ethnic Studies provides special opportunities and recognition for our Ethnic Studies students. We have the ES Academic Excellence Scholarship/Award for an ES student with the highest GPA, and the E.S. Achievement Scholarship/Award for an ES student who overcomes a great difficulty and maintains a very good GPA and the "Timothy Price Scholarship" for two outstanding students who are in great academic standing and also have demonstrated excellent leadership skills and community experiences. This year **Amanda Ristow** received the ES Academic Excellence Scholarship/Award; **Andrew Schons** received

the ES Achievement Scholarship/Award; **Kaori Otsubo and Sandy Vue** received the "Timothy Price Scholarship." Congratulations!

In order to continue providing our students with scholarships and interactive multi-cultural experiences, we need continuous support from colleagues and friends. Please consider a contribution to the Ethnic Studies Department's foundation account for scholarships (Acct # 335814). For more information, please contact 507-389-6319. Thank you for your active support and contribution to our students and program.

## Thanks to the ES Program Faculty for their Outstanding Contribution to the Department

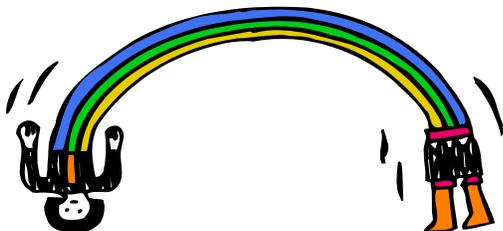
During his tenure as chair, Dr. Lee wants to thank the Ethnic Studies Program faculty for their outstanding contribution to the Department of Ethnic Studies—particularly **Professors Scott Shrewsbury, Jackie Vieceli, David Laverny-Rafter, Fred Slocum, Glen Peterson, Lou Schwartzkopf, Johnson Afolayan, Avra Johnson,**

**and Martine Harvey.** For the past five years, these professors and many other colleagues and friends have contributed a significant amount of support such as time, wisdom and/or financial resources to the Department. Thank you!

## Fall 2005's Schedule

For the schedule of Fall, 2005, please visit the website and select Ethnic Studies Department as follows:

<http://www3.mnsu.edu/courses/>



## Mission Statement

Our mission statement states, "**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 functioning across the culturally diverse and global community.**" For more information about the Ethnic Studies undergraduate or graduate programs, please call the Department of Ethnic Studies at (507)-389-2798 or visit our website (<http://www.mnsu.edu/ethnic>).

## Have a Great Summer!

# **Ethnic Diversity**

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