



Multicultural  
Student Center

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# Tapestry

The Official Newsletter of the UW-Madison Multicultural Student Center

Winter 2012

Happy Lunar New Year! January 23, 2012 marks the start of the Year of the Dragon on the lunar calendar. Red is the predominant color of the holiday. It symbolizes joy, virtue and truth. In Chinese tradition, the *cheongsam* (or *qipao*) is a gown for women during the new year. The gown was created in 1920s Shanghai and was made fashionable among upper-class women. Today, it can be worn as a wedding gown or for other special occasions.



Our MSC interns and staff at our holiday party.  
(Photo by the MSC)

Welcome back students!

Check out what's new at the MSC for Spring 2012:

**JAN 26** **JOHN FRANCIS**  
Visiting Professor with the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies and author of *Planetwalker*  
**Ragged Edge of Silence**  
7-9pm, MU Play Circle.  
Public talk and Q&A session.

**FEB 8-9** **INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP TRAINING**  
Feb. 8-9, 5-9pm, MSC Lounge  
Free training by the Interfaith Youth Core with the goal of building visions and skills toward effective interfaith leadership at UW. RSVP to Cynthia Lin at [clin@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:clin@studentlife.wisc.edu).  
Download registration here.

**COMMUNICATING FOR JUSTICE SPRING WORKSHOP SERIES**

**FEB 2** **Messaging for Justice 101**  
Feb. 2, 6-7:30, MSC Conference Room  
A hands-on introductory training on framing messages that support our social justice work.

**FEB 16, 23** **Communicating for Justice**  
**MAR 1** Feb. 16, 23 and March 1  
6-8:30, MSC Conference Room  
Intended for students who are already engaged in social justice leadership on campus or off. The workshops bring together intensive hard skills training in strategic communications with a media justice movement framework. RSVP to Cynthia Lin at [clin@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:clin@studentlife.wisc.edu).

**MAR 15-16** **R<sup>3</sup> SYMPOSIUM**  
As a capstone to our year-long focus on Faith or Justice?: Ironies, Inequalities and Ideologies, we will be sponsoring a symposium on Race, Religion and Representation on March 15 and 16, 2012.

Visit the website for **schedule and workshop information**.  
**Registration for the symposium is free.** If you need to reserve lodging, please contact **the Lowell**

**Center** by February 14 with the code R3 or **book it online**. Deadline for pre-registration is March 2, 2012, but reserve lodging as soon as possible to guarantee space. On-site registration will be available, but conference materials will be given on a first-come first-serve basis. Meals will be provided. **Download the registration form online.**

**NACHO AVERAGE WEDNESDAY 2012:**  
Every other Wednesday, the MSC hosts a social event for students, faculty and staff. Stop by the MSC Lounge between classes to make nachos, play games and hang out. Nacho fixings provided. Mark your calendars for the following dates and times in 2012.

- February 8: 12-1:30pm
- February 22: 5-6:30pm
- March 14: 12-1:30pm
- March 28: 5-6:30pm
- April 11: 12-1:30pm
- April 25: 5-6:30pm
- May 9: 12-1:30pm

check out our blog, threads

**THREADS** ([mscthread.wordpress.com](http://mscthread.wordpress.com)) is the official blog of the UW-Madison Multicultural Student Center. As an online extension of Tapestry, Threads is like our newsletter's sassier, quirkier and more loquacious sibling. With a focus on multiculturalism, social justice, leadership and diversity, we will: cover news and events; feature photos, art and essays; provide tips on careers, technology, health and more; spotlight cultural celebrations and media trends; explore and discuss issues on campus and in the community.

CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER GRADUATES!


Congratulations to Anh Nguyen, Emily Carter, Jee-Ahn Suh, Andrew LaCroix, Dhruv Mahtta, Priscilla Cain, Anjali Misra, Adam Levin, Jessy Liddell and Riju Narayan! Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Best of luck and we look forward to great things from you all in the future.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Our Winter edition features a special collection of stories and articles about our programs this semester, as well as a short guide to a successful Spring 2012.

- Faculty spotlight on Dr. Shawnika Hull...pg 2
- Community events...pg 3
- Alumni Achievement Awards: Call for Nominations...pg 3
- Book review for *Ragged Edge of Silence*...pg 4
- Interfaith storytelling with Dr. Patty Loew...pg 5
- Guide to a successful spring semester...pg 6

 Follow us on Twitter @UWMulticultural

 Like "UW-Madison Multicultural Student Center" on Facebook

716 Langdon St / 2nd Floor Red Gym  
Madison WI 53706 / (608) 262-4503  
<http://msc.wisc.edu>

# interested in communicating for social justice?

Image provided by Shawnika Hull

The Institute for Social Justice presents an opportunity for students to hone their social justice communications skills in an intensive workshop series on "Communicating for Justice." Register with Cynthia Lin (clin@studentlife.wisc.edu).

Kicking off with the introductory Messaging for Justice 101 on Thursday, February 8, students can get hands-on introductory training on framing messages that support social justice work. 6-7:30 PM in MSC Conference Room.

The Communicating for Justice Spring Workshop Series on Thursdays, February 16, 23 and March 1 brings together intensive hard skills training in strategic communications with a media justice movement framework. 6-8:30 PM in MSC Conference Room.

Below, Dr. Shawnika Hull talks about how about how strategic communications is her way to engage in social justice work.

## Dr. Shawnika Hull uses message framing in social justice work

Dr. Shawnika Hull, Assistant Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, focuses her research on how media messaging and message framing influences attitudes, beliefs and behaviors in a health context. She specifically works on HIV risk reduction as well as fighting homophobia in the black community.

Receiving her BA in Communication from the University of Arizona in 2004, Hull completed both her MA and Ph.D at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. She was a research fellow at the Center for Excellence in Cancer Communication Research (CECCR) and the Sex and Media Research Group.

One of her recent projects was Acceptance Journeys with Diverse and Resilient Inc. Hull conducted focus groups in Milwaukee to find out people's beliefs and thoughts about gay men in order to create messages that would combat homophobia.

**"In Milwaukee, HIV transmission rates among gay men of color are disproportionate. We're trying to close the gap and reduce transmission,"** says Hull.

Acceptance Journeys tells stories by community members about their love and support of a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender person. The stories are featured on palm cards that are distributed to train stations, busses, billboards and other places.

"We're helping to construct a new situation where it is no longer okay to express homophobia or marginalize somebody," Hull says. "I adore this project because it is from the community, developed for the community and with the community."

The success of the project came from community-based efforts to create a normative environment on the policy level and on the ground level. "We have to connect to the communities we work with in intimate ways in order to do the job well," Hull adds.

With Hull, communications research is activism.

"My research heart falls in framing research and my social justice heart falls in Acceptance Journeys. The connection between the two is my aim to decrease disparities in HIV, to improve health in communities of color and to give something back to the community. The best research is done by researchers who really care about the consequences of their research."

We would like to acknowledge the many gifts of time and talent offered by you, our stakeholders, and we would like to extend the invitation to further participate in supporting our mission by clicking our "Give Now" button.

# upcoming community events:

## GETTING REAL II WITH DR. GLORIA LADSON-BILLINGS

**Mondays, 7-9pm, Grainger Hall Rm 1101**

Sponsored by OMAI and the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and Climate, this 15-week lecture series uses hip hop pedagogy as a teaching tool to integrate topics from history, politics and art to culture and performance in the classroom. See [HTTP://OMAI.WISC.EDU](http://OMAI.WISC.EDU) for a full schedule of speakers.

## SECOND ANNUAL SLAVEFREE MADISON FILM FESTIVAL

**Jan. 28, 12-6:30pm, The Crossing (1127 University Avenue, corner of University and Charter)**

Compelling documentaries and a feature film on human trafficking. Films include: *Amazing Grace* (12pm), *The Dark Side of Chocolate* (2:45pm) and *Call + Response* (4:30pm). For more information, visit [www.slavefreemadison.com](http://www.slavefreemadison.com).

## DEEPA KUMAR: ISLAMOPHOBIA AND THE POLITICS OF EMPIRE

**Feb. 1-3, 8417 Social Sciences Building**

Deepa Kumar, Associate Professor of Media Studies and Middle East studies at Rutgers University, gives two lectures: "Constructing the Muslim Enemy: From the Crusades to 9/11" and "The Uses of Islamophobia: US Foreign Policy and the Far Right". [See the Haven Center website for details and times.](#)

## BADGER CAREER NIGHT

**Feb. 6, 6-9pm, Kohl Center**

Meet with top employers, enjoy a casual networking dinner and attend a private career fair. RSVP by January 7 at [uwalumni.com/careernight](http://uwalumni.com/careernight). L&S Career Services offers workshops to help you make the most out of your career fair experience on January 25 (12-1:30pm) and January 30 (4:30-6pm) in 1305 Lindon Dr, Rm 120.

## SICKLE CELL BLOOD DRIVE

**Feb. 10, 1-6pm, 2222 Park Street**

**Urban League of Greater Madison**  
Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a blood disorder that affects 1 in 12 African Americans. There is currently no cure for this disease, so patients rely on blood transfusions to survive. Donors with the same ethnic background usually make the best match. Schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

## OSHKOSH PLACEMENT EXCHANGE INFORMATIONAL

**Feb. 13, 5-6:30pm, Red Gym On Wisconsin Room**

OPE is an opportunity for individuals seeking graduate or full time employment to meet with colleges and universities from all over the country. This meeting will feature OPE-experienced staff sharing information about the placement exchange, tips for being successful, and the opportunity to have a practice interview.



# Call for Nominations: 2012 McDowell Alumni Achievement Award



LEFT: Congratulations to our interns Adam Levin and Anjali Misra, who graduated this December. RIGHT: Social Justice Educator, Cynthia Lin, honors Alida Cardoso Whaley at last year's awards ceremony. (Photos by the MSC)

The UW-Madison Multicultural Student Center (MSC) seeks to recognize outstanding alumni who exemplify the Wisconsin Idea through their work, actions and values. This Award, first presented in the Spring of 2011 was named in honor of The founding Director of the MSC Candace McDowell and her spouse, Chuck McDowell, former Wisconsin Alumni Association Board Chair. They were also the first recipients of the award.

After 10 years of working in UW-Madison Admission, Candace McDowell became the founding director of the Multicultural Student Center in 1988 and led the organization for its first 22 years of existence. Charles McDowell served as president of the Wisconsin Alumni Association from 2003-04. The McDowells have provided us dynamic examples of leadership, service, and commitment to excellence and community that will serve as a blueprint for evaluating future recipients of this award. **More Details available: UW--Madison News**

We are looking for individuals who live the Wisconsin Experience by creating and applying what they have learned during their time at UW-Madison to make the world a better place.

Nominees should:

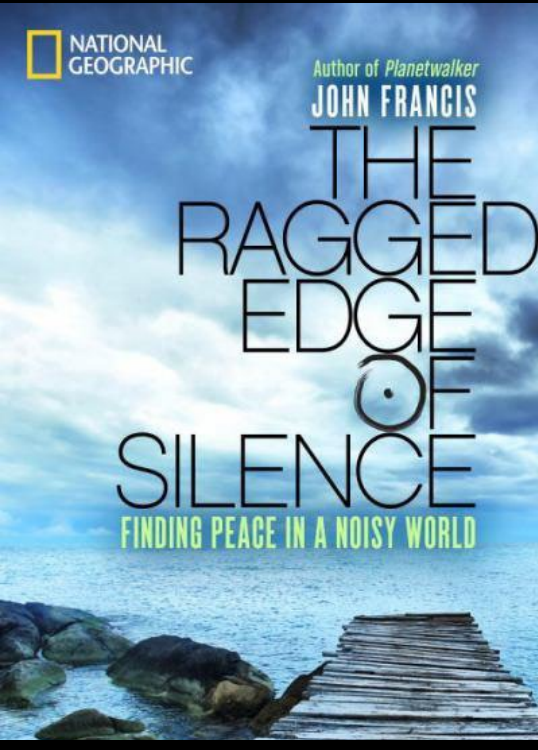
- Identify as Persons of Color
- Embody the Wisconsin Idea
- Enhance the Wisconsin Experience through gifts of time, talent and/or treasure
- Be a UW-Madison Alum\*

*\*If nominee fulfills the other above criteria, exceptions may be made for individuals who matriculated but did not graduate*

Nomination letters should be 1,500 words or less and should be sent electronically to **Donte Hilliard** ([dhilliard@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:dhilliard@studentlife.wisc.edu)) by Sunday March 25th . Nominators may attach additional materials, such as a resume, curriculum vita, etc.

The award ceremony honoring recipients will take place on Monday, May 7 in the On Wisconsin Room (Red Gym, First Floor) from 7:00-9:00pm.

*The Multicultural Student Center strives to provide a uniquely Wisconsin Experience by collaboratively strengthening and sustaining an inclusive campus for all students, particularly students of color and other historically underserved students.*



book review

## LIVING THROUGH LISTENING

### John Francis' *Ragged Edge of Silence*

John Francis begins a journey in *The Ragged Edge of Silence: Finding Peace in a Noisy World* (National Geographic, 2010) when he witnesses the aftermath of two oil tankers crashing into each other in the San Francisco Bay in January 1971. He stops using motorized transportation. For his 27th birthday the following month, he decides to spend the day in silence. At that time, he doesn't yet realize that it will be 17 years before he starts speaking again, and 22 before he will ride in a car.

*Ragged Edge of Silence* is Francis' second book, and it documents his journey inward during those 22 years. It is about pilgrimage as a way of moving through life and silence as a way to learn from it.

Francis' decisions are neither capricious nor gimmicky; rather, they are filled with deliberation and sincerity. Silence and walking are the media through which Francis understands. His book maps out the worldly and internal landscapes of experience, and what silence teaches

him about the clarity that comes via "the world just at the fringe of our perception."

Situating himself in, as he says, the "liminal" or in-between spaces of pilgrimage is how Francis moves through silence and arrives at the importance of listening as a practice for just and sustainable relations. Our attachment to our own arguments and egos get in the way of truly recognizing each other, the world around us and its urgent needs, and our selves.

Reading about Francis' daily transformations and celebrations makes you want to take a pilgrimage of your own and find ways to practice everyday contemplation. The great thing about *Ragged Edge of Silence* is that the author ends each chapter with what he calls "Lessons in Silence," very approachable small-scale exercises like *Painting from Memory*, *Listening for the Ragged Edge*, *Keeping a Journal*, and *Thinking of Our Relations*.

*Ragged Edge* traverses a variety of faith and spiritual traditions—Native American vision quests; Hindu and Buddhist practices in contemplation; a Trappist order monks who take vows of silence; the River Indian Shaker Church whose reclamation of Christianity date back to the Ghost Dance; yogis and seeking divine self through yoga. . . and his mother's devotional prayer. For Francis, one of the most important things he learns is that "gratitude is part of the practice" and, "when gratitude is on the edge of silence, it is prayer."

*The Ragged Edge of Silence: Finding Peace in a Noisy World* is an approachable read that feels like a good, wise friend telling you a story over your favorite activity. When he began studying environmental science at the University of Montana in 1983, he formed a hypothesis that summarizes his thoughts on justice:

*"If people are indeed part of the environment, how we treat ourselves and each other provides our first opportunity to treat the environment in a sustainable way, or even to understand the very nature of sustainability."*

This hypothesis remains at the center of Francis' teaching and practice. It has become his mantra for change in the world, and cultivating listening with one's full body and spirit is the way to get there.

-By Cynthia Lin, MSC Social Justice Educator



Image of the UW Arboretum from the Feralscribe.com

**See Francis share his story at the IJET spring kickoff event on Thursday, January 26 from 7-9 PM in the Memorial Union Play Circle Theater. The event is free and open to the public. Co-sponsored with the Nelson Institute.**

# How can storytelling build interfaith understanding and cooperation?

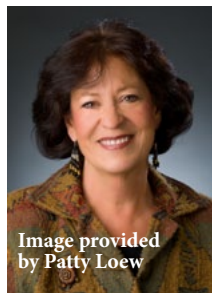


Image provided by Patty Loew

Storytelling is a powerful tool to help people talk about the complex issues of religion and faith, and stories of interfaith cooperation can be utilized to build relationships across

lines of difference and inspire others to action.

Dr. Patty Loew, Professor in Life Science Communication and journalist focusing on how Native American media, shares her broader perspectives on religion.

Loew is a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. The Ojibwe have an intimate connection with their land and orient to religion from a holistic perspective. With other religions, such as Christianity, Judaism and Islam, practitioners can carry religious items with them and find fellowship with others around the world. Nature-based religions aren't so easily portable.

"When your religion is tied to a piece of land and all of your ceremonies are tied to a piece of land, you can't practice your religion anywhere but that place," says Loew.

Loew tells the migration story of her people and how they followed a prophecy to return to their ancestral land where the food grows on water. This place was the Kakagon Sloughs, known as the Everglades of the Earth. The sloughs are inlets in Lake Superior filled with wild rice sacred to the Ojibwe people.

"From the beginning of our return to the Great Lakes, the rice has been covenant with the Creator. Everything about the way we organize our society, religion, law, politics, history and education

returns to the rice. In our prayers, we refer to the wild rice as "our relative" and for us, our identity is in that rice," says Loew. "We think about history spatially with rice and the land that supports the rice at the center. Everything that is important to us radiates out of that place."



Young rice paddies in the Kakagon Sloughs of Lake Superior. (from epa.gov)

She explains, "When people travel, they're used to seeing symbols of faith in minarets, spirals and cathedrals and understand those are religious places. However, visitors to the sloughs may see a beautiful part of nature but they won't see them as

something spiritual."

Through communicating cultural values through storytelling, Loew hopes to find a way to fuse twenty-first century technology into a traditional sensibility that works with spiritual values.

Image provided by IFYC.org

Are you interested in learning more about interfaith storytelling and literacy?

Join us for the Interfaith Leadership Training, led by the **Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC)** on February 8 and 9 from 5-9pm in the MSC (Red Gym, 2nd Floor). The February 8 session is open to students, faculty and staff and will feature an interfaith literacy and strategic visioning session. The February 9 session is specifically geared towards students and focuses on using storytelling as a tool for interfaith action.

This training will offer participants the opportunity to:

- Build their own interfaith understanding—that is an understanding of diverse religious and philosophical traditions while and through exploring and sharing core principles and values of their own beliefs.
- Articulate and develop visions for interfaith cooperation and leadership at UW-Madison, as well as identify specific action steps related to these visions they can take in their own spheres of influences.
- Make and strengthen relationships with other individuals, organizations and offices for potential future collaboration
- Learn and refine storytelling and communication skills as tools for building interfaith understanding and cooperation

Co-sponsored with the Lubar Institute, the training is part of the MSC and IJET's commitment to participating in the White House Interfaith Initiative.

# 1 Stop by L&S Career Services



1. Discover what you can do with your major after graduation.
2. Search for internships so you can get some real-world work experience.
3. Update your resume for career fairs and learn more about the job searching process.
4. Find out how you can market yourself in your resume and in interviews by capitalizing on your different experiences, such as study abroad, part-time work, volunteering and student leadership.
5. Get signed up for **BuckyNet**, a web-based event and recruiting software that connects students with employers

**Career Services is located at 1305 Linden Drive, Suite 205.** From January 23-31, they have extended drop-in advising hours from 9am-4pm, Monday through Friday. You can also make an appointment by calling 608-262-3921.

### Upcoming Career Fairs and Informational Sessions:

- **January 26:** Public Service Career Fair, 11am-2pm in Memorial Union (TITU)
- **January 31:** Spring Career and Internship Fair, 4:30pm in the Kohl Center
- **February 1:** Oscar Mayer Wiernermobile Information Session, 5-6pm in Union South (TITU). Bring resume and cover letter or mail to [wmrequest@kraftfoods.com](mailto:wmrequest@kraftfoods.com) by January 31.

Adapted from **BadgerCareerBuzz**.

The Tapestry Editorial Staff is led by Rachel Kuo (Editor-in-Chief) and also consists of a team of editors and writers: Benjamin Chang, Diana Macias, Kaoly Vue, Lianne Estrella and Shelby Lewis (Student Life Interns); and Martin Chiu (Associate Student Life Intern)



## A SHORT GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL SPRING SEMESTER 2012

# 3 Spend time volunteering.

### student org spotlight

UW Madison's WISPIRG (Wisconsin Student Public Interest Research Group) participated in the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week by hosting a series of events in November. WISPIRG is the University's premiere investigative group on societal issues and disparities.

Veronica Thao, UW junior and WISPIRG intern, felt a personal responsibility to help those less fortunate. "Poverty is a worldwide issue. I felt the need to address it at a local level through different events that would educate the campus community," said Thao.

The week featured a panel of multiple speakers called "Faces of Homelessness" and premiered the performance show "One for All: Hunger and Homelessness Benefit Show". The performers relayed information about hunger and homelessness through art, song, dance and poetry.

# 2 Take care of your mental health.



The Let's Talk Program at UHS, offers free drop-in counseling consultation at locations across campus for UW-Madison students.

While the service is not a substitute for formal counseling, the counselor consultant listens to specific problems and provide guidance toward a solution.

The program is helpful if you:

- Aren't sure about counseling or wonder what it's like to talk to a counselor;
- Aren't interested in ongoing counseling but would like the perspective of a counselor;
- Have a specific problem and would like someone with whom to talk it through; or
- Have a concern about a friend or family member and would like ideas about what to do.

For more information on Let's Talk visit **UHS Counseling Online**.



Robert Lor, UW senior and performer at the benefit show, said, "The benefit show opened my eyes. It made me realize that people don't really know what they have or could lose until issues like these come up. I'm glad that WISPIRG contacted me."

WISPIRG and other student organizations hope to continue raising awareness for hunger and homelessness and improve the quality of lives in the community and worldwide.

-By Shelby Lewis

**Interested in getting involved with the Madison community through volunteering? Try the following websites to explore opportunities:**

**Idealist.org**  
**Morgridge Center Volunteer Database**  
**Volunteermatch.org**