

Dear Readers,

On behalf of The National Association of African American Studies and Affiliates (National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, National Association of Native American Studies, and International Association of Asian Studies), I want to welcome you to the Fall 2008 edition of Affiliate News!

As we continue to expand the scope and quality of service for our members and constituents, I want to encourage you to submit an abstract proposal for our 17th Annual conference to be held at the Marriot Baton Rouge at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The national conference is scheduled for February 9-14, 2009. Last year's conference yielded more than 400 sessions and over 1000 participants, and we were very pleased with the quality and range of topics presented. We expect our annual meeting to attract national and international guests from diverse ethnic groups, and, as always, we anticipate rich intellectual dialogue and friendly professional collegiality.

As many of you are aware, our national organization promotes international cultural experiences and opportunities through our Academic Scholars Program and the Sino-American International Research Forum. We also continue to be involved with the Veteran's History Project associated with the U.S. Library of Congress and the Native Indian Youth Leadership Project, Inc. Each year, three Native American students attend a summer leadership development camp sponsored by NAAAS & Affiliates.

We also host more general travel opportunities such as our recent trip to Beijing, China during the 2008 Summer Olympics. A picture gallery of the trip is included in this newsletter. I encourage you to check it out, and I would like to help promote several other summer excursions planned including trips to Argentina, Vietnam, and Egypt. Please check out this link for more information about these ventures.

Finally, this edition of Affiliate News offers the last three issues of The UnComfort Zone, a monthly article/commentary offering captivating and critical perspectives that I hope you will enjoy and I will continue to share.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter, and I'll see you in February in Baton Rouge!

Respectfully,

Verónica López Estrada, Editor