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Special Edition of La Prensa for Lazo Cultural



MSU's Juan Flores with La Prensa's Adrienne Chasteen, Claudia Ammoni, and Nanette Nieto.

## TPS Latina students head to MSU

By Kevin Milliken for La Prensa

E. Lansing: Toledo-area Latinas were among those who participated in this year's *Día de la Mujer* conference (DDLM) at Michigan State University on Saturday, March 17, 2012. The goals of the day-long event are to "empower, motivate, inspire, connect and support Latinas and all women in their quest for advancement in society," according to its Website.

*Latinos Unidos*, the Spanish-American Organization, and *La Prensa* financially sponsored the bus trip, which included Latina students from Toledo Public Schools, their moms, and other interested adult Latinas. The bus left at 6 a.m. from the downtown public library.

"It's empowering to women, especially to Latina women," said *Erica Espinoza*, 39, of Adrian, Michigan, as she walked to the bus, the excitement and anticipation apparent in her voice. "That's the thing that drives me the most. It's good for *la gente* and it's the right time to do it. We need it, really we do. I think it's going to be a good experience. I'm really excited."

This is her first time attending the conference, where she hoped to meet new people and expand her contacts. Ms. Espinoza belongs to the *Hispanics of Lenawee Alliance (HOLA)*, which assists small businesses and writes

grants for the Adrian Latino community. She also writes for the Lenawee Great Start collaborative, a parents' coalition which coordinates community services, programs and resources to provide the best opportunities for young children to get the skills and experiences they need to succeed.

"Bringing single moms or married moms together, informing them and empowering them—that's the best part," said Ms. Espinoza. "We need hope—and hope is accepting that there's a problem, but knowing that you can get past it. I think that's going to be the best element for the Latinos, especially right now, knowing there are places like where we're going today and that there are resources available to us. I think that's the best part."

"They have keynote speakers, motivational speakers to motivate you," said *Nanette Nieto*, who hoped to receive one thing from the conference: empowerment. "They have workshops to help you on self-esteem and different avenues of career and education."

The theme of this year's conference was "*Luchadoras con la Frente en Alto y Adelante*" (Empowered Women Moving Forward). El *Día de la Mujer* (DDLM) conference is held each year at MSU's Kellogg Center in East Lansing as an event that has become a source of education and development for the many

hundreds of people it attracts each year. DDLM provides an environment where networking connections are made for employment and educational opportunities for Latina empowerment. El *Día de la Mujer* Conference began in 1994 to highlight the accomplishments of Latina women in the community. Since that time, it has grown into a multi-faceted series of comprehensive workshops, focusing on education, health, political, inter-personal relationships, culture, personal development, and self-empowerment for Latinas of all ages and of all backgrounds.

The annual conference has provided a much-needed space for Latinas to affect social change and to highlight their accomplishments. Keynote presenters, forums and workshops facilitated by Latina women provide participants with networking opportunities and for sharing life experiences. Over two-dozen workshops were offered for participants of all ages and life phases, including adults, college students, and K-12 students. DDLM is the only conference of its kind in the state of Michigan.

Speakers at the event included *María Elena Rodríguez*, a Detroit-based author and activist who encouraged participants to be persistent and pursue their dreams; *Judge Patricia Pérez Fresard*, the first and only Latina elected to the bench anywhere in Michigan; and *Lucrecia Guerrero*, a short-story author who uses her bicultural and bilingual background in her magnificent storytelling.

The conference also featured a Latina Summit, where participants identified issues of the day affecting Latinas and tried to find solutions to address those problems. The summit was led by *Andrea Rodríguez* and members of *WIN: Hispanic Women in the Network*. For further information on the conference contact *Juan Flores* at: [floresj2@msu.edu](mailto:floresj2@msu.edu)



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## Penn State cements 2nd straight wrestling title, Michigan's Kellen Russell repeats at 141

By R.B. FALLSTROM, AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS, March 17, 2012 (AP): Penn State won its second straight NCAA wrestling tournament before the final round, and kept charging.

David Taylor, Ed Ruth, and Frank Molinaro wrapped up unbeaten seasons with individual titles and two underdogs were runner-ups for the Nittany Lions, who totaled 143 points for a 25 ½-point cushion over Minnesota.

"I want to be the best," Taylor said. "And man, my motivation is just to go out and dominate someone. That's what I train my whole life to do."

Penn State led by 15 points after the morning session on St. Patrick's Day, and a vocal fan base mostly concentrated in one corner of the Scottrade Center showed support with a whiteout, then chanted "We are Penn State!" after the final match.

"They did what they had to do," said coach *Cael Sanderson*, the former Iowa State great. "We had nine guys score points in the tournament. I'm very proud of them."

Minnesota scored 117.5 points, Iowa was third with 107.5 points, Cornell fourth with 102.5, and Ohio State was fifth with 68.5 points. Illinois (7<sup>th</sup>, with 62 points) and Northwestern (9<sup>th</sup>, with 42.5 points) brought the Big 10 Conference placing 6 of their teams in the top 10.

"It was a good season, not a great season," Minnesota coach J Robinson said. "Penn State was just too tough."

The three-day tournament, held in St. Louis for the sixth time since 2000, was sold out and set an attendance record of 112,393. St. Louis has four of the top five attendance totals.

Cornell had three champions. Junior *Kyle Dake* (35-0) won his third title in three weight classes, *Steve Bosak* (34-4) beat Penn State's sixth-seeded *Quentin Wright* 4-2 in overtime at 184 and *Cam Simaz* won at 197 after finishing third the previous two years.

The top seeds qualified in eight of 10 weight classes and seven of them won.

Taylor (32-0) was named the meet's most outstanding wrestler and had perhaps the most impressive showing of the finals with a 22-7 technical fall over Brandon Hatchett of Lehigh at 165 pounds. Taylor pinned his other four opponents in the tournament and needed just five seconds to execute the first of eight takedowns.

Ruth (31-0) manhandled previously unbeaten Nick Amuchastegui 13-2 to go with two pins and a technical fall earlier in the tournament.

"Unbelievable feeling, especially when you're on the mat and you have the title in your grasp," Ruth said. "It's amazing."

Molinaro (33-0) beat No. 7 seed Dylan Ness of Minnesota for the fourth time this season at 149 pounds but got a much stiffer test with a 4-1 decision. Molinaro won the

first three meetings by a combined score of 40-11.

Dake decisioned Derek St. John of Iowa 4-1 at 157 pounds, his first difficult match of the tournament. Iowa fans booed Dake when he said during a post-match ringside interview that he wasn't able to do much on offense, and Cornell fans responded with a standing ovation.

Dake, who pinned his other three opponents in the tournament, didn't give up a takedown all season and has a career record of 100-4. He was aggressive the first two periods before backing off and absorbed several slaps to the head in the third.

Matt McDonough (36-1) of Iowa won his second title in three years at 125 pounds with a 4-1 decision over Penn State No. 10 seed Nico Megaludis. McDonough, who finished second last year, had cruised into the final with two pins and a major decision before getting tested by Megaludis, who upset the Nos. 2 and 6 seeds.

"It feels just as good as title No. 1. Better. I mean, I don't know," McDonough said. "It's a new year, it's a new thing."

Redshirt freshman *Logan Stieber* (33-2) of *Ohio State* beat top seed and defending champion Jordan Oliver 4-3 at 133 pounds, saying afterward, "I just kept looking at the clock and waiting."

### Michigan's Kellen Russell

Michigan's *Kellen Russell* (33-1) repeated at 141 pounds with a 6-4 overtime victory over third seed *Montell Marion* of Iowa. Russell and Marion have met four times, all but one of the matches going to overtime.

At 285, Minnesota's *Tony Nelson* (32-2) got a takedown with seven seconds to go plus riding time to beat Zachary Rey of Lehigh 4-1. Nelson ended the year with a 25-match win streak and is the first sophomore national champion in school history.

Dylan Alton was the only Penn State wrestler in the morning session, which determined third through eighth place. He finished third with a 6-2 decision over Northwestern's Jason Welch.

The only top seed to lose before the semifinals was Joe LeBlanc of Wyoming, who finished seventh at 184.

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## Adrian College women's diversity conference, March 24

Adrian College celebrates Women's History Month with the fourth annual Women's Diversity Conference on Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 12:00 PM to 2:30 PM on the College campus. This one-day conference entitled "Empowering Women to Lead" includes panel discussions and presentations on diverse women's issues, experiences and communities.

The mission of this annual conference is to provide a venue for discussing the experiences of women of diverse cultural, economic and social backgrounds thereby celebrating women as contributing and vital members of our community. In support of the College's mission to commit to the pursuit of truth and dignity of all people, the following departments sponsor this event: Women's Studies, Multicultural Programs and Academic Affairs.

This year's panel will feature women in public service. Included moderators are: *Julie Berryman* (City Commissioner), *Julie Ramos* (President of the Madison School Board of Education), and *Sarah Bingham* (executive director of ProMedica's PCCS Foundation.)

*Rhacael Faithful*, a legal expert in Indian Law, Gender and GLBT legal issues, Equal Justice Works Fellow and JD candidate from American University Washington College of Law, will give the keynote address.

In her address, Faithful will discuss how her identities as a young, southern, black, female shapes her experience with power and animates her work as an organizer, writer, and lawyer. In particular, she will focus on her current work as a community lawyer at the D.C.-based organization, *Advancement Project*, where she is using a variety of tools to engage powerful institutions to support the struggle of persons who have lost their right to vote as a result of criminal convictions.

Faithful will reflect on three foundational values that have grounded her throughout her life's experiment in engaging power toward individual and collective transformation: embracing vulnerability, experiencing wholeness and cultivating radical imagination.

The cost of registration is \$12. To register, or for additional information, contact Idali Feliciano via email ifeliciano@adrian.edu or call the Office of Multicultural Programs at 517-264.3278. A voter registration drive will be held in conjunction with this event.

## Tecumseh Teen In Need of Transplant

Tecumseh, March 8, 2012: With the cost of a transplant often exceeding \$500,000, many transplant families are unable to shoulder the financial burden of such a procedure.

The *Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA)* is a national charity dedicated to organizing and guiding communities in raising funds for transplant-needy patients. In Tecumseh, volunteers are raising funds for transplant patients like local teen, *Brandon Rodgers*.

Brandon is the son of Sean and Carol Ann Rodgers. Born on January 6, 1994, Brandon was diagnosed with End Stage Renal Disease. The doctors at the *University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital* in Ann Arbor, Michigan have recommended a life-saving kidney transplant. An estimated \$40,000 is being raised by Tecumseh volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to assist with fundraising activities that will help with the Rodgers family's transplant-related expenses. Individuals and groups interested in more information can contact Community Coordinator *Gloria Corbett* at 517.442.9600.

Donations may be mailed to the Children's Organ Transplant Association, 2501 West COTA Drive, Bloomington, Indiana, 47403. Checks or money orders should be made payable to *COTA*, with "In Honor of Brandon K. R." written on the memo line of the check. Secure credit card donations are also accepted online at <http://cota.donorpages.com/PatientOnlineDonation/COTAforBrandonKR/>.

Brandon's family has asked for assistance from the Children's Organ Transplant Association. The organization's priority is to assure that no child or young adult is denied a transplant or excluded from a transplant waiting list due to lack of funds. One hundred percent of all funds raised are used for patients' transplant-related expenses.

## Environmental activist, writer, poet Julia Butterfly Hill launching Wayne State University's Earth Week

To kick off *Wayne State University's* Earth Week activities, the Student Environmental Action Leaders (SEAL) organization is featuring Julia Butterfly Hill, an internationally renowned environmentalist. Hill will present "It's Your World, Take It Personally" at 5 p.m. on April 19, 2012, at Bernath Auditorium in the Undergraduate Library. Hill brought international attention to the plight of the world's last remaining ancient forests when she climbed 180 feet into the branches of a 1000-year-old redwood tree and refused to come down. Her historic protest to the environmental destruction caused by the clear-cutting of northern California's ancient redwoods culminated after 738 days with a negotiated agreement that provided permanent protection for the tree, known as "Luna," and a 3-acre buffer zone around it.

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## Henry Ford Community College hosts 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Alternative Energy Summit “Renewing Michigan” March 30

Dearborn: The *Henry Ford Community College (HFCC)* 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Alternative Energy Summit titled “*Renewing Michigan*” will take place Friday, March 30, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Andrew A. Mazzara Administrative Services & Conference Center (ASCC) on the main campus at 5101 Evergreen in Dearborn.

Representatives from the Clean Energy Coalition, the United States Green Building Council, the City of Dearborn, *Wayne State University*, and others, will present at the Summit on how alternative energy is a vital component in renewing Michigan through economic diversity and growth. John O’Reilly, mayor of the City of Dearborn, will welcome participants to the Summit. Matt Roush, editor of the Great Lakes IT Report produced by WWJ Radio 950, will present the keynote address.

This Summit focuses on the role of alternative energy in the growth of business and industry, and the growth of communities toward renewing the economy of Michigan. Presenters will discuss how LEED for neighborhood development and intermodal transit are cornerstones of community growth.

Sessions on energy reduction and waste to energy will highlight how businesses and government can grow the bottom line with better sustainability programs. *Wayne State University* will present on its participation in the EcoCAR 2 competition, which challenges 16 universities across North America to reduce the environmental impact of the Chevy Malibu. The *Eastern Market* will present on “going local” for food purchases and the Cleveland Botanical Gardens will present on “going green” in your garden.

During the Summit, a business expo will feature cutting-edge companies demonstrating alternative energy technologies for business and the home.

“We are honored to have so many prominent guests coming to our campus to speak on this important issue. The success of green businesses and the impact of sustainability on local communities have demonstrated that alternative energy is vital to the future success of Michigan,” explained *Dr. Gail Mee*, president of *Henry Ford Community College*. “We’re also very proud that our Alternative Energy Program, one of the first in the state, has worked closely with business and industry as a strong partner in this growing field,” she added.

The highly successful Alternative/Renewable Energy degree program and certificate program at HFCC continues to earn statewide recognition. This program covers a wide range of topics including solar, wind, hydro, battery, smart home, construction, automotive, energy auditing, green principles, and green strategies. The program is taught in state-of-the-art labs with equipment used by leading companies in the industry today.

The HFCC 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Alternative Energy Summit “Renewing Michigan” is free and open to the public. For further information or to reserve a booth for your company for the Business Expo, please contact Kathy Dimitriou at (313) 845-9601. For more information about the Alternative Energy Program at HFCC, please visit <http://www.hfcc.edu/programs/>.



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