



# The Torch

Volume 1 Issue 3 ~ Shedding Light on Diversity ~ WINTER 2012

## MESSAGE FROM THE G.A.

Finally, the semester is over and winter break is here. I'm sure that many of you are looking forward to lounging around, eating a good meal, and possibly working to save some money. My advice to you, however, is to not let this time slip away without taking the opportunity to embrace the potential rewards of reflection and planning. As you go through the holiday season, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

1. **Do something to better yourself.** You can read a good book, volunteer, connect with family members and old friends...whatever brings you joy.
2. **Reflect on your high and low points of the semester.** As you transition from one semester to the next, it is a good time to look back at the last few months at college, and identify those areas where you were successful and those where you could have done better. Don't forget to pat yourself on the back to reinforce positive habits and successes.
3. **Take some time to relax.** College breaks are all about relaxing, but many students focus on trying to do as much as possible and forget about relaxing. Take some time off from all the Christmas and other holiday festivities and just spend a little time relaxing. This might mean a walk around the neighborhood, going to a movie by yourself, or just sitting in your room and listening to music. Whatever it is that relaxes you, you should do it during your Christmas break.
4. **Last But Not Least...**decide now how you will reward yourself for all your hard work this semester and make a decision come back strong in the spring. Make a plan of action to spring into the new semester and new year rejuvenated and prepared for success.

Have a safe and joyful holiday!

**- Brittney C. King**  
Graduate Assistant,  
Office of Multicultural Affairs

## Did You Know?? Interesting Christmas Facts from Around The World

- Alabama was the first state to declare Christmas as an official holiday. It was recognized as a national holiday in America on June 26, 1870.

- The world's largest Christmas present was the Statue of Liberty. The French gave it to the US in 1886. It is 46.5 meters high and weighs 225 tons!

- In some parts of the world, banana trees are decorated at Christmas time, due to the unavailability of the original Christmas tree

- In some tropical regions, people put cotton over their Christmas tree branches to simulate snow.

- In Belgium, children believe it is Saint Nicholas who brings them their presents. They also believe he rides a horse so they leave him hay and carrots and water for the horse just outside the house on December 6.

- Finnish people believe that Father Christmas (Santa Claus) lives in the north part of Finland called Korvatunturi, north of the Arctic Circle. People from all over the world send letters to Santa Claus in Finland.

- In France, Christmas is always called 'Noël. Everyone has a Christmas tree, sometimes decorated with red ribbons and real white wax candles. Fir trees in the garden are often decorated too, with lights on all night.

- Several Christmas customs originated in England. The first is the use of Christmas trees. This was made popular during the reign of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The second custom is what is known as Boxing Day. It is celebrated the first weekday after Christmas. What this means is that small wrapped boxes with food and sweets, or small gifts, or coins are given to anyone who comes calling on that day.

- Christmas stockings were first hung in southern Europe.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs would like to wish you...

Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas!

Feliz Navidad!

Joyous Kwanzaa!

Happy Hanukkah!

Joyeux Noël!

Special congratulations go out to the December 2012 graduating class of UTC!!! We are proud of you and wish you all the best in your future endeavors!!!



## TORCH EXPRESSIONS...SNAP..SNAP

*The Office of Multicultural Affairs, Campus and Activities Board (CAB), and the Student Government Association (SGA) Social Issues, Equity, and Diversity came together and organized a Multicultural Poetry Slam. It was quite entertaining and we were treated to some very impressive poetic expressions by our very own students. The first runner up was Mr. Terrence Banks (right), the second runner-up was Ms. Shayna Higgenbottom (left), and the winner was Ms. Audura Hughes (center). Congratulations to our winners and to all the other students who participated!*



For questions, comments, or to make contributions, to *The Torch* please contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs located at UC Room 352. You can also call 423-425-5651 or send your emails to [rosite-george@utc.edu](mailto:rosite-george@utc.edu) or [bria-woods@utc.edu](mailto:bria-woods@utc.edu)