

January/February  
2013  
Volume 2, Issue 1

**The New Jim Crow  
Book Chat**

February 5, 2013  
5:30pm  
YWCA of Cortland

**After Sandy Hook: Do  
Guns Belong In Schools  
Teach-In**

February 5, 2013  
7pm  
Sperry 205

**PASA Presents: "Back to  
Our Roots"**

February 9, 2013  
5:30pm  
Corey Union

**Tokenism: Myths and  
Realities in the Academy**

February 14, 2013  
12-1pm  
Jacobus Lounge

**BSU Presents the Annual  
Kings and Queens  
Conference: The Civil  
Rights Movement**

February 15/16, 2013

**Hope for the Congo  
Teach-In**

March 4, 2013  
4pm  
Sperry 105

## Welcome Back from MLDO

Welcome back! To the campus community I offer a challenge for 2013. I ask that as a community we think together about the "why" of diversity work here at SUNY Cortland and in general. "Why" do we still observe individual heritage months like Black History Month? "Why" are there area/ethnic/gender/orientation studies in 2013 when we are all supposed to be "equal" in the United States? "Why" are there still such great inequities that are tied to difference? These are questions that the MLDO is excited to educate our campus community about. First, the campus community has to consider these relevant and important questions to ask. Join us at our "4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice: ...it begins with you..." where students from across the region will be spending time with these questions and many others. It begins with you! If you don't challenge yourself to ask the "why" questions and demand informed answers, there is no possibility of socially just change.

We have an exciting semester of events, initiatives, and programs planned. We are committed to providing spaces for challenging discussion, celebration, and the continual promotion of civility and inclusion in our community.

We are proud to announce that our office continues to grow, and we are excited to introduce several new students who have joined our team. Kathy Quiroz will be serving as our new Admissions and Open House intern, replacing Sabrina Vidal. Alexis Belardinelli will be joining us as a student diversity conference intern, and Ryan Walker will be completing a diversity video project. Additionally, we welcome Devante Saba, who will serve as the student coordinator for Somos El Futuro.

Andrea DeCaires will continue to serve as our student diversity conference committee chair, and will be joined by Liana Ferguson, who will be interning for the Student Diversity Conference and for Kente. Finally, Gina Campese and Victoria Rasso will continue to support the office on various art/social media initiatives for the office.

## Ally Development Program Focus Groups

The Multicultural Life and Diversity office is proud to announce that we will be holding focus groups throughout the Spring semester to conceptualize ally development programs and trainings geared towards broadening the diversity conversation around race and ethnicity at SUNY Cortland for 2013-2014. Be on the lookout for additional information and calls to action.

### Human Trafficking

March 6, 2013  
12-1:30pm  
YWCA of Cortland

### Somos El Futuro

March 22-24, 2013  
Albany, NY

### Kente

April 6, 2013  
6pm  
Function Room,  
Corey Union

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice

April 14, 2013  
9am  
Corey Union

### Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Higher Education

April 18, 2013  
12-1pm  
Colloquium, Old Main

### Fall 2013

### Multicultural Student Leadership Retreat

September 6-8, 2013

### Multicultural Alumni Reunion

October 19, 2013

## Community Conversation

As part of the ongoing Community Conversations initiative, we spoke with SUNY Cortland Alumni Carlos Malave '11 about his experiences as a recent graduate. You can find the complete interview here: <http://www2.cortland.edu/offices/multicultural/newsletter.dot>



*I was a Physical Education major at SUNY Cortland, and was involved in a lot of different things on campus. I was a Resident Assistant, Multicultural Life and Diversity intern, Caribbean Student Association (CSA) president, tour guide, and I played on the Cortland Men's Basketball Team.*

*Since graduation, I have been substitute teaching, working at several sports camps, after school programs and the YMCA all over NYC. Recently I was hired as the Physical Education/Health Teacher at Inwood Academy for Leadership Charter School in New York City. I was accepted into Brooklyn College for the master's program in Physical Education/ Sports Management. And I also moved out into my own place in Brooklyn.*

*My involvement as an undergrad took me out of my comfort zone, and helped me work on my universal appearance, where I learned how to communicate and better connect with different cultures and backgrounds. This has helped me become more versatile to work and thrive anywhere my life takes me.*

*My advice to current students would be to understand and appreciate that struggle is necessary to succeed. Those who succeed are the ones that, no matter the circumstances, believe. A wise man once said, "Those who say they can and those who say they cannot are both usually right".*

## Study Abroad in Ghana 2013

The Africana Studies Department at SUNY Cortland is proud to announce that registration is now open for the Ghana Summer Study Abroad program with Dr. Seth Asumah. The six-credit course is open to all majors, and runs from May 28, 2013-June 15, 2013. This once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity will consist of participation in a tour of cultural, economic, historical and educational locations while in Ghana; and the creation of a log and journal of experiences during the trip.

All students are encouraged to sign up for the program, and [scholarships](#) are available. You can find more information about Study Abroad in Ghana [here](#). Applications are due **March 15, 2013**.

## Greetings from Open House

Multicultural Life and Diversity Office students joined the rest of the SUNY Cortland community to greet potential students and encourage them to attend our campus.



## Men of Value and Excellence Basketball tournament

On December 7, M.O.V.E. hosted a 3 v 3 basketball tournament in Park Center. With over 70 players and spectators in attendance, and over \$100 raised for their organization, this event was a huge success.



(The Red Dragons-Winners!)

## ...it begins with you...

Multicultural Life and Diversity has asked our students to reflect on the meaning of “...it begins with you...” the 2012-2013 theme for MLDO. This is part of our ongoing commitment to developing introspective and empathetic student leaders. Below is our second set of contributions to the series.

*To me, this phrase means being unique and caring for others, regardless of appearance or nationality. It also means to be a leader and break the barrier of being isolated. Being able to see and interact with different types of people and cultures has a great impact on building your own character and knowing who you are as an individual. Diversity should be appreciated because it brings uniqueness and make individuals stand out. Also, being involved in a community where diversity is huge, you start to recognize many values you have in common and start to appreciate those values more.*

**- Lizbeth Antonio**

*“...it begins with you...” is a great way to describe the ambition of SUNY Cortland students. There are variety of different clubs and activities on campus to be a part of, and it all begins with you and how much you want to get involved. “...it begins with you...” means stepping beyond your boundaries and learning about what lies not only in your immediate world but also recognizing that this world is much more complex than we realize. It is important to recognize and challenge what makes you uncomfortable, and to always remember to keep an open mind about the differences around you. Appreciating the diversity around you will help you develop and see things through a different perspective than your own. Additionally, working together as a school and community to promote inclusion will make everyone feel welcomed and accepted no matter where they come from.*

**-Katherine Quiroz**

## Steps to Success and Excellence Dinner

On November 28, five professionals from Lockheed Martin laboratories returned to SUNY Cortland to participate in the second part of the Steps to Success and Excellence Leadership series. The series has focused on developing skills for diverse student leaders in networking, collaboration, and about how to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Twenty students joined Multicultural Life and Diversity for this important conversation.



## Library Display

Visit the Memorial Library to see the Multicultural Life and Diversity office Library Display. During the month of February, the display will feature significant literature and cinema in honor of Black History Month.



## The New Jim Crow

In honor of MLK day, the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office collaborated with the YWCA of Cortland to present “The New Jim Crow: A Community Conversation.” The event, which was facilitated by Ms. Noelle Chaddock Paley and Mr. Lyndon Huling and was open to the Cortland community, drew a great crowd and was very successful. We discussed the book “[The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#),” and showed a [powerful speech](#) given by the author, Ms. Michelle Alexander. MLDO will be collaborating with the YWCA again on February 5, 2013 for a book chat on The New Jim Crow, and on March 6, 2013 to discuss human trafficking and its impact on our community.



## Kente

We are excited to announce that the Kente Celebration will occur on April 6, 2013 in the Corey Union Function Room. The Kente Celebration has deep institutional history and is an important experience for our multicultural students. We have chosen April 6th because it is the first weekend in a month of honors ceremonies. This will allow our students to proudly wear their stoles to all of their honors inductions, as well as both graduate and undergraduate commencement. The student participation form can be obtained from Ann Cutler in Corey Union 407-A and must be completed by February 15, 2013. Faculty and staff must RSVP with Ann Cutler by February 15, 2013 to attend.

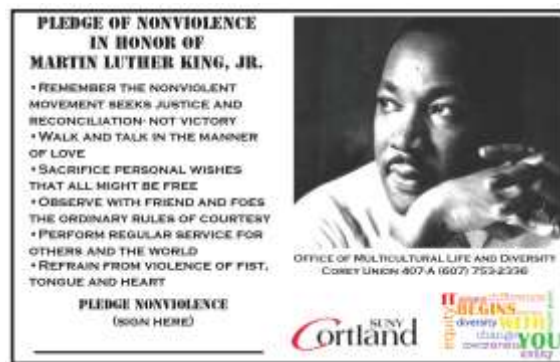
## SUNY Cortland is Tobacco Free



Learn more about the Tobacco Free SUNY Cortland Initiative by clicking [here](#). We fully support this initiative, and will make sure that all guests and attendees will honor this policy and that it will be respected at all MLDO events.

## MLK Pledges

The Multicultural Life and Diversity office will be leading our annual MLK pledge drive. Student-staff will be tabling in Corey Union to gather signatures and pledges of non-violence in honor of Martin Luther King Jr, through the month of February.



### You Are Not Alone Pledge Part 2



The Multicultural Life and Diversity Office is excited to once again run the “You are Not Alone” campaign at SUNY Cortland. The campaign is designed to promote advocacy at SUNY Cortland for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Questioning community by identifying allies in the community.

To sign this pledge, please email your name as you would like it to appear to [sunycrtdiverse@gmail.com](mailto:sunycrtdiverse@gmail.com). If you have submitted your name previously, please do not resubmit.

To see the previous pledge, please visit the SafeZone website:

<http://www2.cortland.edu/offices/multicultural/safezone.dot>

### SafeZone Testimonials

SafeZone is an ally development program for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Questioning community. **Dr. Vicki Wilkins, Niki Anthis, and Mary Kate Boland** reflect on their experience and encourage you to consider attending a SafeZone training in the near future.

*I am thrilled that SafeZone training is finally available to members of our campus community and even more thrilled to be able to strongly recommend it to any and all of my colleagues. The information, the exercises, and opportunities to interact and share were enlightening and effective. But I will have to say that my favorite part was that SafeZone training was in fact a safe zone; and I think that was true for all of us – gay, straight, informed, and not so informed. I see my sticker now every time I enter my office and am reminded of the promise I made.*

**-Dr. Vicki Wilkins, Professor, Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Studies**

*SafeZone was a wonderful experience that I would recommend to anyone on the SUNY Cortland campus who may be interested in learning more about how to be an ally for the LGBT community. It was engaging and I felt like my opinions and insight were valued. I appreciated having the opportunity to learn more about myself and others in an inviting environment. The training challenged me to be introspective and push myself to truly understand how I could stand up and make my voice heard.*

**-Mary Kate Boland, Assistant Director of Campus Activities**

*SafeZone was a wonderful educational experience. It provided me with a new sense of enlightenment and knowledge in an unexplored area. The environment was warm and inviting. I was met with a skilled instructor who took great pride in his work and principles. The training provided a space for students to communicate with each other in an unbiased setting. All of these factors came together to create an experience everyone should participate in. SafeZone will not only enrich you with new knowledge, but will also create a solid ground for your further endeavors.*

**-Niki Anthis, Student**

To learn more about SafeZone, visit the SafeZone webpage by clicking [here](#).