

April 2012
Volume 1, Issue 7

Upcoming Events

[Student Events](#)

Food for Thought

*Conversation on the LGBT
Community of Color*
12pm April 11, 2012
Beard Building

SUNY Cortland A Capella Performance

6pm April 12, 2012
Function Room

Gospel Choir Concert

5pm April 29, 2012
Dowd Fine Arts

Kente

8pm May 11, 2012
Function Room
To learn more about Kente,
click [here](#)

Fall 2012

Back to School BBQ

1-4pm September 3, 2012
Yaman Park
*Rain location
Interfaith Center*

Diversity Retreat

September 7-9, 2012

Islamic Community Dinner

5-7pm September 24, 2012
Location TBD

Unity Celebration

5-6:30pm October 23, 2012
Function Room
Corey Union

National Day of Silence

April 20, 2012 is the [National Day of Silence](#). The Day of Silence is a student-led national event that brings attention to anti-LGBTQI name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBTQI behavior by illustrating the silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBTQI students and those perceived to be LGBTQI. In recognition of this important event, Multicultural Life and Diversity will be hosting a library display (pictured below) in the Memorial Library beginning April 1, 2012, recognizing several important pieces of literature related to Lesbian, Gay, Transgendered, Bisexual, Questioning, and Intersex awareness. The books include "When I Knew," by Robert Trachtenberg, "Eight Bullets," by Claudia Brenner, and "The Preachers Son" by Mark Adams.

National Day of Silence, led by [GLSEN](#), the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, is the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students. Established in 1990, GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. In 1996, students at the University of Virginia organized the first Day of Silence in response to a class assignment on non-violent protests with over 150 students participating in this inaugural event. In 1997, organizers took their effort nationally and nearly 100 colleges and universities participated.



Twitter Campaign

The Multicultural Life and Diversity Office will be launching a Twitter campaign over the next few weeks focused on the theme: #OpenYourEyes. The campaign's aim is to raise awareness about current topics related to diversity, equity and social justice, while also providing eye-opening statistics and facts. The tweets will be accompanied by blogs that will be posted on the [Multicultural Life and Diversity Facebook page](#). Start following us today at: [@sunycrtdiverse](#)

Kente Celebration



The Kente Celebration is being held May 11, 2012 at 8pm in the Corey Union Function Room. We have intentionally moved the time back so the campus community may participate in both Kente and the Graduate ceremony. The Kente Celebration symbolizes and commemorates the rite of passage for learners and scholars who are transitioning from institutions of higher learning to the next chapter of their lives. The Kente cloth is a traditional African cloth – the colors and design hold a specific meaning. It is the most popular and best known of all African textiles. We look forward to recognizing our graduating seniors.

Bus Tour Visits



Multicultural Life and Diversity, in collaboration with the Educational Opportunity Program and the Admissions office, have been collaborating to meet with students from underrepresented communities about the many benefits of joining the SUNY Cortland community.

Student Diversity Conference

The 3rd annual student conference on diversity, equity, and social justice at SUNY Cortland on March 17, 2012 was a huge success. Over 130 students, staff, and faculty members representing SUNY Cortland, SUNY Cobleskill, Alfred State College, Onondaga Community College, Syracuse University, and Keuka College, participated in a day of shared learning. This conference served as an opportunity for participants to develop and nurture skills that will help move them through the next stages of their academic and professional lives while sharing their current research and



experiences with their peers, mentors, and supporters. The conference consisted of nine presentations covering an array of topics related to the theme of the conference: “Being Civil is all about Being Human.” Topics included transgender awareness; cross-cultural communication; multicultural leadership; faith/non-faith; social conformity; and multiple identify development. Additionally, the Institute of Civic Engagement held a special “Leadership Track” of programs geared towards developing student leaders in a diverse community. Running



concurrently with the educational sessions was the “Reflections of In/Civility” exhibit, spearheaded by members of the Residence Life and Housing staff. The exhibit was created, with support from the counseling office, to emotionally engage participants through sight, touch, and sound. It introduced participants to concepts of oppression, privilege, and power in ways that were designed to trigger strong, impactful feelings in participants. The conference also hosted SUNY Cortland students Khalia Brown and Violeta Rivera as speakers, and enjoyed a rousing speech on equity and social change from keynote speaker Felipe Luciano to close out the conference on an inspirational note.



Save the date for [next year's](#) conference on April 14, 2013. Andrea De Caires will be our next Student Committee chair, and our theme is: “...it begins with you.”

Open House 2012

Open House 2012 was a huge success, and Multicultural Life and Diversity was proud to help welcome students to SUNY Cortland. MLDO provided information and giveaways to students during Open House in Park Center, and also conducted MLK pledges at the student Voice Office to promote our various organizations.



C.U.R.E. Scholarship Day

On March 30, 2012 the Cortland Urban Recruitment of Educators program held its annual scholarship day where prospective C.U.R.E. Scholarship recipients spent the day interviewing and learning more about the importance of teaching in disadvantaged communities.



CUNY/SUNY Model Senate and Somos el Futuro

Five SUNY Cortland students played the role of New York state senator for a day when they took part in the CUNY/SUNY New York State Model Senate Session Project on Saturday, March 24 during the annual Somos El Futuro (We Are the Future) conference in Albany, NY.



Noelle Chaddock Paley, the director of the Multicultural Life and Diversity office served as the group's faculty advisor. Paley, along with SUNY Cortland senior Jose Valdez and staff members from the College at Brockport and Morrisville State College, helped prepare students for the Senate experience. Developed in 1997 by CUNY, the Model Senate Session Project was launched at the request of the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force of the New York State Legislature with the aim of providing students with an opportunity to explore the workings of the U.S. Government from a unique perspective.

Sigma Lambda Upsilon and Omega Phi Beta



In the past month, our Multicultural Greek organizations Sigma Lambda Upsilon Sorority, Inc and Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc have surfaced at SUNY Cortland, joining Phi Iota Alpha, and Lambda Upsilon Lambda. This doubles the total number of such organizations on campus. The

growth of these organizations represents a positive transformation change around diversity and equity within Greek Life on campus.

Women of Color Celebration of Women



On March 24, 2012, Women of Color held their 6th annual Celebration of Women: Jugglers of Professions, Managers of Lives event. The ceremony was created to honor students, staff, and faculty from SUNY Cortland, as well as community members, for their outstanding academic

achievement; campus and community involvement; and their dedication to those around them. The event was headlined by keynote speaker Pamela Hunter, who spoke about her experience as a woman working in politics, her work with the AmeriCorps program, and her experience during her pursuit of higher education. The Multicultural Life and Diversity Office was recognized as both director Noelle Chaddock Paley and administrative support Ann Cutler were among the award recipients at the ceremony.

**Upcoming
Voice Office/SGA
Organization Events**

**Caribbean Student
Association**

- Spring Fling CSA Parade
April 28 2pm
Neubig Road

Hillel

- Passover Seder
April 10 7:30pm
Function Room
- One Survivor Holocaust
April 12 7:30pm
Sperry 205

Black Student Union

- End of the Year Trip
April 5-8
Philadelphia
- Fashion Show
April 14 7pm
Function Room

La Familia Latina

- Washington Trip
April 6-8
Washington DC
- Gala
April 21st 6pm
Alumni House

Spectrum

- Fag Bug -Homophobia
April 136pm
Jacobus Lounge
- Dance
April 20
LGBTQ Resource Center
Cortland, NY

2012 Student Diversity Retreat

APPLY TODAY!!!

The 2012 Multicultural Life and Diversity Office Student Diversity Retreat is scheduled for September 7-9, 2012 at Adams Eden. The retreat is an opportunity for various student leaders at SUNY Cortland to come together and learn more what diversity, equity, and social justice means to them.

Learning outcomes for the retreat include students developing an action plan for moving the diversity initiative forward in their community; gaining a better understanding of ones intercultural and interpersonal communication styles; and gaining a better understanding of ones own biases and prejudices. Applications are available online [here](#), and at the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office (407-A Corey Union.) Applications are due **April 18, 2012 by 4pm** to Ann Cutler.



Violet



The [SUNY Cortland Department of Performing Arts](#) recently wrapped up their performance of the musical "Violet." Violet takes place in the South during the Civil Rights Movement, and explores themes of identity, race, faith, love, and trust. Several Multicultural Life and Diversity office students

participated in the performance, including our Drag Show host Joey Gugliemelli and Black Student Union president Khalia Brown. Khalia, who played Landlady Lula, reflects on the experience: *"Wow...what I can say... being a part of the musical "Violet" was the opportunity of a lifetime. Everyone in the Performing Arts Department (cast and crew) treated me like family and welcomed me with open arms. It felt like a dream that I didn't want to wake up from. Not only was the experience phenomenal but...the storyline of Violet was incredible and brought tears to my eyes. To have such a diverse and unique production on our campus was a monumental event for numerous communities here at SUNY Cortland."*



CGIS Conference

The SUNY Cortland Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies will be hosting the Race, Resistance, and Reason conference **October 19-21 2012**. Race matters. In the wake of the racialized responses to President Obama's administration, Islamophobia, re-emerging orientalism, immigrant policing, and the perpetuation of poverty in our global communities of color, we call you to join us in a conversation about race, resistance and reason.



This conference seeks to explore and problematize race, resistance and reason globally and at the level of lived experience. Participants are invited to share scholarship and articulations of the tensions between: the consequences of a racialized body, a strong political identity that is tied to race, and the tensions that are experienced at the intersections of race, gender, sex, orientation, class, and ability. Equally important, we hope that this conference will serve as a space to think about the resistances to hegemonic categorization, naming and normative ideas of reason and thought that we know are inheritances of race and racialized, gendered bodies. The Call for Papers can be found [here](#).

Unity Reception Rescheduled

To the SUNY Cortland campus community:

The annual Unity Celebration is intended to bring the campus community together to celebrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and solidarity. This event is also a venue for recognizing campus community members who have worked to promote social justice, fight inequity and oppression, and ensure that SUNY Cortland is a community where all are welcomed and valued. We recently learned that many campus leaders would be unable to participate in this year's celebration, scheduled for Wednesday, April 18. Recognizing that the April calendar is always extremely busy, we have made a decision to reschedule the Celebration for *Tuesday, October 23, at 5 p.m.* in the Corey Union Function Room. The Multicultural Life and Diversity office is excited to have collaborated with the Deans at SUNY Cortland to make this event a reality.

Our intent is to be as inclusive as possible and to promote broad participation to make this a pillar event here at SUNY Cortland. It is our hope that shifting this event from the spring to the fall will bring better balance to the vibrant schedule of campus activities. Please save the date and mark your calendars. We look forward to your participation in the 14th annual Unity Celebration.

Noelle Chaddock Paley
 Director
 Multicultural Life and Diversity

John Cottone
 Dean, School of Professional Studies

Andrea Lachance
 Interim Dean, School of Education

Bruce Mattingly
 Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

