

January/February 2012
Volume 1, Issue 5

Upcoming Events

Being Civil is All About Being Human: Is an “-ISM” Threatening Your Humanity?

Multicultural Life and Diversity Office
7pm February 8, 2012
Jacobus Lounge

Mixed Race and Black Identity Development: Historical Inheritance and Intimate Realities

Noelle Chaddock Paley
12pm February 23, 2012
Jacobus Lounge

Racial Diaries of White and Black Students: No Post-Racial America (Lecture)

Dr. Joe Feagin
7pm February 29, 2012
Sperry 105

Unintentional Intolerance

Russell Ferguson '81
12:30pm March 16, 2012
Jacobus Lounge

3rd Annual Student Diversity Conference

9am March 17, 2012
Corey Union

CUNY/SUNY Model Senate and Somos El Futuro!

March 24-25, 2012
Albany, NY

(607) 753-2336
multicultural.life@cortland.edu

Welcome Back

Multicultural Life and Diversity would like to welcome the SUNY Cortland community back to campus. 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 members of the team. Jessica Borio will be working to engage the community in the work Multicultural Life and Diversity offers. Cristina Millian, a senior studying spanish adolescence education, will serve as our Student Diversity Conference Coordinator along with freshman Sabrina Vidal.

Additionally, we are excited to welcome Marial Concepcion, a sophomore nutrition major, to our office. Mariel will be stepping in to continue the Gender (in)Equity work started by former student intern Bianca Hendricks. Mariel will be collaborating with Residence Hall Director Nicole Holtz on this work. And finally, we are excited to have Maya Gulliot visiting from France in the month of April. Maya will be observing office events and initiatives in an effort to learn more about multiculturalism and diversity.

Unintentional Intolerance

One of our goals this year as an office is to facilitate a campus dialog around unintentional intolerance. [Dr. Steve Robbins](#), a leading researcher on diversity and inclusion, describes unintentional intolerance as follows:

“Unintentional intolerance refers to the manner in which nice, well-meaning people go about potentially excluding others, even when they want to include them. Research and experience tell us that we all have biases that we are often unaware of, or think little about. And these biases influence our decision-making, behaviors and attributions of others on a daily basis.” ([Source](#))

As a community, we ask you to consider who you include in the work you do. We also encourage you to make a conscious effort to recognize those who are missing. Could you be making unintentional decisions and engaging in exclusive behavior without knowing that you're doing it?

Mr. Russell Ferguson '81, will be facilitating Dr. Steve L. Robbins renowned discussion *Unintentional Intolerance* in response to research and experience that tell us that we all have biases that we are often unaware of. Yet, these biases guide us on a daily basis. Could we be making "bad" decisions and engaging in exclusive behavior without knowing? This session will be offered by the Student Affairs Division and is open to faculty and staff.

Mr. Russell Ferguson '81, Director of Diversity Management for New York State's Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, has more than 20 years of experience in both the private and public sectors as a diversity consultant and trainer.

To learn more about unintentional intolerance, click [here](#).

Shadows of the Civil Rights Movement

On January 16, 2012, the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office, in collaboration with the [YWCA of Cortland](#), facilitated a conversation with the community that reflected on the impact of the civil rights movement. Through viewing a segment of the documentary *"February One"* directed by Dr. Stephen Channing, and the reading of excerpts from *The Shadows of Youth: The Remarkable Journey of the Civil Rights Generation* written by Andrew Lewis, the group had the opportunity to hear personal stories about the civil rights movement. Additionally, the group reflected on their own lived experiences around civility, social justice, and activism. Noelle Chaddock Paley, Director of MLDO summarized the essence of the event as follows:

Let us remember today that there are still people, our human brothers and sisters, here in the United States who are denied access to equity: those in poverty; those who suffer the variances in our education systems; those who cannot access equitable employment; documented and undocumented immigrants who are the target of harsh laws and hate crimes; women and children; those trapped in our systems of incarceration; and those still fighting to marry the person that they love. We must continue to fight for civil rights, the movement has not died nor is it time for it to end. Civil rights must become part of the everyday lives of the conscious. That is the only way we will ever achieve a truly equitable, inclusive, and socially just human experience.

Highlights

Noelle Chaddock Paley, Director of the Multicultural Life and Diversity office, will be collaborating with the [Africana Studies Department](#) on two seminars in the month of February:

- **Being Civil is All About Being Human: Is an "-ISM" Threatening Your Humanity?"** will be held on February 8, 2012 at 7pm in the Jacobus Lounge.
- **Mixed Race and Black Identity Development: Historical Inheritance and Intimate Realities** will be held on February 23, 2012 in the Jacobus Lounge.

Additionally, the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office is proud to announce that the **Historical Black Literature/Film exhibit** will be on display at the SUNY Cortland Memorial Library beginning February 1st, 2012. We are also continuing the MLDO book on reserve series with the inclusion of "The Shadows of Youth: The Remarkable Journey of the Civil Rights Generation."

Secular Student Alliance

The Secular Student Alliance will soon be working with students and faculty at SUNY Cortland to start an atheist/humanist/skeptic student group on campus. There will be an organizational meeting in **the Fireplace Lounge in Corey Union on Tuesday, January 24 at 7 p.m.**

For more information, contact Erica Deretz at cortland@secularstudents.org, or Stephen Wilson, professor of music in the Department of Performing Arts at stephen.wilson@cortland.edu.

On **February 29, 2012 at 7pm**, Dr. Joe Feagin, Professor of Liberal Arts at Texas A & M will be speaking in **Sperry 105** on the topic:

Racial Diaries of White and Black Students: No Post-Racial America

Dr. Feagin, who is being brought to campus by the Africana Studies Department, has done social science research on urban, racism, and sexism issues and has served as the Scholar-in-Residence at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.



Dr. Joe Feagin

Study Abroad in Ghana



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 June 9th until June 28th, 2012. The program is a broad trans-disciplinary and multidisciplinary approach to the study of the culture, history, economics, politics, sociology and the natural environment of Ghana, a developing nation state in West Africa and the first country south of the Sahara to attain independence from British colonial rule.



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](#).



The Field Experience of a Lifetime

Bianca Hendricks, former Multicultural Life and Diversity Gender (in) Equity intern, has embarked on the field experience of a lifetime. Bianca is traveling to Ghana to promote and provide sexual health education for women, and to shed light on injustices happening in the West African country.

Bianca has been studying community health with a focus on international health at SUNY Cortland. Her interests include women's issues and health in the developing nations. Her work with gender (in) equity with Multicultural Life and Diversity has helped prepare her for this experience, and we are excited to see Bianca is originally from Brooklyn, NY, but plans to live abroad to pursue a Master's in Public Health and continue on to work as a public health professional.

You can find Bianca's blog and follow her [here](#).

This fieldwork experience with the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana is an exceptional opportunity to further my ability as an aspiring public health professional. I believe this is my chance to completely immerse myself in the field of sexual and reproductive health, while serving an international agency, and becoming a more diverse individual. I intend to take advantage of this opportunity by contributing to the PPAG's aim of improving the quality of life of Ghanaians by improving their sexual and reproductive health.

-Bianca Hendricks



Bianca Hendricks

