

October 2012
Volume 1, Issue 10
[Upcoming Events](#)

Introduction to SafeZone

Wellness Wednesday
October 17, 2012
7-8pm
Corey Union
Exhibition Lounge

CGIS Race, Resistance and Reason Conference

October 20, 2012
Sperry/Old Main

Unity Celebration

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

Diversity within the LGBTQI Community

Wellness Wednesday
October 24, 2012
7-8pm
Corey Union
Exhibition Lounge

SafeZone training for Faculty/Staff

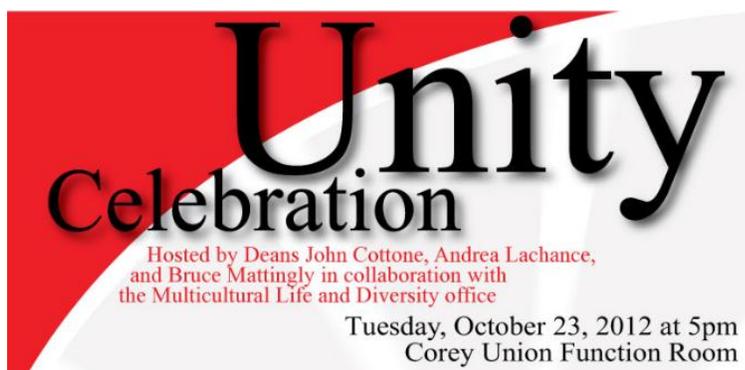
October 25, 2012
1:30-4:30pm
Corey Union
Exhibition Lounge

For more information contact MLDO
at **607-753-2336** or
multicultural.life@cortland.edu

Unity

The annual Unity Celebration, which is being hosted by Deans Cottone, Lachance, and Mattingly is intended to bring the campus community together to celebrate diversity, equity, and solidarity. This event is also a venue for recognizing individuals who have worked to promote social justice and have taken intentional action towards ensuring that SUNY Cortland is a place where all are welcomed and valued. The celebration is planned for Tuesday, October 23, at 5 pm in the Corey Union Function Room. All are invited to attend.

We hope you will join us for this important event. For more information, contact Multicultural Life and Diversity at (607) 753-2336 or multicultural.life@cortland.edu.



CGIS Conference: Race, Resistance and Reason: Rethinking the Boundaries



Registration is now open for the Race, Resistance, and Reason conference on October 20, 2012. The conference will include keynote speakers Dr. Joy James and Dr. John Sosa. 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. To learn more and sign up, click [here](#).

You Are Not Alone

National Coming Out Day is October 11, 2012. NCOD is an internationally observed civil awareness day celebrating individuals who publicly identify as bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender—coming out regarding one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

In the spirit of Syracuse's University You Are Not Alone publication, Multicultural Life and Diversity and the LGBT Faculty Committee will be collaborating to create a list of allies and supporters on campus who pledge to serve as a resource and support for those who may be going through the coming out process themselves.

Be on the lookout for advertisements, tabling, and more information about the You Are Not Alone campaign.



SafeZone at SUNY Cortland

Multicultural Life and Diversity is proud to launch [SafeZone](#) at SUNY Cortland. The mission of the SafeZone program is to identify, educate, and support Lesbian, Gay, Transgendered, Questioning, and Intersexed allies (LGBTQI.) Allies are individuals in the Cortland community who consider themselves to be open and knowledgeable about LGBTQI issues and who choose to provide support, as well as advocate for those who identify as LGBTQI. By training individuals to have their office/work/communal space be considered a "SafeZone," we hope to provide the LGBTQI community with recognizable, visible locations where they can feel safe, welcomed, and supported.

This is a SafeZone. I am understanding, non-judgmental, and willing to provide an atmosphere of acceptance and assistance to members of the LGBTQI community



Be on the lookout for the announcements for the student and faculty/staff SafeZone trainings. Space for each training is limited. Individuals completing the SafeZone training will receive a SafeZone sticker for their office/space, and will have the opportunity to opt-into being included in an online resource page for the SUNY Cortland community.

SafeZone Training Dates

SafeZone training for Faculty/Staff

1:30-4:30pm October 25, 2012 Exhibition Lounge, Corey Union

SafeZone training for Students

6-9pm November 15, 2012 Caleion Room, Corey Union

Other development opportunities

"An Introduction to SafeZone" Wellness Wednesday

7pm October 17, 2012 Exhibition Lounge, Corey Union

Multicultural Life and Diversity will be presenting information about the SafeZone initiative, providing background, context, and action steps for moving forward.

"Diversity within the LGBTQ Community" Wellness Wednesday

7pm October 24, 2012 Exhibition Lounge, Corey Union

The Multicultural Life & Diversity office, in collaboration with Leah Calzolaio, Project Coordinator, Cortland LGBTQI Resource Center will be leading a panel discussion on the topic of diversity within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning, and Intersexed community. The goals of this panel are to discuss assumptions of sameness in the LGBTQI community, and hear the unique experiences of each panelist around their multiple identities.

Connect with Multicultural Life and Diversity at SUNY Cortland

Multicultural Life and Diversity is committed to connecting with our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members through a variety of social mediums.

[Visit our official webpage](#)

Join the Multicultural Life and Diversity [Facebook](#) page.

Add [Diversity Cortland](#) to your list of Facebook Friends.

Add "[Multicultural Life and Diversity office](#)" to your professional network through LinkedIn.

Alumni, help us stay connected through the [Multicultural Life and Diversity Alumni](#) Facebook page.

Follow us on Twitter: [@sunycrtdiverse](#)



Multicultural Life and Diversity Office

Corey Union, Room 407-A

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multicultural.life@cortland.edu

2012 Multicultural Leadership Retreat

The Multicultural Life and Diversity office took 36 students and 4 staff members to *Adams Eden* in Lafayette, NY this September to develop leadership skills that hold diversity, equity, and inclusion as core values, as well as create new impactful relationships and build coalitions. *Taheera Usher*, one of the students who attended the retreat, shares her thoughts on the experience. *Taheera is an international transfer student from St. Johns Junior College of Liberal Arts in Belize City currently living in the Leadership House.*



“As a member of the Leadership House on campus, I attended the Multicultural and Diversity Retreat, which included an entire weekend with unfamiliar faces. I was reluctant at first and extremely nervous because such activities are completely out of my element.

I can now say that the retreat was an insightful and eye-opening experience, as I gained knowledge about the leadership skills and lifestyles of individuals from other races, classes and gender. Not only was I able to learn about others, but I was also able to find out things about my own leadership skills that I did not know. Through the various discussions, I was able to share my opinions about everyday life encounters, and also listen to the stories of others. On several occasions, I was taken out of my comfort zone. These opportunities allowed me to face my fears and therefore allowed me to become more in-tune with my inner-self. Personally, the most beneficial aspect



(Taheera Usher, center)

of this retreat was meeting new friends. I was able to form bonds and connections that I will hold close to my heart.

Overall, this experience has helped me become more appreciative of others and their struggles. I came out with a positive view on life and the many differences that we all face as diverse people coming from various parts of the world with different beliefs, ideas, thoughts and values.”

2nd annual Train the Trainer Student Diversity Workshop

On September 22nd, 6 students at SUNY Cortland completed a 4-hour diversity training in preparation to present to COR 101 classes and student organizations about the importance of diversity, equity, and social justice. Multicultural Life and Diversity understands that peer-to-peer learning is an imperative in higher education, and is excited to have these students share their unique experiences and perspectives with the community.



Jessica Williams and Glodibal Natera



Jillian Anesta and Katie Vellardito



Asantewa Feaster and Leah Gelblat

Brockport Diversity Conference



The Multicultural Life and Diversity office spent a day with 6 student leaders at the College at Brockport's 12th annual Diversity Conference: "Building Community through Diversity: Spirituality, State and Politics." The students had the

opportunity to participate in various workshops related to diversity, equity, faith/non faith, and the impact of diversity in our politicized society. The conference highlighted diversity as an important value in building and nurturing a community through interfaith dialogue that addresses the intersection of faith/non faith with government and political enterprises.

Islamic Community Dinner

The Islamic Community Dinner and Dialogue was held on September 24, 2012 in the Interfaith Center. The event was created to create a space to share a dialogue about the intersectionality of faith/non-faith, community, and culture with members of the Islamic community. Tanweer Haq, Advisor on Islam and Counselor at Syracuse University, spoke about the importance of understanding and examining the roles faith/non-faith play in our lives. Through stories and reflections on his own spiritual exploration, Tanweer Haq engaged those in attendance, and made an indelible impact on everyone.



For more information about Islamic community at SUNY Cortland, contact:

Dr. Kassim Kone
kassim.kone@cotland.edu

Muslim prayers are held Fridays at 1pm in the Interfaith Center Library

Multicultural Student Organizations meeting times

All meetings are in the Voice Office in Corey Union unless otherwise noted

Black Student Union

Mondays 6pm

Men of Value and Excellence

Mondays 7pm

Spectrum

Tuesdays 6pm

La Familia Latina

Wednesdays 7pm
(Fireplace Lounge)

Hillel

Tuesday 8:00pm

Pan African Student Association

Wednesday 7pm

Women of Color

Thursdays 6pm

Caribbean Student Association

Thursdays 7pm

Secular Student Alliance

Wednesdays 7pm
(Interfaith Center Library)

Voice Office Kickoff



Over 120 students joined Multicultural Life and Diversity to kick off the 2012-2013 school year in the Voice Office. The group discussed each organizations goals and objectives for the year, sharing their upcoming events, initiatives, and opportunities for collaboration. The theme

of the meeting was achieving academic excellence, and the Voice Office organizations are excited to reach their potential through socio-centric support and collaboration.

Welcome Back BBQ

Multicultural Life and Diversity held their annual welcome back BBQ on September 3rd. The gathering allows students, staff, and faculty to network, make new friends, and begin conversations about the upcoming school year. Representatives from various cultural organizations, affinity groups, and backgrounds came together to share stories, ideas, and laid the groundwork for another successful year at SUNY Cortland.

A special thank you goes to President Bitterbaum, his wife Ellen, and Vice President for Student Affairs Greg Sharer for joining us.



Students Against Violence



We are proud to put our support behind the campus violence prevention initiative at SUNY Cortland. Eradicating hate and creating a more civil and unified community are core tenants of the MLDO mission, and hope that you will join us in doing your part to support this important cause. ...it begins with you...