

March 2013
Volume 2, Issue 2

SUNY/CUNY

Somos El Futuro

March 22-24, 2013

Albany, NY

Kente

6 p.m. April 6, 2013

Function Room

Corey Union

**4th Annual Student
Conference on Diversity,
Equity, and Social Justice**

9 a.m. April 14, 2013

Corey Union

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

12 p.m. April 3, 2013

Colloquium, Old Main

Fall 2013

**Multicultural Student
Diversity Retreat**

September 6-8, 2013

**Multicultural Alumni
Reunion**

October 19, 2013

**4th Annual Student
Conference on
Diversity, Equity, and
Social Justice**

The [4th Annual SUNY Cortland Student Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice](#) is set for

Sunday, April 14, 2013 from

9-4 p.m. in Corey Union. The

conference was established to

provide college students with an

opportunity and a venue to share

their research, build their resumes,

and network with other students

across New York State around the

core values of diversity, equity and

social justice. This student-led conference allows participants to

problematize, conceptualize, research, and present in a variety of

academic disciplines.

The conference focus is in line with the strategic goals of the SUNY system as well as those of SUNY Cortland. Our keynote presenters this year are Dr. Paula Ioanide and Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell, both from the Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, at Ithaca College. Dr. Ioanide and Dr. Bradwell will be collaborating on their keynote speech to create a unique presentation that will center on their research related to race, identity, social justice, and personal empowerment within the educational system.

Registration is now open for students, staff, and faculty interested in attending the conference. To attend, please visit the [SUNY Cortland Student Diversity Conference](#) page on the Multicultural Life and Diversity office website. Academic and Student Affairs departments, as well as student organizations and other affiliated groups are encouraged to collaborate and support student participation in this conference.

Keynote Speakers Dr. Paula Ioanide and Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell will be speaking at 1 p.m. in the Corey Union Function Room, and their portion of the conference is free and open to the public.



Buffalo State Presentation

On February 22, Noelle Chaddock Paley presented “The Necessity of Race Conversations” at SUNY Buffalo as part of their Black History Month Celebration. The event, which was sponsored by the African and African American Studies department, invited participants to problematize current suggestions that the United States has entered an era of colorblindness and post-raciality.

Res Life Conference

The Multicultural Life and Diversity office presented at the Residence Life Conference on February 22. Director Noelle Chaddock Paley presented “Diversity’s role in Higher Education.” Assistant Director Lyndon Huling presented, “An Introduction to SafeZone.” Join the follow-up [Facebook](#) conversation today!

Campus Involvement Opportunity

On April 5, 2013, the SUNY Cortland Admissions office will be bringing prospective students from New York City to campus. The office will be holding a series of events that day. Those interested in meeting these students should contact Justin Brymn at justin.brymn@cortland.edu

Community Conversation

As part of the ongoing Community Conversations initiative, we spoke with **Ryan Aldrich, SUNY Cortland Student**, about his experiences as a veteran at SUNY Cortland. You can find the complete interview here: <http://www2.cortland.edu/offices/multicultural/newsletter.dot>

Please tell us a little bit about yourself

My name is Ryan Aldrich. I am 26 years old; right out of high school I joined the army at 18. I went over and lived in Germany that is where I was stationed, I did two tours in Iraq. One was a 15 month tour during the surge and the other was a 12 month tour. After I left Germany at the end of my second tour, I came to SUNY Cortland. I am from a small town in Orange County and am studying to be a History teacher.

What are your thoughts about the campus climate related to being a veteran and the veteran experience?

I don’t feel like there are many things here for veterans as far as things to do or ways to get veterans together. The only thing I do, not with the campus but by myself, is sometimes go down to VFW and that is where other veterans go. But I have met some of the faculty and staff that have served there, and that is pretty cool. It is always nice to meet other people, veterans in particular. But other than that there is nothing really for me to do.

You said you have spoken to individuals who have served and were college students here at the same time. Can you tell me about what that dynamic is like?

For me personally, it is a little different than the traditional path of coming right from high school to college. I came here when I was 24 and did not know anybody. It was not that I did not want to go out and be social, I just did not want to hang out with 18 year olds, or even 20 year olds because I felt like I couldn’t relate with them. I actually met a bus driver who was in the National Guard and he and I just clicked. I feel that was a lot of help, because when we spoke, we talked about how it felt like you’re never going to relate to anyone here, because they are all younger than us, and we are non- traditional students. We try to make do, but it’s just hard to break out of that little shell sometimes. Even something like a club or organization would help. I know some professors that are vets and have gotten them involved with the campus. It can be hard to relate to someone who does not know what it means to be a veteran, so if you have a program or a club with individuals who are not veterans, sometimes I get the impression they feel like, “what the heck are they talking about?”

Back to Our Roots

On February 9, 2013 the Pan African Student Association held the 1st annual Back to Our Roots celebration. The event consisted of a formal banquet featuring a showcase of African clothes, modern and traditional African dances, and drums. Additionally, the event included a keynote speech that focused on the impact of slavery on Africa.



John Aerni-Flessner delivers the keynote speech

Photos from the Kings and Queens conference and the PASA event were taken by Brandon Todd, a SUNY Cortland student. You can see more of Brandon's work at www.branndannart.com

Black History Month Recap

Black History Month, which is coordinated annually by the Africana Studies Department and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Dr. Seth Asumah, has wrapped up another successful series. The month long celebration consists of various sandwich seminars and evening events that cover a diversity of interests. Topics included famous musicians, literature, global relations, women's narratives, and more. In addition, Gospel Choir, SUNY Cortland A Capella, Africana Dance, and Salsa collaborated to host the annual Cultural Celebration. Individuals interested in participating in Black History Month in the future should contact Dr. Seth Asumah.



Lyndon Huling discusses Tokenism in Higher Education

Kings and Queens Conference Weekend

SUNY Cortland Black Student Union hosted the Annual Solidarity Dinner on Friday, February 15, and the Kings and Queens Conference: The Civil Rights Movement on Saturday, February 16 as key events for Black History Month. The conference provided students, staff, and faculty with a space to discuss current events and issues related to the black empowerment movement.

The goal of the conference was to empower participants with new knowledge, mindsets, and perspectives on Kement, the civil rights movement, and the current day struggles of the black community. Three workshops were held, each highlighting an important aspect of the conference theme. Dr. Seth Asumah, student Jason Carriero, and Dr. Sebastian Purcell each shared their personal insight and thoughts on various aspects of the civil rights movement, diversity, and inclusion in our society. Featured speaker, Dr. Cheryl Sterling, spoke about Yoruba based traditions in Brazil, and their impact on Afro-Brazilian identify. The conference was capped by keynote speaker Dr. Oba T'Shaka, who spoke about his experiences during the civil rights movement in California. Dr. Oba T'Shaka, who has been an active member of the Black Freedom Movement since 1960, shared stories about organizing and leading movements during the civil rights era.



Birthright to Israel



Leah Gelblat, bottom right, with her group and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



Natalie Finkle shares a photo from her travels through Israel

Birthright to Israel

SUNY Cortland students **Leah Gelblat and Natalie Finkle** share their experiences from their Birthright trip to Israel over winter break.

*Taking a trip to Israel was a dream come true! From the moment the plane landed in Tel Aviv there was an instant connection with the people around me as they were welcoming us to their homeland. During my time in Israel there were two experiences that affected me most. My first experience was when my group and I went into the desert. We rode camels while watching the sun begin to set. Next we ate dinner and started to bond with the unbelievable Israeli soldiers who had just joined our trip. We began to learn about each other as we compared lifestyles, beliefs and culture. I quickly learned that they were just like me. After dinner we walked further into desert; away from the tents and other groups. After about a half hour of walking we stopped and stood in a big circle. We listened as the Rabbi talked about the history of our ancestors and how they walked this very same path thousands of years ago, which was extremely difficult to fathom. Next he recited a prayer called the Shema (שמע), after every line he translated it into English. The prayer stresses the number one... we as Jews are one people... one land for the Jewish people, and so on. At first the prayer did not mean much to me until we were told to go find a spot in the desert and reflect on ourselves, our lives and what the Shema meant to us. This was extremely moving and powerful for me. As I was sitting on the cold sand, humming the Shema, reflecting on my life, my culture and the history of my family I felt a chill run through my body that caused me to understand, I am home. This feeling of being connected to my homeland was still foreign to me until I met the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu. The first thing that came out of his mouth as he addressed everyone was, "welcome home". This took away any uncertainty that was in my mind about whether or not I was a visitor in Israel or if I was in MY homeland. Being one of the few people to meet him was such an honor and an amazing way to end the best trip of my life. I not only learned about the people of Israel, my culture and Israel itself; I learned more than I could ever imagine about myself. - **Leah Gelblat***

*Having the opportunity to travel to Israel on birthright was rewarding in itself, but I had no idea how much of an impact this trip would have on me in the long run. At first, I was afraid that I wasn't 'Jewish' enough to go on this 10 day journey. I feared that everyone around me was going to be extremely religious, but I am thrilled to say that this was not the case. There were a few things that were related to the religion, but for the majority of the time, the trip was focused on learning more about myself as an individual. My favorite experience was visiting the Western Wall/ Wailing Wall. My group went to the Wall during Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, which occurs every Friday evening at sundown. It was absolutely incredible to see people from all over the world come together as one to sing, dance, and simply enjoy life. This was just one of the many breathtaking experiences that I had while in Israel. I would go back in a heartbeat if I could. I learned so much about the culture and about myself in such a short period of time. I strongly encourage anyone eligible to do it. You have nothing to lose and so much to gain! - **Natalie Finkle***

Interfaith Center Winter Holidays Event

On December 6, 2013, the Interfaith Center hosted a fantastic collaborative dish-to-pass with Hillel, the Secular Student Alliance, and the Interfaith Crew.

The Winter Celebration began with a dish-to-pass that included Latkes, a turkey, and spaghetti & meatballs. The serving table had candy canes and gelt on it - a festive recognition of multiple winter holidays.

After the meal, Hillel shared dreidels, gelt and a menorah and taught the group about Chanukah. The Secular Student Alliance had a globe that they used to teach about the axial tilt of the earth - and why there is a winter solstice.

Student Diversity Retreat Applications

Applications for the fall 2013 Multicultural Life and Diversity office Student Diversity Retreat will be available on April 1, 2013 on the Multicultural Life and Diversity office website at the [Student Diversity Retreat webpage](#).

SUNY Wellness Challenge

The Multicultural Life and Diversity office is pleased to be able to support the SUNY Wellness Challenge. Noelle Chaddock Paley, Lyndon Huling, Ibipo Johnson-Anumonwo and Andrea Robinson-Kuretich make up team “#sunycrtdiverse.”

Belize Book Project

The Multicultural Life and Diversity office recently donated 25 books related to Latino, Native American, and African-American history to a brand new public library in Belmopan Belize that was built using volunteer labor and donated materials. The effort was organized by a Peace Corps literacy volunteer.

YWCA Book Chat

The YWCA of Cortland recently held a book chat that continued the conversation that started at the MLK Day event in January. The book chat participants discussed thoughts, ideas, and action items around the injustices brought to light in “The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander.

Woman’s History Month Schedule 2013

Caroline K. Kaltefleiter, Coordinator, Women’s Studies Program
Phone: 753-4203 Email: caroline.kaltefleiter@cortland.edu

March 6 **“Beating Down the Dorm Door: College Relationships & Domestic Abuse”** Victoria Grillo, English Major, Exhibition Lounge 12:30-1:30 p.m.

March 18 **“What Grandma Taught Me: Crafting Feminism”** Johanna Mustico, Professional Writing Major. Jacobus Lounge, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

March 19 **“Social Justice and Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities”** Sandy Lane, Syracuse University Jacobus Lounge, 7 p.m.

March 20 **“The Good Ole Boy Extraction Club: Patriarchy, Patriotism and Pandering in the Era of Hydraulic Fracturing”** Wendy Lynn Lee, Bloomsburg State University Sperry 205, 4:30 p.m.

March 21 **Women’s Path to Success Panel** Moderator: Jena Curtis Associate Professor, Health Department SUNY Cortland, Panelists: *Donna Videto, Health Department; Khalia Brown, Student Government Association; Johanna Hartnett, Child Care Center; Ellen Burton, President’s Office; Connie Biviano, Student Health Service* Jacobus Lounge, 3 p.m.

March 23 **Women of Color Celebration** Exhibition Lounge 3 p.m.

March 26 **“The Walking Dead: A Feminist Critique”** Lorraine Berry, Director NeoVox Sperry 105, 4:30 p.m.

March 27 **“Why Pussy Riot Didn’t Empower my Russian Mother”** Allison Best, Professional Writing Major, Jacobus Lounge, 12:30 p.m.

March 28 **“Let’s Roll: Girls and Roller Derby Follow Up Interview”** WSUC-FM Radio Broadcast WSUC-FM Studios Caroline Kaltefleiter, Communication Studies 3 p.m.

Visit the Women’s Literature Display at the Memorial Library



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

In an effort to share the message at SUNY Cortland that there is support and resources across our campus for the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, Questioning, and Intersex community, we have created the **You Are Not Alone** campaign.

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|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Erik Bitterbaum | Kate Coffey | Julie Gorman | Greg Sharer | Jen Cutsogeorge |
| Adam Harvey | Lyndon Huling | Khalia Brown | Kayla Jones | Carissa Conway |
| Carolyn Bershady | Noelle Chaddock | Kimberly Olsen | Gregg Houck | Jessica Bucci |
| Beth Klein | Paley | Jennifer Petrosino | Heather Palermo | Robin Tobin |
| Mary Guido | Ann Cutler | Jennifer Andrews | Jamie Kelly | Julia Amoroso |
| Catherine Smith | Dr. Nancy Kane | Chris Hagquist | Jaclyn DeBouter | Denise D. Knight |
| Sandra Wohlleber | Judith A. Ouellette | Nancy Newell | Phillip Mears | Laura Campbell |
| Sarah Turon | Vicki Wilkins | Malen Valencia | Naomi Strauss | Jeanette Dippo |
| Kayla Jones | Jean D. Brown | Tawana McNair | Sasha Endo | Mecke Nagel |
| Joan Beth Berbenich | Mark Cerosaletti | Brandon Todd | Victoria Barrett | Marisa Rinde |
| Cythia Benton | Elizabeth Wust | Kiana Morris | Jennifer Pedersen | Katherine Quiroz |
| Marie Blanden | Cheryl Hines | Karen Sanchez | Melanie Figueroa | Miguel Espailat |
| Michele Gonzalez | Marinda Souva | Kenisha Rohadfox | Shelby Fisher | Herb Haines |
| David Horak | Becky Bennett | Kimberly Arnold | Asantewa Feaster | Mary Kate Boland |
| Melissa Tierney | Abby Thomas | Kim M. Conzola | Katelyn Schultz | Glodibal Natera |
| Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo | David Rincon | Johnathan Rodriguez-Leslie | Jessica Dashnaw | Yashema McGregor |
| Leah Calzolaio | Davon Clarke | Kathy Lattimore | Brianna Sullivan | James R. FitzGerald |
| | | | Emily Quinlan | Lorraine Berry |

These individuals have pledged to support the LGBTQ community in the Cortland community. A collaborative effort between Multicultural Life and Diversity, the LGBT Faculty Committee, and Spectrum. For more information, contact MLDO at 607-753-2336 or at multicultural.life@cortland.edu

