

May 2013
Volume 2, Issue 4

2013-2014

Student Diversity Retreat
September 6-8

Diversity Peer Training
September 16, 7-9pm
Corey Union 305-306

Unity Celebration
October 15

Multicultural Alumni Reunion
October 18-19

**Culture Transformation:
What is it and how can it
benefit the Institution?**
November 6, 12:30pm
Jacobus Lounge

Annual Drag Performance
November 9
Corey Union Function
Room

**American Indian Students
and Public Higher
Education in the 21st
Century - The Reality**
December 5, 12pm
Jacobus Lounge

Kente Celebration
April 5, 2014

**Student Diversity
Conference**
April 12, 2014

Alumni Diversity Initiatives



Students meet with the alumni board during a meeting April 20

SUNY Cortland Alumni Association Board of Directors recently created an ad hoc committee for diversity to examine the association's programs, boards and outreach. Members Ronnie Sternin Silver '67, Lee Clark '81, Isidro Dela Rosa '09, Bianca Hendricks '12, Jamie Piperato '12, Cheryl Singer Sullivan '81 and Joseph Vallo '79, along with staff liaisons, Noelle Chaddock Paley (director of multicultural

life and diversity), Michael Sgro (executive director of alumni affairs) and Erin Boylan (associate director of alumni affairs), have been charged with continuing to expand and nurture the connection between diversity and the association. The committee has conducted two meetings. First tasks will be updating the Alumni Association bylaws to articulate the commitment to diversity, diversity trainings, and a programmatic review. Additionally, the committee has spent time talking to current students about best practices in reaching out to multicultural communities.

Multicultural Alumni Reunion Oct. 18-19, 2013

Who's at the Table? Examining the SUNY Cortland Diversity Story

Everyone has a story to share. What's yours? Mark your calendar to attend the Multicultural Alumni Reunion 2013! An exciting weekend is planned full of opportunities to meet up with alumni friends, share your expertise with students and catch up with all that is new with the Voice Office and Multicultural Life and Diversity

- Make sure you get the latest information on the weekend and information on all multicultural initiatives.
- Sign up to be a recruiter. We'll provide information to help you get in contact with class year, student organizations, or others you will be encouraging to attend.
- Help us schedule workshops that are of interest to you. Let us know what you are most likely to attend or offer to share your expertise by presenting.
- Join the excitement on [Facebook](#) and Twitter using the hash tag [#CortlandPride](#)

Make sure to check this page frequently for update:
Cortland.edu/multicultural-reunion

MLDO at Honors Convocation



We are excited to congratulate those students who participated in honors convocation, and applaud their hard work and dedication towards academic excellence.

Greetings from Open House



Multicultural Greek Organizations greet future SUNY Cortland Red Dragons at open house on April 5

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

The 4th annual Student Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice at SUNY Cortland on April 14, 2013 was a huge success. Over 300 students, staff, and faculty members representing SUNY Cortland, Bard College, College of Saint Rose, Genesee Community College, Hilbert College, Ithaca College, Onondaga Community College, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Oneonta, and University of Texas-Pan American 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 over 20 presentations covering an array of topics related to the theme of the conference: "...it begins with you..." Topics included heterosexual ally development; cross-cultural communication; multicultural leadership; faith/non-faith; social conformity; gender; race; mass incarceration; and many more. Additionally, both the Institute of Civic Engagement and the MLK Scholars at Ithaca College held special "Leadership Tracks" that focused on leadership development, and international research and development. Running concurrently with the educational sessions was the "Hall of Fame" exhibit, spearheaded by members of the student



conference committee. The exhibit was created to highlight leaders in diversity across a broad spectrum, including higher education. The conference also included student Andrea De Caires speaking about the importance of equity and inclusion in her life, and a performance by SUNY Cortland A

Capella. The highlight of the conference was the keynote presentation by Dr. Paula Ioanide and Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell from Ithaca College, who spoke about privilege, trends in multicultural education, and ways students can become global leaders. Save the date for [next year's](#) conference on April 12, 2014. Out conference theme is: "Speak Up, Speak Out."

LFL at Up Til Dawn



La Familia Latina recently participated in the Up Til Dawn letter writing initiative.

Additionally, LFL attended a retreat to discuss multicultural student leadership and intercultural inclusion in Lafayette, NY with Noelle Chaddock Paley and Sebastian Purcell.

M.O.V.E. Event



On April 20, Men of Value and Excellence held a presentation and luncheon with keynote speaker Arel Moodie, one of the leading voices on helping young students get to and get through college. He works with students from all backgrounds to make sure they are ready for the journey ahead. M.O.V.E. hopes that this successful event is a springboard for a leadership series next year.

New Graduate Intern for MLDO

Heidi Morton will be serving as the Multicultural Life and Diversity office graduate intern during fall 2013. She has a degree in English from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, and is working on her master's degree in Student Affairs from Binghamton University. You may recognize Heidi as she was previously a Residence Hall Director at SUNY Cortland. Heidi is a SafeZone trainer, and currently volunteers in the Dean of Students office at Binghamton University. Heidi is interested in working with historically underrepresented populations and hopes to integrate her unique experiences into the office.



Additionally, we are excited to announce that we will have several new interns for Fall 2013. Leah Gelblat will be working on our student diversity retreat and peer diversity trainings; Karen Sanchez will be working on social media; and Katherine Quiroz will be continuing her responsibilities as an admissions liaison for MLDO.

Kente Celebration

On April 5, 2013 the Multicultural Life and Diversity office held the annual Kente Celebration. The Kente Ceremony 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 Celebration has deep institutional history and is an important experience for our multicultural students. Thirty-five students were recognized by their friends, families, and the college community at the ceremony, with 200 total attendees packing the Function Room for this important event.

In addition to recognizing student leaders at this event, three distinguished stoles were presented to Dean Bruce Mattingly, Dr. Regina Grantham, and Dr. Andy Fitz Gibbons. Dr. Seth N. Asumah, Chair, Africana Studies & Political Science SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor spoke about the meaning of Kente, which was followed by words of encouragement and support from Dr. Regina Grantham. After the Kente stoles were presented, the Kente Durbar, Libation and Ceremony of the Lights was performed by Abdoul Diallo, Khalia Brown, Andrea Seidenberg, and Michael Ramos.



We would like to thank everyone who attended this important event, especially Ms. Ann Cutler, Kente student committee chair Liana Ferguson, President Erik Bitterbaum, and the family and friends who celebrated the diversity SUNY Cortland has to offer. Save the Date for next year's Kente Celebration: April 5, 2014.

MLDO Admissions Collaborations



Student panelists speak to a packed house of students from New York City (April 11)



Overnight admissions visit collaboration with Multicultural Life and Diversity (April 5)



MLDO Director Noelle Chaddock Paley and current student Rashad Williams met up with SUNY Cortland alumni Bianca Hendricks and Ishmael Sprowal to discuss campus life with high school students from Brooklyn Technical High school (April 16)

Student Diversity Panels

Multicultural Life and Diversity has been actively involved in supporting the admissions office through the facilitation of diverse student panels and the active engagement of MLDO professional staff in welcoming potential students to campus at Open House, Orientation, campus visits, and traveling to high schools across the state to talk about the multicultural student experience at SUNY Cortland. Students have held panels for students from New York City throughout the year, given presentations to middle school students, participated in Open House, and even took a trip to Brooklyn to meet with high school students. Below, Stephanie Melendez, a junior Communications Major/Spanish Minor and active member of Men of Value and Excellence and Multicultural Life and Diversity talks about her experience as a college student panelist:



I chose to be a part of the student panel because I felt that it would be a great opportunity for me to share my experiences here at SUNY Cortland with prospective students. Thinking about college and going through the application process is a very exciting time in a high school student's life. The difference in age between a current college student and a high school student is just a few years, so it helps for them to hear from individuals who were in their position not too long ago.

One of the most popular questions that high school students have for us is "What was the transition from high school to college like?" I find this to be one of the biggest worries that high school students have. Academically speaking, the step up from high school to college may seem steep at first, but as long as you maintain a balanced schedule and allow yourself plenty of time to get your schoolwork and studying done, you will quickly adapt. Once you have that figured out, everything else will fall into place. Time management is the number one skill you must possess in order to get through college. Adjusting to this new lifestyle is going to be difficult at first, but it's all part of the experience. Be organized, be active, and get involved. Once you find a balance between your academics and your social life, an unforgettable college experience is guaranteed.

I have learned so much throughout my time here at SUNY Cortland, and I can honestly say that these have been the greatest years of my life. The past couple of years have been challenging, demanding, exciting, and most of all, rewarding. My advice for high school students is to really put yourselves out there when you get to college. Step outside of your comfort zones, and take advantage of all of the opportunities that college has to offer you. It's all about the experience and what you take from it. Challenges will come your way, but it's up to you to accept, embrace, and conquer them.

Special Recognition

We would like to recognize **Boyan Cox** for receiving an Outstanding Leadership awards at the Student Leadership banquet, and the Vice President for Student Affairs Scholarship. Boyan, who is an active member of the Educational Opportunity Program; health and wellness initiatives; and Residence Life and Housing; beat out many deserving candidates for this award and is a true campus leader.

We would also like to recognize **Khalia Brown**, who received the Outstanding Senior Award at the annual Leadership Banquet. She was recognized for her campus involvement, serving as Public Relations for Student Government Association; her role in the play Violet; being an Orientation Assistant, and much more.



Khalia Brown, left, with Mary Kate Boland.

We would also like to recognize **Deston Husdon** for receiving the Michael C. Holland Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship, which was created in honor of Mr. Holland last year, was created to recognize student leaders who have been involved with campus activities at SUNY Cortland.

Recognition and Awards

We would like to congratulate the 2012-2013 student leaders who received a leadership award on April 18. The event, chaired by Mary Kate Boland (assistant director of Student Activities,)

showcased the diverse student leadership on our campus and recognized many of their outstanding accomplishments. Among the Multicultural Life and Diversity office interns, Andrea DeCaires, and Kathy Quiroz were recognized for their outstanding leadership.

Other MLDO students include Leah Gelblat, Davon Cox, Miguel Espaillat, Ngozichukwu Mafiana, and Yashema McGregor. In addition, Spectrum (SUNY Cortland's Gay/Straight Alliance) was awarded student organization of the year for their hard work and dedication towards making our campus open and inclusive.



Additionally, Multicultural Life and Diversity would like to recognize Jessica Borio, Rachel Bonavita, and Glodibal Naterra for their contributions to the office this year and for being recognized at the 2013 Student Employee Recognition Ceremony.



The Educational Opportunity Program held their awards ceremony and Graduate Recognition on April 24. This event highlights the outstanding achievements of the students in the EOP program who have gone above and beyond

academically, socially, and in their leadership roles this year. Yasheema McGregor received the James W. McKee/John N. Fitzgerald Jr award, and Abdoul Diallo received the Larry Newkirk Memorial Scholarship for his commitment to being communal leader. Multicultural Life and Diversity is proud to have worked with the EOP class this year, and recognizes their accomplishments.

Congratulations to Mary Kate Boland and the Student Activities Board for hosting another successful Spring Fling concert at SUNY Cortland. This year, Kendrick Lamar and Steve Aoki performed to a sold out crowd. In previous years they have brought Black Eyed Peas, O.A.R., the Fray, and Wiz Khalifa. We appreciate the intentionality of SAB in bringing diverse performers to SUNY Cortland.



National Day of Silence

On Friday, April 19, the LGBTQ Faculty Committee and Spectrum (SUNY Cortland's Gay/Straight Alliance) collaborated to hold the National Day of Silence initiative. This event aimed to provide the college community an



opportunity to make our campus a safer and more welcoming place for the hundreds of members of our community who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. Many members of the campus participated in the National Day of Silence, which was founded in 1996, and has become the largest single student-led action toward creating safe schools for all. Spectrum hosted an information table during the day, which was followed by a more formal program on the steps of Corey Union. "Speaking Cards" were supplied to anyone participating in this event. The cards stated the following:



"Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence, a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step

toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?"

