

Women's March on Washington: Why I Marched

By Candice Jaimungal



I almost didn't attend the Women's March on Washington. When my alarm clock went off at 1:30AM I thought, "Would my presence really make a difference?" Remembering why I was marching, I got myself ready, sharpie marked my arm with emergency numbers, and headed to the bus.

I grew up with a great big secret and I hardly shared it with anyone. In fact, as a child I remember telling just a few close friends that my parents were undocumented. I shared our secret with my "*Britney Spears wannabe girl group*" that got together to choreograph dances, but that was about it. I always was afraid of telling the wrong person, which would result in losing my parents—An extremely common fear that many children of undocumented parents have.

So I marched for many different causes yesterday, but marching for immigrant rights was so personal to me. After years of listening to my parents already being depicted as dirty, poor, criminal monsters, the 2016 election started off with a bang of even more dehumanizing comments, and also came after the legitimization of *my* citizenship. The rhetoric that President Trump used throughout the election, in regards to undocumented immigrants, was not ok. Additionally, the rhetoric that President Trump used in regards to all people of color, was not ok.

Now, more than ever, it's important to remind immigrants that they are not alone, that we understand our current immigration system is failing our communities. It's imperative to show the children of undocumented immigrants that we are here to demand policy that protects themselves and their families. That is why I marched.

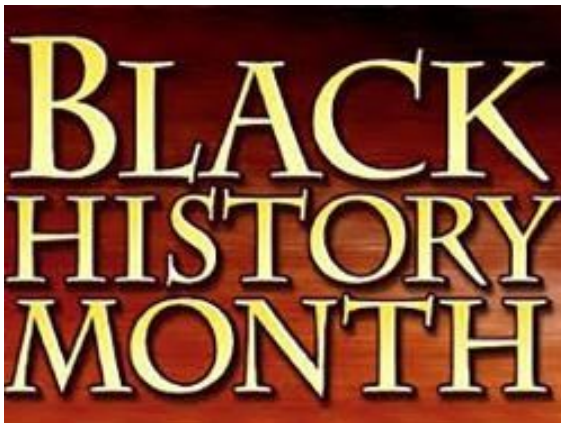
I was pleasantly surprised and impressed with the diversity and inclusivity at the Women's March. Listening to women like **Zahra Billoo**, (Spokeswoman of the Council on American-Islamic Relations) the daughter of immigrants herself, and **Kamala Harris** (Senator, California), state that our immigrant communities represent what it means to be American—felt relieving. Knowing that women such as **Angela Davis** spoke about inclusive and intersectional feminism, freeing Palestine, immigrant rights, resistance to racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and misogyny... and lets be real, the Queen of Activism herself, Angela Davis covered it all from protecting transgender women to environmental racism.

But I want to talk about the six-year-old who brought tears to my eyes and hope to my heart. **Sophie Cruz**, who originally sent a crayon scribbled letter to Pope Francis stating, "Pope Francis I want to tell you that my heart is sad. And I would like to ask you to speak with the president and the Congress in legalizing my parents because every day I am scared they will take them away from me." In front of 500,000 people and many more via television, she urged the children of undocumented immigrants to not be afraid. She expressed, "Let us fight with love, faith, and courage so that our families will not be destroyed," and then completed her speech in Spanish which resulted in the crowd absolutely losing their minds. Yes Sophie, sí, *se puede*.

On the bus back to Cortland I felt better. With Diane Guerrero's, "In the Country We Love" in my bag, I couldn't believe the sea of women and men who stood together. I was so proud of all the people of color who came out, and hopeful for the next four years. I got to represent those who couldn't make it to the March, and I am so happy that I did. Yet the work doesn't end here, and I urge those who attended the March to continue to fight and support all of these causes. Like Angela Davis stated, "The next 1,459 days of the Trump administration will be 1,459 days of resistance: resistance on the ground, resistance in the classrooms, resistance on the job, resistance in our art and in our music."

Black History Month

By Dr. Seth Asumah



SUNY Cortland’s Africana Studies Department had put together a full calendar of Black History Month (BHM) events spanning throughout February. They included panel presentations, guest lectures, Sandwich Seminar discussions and a music and dance performance to culminate the month-long celebration for the College and the community.

“As the American ethos is being interrogated all around the world after the 2016 presidential election, it is hope-affirming that our faculty and students are transcending the general atmosphere of divisiveness, and coming together to celebrate some of America’s history, collective experiences, culture, precepts, norms, intellectual thoughts and using Black History Month as a

platform for finding answers to critical issues facing our country,” said SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Seth Asumah, chair of SUNY Cortland’s Africana Studies Department and organizer of the month’s activities.

“Black History Month 2017 included presenters from each of the College’s three schools— arts and sciences, education and professional studies,” Asumah said. “The synergism and collaborative spirit associated with SUNY Cortland’s Black History Month events are indicative of the human condition and what SUNY Cortland and the United States stand for.”

Events were free and opened to the public. Many faculty, staff and students from SUNY Cortland presented on various topics including the following: “Black is Not a Color of the Rainbow: How the Harlem Hell Fighters Became America’s Most Decorated Regiment,” “Making America Great? Historians Reflect on President Donald Trump and the 2016 Election,” “Recruiting and Preparing Teachers of Color: The Promise and Challenge of Efforts to Diversify the American Teaching Force,” “The Shackles of Systemic Oppression: Prisons and Government Assistance,” “Black Music Matters: A concert of Art, Classical and Jazz Music,” “R&B and Motown to Rap,” “That Old #Blackgirlmagic: Inclusive Excellence as an American Standard Redux,” “Multidisciplinary Diversity: Race, Gender, Place and Diasporic Sites,” “The Malden Meteor: Louise Stokes Fraser and Her Journey Through Sports in Jim Crow America,” “Shoot First’: Stand Your Ground Laws, Murder and Race,” “What’s Your Green Dot? Dealing with Power-Based Violence,” “What’s Your Green Dot? Dealing with Power-Based Violence,” “Soul-Mic Showcase,” “Project Unspeakable” “Afro-Germans: Borderless and Brazen,” : “Martin Luther King Jr., the Voter Education Project, and the Financing of the Civil Rights Movement in the American South,” and “Pan-Africanism: Are the Caribbean and Africa Rising?”

Green Dot: Power-based Violence Bystander Training

By Lauren Herman



“No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something” is the motto of Green Dot, a nationally recognized program that teaches intervention skills for power-based personal violence.

Statistics show there are alarming rates of violence happening on college campuses across the United States.

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college.
- Roughly 1 in 4 women and about 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men have been stalked during their lifetime.

Green Dot’s strategy is founded on the belief that reducing personal violence is a community responsibility. This goal is accomplished through educating people to recognize early warning signs of stalking, sexual assault or domestic/relationship violence. SUNY Cortland is committed to a cultural shift that reduces and eventually eliminates violence on campus.

SUNY Cortland has 14 trainers among faculty and staff and 50 faculty and staff members that attended an hour and a half overview about Green Dot. In addition, 34 students attended a 6 hour training to learn new skills in barriers and intervention methods. The trainings are very interactive, engaging, and informative. The next student Green Dot training will be held on **Sunday, March 26 from 1-4pm**. RSVP by emailing Lauren.herman@cortland.edu.



Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. “Back to Business”

By Christopher Venant



As the fall semester ended, the Delta Beta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. probated five distinguished brothers to the SUNY Cortland’s campus. This prestigious Divine Nine organization had not been active on campus since 2014, since three of their members had graduated in May of that year. These five brothers are; Evan Henry, a senior studying Exercise Science, Christopher Venant, a sophomore Business-Economics major as well as a Resident Assistant in Randall Hall, Dexter Gordon, a senior Psychology major, Devon Linton a sophomore Biology major, and Brandon Clark a sophomore studying Criminal Law. Coming into the spring semester these young men put together a week of events for Kappa Week, which was held February 6-10 with the

theme, Back to Business, as they tried to bring a positive appearance back on campus. The week started off with, Headshots for Success: Professional Photo Day having SUNY Cortland’s own Jamon Davis who took professional headshots for students for their LinkedIn and professional accounts. Following that event Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. had collaborated with Men of Value and Excellence (MOVE) to have an open forum about challenges students may face in relationships. One of the main objectives of this culturally-based fraternity is to inspire service in the public’s interest. These brothers took time to help Grace Episcopal Church with Loaves and Fishes. Continuing their week, they organized My Tie: Board Game night, which involved students working together with a teammate to compete with other partners in various board games. Wrapping up their week of events, they held a Shimmy like A Nupe Informational which gave Cortland female students the opportunity to participate in a Syracuse dance competition, giving SUNY Cortland more exposure and opportunity to network with others that attend Syracuse University. This week was very successful as it got the support from a lot of the student body and staff. We hope to continue holding professional and educational events here at SUNY Cortland.



Voice Office Weekly Meeting Times:

Black Student Union (BSU):

Mondays at 6pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

Caribbean Student Association (CSA):

Wednesdays at 6pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

Hillel:

Thursdays at 8pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

La Familia Latina (LFL):

Tuesdays at 6pm in Corey Union, Voice Office

Men of Value and Excellence (MOVE):

Tuesdays at 7pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

Pan-African Student Association (PASA):

Mondays at 7pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

Spectrum:

Thursdays at 7pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

Women of Color (WOC):

Thursdays at 6pm in the Corey Union, Voice Office

Residence Life Conference

By Meghan Henley and Lima Stafford

Residence Life and Housing hosted the 40th Annual Residence Life Conference (RLC) on Saturday, February 18, 2017. This year's Residence Life Conference revolved around the theme of, "Adventure is out There." The focus was on the values of diversity, direction, discovery, and determination that served as the focal point for much of the programming sessions. Approximately 225 students attended from 14 different colleges and universities including SUNY Cortland. The conference was full of opportunities for reflection on individual experiences and opportunities to develop personally and professionally by attending workshops and presentations. Lima Stafford and Kevon Pile from Multicultural Life and Diversity Office presented together on exploring the different cultures and traditions of the Caribbean. RLC was hosted by Bailey Ward and Jeremy Owusu. Attendees left SUNY Cortland with leadership skills and new knowledge to make them better prepared for the challenges they may face on their campuses.



MLDO Upcoming Events:

5-0-4inclusion Panel Discussion

Wed., March 22 from 5-6pm
Corey Union, Fireplace Lounge

The Race Project Workshop

Wed., March 29 from 7pm
Corey Union, Exhibition Lounge

Living in Color: “A Ballerina’s Tale: Documentary”

Thurs., March 30 from 6-8pm
Corey Union, Fireplace Lounge

Kente Celebration

Sat., April 1 at 6pm
Corey Union, Function Room

The 8th Annual Student Conference on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice “Inspiration, Compassion and Our Shared Humanity”

Sat., April 8 from 8am – 4pm
Corey Union

SafeZone Train the Trainer

Wed., April 12, from 4-7pm
Corey Union, Caleion Room

Living in Color: Panel Discussion

Wed., April 19 from 2-3pm
Corey Union, Fireplace Lounge

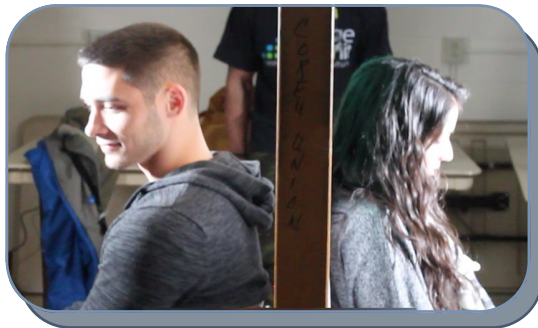
The Race Project Workshop

Wed., April 19 from 6-7pm
Corey Union, Fireplace Lounge

The Race Project: Social Experiment

By Susan Serunkuuma

The Race Project created a social experiment called Help Me, Help You. The purpose of the social experiment was to show how people’s interpretation of verbal communication and information affects assumptions made about another person’s race, ethnicity and or gender identity. This experiment will show how individuals have been socialized to think a certain way about different social groups. To ensure that a student’s identity remained unknown, participants sat on the opposite directions of their partner, with something in between them. Participants asked their partner five general interest questions in hopes to learn more about the individual. Once partners finished asking questions, the facilitator asked their partners to identify each other in terms of race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. Participants were also asked to justify their reasoning as to why they identified their partner that way. After partners disclosed this information, they were asked to debrief on their experience and share how this activity impacted their life.



March for Tolerance

By Sky Baestlein

On Sunday, February 19, 2017 over 100 Cortland community members came together to march for tolerance. This event was hosted by Cortland Counsel of Churches, Cortland LGBTQ Center, NYPIRG and Cortland Interfaith Center. The welcome address was held at the LGBTQ Center, at 73 Main Street, where we heard speakers including Courtney Stafford, Rachel Ditch and Brian Tobin. The second location was the Hollywood Restaurant Parking Lot where we heard from the voices for LGBTQ inclusion and the speakers were Sarah Young, Courtney Stafford and Dan Mullens. The third location was on Homer Avenue, at the United Methodist Church, where we heard from voices for Diversity. The speakers were Candice Jaimungal, Dr. Mecke Nagel and Sky Baestlein. The fourth location was Suggett Park where we heard from voices for Education and the speakers included Mary Dykeman, Joseph Mogavero and William McNeill. The fifth location was Temple B'rith Sholom at 17 Madison street where we heard from voices for Interfaith dialogue and the speakers included Paul Pitkin, Joan Goldwyn and Masrin Parvizi.



Voice Office Upcoming Events

4th Annual Mr. MOVE

Saturday, March 25 from 6-8pm
Corey Union, Function Room

WOC Celebration of Women

Sunday, March 26 at 1pm
Corey Union, Function Room

CSA Run the Town

Friday, April 14 from 4pm
Corey Union, Voice Office

CSA Movie trip @ Syracuse

Saturday, April 15
Destiny Mall, Syracuse

CSA Taste of the Caribbean

Sunday, April 16 at 4:30pm
14 Clayton Ave, YWCA

BSU End of the year trip

Thursday, April 20-April 23
Washington, DC

LFL Arieto

Friday, April 21 at 6pm
14 Clayton Ave, YWCA

Spectrum Drag Show

Saturday, April 22
Corey Union, Function Room

End of the year BBQ

Friday, May 5
TBA

Re-thinking Abilities Simulation

By Mary McNally

Outdoor Pursuits' first Re-Thinking Ability Simulation was a great success! Geoff Peppel from the Inclusive Recreation Resource Center was able to bring in the simulation equipment. There were about 15 participants who came to our workshop to educate themselves and increase awareness on others' abilities. They discussed activity adaptation and tips for accommodations. Folks were able to use the simulation equipment while participating in activities and reflecting on what it was like to get outside of their personal experiences.

Outdoor Pursuits will be hosting a general Inclusion in Recreation workshop in March and a Gender/LGBT+ in the Outdoors workshop in April.

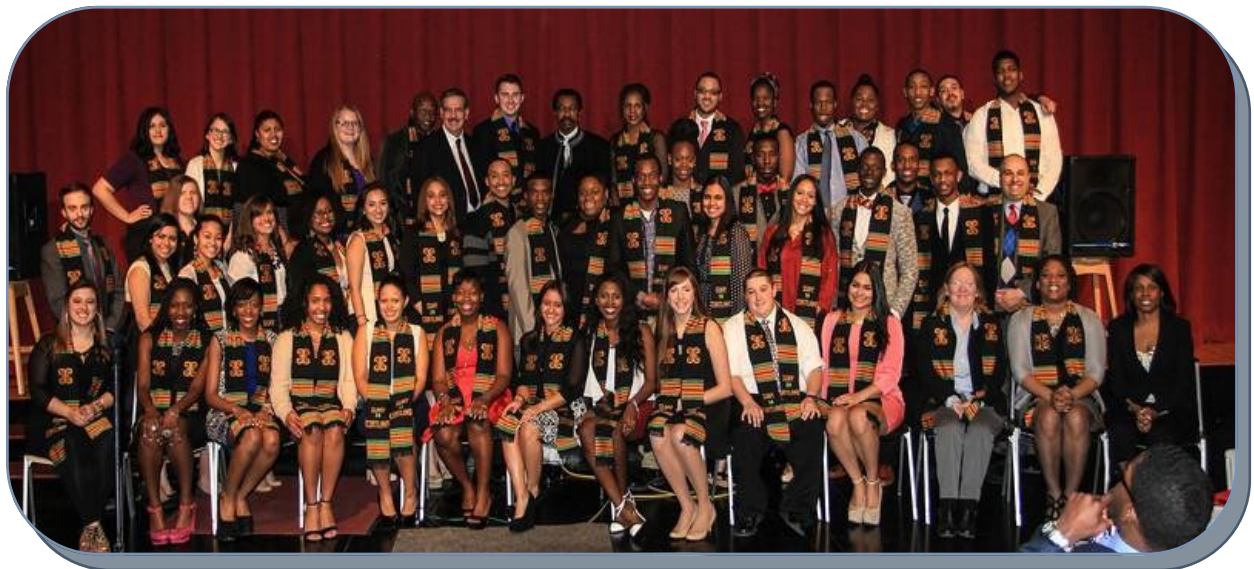


Kente Celebration

On Saturday, April 1, 2017 Multicultural Life and Diversity will be hosting their Annual Kente Celebration. 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 Celebration has deep institutional history and is an important experience for our multicultural students.

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. Originally, royalty exclusively wore kente but since Ghana’s independence from Britain in 1957 kente has become a symbol of national pride. Ordinary citizens wear it for special celebrations. The kente cloth has also become an important symbol for African Americans, people of color in general, and their allies to highlight their achievements and connection to the first learning centers of the world in Africa.

Graduating seniors and graduate students were encouraged to participate in the Kente Celebration. Faculty and Staff were encouraged to register to attend the event and support students. Graduates that registered for Kente will have their photos taken on Monday, March 20 and Tuesday, March 21 for the slide show. If you haven’t set up a time to take your photo please call us at 607-753-2336.



THE 8TH ANNUAL STUDENT
CONFERENCE

ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: "INSPIRATION, COMPASSION AND OUR SHARED HUMANITY"

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017
8:00AM-4:00PM



This year's office theme is Inspiration, Compassion and Our Shared Humanity. The theme is looking at ways in which SUNY Cortland students can gain the experience they need to be inspired to make a difference in our world through evoking genuine compassion and empathy in understanding our shared humanity. When we recognize our shared humanity, profound connections can be fostered across cultural divides to promote a more inclusive community.

If you have any questions please contact us at
(607) 753-2336 or multicultural.life@kortland.edu

www.kortland.edu/multicultural



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@SUNYCRTDIVERSE



DIVERSITY CORTLAND

Regular Registration

Individual Student Registration: \$35

Group (5 or more) Student Registration: \$32

Individual Faculty/Staff/Alumni Registration: \$40

Group (5 or more) Faculty/Staff/Alumni Registration: \$37

If you would like to contribute to the MLDO Newsletter,
please email lima.stafford@kortland.edu with submissions.

Submissions in any language will be accepted.



8th Annual Student Conference for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice: “Inspiration, Compassion and Our Shared Humanity”

Keynote: Hugh Burnam

Date: Saturday, April 8, 2017

Time: 12:30pm

Location: Function Room, Corey Union

Hugh Burnam (Hode'hnyahä:dye') is a member of the Mohawk Nation, Wolf Clan and a Ph. D. candidate at Syracuse University in the Cultural Foundations of Education program. Mr. Burnam works closely with the Onondaga Nation community, specifically with Native youth—focusing on "decolonization" efforts including: language revitalization, planting, traditional Haudenosaunee games/ sports, and environmental advocacy.

In his research, Hugh utilizes TribalCrit Theory, Critical Race Theory, and Indigenous ways of knowing to understand Haudenosaunee students' experiences in higher education, specifically: belonging, persistence, and indigenous gender. Hugh's dissertation is a work in-progress towards a theory of Indigenous masculinities in higher education.

The Keynote will be open to the public and will be sponsored by the CALS Lecture Grant.