Students attended the 4th Annual - SUNY Cortland Student Conference on Diversity, Equity, & Social Justice “...it begins with you...” in April 2013 to learn more about diversity engagement.

From the Editor:

The O.M.A. Spotlight is Hilbert College’s Office of Multicultural Affairs annual newsletter. We seek to highlight all the fun, exciting, educational programs and initiatives that were sponsored by our office and others over the 2012-2013 academic year. The Office of Multicultural Affairs at Hilbert College strives to develop, expand, and advocate for an inclusive community on campus. This newsletter will serve as recognition of all the great accomplishments that have been made by the students, faculty, and staff of Hilbert College over the past year.

My tenure here at Hilbert has been a welcomed and exciting adventure. Working with every cohort of the Hilbert community I have found everyone to be engaging and open to improving the community through by caring for and appreciating one another.

It is sad to leave Hilbert, but I know it will continue to flourish. Please enjoy this newsletter and all the wonderful events the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Hilbert community create and invite all to participate in.

Thank you,

Stephon Hamell, Graduate Assistant, 2012-2013

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Written By, Tiffany Burrows ’16 (Programming Asst. O.M.A.)

Cultural Awareness Week kicked off with a great start and the message behind it was even better. This year’s theme was “Building Bridges, Creating Community.” Through the efforts of several offices and departments at Hilbert College, cultural awareness week gave faculty, staff, and students an opportunity to explore different cultures.

The week began with the “Unveiling of the Wall of Peace and Inclusivity.” It is a quilt made from fabric squares created by students to portray their idea of diversity. As a result of everyone’s participation the wall now contains more than 300 squares. President Cynthia Zane offered a welcome that discussed the importance of diversity in relationship to Hilbert College’s Franciscan values. Following the President, our guest speaker, David Grapes, who is the current leader of Student Government Association, presentation entitled “Leadership and Civility: Creating a Diverse Community” provided proactive measures for engaging diversity on our campus community.

Later, in the evening there was a Multi-Cultural Dinner, which had an array of different foods such as: Pierogies, Empanadas, Macaroni & Cheese, Fried Chicken, Baklava, and much more. In addition to the wonderful food, there was outstanding entertainment from the “African American Cultural Center’s Dance and Drum Performing Company.” Participants had an opportunity to learn traditional African drumming and dance. There were approximately one hundred and forty-four people that attended the dinner.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012 one of my favorite events took place, the Cultural Bazaar. The cultural bazaar included various cultural showcases, vendors, and prizes for everyone to enjoy, including but not limited to: Woodland Visions Native Arts, Red Dragon School of Martial Arts, and Nadia Ibrahim Middle Eastern Dance Company. The cultural bazaar attracted over one hundred people from on and off campus. Following this program, in the evening, the “Meet the Greeks: Step and Stroll Showcase” contest including music, educational showcase of fraternities/sororities, and dancing.

The following day, Dr. Amy Smith led a roundtable discussion, entitled “Politicians and Pundits: Building Community in the Midst of Uncivil Discourse” with panelists Dr. Charity Vogel and Dr. Christopher Holoman. The participants discussed the ever changing
role that media plays in shaping our worldviews about politics and social justice issues. In addition to the Honors students, more than twenty-five students, faculty, and staff also joined the discussion.

On Thursday, October 11, 2012 a film viewing of Unseen Tears followed by a discussion by Michael Martin, the Executive Director for Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties, Inc. The film, Unseen Tears chronicles the development of boarding schools used to house Native Americans at the turn of the century, and the role these institutions had in negatively impacting cultural development, degrading community, and severing family structures within the Native American community.

Cultural Awareness Week wrapped up with the English Department’s Visiting Artist Series. The artist this year was Luis J. Rodriguez, who is an activist and nationally recognized award winning poet and memoirist. Mr. Rodriguez’s discussion was entitled “Hearts and Hands: Creating Community in Troubled Times.” He talked about his life in crime and the major social issues concerning the need to create community. Overall, cultural awareness week was exciting for me and so many of my friends because of all of the fun activities. Join us for next year’s event from October 7-10, 2013.

“The belly dance it was not as hard as I thought it was going to be. We were given a scarf, and some bells. The challenging part for me was dancing with the scarf and bell, because I constantly got tangled in the scarf and couldn’t keep up. The belly dance proved to me that there are other types of dancing than hip-hop, line, jazz, and ballet.”

Cultural Bazaar - Queen Swank ‘16
The Common Ground Club hosted its 7th Annual Flip the Runway - Fashion Show on Thursday, November 8, 2012. This year's show was hosted by SGA President David Grapes, and SGA Vice-President for Programming Heather Bello. DJ Gus had the music going and the crowd was amped throughout the night! Models showed their latest fashion through a variety of categories including:

1. Then and Now
2. Fashion Around the World
3. Dress to Impress
4. All Black
5. Celebrities from the Past

The show featured performances from Hilbert College Professor Erika Gault, a cappella singer Kofi Hayword, Bryan Edwards, and a dance performance from “Never Miss.”

Next year's show will be held on November 7, 2013 at 8:30 p.m. in the Upper Level of the Campus Center. If you are interested in assisting with the show, please contact the office of multicultural affairs at oma@hilbert.edu We hope to see you there!
In honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Hilbert hosted its 4th Annual MLK Commemoration Lecture on Thursday, January 31, 2013. Hilbert welcomed their guest speaker Farai Chideya, an award winning author and journalist, with over 20 years of experience in media, technology, and social justice to serve as their keynote speaker. Besides being a sought after speaker, Ms. Farai has articles that have appeared in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times Magazine, Time, Spin, Vibe, O, the California Journal, Mademoiselle, and Essence and has hosted NPR’s News and Notes.

Ms. Chideya’s keynote address was entitled “What Happens To Equality When We’re All Minorities?: Re-Imagining King’s Dream for a Post-Majority America.” Her talk discussed the census’ prediction that a generation from now, America will have no racial majority. Farai addressed the following questions: If this is true, does that mean we will be an equal society? How do we keep our eyes on the prize of equality as we head towards a “post-majority” era? Prior to her lecture, she informally addressed students in the Digital Media and Communication major by sharing her experiences as a journalist and passion for teaching young adults in the media field.

“Great event today with journalist and author Farai Chideya speaking to our Communication majors about working in the media world! Also, great event tonight with Farai talking about the changing racial landscape of the country and what we face in a post-majority America.”

- Professor Chris Gallant, DMAC Department

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Kayla Silver, Criminal Justice

Q: How do you feel now that you’re almost at the “Finish Line?”
A: I feel good, elated, and accomplished. I am finally done with college, and now one of five in my entire family to receive a college degree.

Q: Which resource (office, academic department, and/or person) you found to be the most helpful at Hilbert College?
A: The Office of Multicultural Affairs, I got involved in different events and helped me focus on my academics.

Debbie in Academic Services – Helped me get over my fear of mathematics.

Bridget Hodges – Friend, and Mentor. Was there to listen and offer great advice. Kate Munroe – If I had trouble with a class, or creating a planner. Kate was the person who helped me talk through my academic plan.

Q: What are your plans once you graduate?
A: I plan on taking a year off as I prepare for graduate studies. I will apply to Indiana University of Pennsylvania for Master of Science degree in Criminology.

Q: What advice would you give incoming freshmen?
A: Do not be afraid to seek help.

Jon Hulbert, Psychology

Q: How do you feel now that you’re almost at the “Finish Line”?
A: Bittersweet. I will miss Hilbert, it has been my home for 4 years, but I am excited to go forward to the next chapter.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?
A: I want to go to graduate school and study Higher Education. Mostly want to do more research in the field.

Kristine Surman, Forensic Science

Q: What are your plans after graduation?
A: I want to go to graduate school and study Higher Education. Mostly want to do more research in the field.

Q: How do you feel now that you’re almost at the “Finish Line?”
A: Excited! I have made a lot of friends and will have great memories of Hilbert, but it is time to move on.

Q: What are some of the events you participate in and will remember most from Hilbert College?
A: Most definitely the Fashion Show. I will also remember Poetry Night and CGC meetings. Mostly, being an RA on campus. I got to help many students adjust to college.

Q: What advice do you have for new students?
A: Get involved. I was shy at first, but by getting involved with different organizations and SGA I made a lot of friends and had a very fun time.

Immoni Edwards, Forensic Science

Q: How do you feel now that you’re almost at the “Finish Line”?
A: Excited, I am finally finished with my Bachelors.

Q: Which event(s) did you participate in and will remember most from Hilbert College?
A: Most definitely the Fashion Show. I will also remember Poetry Night and CGC meetings. All were just time I spent with friends for a good cause.

Q: What are your plans after graduation?
A: I do not know. I will definitely get a job in my field and work for a year or two.
Sneak Preview

Fall of 2013 Events

Student Success Center Reception
September 4, 2013
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
103 Bogel Hall
Co-Sponsored with Campus Ministry, Student Success & Retention, and Title III

Welcome Back BBQ
September 3, 2013
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Co-Sponsored with Student Activities

Cultural Awareness Week
Theme: “Promoting Community Through Social Justice”
October 7-10, 2013
Co-Sponsored with several constituency groups
- Stay tuned for the weeklong calendar of events, there will be: film viewings, multicultural dinner, keynote speaker, cultural bazaar, and much more. Additional information will be available soon.

Motivational Speakers Panel
November 4, 2013
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
101 Bogel Hall
Co-Sponsored with Student Success & Retention

8th Annual - Flip the Runway
November 7, 2013
8:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
Upper Level Campus Center
Co-Sponsored with Common Ground Club

London Price ‘14
Received internship opportunity with Lockport City Police Department

Jon Hulbert ‘13
Accepted in to the College Student Personnel M.S. Program at Michigan State University and the University at Buffalo

Digital Media and Communications Program Students
for their exceptional photography skills in capturing the MLK event for the office of multicultural affairs

Ian Gattie and JB Photography for providing photos of O.M.A. events this year

Yashica Benson
Congratulations! on winning the Civil Rights and Women’s History month quizzes

Cultural Awareness Week Committee
Thanks goes out to all of the members of the CAW team and volunteers that helped to make the week run smoothly

Tiffany Burrows ‘16
Assisted with the editing of the O.M.A. Spotlight!

Executive Director of Retention /Student Success Team
Great job! Your hard work has moved the college towards exceeding their fall 2013 retention goal

♦ ♦ ♦ NOTE: If you are interested in writing an article for the 2013 – 2014 O.M.A. spotlight; contact the office at oma@hilbert.edu We would love to add your stories to our newsletter.
**Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Hilbert College is to build an inclusive campus environment that promotes diversity awareness, academic excellence, multicultural education, student learning and development.

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**Contact Us:**

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