

Cultural Times Bulletin

ALANA STUDENT CENTER EST. 1989

ALANA=African American, Latino/a American, Asian American, Native American & Friends



Getting Real about Race

On October 4, I had the pleasure of working with ALANA upper-level peers as a co-student facilitator for the *Combating Campus Racial Incidents* workshop. Given the infamous doll incident and other incidents that have happened at Canisius recently, the 2-hour workshop was very much needed for those who were affected (directly and indirectly), as well as bystanders. It was a moment for us to pause, think, and really reflect on how we encounter race relations in our daily lives and what we should do if we are faced with micro-aggressions and racial tension. Over 90 students were able to be vulnerable about their opinions and how they felt incidents had been handled in the past. Suggestions from students included the college having more faculty of color, and encouraging faculty/staff to experience a racial diversity competency workshop. Panelists such as Charita Price/Counseling Center, and Olivia Owens/Undergraduate Student Association, extended their support to help students be active and responsible for how they handle situations that can be intense. College President John Hurley facilitated a roundtable discussion with students. The overall gathering was fittingly facilitated by Prof. Craig Rogers of the Dept. of Economics and Finance. Congratulations to McSteve Ezikeoha '19 for demonstrating persistence for three semesters to make this workshop on race relations unforgettable. Also, a thank-you to my peers who helped to plan the workshop: Avyana Morehead '19, Alex Sanchez '19, Michelle Calhoun '20, Victoria Watson '19, Dwayne Melvin '20, Olivia Owens '19, and Tyrell Taylor '19. ASC served as advisor and presented McSteve with a deserving plaque during the gathering. *The Griffin* captured the moment!

- Morgan Morris '21



Combating Campus Racial Incidents panel:

Top-Chief Kim Beaty '86/Public Safety, Caitlin Daley '14/Student Life, Dr. Anne M. Dobies '06/Student Affairs, McSteve Ezikeoha '19/Workshop Coordinator, and Dr. Margaret McCarthy/Academic Affairs. **Seated**-Michael Hayes/Campus Ministry, Olivia Owens '19/USA, and Charita Price '05/Counseling Center.

October 9, 2018

Dive into El Barrio Hispano

"Dive into El Barrio Hispano" was the combined efforts of Canisius and the Hispanic Women's League of Buffalo, NY. A number of students toured Latinx culture across Buffalo and it was eye opening. The stops included a vegan bakery, a Spanish café, a culturally accepting Tops, a hair salon, and an authentic Hispanic gift shop. While all of the stops were amazing, two stood out to me: the salon and the café. The salon was family run, a staple of the community, and gave many hairdressers the start they needed. The café not only had great food but it was also true to its heritage. The experience depicted a side of the city I had not known much about. Would (10/10) do it again and/or other similar trips.

-Mekhi McShall '20



'Dive into' Coordinated by The Griff Center

On October 9, our students 'Dived into El Barrio Hispano' with the Hispanic Women's League hosted by the Canisius Griff Center for Academic Engagement. We kicked off the day with breakfast and introductions. Then, we ventured off into 4 vans and into the various barrios in Buffalo featuring Niagara Street, Allentown, and Grant Street. On their journeys, students got to taste and shop their way through Buffalo's 3 beautiful barrios. Following their tours, students returned to campus for lunch and a panel discussion with several representatives from the Hispanic Women's League! All in all, this was a great event and we look forward to a continued partnership between the Hispanic Women's League and Canisius College.

-Sydnie Perkins '16, *Griff Center Counselor*

Positivies from the Pope

"Praying is not like using a magic wand. Prayer requires commitment, constancy and determination."
- Pope Francis

Unscramble the letters below to enter a raffle to win a REGAL Movie Pass. 3 WINNERS chosen!
Deadline: November 14, 2018

GISMA



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Canisius College is one of 28 Jesuit Universities in the nation and the premier private university in Western New

Know a student that ASC should highlight in our CTB? Contact Chandler Hawkins '20 at hawkin14@canisius.edu to let us know!

Student Spotlight

Marnisha Brooks '19



Congratulations to Marnisha Brooks on receiving the Hispanic Women's League scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to Hispanic women in college who are committed to the Latinx community. Marnisha is Afro-Puerto Rican and takes pride in her heritage, which she emphasized in her personal statement. She received the award October 27, 2018. A senior, majoring in political science and minoring in criminal justice pre-law, Marnisha is a member of the Canisius Urban Leadership Learning Community, the treasurer of the

Afro-American Society, and is also an event assistant in SPB. Congratulations Marnisha! Keep up the great work!

A Thank-You to Dr. Mangione

Dr. Terri L. Mangione (pictured far right), former VP of the college's Student Affairs Division and Title IX Coordinator, has relocated to LMU, Los Angeles, where she serves as the Dean of Students/Vice President for Student Affairs. While at Canisius, with a full range of responsibilities, she also championed the work of ASC and the students of color that we serve. Her strategic position as VP helped to transition the campus into a more culturally diverse community. At the same time, Dr. Mangione appreciated an axiom by the late Maya Angelou: *We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike*. With respect to climate diversity, we only wonder if Terri will miss our four seasons (smile). We wish the VP the very best!



ALUMS in Focus! Donovan Griffin '12



On June 27, 2007, I graduated from George Washington High School for Media and Communications and had to catch the 1:15pm Amtrak train to Buffalo. The following day, I was at Canisius to participate in the H.E.O.P Summer Program. I had great feelings of excitement and anxiety being away from home for the first time. I knew I had a lot to prove going to a predominately white institution, especially since I was the first person in my family to go to college. At the beginning of my first year at Canisius, my definition of independence was not asking for help and proving that I can succeed on my own. While I persisted into the following semester with a 2.0 GPA, my GPA would've been higher if I had utilized campus resources (i.e. tutoring, etc.) regularly. I majored in Communications with a concentration in Television Production. My goal was to work in the entertainment industry as a TV reporter. I joined CCTV (now Griffin TV) in my first year and became the president of the club in my junior year until I graduated in May 2012. I loved every second of the experiences. However, I was inspired by my support network on/off campus who went above and beyond to address academic, professional, and personal concerns I faced. My father died in March 2010 and my mother almost died my last semester. My support network ensured that I would graduate from college. Thanks to them, I have a bachelor's degree in Communications. Furthermore, I proudly changed career paths with no hesitation or regrets. I have worked within higher education for the past six years helping hundreds of students overcome obstacles like mine in and beyond the classroom. I currently work at CUNY's Bronx Community College as an Academic Advisor in A.S.A.P (Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs) and am currently a member of the Canisius Alumni Association.

The following are things you can do to have a phenomenal and enriching college experience such as mine:

- 1) **Ask for help!** You are NOT alone in this college navigation process. Don't be afraid to admit you are struggling with something. It's a part of your growth.
- 2) **Get involved!** You'll be amazed at how much you can learn about your community and yourself by joining a campus-based initiative.
- 3) **Be open-minded!** Welcome new ideas and constructive criticism. You're not going to always be right, and that's OK. Also, you can respectfully challenge others. That's your contribution to their growth. I wish you nothing but the absolute best in your journey to graduation. Always remember... YOU CAN!

UPCOMING ALANA EVENTS

November 2, 2018

Dia de Los Muertos!

Dia de Los Muertos, also known as Day of the Dead, is a holiday on November 2 which focuses on celebrating life!

Celebrate Dia de Los Muertos with LASAF! Students will have the opportunity to get their creative juices flowing by decorating different skulls. Learn and immerse yourself in the Day of the Dead culture! Friday 3-6 in Palisano! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to stop by the LASAF club room or contact Alex Sanchez '19, sanchez8@canisius.edu

November 3, 2018

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with ASC!

With November being NAHM, ASC will travel to the Seneca Iroquois National Museum, November 3. While there, students will learn about aspects of Native American cultures. To attend for free, stop by ASC, or contact Grad Assistant Chandler Hawkins '20, hawkin14@canisius.edu

November 16, 2018

Soul Food Night!

Join AAS for a night of fellowship and fun! On November 16, at 7pm--Science Hall, the Afro-American Society will host a Soul Food Pot Luck Dinner. Bring friends to enjoy a night full of your soul food favorites!

Admission: \$2. For questions, do not hesitate to stop by the AAS club room or contact Avyana Morehead '19, morehead@canisius.edu