



ALANA Student Center (ASC) — Established 1989 — Frisch 008 — (716) 888-2787

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

October 2012

Current and past *Cultural Times Bulletins* can be found at the ASC website, [www.canisius.edu/alana/bulletins.asp](http://www.canisius.edu/alana/bulletins.asp)

## Headline Summer Presentations

Hasan Ahmed '16



Over the summer my COPE peers and I had an opportunity to attend the ALANA workshop. There, we had a presentation by Sababu Norris of ASC, and by Performance Troupe member Bishoy Saleeb '13 ("The Snow Man Rap"), which was extremely funny. I have to give Bishoy credit because he had the courage and confidence to step up and perform in front of all the staff and students.

The workshop also offered some very soothing music, as well as providing us with sweets and refreshments. Aside from all the fun and games, I was able to come out of that workshop with the feeling that I had someone there to watch my back. This was all due to the warm welcome that the people who put this workshop together gave us. On behalf of all the COPE summer students, we would like to thank you.

**Future Events:** ASC will be taking students to a Spanish language play, "En el Tiempo de las Mariposas" by Reportorio Espanol on Nov. 1 in Geneseo, NY. Sign up for this free trip by October 22, 2012 at FH 008.

The Chinese Culture Club offers a Mid-Autumn Festival on Oct. 13 at 7 PM, Palisano Pavilion. Fun, games and free food.

## A Senior This Academic Year Will Receive the First ALANA Achievement Award

At the Spring '13 Honors Convocation the ALANA Achievement Award will be given to a graduating African-American, Latino/a American, Asian American or Native American senior. This student will exemplify the Jesuit value of Magis through academic excellence, exceptional leadership, character, dedication, and service to Canisius College and to the larger community. Nominations and a web address will be available soon. The award concept was originally created by the Canisius College Afro American Society several years ago. Thanks to the support of the 2011-2012 Friends of the ALANA Student Center Advisory Board, and the efforts of Dr. Patricia B. Christian, Dr. Richard A. Wall '78, COPE, ULLC, Afro American Society, and the Undergraduate Student Association, the concept is now a reality.

## The ALANA Student Center's Meet & Greet

Anthony Gengo '16



On Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, the ALANA Student Center hosted its annual Meet & Greet, which gives students a chance to acquaint themselves with what the ALANA Student Center has to offer. Located in a space below Frisch Residence Hall, the ALANA Center provides guidance and academic support to students who seek it. The Center also offers a place to socialize and enjoy the rich diversity that the ALANA Student Center embodies. The Meet & Greet definitely helped the students to become familiar with what the Center does and how it can help them. I was met at the door with exceptional hospitality, as I was encouraged to take a load off from classes in the midst of a busy Thursday and enjoy the great selections of food. Later on during the Meet & Greet, students participated in the classic game of UNO. After the festivities, I realized how laid-back the Center can make me feel. The Meet & Greet was a fun time with food and friends and is just a precursor to the great events to come through the ALANA Student Center. [Editor's note: Anthony Gengo '16 started a Culinary Club at Canisius High School.]

## Hip-Hop Dance Crew A Dynamic Club

Joshua A. Smith '15



Canisius College opens its doors to a unique club that encourages students to embrace hip-hop culture. The Canisius College Hip-Hop Dance Crew became an official club in the 2011 - 2012 spring semester by the club's current president, Garrett Szydlowski '14, and former Crew president, Sean Johnson '14. It's a recreational club that brings together people of various dancing backgrounds and experience who are interested in becoming active and learning a new skill in one of the most impressive forms of dancing ever created. The crew teaches various types of "all-styles," including popping (& locking), tutting, waving, robot, and animating. As for the breaking aspect of the crew, bboys and bgirls learn all the fundamentals, including toprock, footwork, power-moves, and freezes. Members are encouraged to participate by practicing the art form and by attending monthly "battles" at Verve Dance Studios in the community.

Each session is a high-energy environment where everyone teaches everyone as the group learns new techniques either through instructional videos or demonstrational tutorials. Beyond all the dancing, breaking and rocking to the beat, members also grow their knowledge of the history of hip-hop by learning about its origins. Thanks to president Szydlowski, co-founder Sean Johnson, and club advisor, Mr. Richard Reitsma, Canisius can boast an ever-growing number of students dedicated to the art of hip-hop dance.



A lively game of UNO



Sean, Jen, & Lexy from ASC

## Alums in Focus: The Gift of Time

### Joel Francia '10



It is hard to believe that more than two years have passed since I was an undergraduate student at Canisius. I still vividly remember going back and forth between Old Main and the Student Center as I juggled classes, meetings, club events, work-study, etc. To this day, I don't know how they all worked in my schedule but somehow they did. I am thankful for that because through that journey I learned a lot and met wonderful friends along the way.

One of my precious memories is from the time in college when I served as an ALANA Intern for the now ALANA Student Center (ASC). I helped establish the Asian American/Society & Friends (AAASF), hosted the Indiana University (IU) Soul Revue, and assisted first-year ALANA students in their transitions to college. In addition, I also worked at Campus Ministry, co-chaired International Fest and briefly lead the All-College Honors Program Student Committee. You could say that I just love being involved in a lot of things.

More than the busyness, I enjoy being part of several projects because it is productive. As a registered representative for Charles Schwab, I help our clients of all wealth tiers with their investment accounts and trading of various securities and derivatives to become financially fit. That is our company's mission. Outside of work, I find time to teach as a part-time algebra tutor, volunteer at a non-profit to promote financial literacy, and if there are more hours left, I learn more about subjects I was not able to take in college through *Coursera.org*, teach myself guitar, and read more books.

I share this because Canisius has taught me that the time we are given is what we make of it. We can either use it to better ourselves or waste time and slack, whether intentionally or not. I challenge myself to learn at least one thing every day before I go to sleep. There is nothing worse than a feeling of time wasted because that is when all the "shoulda, coulda, woulda" scenarios come up. In one word, they are called *regrets*. And so I encourage you to spend time wisely, especially in things that will help you achieve your goals. I saw an anonymous quote on Facebook that said, "Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Mother Teresa, Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Albert Einstein." I love it. This hits home and emphasizes the point that every minute of every day truly matters.

*[Editor's note: Joel Francia '10 was the student speaker at his graduation.]*

### ALANA Students at Canisius, Fall 2012 Data

| Graduate/Undergraduate      | GR         | UG         | Total      |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Native American             | 13         | 14         | 27         |
| Asian American              | 15         | 70         | 85         |
| African American            | 106        | 179        | 285        |
| Latino/a American           | 13         | 69         | 82         |
| <b>Total ALANA students</b> | <b>147</b> | <b>332</b> | <b>479</b> |

### National Jesuit Student Leadership Conference

#### Tan Ho '14

NJSLC is the National Jesuit Student Leadership Conference where students from all 28 Jesuit schools of higher education annually gather for a few days to attend leadership workshops, participate in community service, and explore their spiritual side through personal reflection. This summer, I was fortunate to attend the conference at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. I took away many lessons from the student-run workshops: how to communicate effectively, how to cooperate with others in order to achieve group goals, how to professionally market oneself, and how to ultimately transform oneself into a better leader. The Undergraduate Student Association took eight students and one advisor, Bennie Williams MS '13. Hopefully, Canisius will be able to bring NJSLC to campus in the foreseeable future!



### A Jesuit's Perspective

**Rev. James Dugan '64, S.J.**

**Associate Campus Minister/Campus Ministry**



*Canisius College is our home, our community, a place of security, where we live, grow, study and teach. It is an essential part of our personal and collective identity, our very spiritual and intellectual DNA. As a Jesuit college it traces its roots back to the sixteen century and as a Catholic college back to Jesus and his disciples, who with him announced our true and lasting home in the Kingdom of God. Maya Angelou expresses this sense of home saying: "The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned."*

*The Cultural Times Bulletin*  
is published by the ALANA Student Center (ASC)

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