



“For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Was Enuf”

Samira Williams '13



It was a wintry Friday, February 24th, when a group of us eagerly left the ALANA Student Center (ASC) for an evening of theater at the Ujima Company in the TheaterLoft on Elmwood Avenue. ASC sponsored a trip to see a choreo-poem by Ntozake Shange, “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Was Enuf.” Students attending with me included some of my fellow Canisius College Performance Troupe members, namely Eliza Fields '13, Crystal Shaw '15, and Sierra Wilson '15, as well as Donovan Griffin '12, David Turley '14, and ASC Graduate Assistant Tishana Daniel MS '12, who coordinated this opportunity. Admissions Counselor Michael R. Coad '11 and ASC Administrative Associate Kathleen Mathews completed our theater party; ASC provided transportation. When we arrived, all was warm and welcoming. My overall experience from beginning to end was awe-inspiring. The atmosphere was perfect because it was small and close-knit. The audience and I shared a silent bond for 90 minutes as we watched the amazing stories unfold onstage. As a member of the Performance Troupe, it was nice being able to enjoy the play as a learning experience and inspiration with my fellow members. What I enjoyed most was the fact there was no set. The women brought an imaginary set through their words and actions, which is the work of true artists. My favorite moment actually occurred after the play was over; we were able to meet and talk with the ladies. The Lady in Red, played by the amazing Shanntina Moore, even brought me backstage to show me what natural hair care products she uses to make her afro pop! I was honored. I had an amazing time.

Kidz N the Class; Boyz N the Hood

Curtis Jones '15



As the lights dimmed and the movie started, a silence spread across the room as everyone in attendance began to melt into what was now on the screen. Early in February the Afro American Society hosted the movie “Boyz N the Hood” in Lyons Hall, followed by a discussion facilitated by Mr. LeRoi C. Johnson, Esq., a member of the college’s Board of Trustees and chair of the Friends of the ALANA Student Center Advisory Board. Throughout the movie shots rang, tough words were thrown, and each individual tensed with the violence of it all. When the credits began to roll and the outro music began to play everyone exhaled a breath of relief because they could remove themselves from what they just experienced and still be seated in a chair at Canisius College; there were no chuckles, no giggles, just

Canisius Welcomed the Indiana University African American Arts Institute

Canisius College welcomed Dr. Charles E. Sykes, executive director of the Indiana University African American Arts Institute and a dynamic ensemble of Indiana University/IU Soul Revue student soloists to our campus on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. Dr. Sykes and the ensemble presented “The Motown Story—Lecture and Performance” to a crowd of over 100 students, faculty, staff, and community members in Regis South. The night’s presentation chronicled the history of the Detroit Motown Era during the 1960s and 1970s, and included IU student performances of songs by the Supremes, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, and others.

Music of the Motown Era, Sykes said, “continues to speak to today’s culture. While we’re living in a different generation, some of the things that (Motown) speaks about, like love and the problems of being in a relationship, are still very relevant today.” This was clear from the audience’s response to the program, as they quickly became engaged in the evening’s events, singing, clapping, and enjoying the sound of music that transcends generations. As the event drew to a close, the audience had the chance to learn the Temptation dance, which most were eager to try. Those attending the event had an opportunity to participate in a Q & A session, in which they shared their appreciation of Dr. Sykes, the vocalists, and the history of the music.



Indiana University vocalists perform in Regis South to an appreciative audience.

We thank the Canisius College Divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, Fine Arts/Music Department, ALANA Student Center, Undergraduate Student Association Diversity Board, Urban Leadership Learning Community program (ULLC), Afro American Society, the Canisius College Bookstore, Public Safety, the Buffalo/WNY Chapter of the IU Alumni Association, IU alumnus Robert Johnson, and Em Tea Coffee Cup Café for their generous support.

somber silence. As the discussion kicked off and everyone gave their opinions on what they just saw there was a variety in thought on what was realistic and what was fictional. The rich discussion that followed the movie not only made us reflect on the movie but on society in the past and even in the present, where we come from, how it looked from the outside and how it felt from the inside. At the end of the discussion all I could think was, “It was all a reality where I come from.”

Alums in Focus: Guidepost for a Lifetime Found at Canisius

Dr. Theresa A. Harris-Tigg, a.k.a. Ama Serwa Akoto '93

Even though it is close to two decades since earning my master's in science education from Canisius College, I remember my academic work there very well. The education courses were interesting and rigorous. We utilized collaborative peer groups which involved relevant discussions on theory and research about educating the nation's youth. Earning a master's of science in education prior to in-service teaching was a very appropriate decision for me. The graduate program unquestionably prepared me to be a very confident educator. My training included explicit development of methodical unit and lesson plans to address students' multiple intelligences and learning styles, assessment, and learning to use information from class assessments to adapt my teaching accordingly. The advanced level work completed at Canisius clearly had me know the powerful connection between teaching and students' learning outcomes.



In 1993, my student teaching placements were carried out at St. Rose of Lima elementary school and Kenmore East High School. I had phenomenal cooperating teachers and Canisius College supervisors that deliberately guided my practicum at the school sites. The supervisors helped me to "see" the nuances involved in teaching, as well as encouraging and supporting me to take risks in the classrooms. I was allowed to tease out my own instructional delivery and classroom management style. Immediately after graduating from Canisius, I was hired to teach secondary English for the Buffalo Public Schools. I successfully taught in the Buffalo district for thirteen years. Later, I went on to do adjunct teaching in the Graduate School of Education at the SUNY Buffalo for a couple of years.

Currently, I am an assistant professor of English education at SUNY Buffalo State. As a teacher educator, I am responsible for the preparation of future teachers. I take this responsibility seriously and truthfully enjoy working with college students who desire to pursue teaching to help young people reach their highest potential. I love being an educator because it allows me to be a life-long learner.

Canisius College Performance Troupe Appears at McKinley and Bennett High Schools



Photo taken at Bennett High School

The atmosphere was electric when the Performance Troupe took their oral interpretation of poetry and prose show on the road first to McKinley High School and then to Bennett High School classes on Friday, March 30th. At McKinley four back-to-back classes enjoyed 40-minute class periods of urban content tailored to a high school audience, featuring the works of artists such as S. Pearl Sharp, Nikki Giovanni, Tupac Shakur, James E. Mumford, and some original works from Troupe members. An afternoon trip to Bennett featured many of the favorites from the morning for two classes. The Performance Troupe talent for this day, as pictured, were Troupe alum Kevin Koch '07, Bishoy Saleeb '13, Alex Simon '13, Sierra Wilson '15, Troupe alum JoAnna Rozier '07, Eliza Fields '13, Troupe Coordinator Brooke Ballard '15, Crystal Shaw '15, and Samira Williams '13. Troupe director Sababu Norris of ASC noted each school has eagerly invited the Troupe back.

Chill Out With the ALANA Student Center

Leman Harris '12



On Thursday, February 23rd, the Canisius College Commuter Lounge played host to the ALANA Chill Out Event. This engaging activity was personally significant because I had a role in putting it together, from creating the colorful Taboo inspired poster to the 24-hour intense marketing effort. The plan did come together, as the actual event had a turnout of over 40 students and a smooth relaxed atmosphere. Attendees really enjoyed a variety of games like Taboo, Apples to Apples, and Spades. While most made their way over to the very large gender vs. gender based Taboo game, Apples to Apples was also a very popular attraction. Besides all the fun of the games, everyone enjoyed pizza, chips, and even healthy options of strawberries and bananas. Ultimately the Chill Out event accomplished its main goal: students were able to step back from the stresses of class, and enjoy the fun of each other's company.



A Jesuit's Perspective

Rev. Martin X. Moleski, S.J.



"Jesus did not say, 'I made everything new,' nor did He say, 'I will make everything new,' but 'I make all things new.' His promise is for today and for every day of our lives." -- Mother Olga Yaqob.

The Cultural Times Bulletin

is published by the ALANA Student Center (ASC)

Editor/ASC Admin. Assoc.....	Kathleen V. Mathews
Bulletin Assistant	Rev. Martin X. Moleski, S.J.
Bulletin Assistant	Dr. Sandra M. Estanek
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Student Assistant.....	Michael Slis '11
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