



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

DIVERSITY IS PERSONAL FOR NEW FACULTY

Two new faculty members of the Department of Philosophy have brought considerable intellect and energy to bear on issues pertinent to diversity. Grant Silva and Stephen Chanderbhan are each very interested to help students at Canisius connect with cultural heritage, face socio-political concerns, and construct a solid academic foundation from which to succeed in their future pursuits.

"In philosophy, it's really personal with me to promote diversity in topics and philosophies," Grant Silva explains. "Philosophy should explore race, citizenship, and migration. My areas of research explore the question of citizenship—legal and national." In the spring semester Silva will be teaching a class on Latin American philosophies.

After undergrad years in California, Silva earned a Master's degree and then his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Oregon. He has been through a winter in Chicago, and as a youngster played hockey in California. He anticipates nothing he can't handle from Buffalo winters!



Grant Silva, Ph.D



Steve Chanderbhan, ABD

Steve Chanderbhan hails from Arlington, VA. He completed his B.A. in philosophy at the College of William and Mary, and is currently finishing his Ph.D. in philosophy at Saint Louis University, MO. Chanderbhan's philosophical interests are primarily in medieval philosophy, particularly the thought of Thomas Aquinas, moral psychology, and philosophy of religion. "These academic interests pair well with my love for the Jesuit commitment to the integration of scholarship, faith, and service," Chanderbhan says, "and the fact that Canisius embraces this commitment makes me feel very much at home here."

Chanderbhan lays claim to a cultural background that is West Indian. "My parents are from the West Indies – Guyana (the former British Guiana) to be exact. I also have a number of relatives who live in the Scarborough area of Toronto, the destination for a large portion of the West Indian Diaspora. I will occasionally pop down to the store on the corner of Jefferson and Delavan for some patties – plus, I recently realized I can make some pretty good shrimp curry." This hints at his non-academic interests, which he says are "reading, sports, and cooking."

2011 SUMMER AT YALE

By Michael McClurkin '13



This summer I was invited to participate in Yale School of Medicine's Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) for six weeks, from June 18th to July 30th 2011. The program aims to recruit top URM (Underrepresented in Medicine) and underprivileged scholars from top institutions. Each participant was required to take two science courses taught by Yale faculty (Organic Chemistry, General Chemistry, Physics, Advanced Biology, Introductory Biology) as well as several seminars, like public health and career and development. It was a rigorous program – each student logged in over 200 hours of class time. The highlight of the program was the ability to network with elite Yale medical students, grad-

HISTORIC OCCASION ON CAMPUS

On September 27th Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. became Canisius College's first predominantly black Greek-letter organization to be recognized on campus. A year in the making, this incentive to initiate the organization into the Canisius Greek community was spearheaded by the Undergraduate Student Association Diversity Chair, Anthony Tyson-Thompson '13, who is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma.

The ALANA Student Center congratulates all involved in this effort. Elizabeth Caffee, the coordinator of Canisius' Academic Talent Search, and Deidre Debose, assistant director of Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), are co-advisors to the new fraternity.



Tyson-Thompson hopes that the presence of this organization on campus will serve to reinforce social justice and leadership values through the implementation of Phi Beta Sigma's founding motto — "Culture for service and service for humanity."

Anthony Tyson-Thompson '13

Student Enjoys A Taste of Latin Life at September Soup With Substance Event

By John Rudenko MS '13

On Wednesday, September 14th I attended the Soup with Substance/ Latin Jazz Project in the West Wing of the Economou Dining Hall. Having seen a lot of similar events in general, I wasn't expecting anything special. But when I arrived, it was to the sound of hip Latin Jazz music from a variety of traditional instruments. Not only that, but there was traditional

ethnic cuisine as well. The chorizo soup (compliments of Chartwells) was excellent, some of the best I've had. Once I was done eating, the music drew me in and I danced with one of my friends for awhile. A nice pair of dance



instructors were easy to follow. I was sad when the music ended, but I now know that I have many similar events to look forward to, hosted by the ALANA Student Center. These are wonderful events to attend because, aside from free food and dance instruction, they give an insight into some of the most amazing things about other cultures. Many people are turned off when they hear about multicultural life events, but these are not run-of-the-mill diversity sessions. I highly recommend attending the next event they sponsor.

uate students, and faculty. They were ready and willing to provide support for the students. It was amazing to meet other ALANA pre-med students from schools like Princeton, John Hopkins, and Cornell. We traveled to Boston, NYC, New Hampshire – our friendships took over New England. Last but not least, this program pays for your room and board as well as travel expenses! If you are interested in attending next summer log onto SMDEP.org!



Alums in Focus: "When I Was A Student ..."

By Fatima Rodriguez Johnson MS '98



When I began my graduate studies at Canisius College, I was 21 years old, single, and had my whole life in front of me. I was accepted into the first CSPA (College Student Personnel Administration) cohort. It was a very exciting time. I remember calling my mom after my first graduate class; I was so overwhelmed by the expectations. I had been an EOP student and I should have known that I was full of possibilities. I left class in Old Main, ran through the tunnel to the Student Center where I was happy to find a pay phone, available and working. I called my mom. "Mom," I said, while holding back tears, "I do not think I can do this, it seems like a lot of work and it seems really hard." As always, I could rely on my mother to put things in perspective. I stayed at Canisius and I finished the two-year program.

There were three things I learned about myself during those two years that I want to share with all of you. First, I learned that I had a right to an education regardless of my background. Being biracial (Black and Puerto Rican), first generation, and EOP was nothing to be embarrassed about. I was deliberate in all of my life decisions. I knew from age 6 or 7 that I wanted to go to college, and I positioned myself to do so. I worked hard, studied, and was accepted into an institution of higher education, *period*. Second, I learned that help isn't something negative. Being in a position to receive and to give help is a blessing. I have been in many situations where I was pushed back, where I stumbled, and sometimes fell because I didn't ask for help. I could have avoided a lot of bumps and bruises if I would have just reached out to someone who knew how to guide me. I hope you would agree that most of us need a flashlight to see in the dark! And last, I learned that I'm an investment. Yes that's right—I have value and I have worth. Given the time to mature...I'll turn a profit.

I'm not sure about you, but I think each of us has our own story to tell. I just hope that something in my story speaks to you. I'm doing well; I have wonderful children and step-children. My husband is my number one fan. He is constantly supporting me. "So, what are you doing now?" "I'm glad you asked." Now I'm helping students like me: I am the coordinator of multicultural programs and services at the State University of New York at Geneseo. One day I hope to read about your success. Be well, my fellow Griff!

Meet and Greet Good Times

By Crystal Shaw '15

(Crystal is on the right in the picture.)

The ALANA Student Center's Meet and Greet that took place on September 7th was one of the most enjoyable events that I have attended on the Canisius College campus. Upon entering the room I was greeted with smiles and welcoming faces, soothing music, and artwork from various cultures. The event introduced a variety of cultures from the food provided to the decorations within the center. As the center filled with guests we played a competitive yet comedic game of UNO. This game alone showed how there were different customs within the households of the guests. We learned that there are many ways to play the game and decided to include them all. Just like the center itself, the game of UNO showed how all cultures can easily be embraced. My experience at the Meet and Greet was an amazing one where I learned to smile, to laugh, and to embrace.



A New Work Force Welcomed at ASC

A new work force has been added to the ALANA Student Center. Three energetic work study employees, Brooke, Chris, and Nathan, are excited

and ready to expand their perspectives on different cultures. Brooke Ballard is a digital media arts/computer major who is ready to teach as well as learn new things about different cultures. When possible, she enjoys riding horses. Chris Chiles, an accounting

major, loves to play sports. He feels that expanding ideas on different cultures is a good way to fill the void between different cultures. Anthropology is the major chosen by Nathan Odrobina, who is open to any task at ASC. Nathan likes running, and ran track in high school. These three first-year students are very much appreciated at ASC!



A Jesuit's Perspective

Rev. Thomas Colgan, S.J., Campus Ministry

Anger, in its healthy form, is energy to stand up against what is destructive in our lives or in the community. Healthy anger, together with some necessary prayer, enables us to bring our anger to our Higher Power, so that we can be taught to use that anger to act lovingly with those who have offended us or the community.



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Canisius College is one of 28 Jesuit colleges in the nation and the premier private college in Western new York. Canisius prepares leaders—intelligent, caring, faithful individuals—able to promote excellence in their professions, their communities and their service to humanity.