



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

ALANA STUDENT CENTER (ASC) Name Reflects Cultural Composition

The times they are a'changin', and the name of the former Office of Multicultural Programs (OMP) is changing with them! Now known proudly as ALANA Student Center (ASC), the new name reflects the true cultural composition of the students served by the center, as it is an acronym for **A**frican American, **L**atino/a American, **A**sian American and **N**ative **A**merican student cultures. Serving the Canisius student population with roots in these various cultures since 1989, ASC serves as a catalyst with respect to pluralism at this Jesuit campus.

CANISIUS REPRESENTED AT HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE ON RACE AND ETHNICITY IN SAN FRAN



Sababu Norris, director of the ASC, attended the **National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) in American Higher Education**, held May 31 to June 4, 2011 in San Francisco, California. Coordinated by the University of Oklahoma, NCORE had approximately 1800 participants. (You can find Sababu with thumbs up among some participants in the above photo.)

Many substantive conversations took place, Sababu reported, and in particular he was able to share how invaluable the ALANA Student Center's Advisory Board, "Friends of ASC," has been. Presenters and conference participants expressed interest in the concept as it has been implemented at Canisius.

Equally gratifying for Sababu was attending a special workshop presented by two members of the Western New York Coalition of Multicultural Offices in Higher Education, of which Sababu is a founding member. Colleagues from Niagara University and Hilbert College had the workshop participants up off their seats for "**Hip Hope! Creative Ways to Use Hip Hop Culture and Its Music for Positive Creative Expression.**" We are inviting the presenters to offer the engaging "**Hip Hope!**" at Canisius College during this academic year.

Future Events

Performance Troupe Auditions: Saturday, September 10th, 1-2 pm, Frisch Conference Room.

Soup With Substance Series Latino/a Heritage Month, starting Thursday, September 15th, 12-12:45 pm, in the Economou Dining Hall (located in the Student Center). Lively music by Buffalo's Latin Jazz Project!

COLORFUL NEW BROCHURES AND FLYERS THANKS TO ASC STUDENT EFFORT THIS SUMMER

Communication is the name of the game at ASC, at least as far as student Mike Slis '11, is concerned. Come check out the counter just inside the center door to see the colorful array of brochures Mike has designed under the direction of Sababu Norris. Eye-catching and informative, the pieces present the facts about ASC's mission and services; the Canisius College Performance Troupe; and the ALANA Artwork at Canisius in association with the Andrew L. Bouwhuis Library. Handy fliers will point you towards an interactive workshop experience called "Country A & Country Z" which the ASC can facilitate, or give you a reflective prayer opportunity about diversity. Another will direct you to a number of scholarship and aid opportunities. Student Osaigbokan "Paul" Aihie '13, contributed a concept sure to make any student look twice at the flier for the \$500 Bill Davis Scholarship from the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Conference on Multicultural Affairs. All these and a bowl of candy are waiting for you at Frisch Hall room 008.



A Jesuit's Perspective

Rev. George Restrepo, S.J.



Just in time for setting one's course for a brave new academic year, Father George offers this pithy observation from C.S. Lewis: "***Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at Earth, and you get neither.***"

Alums in Focus: Teaching Life Lessons Learned at Canisius

by Wilfredo Garcia '00, Buffalo Public Schools



Growing up in the Bronx well under the poverty line, my fund of knowledge in reference to higher education came mostly from the film industry. I can honestly say that I was flying blind through much of the application process as one of the first members of my Nuyorican family to graduate high school, let alone pursue a college degree. My first impressions of Buffalo and Canisius will be forever seared into my memory. Driving through downtown Buffalo from the Amtrak Station on my way to campus on a warm summer evening of 1996, I remember asking the cab driver if there was a parade or some game going on. He seemed confused by my inquiry so I clarified. "Where is everyone, are they all at some major event?" My heart sank to the pit of my stomach when he said, "Nope, it's always like this." You can't come close to imagining my dismay when I finally arrived at pre-renovation Bosch Hall for the first time. It looked more like a Cold War era asylum than a freshman dorm. I am very glad to say that the rest of my experiences at Canisius were not as glum.

I am indebted to so many compassionate individuals for helping me overcome my initial culture shock. Each of my professors and other members of the Canisius family marked my life in ways that I couldn't appreciate while I was in the trenches. People like Sababu Norris, and Susan Fischer of Campus Ministry, along with my experiences serving on the Executive Board of Latin American Students and Friends (LASAF), working as manager of the women's basketball team, and interning at a therapeutic preschool taught me many life lessons I will hold onto forever. Service, compassion and excellence are core values that blossomed during those formative years. They are the same principles that I aim to instill in my own students as a bilingual special education teacher and in my congregation as Assistant Pastor of an Assemblies of God Church in Buffalo.

I end with the following admonition for current and future ALANA students. Make the most of every moment you have at Canisius. These years fly by quickly. Speaking from experience I know how easy it is to lose one's self in the many extracurricular activities that are never mentioned in college view books. Be true to yourself and be sure to lay a solid foundation of excellence to build your future upon. My heart is always drawn to Canisius. Whenever possible I will take some of my 6th grade students on a campus visit. Many of them too will be the first people in their families to go to college. It's never too early to spark an interest in higher education. If you see us roaming the tunnels or grabbing a snack in the student center, be sure to stop and say hello.

Canisius Shines at Cincinnati Conference



Left to right are: Sababu Norris; Cheryl Nunez, Asst. to the President for Diversity and Equity, Xavier University; and Tishana Daniel, MS '12, at CMA in June.

Since 1991, Sababu Norris of ASC has been a Canisius College representative to the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Conference on Multicultural Affairs (AJCU-CMA). Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, hosted the conference this past June, their first experience doing so. It was CMA's 30th anniversary; Associate Dean Lilly Adams-Dudley of Canisius' COPE Office was among the founders as nine Jesuit institutions started CMA in 1981. Canisius is being encouraged by CMA to host the conference for the first time in 2016 or perhaps 2017.

A highlight at the *Bridging Borders Through Solidarity* Conference was hearing praise for the contributions of ASC Graduate Assistant Tishana Daniel. Daniel participated in Xavier's summer internship program, as arranged by Dr. Terri Mangione, dean of students at Canisius, and represented the college very well among the 28 Jesuit institutions of higher education. There was a recognition at the general business meeting as the chairperson referenced ASC's *Cultural Times Bulletin* as a valuable resource for cross-cultural information for institutions. We thank Fr. Martin Moleski, Dr. Sandra Estanek, and former editor Ms. Tori Brady '06, MS '11 for their vital assistance on the *Bulletin*.

Getting to Know New Staffer



There's a new face at the ALANA Student Center—Kathleen Vogel Mathews joined the center over the summer as administrative associate. Kathleen comes to Canisius after a 12-year stint at the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, where she initiated the Adult Education Coordinator position. In that capacity she regularly turned to Canisius faculty as a community resource for speakers in her programming efforts. Prior to that, Kathleen enjoyed a career in broadcasting, working first on a national public broadcasting series, WOMAN, produced locally, and then as a newscaster and in production. As an entrepreneur she founded Buffalo's first female-owned and operated professional video production company, Avid Productions, Inc., which she co-managed for 14 years before leaving that industry. Canisius welcomes the multifaceted Ms. Mathews to our Jesuit campus!

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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.