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New Award for ALANA Students

Recognizing the achievements of ALANA students within the Canisius community through a new award to be given during the annual Spring Honors Convocation, starting in the 2012-2013 academic year, is the purpose of a new ALANA Achievement Award.



Patricia Christian, Ph.D.

This award will be given to a graduating ALANA student who exemplifies aspects of Jesuit values through meaningful campus and/or community participation while maintaining a high academic level as well. The recognition is the result of a committee chaired by Patricia Christian, Ph.D., chair and associate professor of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, which has helped to create the ALANA Achievement Award.

“This award will say to the community-at-large that Canisius has noticed and highly values students from all backgrounds who excel in the classroom while assuming leadership roles in clubs or organized activities for the benefit of others. In addition, it shows the students that hard work and a demonstrated generous spirit are noticed.” The new ALANA Achievement Award will highlight one graduating student who embodies all these positive aspects and in so doing shines a light on many more students who are earning the pride and respect of the Canisius community.

We thank Diedre Debose, assistant director of COPE; Christian Blum, adjunct professor in the English Department; Benjamin Macaluso '12, president of the Undergraduate Student Association; as well as Sababu Norris, director of ASC, for serving on the committee that helped to create this award, and a big thanks to Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Richard Wall.

Student award recipients will be further recognized by having their name on a permanent plaque placed outside the ALANA Student Center, located in the tunnel of Frisch Hall.

Hilbert Hosts Stirring MLK Speaker

Milano Rodriquez '13

The Office of Multicultural Affairs at Hilbert College, in association with other sponsors, presented speaker and author Mr. Kevin Powell to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The afternoon event, held January 26th at Hilbert in Hamburg, NY, highly impressed me, from its turnout of intelligent and attentive audience members to Mr. Powell's articulate manner of presentation. His talk opened me up to a world perspective that I was familiar with but could not describe. Attending with me were Eliza Fields '13, Anthony Tyson-Thompson '13, and ASC director Sababu C. Norris. ASC provided transportation. I went with expectations that Powell would talk solely about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a historical context, but he surpassed my expectations and spoke



Professor's World View is an Asset

Mark Yi-Cheon Yim, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of marketing and information systems at Canisius College who brings a broad world-view to his classroom. Dr. Yim was born, raised, and educated in Seoul, South Korea. After receiving a baccalaureate in German Language and Literature, Dr. Yim pursued post-graduate work in the United States. He has been a guest lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin, Texas, Texas State University at San Marcos, Texas, and the University of Florida at Gainesville. Dr. Yim has held positions in companies in Korea, Canada, and Germany. He earned an M.S. in advertising from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Ph.D. in advertising from the University of Texas at Austin.



Mark Yi-Cheon Yim, Ph.D.

Students reap the benefit of Dr. Yim's experience. “I try to open their eyes here, to introduce marketing examples from other countries. It's a much broader, more diverse world.” As a person involved in innovative marketing and particularly in the era of quickly-evolving new technology, Dr. Yim feels it is a critical advantage for students to be familiar with other cultures. He says, “Understanding cultural atmospheres, cultural differences, is very important in identifying the best ways to market to a community. It is especially important in Asian countries, where people are more dependent on mass transportation and people are using the best of technological devices a great deal. I strongly encourage Canisius students to go abroad—we get creative ideas from various cultural perspectives.”

Now into his second semester teaching at Canisius, Dr. Yim is appreciative of the small classroom sizes and the opportunity for educators and students to enjoy a connection in the classroom. “I am learning, too. Marketing is different here.” He sees the conversations as useful to both students and teacher, and says students are relatively open to learning about other countries and cultures. Dr. Yim adds, “In general they are ready to open their hearts, they want to experience diversity.”

to Dr. King's relevancy to today's world. Powell said today's society is living “with a culture of disrespect” and he elaborated, building a picture of a society comprised of individuals who are always in “attack mode.” Many of his insights served to refocus the way we perceive our interactions with one another. One big theme Powell touched upon was the economy. The struggle between economic classes was outlined as a cry for help by the lower class, a cry which is being unanswered because of what seems to be a lack of humanity in the upper class. To battle this lack of humanity, Powell proposes we adopt Dr. King's philosophy of equality and challenge our common concept of equality to expand beyond racial equality to include economic equality, gender equality, and equal rights for all of God's people. In essence, he was advocating for equality among persons in every identity division, the essence of Dr. King's dream.

Alums in Focus: Guidepost for a Lifetime Found at Canisius

Vince Clark '97



My world literally changed in the summer of 1992. That's the year I happened upon the start of an intriguing odyssey otherwise known as the undergraduate experience. In 1992, a slightly rotund, charismatic southern governor named Bill Clinton was talking about some "bridge to the 21st Century." Most students learned to type on a word processor then. The internet was in its infancy.

I was an unassuming pre-med major who went on to become a political science major. Born and raised in Buffalo by a pastor with deep southern roots, a military background, and a commitment to service, I found myself involved in various college clubs and organizations from the Afro American Society and The Griffin, to the Campus Programming Board and, eventually, the Undergraduate Student Association. I was honored to be the first African-American elected to serve as the USA President (1996-1997).

Following my undergraduate years at Canisius, I went on to serve as Director of Grants and Senior Field Representative to U.S. Congressman Jack Quinn. I have been fortunate to have had a front row seat to the major policy debates and achievements from 1997 to 2004. I was able to help secure millions of federal dollars for the Buffalo community, and work on economic development, labor issues, federal appropriations, urban policy, education policy, and other major areas. After several years of working in higher education – most recently at the University at Buffalo pushing the expansive UB 2020 initiative – I now have the privilege of serving as the Executive Director of the Ellicott-Masten YMCA here in Buffalo. I have served on numerous boards, been honored with various awards, and have recently been ordained an Elder. Ultimately, though, it all comes back to the commitment to service that was planted in me by my Dad (yes, Mom, you too), and cultivated by an alma mater where *cura personalis* or "care for the individual" has become more than a motto. It is my guidepost. Go Griffs!

Soup With Substance MLK Program

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012, Craig D. Rogers, Ph.D., gave an



Craig D. Rogers, Ph.D.

invigorating talk on "Civil Rights to Economic Justice: The Transformative Challenge of King's Legacy and our Future." This was the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., program of the Soup With Substance series. The program attendance was outstanding, as 75 or more people listened attentively to Dr. Rogers' brilliant talk in Regis South Room. Dr. Craig Rogers is an associate professor in the Department of Economics and Finance at Canisius, and his talk focused on economics in 2012. "Poverty—we still see its ugly grip in 2012, although by any measure, absolute and relative, it's very different than before 2012," Dr. Rogers stated. He spoke of the American economic situation when Dr. King was addressing his audiences, and Dr. Rogers observed, "King understood that linked to the audacity of hope is the audacity of opportunity." Several students remarked that they had not made those connections before hearing it that day.

This Soup With Substance program was sponsored by the Canisius College MLK Awards Committee, Afro American Society, ALANA Student Center, Andrew L. Bouwhuis Library, Campus Ministry, Chartwells Dining Services, and the Undergraduate Student Association. Ms. Bessie Patterson, a gospel singer in Western New York who is known as the coordinator of Buffalo's annual MLK Celebration, provided a moving musical interlude in the gospel tradition, accompanied by pianist Mr. Frazier Smith. With the addition of curried lentil soup and a beverage from Chartwells, it was truly an experience nourishing the mind and body for all who came to partake.



Bessie Patterson provided a stirring gospel interlude at Soup With Substance.

"Do The Right Thing" at Movie Night

Mary Rose Saint-Cyr, MS '13

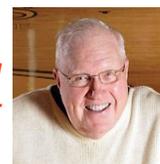


The Afro American Society and the ALANA Student Center sponsored director Spike Lee's film, "Do the Right Thing" for movie night on Friday, November 11th. Mr. David Blackburn, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs & International Student Affairs at Niagara University, facilitated a discussion which focused on the social issues that impacted the members of this Brooklyn community. These community members were suffering from poverty, unemployment, and racial strife. Many elements from this timeless film were reminiscent of urban communities today. It was great to watch a movie that is a classic on Black Entertainment Television (BET) from an analytical lens. I hope to see more students attend the next movie night.

A Jesuit's Perspective

Rev. Paul J. Dugan, S.J.

"As the Presidential election moves closer, and sometimes issues sacred and secular clash, our conscience is challenged to grow."



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Editor/ASC Admin. Assoc.	Kathleen V. Mathews
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