



**Happy Holiday Wishes to All!**

**Did You Know . . .**

**November is Native American Heritage Month?**

.... everything on the earth has a purpose, every disease an herb to cure it, and every person a mission.  
 ~Mourning Dove [Christine Quintasket] --Salish  
(<http://www.ihawaii.net/~stony/quotes.html>)

**In Celebration of Native American Heritage Month OMP and Chartwells Welcomed Haudenosaunee Native Dancers and Singers**

Canisius College celebrated **Native American Heritage Month** by bringing a Native American dance troupe to campus. The ensemble performed on **Wednesday, November 19th**, from **12:30 PM - 1:30 PM** in the **Economou Dining Hall**. Chartwells provided free samples of Native American food in its Menutainment area on that day for all to enjoy.

**Native American Heritage Month Cultural Quiz**

**Malika McCoy '10** won the \$40 American Express Gift Card in OMP's Native American Heritage Month quiz contest. **Congratulations!**

**Did you know . . .**

That you can listen to *"Native Voices"* on WJLL 1440AM radio on **Thursdays** from **3 PM - 4 PM**? *"Native Voices"* is Western New York's new Native American radio program only on WJLL 1440AM.

**Coming Soon! Canisius College MLK Award Nominations**

Canisius College will soon be seeking nominations for the Canisius College MLK Award(s) to acknowledge a student and/or a non-student (faculty, staff or administrator) who represent the ideals of MLK.



MLK Nomination forms will soon be placed around campus and an on-line nomination form will soon be available as well.

**Award nominees must demonstrate qualities promoting equality, fairness, human rights, and justice.**

The awards(s) will be presented at the Spring Honors Convocation in the Montante Cultural Center in April.

**Experiencing New York City**  
by Simone Jarmon '11

What did you do for the long Columbus Holiday weekend? I went to New York City with my African American Heroes class, taught by Dr. Bruce Dierenfield. We left for the "Big Apple" on Saturday, October 11th, by plane. Within fifty minutes, we were there. Dr. Dierenfield gave us five minutes to check into our hotel, and then we were off to tour the beautiful, busy city of New York.



Our weekend was filled with sightseeing, mostly historical, but also some that was just for pleasure. While we were in New York, we visited the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, saw a performance at the world famous Apollo Theater, dined at Sylvia's in Harlem, and went shopping, and that was only the first day! The rest of the weekend was packed with cultural and exciting activities that made this trip one of the most memorable and enlightening trips that I have ever experienced.

**OMP's Annual End of the Semester Celebration**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2008**  
**1 PM - 3 PM**  
**OMP (Frisch 008)**

**Come join us for food, friends, fun, and door prizes!**  
**Open to Canisius students**

### *The Express*

On Sunday, October 26th, Tomas Vasquez-Simmons '11 and Julian Radney '11 organized an outing for members of the Canisius men's basketball team and their friends to see a movie and have a meal, courtesy of OMP. Two of the students who attended wrote a review.

#### **A Review of *The Express*** by Jeffrey Knighton '11

*The Express* tells the story of Ernie Davis, the first African American winner of the NCAA Heisman Trophy, who died tragically of leukemia at the age of 23. It is a genuine film depicting racism in the late 50s and early 60s though an inspirational sports picture. The movie reveals the life of one of America's unknown heroes, Ernie Davis, the Jackie Robinson of college sports.



By experiencing this movie one truly learns a lot about a man's will and learns to value today's privileges. Yes, while watching it, one is struck by the extreme displays of racism throughout Ernie's life, but history tells us how extremely challenging things were back then. What was more intriguing was Ernie Davis' will to rise above it all and be great. He was able to fight through all adversity proving that a man's will and drive can be greater than anything. Because of the efforts of Ernie and other brave African Americans, it is possible for my generation to live in a less hostile society. The movie reminds us, especially young African Americans, not to take our rights and privileges for granted in such a moving way that one can't and won't forget it.

#### **Changed by *The Express*** by Dexter Fugerson '11

This movie sends your emotions on a roller coaster ride due to Davis having to deal with racism and his battle with leukemia. His story really opened my eyes to the way in which he carried himself, knowing that he was the hope for things better to come for many African Americans, and people in general.



He really taught me that if you have a dream that you should not lose yourself and your values when you are making your journey to that dream. Also it reminded me that today some of our youth have lost that dignity and self-identity as they seem to only focus on the frivolous things that they do, jeopardizing all of the things Ernie or any other African American has worked for. More importantly this movie makes you look into you own soul, finding what is important to you in life; your fame or your legacy. Davis' story has changed me for the better.

I recommend everyone to see this inspirational movie. It could change your life and create a sense of hope where there is none.

### **In De Beginn'**

by Michael Coad '11

On November 9th, I with other students went to see the play *In De Beginn'* by Oscar Brown, Jr. at one of my favorite theaters, the Ujima Theatre, courtesy of OMP. The play was an abridged version of the creation story. The play focused around the "Rev" who was the narrator of the play. I enjoyed his part because it was to me like he was preaching and telling the Bible, while the characters then brought what he said to life through their words and actions.



Another cool fact was that they had what I call the "Shakespeare Switch." This is when roles you would normally think would be exclusive to one sex are given to the other. Two characters, "Lawd" and "Snake," were played by women; both did a spectacular job. The best part for me, when I really think about it, had to be the music. I found myself tapping my feet as if it were Sunday morning. I think that was what was most important, actually feeling the message, not just hearing and seeing it.

Other Canisius students attending included: Maurice Brown III '12, Felisha Downey '12, Donovan Griffin '11, Loianna Igwe-Odunze '11, Brian McDonald '09, Denise Pascal '12, and Xin Yuan '09. Fr. Tom Colgan, Dr. Devonya Havis, Jeanette Garr, Vicki Edgerton '06, and Sababu Norris also attended.

### **Welcoming the Friends of ALANA**

by Joel Francia '10

It was early last month when four first-year ALANA students stepped up to the plate and joined the newly established Friends of ALANA for this academic year.

The committee was formed to closely work with the ALANA Intern in planning, organizing, and facilitating various ALANA



**Gylan Saunders '12**



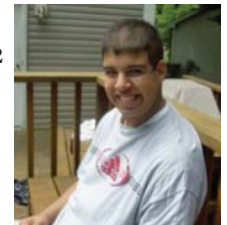
**Allina Santiago '12**

events throughout the year. This will allow the members to experience program planning on campus and will hopefully equip them to take future leadership roles in the clubs that they are involved with. So, with much pride and honor, I would like to present to you the members of the Friends of ALANA.



**Brian Chester '12**

**La'Mone Gibson '12**



## UB's Diversity Conference

by Jason Steinas '10

On Saturday, November 8th, several Canisius College ALANA students, Sababu Norris, and I traveled to the University at Buffalo (UB) to attend the "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work" Diversity Conference. This was the first year that UB has had the conference and it was a well organized and extremely informational program. Daysi Ball, who heads the UB Intercultural & Diversity Center, was the main organizer.

The event began with keynote speaker, Ernest L. Hicks, who is the manager of corporate diversity for Xerox Corporation. He stressed the importance of diversity of culture, nationality, and thought in the workplace and educational settings.

The day was filled with great speakers, great conversations, and gave all of the participants a chance to rethink and reevaluate many themes of diversity. I thought this conference was a great learning opportunity for the Canisius ALANA students who attended and I learned a tremendous amount as well. The students who attended the conference were: Maurice Brown III '12, Ebony Douglass '11, Maria Eugenio '12, Xavier Hunter '09, and Debra Johnson '10.

---

### *Teamwork Makes the Dream Work* A Workshop Review

by Ebony Douglass '11

The workshop that I felt I got the most out of during the *Teamwork Makes the Dream Work* Conference was the one in which we spoke about the different situations we may be in where others perception of us is based on our race. We were all able to go around the room and discuss different things that make us a minority or a non-dominant in America. We established that the workshop was an open and safe environment so we were not looked at any differently.

One of the most important things I gained from this session was that even though everyone that was in workshop may have looked different, we all face some of the same challenges. I was able to meet many different people from many different walks of life but the thing we all had in common



was the fact that we are judged before others have the chance to get to know us.

## *The Ebony Fashion Show*

by Maurice Brown III '12

Thanks to OMP I had the opportunity on Friday, October 17th, to attend the annual Ebony Fashion Fair along with the President of Afro-American Society, Xavier Hunter '09; the Captain of G-Squad, Fiama Smith '10; and the director of OMP.



When I was invited by OMP to attend this event, I was shocked; never did I think a first-year student such as myself would have this privilege. The fashion show was held at the downtown Hyatt Regency and locally sponsored by the Links, Inc. We all were dressed to impress; we were not the only ones looking nice there.

Besides the models, many of the audience members came in their most fashionable best. One gentleman from the audience even got the chance to walk the runway and strike a pose or two. He was wearing an expensive looking suit that glittered. The models soon took to the stage in some of the most elaborate outfits.

The show was phenomenal. I myself have never been to a professional fashion show and am grateful for the opportunity. There were many door prizes won that night, although I did not have the privilege of walking away with a prize. A few people in the audience won airplane tickets donated by American Airlines. All in all, I had a good time and want to thank Canisius for this experience. I would advise everyone to take advantage of OMP and all the opportunities it continues to offer.

### *Canisius College Harassment Team*

As a Catholic Jesuit university, Canisius College is committed to providing a positive and humane environment for study and work. The college will not condone or tolerate any verbal, written, or physical conduct that would constitute racial, disability, gender, or sexual orientation biases, or sexual harassment.

If you feel that you have been a victim of bias, racism, or harassment, please contact one of the counselors on the Harassment Team. A list of counselors is available from the Division of Student Affairs, OM 102. The counselor's role is to help you develop a strategy for ending incidents of bias, racism, or harassment. All meetings with a counselor are confidential.

**We will be known forever  
by the tracks we leave.**

<http://www.nativeamericangiftshop.com/quotes.htm>

~ Dakota

## Discussing Prejudice and Bigotry

by Jason Steinas '10

On Wednesday, October 22nd, Sababu and I visited Hilbert College to hear the internationally known speaker, Jane Elliott.

This speaker was brought to campus by the Director of Multicultural Affairs at Hilbert, Cheyenne Jumanah. Known for creating the daring **Blue-Eyes/Brown-Eyes Experiment**,\* Jane Elliott discussed prejudice and bigotry in a very direct and open fashion. The program began with an introduction by Cynthia A. Zane, Ed.D., President of Hilbert College. After the introduction, Elliott began the program by talking about the ways morality relates and/or conflicts with religion, which transitioned into a discussion about the prejudicial undertones of various political programs such as the armed forces draft. "Physical characteristics over which we have no control" was the pertinent theme that ran throughout Elliott's program. She discussed how one's height, sex, age, skin color, etc. make a difference in how they are viewed in United States society.



Jane Elliott

Elliott discussed the misunderstood notions of color blindness and even talked about the bigotry which has permeated the United States education system in elementary, secondary, and even some institutions of higher education. This discussion even pointed out the inaccuracies of the standard world map due to the prejudicial attitudes of its creators. One of the most powerful aspects of this program was when the speaker had two volunteers from the audience stand next to her. One was a tall Caucasian male and the other was an average height African American female. The speaker openly discussed the physical differences that neither had control over and how it affected them as well as how others viewed them on a daily, weekly, and lifetime basis. Elliott ended this comparison by stating that when she and the white male wake up in the morning, they don't think about being white or any possible consequences of being white. She then turned to the African American female and said that every single day this woman has to think about being black and what possible issues she may have to deal with for being black. Elliott took another look at the white male as well as herself and said, "We're the land of the free" and then turned to the African American female and said, "You are the home of the brave".

\*For more information, enter this title into an online search engine.

Note: Picture from <http://www.janeelliott.com/images/jane.jpg>

*The Cultural Times Bulletin* is a publication produced by the Office of Multicultural Programs (OMP).

Editor/OMP Administrative Associate..Vicki Edgerton '06  
 Bulletin Assistant.....Fr. Martin Moleski  
 Graduate Assistant.....Jason Steinas '10  
 Student Assistant.....Mike Slis '11  
 ALANA Intern.....Joel Francia '10  
 Work Study.....Nadalyn Vargas '11  
 Work Study.....Simone Jarmon '11  
 Director.....Sababu Norris

## Alums in Focus

### Reflections

by Detra (McTier) Trueheart '99



Life after Canisius has been great for me. I am a recent newlywed of two years. I currently serve on the Alumni Board of Directors for Canisius College and look forward to taking advantage of every opportunity to give back since Canisius gave me so much. I am also the President and Founder of the Young Miss Buffalo Pageant: Scholarship and Enrichment Program, a not-for-profit organization that works with girls 13-17 to reach outside their comfort zones and help them become their best.

Upon receiving my Master's Degree in Public Administration from CUNY Baruch College in NY, NY., it was an ALANA Alum who helped open a door for me when I was looking for employment over a six month period, which lead to the current position I hold as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Medaille College.

I graduated from Canisius in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. WOW...it is a little weird saying that since we will be celebrating our 10th anniversary at next year's reunion. The time sure does fly by when you are having fun. And fun it was. I had a great time while attending Canisius. I was very involved in student groups on campus. I was a cheerleader my first year, and served as a member of the Afro-American Society (First Vice-President), the Gospel Ensemble (President), Campus Programming Board, and LASAF throughout the rest of my time at Canisius. I was also a work study for Residence Life and Student Activities [CPLD] and a camp counselor for the NYSP Summer camp hosted by the College over the summer. In addition to my in-class experiences, these experiences also helped develop my leadership, interpersonal, communication, and critical thinking skills and my overall development as a student and emerging leader.

If I had one piece of advice to share with you, it would be to take risks, take chances, but most importantly take advantage of every resource you have on campus and GET INVOLVED! If you have an opportunity to do something you might not ever get a chance to do again... DO IT! For me there was one thing that I wish I had done: studying abroad. There will be many important times in your life and your time at Canisius should be one of them. You will make great life-long friends, get a GREAT education, and become part of a legacy that produces phenomenal leaders.