



April/May 2008

CULTURAL TIMES BULLETIN

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS (OMP)

www.canisius.edu/multi_cultural/



008 Frisch Hall
(716) 888-2787

Congratulations to the Canisius College 2007-2008 MLK Award Recipients



MLK Student Award:
Ms. Emilee Flynn '08

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



MLK Administrator Award:
Rhonda Dyess-Hands, Assistant
Director/Undergraduate Admissions

The awards were presented at the Spring Honors Convocation in the Montante Cultural Center.

2008-2009 Grad Assistant

My name is Jason Steinas and I will be the new Graduate Assistant in the Office of Multicultural Programs (OMP). I was born in lovely Rochester, NY, where I have three older sisters, great memories, and great friends.



I received my undergraduate degree in History and Secondary Education from SUNY Cortland. After graduation, I spent a few years in sales, but my heart was not in it. Due to the fact that I was an RA at Cortland, I loved working with college students. I followed my heart and was hired for a Resident Director position at North Carolina Wesleyan College in 2006. After working at Wesleyan for a year, I traveled north to New York City to become an administrator at St. John's University.

Besides my passion for working with students, I enjoy activities ranging from hiking, surfing, travel, and playing guitar. I look forward to the new experiences and opportunities that Canisius College will provide. I am extremely excited to begin working as a member of the Multicultural Programs family.

The Asian American Art Project Committee is hard at work finding an artist to produce an original art work for Canisius.

If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact **Mike Slish '11** at x2787.

OMP's Annual End of the Semester Celebration

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

OMP (Frisch 008)

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

Play Uno!



Door Prizes!

Canisius College Performance Troupe by Mike Slish '11

The Canisius College Performance Troupe is celebrating another successful year of performances. The troupe, under the direction of Sababu Norris, visited McKinley and Bennett High Schools. Students at both high schools were extremely appreciative and receptive of the troupe members and their performances.

The troupe also performed at Canisius on March 5th. Canisius alumnae, JoAnna Rozier '08, and Salley Thomas '07, joined the troupe for this performance. This show also featured a Q & A session facilitated by Dr. Robert Butler and Dr. Jane Fisher of the English Department. The on-campus performance was attended by 55 students and guests. Following the performance, door prizes were awarded. The event was very successful, and some students in attendance expressed interest in joining the troupe next academic year.

The following students were part of the troupe this year:

Shareef Ali II '08
Xavier Hunter '09
Jerome Lewis '10
Terrell J. Robinson '11
Ashley Scott '09
Shawnte Wilson '09

Sigma Phi Epsilon Members:

Chris Czaplicki '10
Adam Hayes '10
Brian Joseph '10
Brian McDonald '09
Matt O'Donnell '10

2007-2008
Performance
Troupe



Troupe picture
courtesy of
Bennett High
School

The Great Debaters

The movie, *The Great Debaters*, is one of the best movies that I have had the opportunity to see this year. This movie displayed many of the issues that many African Americans had to face in the south in the 1930s. As a person who loves to debate and hear arguments, this movie is one I easily related to and was greatly intrigued by. This movie encourages an admiration of the art of public speaking and debating that was a fundamental part of the development of our country. Julian Radney '11, Tomas Vazquez-Simmons '11, of the Canisius men's basketball team, and I were all positively impacted by this movie, and recommend others see it, too. Thank you to OMP for taking us to experience this movie and a wonderful meal at the best place to eat, DENNY'S!

Xavier Hunter '09

A Unique Spring Break Trip
by Ashley Scott '09

During spring break, eight Canisius College students and I were given the incredible opportunity to travel to Ghana (the "Gold Coast") for nine days, during which time we visited



various historic monuments and nature preserves. Accompanied by Dr. Bruce Dierenfield, a professor in the History Department, who coordinated the trip, and Sababu Norris, of OMP, it was truly a life-changing experience.

I would not be truthful if I did not inform you of our hardships in getting there. To sum things up, the day we were supposed to leave, our Delta flight from Buffalo was delayed four times, and our luggage did not arrive in Ghana until day five of our trip! Just imagine wearing the same clothes for six days in 106 degree weather.

On a more positive note, we arrived in Ghana safe and sound and were surprised to be greeted by African dancers. I must say it was quite relaxing after being in the air for nine and a half hours. After we checked into our first hotel of the tour, there were non-stop activities.

Throughout the trip we stayed at different hotels and visited quite a few sites and museums. The first museum we saw was the home of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, the first African American to earn a doctorate from Harvard University and a founder of the NAACP. The museum was celebrating Du Bois' 140th birthday, and inside was the cap and gown he wore at his college graduation. We also visited Kakum National Park, where we had to cross eight tiny suspension bridges high above a tropical rainforest; the European slave castles of Cape Coast and Elmina ("the door of no return"); the Manhyia Palace Museum, where Asante kings once lived; and Mole National Park, where elephants, antelope, baboons, warthogs, and green monkeys roam.

Personal highlights of the trip included getting my hair braided by Ghanaian women, sampling different foods such as jollof rice, bargaining with the aggressive vendors, and being taught how to weave kente cloth by Ghanaian children.

There is nothing like traveling to another country. Although I cried right before we left the airport, I am so happy I faced my fears and went on this memorable adventure. I am so blessed to have been given the chance to fly across the Atlantic Ocean to what I am proud to say is "my homeland!"



A Kente cloth weaver, Ashley Scott '09 and Tyshae Newton '09, in Kente weaving village

Our Young Black Men are Dying . . .
by Freddy Sanchez '09

On March 13th, as OMP's Graduate Assistant, I had the honor to host Chapmyn Spoken Word, a performance group from Columbus, Ohio. The group performed a choreopoem-play called *Our Young Black Men Are Dying And Nobody Seems To Care* by J. H. Chapmyn. This performance took place at the Montante Cultural Center. Before the performance started, Father John Bucki of Campus Ministry, shared a prayer and WNY gospel singer, Ms. Bessie Patterson, sang the Black National Anthem. The audience of close to 200 people included Canisius students, local high school students, teachers, and community members. Mr. Frank Mesiah, President of the Buffalo Branch of the NAACP, facilitated the Question & Answer (Q & A) session after the performance.

The play was divided into several presentations that included songs, poetry, and re-enactments of real life situations that concern young Black men in our society. The performance highlighted issues that unfortunately plague many young Black men in society and keep them from continuing their education, getting good jobs, and becoming better fathers.

Before the play started, the actors placed three blank notebooks in front of the stage and the audience was encouraged to write the name of a young Black man that they had known who had died and the cause of death. At the conclusion of their performance, the actors read out loud the names of the Black men in the books and the ways they had died. Members of the audience cried. Many names were mentioned and I was surprised to hear that many of these young men had died from homicides, suicides, and/or drugs.

The Q & A session proved to be powerful at the conclusion of the play. Teachers, students, and community leaders were able to ask the performers questions and make statements about what needs to be done to improve our communities. Several African American male teenagers shared their life stories with the audience during the Q & A.

Members from the community came up to me and thanked Canisius for hosting the play and they stressed that it is important to have more programs like this. The reactions and expressions from the audience made me feel that so much hard work in putting together this event was very beneficial and gave me a sense of purpose with respect to my future as a student affairs professional in higher education.

We thank the sponsors, especially the Buffalo Branch of the NAACP, for supporting this program.

The Cultural Times Bulletin is a publication of the Office of Multicultural Programs (OMP)

- Editor/OMP Administrative Associate..... Vicki Edgerton
- Bulletin Assistant.....Fr. Martin Moleski
- Graduate Assistant.....Freddy Sanchez '09
- Student Assistant.....Mike Slish '11
- Work StudySimone Jarmon '11
- Work StudyNadalyn Vargas '11
- Director..... Sababu Norris

AFRICAN FOOTPRINT tells the vibrant and diverse history of South Africa through a breathtaking blend of Afro- and Euro-centric music and dance. A cast of 30 energetic performers has created a show so exciting and entertaining that critics have dubbed AFRICAN FOOTPRINT “The Riverdance of South Africa” (<http://www.sheas.org/>).



www.broadwayworld.com

Multicultural Programs sponsored the following eight students to attend this wonderful production: Shareef Ali '08, Michael Coad '11, Mitchell Feaster '09, Donovan Griffin '11, Aerielle Morton '09, Thamara Myrie '10, and James Vernon '10. OMP's graduate assistant, Freddy Sanchez '09, transported the students in a Canisius van. Liberian Canisius alum, Henrique Caine '94, brought this engaging show to our attention.



African Footprint Student Review

The African Footprint performance I attended was not only entertaining, but it broadened my sense of artistry. What I mean to say is that during the whole performance I not only envied the talent the performers had, but I sat in my seat putting each scene under my artistic scope. Asking questions such as, “Why did the choreographer decide to use a certain style of dancing?” or trying to see the parallel between African dancing and contemporary dancing. The performance was great, and the audience’s response to the musical was just like mine... “WOW!” I’m glad that I attended. Thanks, OMP! **Shareef Ali II '08**

“Friends” by Takashi and Xin

As two students from the other side of the world, we really appreciate the hospitality Sababu and a dedicated community supporter of OMP, Mrs. Jeanette Garr, have provided for us. Ms. Garr has introduced us to delicious home-made pound cake and American home cooking. We look forward to preparing a meal for them to enjoy.

Nothing makes the earth seem more spacious than having friends from far away; they make the latitudes and longitudes. In Asian culture, true friendship usually means two things--respect and encouragement. Sababu is a wonderful human being to build a friendship with.

Sababu has provided us the opportunity to enjoy the various activities available in the Western New York area; for example, he introduced us to Red Pepper, a Vietnamese & Chinese Restaurant. Red Pepper has become our usual place to hang out, talk, and enjoy tasty foods together. We continue to enjoy ourselves there. Sababu listens to us, encourages us to work hard, and at least once a month, he takes us to a movie theater to enjoy a film of our choice.

Sababu is like a father figure to us. Xin can still recall how Sababu kept reminding Takashi to wear a coat in the winter because Sababu was worried that Takashi might catch a cold; Takashi still remembers how helpful Sababu was when he caught a cold and Sababu persuaded him to visit the Health Center. Sababu just showed his special way of greeting us with a confident smile, and we felt encouraged.

The best father is the father like a friend; the best friend is the friend like a father. For us, Sababu is a fatherly friend. He makes us feel comfortable, even though we are thousands of miles away from home. Thank you, Sababu.

Host Family 2007-2008

At the invitation of the Canisius College Office of International Student Programs, Sababu Norris of OMP enthusiastically became a host family for two students:



Takashi and Xin with restaurant owner, Mr. Red Pepper (centered)

Mr. Takashi Tsukamoto '09 and Mr. Xin Yuan '09. As a result of on and off campus activities, the three have become good friends. Briefly, Takashi is a graduate student from Japan majoring in Sport Administration and is a tennis star in his country. Xin is a graduate student from China pursuing an MBA degree and loves the cultural celebrations of life. The two students share their host family experiences in the top box of the next column.

Uncrowned Kings

Sababu C. Norris of OMP has been selected an Uncrowned King in Buffalo, NY. He was recommended for this honor by Buffalo community leader Ms. Madeline Scott, an officer of the local Chapter of the NAACP; past president of Afro-American Historical Association; and Western New York Women’s Hall of Fame inductee.

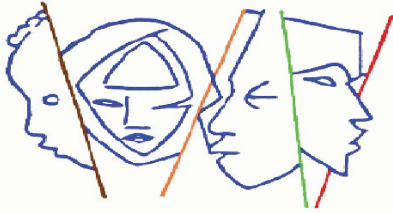
Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, Ph.D. and Peggy Brooks-Bertram, Dr. P. H., Ph.D. by way of the University at Buffalo, founded the Uncrowned Queens/Kings Institute for Research and Education on Women and Men. As with the Uncrowned Queens, the Kings are individuals, who personally and collectively, have played a pivotal role in the history of this community. Most are men whose contributions are undocumented and/or forgotten. The Uncrowned Kings website features the biographies and photos of these community builders. Future publications, oral histories and other educational activities are planned for the Uncrowned Kings, African American Community Builders. For more information about Sababu, and the Uncrowned Queens/Kings history and activities, please visit:

http://www.buffalo.edu/uncrownedqueens/K/bios/N/norris_sababu_cornell.html

Most of the above information compiled from different web pages of the Uncrowned Queens/Kings website

ALANA Celebrations Student Quiz Contest 2008

Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs (OMP)



- 1st Prize: \$50 American Express gift card
2nd Prize: \$25 Walden Galleria gift card
3rd Prize: \$10 Canisius College Bookstore gift card



Submission Deadline: Wednesday, April 30th, by 5 PM
(One entry per Canisius College student)

Drawing will be held on Thursday, May 1st.

Winners will be randomly drawn from a box with the names of participants that answered the Cultural Quiz correctly. Only winners will be contacted.
(Student ID must be presented to pick up prize)

Name: _____

(Please Print)

Canisius College Student ID#

Email: _____

Phone/Cell# _____

Match the following ALANA Celebrations with the correct definition.

- A. Juneteenth
- B. Tet
- C. Quinceañera
- D. Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony
- E. Día De Los Muertos
- F. Native American Day
- G. Asian Pacific American Heritage
- H. Kwanzaa

Quiz created by Michael Slish '11

Please submit your quiz to **Freddy Sanchez '09** in **OMP (Frisch 008)**

There are creative ways in finding the answers. For advice, contact Freddy Sanchez at sanchezf@canisius.edu

Write the letter that corresponds to the correct definition of the ALANA Holiday/Celebration:

1. Mexican celebration to celebrate and honor loved ones that have passed away. Takes place from October 31 to November 2nd. ____
2. Official state holiday in South Dakota on September 4th. ____
3. Vietnamese celebration of the Lunar New Year held in late January or early February. ____
4. African American celebration of family, community, and culture. Celebrated from December 26 to January 1st. ____
5. Holiday celebrated in May, to honor the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the U.S. ____
6. A celebration observed by the communities of the Iroquois Confederacy or Six Nations. Celebrated in January or February. ____
7. Annual observance celebrating the emancipation of slaves on June 19, 1865. ____
8. Latin American birthday celebration to honor a fifteen-year old woman's transition into womanhood. ____

Fill in the following answers*:

1. What was the name of the performance recently hosted by OMP at the Montante on March 13th?

2. What was the name of the speaker that came to Canisius and did a tribute speech in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King?

*Answers can be found in past issues of the Cultural Times Bulletin on OMP's website:
http://www.canisius.edu/multi_cultural/default.asp

Wishing everyone the best with exams!



**Canisius students & Prof. Dierenfield
Kakum Canopy Walk (photo by Kris Harvey)**



**Kintampo Waterfalls
(photo by Kris Harvey)**



**A hotel welcoming with
African dancers & drummers**



Visiting a village chief (centered)

After returning to Buffalo, I immediately started composing a summary regarding the recent trip to Ghana. For some strange reason, I connected with the melody from the “Twelve Days of Christmas” to write something about the African experience. I first thought this choice to be very weird--a Christmas melody? I could only rationalize that the gift of being in Ghana was like an awesome early Christmas present, and knowing my short memory, the repetition of lines in “Twelve Days” said aha, this is how I can remember important places and events.

I do plan to write several other pieces about my Ghana experiences, some that will convey a Kwanzaa spirit (non-religious African American celebration, December 26th - January 1st), and perhaps I might use elements of the song “Amazing Grace” to also help guide my thinking, “...once I was lost but [thanks to Ghanaians], now I’m found.” I’m sure many would agree that our recent trip was a needed out-of-the-box experience.

by Sababu C. Norris

Students who traveled to Ghana:

- Nicholas A. Coleman '09*
- Jessica L. Grabski '10*
- Kris Harvey '08*
- Katherine D. List '08*
- Tyshae N. Newton '09*
- Ashley E. Scott '09*
- Brian J. Sullivan '08*
- Janelle M. Tryjankowski '08*
- Whitney M. Wolniewicz '08*



Elephants (photo by Kris Harvey)

Our Nine Days in Ghana
(Somewhat in the tune of “Twelve Days of Christmas”—but for educational value)

**On our first day in Ghana
Dr. Dierenfield and ten of us:
Toured the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and
Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park**

**On our second day in Ghana
Dr. Dierenfield and ten of us:
Saw Cape Coast & Elmina Castles and
Toured the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and
Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park**

**On our third day in Ghana
Dr. Dierenfield and ten of us:
Did the Canopy Walk
Saw Cape Coast & Elmina Castles and
Toured the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and
Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park**

**On our fourth day in Ghana
Dr. Dierenfield and ten of us:
Enjoyed the Kokrobitey Dancers
Did the Canopy Walk
Saw Cape Coast & Elmina Castles and
Toured the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and
Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park**

**On our fifth day in Ghana
Dr. Dierenfield and ten of us:
Purchased Kente cloth
Enjoyed the Kokrobitey Dancers
Did the Canopy Walk
Saw Cape Coast & Elmina Castles and
Toured the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and
Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park**

**On our sixth day in Ghana
Dr. Dierenfield and ten of us:
Saw wildlife in Mole National Park
Purchased Kente cloth
Enjoyed the Kokrobitey Dancers
Did the Canopy Walk
Saw Cape Coast & Elmina Castles and
Toured the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and
Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park**

**On our seventh day in Ghana
Dr. Dierenfield and ten of us:
Took pictures at Kintampo Falls
Saw wildlife in Mole National Park
Purchased Kente cloth
Enjoyed the Kokrobitey Dancers
Did the Canopy Walk
Saw Cape Coast & Elmina Castles and
Toured the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and
Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park**

**On our eighth day in Ghana
Dr. Dierenfield and ten of us:
Visited Manhyia Palace and Ashanti’s history
Took pictures at Kintampo Falls
Saw wildlife in Mole National Park
Purchased Kente cloth
Enjoyed the Kokrobitey Dancers
Did the Canopy Walk
Saw Cape Coast & Elmina Castles and
Toured the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and
Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park**

**During our nine days in Ghana
Delayed luggage and some anxiety:
We thank Brian for being realistic
Katie for her calmness
Janelle for Euchre (card game)
Whitney for being a team player
Kris for her adaptability
Nick for his friendship
Tyshae for her endurance
Ashley for her sense of pride
Jessica for being adventurous
Sababu for playing “mother”
Dr. Dierenfield for the awesome
Ghana adventure
And Ben & George of Land Tours for their
Ghanaian expertise!**



Land Tours Bus, Accra, Ghana



Inside the W. E. B. Du Bois Memorial
1868-1963



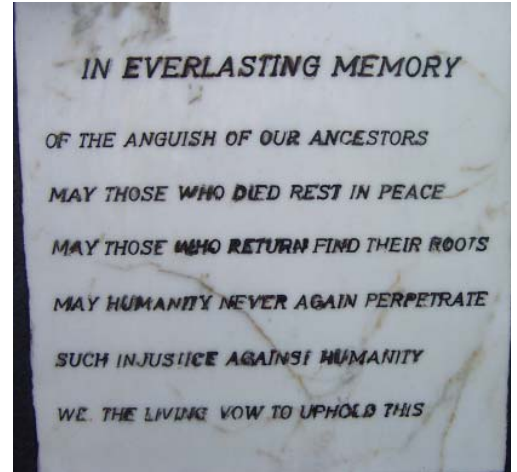
W. E. B. Du Bois Masoleum



A view of Cape Coast Castle



Inside Cape Coast Castle, with
Canisius Prof. Bruce Dierenfield



Outside the Elmina Castle, which participated
in the trans-Atlantic slave trade



Manhyia Palace Museum



Ancient Larabanga Mosque (since 1421)



Kente Weaving Village



African Artwork



Whitney Wolniewicz in Kakum
National Park on the Canopy
Walkway (photo by Kris Harvey)



Canisius students having
their hair braided



Canisius students & Prof. Dierenfield
preparing for a boat tour



Canisius students and a
Kokrobitey Cultural Dancer



Canisius students having fun in the
Atlantic Ocean (photo by Kris Harvey)