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Diversity Center

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Extraordinary People. Extraordinary Place.

at the center

with **Virgil Jones**

Shalom! Greetings!
Welcome back to campus.

The Diversity Center is beaming with joy regarding the manner in which the Gustavus community has received our first newsletter. Thank you for your support.



Remember, we have a few paper copies in the Diversity Center and the Office of Admission. You can also find it on the Diversity Center website at www.gustavus.edu/diversity/. On the site, you may also subscribe to receive an electronic copy each month.

Diversity and/or multiculturalism is the inherited responsibility of everyone, especially those active in our community who strive to positively impact the lives of others. I have been happy to hear the positive comments from faculty, students, and staff on campus regarding the improved visual presence of racially under-represented students on campus. It is great to see the monumental progress that we have made in terms of the recruitment and retention of students on campus.

Weekly, I am reminded that it is our duty to work with all students to ensure their academic and social growth extends beyond our classrooms. So, during your January Interim Experience and beyond, if you believe that someone is being treated poorly, please speak up. Be their voice.

Let's work to move beyond simple tolerance. Let's learn to exercise acceptance. Accept your individuality and embrace the defining characteristics that make others individuals too. ■

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diversity center newsletter

coming events

Mixed Blood Theatre's

acclaimed biography of baseball immortal, **Jackie Robinson**, will be presented in Björling Concert Hall at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007. The show covers the life and career of the first African American in major league baseball.

Set in the Brooklyn Dodger's World Series locker room, **Jackie Robinson** is much more than a collection of baseball anecdotes. It is the spellbinding story of a man overcoming

extraordinary obstacles. It illuminates not only Robinson's career, but also brings to life his childhood, college years, and Army service. What emerges is a portrait of a fiery competitor and courageous individual whose leadership and influence reached far beyond the confines of the baseball diamond.

This nationally toured production is free and all are welcome! ■

"I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me ... All I ask is that you respect me as a human being."

– Jackie Robinson



Photo credit: Act Too

A fascinating portrait of the first African American in major league baseball, a fiery competitor with influence beyond the baseball diamond. Above: Andre Samples in Mixed Blood Theatre's Jackie Robinson.



"One family from the D-Center, the Asian Cultures Club, has certainly enhanced my college experience."

– Ma Lee Vang

student profile

Ma Lee Vang

Hometown: St. Paul, Minnesota
Year: Senior
Major: Communication Studies

Hello!

I am delighted to share with you how much the Diversity Center has become a part of my experience at Gustavus. I have been a board member of the Asian Cultures Club for three years now. I believe I would have served on the board all my four years had I not studied abroad in Australia, during the fall of my junior year.

I was instantly drawn to the Asian Cultures Club for its welcoming presence and its dedication to bring Asian American awareness onto campus and the St. Peter community. Year after year, the organization has found its success in recruiting enthusiastic and hard-working

students to mete out ACC's mission statement. From making more than 300 egg rolls for Egg Roll Night to showcasing numerous educational and fun activities during the Asian Carnival, ACC members take pride in sharing our different cultures. That pride is doubled in seeing the joy and interest in those who attend and participate in our events.

I believe this is true for all the organizations from the Diversity Center. The D-Center, as it is known, has a history of nurturing groups that enjoy sharing their culture. One family from the D-Center, the Asian Cultures Club, has certainly enhanced my college experience. I hope the D-Center has an opportunity to do the same with you! ■

– ACC Co-President 2006–2007, Ma Lee Vang

residential life

Housing Selection Dates to Remember

February 5—housing priority numbers posted to WebAdvisor

February 5—housing contracts in campus P.O. boxes

February 5—Crossroads and ILS program applications available

February 12—housing contracts due to Residential Life

February 20–22—Off-campus, 4-person unit (apartments, suites, flex-quads in Uhler)

March 14–15—true triples, flex-triples in Uhler, singles in Southwest suites

April 27–29—“room clusters” in North, Gibbs, Sorensen, Uhler, Sohre (3rd and 4th only), Rundstrom and Substance-free Housing Selection (Prairie View and portions of Gibbs)

May 5–8—two-person units selection in North, Gibbs, Sorensen, Uhler, Sohre (3rd and 4th only) and Rundstrom

There are no major changes to the housing selection this year. Housing placement results will be sent to students via e-mail the week following selection.

If you have questions on housing, please contact the Office of Residential Life at x7529. ■

organization focus

Asian Cultures Club

, or ACC, has focused its purpose on promoting Asian culture awareness to the Gustavus and St. Peter community. The organization’s objective is to let others know that Asians do not fall into one category, religion, culture, or language—instead it is a diverse group within the human grouping called “Asians.” They range from Asian-born immigrants to adopted Asians in America.

Anyone is welcome to attend ACC meetings, join ACC, or simply come to ACC activities offered on campus. ACC board members meet every

Monday at 5 p.m. and general club meetings are every Wednesday at 5 p.m. All are welcome at both meetings.

Some of the activities to watch for from ACC are: Welcome Back Party, Fall Retreat, International Festival, Ice Skating, Asian Festival, Asian Basketball Tournament, Spring Retreat, and Pre-Finals Bash. We are also involved in the annual Diversity Center Banquet.

If you have questions, or suggestions for ACC, feel free to come to any meeting or e-mail board members at acc-board@gustavus.edu. ■

diversity resource

The Diversity Center has information on the following:

- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute’s internship (January 31 deadline), fellowship (March 1 deadline) and scholarship (April 16 deadline) programs.
- The American Bar Foundation’s 2007 Summer Research Diversity Fellowships in Law and Social Science for undergraduate students.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

Diversity Events

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 18

Mixed Blood Theatre production *Jackie Robinson*

7 p.m.

February 22–24

Pan African Conference

MNSU Mankato

March 9–10

Building Bridges

College Calendar

January 3

January Interim Experience

January 9

Leadership Lecture

by John Busacker

January 11

Leadership Lecture

by Matt Swenson

January 15

January Visit Day

January 16

Leadership Lecture

by Dean Hyers and Dean Machalek

January 16

CF Preview Night

January 18

Mixed Blood Theatre production *Jackie Robinson*

Leadership Lecture

by Sally Kenney

January 23

Leadership Lecture

by Kathi Tunheim

January 29

Begin Touring Week

Student Organization Meeting Schedules

Diversity Leadership Council

MONDAY : 9:30 p.m. : Leadholm

Pan Afrikan Student Organization

TUESDAY : 5:30 p.m. : 49er Room

Meditation with Buddhist Monk

TUESDAY : 7 p.m. : St. Peter Room

Crossroads Executive Board

TUESDAY : 8:30 p.m. : Carlson International Center Lounge

Asian Cultures Club

WEDNESDAY : 6 p.m. : Walker House

Queers & Allies

WEDNESDAY : 9:15 p.m. : Womyn's Awareness Center

Orgulla Lationo Association

THURSDAY : 7 p.m. : Office by the Dive

Womyn's Awareness

THURSDAY : 8 p.m. : Womyn's Awareness Center

Indigenous Student Association

THURSDAY : 8:30 p.m. : Gustie Den

Students of Fostercare and Adoption

THURSDAY : 9:15 p.m. : Diversity Center

I Am We Are

THURSDAY : 10 p.m. : Black Box

Actions Supporting All People (ASAP)

SUNDAY : 8 p.m. : Diversity Center

World Watch and **Cultural Connections** are brought to you by *Crossroads*. The members of *Crossroads* share an interest in world cultures, languages, and contemporary global issues. Through their interest, members work to develop a broader understanding of the world in which they live and contribute to the education of the College community as a whole.

World Watch

International Aid Rushed to Typhoon-stricken Philippines—International aid agencies are rushing emergency relief supplies to hundreds of thousands of typhoon victims in the Philippines. The latest figures from official sources in the Philippines put the number of dead at more than 500, with more than 700 missing and 1,000 injured.

Somalia-UN council backs African peacekeeper for Somalia—The United Nations Security Council on Wednesday endorsed African peacekeepers to help prop up the interim government in chaotic Somalia, but also urged the authorities to pursue peace talks with their Islamist rivals.

Cultural Connections

January 6—Epiphany (Christian): In the Western church, this day celebrates the journey of the three wise men to Bethlehem to offer gifts to the infant Jesus. In the Eastern church it is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. Armenians celebrate Christmas on this day.

January 13—St. Knut's Day (Finland, Sweden): King Knut who ruled Sweden from 1080–1086 is honored as a saint for his virtue and generosity. He declared that Christmas should be celebrated for twenty days, officially ending the season on January 13th.

January 20—1st Muharram (Islam): Islamic New Year, 1428 CE. This day commemorates the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE where the first Islamic community was established. Muharram lasts for ten days. ■