



DIVERSITY CENTER NEWSLETTER

HIGHER GROUND

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It is the mission of the Diversity Center and Office of Multicultural Programs to provide leadership for positive and equitable change that creates a welcoming, supportive environment for staff, faculty, and all students and to design and support activities that infuse an acceptance and appreciation for difference that is morally and socially just into college life.

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At the Center

GLEN LLOYD, Assistant Director of Multicultural Programs

Getting the message out can be hard; you know what I'm saying? How many times have you wanted to invite someone to this or that, or send someone that photo and you lose track of time, or you just don't

have time to surf the Web and see what is going on in the world? I will admit for me, it happens consistently.

Thus when I arrived on campus August 1 and started to meet the students, faculty, and staff and learn all that was going on at Gustavus, I realized that, I didn't know a lot. But how could I? I wasn't a fan on Facebook, or friends with Gustavus students, or on Twitter. And then I realized: the Diversity Center has been doing great work for years and I wonder if people know just what has been done here.

So, with Virgil's blessing, I have been working on communicating with current Gustavus students, staff, faculty, and alumni what has been going on at the Diversity Center and what is to come. We have launched a Facebook page and are growing every day toward 1,000 fans. We have continued the efforts to keep our Diversity Center webpage relevant and current. Student organizations in the Diversity Leadership Council have blogs committed to sharing their perspectives every two weeks, which are shared on the Diversity Center webpage. We have developed a student-run social media/marketing team

that consists of four Diversity Center student staff members and the Diversity Leadership Council's marketing executive. Students are in charge of content of the Facebook page and work as a team to consider the image of the Diversity Center and the student organizations that are members of the Diversity Leadership Council. These efforts are centered on a simple mission: to let you know what the Diversity Center does. So, please join our community on Facebook, visit the Gustavus webpage and the Diversity Center webpage at gustavus.edu/diversity, read blogs posted by current Gusties on a myriad of topics and perspectives. Look at the photos of Gusties engaging one another and watch a video that will stretch your mind. We aim to provide a place for each and every one of you to be a part of the inclusion movement here at Gustavus.

Our staff is a talented group of young people. I am proud to work with them and proud to introduce them to you.

PHILLIPS SCHOLARSHIP PROMOTION

The Phillips Scholars Program supports potential leaders with outstanding academic credentials who intend to dedicate a portion of their lives to community service. Six competitively selected Phillips Scholars are eligible to receive a junior-year scholarship totaling \$6,000, a \$4,000 summer award to support the development and implementation of a self-designed service project to address unmet needs in Minnesota communities, \$500 in project resource funding, and a \$6,000 senior-year scholarship contingent upon successful completion of the summer project.

Gustavus has a rich heritage of students receiving this award; our most recent Phillips Scholar (2012) is Sandy Xiong '14.



For more information on how to apply for the \$16,500 Phillips Scholarship, visit gustavus.edu/diversity/PhillipsScholarship.php.

Application packets are available in the Diversity Center.

Meet the Diversity Center Staff



Boozhoo, my name is **Mara LeBlanc** and I'm a sophomore Communication Studies major from Richfield, MN. I'm thrilled to be working in the

Diversity Center this year as its one of my favorite places on campus. I serve as a Peer Assistant and as the Photography Editor for the *Gustavian Weekly*. I enjoy photography, coffee, and spending time with those I love. I'm happiest when my days include all of these. Please stop by the D Center whenever you're near, and don't be afraid to say hi. Baamaapii!



Hello!! My name is **Mark Zorrilla** and I am a second year Mathematics and Chemistry major. I have the pleasure of being able to stay at the

International Center here on campus. This year I really look forward to being involved with OLAS and Building Bridges (super excited for the new focus this year). I also am looking forward to joining the Epsilon Pi Alpha fraternity, which is a really great group of young men who are active not only on campus but also in the community. When Gustavus doesn't fill my schedule I love to take walks in the Arb, hang out with friends, or do some math!



Hey all! My name is **Becca Eastwood** and I am a junior this year. I am a Political Science major with a Peace Studies minor. Some of the things I

love best on this campus are being involved in Building Bridges, orchestra, I Am We Are Social Justice Theatre Troupe, and of course, the wonderful Diversity Center! I love meeting and getting to know people, so if you see me around please say hi and let's be friends!



My name is **Bushra Wahid** and I'm from Ladakh, India. I'm a senior Communications Studies and Philosophy double major. Gustavus has been

wonderful! I absolutely love going to theatre productions and my favorite Gustie tradition has to be traying. I am currently involved in the Pan Afrikan Student Organization

as well as the International Cultures Club. Through the Diversity Center, as well as other places around Gustavus, I have gotten the opportunity to learn a lot about different cultures. I am extremely grateful to be here!



Nyob zoo! Hello everyone, my name is **Gaokhue Xiong** and I am a junior Sociology and Anthropology Major and Peace Studies Minor. This year I am

thrilled to be a part of the Hmong American Cultural Outreach student organization again. Along with that I am also excited to be a part of the CAB's Committee for Diversity as well as a member of the CHOICE Program. Most of all, I enjoy playing volleyball and especially badminton during my free time. I'm excited for this academic school year and to meet everyone. I hope that I can be a helpful resource to all students, so don't hesitate to stop by the Diversity Center and say hi.



Hey everyone! My name is **Jace Riggin** and I am a first year student. I came to Gustavus from the small town of Devils Lake, ND. I

hope to pursue a degree in Political Science and Communications. At Gustavus I am a member of the forensics team, participate in choir, theatre, and many other activities. I am excited to be spending the year working within the Diversity Center! Please do not hesitate to pop in. With my blond hair and blue eyes, I am the perfect example of what the Diversity Center is... A place where EVERYONE is welcome!



My name is **Jessica Martinez** and I am a sophomore. I currently have an undeclared major, but I'm very much leaning towards Sociology/

Anthropology with minors in GWS and Spanish. I am in OLAS (Organization for Latin American and Spanish Cultures) and the WAC (Womyn's Awareness Center). My absolute favorite thing to do when I have free time is to read, mostly Harry Potter, but finding a new book makes me so happy! My favorite place on campus is the Diversity Center so I'm so excited to be here!



Hello my name is **Abdi Umur** and I am from Somalia. I am currently a sophomore. This past year I worked as a photographer for the Diversity Center which allowed me to attend many different cultural events and meet a lot people around campus. I am currently majoring in Biology and am also a pre-med student. This year I am going to be serving as a historian for the Pan Afrikan Student Association (PASO) and am an active member of OLAS. I have enjoyed my time at the Diversity Center and look forward to another great year.



Nyob zoo, my name is **Paul Thao**. I am a junior Psychology and English double major. I am of Hmong heritage and love my culture and background. On campus I am involved with Hmong American Cultural Outreach (HACO), Epsilon Pi Alpha Fraternity, and Gustavus Men's Ultimate. In my free time I enjoy playing Ultimate Frisbee, cooking, and meeting new people!



Hey Ya'll! My name is **Jasmine Porter** and I am a senior Political Science and Geography major. I am one of this year's Building Bridges co-chairs and am also involved in I Am We Are! I love meeting new people and talking about social justice! Woohoo! So stop in the Diversity Center if you would like to sit down and talk sometime, or just be sure to say hi when I see you around campus next!



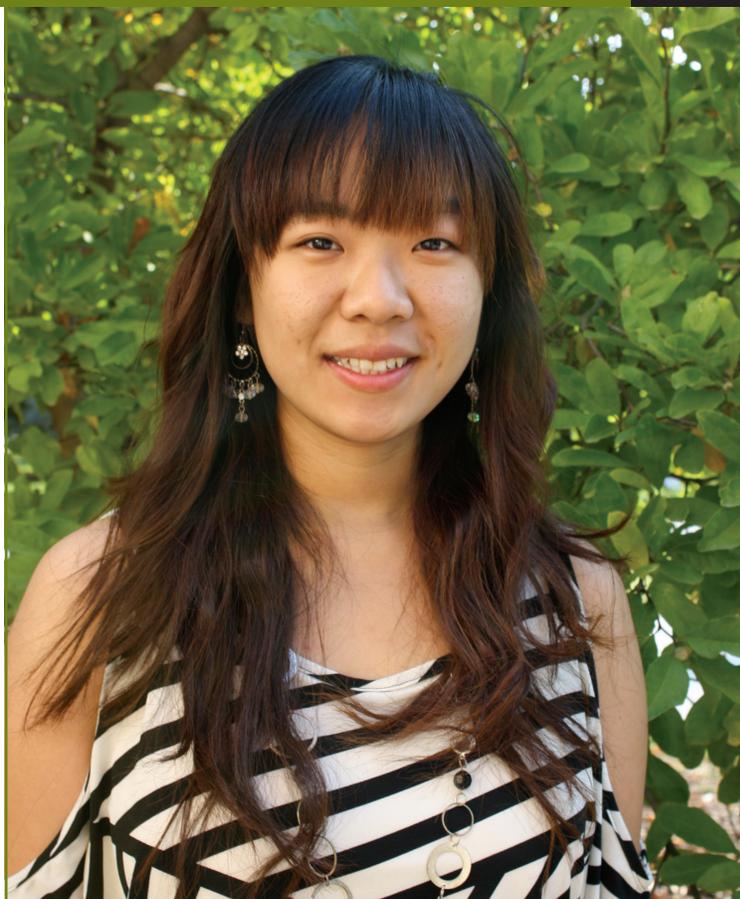
Hello, if you haven't met me yet, my name is **Laura Shilling**. I am the Administrative Assistant in the Diversity Center and I believe I have the greatest job on campus. Why, because I get to hang out with you of course! The best part of my day is when I get to talk to the fun people who visit D Center and maybe play a game of Uno. I am also a self-proclaimed foodie. I love exchanging cooking tips, learning new recipes, and trying new flavors. So if you are open to meeting new people and playing a game or two, stop by and sit for a while.



Hi, I'm **Virgil Jones**. I'm an Assistant Dean of Student and the Director of Multicultural Programs in the Diversity Center and Office of Multicultural Programs. Working with students, interacting with them, and pointing them to resources on campus that they need to be successful academically at Gustavus are some of the most enjoyable aspects of my work here in the Diversity Center.



My name is **Glen D. Lloyd**. I am the Assistant Director of Multicultural Programs in the Diversity Center. I enjoy talking critically about the current issues, theories, or philosophies. The Diversity Center is a place where people of diverse backgrounds can come to socialize and openly exchange views on different issues important to them. So stop by the Diversity Center some time and join in on these casual but intellectually stimulating conversations.



Gustavus Senior Profile

Cindy Lee '13

Cindy Lee is a senior Communication Studies major from Minneapolis. She came to Gustavus from Roosevelt High School where she was a member of College Possible (a college preparatory program founded in the Twin Cities), which first exposed her to various private colleges in Minnesota including the University of St. Thomas and St. Catherine University. Cindy recalls feeling a greater communal connection to Gustavus because of the support she received from admission and other students who encouraged her through the process. In her time at Gustavus, Cindy has become involved with the Servant Leadership Program led by the Center for Servant Leadership. She has excelled in each level of the program from Apprentice to Ambassador to Partner. The program has inspired a great zeal for bridging differences and bringing people together for Cindy and she continues that work around campus by pushing invisible boundaries. Cindy says the journey of self-discovery and moving out of her comfort zone to challenge herself to build a greater sense of community was necessary for her to experience more of what Gustavus offers. One thing is for sure, Cindy will not let traditional expectations of conformity hinder her growth. She desires a world where all people can have an opportunity to succeed regardless of past barriers. Cindy Lee will graduate in May. We salute her and her efforts for the present and the future.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

THE MULTILINGUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE by Andrew Grace

On Sunday, August 26, 2012, a dozen students rode up the hill to Gustavus to get an early start on their first year of college. They were from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Faribault, and Chicago, and they all grew up speaking a language other than English at home. For that reason, they had all been invited to attend Gustavus's second annual Multilingual Summer Institute.

Virgil Jones and I started the institute last year to help multilingual students find the resources on campus that can help them excel, including the Diversity Center, the research librarians, their professors' office hours, and the ELL tutor. The participating students are introduced to these resources through four days of classes, presentations, and activities. The Institute creates bonds between students that last through the school year and hopefully beyond.

FACULTY AND STAFF OFFICE HOURS

The Diversity Center hosts several Gustavus professors' and staffs' office hours every semester. Meet with your professor or adviser in this central and comfortable location.

For more information and updates, visit gustavus.edu/diversity/facultyofficehours.php

UPCOMING EVENT

THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL LECTURE with speaker Cathy J. Cohen, American author and social activist.

Monday, January 21, 2013
10:00 a.m. | Christ Chapel



Crossroads Cultural Connections & World Dates November and December

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Tokyo Jidai Matsuri (Japan) – This festival, held in November, celebrates the rich and vibrant history of the city of Tokyo. Festivities include parades and the re-telling of how the city came to be founded. The celebration is held in Asakusa and highlights the growth of Tokyo from its founding to its current standing as one of the largest cities in the world.

Surin Elephant Round-Up (Thailand) – First held in 1960, this festival honors and celebrates the traditional Suay skill of catching wild elephants and domesticating them as work animals. Held in the Surin province of Thailand, the festival comprises events displaying the skills and strength of elephants, including tug-of-war and football. On the morning of the festival, 300 elephants are marched through Surin City, carrying dignitaries and other figures. Children fill the streets dressed in traditional clothing of the region.

Yalda (Iran) – The Persian Winter Solstice Celebration is recognized on the eve of the Winter Solstice each year. The history of this event is rooted in Mithraism, an ancient religion that featured the belief that this night was the birth of Mithra, the Persian angel of truth and light. This holiday was added to Iran's list of National Treasures in 2008 and is celebrated there with the sharing of food with loved ones and the wearing of traditional dress.

WORLD WATCH: On This Date...

Nov. 7, 1962 – Nelson Mandela is sentenced to five years for “incitement and leaving South Africa illegally.”

Nov. 9, 1989 – “Fall” of the Berlin Wall. On this date the East German government declared that all East German citizens could cross the wall and enter West Germany. Although some of the wall was chipped away in the following days by souvenir hunters, the majority of the wall was dismantled in 1990. German reunification would follow in October 1990.

Nov. 11, 1918 – WWI ends with signing of the Treaty of Versailles by the Central and Allied powers. More than 9.5 million soldiers died during the nearly five years of international combat.

Nov. 12, 1954 – Ellis Island closes after 62 years serving as the US's busiest immigrant inspection station. Nearly 22 million immigrants entered the US through Ellis Island and the Port of NY.

Dec. 9, 1948 – The UN General Assembly approved a Genocide Punishment Convention. Today, 142 countries have ratified it. The law was first enforced in September of 1998 in Rwanda when Jean-Paul Akayesu was found guilty of nine counts of genocide.

Dec. 10, 1901 – The first Nobel Prizes are awarded for achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. Each prize winner receives a medal, personal diploma, and a cash award.

Dec. 15, 1989 – Military dictatorship ended in Chile. This had been going on since 1973 when Salvador Allende was overthrown by the military and General Augusto Pinochet assumed the role of president.

Dec. 17, 1790 – Aztec calendar discovered. This calendar stone was found while the Mexico City Cathedral was being repaired. It is 12 ft. in diameter and weighs about 24 tons. The stone demonstrates that the Aztecs had a highly developed knowledge of geometry and mechanics.

Dec. 20, 1922 – USSR formed. This socialist state existed until 1991. This union consisted of the Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, and transcaucasian Soviet republics. By the end of the Cold War in 1991, the USSR was split into 15 post-Soviet states.

Dec. 24, 1951 – Libya gains independence from the UK and France.