At the Center

SHANDRA KIRKEIDE and ELIZABETH COCO

Join us for the 16th annual Building Bridges Conference, “I’m Not For Sale: Slavery Past and Present,” taking place Saturday, March 12, 2011, at Gustavus Adolphus College. Building Bridges is a student-initiated, student-led social justice organization that works all year to put on a conference in the Spring.

Building Bridges gives a voice to concerned students who are interested in social injustices around the world and gives them a venue to raise awareness and be a catalyst for change. The Building Bridges Conference is a signature Gustavus event that attracts hundreds of attendees from around the state of Minnesota and the Midwest. Past conference topics have included “Genocide Awareness: How will history judge us?” (2008), “Liberation through Education” (2009), and “Immigration: Surviving the Land of Opportunity” (2010). This year’s topic is “I’m Not For Sale: Slavery Past and Present,” with Joy DeGruy, author of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, as the keynote speaker.

Joy DeGruy will focus on the enduring psychological effects slavery in the U.S. between the 15th and 19th centuries has had on its victims. The highlighted workshop features a personal testimony by Joy Friedman, a victim and survivor of sexual slavery in Minnesota for 27 years. Supplementing the keynote address and the highlighted workshop presentations will be five additional workshops focusing on different facets of slavery including international child slavery, Native American women, faith-based communities, and the modern-day abolitionist movement.

Please join us on March 12, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in Christ Chapel for this year’s Building Bridges Conference. Students and Gustavus faculty/staff are able to attend the conference free of charge thanks to funding from Student Senate. Adult tickets are $10 and can be purchased online at www.gustavus.edu/diversity/buildingbridges. For more information, contact the Co-Chairs Elizabeth Coco, ecoco@gustavus.edu, or Shanda Kirkeide, skirkeid@gustavus.edu
ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS
Meet the Returning Diversity Center Staff

KAREEN GETFIELD

Hello readers! My name is Kareen Getfield and I am currently a junior. I am pursuing my Bachelors of Arts in History and minors in Peace Studies and Religion. Born and raised in Jamaica West Indies I migrated to New York City at the age of eight and have resided there until coming to Minnesota for college. I enjoy traveling. In fact, I spent a semester in Ghana studying History, English, Religion, and Language. While studying abroad in Ghana I had the opportunity to travel to Togo, Benin and Nigeria. I hope to pursue my Ph.D. in African Studies. My goal is to utilize my degree to improve race relations in Corporate America and Higher Education while teaching history.

I have been involved with the Pan-African Student Organization, Big Partner Little Partner, STAND @ GAC, and the Crossroads program during my time at Gustavus. This is my first year working in the Diversity Center and I am very happy to see and meet some new Gusties! I enjoy long chats over tea and sweet treats. If you ever feel chatty drop by the Diversity Center and join me!

JULIO ZELAYA

My name is Julio Cesar Zelaya from the town of St. James, MN. As a Junior Poli Sci major I have spent the last two and half years working with the Diversity Center. I very much enjoy my work-study, where else could I meet such outstanding people and be involved with such extraordinary organizations and events? So there is no doubt that I love being evolved around campus but instead of giving you a list let me give you a motto I like to follow: “Life is an empty canvas; put as much paint on it as you can.”

I’m grateful to be back in the D Center and to be back at Gustavus after spending a semester in India. I’m back, ready to take on the new academic year by the horns! Look forward to seeing you in the office. Remember to drop by anytime!

12th Annual White Privilege Conference
April 13-16, 2011 | Bloomington, Minnesota

WHAT IS “WHITE PRIVILEGE?”

“White Privilege is the other side of racism…”

It is often easier to denounce what racism has taken from others than to recognize what it has given to you.

– Alex Christensen

Unless we name it, we are in danger of wallowing in guilt or moral outrage with no idea of how to move beyond them. It is often easier to deplore racism and its effects than to take responsibility for the privileges some of us receive as a result of it. . . . [O]nce we understand how white privilege operates, we can begin addressing it on an individual and institutional basis.”

– Paula Rothenberg

WHAT IS THE WHITE PRIVILEGE CONFERENCE?

The White Privilege Conference (WPC) discusses issues of privilege beyond an individual’s race. This is accomplished through confronting ideas of privilege and oppression and by providing solutions and team-building strategies to create a just world. The conference also addresses the ways in which privilege affects us daily.

WPC is a welcoming environment for everyone and encourages diverse thoughts to facilitate an open discussion on issues of race, gender, sexuality, class, and disability. WPC is targeted at students, professionals, activists, community leaders, and most importantly individuals who share a wide range of viewpoints. The conference also encourages individuals with different levels of experience in the areas of diversity, cultural competency, and multiculturalism to participate.

The topic for this year’s twelfth annual White Privilege Conference is “This Land Is Whose Land?’ Defining Citizenship, Understanding Access, Taking Action.” This is the second year Gustavus is sending a delegation of students, faculty, and staff members to the White Privilege Conference. The Gustavus delegation will be attending the conference April 14–16, and you can be part of it! Get more information and an application from the Information Desk or the Diversity Center, or e-mail Megan Ruble, mruble@gustavus.edu, or Virgil Jones, vjones@gustavus.edu. But be quick—applications are due on Friday, February 18 and only 25 people will be selected to attend. Your cost for the conference is only $25 which covers fees, travel, hotel stay, and the Shabbat Dinner.
Meet Corrie Odland

Hello! My name is Corrie Odland and I am the Interim Internship Coordinator here at Gustavus. I am new to Gustavus, but I am not new to helping college students. I spent over eight years working at two different community and technical colleges here in Minnesota and at the University of Texas at San Antonio. My background is in personal counseling, academic advising and career counseling, so being in the Career Center here at Gustavus feels like a great fit! My role here is to help you with the internship registration process, to help you identify ideas for internships that match your career interests, as well as to help you explore your options and provide resources for searching for internships.

I have been fortunate enough to travel many places in the U.S. and have also traveled to Mexico, England and Scotland. I love meeting people from all over and trying new foods. My only exception was refusing to try haggis in Scotland! Though I do not travel as much now with two young kids, I have had the opportunity to meet students from all over and love to learn more about where they are from!

Student Profile

SHANDA KIRKEIDE

Hey everyone! My name is Shanda Kirkeide, and I’m a senior health fitness major here at Gustavus. It’s been a bittersweet year so far as I finish up my college career, but I’m certainly looking forward to the next step. My plans after graduation include getting my Health Fitness Specialist certification and starting my master’s program in public health and exercise physiology at Des Moines University.

I’ve absolutely loved my time here at Gustavus and I’ve loved the organizations I’ve been involved with over the years: Big Partner-Little Partner, Chapel Apprentices, working in the Diversity Center, and my personal favorite, Building Bridges. As this year’s Building Bridges co-chair I’ve had an amazing experience learning about and advocating for victims of the modern-day slave trade, and I encourage all of you to come learn more and advocate for the cause on March 12 at 9:30 a.m. in Christ Chapel.

My time spent as an employee of the Diversity Center, although brief, has been very rewarding. I love how the Diversity Center embodies its slogan of “Where you can be who you are.” The D Center is a wonderful place to sit back and relax, play a game, chat with friends, do some homework, or talk about life.

I like to live my life with the idea that all the work I do is well worth it as long as I’m helping make someone else’s life better. I hope that this value that has been cultivated during my time here at Gustavus continues to grow and spread to my work in the real world.
**GOING ONS**

**DIVERSITY CENTER**

**February 17**  4:30–5:30 p.m.  
Spoken Word Workshop  
Contest & performance at 6 p.m.  
Courtyard Café

**February 18**  10 a.m.–1 p.m.  
PASO Black & Gold Dive  
The Dive

**February 19**  1 p.m.  
Phil Bryant Speaks  
Faculty/Staff Lounge

**February 25 & 26**  7 & 10 p.m.  
**February 27**  4 p.m.  
**March 4**  5:30 p.m.  
**March 7**  7–9 p.m.  
**March 9**  7–9 p.m.  
**March 11**  6:30–9:30 p.m.  
**March 12**  9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
**March 15**  9 p.m. – 1 a.m.  
**March 22**  9–10 a.m.  
**March 25**  8 p.m.  
**March 26**  2 p.m. and 8 p.m.  

**CAMPUS EVENTS**

**February 18**  Registration Deadline

**February 22**  9–10 a.m.  
IPhoto Advanced Topics  
Olin Technology Classroom

**February 24**  9–10 a.m.  
Introduction to Aperture  
Olin Technology Classroom

**February 25**  8 p.m.  
Vagina Monologues  
Performing Arts Center, St. Peter

**February 26**  2 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
Vagina Monologues  
Performing Arts Center, St. Peter

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**World Watch and Cultural Connections** are brought to you by the Crossroads Program. Through their shared interest in world cultures, languages, and contemporary global issues, 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. Think Globally, Act Locally.

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**WORLD WATCH**

**Australia: Flood Damage** – Flooding in Australia has affected more than 3 million people, making it one of the costliest disasters in the nation. The floods have devastated crops, tourism, retail, and manufacturing and have disrupted major urban areas like Brisbane. “One of the biggest casualties is likely to be our coal exports, with many mines shut down in big coal-mining regions like the Bowen Basin. Over the coming weeks, months and years, the Commonwealth Government will be investing billions of dollars to get Queensland back on its feet,” said Australian Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan.

**Tirana, Albania: More Government Unrest** – The showdown between Albania’s ruling government and its political opposition showed no signs of abating, with Socialist Party leader Edi Rama calling for yet another demonstration despite fresh threats from the nation’s prime minister. Rama, mayor of the capital city, Tirana, is supporting more protests to decry alleged corruption and demand the resignation of Prime Minister Sal Berisha. This would be exactly one week after tens of thousands rallied for the same cause in Albania’s capital, leading to the deaths of three people after some protesters clashed with government forces.

**Brazil, South America: Too Much Rain** – Devastating floods in Brazil’s Rio de Janeiro state have killed more than 800 people, according to new government figures. State authorities said late Sunday that 809 people were killed after flooding and massive mudslides flattened houses and wiped out entire neighborhoods in hillside towns. The city of Nova Friburgo was the hardest hit, with at least 391 victims. According to the government’s tally, the flooding, caused by days of torrential rains, has left thousands of people homeless throughout the state.

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**CULTURAL CONNECTIONS**

**February 2**

**Imbolg (Wicca)** – “Imbolg” comes from the archaic Gaelic expression “in the belly,” which signaled the first stirring within the womb of mother earth. Corn dolls are burned as offerings to the sun to hasten his return.

**February 3**

**Chinese New Year – China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam (Buddhist)** – According to the Chinese Lunar Calendar this year is 4709, Year of the Rabbit. Chinese New Year is by far the largest, most festive holiday of the year and begins with people cleaning and decorating their homes with the five lucky signs of happiness.

**February 15**

**Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi (Islam)** – Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Since no one really knows when Mohammad was born, the date of his death has been adopted as the day of his birth as well.

**February 22**

**Abu Simbel Festival (Egypt)** – Built by Ramses II, the Great Abu Simbel Temple is angled so that the inner sanctum lights up twice a year, once on the anniversary of his rise to the throne and again on his birthday.

**February 28**

**Kalevala Day (Finland)** – Elias Lonnrot, a country doctor, folklorist, and philologist, compiled the **Kalevala**, Finland’s national epic, in 1835. The day is observed country wide with lectures, parades, and recitations to honor him.