

Intercultural Happenings

Office of Intercultural Affairs

Fall 2012

While there is still so much work to do as we shape a more inclusive community at Stonehill, it is important that we look back and see how much our community has accomplished just in the past *five years*:

- ◆ launched in 2008, more than 100 people have participated in our R.A.C.E. Dialogue Group
- ◆ 250 people have participated in our Safe Space and Ally Development programs
- ◆ a comprehensive Bias Response Protocol has been implemented and used as a model by other institutions
- ◆ 100+ people have attended the “Lunch with 12 Strangers” programs
- ◆ 5 professors, 10 students, and 3 staff members have received the Diversity and Social Justice Award
- ◆ 84 first year students have completed Leadership Through Diversity
- ◆ 73 student leaders have identified as ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters
- ◆ students launched the RISE and MOSAIC discussion groups for students of color which has had over 80 participants
- ◆ we have hosted 9 Faculty/Staff of Color luncheons
- ◆ 3 events have connect companies interested in diversity with students who have been involved in diversity at Stonehill
- ◆ 145 people have attended the Conference on Diversity and Inclusion, which was created in 2008
- ◆ \$15,000 in Inclusive Excellence Grant funds were used to support innovative opportunities that furthered diversity in the curricular and co-curricular environments
- ◆ 2 independently published books shared stories of Stonehill diversity and hands-on activities for inclusion
- ◆ 140 Stonehill members have served on 28 Convocation Panels at which Stonehill community members have shared their reflections on Latino/Asian/Black/Native American heritage, interracial relationships, Women’s Month, and DisAbilities
- ◆ more than 179 programs on topics about health, diversity, hip-hop, body image, economics, pop culture, psychology, cultural complexities, activism, education, dance, music, and art have been offered through Intercultural Affairs
- ◆ thousands of first year students have engaged in diversity workshops through orientation programs and first year experience events
- ◆ hundreds of student leaders (RAs, Peer Mentors, Student Ambassadors, Moreau Student Ministers, HOPE trips, Extension volunteers, etc) have participated in inclusion workshops around programming, support, and leadership
- ◆ 165 students participated in the Intercultural Experience Program (pre-orientation)
- ◆ 35 “Don’t Cancel That Class” diversity sessions have been held in collaboration with Stonehill faculty
- ◆ 4 DiverCity Festivals, an entirely Stonehill student run and performed event, has reached over 1,500 Stonehill community members
- ◆ we identified a growing interest in supporting first generation college students and have collaborated with many offices on campus to provide a robust mentoring program
- ◆ our new office location in Duffy 149 has become the social and interactive space that was needed on campus



ABS and IEP 2012

Working together, our Stonehill community has accomplished so much. We have more to look forward to as we seek to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population and support the initiatives by allies and friends. Thanks for a great 5 years, and here’s to many more meaningful ways we can work together towards a more just and compassionate community!

Sincerely,
The Office of Intercultural Affairs

“BREATHERS”: PRACTICING INCLUSION IN THE CLASSROOM



Rudy deMattos is an Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Cultures as well as in Gender and Sexualities Studies at Stonehill, a Safe Space participant, and a recipient of the Inclusive Excellence Grant.

The student body has asked the faculty to bring in more diversity into the curriculum. Foreign language classes are usually classes in which students can be introduced to different cultures. Yet, it usually remains impersonal and very traditional in its approach both in regard to its content and the methodology used. I have introduced a few days throughout the semester that I named “Breathers” which are used for several topics that go beyond the textbook and traditional material. While these Breathers remain within the class parameters, I orient the topics towards promoting diversity and acceptance of others and understanding the complexity of the diversity within our own culture.

During October, I invited members of the Latino Heritage Month convocation panel to come to class to talk about their experiences as Latinos born in the United States. Students appreciated both hearing about individual's personal experience and confronting the stereotypes and misconceptions they grew up with. In November, I organized a program to bring Chai Jindasurat, formally working at LaRed in Boston and now National Coordinator at the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), to speak to the Stonehill community about domestic violence in the LGBTQ community, including the Latino/Hispanic, Asian and African-American minorities within the LGBTQ community, too often ignored. Though the Breathers were intended to be just for the class, the success of the last Breather meant we should make this available to the larger community. At the presentation, we had over 80 people in attendance. Our mission at Stonehill is to develop a more socially and politically engaged student, and I believe these Breathers have been a great way to do this.

LATINO HERITAGE MONTH PANEL

Each year, in honor of Latino Heritage Month, we host a panel of Stonehill community members to share their experiences as a Latino/a in the United States and at Stonehill College. This year, our panel featured Jose Paz (class of 2015), Alanna Melendez (class of 2013 and the Coordinator of the ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters Leadership Program), Omar Rodriguez (Residence Director of the Holy Cross Center), and Ivette Argueta-Medina (Senior Marketing Manager). Here's what some of them shared:



“As a Puerto Rican and Dominican woman, culture was always a very important part of my life. I grew up in a predominantly white neighborhood and attended predominantly white schools where I was always the minority, but this was something I adapted to. Through all of the challenges, I've come to the realization that no one can define who you are, only you have the power to do that. I am a Latina and I am very proud to say so.”

– Alanna Melendez ‘13



“I was born in Lima, Peru where I spent the first seven years of my life. During that time, Peru was going through an economic crisis and even though both of my parents were college graduates, the opportunities to move onward and upward were slim to none. Growing up in the US, I learned to make the best of situations in a low/middle-income family. As an adult, I've learned to appreciate my past and to be grateful for my parents' decision to move in hopes of a brighter future.”

–Omar Rodriguez, Residence Director of the Holy Cross Center



"Stonehill is changing every day. Diversity doesn't only exist through race, but it includes any differences between individuals that are recognizable. Everyone is different, we have to face it. This community is acknowledging those unique qualities in individuals, one step at time, hence why I love it here so much!"

— Jose Paz ‘15

CONFERENCE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

This year, the Office of Intercultural Affairs will be hosting the 5th Conference on Diversity and Inclusion. The conference was created for the members of the Stonehill community to engage in meaningful conversations, workshops and sessions on diversity with other Stonehill community members.

Beginning with a keynote presentation, the Conference has hosted topics that include race, religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomics, ally development, education, activism, spoken word, leadership, personal stories and reflection, and social media.

Responding to the economic times, decreases in access to professional development, and the growing interest in diversity and inclusion, the Conference was created to provide opportunities for Stonehill members to learn more about topics related to diversity. One of the ways that this occurs is during the Dialogue Dinner, an informal opportunity for people to come together and share their insights on particular topics.

Both educational and fun, the Conference on Diversity and Inclusion is a great way to begin connecting to issues of diversity. It is also a wonderful opportunity to meet other members of the Stonehill community who are interested in creating a more compassionate, aware, and educated community for all.

For more information about the Conference on Diversity and Inclusion, please contact diversity@stonehill.edu.

Date and time to be announced in January 2013!

DISABILITIES MONTH PANEL

In 1945, Disabilities Awareness started out as a week long campaign, declared by Congress, and focused mainly on the employment of individuals with physical disabilities. By 1962, the focus shifted to include individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, the week long campaign was expanded to a month and named “National Disability Employment Awareness Month.” The U.S. Dept. of Labor has since encouraged employers, schools, and organizations to celebrate the month in a way that makes sense to their community.

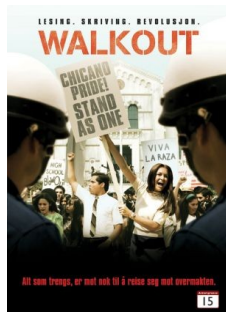
Here at Stonehill, we celebrate overall awareness of people with disabilities rather than focusing solely on employment and use this month to educate ourselves, each other, and the college as a whole. At the Stonehill DisAbilities 2012 Convocation, we heard from Kristen Turpin, (class of 2013 and Vice President of the Disability Enlightenment Project), Joli Vega (9-year old daughter of Liza Talusan), Molly McAndrew (class of 2014 and President of the Disability Enlightenment Project), Elizett Pires, (Housing Assignments Coordinator and Assistant Area Coordinator for the Courts) and Warren Dahlin (Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration). Each individual shared their personal experiences that included physical (e.g., vision, hearing, fine motor); emotional (e.g., depression, anxiety); and cognitive disabilities (e.g., attention issues) to a packed Duffy 101 of over 80 people. They also shared experiences both overcoming their disabilities but also sharing how their disabilities are a part of their growth and identities.



“Be a strong self-advocate and don’t be afraid to approach your professors. Generally they are willing to accommodate and understand. A disability is only what you allow it to be. I will never grow out of being dyslexic so I had to find a way to compensate and live with it. Know your strengths and weaknesses and play on your strengths as often as you can.” — Kristen Turpin ‘13

If you would like more information about the Office of Disability Services, please contact Elizabeth Orlando at EOrlando@stonehill.edu.

FILM SCREENING “THE WALKOUT” by Silvana Vivas ‘13

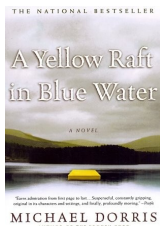


One of many events the ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters (ABS) presented this fall semester was a film screening of *The Walkout* in September. The HBO film is based on the true story of the 1968 student walkouts in East Los Angeles High Schools, and highlights the ways in which young people can influence institutional change. In East Los Angeles, Chicano students were punished for speaking Spanish in school, forbidden to use school restrooms during lunch, and were forced to do janitorial work as punishment. However, a small group of Chicano students organized and staged walkouts of five major high schools, which led to positive institutional changes in the school system.

Though not intentionally timed, this presentation was given in the wake of Stonehill College’s very own walkout, in which students walked out of class to show their support for including sexual orientation in the College’s non-discrimination policy.

In the spring 2012, ABS Leaders were assigned presentation topics. I had agreed to co-host the film “The Walkout” because the film had moved me so much when I first watched it. However, the progression of events at Stonehill made the discussion about the impact of educational equity and the power that students have to change their schools, extremely relevant. The two other ABS Leaders who led the discussion along with me and I were thrilled with the large turnout and the attendees’ stories of activism to enact change. This event served as a reminder to the community that anyone can create a lasting effect on humanity if we just act.

MULTICULTURAL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Each semester and summer, the Office of Intercultural Affairs hosts a book discussion group that centers around a multicultural theme. Originally called “Lunch with 12 Strangers,” the intent was to build community, relationships, and introduce people to others on campus. The group has increased in popularity, and while there is a steady group of regular participants, there are always new faces at the meetings.

The fall semester’s book choice was *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water* by Michael Dorris. The book was recommended by a book club regular, Susan Wall (User Support Specialist, IT). The first 12 people to sign up for the book club receive a free copy of the book, and there are always a few copies available in the Office of Intercultural Affairs (Duffy 149) for people to borrow. The book club is open to all faculty, staff and students, and a few retirees and friends of the College have also attended.

To learn more about the Lunch with 12 Strangers Book Discussion, please contact diversity@stonehill.edu or call 508-565-1409. If you have a book you would like to recommend, please let us know!

Past books for the Lunch with 12 Strangers Program:

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

Say You are One of Them by Uwam Akpan

Home by Toni Morrison

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

Under the Overpass by Mike Yankowski

Our Spring Book Club will take place on Thursday, March 21st from 12-1pm in Cleary Dining Room and the selection is *Free Food for Millionaires* by Min Jin Lee.

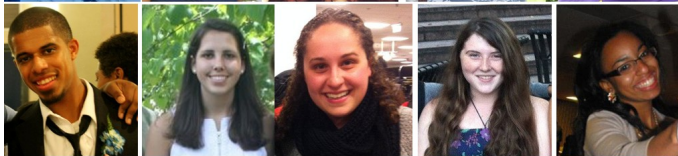
Future selections include: *When Elephants Dance* by Tess Uriza Holthe and *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman.

LEADERSHIP THROUGH DIVERSITY

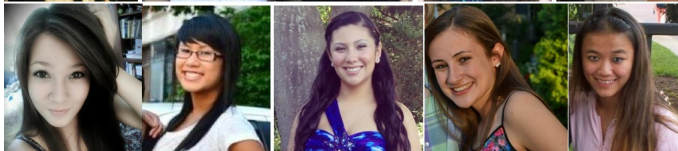
With over 20 first year students, Leadership Through Diversity is off to a successful start! This semester, students in this program have already discussed the ways in which leadership and diversity intersect, attended a Safe Space workshop for LGBTQ allies, and explored the many labels that exist within social identity categories. Focusing on the knowledge in the room, Leadership Through Diversity has been a great opportunity for students to learn from each other in order to make diversity personally relevant and tangible on Stonehill's campus.



O'Shane Morgan, Love Bouissiquot, Cassandra Ponce,
Nisha Khubchandani, Erin Cappellucci



Billy Wilson, Cait Gillet, Erin Cook, Carrie Coughlin,
Amanda Nagim-Williams



Bree Dau, Jenn Pham, Danielle Berkman, Anna Craft,
Jade Dube



Nathaly Lopera, Brittany Frederick, Parijat Bhattacharjee,
Mounia El Arar, Patricia Boyle

ICEBREAKERS AND TEAMBUILDERS FOR DIVERSITY

During the summer of 2012, Julie Kelly '13 and Liza Talusan (director of intercultural affairs) completed a project that helped to make common activities more inclusive. *Practicing Inclusion: icebreakers and team builders for diversity* has been used at Stonehill by Residence Life staff, Student Activities staff, ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters, Campus Ministers and Into the Streets Coordinators, and has been used at five other colleges (with requests for copies coming in each month!).

The book was written because so many standard activities for team building fail to include differences. For example, the book challenges individuals to "take a 360 degree approach" and ask yourself "who am I excluding in this activity?" If it's an activity that requires a lot of physical running or mobility, are we excluding members who need assistance with mobility? Are we inclusive in our language? Are we inclusive in our options we offer (e.g., activities that use food)?

The book is a helpful tool for practicing inclusion, particularly in activities that seek to build community. For a copy of the book, please contact Liza Talusan at LTalusan@stonehill.edu.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE GRANT: Shane Savage-Rumbaugh

In the Stonehill College Strategic Plan 2011-2015, one of the initiatives was to increase the visual representation of diversity through the arts. In a baseline assessment, members of the Intercultural Affairs Subcommittee went around to every campus building and made note of representations of diversity. Their direction was to “be as broad and general as possible.” Even given those definitions, the Committee came back with very few visual representations of diversity.

Responding to this initiative, members of the community began to pay attention to ways in which diversity could be represented. Professor Shane Savage-Rumbaugh applied for the Inclusive Excellence Grant and began a year long project to create a large mural that would be placed in the Roche Dining Commons.

For hours each day during the summer, Savage-Rumbaugh held drawing sessions and asked members of the Stonehill community to serve as “models.” Look for the unveiling of Professor Savage-Rumbaugh’s work during the summer 2013!

The Inclusive Excellence Grant was established in 2009, and it awards a total of \$5,000 each year to various projects that aim to increase diversity at Stonehill. Preference is given to projects that have a large scale impact, that are innovative and that engage the campus community. To learn more about the Inclusive Excellence Grant, please contact diversity@stonehill.edu. This grant is available for all current faculty, staff and students.

R.I.S.E. and M.O.S.A.I.C. STUDENT DISCUSSION GROUPS

M.O.S.A.I.C. (Men of Service, Academia, Integrity, Character) strives to foster personal and professional development opportunities for men of color on and off-campus through community programming, meaningful dialogue, service and an ongoing commitment to education and scholarship. With about 25 men as regular members of the group, M.O.S.A.I.C. provide a safe space for men of color and validates their experiences that are unique to men of color.



(back) Elizett Pires, Xavier Harris-Dickson, Prithak Chowdhury, Jason Watts, Alanna Melendez, Chris Borelli, Justin Lorenzo Rosario, Billy Wilson, Herby Saintil

(middle) Amanda Egesi, Brittany Frederick, Nisha Khubchandani, Silvana Vivas, Kadian McNeil

(front) Bree Dau, Melissa Ulcena, Danielle Berkman, Monia Mukiza, Jenn Pham, Yann Pimental, Tiffany Enos

R.I.S.E. (Radiant, Inspirational Sisters Empowered) is a group dedicated to the shared experiences of women of color at Stonehill. Together we discuss topics ranging from family, culture, and religion to media, society, and health. R.I.S.E. provides a safe space for women of color to be able to discuss the challenges and triumphs of college life.

“Why R.I.S.E.?”

- ◆ “I’m involved with R.I.S.E. because I feel that it is important for women of color to have a safe space.”
- ◆ “I love the girls. We are all like a family and I feel at home with them.”
- ◆ “I want to be a support person for women of color and help them succeed by sharing my experiences.”
- ◆ “R.I.S.E. to me is a means of connecting with other females of color and feeling empowered as a strong, open-minded female.”
- ◆ “It’s a place like home.”
- ◆ “Gives me a chance to speak up and share experiences with other women of color.”

“WHAT’S WHITE GOT TO DO WITH DIVERSITY?” by Annie Griffin ‘13

Anna (Annie) Griffin is a senior at Stonehill College majoring in Health Care Administration. She is from Virginia and is an ALANA-A Sister.



For the past six months, the ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters have planned educational workshops that we facilitated this fall 2012. My team wanted to explore the issues of white privilege. As ABS Leaders, we thought that the topic “What’s White Got to do With Diversity” would be a great subject of discussion because it highlights the commitment to diversity that we have as ABS Leaders.

The ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters are a group of students committed to social justice through education and activism. What most people do not realize is that there are ABS Leaders who identify as white or Caucasian. As ABS Leaders, we learn that all people have a responsibility in dismantling racism and challenging privilege in our lives.

When participants entered the workshop, they were given Band-Aids that we had purchased from a local store. We knew that they would wonder why they were handed a Band-Aid as they entered a presentation. For nearly every participant, the Band-Aids matched their skin color. For others, it did not. This is how we wanted to introduce the concept of privilege — the ability to have something happen or to do something without ever wondering whether or not that experienced was shared by others. If your skin matched the Band-Aid color, then likely you’ve never thought about it. If your skin did not match the Band-Aid color, you likely have thought about it at some time in your life.

From there, we were able to get the students thinking and talking about diversity. They were able to name numerous aspects of diversity and explain why those pieces were all a part of it. I was fortunate enough to have one of my close friends since freshman year come to this event. She had never been to an ABS event at Stonehill and by the time we walked out together, she said that she had learned so much about all of the issues. To me, that was priceless!

FEMINISM AND INCLUSION



This panel topic came about as the ABS Leaders were having discussions during training about the marginalization of women of color in feminist conversations and activism and, through further research, on the ways which conversations about gender must include race. Hosted by the ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters, the panelists included Prof. Chris Wetzel (Sociology); Sabina Dhami ‘14; Prithak Chowdhury ‘15, Kalee Burrows ‘13, and Meredith Kalinski ‘13.

The presentation began with the ABS Leaders discussing feminism, particularly the contributions of women of color. Sabina Dhami ‘14 said, “The panel topic was important because it showed some of the injustices and disparities that exist against women despite advancements through women’s rights movements. Through the panel and presentation, I learned that feminism involves a huge range of people with different beliefs, but still manages to bring them together with the same ultimate goal of equality for women.”

Kelley Correia ‘13 stated, “My favorite moment was the awesome You Tube video “I am a feminist because...”! The video engaged the participants and was very appealing to the college crowd.”

Finally, Osasu Igbinedion ‘13 stated “Being a feminist means you believe in equal rights for women. On the other hand, being an active feminist means you strive to debunk stereotypes associated with women. I hope people walked away from our presentation with a new sense of what it is to be a feminist and ways they can be more active in our community.”

R.A.C.E. DIALOGUE GROUP

Raising Awareness of Cultural Experiences (R.A.C.E.) is a 4-session dialogue group for members of the Stonehill community to explore issues of race, racism, power and privilege in our lives. As of the fall 2012, more than 100 community members have participated in the dialogues.

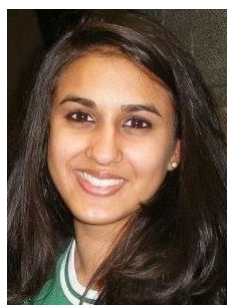
This semester, we welcomed Mary Garland, Lucia Darling, Ellise LaMotte, Tiffany Enos, Alik Karagiannis, Amisha Divadkar '15, Nisha Khubchandani '16, and Kevin Piskadlo. Here is what some of them had to say about their experiences:



Tiffany Enos: “As a new employee to Stonehill I want to take every opportunity to meet people from the entire community. RACE is a unique group that welcomes faculty, staff, and students and I think it makes for a great cross-section of our community. The experiences that people shared were priceless. It is so affirming to be able to tell your own story in your words and have people take an interest in it. It’s easy to get wrapped up in the hectic schedules we all live but I hope to be a better listener and take the time to acknowledge that we each have a story that should be respected and valued.”



Ellise LaMotte: “I wanted to better understand how to have open dialog with a diverse group of people, with everyone in the conversation feeling as if they were able to contribute and be heard. I also wanted to have my stories heard, allowing colleagues to get to know me in a more meaningful manner. Finally, I want to lead these types of discussions in the future and was and am interested in the facilitation aspect of the group. What sticks with me is that everyone has a story that is worth hearing and understanding. Going forward, I want to be more aware of diversity and continue to be an advocate for an individual or population when needed. I also want to learn more about diversity and its many facets so that I can be a better advocate.”



Nisha Khubchandani '16: “I chose to participate in the RACE Dialogue Group to become more aware of race related concerns and to learn how to be an ally for various racial groups. It was also a great way to meet new people, listen to the stories of others, and get to know other members on a deeper level. It is not everyday that people get together to discuss race and how racial issues have affected them. To me, the RACE Dialogue Group was a means of understanding what racial related issues arise, how they affect people of various backgrounds, and how to combat them assertively and politely. The stories will definitely stick with me. The RACE Dialogue Group is an amazing means of learning how to handle concerns pertaining to race and to share stories that involve race. I will most definitely try to expand my sphere of influence by watching movies in which the main character is race that I am not too familiar with or by reading books by authors of different races.”

Our next cohort will meet in April 2013. If you are interested in applying, please contact diversity@stonehill.edu.

SAFE SPACE WORKSHOPS

For the past five years, the Office of Intercultural Affairs has hosted Envision Social Justice Training to facilitate Safe Space Workshops. On October 25, 2012, 65 faculty, staff and students participated in these workshops. The 3-hour workshop helps to identify common definitions, share experiences and first messages, and work to develop an action plan for ally development.

Anna Craft, a first year student, stated, "I believe that, often, we hide in fear or ignorance from the things that we do not know enough about. Attending a workshop like this provides the information we all need to understand what others go through, and how to be not only an ally, but also a compassionate, educated person who can in some way make a difference in the life of another- and therefore a difference in the world." Elizabeth Orlando, associate director of Disabilities Services and Academic Achievement, writes, "I signed up for the Safe Space Workshop, so that I could learn more on the best practices for providing a supportive environment for anyone who wishes to talk openly about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender identities in the Office of Disability Services."

Single-User Bathrooms

On campus, there are a number of restroom facilities that are single-user, which reduces the need to decide between a male only or female only bathroom facility. Please note that some are located within residential areas and may have limited access for guests or non-residents of those buildings.

Student Union – room 105

Chapel of Mary – in Health Services

Notre Dame du Lac – Lobby

Villa Theresa – Lobby

Corr Hall – Main lobby 1st and 2nd floors

Merkert College Center – downstairs by gymnasium

New Residence Hall – 1st floor lobby area & 4th floor near Chapel

Duffy – 2nd floor inside the Math Lab 208



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Renee Bernier '12



Renee Bernier is a graduating senior (December '12), an ALANA-A Sister, a former Leadership Through Diversity participant, and an active member of Campus Ministry. Renee has been involved in the R.A.C.E. Dialogue Group, the Facilitator's Group, and has done just about everything the Office of Intercultural Affairs offers! We wish her the very best as she graduates (early!) from Stonehill!

Renee Bernier '12 (winter graduate)

Why did you select Stonehill College? I wanted a small school with a good academic reputation and I have come to appreciate the environment and the professors that I have.

What is your major?

I am a Sociology major with a concentration of all things related.

What do you like best about Stonehill College?

The professors, Career Services and their willingness to calm my fears, administrators who are willing to advocate for me and who are accessible, the opportunity to go abroad, the fact that it is close to home, and support from Intercultural Affairs

DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

In March 2011, Fr. Mark Cregan, C.S.C., announced that he would like a Diversity Task Force to be created for the purposes of looking more closely at the Enhancing Diversity component of the Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

Based on the survey findings, focus groups with the campus community, and research conducted by the Diversity Task Force, recommendations are being made to the President that address diversity appreciation, diversity awareness, senior leadership commitment to diversity, recruitment and retention of faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds, recruitment and retention of students from diverse backgrounds, a more diverse curriculum, and overall diversity-related competency.

The Diversity Task Force believes that the intentional implementation of these recommendations supports the desire of the campus community to move forward in creating and shaping a more inclusive community, one that enriches the academic growth and personal development of its members.

The Diversity Task Force would like to thank the many people who contributed to the development of the model, the faculty/staff/students who participated in the focus groups and survey, and the subcommittees who worked for the past 18 months on the development of recommendations.

COMING UP NEXT SEMESTER

Dates and times will be announced and confirmed in January 2013. Please check the Stonehill announcements, posters, and emails for up-to-date information.

“Interviewed” Panel – Thursday, January 24th at 4pm

Dr. Amos Yong and Disability Theology – Monday, February 4th at 7pm in Martin Auditorium: Dr. Yong is currently the J. Rodman Williams Professor of Theology at Regent University School of Divinity (Virginia Beach, VA), as well as the director of the divinity school's Ph.D. program. This is co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies.

Black History Month Convocation

Faculty and Staff of Color Luncheon – Thursday, February 14th at 12pm in Cleary

Conference on Diversity and Inclusion —Don't miss this opportunity to have conversations about diversity within the Stonehill community!

Concert feat. Langston Hughes Project – Wednesday, February 20th at 7pm in Martin: Join scholar and musician Ron McCurdy as the Langston Hughes Project takes us through jazz and literature in this engaging performance

Lunch with 12 Strangers – Thursday, March 21st at 12pm in Cleary Dining Room

Asian Heritage Convocation- Wednesday, April 3rd at 4pm

RACE Dialogues – Tuesdays in April at 11am: To apply, please contact diversity@stonehill.edu

DiverCity Festival – Thursday, April 18th at 7pm in Petit Atrium: Stonehill's celebration of culture, education, and student engagement. All performances are written by students, choreographed by students, and organized by students!

FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT PANEL



David Golden is a Residence Director at Stonehill College and a first-generation college student.

My identity – it was something I never really gave much thought to over the years. Sure, I knew I was a man, a Catholic, heterosexual. I understood that being from the city made me different than those of my peers living in suburbia. I recognized that my United States citizenship afforded me freedoms that others in the world did not enjoy. However, I never thought of each of these categories as a piece of my identity – the building blocks which make me who I am today – until very recently.

Recently, I had the privilege to organize a panel discussion around a piece of my identity that has been crucial to my personal *and* professional formation: as the first person on either side of my family to attend college, I am a first generation college graduate. The panel, co-hosted by the Office of Intercultural Affairs, featured members of the Stonehill community who also identify as first-generation college students. Pauline Dobrowski, Beth Devonshire, Briana Burke, Kadian McNeil (stories below) and Prof. Rachel Hirst '98 told their stories of growing up and attending college as first-generation college students.

Pauline Dobrowski (AVP Student Affairs): I participated in this program because I feel it is important for us to share our stories. Many times, first generation students might feel as if they are unlike their peers or going through things alone, and so I feel it is important for them to know that others here at Stonehill have had similar experiences.... and been successful!

Beth Devonshire '98 (Director of Community Standards): I participated because I have an interest and a passion in the subject, especially being a first gen person myself. There are specific needs of this distinct population which need to be addressed, especially in a time where focus is being given to affordability, college completion, etc. I also think it is important to “role model” for other students to breakdown stereotypes regarding faculty staff (not all of our parents went to college) and help them gain confidence in their abilities as students.

Briana Burke '13: I participated in the panel because being a first-generation college student has shaped much of my identity and has had huge academic and social impacts on my life. I feel that there should be more support for these students, and I participated in the panel as a way to encourage more progress. I think that freshmen year is the most vulnerable time for first-generation college students, and having a mentor-type program would be a HUGE help. I really enjoyed hearing from other members of the community, especially the other students.

Kadian McNeil '14: I participated on the panel because I thought this sounded like a great new convocation to introduce to people, and I was willing to share my experiences and feelings of being a first generation college student. If there was anyone who can relate to my story, I hope they didn't feel alone in what they went through or are going through now and how they feel. It was great to hear what others went through because I was definitely able to relate to something that everyone said. It was also nice to participate as a panel member because while thinking of what to say, it made me reflect and really think about what I went through and how I felt that I never fully realized when it happened.

To learn more about initiatives to support first generation college students at Stonehill, please contact Liza Talusan (ltalusan@stonehill.edu) or David Golden (dgolden@stonehill.edu). If you would like to participate in a Mentoring Program for First Generation College Students at Stonehill, please contact diversity@stonehill.edu

Scenes from around campus



Thank you to the ABS Leaders and the many Stonehill individuals who organized relief efforts for those impacted by Hurricane Sandy, particularly for those in the Far Rockaway communities.

Thank you!