

Intercultural Happenings

Office of Intercultural Affairs

Summer 2010

With proud and joyful hearts, we would like to congratulate the Class of 2010 for all of their achievements and contributions to the Stonehill community. We are thankful to all of the students, faculty, and staff who have supported the graduates along the way and who will continue to work in creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive Stonehill community.

This semester we have experienced challenges that we have used as opportunities for growth. With the summer quickly approaching, let us all continue to be challenged and engage in meaningful dialogues on issues of diversity. These experiences and conversations are not always easy but absolutely necessary to live out our mission to honor "the inherent dignity of each person."

In this issue of *Intercultural Happenings*, learn about ways to get involved, gain insight into issues facing our Stonehill community, and celebrate the good work of individuals in our community. Have a safe and fun summer!



Liza A. Talusan
Director, Intercultural Affairs



Donna M. Vivar
Assistant Director, Intercultural Affairs



DiverCity Cast 2010

Inclusive Excellence Grant for Aardvark Jazz Orchestra by Professor Leslie Goldberg



On February 25, 2010, the Aardvark Jazz Orchestra played a concert of the music of jazz great Mary Lou Williams. The concert was very

successful and of interest to a broad variety of listeners as evidenced by the large (200 people) and enthusiastic audience of students, members of the Brockton and Easton communities, and faculty.

The Orchestra's conductor, Mark Harvey, supplied spoken introductions to the pieces we heard. Since he had met Mary Lou Williams, he

was able to offer fascinating insights into her music. The concert was part of the *Examined Life Lecture Series*; in the words of Todd Gernes, "the life and work of Mary Lou Williams offered a unique lens through which to view history, culture and music." We were also extremely fortunate to have Sharon McElroy, a member of In-House Design, create the beautiful poster for the event. A framed copy of the poster was presented to Mark Harvey by Todd Gernes, Director of General Education.

The Inclusive Excellence grant offered by the Office of Intercultural Affairs covered almost half of the cost of the event (including the fee for the Orchestra, plus reception and piano tuning), and made possible the remainder of the funding from other departments. The

application for the Inclusive Excellence Grant was very user friendly and I look forward to applying to that source of funding for collaborative concerts in the future.

This concert was required of students in FA 235, American Music of the Twentieth Century, as a part of our unit on American Jazz. The concert could also have been part of courses on feminism, Civil Rights, American culture, and African American Studies.

Leslie Goldberg is an Assistant Professor of Music in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts.

DiverCity 2010

To help kick-off Spring Weekend this year, the 2nd Annual DiverCity Festival took place on Thursday, April 15th. This student run production drew a crowd of 300-400 people in Alumni Auditorium. Attendees enjoyed an array of cultural performances from various student groups, ate different kinds of ethnic foods, and had a chance to get a Henna tattoo. Here is a taste of DiverCity 2010!



Clockwise from the bottom left: Activism Club, Henna Artist, Asian American Society, P.R.I.D.E., RUCKUS



Admire Your Difference: Spoken Word by Rex Mc

Admire your difference
Know that individualism
warms the heart
The same way
Fired up pistons start a car.
In your heart of hearts,
Know that dreams can help
you reach
The farthest stars.
In God's eyes, yes
I realize we're all equal
Therefore, you better
recognize
And come together like the
Beatles.
So to any naysayer, who states
that they hate you
For being you,
Please refuse to believe it,
Just because they can't see it
through.
Educate the clueless. Have the
nerve to do this,
For any person hurt for their

race or sex
Blessed are the persecuted.
Do it for the angels who were
once
Chained in slave ships,
containment camps,
Or assassinated by racists.
Do it for the gays, and any
kind of any shape and size
Who were denied the rights
to pursue their happiness
So why do we choose to
choose unhappiness?
Queen told me we were
champions
And since there's no way we
can't be this
Each line I rhyme
I subconsciously holler to the
close minds
Who choose intolerance by
Providing food for thought,
grub for love,

And nourishment for
encouragement
The world is our mansion so
get to family furnishing.
But sometimes I question our
intentions and purposes.
Hate crimes. Discrimination is
the sound wave
And we are the bass line.
For each time we choose
silence, there's a consequence
Of one more person born
who decides to ignore their
common sense.
We've seen the effects.
When we mess up and
disconnect from our morals.
Hate speech. Crazy.
Mind frames with wrong
pictures
Doors marked with swastikas
Punctures hearts like a shot

hitcha
Where's God?
He's in your vocal cords.
Through your hopes, he opens
doors,
Sneaks through cracks and
holes in floors
Gives us back that wholesome
core
That we search for every day.
Therefore,
Don't let your brain fade into
the distance.
Admire your difference.
Set fire to all resistance.
Admire your difference.
Protestant, Jewish, Hindu,
Buddhist, Christian
Admire your difference.
The open mind glistens in any
instance
Admire your difference.
Admire your difference.



***Turn Our Hearts, O God* by Denise Morency Gannon, Campus Ministry**

On March 23 at 7:00 p.m., students, campus ministers and guests assembled in St. Joseph's Chapel at Holy Cross Hall to give voice to the concerns, hurt, anger and outrage at the growing numbers of racial slurs, bigotry and homophobia on Stonehill's campus. *Turn Our Hearts, O God*, co-sponsored by Campus Ministry and Intercultural Affairs, gathered the college community in the spirit of peace and of reconciliation, naming the evil in our midst and speaking out and standing with those who have suffered, lost hope, experienced betrayal and persecution at the hands of people they trusted. On that night, we placed ourselves in the presence of the living God to lift up the wounds of people we know and deeply care about, and to tell the stories of the victims of injustice of our students, our colleagues, our friends.

The power and beauty of the musical arts dominated the service through the performances of Girls From The Hill (*True Colors, Beautiful Day*), Surround Sound (*Why Should I Cry, O Happy Day*), the trio created by Megan Boyle, Devin Mauch and Kalee Burrows (*Instrument*), along with sterling musical presentations by Beth Conway (*Without You*) and Lacie Michaelson (*Shepherd Me, O God, O God, Why Are You Silent?*). Fr. Walter Jenkins, C.S.C., Director of Campus Ministry, presided. Stonehill alum Micah Christian '06 once again mesmerized listeners as he sang *Lamb of God* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, and catapulted into a new chapter of his career as a graduate student of theology as he reflected on the meaning of *agape* and the call to love God and one another as the body of Christ on our campus and in the world. An ensemble of excellent readers (Ally Mielnicki, Renee Bernier, Laura Noel) narrated the stories of victims, beginning with Matthew Shepard of Laramie, Wyoming, and included the stories from our own Stonehill community who represent the one million American college students who experience bias and racially motivated verbal and physical assaults on a yearly basis in every part of our country, on every kind of campus.

When we are silent and do not speak out, we are just as guilty as those who cause odious hate crimes of violence and atrocity. When we are silent, God has no voice to speak through us. Within the stories cry the voices of our own sisters and brothers who are the targets of similar discrimination and abuse. So on that stormy March night, with *Turn Our Hearts, O God*, we decided *not* to be silent or passive. We acknowledged that racism, violence, homophobia exist here on our campus, in this place we love and we call home. We articulated the hate and fear in our midst; hearing the stories makes it difficult to refute the incidents. We say the words but deny that they are real in our lives, contesting that the people who could behave so heinously live in the room next door or across the hall or in the same suite, or even teach in our classrooms. Hearing the stories puts meat to the matter and challenges us out of complacency, daring us to embrace a new day of reconciliation and the gracious care that God shows all people. May all hearts be turned toward acceptance and justice on our campus and throughout the world.

Denise Morency Gannon is a Campus Minister at Stonehill College, graduate of Notre Dame College and Boston College, Denise is published with World Library Publications. Her experience spans almost forty years in the areas of education, music and ministry. She is an active member of the Intercultural Affairs Subcommittee.

MLK Day of Service

From 12:00pm-5pm on Friday, January 29, 2010 a small group of faculty, staff, and students came together for a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Co-sponsored by Campus Ministry, Intercultural Affairs, and Career Services, the day started with a pre-departure lunch and reflection led by Campus Minister, MaryAnne Cappelleri. The group then divided and went to two different locations: The Boys and Girls Club and Trinity Catholic Academy, both in Brockton. Donna Myles from Academic Services served at The Boys and Girls Club and said, "My favorite part of the day was talking with the kids. It is amazing how resilient they are with the obstacles they overcome. I find them inspiring." At the end of the day, the group came back together to reflect on the experience. Everyone involved appreciated both the experience and the space to talk about issues facing different communities. *Participants included: Donna Myles (Academic Services), Anne Coulter (Payroll Manager), Shelley Leahy (Academic Services), Hilary Curtis '11, Amy Flynn '12, Erica Stewart '11, Nuala Boyle (Career Services), MaryAnne Cappelleri (Campus Ministry), Christina Burney (Career Services), Jan McGovern (Student Affairs), Michelle Rojas (Residence Life), Liza Talusan and Donna Vivar (Intercultural Affairs).*



Diversity and Social Justice Award

The Diversity and Social Justice Award is presented to a members of the Stonehill community who have contributed to creating a positive diverse living and learning environment at Stonehill. This award is presented at the Student Life Awards Ceremony.

Sarah Varadian '10: Sarah began her work in diversity and social justice long before she came to Stonehill College. Just after the tragedy of September 11, at the age of 13, Sarah organized a fundraiser which resulted in \$800 sent to the Fund for Afghan children. Learning more about education and the lack of access, Sarah began Wee Care Bears, a fundraising effort which provided the opportunities to send Christmas gifts for 2 full years to orphanages in Armenia, and diagnostic testing for malaria and typhoid in villages in the Central African Republic and Kenya. In her first year at Stonehill, she presented a workshop on the Armenian genocide and engaged in educational opportunities to raise awareness in her classes. Sarah's commitment to social equality and demonstration of responsibility has made her a model recipient for the Diversity and Social Justice Award.



Recipients Sarah Varadian '10; Donna Vivar, Assistant Director of Intercultural Affairs; Blayne Lopes '10; Akira Motomura, Associate Professor of Economics

Blayne Lopes '10:

Blayne has grown to be one of the most involved educators in diversity and social justice at Stonehill. Prior to arriving at Stonehill, he was awarded 28 different academic scholarships, ranging from awards from the NAACP to the Yawkey Scholarship to numerous church and heritage organizations. Blayne began his Stonehill career involved as an Upperclass Student Mentor, as an ALANA Brother, a Resident Assistant and as an RSA. He has served as an intern in the Office of Intercultural Affairs as well as an intern through the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Minority Fellowship Program. He has written for the Intercultural Happenings blog, newsletter, and this past semester officially served as an intern for Multicultural Recruitment in the Office of Admissions and Enrollment. He worked closely with the Intercultural Affairs subcommittee to draft the diversity section of the College's Strategic Plan for 2011-2015 and most recently has served as the student voice for the College's Bias Response Protocol. Blayne was an also an active member of the SGA Diversity Committee, Diversity on Campus, and a panelist for our many admissions events and receptions.

Akira Motomura, Associate Professor of Economics:

Professor Motomura was selected for his work in the creation of the Diversity Networking Group, an organized professionals group open to all faculty, staff, and administrators to come together informally to discuss issues of diversity and social justice. Recognizing the need for faculty of color, specifically, to seek support from one another, Akira then inspired the Faculty/Staff of Color Group which has been incredibly helpful in the overall feeling of belonging for many of the professional staff at Stonehill. Over the past few years, Akira has helped to shape the programming in the Office of Intercultural Affairs. Most recently, his interest in author Angela Jackson resulted in her book reading at Stonehill College this past March, an event which allowed a number of college offices to partner in a program for newly admitted students and their families. Even with his teaching and research, Akira is often present at programs involving diversity and has begun to identify ways in which professionals of color can better support our ALANA population. This past semester, Akira also created a program to provide textbooks to students with demonstrated financial need. Partnering with the Office of Student Aid and Finance, the Library and Intercultural Affairs, he has increased awareness about social justice issues in the lives of our students.

Donna Vivar, Assistant Director of Intercultural Affairs

While the job description particularly calls for Donna to be involved in the direction of diversity and social justice issues, the impact of her work has gone far beyond sentences and bullet points on a page. In her first year, she took leadership for the academic advising of all first year students of color, supported the ALANA Brothers and Sisters Leadership Program, and created a first year discussion group called "Leadership Through Diversity." In her second year, she was responsible for the programmatic aspects of diversity and hosted more than 40 programs. Her leadership in the DiverCity Festival resulted in an overwhelming success. She has been instrumental in leadership trainings, increasing awareness and experience in our student population, and has led discussions and dialogues in our professional community.

“You do Diversity Stuff Here?”

by Jessica Mardo '13

“**You? You do diversity stuff here?**” is usually the response from many of my peers when I mention some of the diversity programs I have been involved with here at Stonehill College. I can understand their confusion; I had never envisioned myself in a position where I would be knowledgeable about diversity issues, let alone be an ally to the ALANA community here at Stonehill. What I have learned in a few short months has forever changed my perspective on diversity issues and helped me develop into a more enlightened and educated person.

I first became involved with diversity at Stonehill through merit point programs featuring different speakers, film screenings, and panels. I found the different diversity issues addressed at each program to be intriguing and the follow-up discussions to be thought-provoking, so I continued to return program after program. After a few months of regular attendance at many of these events, I came to know Donna Vivar and Liza Talusan in Intercultural Affairs, who introduced me to other diversity experiences on campus. I participated in the first year program called Leadership through Diversity and the R.A.C.E. Dialogue as well. I found these experiences to be opportunities of great learning where I was able to explore the complex issues of racism, different cultural experiences, and personal identity.

One of my most significant moments of learning came after viewing the film “The Color of Fear” at a diversity program. After the screening, some members of the audience were asked to gather at the front of the room and discuss the film which had focused on the concept of racism. Several white students mentioned they were “not racist because they were friends with people of color.” I sat there in front of everyone, unsure of what to say. We had discussed the concept of white privilege and read articles about it, but for the first time I truly understood the meaning of it; **it was my diversity “eureka!” moment.** I suddenly found myself explaining to my peers that even if a white person loves and respects people of color, that white person still holds unearned *privileges* that their friends of color do not. It is a concept that we, as white people, are never really forced to consider on a daily basis. I challenged some ideas in the conversation, and I was worried I had said the wrong thing since no one responded to my comment about white privilege. I realized, however, that I would have had the same lack of awareness if I had not participated in the diversity programs and conversations. These have been great learning experiences for me, and I am definitely a changed person having engaged in these discussions.

“Colorblindness” by Renee Bernier '13

When the opportunity arose to join R.A.C.E. Dialogues last semester, I did not hesitate to apply. It was one of the major moments I've really felt called to be involved in. I knew it was something that really helped me identify who I am and who I need to be. I was the girl who liked to pretend that race did not matter; that the world is “colorblind.” In reality this isn't true. The world is not colorblind, no matter how hard society tries to convince itself. In fact, it is quite the opposite.

One of our assignment in R.A.C.E. was to be constantly aware of race, from sun up to sun down, seven days a week. *Let me tell you, my eyes were opened!* I began to see and appreciate people's differences and the importance of recognizing these differences. So yes, while the idea of color blindness is appealing to many, it is not the reality and the greater question is, **“Should colorblindness be something we aspire to?”** Through our discussions, I started to see that colorblindness would almost mean a sense of numbness. It would rob us of the opportunity to appreciate people's race, which people often forget is the beautiful part of being a multi-racial society. So instead, we should be embracing the idea of treating people with the kindness and respect while recognizing race.



Renee Bernier '13 and Jessica Mardo '13

ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters Program 2010

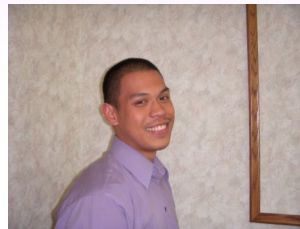
“During ABS training we did some ice breaker activities and really began to break down the meaning of “diversity” and “leadership”. Activities made people step out of their comfort zones and develop a voice.”

-Jack Bressor '13

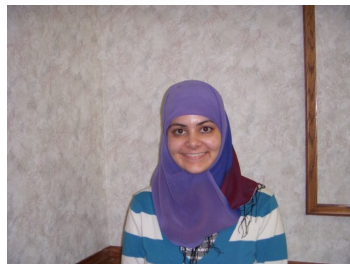


“The ABS Program has taught me the importance of conversations that need to happen in the community. Understanding of race, lifestyles, and beliefs are embraced when individuals are able to be heard and respected for their contributions. I hope these values will continue to be understood as the incoming class transitions into college.”

-Chauncey Velasco '12



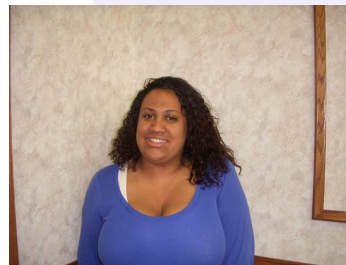
“We did a lot of activities that helped us talk about White privilege and stereotypes. We also learned about each others’ cultural backgrounds.” -Anum Mir '12



“The biggest lesson I’ve learned from ABS is that people are constantly evolving and changing. I have become more comfortable with being uncomfortable and

willing to be the one to initiate difficult conversations.”

-Michelle Tineo '12

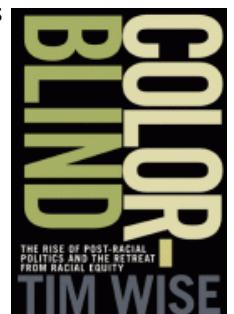


Summer Book Club Discussion Group: July 14 from 12-2pm

The book we have chosen for the Summer Book Discussion Group is “Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial Equity” by Tim Wise. A few copies are available in the Office of Intercultural Affairs and available for individuals to borrow.

Mr. Wise was a guest speaker at Stonehill in February 2009, as part of our “Be The Change” series, after the release of his book Between Barack and a Hard Place. Since his lecture, his book had been used in the classroom as well as a reading tool in the ALANA-A Leadership Program. In Mr. Wise’s preface, he writes, “In Colorblind, I examine more closely the consequences of the Obama victory, in terms of its likely long-term effects on the nation’s racial discourse. Where Barack and a Hard Place sought to explore what the election said, and didn’t say, about racism in America, Colorblind examines the impact of the Obama victory on our ability as a nation to tackle — or even open discuss — matters of race and racism.”

Please contact diversity@stonehill.edu if you would like to borrow a copy prior to the July 14th discussion group. Even if you are unable to find time to read the book, we encourage you to join in our discussion! Location to be announced in July.



Asian Heritage Month Convocation

The Asian Heritage Month Convocation took place on Monday, March 29, 2010. Members of the Stonehill community spoke about their cultural identities, stereotypes, successes and challenges. Here is Christina Wong's (Class of 2010) story:

My name is Christina Wong, and I am a senior at Stonehill. I am originally from Hong Kong and moved to the United States when I was nine years old. I have now spent over half my life here in the United States.

Both of my parents are from China, but they lived in Hong Kong ever since they were very little. Since my brother and I were still young when we immigrated, we had a much easier time adjusting to the environmental and cultural change of learning the American-English language and American traditions. On the other hand, my parents experienced the toughest challenges.

One of the biggest obstacles for my immigrant family was the language barrier. We speak Cantonese Chinese at home and Cantonese is very different from English. Our English was extremely limited when we first came here. Once my brother and I began to learn English, we also began translating for my parents. There would be times when translating for my parents became difficult. For example, when I would be too busy to translate a letter, I would tell them I couldn't because I was too busy. Immediately after I would say that I would regret it and feel guilty. My parents would say, "If I could do it myself, then I wouldn't need you to do it for me!"

Living in the United States has taken away their ability to do very simple things like reading letters or even watching TV. My mom does not watch TV because she says, "There is no fun in watching TV if you don't know what people are laughing at or what they are talking about. It's a waste of time and makes me feel stupid." My dad on the other hand

watches everything (his favorite show is actually "24"). When he watches, he makes it a game, like solving a puzzle, and guesses the plot and the characters' conversations. Their independence is really limited and they are restricted in what they can do and where they can go. They hate to always rely on other people to help, but they have no other choice. It gives them a feeling of uselessness and immense frustration, mostly upon themselves because I know there are things that they want to do for us and cannot.

Whenever this happens, it hurts me so much because I know my parents would have such an easier and happier life if we had not moved. I want you all to take away from this experience I am sharing with you that we need to appreciate our independence and our ability to take care of ourselves because there are people who want to but cannot. Most of all, we need to appreciate what our parents do for us. Parents are always doing things for their children even when they don't have to.

At the beginning, I was embarrassed to be Chinese because we are physically, culturally, and even mentally different from Caucasians. I really disliked that I dressed differently, spoke another language, and had different traditions and values. I did not want to stand out and I did not want people to look at me or think of me as if I was an *alien*. I just wanted to fit in with everyone else and conform culturally. I was first hesitant to speak Chinese in front of Caucasians because I did not want them to judge me and think that I am different from them. However, I stopped caring about

these things; I can't even tell you when I

stopped caring. I guess I slowly realized I needed to represent my culture and show others the wonderful things that come from my background. Why should I be embarrassed by my heritage when there are so many positive aspects that I can take from my heritage? I enjoy our differences and I really like teaching my friends about the Chinese culture.

I love the Chinese language—I love the way it sounds and the way it is written. I teach my friends how to say certain words and write their names in Chinese. I absolutely love Chinese food and constantly remind my friends that Americanized Chinese food is *not real Chinese food*. I think that many Americans believe what they order from their local Chinese restaurant is a good representation of authentic Chinese food when it is not. I understand that our culture is different and I am proud of it!

I am proud to be Asian American and I draw many strengths from being Asian American. I want to tell non-Chinese Americans to understand where we are coming from by telling or showing them our culture and values so that others can be more globalized and can have a more worldly perspective on racial and cultural differences.



Campus Partnerships: Thank you!

The Office of Intercultural Affairs would like to thank the following individuals for participating in various diversity and convocation panels throughout this 2009-2010 academic year. These individuals have volunteered their time and talents to share their experiences with identity and diversity, and we are thankful for your willingness to positively contribute to our Stonehill community.

Karen Ahern, Campus Police
Sheila Barry, Health Care Administration
Peter Beisheim, Religious Studies
Renee Bernier '13
Nuala Boyle, Career Services
Ariel Bowen '12
Jeany Cadet, Residence Life
Bethany Conway '13
Lauren Cross, Visual and Performing Arts
Prof. Maria Curtin, Chemistry
Karol Delgado '10
Johan Dominguez '13
Alicia Duffany '11
Ashlyn Estremera '13
Joe Favazza, Dean of the Faculty
Elyssa Feliciano '12
Candinho Gomes '10
Nicholas Howard '13
Christopher Ives, Religious Studies
Fr. Walter Jenkins, Campus Ministry
Min Seong Kim '13

Jasmine Khubchandani '12
Joniece Leonard '10
Saleah Loomis '13
Pak Lul '12
Prof. Jose Martinez, Foreign Languages
Anum Mir '12
Christina Perrera '13
Kristen Pierce '01, Residence Life
Kate Rafey, Community Based Learning
Hsin-hao Su, Math Department
Janna Stanke '11
Anny Sanchez '10
Stacy Schipellite, '11
Asad Shahid '12
Brendan Sullivan, Athletics
Johannes Tesfai '10
Martha Ucci, Center for Academic Achievement
Shamika Walters, Admissions
Fr. Steve Wilbricht, Campus Ministry
Christina Wong '10
Rebecca Ybarra '12



Christina Burney, Career Services; Blayne Lopes '10; Shamika Walters, Admissions; Joniece Leonard '10; Nuala Boyle, Career Services

Raising Awareness of Cultural Experiences (R.A.C.E.) Spring 2010

This dialogue group is an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about race, ethnicity and diversity within our own lives. Intentionally designed for a small discussion group, assignments include reading articles, raising awareness of popular culture and every day influences, and examining ways to be a more active participant in creating a just world.

Congratulations to the Spring semester cohort for taking part in challenging and important conversations!

Pat Anzelmo, Human Resources
Gena Badin, Class of 2013
Renee Bernier, Class of 2013
Emily Brazer, International Programs
Christina Burney, Career Services

Jeany Cadet, Residence Life
Brianna Lertora, Class of 2013
Christina Limon, Class of 2011
Jessica Mardo, Class of 2013
Kate Rafey, Office of CBL

To join the Fall 2010 cohort, please email diversity@stonehill.edu for more information.

Save the Date: Esera Tuaolo

On October 13, 2010 at 7:00pm, the Office of Intercultural Affairs, in partnership with various departments on campus, is pleased to host Esera Tuaolo, a former N.F.L. defensive lineman and openly gay man. Bringing light to the incidents with homophobia that our campus community has experienced, Mr. Tuaolo has been selected as our key speaker because of his work in professional athletics, his identity as a Samoan immigrant and Hawaiian, his personal story with homophobia, and his strong spiritual faith. He recently released his book [Alone in the Trenches](#).

For nine years, Esera Tuaolo excelled in the N.F.L. as a defensive lineman: he played for five different teams and went to Super Bowl XXXIII with the Atlanta Falcons. He played with some of football's greatest, including Brett Farve, John Randle and Jack Del Rio. He even sang the national anthem in uniform at a nationally televised Monday night game as a rookie and at the 1999 Pro-Bowl.

But as a gay man in the hyper-masculine culture of professional football, Tuaolo was forced to hide his sexuality. The secret crippled him, leading him to drink excessively and contemplate suicide. It also hindered his football achievements, as he felt that if he were too good a player, he would be exposed as a homosexual. He led a double life that deeply depressed him, but which he now looks back on with a new perspective. During this difficult time, he persevered by following his mother's example and maintaining his strong spiritual faith.

It was after retiring from professional football that Tuaolo became fed up with pretending to "be straight." He publicly announced his sexuality, which he describes as "taking off a costume I've been wearing all my life." Only one of three former N.F.L. players to ever come out, he has received huge amounts of support: from old teammates, the media, friends and family alike. Now he brings his incredible story to the podium to inspire others to achieve their best by speaking to their individual truths without fear or intimidation.



Tuaolo's autobiographical account, *Alone in the Trenches*, with John Rosengren, tells the agonizing and compelling tale of a dirt-poor Samoan immigrant who won a football scholarship to Oregon State, played in the Super Bowl and then made a life-changing decision that ultimately saved his life, his family, and his Christianity. At its heart, Esera's story also exposes the behind-the-scenes world of professional football and what happens on the field and in the locker room.

We strongly encourage faculty, staff, administrators and students to join us for this event as Mr. Tuaolo's experiences are relevant in our classrooms, residence halls, athletic fields, and in our greater community.

Inclusive Excellence Grant

Interested in getting involved and contributing to a community that embraces diversity? Apply for the Inclusive Excellence Grant, an internal funding opportunity for diversity programs, lectures, presentations and activities. This past year, funds have been used to support a collaborative program designed by Professors Beth Belanger (History) and Carole Calo (Visual and Performing Arts) as they partnered with the Cape Verdean Association in Brockton; the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Concert coordinated by Professor Leslie Goldberg (Visual and Performing Arts); and a student project on international business and management training by Batnasan Chinbat '10. Applications are available by emailing diversity@stonehill.edu and following a 1st of the month deadline. *Plan early!* Nearly all of the funds were awarded within the first semester.

Safe Space Training: Campus Opportunity

On Friday, February 19, members of the Stonehill community participated in a Safe Space Workshop by Envision Social Change, a training and consulting organization. Founded by Todd Smith, Jessica Gonzalez and Monroe France, Envision Social Change works closely with colleges and leaders to identify ways in which they can play a role in shaping a more inclusive community for individuals who identify as LGBT and allies. Todd Smith, Monroe France and Jessica Gonzalez all share a common interest in issues of social justice education; while each have distinct focus area, their passions collided in a powerful and positive way at New York University in 2002. Monroe served in the NYU Office of Student Activities, Todd Smith at the Office of LGBT Student Services and Jessica at the Center for Multicultural Education and Programs. A strong commitment to collaboration and a vision for a just student community, the three colleagues worked together to develop and implement numerous trainings around leadership, diversity, social justice and LGBT issues at NYU. As partners in Envision, they seek to expand their programs and trainings to the greater community in an effort to promote understanding and bring about social change. Envision has expanded to include consultants with various specialities and expertise in social justice and diversity training.

Jeff Gallus, Area Coordinator in Residence Life, participated in the program and felt that this training was important for both professional and personal reasons. "I liked how the facilitators made participants reflect on our backgrounds and our own experiences. We began to discuss ways in which social institutions affect our perspectives. I hope that Stonehill continues to offers ways to engage in this dialogue."

The morning session was devoted to faculty, staff and administrators. In the sessions, participants engaged in meaningful and personal conversations about LGBT identity — sharing experiences of friends, families, and of self. The afternoon session was designed for students to both learn about LGBT identity and experiences and also discuss personal experiences in a safe environment.

"It was great to see representation from across the college," says Gallus. "There was a passion and intensity in the room regarding change and social acceptance. We need to keep this kind of work going at Stonehill."

At the conclusion of the training session, participants had the option of displaying a "Safe Space" stickers which reads: *This person attended at Safe Space training. This person is committed to providing a confidential, affirming and respectful atmosphere to discuss and support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identities.*

The following Stonehill community members participated in Safe Space training:

Faculty/Staff

George Piggford
Patrick Keaney
Nuala Boyle
Liza Talusan
Donna Vivar
Pauline Dobrowski
Beth Devonshire
Chris Bailey
Stacy Grooters
Heather Cantwell-Miller
Lucy Dillon
MaryAnne Cappelleri
Greg Wolfe
Maria Botelho
Rebecca DiFalco
Ben Chalot
Laura Scales
Darcy Lynch
Jeff Gallus
Donna Vrana
Tia Miller
Jim Hermelbrecht

Students

Silvana Vivas
Julie Kelly
Caitlin Hirsch
Laurel Noel
Dianna Batt
Laurel Campbell
Jasmine Hall
Lauren Cahill
Christopher Laramie
Eoin Gillespie

*This person attended
a Safe Space Training.
This person is
committed to
providing a
confidential,
affirming and
respectful
atmosphere to
discuss and support
lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender identities.*



First Year Spotlight: Corey Thomas

Full name: Corey Thomas



Where are you from? Dorchester/Brookline, MA

Where did you go to high school? Boston College High School

What is an interesting fact about you? I change my middle name on Face Book almost everyday and I change my major every other week. I LOVE TRACK!

What is an interesting fact about your family? Everyone in my family is an athlete.

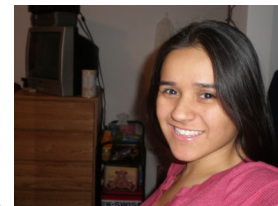
What is it like being on the track team? It's like having another family away from home.

What have you most enjoyed about your Stonehill experience so far? I like traveling with the track team, The Hill food, the environment, and the people.

Now that you have completed your first year, what advice would you give the entering Class of 2014? Do your homework! Get involved with a club, sport, or something that will help you meet people!

Senior Spotlight: Karol Delgado

Full name: Karol Vanessa Delgado



Where are you from? I was born and raised in Peru, but I currently live in Lynn, MA.

Where did you go to high school? Lynn English High School in Lynn, MA.

Why did you choose Stonehill? I chose Stonehill because it was a small school, away from the city but close enough to get there easily. Stonehill is different from Lynn and I wanted to try something new.

What are your plans for life after Stonehill? I would like to work at a hospital for some time, and then I want to go back to school to become a Nurse Practitioner in Women's Health.

What is one thing you most appreciate about Stonehill? Everything that has happened to me here, good or bad, has made me a stronger person. I can now stand up for myself and for everything I believe in.

Ways to Get Involved with DIVERSITY@STONEHILL

There are many wonderful opportunities to get involved in learning about diversity and in engaging in dialogues, discussions, and personal development. The events truly address diversity in many ways: the size of the audience, the roles we hold here (faculty/staff/administrators/students), topics, interactions, and interest. We purposefully offer opportunities to explore diversity of religion, gender, sexual identity, ability and different abilities, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, citizenship, beliefs and ideas. Most important is that we welcome ideas to improve our programs and offerings. If you would like to propose an event, topic or discussion, please email diversity@stonehill.edu.

Diversity Networking Group

R.A.C.E. Dialogue Group

Leadership Through Diversity

Heritage Month Programs

Convocation Series Panels

Inclusive Excellence Grant

Student Government Clubs

SGA Diversity Committee

Alumni Diversity Committee

ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters

Leadership Trainings

Inclusive Excellence Conference

Don't Cancel That Class

Faculty/Staff of Color Group

Summer Reading Series

Intercultural Resource Center

Women's Programming Series

Intercultural Happenings Blog

Conference on Diversity and Inclusion

Leadership Through Diversity Discussion

Professional Development

Human Resources Workshops

Center for Teaching and Learning Roundtable discussions

Safe Space Workshops

Summer RACE Series

Intercultural Summer Book Club

DiverCity Festival (in April)

Faculty Spotlight: Lauren Cross

What is your educational background? I graduated at the top of my senior class in high school, received my BA in Art, Design and Media from Richmond, the American International University in London, England, and my MFA in Visual Arts from the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University.

What brought you to Stonehill? I came to Stonehill two years ago to teach an additional section of the Introduction to Digital Imaging course, which I've taken on additional sections within the time I arrived, and most recently proposed and am scheduled to teach Race, Gender, and the Digital Image course that blends my interest with race and gender and discussions on media imagery.

What has your experience been like at Stonehill?

Stonehill has been an amazing experience for me because it has given me the opportunity to teach and instruct courses that mean a lot to me. I've also been able to share some of my work from my art practice that I do outside of the college, such as the work that was exhibited last fall in the "Intersexions" exhibition and the recent screening of my film "The Skin Quilt Project" at the Martin Institute.

Can you summarize your talking points from Women's History Convocation? When I reflect on my childhood, I am reminded of all the women who shaped me into the woman I am today. As a woman of color, I've certainly experienced my share of challenges, but I've learned to use those obstacles to build character. I feel grateful to be where I am because I know of the many who have not made it this far. I am thankful to the Stonehill community for being the type of college that is interested in cultivating a progressive environment for their faculty and students.

Lauren Cross is an Adjunct Professor in the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

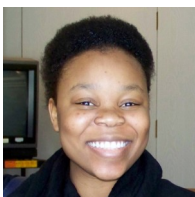


Administrator Spotlight: Shamika Walters

I was born in Jamaica and resided there for much of my childhood. I attended two schools while living there. Growing up in a country where the governing body looked like me, I never had to think about race and no one ever made me feel less than because of my skin color. I learned about slavery but I also learned about heroes. For me, there was a happy end to that story.

When I moved to the United States at the age of 9, things became more complicated. I was an immigrant. I had to think about my identity as a Jamaican. For the first time in my life, I also had to think about the color of my skin. As I grew up, my experiences surrounding race made it very hard for me to construct my identity. When I was in high school, I was told that I "sounded white." During those same four years, my friends and I were followed around different stores or accused of stealing simply because of what we looked like. One of our accusers even turned out to be someone I sat next to in art class. I was baffled. Those experiences made me feel like I had to construct two different masks to put on at different times. The only problem was that the only thing I did to attract suspicion in department stores was to be black.

Now, things are different. I do not worry as much about what people think when they look at my skin color. I've given my life to Jesus Christ and the most important thing to me is being recognized as a child of God. I received a degree in Communications with a minor in African and African Diaspora studies from Boston College. I had a great experience there, but not because it was perfect. I had professors that had done great things and knew a lot about the world. More importantly, I had Black professors that had done great things and knew about the world. They were strong role models for me. They gave me the words and the confidence to discuss the inequality that I had seen and felt but could never really express. It was a great college experience because it did the one thing that education is supposed to do but does not always do: *It opened up my eyes to the way things really are in the world and showed me that I could make a change.*



Shamika Walters is the Coordinator for Multicultural Recruitment in the Office of Admissions and Enrollment and a member of the Intercultural Affairs Subcommittee.