



A Publication for the ALANA Voices at Hartwick College, Oneonta, NY

Voices Magazine

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Defining Identities: A New Approach at Hartwick College

Pluralism. When journeying into this concept, strong ideas come to mind. As defined by Mr. Harry Bradshaw Matthews, lecturer of history and associate dean, pluralism isn't just a nine-letter word. It's a force. "Pluralism deals with the idea of crossing minds without losing your sense of self. It is when two or more entities share a common space, interacting with each other without either losing their identity," he explains. Looking further into this, I came to the notion that pluralism functions from a center of strength rather than weakness. In this situation, people operate from the positive

aspects of their heritage and seek commonalities within the cultures of others. Through this, a bridge is then created, allowing for an intersection of mutual appreciation. A perfect example is Orchesis. Near the end of each semester, students come together from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, coalescing as the Hartwick College community. Various student groups have the opportunity to share a

variety of dances from varying cultural backgrounds. I applaud this phenomenon, which has been a part of the Hartwick community for decades. Having observed Orchesis at the end of each semester for several years, I am convinced that it serves as a viable example of how to engage students in cultural communication in a pleasant way.



Dancehall, Orchesis Fall Semester

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Defining Identities Series: Advocates for Progressive Change

Hartwick College has been very fortunate to have a number of individuals and organizations that have contributed to the positive advancement of diversity.

Just recently, Art Professor Phil Young and English Professor Robert Bensen hosted a screening and panel discussion of the video documentary "For the Seventh Generation: Native Artists

Counter the Quincentenary, Columbus, New York."

It provided a provocative interpretation of the conflicting views of the Native Americans and the celebration of Christopher Columbus controversy. Another Example was, the dynamic presentation of scholarly poets that spoke at Hartwick College during Hispanic/Latino heritage Month. All of these

programs have contributed to the 2007- 2008 *Defining Identities Series*. While several other events have been planned, there is still time for a few other topics to be suggested for inclusion during this academic year. The Pluralism Advisory Committee, a co-sponsor of the Defining Identities Series, is accepting proposals for co-funding and co-sponsorship.

If you have an idea for a program, please contact Harry Bradshaw Matthews, PAC Chairman, at matthewsh@hartwick.edu.



Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project: A New Look at Diversity at Hartwick College

The Office of Pluralism Programs is a proud supporter and advocate for three powerful and dedicated organizations on campus. These include SOSU/BU, P.A.L.S. and SOCA. The office not only works alongside these student groups in a mentoring relationship, but it allows a welcoming space to all students, in particular students of ALANA backgrounds. Even more so, these organizations help raise awareness not only on the Hartwick campus, but the Oneonta community as a whole. Together, these groups are in a continuous process of collaboration, which allows them to share resources as well as explore new ideas.

One example is the newly formed Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project. As of today, there are no records of any other Harriet Tubman project in a college within New York. Upon its commencement, this mentoring project will be the first to utilize the first known bibliography of Harriet Tubman as its core resource. It is generally known that Sarah Bradford wrote the first book bibliography of Harriet Tubman in 1869. However, research conducted through the Tubman project and USCT Institute has documented that an earlier bibliography was written about Tubman earlier



Harriet Tubman
Mentoring Project Seal

"It also will open up an array of opportunities regarding diversity and pluralism here at the College."

in 1863. A facsimile of the earlier bibliography is now in the Matthews Collection and is being utilized by the members of the project. It also will open up an array of opportunities regarding diversity and pluralism here at the College. The Harriet Tubman mentoring project was conjured as a "series of workshops, field trips and activities which explore the intersection between

race and gender through the life experiences of historic role models." This project is the students' direct collaboration with the USCT Institute. In addition to there being a student coordinating committee, there soon will be an alumni advisory council composed of former students who were involved with the USCT Institute. Every Hartwick student is eligible for participation in the project, though only 25 students can be enrolled at a time. Those in the program will attend six 2-hour dinner meetings, one 6-hour PALS Leadership Seminar, and four 2-hour cultural programs during the 2007-08 academic year. Upon their

completion, participating students not only attain a certificate, but valuable experience and knowledge, as well as the advantage of being a part of going down in history as the first class ever to launch this project.

Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project 2007-08

Cynthia Appiah: HTMP Coordinating Council/PALS/Pluralism Mentoring Outreach

Melissa Chrysostome: HTMP Coordinating Council/SOSU/BU/Pluralism Mentoring Outreach

Khadian Thomas: HTMP Coordinating Council/Pluralism Scheduling/Arrangements

Jissel Garcia: HTMP Active Member/Pluralism Newsletter, Public Relations

Jeniece Scoon: HTMP Active Member/PALS/Pluralism Mentoring Outreach

Sandreen Henry: HTMP Active Member/DAP Gospel Ch/Pluralism Mentoring Outreach

HTMP Quiz: **Kendy Benold, Paul Charles, Cynthia Appiah**

HTMP PR: **Melissa Chrysostome, Lorenzo Lewis, Karl Saint-Vil, Khadian Thomas**

HTMP Arrangements: **Hiral Patel, Dwayvania Miller, Harry Bradshaw Matthews**

HTMP Dinner Meetings: **6 presenters**



25-Member Tubman Class, Fall 2007

About our Organizations

The Society of Sisters United/Brothers United (SOSU/BU) is a non-Greek sisterhood/brotherhood. It also is a community-based organization with a vision statement that aims toward spreading peace and understanding through various social activities, and is open to all groups and individuals on campus.

Students of Caribbean Ancestry (SOCA) is another organization under



the Pluralism Programs, whose goal is to educate and promote the awareness and appreciation of the diversity of Caribbean heritage and culture.

Pluralism Associates League for Students (PALS) is yet another student-run organization with direct connections to the U.S. Pluralism Programs Office, devoted to assisting first year students with adjustment to college. Nonetheless, it is open to all students on campus in all four years.

Upcoming Events

SOSU/BU

Candy Grams: Jan. 14-Feb. 14, 2008

1st Interest Meeting: Feb. 22, 2008

2nd Interest Meeting: Feb. 29, 2008

Poetry Slam: TBA

Spring Spirit Week: TBA

Talent/Fashion Show: March 15, 2008

Flag Day/Culture Night: TBA

Towel Party: April 4, 2008

SOCA

Car Wash (w/SOSU/BU): Spring TBA

Caribbean Night: Nov. 17, 2007

Caribbean Game Night: Jan. 20, 2008

International/Caribbean Dinner: TBA

Caribbean Movie Night: March 22, 2008

Caribbean Play: April 19, 2008

Carnival: May 10, 2008

P.A.L.S.

ALANA Kwanzaa Celebration: Dec. 8, '07

M.L.K. Memorial Reception: Jan. 15, '08

PALS Interest Meeting: Feb. 15, 2008

Black History Reception: Feb. 25, 2008

Emancipation Weekend Ball: Feb. 23, '08

Underground Railroad Conference: Feb. 24, 2008

U.S.C.T./Harriet Tubman Weekend: March 8-10, 2008

SOSU/BU Fall 2007



In The Mingle...

Stay up to date with cultural/diverse events on campus! Don't be the only one left OUT OF THE MINGLE! To be in the mingle...

P.A.L.S. Leadership Seminar: Congrats to the graduates of the Fall class! *Laron Bethel, Jissel Garcia, Alexis Gyateng, Brittanie Kemp, Lancey Plaisir, Myriam Plaisir, Prathibha Senaratne, Kaitlin Woskoff, Yolanda Broomfield, Felicia Coppola, Arielle Jackson, Hira Siddiqui, Lashea Williams, Ashley Brown, Ashley Gee, Jennifer Samuel, Sadia Siddiqui.*

Harriet Tubman Mentoring Project: Congrats to the Alpha class of 2007! *Cynthia Appiah, Kedy Benold, Laron Bethel, Paul Charles, Melissa Chrysostome, Jaime Cisneros, Jissel Garcia, Sandreen Henry, Sherry Hon, Brittanie Kemp, Lorenzo Lewis, Dwayvania Miller, Ogechukwu Mbamalu, Ugine Mula-hoo, Blessing Okoh, Hiral Patel, Lancey Plaisir, Myriam Plaisir, Brittanie Reynolds, Prathibha Senaratne, Hira Siddiqui, Sadia Siddiqui, Khadian Thomas, Kaitlin Woskoff, Sonya Williams, Jeniece Scoon.*

Women's History Month Awards Reception: Recognitions announced March 17. Team of Hartwick students serves as the recognition committee charged by U.S. Pluralism Programs to honor a distinguished faculty member, staff member and student.



Jazz Concert: December 5, 2007, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Reception and Roundtable Discussion: January 15, 2008. Focused upon the concept of "privilege" in the United States.

Family Research Seminar: Spring of 2008. TBA.

Free and open to all members of Hartwick College. Five sessions introduce research methods and an opportunity to use primary documents and other sources.

Pluralism Advisory Committee: A welcome thank-you for co-sponsoring events sponsored by PALS, SOSU/BU and SOCA.

Hartwick College

Pres.: Cynthia Appiah
V.P.: Uguine Mulahoo
Sec.: Dwayvonia Miller
Treasurer: Kendy Benold

Asst. Treasurer: Melissa Chrysostome
ALANA Outreach: Hiral Patel
PRO: Khadian Thomas

Get Involved! If you can't beat us, join us! U.S. Pluralism Programs


U.S. Pluralism

Yrahiza Says...

Wham! The phone slammed and hit the dorm wall, cracking the screen and breaking my faithful and handy companion—my cell phone. "That type of stuff only happens in soap operas and movies," you'd say. So did I. But have you ever felt so angry, so misunderstood and confused you didn't know what to do? The matter was then only made worse by indifference from the only person who you thought could make it better. So what to do then?

Well, you could do what I did and slam your phone against a wall. It might not solve anything, but it'll sure make you feel better. Or at least until you realize that your LCD screen is cracked. Note: Make sure you have insurance! Or, if you can stop yourself before you snap into a fit of rage, go for Plan B and do what Yrahiza says.

"Breathe!" We hear that all the time, and it's nice to think that it actually works, but when you're so mad that you can't even breathe in the first place, this technique is the last thing

on your mind. However, when she says Breathe, Yrahiza means Relax! Chill! Tell yourself to shut up and put the situation into perspective. Going off and getting angry to the point of near hysteria is not the best way to solve your issues. "No one has the power to make you so angry you have no control over your actions. Not if you don't allow them. When you have nothing good to say, don't say anything at all and BREATHE!"

"Sometimes, going off at someone closes the opposite person in. They may not want to tell you how they feel because they feel attacked. Don't be the one to make the situation any worse. Other times, blowing off is exactly what they want you to do. Don't give in! It doesn't do you or the situation any good. I know, this is probably too much to think about in the heat of the moment, so just remember to sit back, take it all in, and put it into perspective. When you're well and ready, explain your take on the situation and your feelings. Then,

be the listener. Remember to stay open-minded in any situation, and that there are two sides to every story. To each person in a situation, things are done because they're right to the person doing them. Though you may not agree, you need to understand. Then, come to an agreement. This means you'll both need to bend for one another for a greater mutual good. If none of this works, then maybe you need to re-evaluate your ties with this person. You should never submit yourself to a situation where you're the only one trying and never being understood. FYI, you come first! And so does your well being!" So next time you think about wringing someone's neck off...BREATHE! Take it slow! And if push comes to shove and that phone just so happens to fly out of your hand...think. Was that really worth it? If you have any personal issues you want to address, or questions to be answered, write to "Yrahiza Says..." and drop it off at Pluralism Programs in 205 Bresee Hall.

Minority Loan Opportunities

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Undergraduate "minorities" on the lookout to further their academic careers, listen up! We all know life is hard after college. Fact is, the *real world* is tough, and if you don't got it, it's even tougher. So, as your friendly editor I've looked up some resources to make your lives that much easier. So get up, get moving, and get going on these loan opportunities!

<http://scholarships.fatomei.com/minorities.html>: Great site with links for scholarships/graduate opportunities/internships and summer jobs / loan repayment programs

<http://www.si.edu/ofg/intern.htm>: Great opportunities/internships for research and study in art, history and science.

<http://www.naahp.org/resourcesminoppflat.htm>: Great summer internships and post-baccalaureate programs in top-notch schools.