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Unity House News Spring 2013

Connecticut College

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UNITY HOUSE NEWS

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A CORNER FOR UNITY

It's already April?! It's been such a great year but it's not over yet. Unity House has much to bring you in these last weeks of spring semester. We have a month of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month events, as well as end-of-the-year events for all our programs. The new Unity House Director, Antonio Jefferson, shares his goals for the center, we congratulate our new ALANA big sibs, and share with you some Unity House history. We hope you enjoy this month's articles and encourage you all to continue sharing your stories with us! - Unity House Staff

A Message from the New Unity House Director!

I would like to first thank Dean Garcia and Dean Denard for providing me with the opportunity to step into the role as Director of Unity House. As Director, I am looking forward to the continued efforts of providing support for our students, to ensure their success while at Connecticut College.

In addition, I am eager to take our ALANA Program to the next level. Using the foundation that has been previously set, I look to make our summer trainings dynamic, fun and very encouraging as our Big Sibs prepare to not only make that bond with each other, but most importantly with their incoming Lil Sibs.

Lastly, through new projects, collaborations and pilot programs we look to sustain our efforts of working with the Connecticut College Alumni of Color, supporting our Unity House affiliated organizations through the Ambassadors Program and bridging the gap with students that do not use our services.

Again, I am very enthusiastic to step in my new role as Director. I believe, as our campus community continues to develop/grow culturally, socially and academically, so will Connecticut College's Unity House.

Thank you,

Antonio Jefferson

Director of Unity House



YOU MIGHT HAVE NOTICED THAT THE NEW DIRECTOR HAS A FAMILIAR FACE.

Antonio Jefferson has been with Connecticut College since 2009. He joined Unity House first as the Assistant Director, then in his latest position as Associate Director, before his current role as Director. He received his master's degree from Florida International University (Miami, FL) in Higher Education Administration and a bachelor's degree in Communications from Eastern Connecticut State University.



Congratulations to the Newest Big Sibs!

by **Melanie Pagan**

Assistant Director of Unity House

Though we are months away from receiving the 2013-2014 freshmen, our newest ALANA Big Sibs are already hitting the ground running with their first ALANA In-Service Training.

The Wednesday after Spring Break our group of 22 New Big Sibs met to begin the first part of their role of Big Sibs. Completing their profiles for the incoming freshmen, listening to the new coordinators speak of their years with ALANA, and learning all about the new Academic Resource Center from the Director Noel Garrett, were just a few ways our Big Sibs began preparing for their new leadership positions.

Our new coordinators are two very involved students who have been a part of Unity House since they first step foot on campus. Cannea Ferguson '14 and Asia Calcagno '14 are eager to continue the ALANA legacy and assist all new Big Sibs as they help their Lil Sibs transition to Connecticut College. We congratulate you all!

THE NEW ALANA BIG SIBS



New Coordinators!



First ALANA In-Service with Noel Garrett from the Academic Resource Center.



ALANA PARTY PICTURES

VISIT THE UNITY HOUSE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE PICTURES





STUDENT ORGANIZATION HISTORY

The oldest Unity House organization began before present day Unity House. In 1968, after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, a group of all female Black students formed the Afro-American Society, the predecessors of our current **Umoja**, The Black Student Union. During the Afro-American Society's time, significant events took place like the Black Womanhood Conference, the opening of the Afro-American Center in 1971, (located in Blackstone until 1973), the infamous Fanning Takeover in that same year, and the creation of **Eclipse** Weekend, held jointly with the Coast Guard Academy until 2007.

In the 70s, as the college began recruiting higher numbers of Latino students, the first Latino oriented group, **La Unidad**, was formed. Actively connected to other Unity House orgs, the organization took part in large events like Latino Student Conferences held at CC and the second Fanning Takeover in 1986. For decades proceeding, the Latino student population kept growing and a second Latino organization was formed, **MEChA** (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán).

While the Latino and Black students became change agents in their respected organizations, another key player organization was formed in 1985, **S.O.A.R.** (Students Organized Against Racism). Students of all backgrounds came to getting on the grounds to battle the issues of racism on campus and beyond. A year after forming, members of S.O.A.R., Umoja, and La Unidad organized the Second Fanning Takeover, and, in that same year, the group hosted its first S.O.A.R. Conference, which continued on for 10 years.

The following year, in 1987, a new group joined the Unity House family. An Asian/Asian American student organization called ASIA, the predecessors of **CCASA** (the Connecticut College Asian Student Organization), was formed and large events like the Diwali Dinner and Fusion became annual events.

Though younger in comparison to the first Unity House organization, one student group that has existed for over 10 years has been the Unity House **Gospel Choir**. Still active today, the Gospel Choir stayed connected to Unity House as participants of annual events like the Dr. King Memorial Celebration.

Unity House is Connecticut College History

In 1969, the Afro-American Center opened in Blackstone.



Students outside Blackstone House, the College's minority cultural center in 1969. (Final) now serves as the minority cultural center.



In 1973, the Minority Cultural Center opened in Vinal Cottage.



In 1989, Unity House was moved to the center of campus where it is still stands now.



THIS YEAR MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITY HOUSE!
 THOUGH THE NAME HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, UNITY HOUSE IS STILL COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING EVERY AND ANY STUDENT THAT WALKS THROUGH OUR DOORS.

Spring 2013 Pictures!



MLK COMMEMORATION



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONVOCATION



ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CONVOCATION



Want to get involved with Unity House next year?



Applications for our programs are available now!

Unity House offers many ways to get involved. For more info contact Dulmarie Irrizarry at dirrizar@conncoll.edu

Sophomores

R.I.S.E

RISE is designed to provide support to students during their sophomore year.

Helping them transition to the year where the more permanent decisions about their future are made, like choosing a major, applying to study abroad and deciding whether a Center Certification is right for them.

Juniors and Seniors

EXODUS Program

The EXODUS Program is designed to provide support to juniors and seniors in their transition to the "real world" after graduation. The program will provide you with a Unity House Mentor who will give you one-on-one consultation as you make your academic plans; your plans for developing leadership skills; and your career or graduate school plans after graduation.

Leadership Opportunities

* Unity House Ambassador Program

Great for those seeking additional training in Multicultural Leadership!

Unity House Internship *

Want to gain experience in event planning? The internship is perfect for that!

* Unity House Monitor

Need a good work study job that allows you to be a part of a great team? Monitors are key players at Unity!

Diversity Peer Educator *

Desire to facilitate talks around social justice and diversity? The DPE course is for you!

END OF THE YEAR EVENTS!

Last ALANA EVENT

Thursday, April 11 at 5pm, PepsiCo Room, Unity House

The 2011-2012 ALANA Big Sibs and Lil Sibs are invited to the last event of the year. Food, games, Henna tattoos, caricatures, and more!

RECOGNITION DINNER

Friday, April 19th at 6pm in the 1941 Room, Crozier-Williams Center

Participants of Unity House programs will be recognized and seniors will receive their graduation stoles.

SHE and MOCA Closure Dinner

Tuesday, April 30th at 5pm in the Hood Dinning Room, Blaustein

SHE and M.O.C.A. participants are invited to the last event of the year.

UNITY HOUSE BBQ

Tuesday, May 7th at 4pm at Unity House

All are invited to the Unity House BBQ!

CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND MAILBOXES FOR YOUR INVITATIONS

REMEMBER TO RSVP!



Diversity Resource Library

Located in the Conference Room at Unity House!

JOIN US FOR ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH!

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH CONVOCATION

Monday, April 1, 2013 @ 7:00pm
Crozier-Williams, 1941 Room
This year's API Convocation speakers will be Mahajabin Chowdhury '16, Tenzin Palmo '13, and alumnus, Chris Hensman '03.

MOVEMENT OF FREEDOM: REVOLUTIONARY ART FROM CHINA, SOUTH AFRICA AND TUNISIA.

Thursday, April 4, 2013 @ 4:00pm
Charles Chu Room, Shain Library
An exhibit opening reception and panel discussion including CC professors and individuals from the community.

CCASA'S HENNA AND TEA NIGHT

Wednesday, April 4, 2013 @ 7pm
Crozier-Williams Center
Presented by Connecticut College's Asian Student Association (CCASA).

USCGA MULTICULTURAL TALENT SHOW

Thursday, April 5, 2013 @ 8pm
Coast Guard Academy
Presented by the USCGA's Black Student Council (Genesis).

CCASA AND APAC'S PAPER LANTERN WISH NIGHT

Thursday, April 11, 2013 @ 9pm
Temple Green
Presented by Connecticut College's Asian Student Association (CCASA) and the USCGA's Asian Pacific American Council (APA).

CCASA'S BUBBLE TEA NIGHT

Thursday, April 18, 2013 @ 7pm
Crozier-Williams Center
Presented by Connecticut College's Asian Student Association (CCASA).

APAC'S LUAU

Thursday, April 25, 2013 @ 8pm
Coast Guard Academy
A night of music, performances, and food. Presented by the USCGA's Asian Pacific American Council (APAC).

ECLIPSE

MULTICULTURAL TALENT SHOW
Saturday, April 25, 2013 @ 7pm
Palmer Auditorium
Multicultural talent show by Connecticut College's Eclipse.

VINCENT WHO?

Monday, April 29, 2013 @ 7pm
Blaustein 210
Documentary on the Pan-Asian Civil Rights Movements. Presented by the Unity House Interns.

April/May's Featured Books (A-Z)

1. **Thirteen Ways of Looking at A Black Man** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
2. **The African American Century** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Cornel West
3. **Dreaming In Cuban** by Christina Garcia
4. **Invisible No More** by Pedro Noguera, Aida Hurtado, and Edward Fergus
5. **Living With Racism** by Joe R. Feagin and Melvin P. Sikes
6. **The Mixquiahuala Letters** by Ana Castillo
7. **Strangers From A Different Shore** by Ronald Takaki
8. **Beyond Black** by Keey Ann Rockquemore and David L. Brunsmas
9. **Sister Citizen** by Melissa V. Harris Perry
10. **Hunger Of Memory** by Richard Rodriguez

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UNITY HOUSE

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or facebook.com/pages/Unity-House/135451797211

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