

Diversity Center Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2006

Special points of interest:

- At the Center
- Student Profile
- Finals: Quick Tips
- Contest

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AT THE CENTER with Virgil Jones



American folklorist, Joseph Campbell said, “we must be willing to get rid of the life we’ve planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.”

The Diversity Center will continue to provide experiential opportunities for all students. Most things will remain the same but some

other things will be changed. Changes will require greater involvement by more students. It will require more athletics, music, theatre, biology, psychology, and business students to be active participants in diversity-related organizations and their programs.

ANYONE who is interested in any aspect of diversity or multiculturalism should feel that they are welcome in the Diversity Center.

If the Diversity Center has

one fundamental purpose it is to acknowledge the impact of race, class, gender, language, sexual orientation, ability, and inter-faith religious dialogue - primarily within our campus but also in the greater Gustavus community.

It is my hope that students, staff and faculty who have never visited the Diversity Center will stop in and be amazed by their experience. We should not be afraid of what we do not know—we should move forward, toward the campus life that is waiting for us.

Student Profile: Alyssa Brooks

Hometown: Waupaca, WI
Year: Senior
Major: Business Mgmt

When and why did you start working in the Diversity Center?

I was first introduced to the Diversity Center by Erika Diniz. Erika was my CF during my freshman year and soon became my role model at Gustavus. After hanging out in the D-

Center, I realized what an energized place it was and how in-



triguing the people were that spend time there. I enjoyed spending so much time in the

D-Center that I asked Cheryl Hastings if I could be a student worker. I began working in the D Center because it’s one of the only places on campus, outside of the classroom, where I learn something new every day. I grew up in a small town with little diversity, so I love learning about all of the cultures and customs of students at Gustavus. *(continued on Page 3)*

Kwanzaa

FINALS:

Quick Tips for Success

From
Jane Lalim



Coming Events: KWANZAA



Kwanzaa, a celebration created in 1966, brings a cultural message that speaks to the best of what it means to be African/ African American and human in the fullest sense.

The Gustavus Pan African Student Organization has celebrated Kwanzaa since 2000. It has grown into one of the most anticipated events of the year. This

year, we will celebrate Kwanzaa on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 5:30p.m. in Alumni Hall with good food, fun, and exciting entertainment and featured speaker James Barnett.

One of the key aspects of the Kwanzaa celebration is the focus on the Seven Principles:

-Umoja (Unity)

-Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

-Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

-Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

-Nia (Purpose)

-Kuumba (Creativity)

-Imani (Faith).

Call the Diversity Center at x7449 for more information or to sign up to attend.

Academic Notes

Twass the Week Before Finals

1. **Plan a special review calendar:** Estimate at least two additional hours of study/review per final per night for each of the four days prior to that final. This extra review (spread out over the last week of class) is in addition to finishing all the reading by Reading Day.

2. **Anticipate the final:** material covered throughout the semester/unit, time limit, test format, materials needed, sample essay questions, previous test questions, etc. Be sure to utilize tutors and review sessions prior to the last week of class.

3. **Gather materials for studying:** complete set of lecture notes, flash cards, handouts, review sheets, reading notes, lab reports, old tests, outlines, etc. Give all the material a “once over” to determine what you know and what you need to work on.

4. **Play the numbers game:** Figure out what you will need to earn, maintain, or raise your grades in each course. Talk to your professors about where you stand if you have questions or concerns. Consider focusing more attention on certain classes where you might be able to move up your grade.

For more test-taking tips, test preparation strategies, ideas for conquering test anxiety, or general studying suggestions, contact Jane Lalim, Assistant Director of the Advising Center, at x6124 or jlalim@gustavus.edu. <http://www.gustavus.edu/advising/>

Scholarship/Internship Information

The Philips Scholars Program recognizes and rewards private college students who strive to make life better for those with unmet needs. Applicants are challenged to think creatively and become community-service leaders. Each campus selects a finalist to compete for one of **SIX**

awards of \$14,000 each.

Information sessions will be offered in the Diversity Center on December 5, at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and at the Community Service Center at 4:30 p.m. on January 24, 2007.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Zeta Chi Phi

Zeta Chi Phi Multicultural Sorority Incorporated was founded on Jan 30, 2003 by eight women in San Antonio, Texas. The Gamma chapter was founded on Dec 4, 2004 by eight Gustavus women.

The pillars of Zeta Chi Phi are Multiculturalism, Education, Democracy, Integrity, Loveliness, and Community Service. The Philanthropy of the Gamma chapter is



Homelessness, so they have done community-service projects with Habitat for Humanity, food drives, and packaging meals at Kids Against Hunger.

The organization currently has fourteen active members. Zeta Chi Phi is committed to promoting diversity in the Gustavus and St. Peter communities and strengthening all women.

The chapter has won several awards

for dedication to their mission and their strong sisterhood. They won the Sisterhood award, and the Outstanding Recruitment Event at the 2005-06 IGS Awards Banquet, and the Outstanding Chapter Award at the 2006 National Convention.

Zeta Chi Phi is always looking for strong, energetic, intelligent, and open-minded women, who are ready and willing to change the world. If any woman is interested or has questions please email zeta-chi-phi@gustavus.edu.

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION MEETING SCHEDULES

MONDAY

- Diversity Leadership Council: 9:30 p.m. in Leadholm

TUESDAY

- Pan Afrikan Student Org: 5:30 p.m. in 49er Room
- Meditation with Buddhist Monk, 7pm in St. Peter Rm
- Crossroads Executive Board: 8:30 p.m. in Carlson International Center Lounge

WEDNESDAY

- Asian Cultures Club: 6 p.m. at Walker House
- Queers & Allies: 9:15 p.m. in Womyn's Awareness Center

THURSDAY

- Orgulla Latino Association: 7 p.m. in office by Dive
- Womym's Awareness: 8 p.m. in Womyn's Awareness Center

- Indigenous Student Assoc: 8:30 .p.m. in Gustie Den
- Students of Fostercare and Adoption: 9:15 p.m. in Diversity Center
- I Am We Are: 10 p.m. in Black Box

SUNDAY

- ASAP: 9 p.m. in Diversity Center

Spotlight: Alyssa Brooks (continued)

What has your experience been in the D-Center?

My experience here has been a positive and inspiring one. I have met people that I would have never encountered before. It was a little intimidating walking into the D-Center for the first time and being the only white person in the room, but that quickly faded once

I got to know the other students in the room. My favorite part of the D-Center is the thought-provoking conversations. The D-Center is a place where you can talk about the controversial issues on campus, and around the world, without being judged.

What can you tell fellow students about the D-Center?

Walk in, take a seat, and introduce yourself. The D-Center may seem like a scary place on the outside, but once you step inside you realize that it is filled with students just like you, and from numerous different backgrounds and locations.



Diversity Center

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Name the Newsletter Contest

Welcome to the first Diversity Center Newsletter. This newsletter will be published monthly and we need a name. Submit your best ideas by Dec 19, 2006 to Cheryl or Virgil. The winning name will receive a \$20 gift certificate from the Book Mark.

WATCH FOR.....

Upcoming Events:

- Phillips Scholarship Sessions December 5 @ 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
- Pan African Conference at MnSU-Mankato in February
- Building Bridges on March 9-10
- NBGSA Conference in Baltimore, MD on March 21-25

On the College Calendar:

- Kwanzaa, December 7 @ 5:30
- Reading Day, December 14
- Finals December 15-19
- Fall Semester Ends December 19
- Christmas Recess December 20-January 2

