

Higher Ground

*at the center**with Virgil Jones**inside*

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Virgil Jones
Director of Diversity Center

I wish to use this column to salute the graduating seniors of 2008 who have given a great deal of time and energy to the Diversity Center and the greater campus community at Gustavus Adolphus College. I applaud students who made films or documentaries, championed multicultural sororities, participated in the execution of "Diversity Week," and who generally contributed by waking up the sleeping social activist in all of us. Because these

contributions came in the form of self-sacrifice, new programs, challenging policy, class discussions, and mentoring others in the community, we are a better community. I value the gifts that you gave to the campus community.

Each student created a new level of consciousness on our campus. Thank you for your contributions to multiculturalism on campus. The Diversity Center particularly recognizes these students for their distinguished contributions:

Fardosa Ali
Veronica Bean
Timothy Bergman
Megan Bren
Jonathan Carlson
Oluwatosin Cole
Courtney Covey
Lydia Davitt
Fatima-Zahra Elattir
Matthew Fillmore
Apyrl Galbreath
Alecia Gooch
Barbara Guy
Breton Harris
Lillie Hollingsworth
Guyniesha Johnson
Nhung Le
Kathleen LeBlanc
John Lee
Stephanie Lewis
Noemi López
Hawine Merdasa

Mee Moua
Brittany Neighbours
Lesa Nurse
Nana Ofori-Darko
Whitney Peterson
Rachel Poppy
Kristine Retka
Elliot Saltzman
Siddarth Selvaraj
Nary Sem
Michael Sielaff
Jing Han Soh
Christina Strey
Niko Suoraniemi
Yoshikazu Suzuki
Kelly Taunton
Song Thao
Louis VanderStreek
Ann Vermeersch
Melissa Vermeersch
Zachary Walgenbach

Diversity Center

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Virgil Jones

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New Staff! Heather Dale, a physician assistant, joined Gustavus this past January as the director of Health Services. She brings to Gustavus a background in women's health and family practice. Nissa (Stolp) Fell, a Gustie graduate of 2000, is a nurse practitioner who will join us on a full-time basis in the Fall. Nissa has a background in family practice and urgent care. The addition of these excellent providers will bring more availability of appointments and assistance to our students. They also look forward to providing more opportunities for outreach and health education awareness throughout the campus community, starting with these:

- **SPRING WELLNESS** – Although the winter weather is slowly leaving us, the colds, sore throats, and flu are still hanging around. Remember that prevention is the key! Cover your coughs, practice good hand washing, drink plenty of fluids, and be sure to get adequate rest (a minimum of six hours per night!).
- **SENIORS** – Student Health Services staff want to remind you to take the opportunity to get your immunizations updated. Stop by Health Services to get a copy of your immunization record, as many employers and schools will request them. Getting a physical and/or refilling any prescriptions you may need are also good ideas before graduation.
- **STOP BY** – The Health Service staff is available 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Feel free to stop by with questions, concerns, or any ideas you may have for them to create a safe and healthy Gustavus Community. You may call ext. 7630 or stop by to make an appointment. Health Services will be open until the end of May to meet your health care needs.

Diversity Awards Banquet

Each spring student organizations, staff, faculty, students, alumni, and allies of diversity come together to celebrate the work and contributions of specific individuals and events that have taken place on our campus during the academic year.

On Saturday, May 10, the Diversity Leadership Council will recognize one faculty member, two students, and one student organization/event/performance event for their outstanding contributions to campus climate here at Gustavus Adolphus College. This year's faculty/staff honoree is Sujay Rao, professor of history. Student honorees are Guyniesha Johnson and Yoshikazu Suzuki.

E Pluribus Gustavus, performed by the "I Am . . . We Are" social justice theatre troupe, will also be recognized for its excellence this year. *E Pluribus Gustavus* is a special performance held during new student orientation that highlights important social justice issues that are part of the fabric of college environments.

The dinner and awards presentation will be held in Alumni Hall. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. with fondue, fruit, and chocolate fountains. The awards presentation and dinner will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a dance. One of Saint Paul's best DJs will be providing musical entertainment until 9:30 p.m.

The Diversity Leadership Council and the Diversity Center would like to encourage the campus community to be a part of this tradition. Tickets are on sale at \$10 each (cash only). Members of the Diversity Leadership Council will be tabling outside the cafeteria through Thursday, May 8. ■

Diversity Leadership Committee

The Diversity Leadership Council is led by co-chairs Jeanifer Poon and Yoshi Suzuki. The purpose of this organization is to support those organizations that are advocates of on-campus diversity, through keeping a unified calendar of scheduled events, sharing resources and information, and sponsoring or co-sponsoring events with those organizations. The Diversity Leadership Council develops a collective voice when it recognizes the need to preserve and protect the advocacy of on-campus diversity. The Diversity Leadership Council sponsors and manages events such as J-Term Retreat, Diversity Week activities, and the Diversity Awards Banquet. It meets on Wednesdays at 4:45 p.m. ■

SONG THAO

student profile



I can remember my freshman year like I remember yesterday's dinner. I can remember how everyone said that the first few people you meet will help shape your college life the most. I can remember the decisions I made and the consequences of them just like I remember the consequences of eating a spicy dinner last night.

“I have drawn my story, chosen my colors, and now I am on the verge of completing what to this point is probably the most important painting in my life.”

A spicy dinner here at Gustavus reminds me a lot of home in St. Paul. I grew up there, and there is just so much that I have absorbed in that diverse atmosphere. The diversity there lies not just in ethnic background, but in professional background as well. Being in that reality has allowed me

to see the split between those who are proactive about their future and those who choose to be ignorant. That realization has helped me to become even more ambitious, and that is why I am here at Gustavus.

Gustavus has offered me opportunities that have helped me grow competitively, intellectually, and most important, individually. I have been involved in men's tennis for the last three years and I still am. Asian Cultures Club has been a huge part of me, and I have the honor this year to be one of the co-presidents of the club. The years I have been with the club have been phenomenal in every way.

Three years have passed and I am finally finishing the path of a studio art major. Everything before has been like a painting to me. I have drawn my story, chosen my colors, and now I am on the verge of completing what to this point is probably the most important painting in my life. I look at myself now and I don't see a ship in a harbor, but a ship out in the sea battling the dark ocean waves. ■

“A ship in harbor is safe – but that is not what ships are for.”

— John A. Shedd



Song Thao, Fat City, 2008, watercolor on paper

spotlight on

World Watch and **Cultural Connections** are brought to you by *Crossroads*. Through their shared interest in world cultures, languages, and contemporary global issues, members work to develop a broader understanding of the world in which they live and contribute to the education of the College community as a whole. Think Globally, Act Locally—The Crossroads Program.

World Watch

Zimbabwe, Africa: Potential Violence —

Church leaders in Zimbabwe have called for international action to prevent post-election violence developing into genocidal proportions. The opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and its leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, insist they beat President Robert Mugabe's Zanu-PF party outright in presidential and parliamentary polls, but Mugabe is not relinquishing power.

Basra, Iraq: Shia-on-Shia Violence —

US and UK special forces are carrying out operations in Basra in southern Iraq against Shia militiamen in an attempt to stabilize the unrest. The intervention of Western special forces in Basra shows the level of concern the Americans and British have about the capabilities of the Iraqi forces, and the special forces are also believed to be gathering intelligence to support ground operations.

Cultural Connection

May 1 — Beltane (Ireland, Isle of Man and Scotland): An ancient Gaelic holiday also known as May Day marking the beginning of the pastoral summer.

May 5 — Cinco de Mayo (Mexico and United States): The holiday commemorates an initial victory by Mexican forces led by General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín over French forces in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

May 20 — Vesak (Buddhist, East Asia, India, Japan.): The most important Buddhist festival celebrates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha, The Enlightened One, all as one event.

goings on

Diversity Center

May 2

Hip Hop Night, 7 p.m.

Pow Wow, 7 p.m.

May 3

Pow Wow, 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.

May 5

Cinco de Mayo, 5 p.m.

May 6

Meditation, 7 p.m.

May 10

Diversity Awards

Banquet, 5:30 p.m.

May 13

Meditation, 7 p.m.

May 20

Meditation, 7 p.m.

College Calendar

May 1

GOLD Leadership: Women in Business, 6:30 p.m.

May 2

Sigma Xi Student Research

Symposium, 1:30 p.m.

Celebration of Creative

Inquiry, 5 p.m.

May 3

Honors Day

Festival of Dionysus, 3:30 p.m.

Anime Club, 6 p.m.

May 4

Sacred Space, 8 p.m.

May 5

Opening Reception for Senior

Show, 4 p.m.

Net Impact Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May 6

Proclaim, 9 p.m.

May 7

The Devil Came on Horseback, 7 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer, 7:30 p.m.

Swing Night, 9 p.m.

May 8

Sudan at War with Itself, 7 p.m.

Fefu and Her Friends, 8 p.m.

Fellowship of Christian

Athletes, 8:45 p.m.

May 9

Student Film Festival, 6 p.m.

Fefu and Her Friends, 8 p.m.

May 10

Vesak, 10 a.m.

Anime Club, 6 p.m.

Outdoor Movie:

Definitely, Maybe, 8:30 p.m.

May 11

Fefu and Her Friends, 8 p.m.

May 12

Elias Chacour, 10:30 a.m.

Net Impact Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May 13

Proclaim, 9 p.m.

May 14

Holden Evening prayer, 7:30p.m.

Swing Night, 9 p.m.

May 15

George Hall Lecture, 7 p.m.

May 17

Anime Club, 6 p.m.

May 19

Net Impact Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

May 20

Proclaim, 9 p.m.

May 21

Final day of classes

May 22

Reading Day