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Diversity Center

C. Charles Jackson
Campus Center
Phone: 507-933-7449
gustavus.edu/diversity

Virgil Jones

Director of Multicultural
Programs
vjones@gustavus.edu

Laura Shilling

Administrative Assistant
lshillin@gustavus.edu

GUSTAVUS 

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

MAKE YOUR LIFE **COUNT**

at the center

with Virgil Jones



Virgil Jones

The Diversity Leadership Council and the Diversity Center would like to salute the graduating seniors of 2010 who have given a great deal of time and energy to the Diversity Center and the greater campus community at Gustavus Adolphus College. We applaud students who made films, produce documentaries, championed multicultural sororities, performed in social justice theatre, participated in the execution of "Diversity Week," and contributed in other ways 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. We value the gifts that you gave to the campus community.

Each of the following students created a new level of consciousness on our campus and will receive, as part of our recent tradition, the "Diversity Stole" to wear during commencement. The Diversity Leadership Council and the Diversity Center would like to say thank you and recognize these students for their distinguished contributions:

Virgil Jones

Khalid Al-Amin
Anna Bauer
Ignacio Belmonte
Amara Berthelsen
Allison Cooney
Kelsey Cowdin
Jokotola Edu
Emma Ellingson
Jennifer Forrest
Stephy Gao
Pang Her
Daniel Jackson
Shane Jensen
Chelsea Kramer
Emily Kuenker
Cheng Lee
Jennifer Lee
Alex Legeros
Sean Maertens
Margaret Mattison
Lauren Matykowski
Linda Moua
Pa Kou Moua
Andrew Nelson

Eric Noun
Kaitlyn O'Bryan
Ifeoma Okolo
Johanna Olmstead
Hamada Omar
Allison Oppenheimer
Emily Orlaska
Gilles Ouedraogo
Jacob Patridge
Bryan Pelach
Emily Phillippe
Jeanifer Poon
Jigme Ritzakura
Rebekah Schulz
Amanda Skarpol
Brittany Stewart
Abdul Suleyman
Jennifer Tejada
Yer Vang
Mengdi Wu
Chenyu Yang
Cynthia Yang
Karchar Yang
Tony Yang

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Higher Ground

diversity center newsletter



organizational focus

The International Cultures Club (ICC)

The International Cultures Club (ICC) is a student organization that brings international and American students together to promote international awareness and appreciation of different cultures. ICC has organized many cultural events throughout the year that are open to the Gustavus community, the most exciting being the International Festival, which featured food, music, dancing, and a fashion show from many cultures around the world.

The International Cultures Club also provides its members with opportunities to interact with members of cultural organizations from other schools.

department focus

The Department of English

By Sean Cobb

Gustavus Adolphus College, the Diversity Center, and the English Department strive to broaden our understanding of diversity in all of its manifestations—race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, gender and religion—by including a particular attention to diversity in our lives. Part of what makes the English Department, literature, and creative writing so exciting is their ability to expose readers to a multitude of stories, perspectives, and ideas, giving insight to past times, others' lives, and the complex moral and social issues that comprise our world.

Our English students describe literature's ability to connect them to the diverse experience of others:

"Literature serves as a way to enrich our minds, and presents a way to improve the world not only through the beauty of its presence but through the ideas and tangible possibilities it possesses."

And:

"The window to humanity that lies at the heart of all literature can act as a sort of connecting portal to the culture surrounding each individual author. "

I want to introduce you to the English Department at Gustavus Adolphus College. We are a large department and we serve a large segment of the college population. If you love reading or writing, or both, and you've been thinking about taking a course that immerses you in the high-octane discussion and writing about literature, fiction, poetry, film, and non-fiction, then you should consider a course in the English Department. We offer majors with an emphasis on literature, creative writing, and film. You can declare an English minor or take an English course for LARS credit or plain old fun. Check out our website and think about what English has to offer.

student profile



Jennifer Lee

Hi all, my name is Jennifer Lee and I will be leaving Gustavus Adolphus College with a BA in political science and philosophy with honors, as well as memories spent with several student organizations. Growing up, I witnessed groups or individuals acclimating into the mainstream culture but at the cost of their own integrity. I am acutely aware of these issues in society. The D Center gathers momentum to encounter those issues with a peaceful and positive force. The D Center is also my chill spot—a place of solace, enlightenment, and laughter.

Since my first year, my research and writing evolved from rudimentary to scholarly and perceptive. Virgil Jones—the director

who practically lives inside the D Center—is probably unaware that I borrowed some of his forward but tactful, passionate but calm, and honest but kind ways of speaking to use in rigorous class discussions. It often helped fashion my obnoxious comments on controversial topics or critical analyses into less threatening and more poignant observations.

A facet of the person that I am today developed from my mom asking Virgil to call her if I ever stirred up trouble, which I laughed off—that was how I met Virgil. Many good years here with the D to the Center.

I aspire to pursue law school or graduate school or both. If you want to know more about GAC or the D Center, now is the time to ask me questions. I promise answers full of wonder. Swing by!

“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.”

~ Gandhi

goings on

Diversity Events

Tuesday, May 4

Cinco de Mayo Celebration
5:00–7:00 p.m. | Alumni Hall

Saturday, May 8

Festival of Dionysus
2:00–3:30 p.m. | Linnaeus Arboretum

Saturday, May 8

Diversity Awards Banquet
6:00–8:00 p.m. | Alumni Hall

Tuesday, May 11

White Privilege Conference Delegation Capstone
Presentation
5:00–7:00 p.m. | Courtyard Café

Wednesday, May 12

Diversity Center Year End BBQ
4:30–6:30 p.m. | Johns Family Courtyard

College Calendar

Tuesday, May 4

Magnuson Award Program
7:00–8:30 p.m. | Heritage Room

Wednesday, May 5

Real Life Seminar for Seniors: Staying Connected
6:30–7:30 p.m. | Campus Banquet Rooms

Saturday, May 8

Festival of Dionysus
2:00–3:30 p.m. | Linnaeus Arboretum

Thursday, May 20

Reading Day

Sunday, May 30

Commencement 2010

spotlight on

World Watch and **Cultural Connections** are brought to you by the Crossroads Program. 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

Myanmar: Ministers ‘Quit Military’ — More than 20 senior officials in Myanmar’s military government have reportedly given up their uniforms in an apparent move to run as civilians in national elections expected to be held later this year. Under the rules of the election a quarter of the seats in Myanmar’s new parliament will be reserved for the armed forces. If military officials run as civilians, they would not fall under that quota and could potentially take more seats in the chamber

Ukraine: Nationalists Throw Eggs and Smoke Bombs in Kiev Parliament — Opposition lawmakers hurled eggs and smoke bombs inside Ukraine’s parliament on April 27 as the chamber approved a deal allowing the Russian navy to extend its stay in a Ukrainian port until 2042. Thousands of opposition demonstrators rallied outside the parliament building as deputies from the newly elected president Viktor Yanukovich’s coalition approved a 25-year extension to the Russian Black Sea fleet’s base at Sevastopol, in Crimea. Ukrainian nationalists see the base as a betrayal of Ukraine’s national interests, wanting it removed when the existing lease runs out in 2017.

United Nations: U.N. Council Suggests Special Somali Piracy Courts — The U.N. Security Council has suggested creating special piracy courts to respond to the costly attacks on merchant ships off the Somali coast. A Russian-drafted resolution passed unanimously by the 15-nation council asked U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to report back within three months on ways of prosecuting pirates, some of whom currently go free even if they are captured. The resolution, a rare Russian initiative on the council, expressed concern over such cases, calling them a failure that “undermines anti-piracy efforts of the international community.”

Cultural Connection

May 1 — Beltane (Celtic): Beltane is a Celtic festival which signals the beginning pastoral summer season, when the herds of livestock were driven out to the summer pastures and mountain grazing lands. The festival begins on Beltane Eve with two bonfires started from nine different woods. Domestic animals and people pass between the bonfires to eliminate disease and misfortune.

May 5 — Cinco de Mayo (Mexico, United States): Cinco de Mayo commemorates the May 5, 1862, Battle of Puebla in which General Ignacio Zaragoza’s Mexican troops defeated Napoleon III’s French forces. Many people confuse Cinco de Mayo with Mexican Independence Day (September 16, 1810). Cinco de Mayo is celebrated more in the United States than in Mexico and many people of Mexican descent celebrate with parades, music, and dancing.

May 21 — Yom Hashoah or Holocaust Memorial Day (Jewish): Observed as Israel’s day of commemoration for the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. In Israel, it is a national holiday. The national flag is lowered to half staff, and during a massive public ceremony, the President and the Prime Minister deliver speeches while Holocaust survivors light six torches symbolizing the approximately six million Jews who perished.