



Expressions

The Newsletter of The Office of Multicultural Affairs

March 2009

From The Director — Bill Green '77



Bill Green '77, Vanessa Trice Peter '93, Robert Montjoy '96, Bill Green II '06, and Bromwell Reid '97

Winter greetings from the Hill!

I hope this edition of Expressions finds you nestled in the comfort of a “warm” home with family and friends. While March gives hope for nearby spring, the winter chill still lingers.

This edition of Expressions will warm your heart with fond memories of “the Hill” and beyond. The year 2009 opened

with the historical inauguration of the 44th President of these United States, Barak H. Obama, the first African-American President! On “the Hill” the televised inauguration day experience was marked with campus-wide viewing in residence halls, offices and classrooms. We, like many of you, were glad to witness this historic occasion. Speaking of historic occasions and events, I want to give another plug for the St. Olaf Multicultural Alumni Network (MCAN). MCAN’s purpose is to provide a network for multicultural alumni; the opportunity to reconnect in a meaningful way to St. Olaf classmates. Recently, Febru-

ary 1st, I connected with Vanessa Trice Peter '93 in Los Angeles, California. She hosted a reception for prospective students and alumni in her LA home. The venture between MACO, Admissions, and alumni was a success. Future plans are to host regular events(s) in the coming year. Spread the word and get involved! For more information about MCAN, check out the St. Olaf web site: www.stolaf.edu/alumni/MCAN.

Again, thank you for reading, and we look forward to hearing from you.



MACO Students enjoy watching the inauguration of Barak H. Obama, 44th President of the United States of America.

Our Staff

- Bill Green '77— Director
- Lynn Higgins—Admin. Asst.

Student Workers

- Shiquita Bradford '09
- Fish Gebreyesus '11
- Antonia Jennings '10
- Huguette Kihutu '11
- Mejenta Littsey '11
- Cheryl Philip '10
- Kristina Poplavska '09
- Jose Ramirez '09
- Kyla Riley '11
- Alisha Woodson '12
- Sue Xiong '09
- Nou Yang '11
- Tiffany Cunningham '12— Student Editor

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Interim Abroad—China/Japan

- Nou Yang '11

My name is Nou Yang and I am currently a second year student here at St. Olaf College. I am planning to major in Asian Studies with a concentration in Management Studies.

As a member of the Asian Conversations program, I was able to go to China and Japan this interim. The course was called "Meet Sojourners," which mainly focused on fieldwork and ethnographic observations. The new Asian Conversations program allows participants to study three weeks in the country language they studied and one week in the other. Professor Katherine Tegtmeyer Pak led our class successfully and took great care of us. Through this trip I expected to use my Japanese language skills that I have acquired, learn more about Chinese and Japanese lifestyle, as well as their cultural differences.

Our class arrived in Beijing first. Despite the chilly weather, I was able to find some comfort. We stayed in dormitories at Beijing Foreign Studies University and had Chinese roommates. Having no background in Chinese language, I felt nervous, but eve-

ryone around us was very friendly and willing to help out. The highlight of my China trip would have to be walking on the Great Wall because of its historical importance and fame.

After one adventurous week in China, it was time for Japan. The weather conditions there were fairly sunny, warm, and windy, which I prefer to Minnesota's weather. The majority of people in Japan moved pretty fast in the train stations, which displayed their busy nature. In Japan, we also lived in dormitories off campus, and had to commute to class on weekdays. During my stay, I was very interested in the youth culture and how they interacted with one another. Through our ethnographic observations and various site visits, I was able to get an idea of how the youth spent their academic and leisure time. We had class at Meikai University and were able interview the students about family and student life. One of my favorite sites was Harajuku Takeshita Dori, a shopping and popular hangout area among the youth, which I chose as one of my observation sites.

Throughout my trip to China and Japan, I was able to understand and experience the lifestyle of students and individuals. Through the texts that we read and people that we interviewed, I learned many things about their culture and the importance of their society. For example in Japan, occupations and duties are prioritized over the individual. In China, many students are family orientated.

Overall, I am satisfied with this interim trip. I am very glad that St. Olaf offers the Asian Conversations program. This opportunity gave me better insight into Chinese and Japanese culture, not only through textbooks, but physically and personally as well.



Nou on the Great Wall

STEM Program

- Jose Ramirez '09

STEM was designed to enhance and encourage students majoring in the fields of **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)** by creating a casual and open learning environment through organized social events and peer mentoring.

The STEM Program was established by the National Science Foundation in accordance with the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998. This helped support and ensure that under-represented minorities could achieve academic excellence by means of a continuous programmatic support during their undergraduate, and graduate years. The STEM program offers academic and tutoring support services to help students prepare for various challenges.

Biologists for the Future is a new program at St. Olaf intended to guide students through the biology major and prepare them for meaningful scientific careers. Funded through an S-STEM grant from the National Science Foundation, the goal is to actively recruit and then support the biology major students with significant financial need, especially those from populations traditionally underrepresented in the sciences.

Another program funded by this grant is; **Encouraging Careers in the Mathematical Sciences (ECMS)** which is open to St. Olaf students who intend to graduate with a major in mathematics and are interested in pursuing careers in the mathematical sciences.

The newest of the three programs here at St. Olaf is; **Providing Support Structures for Chemistry Majors (PSSCM)** which is for students who intend to graduate with a major in chemistry and are interested in pursuing careers in chemistry or other sciences.

The goal of the program is to not only to increase the number of chemistry majors at St. Olaf, but also prepare them to work in a scientific and technological-intensive world.

Current multicultural students participating in the STEM Program:

- Tenzin Choerap
- Kyle Glanton
- Jose Ramirez
- Ma Xiong
- Ngoc Quyen Duong
- Tseten Lobsang
- Dobuol Matt Ruon
- Jackie Yang
- Ian Gacheru
- Monica Martin
- Harold Staley
- Kosaizee Yang
- Fish Gebreyesus
- Essa Mohamed
- Isaac Tut
- Vue Yang



Photo Album from Los Angeles—February 2009

Alumni and Prospective Student Reception
Home of Josh & Vanessa Trice Peter '97
February 2009



Black History Month

- Kyla Riley '11

Black History Month was created by Carter G. Woodson in 1926. It started out as Negro History Week. Carter chose the Month of February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Black History Month is one of Cultural Union for Black Expression's (CUBE) main celebrations, along with the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. This year's theme was "Paving the Way and Taking the Lead". We kicked off the month with our opening in the crossroads. We performed dances from the mid 1900's and two-stepped our way into the present. We began with the twist, moved to the Hustle, ended with the popular teen phenomenon Soulja Boy's "Bird Walk", and there were many dances in between. The purpose of the dances was to show the progress in African American History, and we wanted to do something exciting and something that would get everyone involved.

Our next event was the Flashing lights Dance in the Pause with DJ INDY. The theme of the Dance was "Show your True Colors", so let's just say you didn't need lights to brighten up the Pause! The packed crowd and their illuminating outfits did the job just fine. That following Sunday, we hosted Signe Harri-day for a presentation on, "Paving Many Ways: The Indelible Gifts of a Leader." Prior to her presentation Ms. Harri-day joined the CUBE members for dinner. We had a chance to learn more about Signe and her outstanding resume. Signe Harri-day is an artist, teacher, trainer, actor, producer, and '97 Ole graduate. She is also Co-Founder of Mama Mosaic, a theatre collective for women of color. Her multi-talents were revealed by the end of her presentation, because she certainly moved the audience. Cheryl Philip '10 remarked, "One of our greatest gift is our

story. A leader is one who is rooted in that story and not afraid to fly and share it."

That following Wednesday, we had a Chapel Service with guest speaker Justin Fleming. Mr. Fleming is a '02 Ole grad and current Associate Director of Student Support Services (SSS). Mr. Fleming spoke on the theme of "Paving the Way and Taking the Lead." On Feb. 22nd, we showed the movie "The Miracle at St. Anna's" in the Gold Ballroom. The film stars Derek Luke and Michael Ealy. Set in 1944 Italy, four African American soldiers get trapped in a Tuscan Village during WWII. We then held a discussion at the Diversity Awareness House on Feb. 24th. We discussed various topics such as the controversy over Obama's ethnicity and whether or not Dr. King's dream had been fulfilled. We will also provided dinner, which will include foods commonly eaten in the African American community. We had a broad audience which allowed us to have an interesting conversation.

Next on our lists of events was the Loudest Form of



2009 *Loudest Form of Silence* Performers

Silence. This event gave women of color on campus a chance to express and share their story with the St. Olaf community. When director of the event Shiquita Bradford '09 was asked her opinion of the event, she stated, "The Loudest Form of Silence is by far my fa-



favorite event of the year. This event gives the opportunity for Women of Color to recognize that they have the power to keep their voice from being silenced. So often we remain silent, but during this performance... WE ARE HEARD! And it is a lovely feeling.”

We closed the month with our Banquet on March 1st at in the Gold and Sun Ballroom. During this event we will acknowledged Alumni Kathy McDow and she will also spoke on the theme, “Paving the Lead and Taking the Way.”

Kathy McDow is a '76 Ole graduate. She is a certified Human Resources professional, a licensed Gospel Minister, and she served as Vice President of Human Resources at Interfaith Community Care.

There has been lots of support from students as well as faculty and staff. With the continued involvement of

the hard working CUBE members, MACO and DCC, we ended the month wonderfully, and were very satisfied with the results. We look forward to the continuous support of our peers, faculty and staff.



Kathy McDow '76 and MACO Director, Bill Green '77

Senior Profile — Shiquita Bradford '09 - Tiffany Cunningham '12



Shiquita Bradford was born in Batesville, Mississippi and then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. She attended Washburn High School and is an only child.

She is a senior with a Social Worker major and a Japanese Studies concentration. While studying at St. Olaf, Shiquita has been involved in Cultural Union

for Black Expression (where she served as president for the 2007-2008 school year), Gospel Choir, and was the director of the 2009 Loudest Form of Silence: What It Is Like to be a Woman of Color.

Shiquita believes that St. Olaf prepares students for the real world, in terms of demographics and attitudes. She says, “It pushed me to work harder in changing the face of the corporate world or government, both in private and public sectors.”

After graduation, she plans to take a year off and gain social work

experience and study for the GRE. Afterward, she plans to apply to graduate school. As she reflects upon her time at St. Olaf, she calls it “A positive experience in which special friendships and bonds were made, and will be kept.”

Fun Fact:
Shiquita's favorite color is purple!

March 2009 St. Olaf College

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A Blast From The Past

Outside the "old MCSS Office" in the Administration Building 2000-2001.

Email your photos to:
multicultural@stolaf.edu



Mr. Green explains, "This is the way to do it, Thomas Trainer." - Spring 2001



Vanessa Trice Peter '93 and Nigma Jackson '95 at the 93-94 Harambee Conference.



Upcoming Events

March 2009

International Night—March 14 @ 7pm in the Pause

Women of Color Dinner at Professor Hepburn's Home—March 19 @ 5pm

Spring Break—March 21 through March 29

April 2009

Harambee Conference—April 4

Asia Weeks—April 1 through April 15

Viva La Raza—April 21 through May 5

May 2009

Cinco De Mayo—May 5

MACO Senior Banquet—May 6 @ 5:30 pm in Sun & Gold Ballrooms

MACO Senior/Alum Reception—May 24 @ 11am in Buntrock 111

Commencement—May 24 @ 2pm at Manitou Field



For more information on any of these events please contact our office at 507-786-3060 or email multicultural@stolaf.edu