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# Unity House News Spring 2012

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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

# UNITY HOUSE NEWS

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## Life as a DPE

by **Elena Rosario**  
Sophomore

### A Corner for Unity

Welcome back Camels!  
We hope your winter break was pleasant and you are all ready for the new semester. With the start of the new year, we look to keep you up to date with all of the Unity House events, programs and student achievements through our newsletter. We look forward to seeing you and hope you join us with all the events we're bringing you this month!

- Unity House Staff

Being a Diversity Peer Educator (DPE) was one of the best experiences I've had at Connecticut College. The year long program is designed to train students in facilitating conversations on campus about issues of diversity. I got to be a part of a small and intimate group of very dedicated students who all brought different types of activism experience.

The first semester we tackled very relevant issues of diversity, such as issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, classism and privilege. Here, I developed the skills to facilitate workshops on campus in the residence halls. The second semester was dedicated to each Diversity Peer Educator's project. The project had to be based on a diversity issue and I chose to base mine on gender, but more specifically on homophobia in athletics.

As someone who identifies as an ally to the LGBTQ community and an athlete, this issue was very important to me. I have been involved in sports my entire life. I am a skateboarder, rugby player, and sprinter on the Track and Field team. Furthermore, as a female athlete, I've witnessed the struggle that masculinity and femininity play in athletics. I started my research by exploring the notion of why the athletic culture is so homophobic. I took several classes on masculinity and femininity and throughout my research process I came across many interesting things that I would have never imagined. Still to date, there are not many openly gay athletes, often due to the lack of support, which at times results in very negative experiences.

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## Life as a DPE (cont.)

by Elena Rosario

Sophomore

...

I showcased my research through a presentation and student panel discussion. At first, I had a difficult time finding panelists. There were only three students I was able to invite because the other athletes I knew were either straight or not open about their sexuality. All in all, my project resulted in an inspiring dialogue led and joined by students, athletes, professors and coaches. Although there is a long way to go in ending homophobia in athletics, I'm so happy I am able to facilitate talks about it. Being a DPE prepared me for this. I would recommend this program to any student on this campus, it was a life changing experience and by far the most rewarding program I have ever been a part of at Connecticut College.

## CC'S FINEST: ANTHONY SIS '14

Anthony is a sophomore from Chicago, IL, majoring in International Relations. A very active student, Anthony is a Big Sib in the ALANA program. "I was a Lil Sib my freshman year and felt the need to pay it forward by being an ALANA Big Sib my sophomore year at Conn." Through ALANA, he has been able to participate in other activities, such as MOCA and the Camelbacks.

A great dancer and poet, Anthony has performed at several events and currently holds the secretary position for RefleXion, Conn's Spoken Word Poetry group. "We have performed a few shows since our year and a half of existence, but the group's presence has exploded tremendously on campus. Our amazing new members have truly solidified our presence on campus by reflecting their diverse backgrounds from all walks of life." In addition, Anthony and Asia Calcagno '14 (RefleXion's Vice President) are establishing a spoken word group at the New London High School and the Science & Technology Magnet High School in collaboration with OVCS. Through OVCS, Anthony has stayed very involved in volunteer work. "Currently, I am an AVID tutor at New London High School, working with high school freshman to encourage

higher-level thinking through a collaborative learning experience with their fellow peers."

Anthony is now a Diversity Peer Educator and a PICA scholar. His interest lies within properly educating youth about the importance and relevance of HIV/AIDS in society. In October 2011, Anthony was given the opportunity to become Conn's GYT (Get Yourself Tested) Campus Ambassador and write an article for MTV's IYSL (It's Your Sex Life) Blog about the importance of acknowledging HIV/AIDS among the Latino community in honor of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (October 15th). "Through PICA and DPE, I hope to expand my knowledge of how other factors such as race, gender, sexuality, and socioeconomic status, all contribute to the AIDS pandemic in the United States and in other countries."



## CC POETRY

## DOUBLE DUTCH BY KELLI BANISTER '13

*I miss double dutch dates.*

*Rope kissing black tar rivers with whimsical innocence...*

*Sun dancing in door knockers and name plated jewelry as they jirate*

*to the rhythms of freeing ignorance of that street past -- present.*

*Strawberry shortcake cream on top,*

*tell me the name of your sweetheart.*

*Is it A, B, C, D, E...*

*Do they even notice the black cherry stains on the concrete,*

*or the chalk marks on the street outlining plausible paths of their future.*

*Casings in the gutter left to mirror the shell of a city consumed by temptation and greed;*

*motherland babies jumping into ropes of destiny's making,*

*hoping that chance and misfortune don't kiss*

*and tangle fate with death by coincidence.*

*Too busy keeping the beat to realize their inhalation of sweet smoke*

*all but reddening their eyes with poisonous social and political pollution*

*all too common in their urban community*

*All this because time has little patience for childhood,*

*and life has no time for fear,*

*so God gave innocence reign by default over his and her first few years*

*Don't let your shortcoming define the length of your journey*

*Today you will rejoice so that tomorrow you can fight.*

*So ladies... jump, dance, laugh, and live*

*because their will be way more in life for you to navigate than those ropes;*

*more obstacles to jump than in your-- hopscotch,*

*more adversity to inhale than that pollution you now breath--*

*please..*

*Build bridges to your future and tower the slum of foundations afforded you.*

*let stones of socialized stratification role over the crests of your back*

*because like those ropes*

*society is unforgiving and ever intolerant of hesitation,*

*so think quick before your broken dreams drown in seas of foes*

*and your hopes for green turn blue from lack of sparkling yellow hopes for gold*

*play their games, but do it better...*

*reach higher, and stare harder.*

*Be our soldiers...*

*so that your children can have double dutch dates too.*



## ABOUT ME



**Name:** Leslie Martinez

**Year:** Junior

**Major:** Sociology

**Hometown:** Los Angeles, CA

**Extra Curricular:** Admission Ambassador, Lambda Gamma Room Monitor, M.E.Ch.A., S.H.E. Program and Unity House Monitor.

**Fellowship:** NUPF (NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program)

**NUPF Alum/Mentor:** Frida Rodriguez, Central Campus Area Coordinator

**Comments:** "I really enjoyed my summer working as an Admissions Ambassador at Conn. At that point, I didn't realize I can make a career out of it until the EXODUS Life After College event at Unity House. There was a panel of administrators sharing their stories of how they got to where they are now. I was able to find out more about Student Affairs and programs like the NASPA Undergraduate Fellows Program. With the help of Melanie (Assistant Director of Unity House), Dean Garcia and Frida (Central Campus Area Coordinator), I now am a NUPF Fellow. I get to participate in webinars, attend conferences and receive one-on-one mentoring from Frida. I feel so much more prepared for the real world."

## Fellowships, Internships, Conferences and more!

### BLACK SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

Yale University. February 16 - 19, 2012. This year, BSC will be comprised of panels and discussions that will look specifically at perceptions of sexuality as unifiers and dividers of the black community. [www.yale.edu/bsc/](http://www.yale.edu/bsc/)

### CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS INSTITUTE, INC.

CHCI is dedicated to increase opportunities for Hispanics to participate in and contribute to the American policy making process. They provide internships, fellowships and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students. [www.chci.org/education\\_center/page/for-students](http://www.chci.org/education_center/page/for-students)

### EAST COAST ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT UNION

ECAASU seeks to inspire, educate, and empower those interested in Asian American issues. It is the oldest and largest Asian American student organization in the nation and one of the most widely attended student conferences in the country. [www.ecaasu.org/site/](http://www.ecaasu.org/site/)

### NASPA UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM (NUPF)

This mentoring program allows students to explore and better understand the field of student affairs. Students are provided with the foundation to establish a mentoring relationship at their institution, and are given the opportunity to attend a national conference, participate in paid internships, and in the Summer Leadership Institute. [www.naspa.org/programs/nupf/](http://www.naspa.org/programs/nupf/)

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS

University of Maryland, College Park. May 31-June 2, 2012. NCCWSL is the only conference that brings together college women to address important and contemporary leadership issues. The conference provides a transformative experience for attendees to return home ready to improve their campuses and their communities. [www.nccwsl.org/](http://www.nccwsl.org/)

### NATIONAL DOMINICAN STUDENT CONFERENCE

Brown University. April 6-8, 2012. Each year, NDSC strives to bring workshops, speakers, movie screenings, art exhibitions, networking events, and parties - all of which serve to educate, uplift, and unite the Dominican college student community. [www.dominicanstudentconference.com/](http://www.dominicanstudentconference.com/)

### SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAINING INSTITUTE (SJTI)

University of San Francisco. Summer 2012. The SJTI provides an opportunity for individuals committed to issues of inclusion to develop their skills in the areas of dialogue and connectedness. This is an opportunity for students to gather and do some "personal work" related to social justice issues. [www.sjti.org/home\\_student.html](http://www.sjti.org/home_student.html)

### PUERTO RICAN STUDENT CONFERENCE

Yale University. March 30-31, 2012. The PRSC looks to establish a cohesive network of Puerto Rican students, foster a constructive academic debate about the most efficient ways in which the island can achieve its full potential and discuss social, political and economic issues of importance in Puerto Rico. <http://www.yale.edu/despertaboricua/prsc/index.html>

## UNITY HOUSE PROGRAMS BRING YOU ONE STEP CLOSER!

### ALANA

The ALANA Big Sister/Brother Program is a mentoring program for incoming freshmen of color and first generation college students. First-year students, "Lil' Sibs", are paired with an upperclassman who serves as their "Big Sib" throughout their freshmen year.

### 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.

### EXODUS

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.

## VISIT UNITY HOUSE FOR MORE INFORMATION!



# Fall 2011 Pictures!

## ALANA

Little Sibs! ✨

Big Sibs waiting the arrival of their Little Sibs



## LATINO HERITAGE MONTH CONVOCATION



Liana Guzman '05, is a Brand Manager at a law firm in NYC! ✨

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Winona LaDuke is a Native American activist, environmentalist, economist, and writer. ✨



## S.H.E. PROGRAM



## M.O.C.A



## UNITY HOUSE WINTER JUBILEE



PARTY!





# AREN'T INVOLVED YET?

**It's not too late!**

The Unity House Student groups  
always welcome new members.

## ATLAS

International Student  
Organization

## Camel Backs

Step Performing Group  
**Contact: Diamond Howell,**  
dhowell@conncoll.edu

## CCASA

The Connecticut College Asian/  
Asian American Student  
Association

**Contact: Harris Vu,**  
hvu@conncoll.edu

## Eclipse

Performance Group  
**Contact: Anakena Paddon,**  
apaddon@conncoll.edu

## Gospel Choir

Performance Group  
**Contact: Hilary Coleman,**  
hcoleman@conncoll.edu

## FUSION 11/11/11

*An anticipated event,  
CCASA put on yet  
another big success!*



## La Unidad

Latino Student Organization  
**Contact: Kathryn Arroyo,**  
karroyo@conncoll.edu

## M.E.Ch.A.

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano  
de Aztlan  
**Contact: Rocio Garcia,**  
rgarcia@conncoll.edu

## S.O.A.R.

The Society Organized  
Against Racism  
**Contact: Grace Gunderson,**  
ggunders@conncoll.edu

## UMOJA

The African/African American  
students' organization  
**Contact: Jannette Rivera,**  
jrivera@conncoll.edu

## DR. KING SERVICE AWARDS

### 2012 RECIPIENTS

Unity House congratulates all the 2012 Dr. King Service  
Award recipients!

Faculty Award - Mab Segrest, Professor of Gender & Women's Studies

Staff Award - Kiesha Henry, Staff Assistant, OVCS & Holleran Center

Student Award - Jazmin Long, Class of 2012



"I am beyond honored to have been chosen to  
receive this award, this means more to me than  
any recognition I have received during my time  
at Connecticut College." - Jazmin Long '12



## JOIN US FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

### TASTE OF THE BLUES

Thursday, February 2nd @ 10:00pm  
Crozier-Williams, Cro's Nest  
SELE presents a night of music, food and history with a live performance by Young Neal and the Vipers.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONVOCATION

Monday, February 6th @ 7:00pm  
Crozier-Williams, 1941 Room  
Alumni speaker: Catherine Young '75, the Groton-New London Airport Manager. Student speakers: Tonesha Hunt '12 and Metika Ngbokoli '15.

### "SEX RATIOS AND THE BLACK FAMILY FORMATION"

Tuesday, February 7th @ 4:30pm 740 Williams Street  
CCSRE and GWS presents a talk led by professor Terry-Ann Craigie.

### YOUTH UNDER SIEGE & THE RIGHT TO RESEARCH

Monday, February 13th @ 4:15pm  
Ernst Common Room, Blaustein  
Holleran Center presents Michelle Find, PH.D, a distinguish professor of Social Psychology, Women Studies, and Urban Education from The CUNY Graduate School.

## Diversity Resource Library

Located in the Conference Room at Unity House!

### DIVERSITY SUMMIT

Friday, February 17th @ 7:00pm  
Crozier-Williams, 1941 Room  
The Diversity Summit discusses the important topics concerning diversity at Conn. This year's topic will be bias incidents at Conn and how we can deal with them as a community.

### LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE BLACK COMMUNITY DINNER

Sunday, February 19th @ 7:00pm  
Crozier-Williams, 1962 Room  
UMOJA presents a night of dinner, speakers, poetry and dance. Limited seating. Open to the first 60 people.

### "ON FRANCOPHONE CARIBBEAN CINEMA"

Tuesday, February 21st @ 4:30pm 740 Williams Street  
CCSRE and GWS presents a talk led by professor Catherine Benoit.

### SPOKEN IDENTITIES

Saturday, February 25th @ 7:00pm  
Crozier-Williams, Cro's Nest  
The Unity House Interns present a night of spoken word with New London's Writer's Block Ink, and Conn's spoken word group, Reflexions.

### SEXUALITY AND THE BLACK CHURCH

Tuesday, February 25th @ 7:30pm Harkness Chapel  
Rev. Charles Rice will explore the biblical, ethical and practical aspects of sexuality and the variety of responses and practices in the mainline Protestant and Black churches.

### February's Featured Books (A-Z)

1. Afro-Latin@ Reader
2. American Karma
3. Asian American Studies Now
4. Colonize This!
5. Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting
6. Gay Latino Studies
7. What Are You?
8. White Like Me
9. "Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?"
10. Why White Kids Love Hip Hop

### BOOK OF THE MONTH

I would have to recommend "The Afro-Latin@ Reader" by Miriam Jimenez Roman and Juan Flores. It really pushed the lines between Afro-Latinos and "White" Latinos in the U.S. and abroad, giving you the clear understanding of the division caused by the perceived stigma of being African American. A stigma can often result in downplaying, underplaying or even ignoring one's African roots in order to "succeed" in a very Black and White American. This book really does provide a kaleidoscopic view of Black Latin@s in the United States and I recommend it to all.

Melanie Pagan  
Assistant Director of Unity House

### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UNITY HOUSE

Please visit [www.conncoll.edu](http://www.conncoll.edu)  
or [facebook.com/pages/Unity-House/135451797211](https://facebook.com/pages/Unity-House/135451797211)

Call us at 860-439-2628  
Email us at [unityhouse@conncoll.edu](mailto:unityhouse@conncoll.edu)