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## Unity House News Winter 2013

Connecticut College

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

# UNITY HOUSE NEWS

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## A CORNER FOR UNITY

Wow! It's December already! So much has happened at Unity House and we thank you all for being with us this semester. As we look to celebrate the new year, we bring you pictures and articles of the November events and shed light to the accomplishments of one of our interns. Please make sure to swing by Unity house for an ALANA Big Sib application and our Brain Boost Break on Monday, December 16th!

- Unity House Staff



## “Reconnecting with Our Native Brothers & Sisters”

This November marked a very special month at Unity House. Through the efforts of students, staff, and faculty, we welcomed our neighbors, the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, to our campus.

The month began with student lead events that help spread awareness of current Native American issues in Connecticut and throughout the

nation. Students showed films and documentaries, lead group discussions, and brought in leading professors and scholars from Massachusetts.

We also held the Native American Heritage Month Convocation with the amazing support of the Unity House staff, and our very own Christine Roundtree '15.

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## Unity House Intern Spotlight



JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ '14

As a senior majoring in Psychology and minoring in History, Jennifer Rodriguez spent the first half of this year in France where she learned so much about independence and self-confidence, and was able to participate in things she would have never thought possible.

During the spring semester of her junior year Jennifer was in Paris, brushing up on her language skills to prepare herself for her CISLA internship that she conducted in the south of France this past summer. She served as an intern at the Museum of the French Revolution, in a small town called Vizille, where she plans to use the knowledge gained to work on her Senior Integrative Project. Her project focuses on child witnesses through revolutionary periods while using Marie-Antoinette's daughter, Marie Thérèse Charlotte, as a case-study.

She has also received a travel grant from CISLA to return to France during her Spring Break to continue her research and gain further insight on her project. After graduation, Jennifer hopes to be accepted into the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program to prepare her for a future career in Cross-Cultural Consulting.

# Native American Heritage Month Convocation

by **Melanie Pagan**

Assistant Director of Unity House

This event brought in an audience of students, staff, faculty, and over twenty members of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation. Elder Norma Parish opened the event with a prayer and Unity House intern, Kevin Zevallos '16, shared a reflective piece as part of his welcome. The Unity House Interns then presented an informative powerpoint about the history of the Pequot Tribal Nation and current challenges faced in their battle to receive federal recognition from the government.

Poet Natasha Grambel, student at Eastern Connecticut State University, performed a very powerful piece that reflected on the day that the tribe was denied federal recognition, followed by a beautiful song of thanksgiving by Sheri Jones. The event then concluded with a speech by alumnae Alexandra Owens who eloquently spoke of her time at Conn and her passion to represent and educate others on the contemporary Native. We were so happy to have Alexandra back at Conn and we can't wait to work with her, and the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, once again!

## NAHM CONVOCATION



✧ Poet Natasha Grambel (left) and Conn Alumnae Alexandra Owens (below)



✧ Members of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation posing for a picture after NAHM Convocation



## ALUMNI SPEAKER: ALEXANDRA (ALI) OWENS '08



**Alexandra Owens** grew up in West Hartford, CT and is a tribal member of the Historic Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation where she goes by the name "Singing Bird." Alexandra graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Connecticut College in 2008 majoring in Biology and minoring in Art. Most recently she graduated from the University of Hartford Post-Baccalaureate Premedical program which encompassed all premedical prerequisite courses required for admission to medical school. In addition to her studies, Alexandra was a

Social Media Marketer, Web Marketer and Community Outreach Coordinator for one of the most popular entertainment ticket sites in the country for nearly five years. She resigned this year to begin studying for the MCAT, writing her mother's biography and working on the tribal website. She is also a freelance baker and likes to volunteer for anti-hunger organizations. In the next year she hopes to gain clinical and/or laboratory experience and begin the exciting process of applying to medical school.

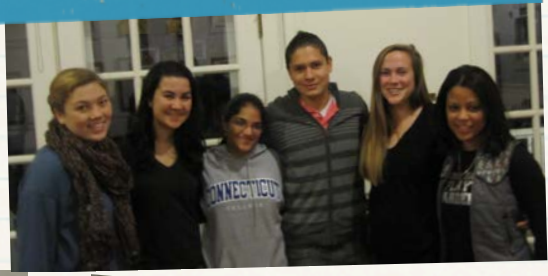
# Fall 2013 Pictures!



**SHE PROGRAM**



**DIVERSITY PEER EDUCATORS**



**MOCA PROGRAM**

**INTERN NAHM EVENT**



**RISE RETREAT**



## ALANA Big Sib Applications are now available!



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN MENTORING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS?

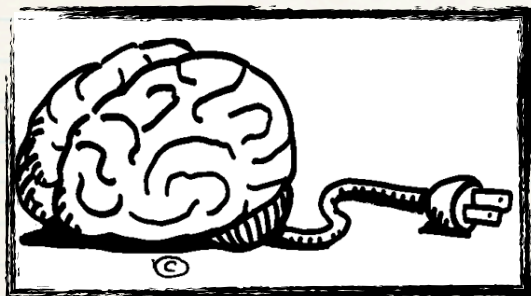
Swing by Unity House for a Big Sib application! Whether you were in ALANA or not, all interested candidates are encouraged to apply!

Deadline is Friday, December 13th!

## FINALS ARE COMING UP!

MAKE SURE TO GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK!

## B3 - BRAIN BOOST BREAK!



**Monday, December 16**  
**Unity House**  
**8-10pm**

**Snacks, refreshments,  
raffle prizes, and more!**

### OVCS Community Learning Thank You

Friday, December 6  
1941 Room, Cro, 4pm

### “Top-25 Most LGBTQ Friendly College” Celebration

Monday, December 9  
Ernst Common Room,  
Blaustein, 4:30 - 6pm

## Diversity Resource Library

Located in the Conference  
Room at Unity House!

### Featured Books

1. **Thirteen Ways of Looking at A Black Man** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
2. **The African American Century** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Cornel West
3. **Dreaming In Cuban** by Christina Garcia
4. **Invisible No More** by Pedro Noguera, Aida Hurtado, and Edward Fergus
5. **Living With Racism** by Joe R. Feagin and Melvin P. Sikes
6. **The Mixquiahuala Letters** by Ana Castillo
7. **Strangers From A Different Shore** by Ronald Takaki
8. **Beyond Black** by Keey Ann Rockquemore and David L. Brunson
9. **Sister Citizen** by Melissa V. Harris Perry
10. **Hunger Of Memory** by Richard Rodriguez

### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT UNITY HOUSE

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