



HOPE COLLEGE

# OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

FALL 2011



## Fall Semester Highlights

### Promoting Cultural Competency:

In continuing Hope's commitment to building cultural competency on campus, the Office of Multicultural Education (OME) engaged audiences of 30-200 in conversations about diversity. OME facilitated interactive workshops for Campus Dining, Resident Directors, the Student Leadership Team, Residential Assistants, and Orientation staff. Additional groups who've participated in diversity trainings led by OME include the Van Wylen Library staff and Student Congress. Interested in a tailored training session to fit your organization/department? Contact us today!

### Transitioning to College Gets a Fresh Start:

By La'Shawn Donelson

The class of 2015 began fall semester with an exciting new start. OME partnered with Student Life and Campus Ministries to pilot a program called Step2Success. The program assists ethnically underrepresented first-year students in adapting to Hope's environment as well as gaining a bountiful supply of resources and networks and expanding cross cultural friendships. Twenty-six incoming freshmen and their families arrived one day early and were greeted with a warm welcome from various student leaders, professors, administrators and Parent Council representatives. Activities included a dinner, a tour of downtown Holland, a luncheon and a dessert reception.

During each event, presentations gave students and their parents an introduction to the academic rigor of the college and resources to assist them in their acclimation to Hope, with the primary goal of preparing them to succeed in their college careers and endeavors. Students also joined together for an evening of community building. "Step2Success is a great jump-off point for students in their first year to build a connection with other students and professors, as well as learn about OME and other organizations on campus" said participant Alyzza Guzman ('15).

Additional groups contributing to the program's success include the Multicultural Affairs Committee, Alumni Relations, Admissions, and various student leaders. Follow up S2S programs will include a focus on social adjustment, academic and career success, student/faculty networks and cultural enrichment.

### Inside this Issue:

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### Mission

*Guided by Christian faith, the Office of Multicultural Education serves as a haven of support and celebration of racial/ethnic diversity and academic excellence, providing educational and developmental opportunities aimed at preparing all members of the campus and community to thrive in a diverse and global world.*

### What We Do:

- Cultural Competency
- Leadership Development
- Advocacy
- Student Support & Mentoring
- Student Organizations



## Empowering Leadership:



Student joined us in another Hope tradition at Camp BeechPoint in Allegan, MI on September 17th. OME's annual Multicultural Student Leadership Retreat provides students an opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills, think critically about cultural identity, and build relationships with the staff of Multicultural Education. This year's guest speaker, Dr. John Lee from Michigan State University, designed a workshop focusing on the significance of building multicultural leaders in the context of a predominately white elite Christian college campus. His aim in providing history and leading students through various exercises was to facilitate personal learning and empower action for social justice.

## Student Highlights:

Two students reflect on opportunities gained and ways in which they have grown as a result of their involvement in OME.

### Dasola Ekunseitan:

This past summer Dasola "Kara" Ekunseitan ('13) was accepted into and received a \$6,000 scholarship from the University of Chicago's Summer Business Scholar's Program, an opportunity she saw highlighted by OME. As a participant Kara enrolled in Finance, Accounting and Marketing courses, visited several Chicago based corporations and start-up companies, and received various other forms of professional training. This program allowed her the opportunity to "reflect and mold" her leadership roles at Hope College. It is through her involvement with OME that Kara has had access to such opportunities. She believes OME to be "a pivotal resource in offering opportunities which fosters the development of personal, spiritual, academic and professional success." Kara describes the staff of OME as "hard working people who care about you and your passions."

### Yessenia Aguirre:

During the spring 2011 semester, Yessenia Aguirre ('12) participated in the Border Studies Program. This program is based in Tucson, Arizona and incorporated travel seminars to Sonora (the Mexican border State with Arizona), Guatemala, and southern Mexico. The main focus of the program was to study the effects of migration and its political issues. "My group and I learned about the complexities, sensibility and problems with migration. Most importantly we learned how this issue not only affects border states, but also impacts entire countries. Studying such a domestic issue made me realize how crucial it is to inform others about what I am learning, particularly on Hope's campus. The best outlet for me to do this has been through my involvement with the Office of Multicultural Education, La Raza Unida and Theta Gamma Pi, which all work to raise awareness of various diversity topics."

## MSO Corner

Multicultural Student Organizations

Been to a meeting? Join us! Visit each organization's website for a full events calendar



### Black Student Union:

<http://www.hope.edu/student/life/bsu/>



### Hope's Asian Perspective Association:

<http://www.hope.edu/student/life/hapa/>



### La Raza Unida:

<http://www.hope.edu/student/life/laru/>

## A Look Back: Our 2011 Social Justice Speakers

### Norma Flores López:



Norma Flores López served as our 2011 César Chávez Lecture Series speaker. She is project director for the Children in the Fields Campaign with the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs and is an active advocate for migrant farmworker child rights. Her deep passion for raising awareness of this issue was evident as she described the horrible conditions she faced as a child field laborer in Iowa, Michigan and Texas. To help support efforts being made to stop child labor in agriculture please visit [www.afop.org/children-in-the-fields](http://www.afop.org/children-in-the-fields).

### Carolyn Maul McKinstry:



OME hosted an iconic social justice advocate for the 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Carolyn Maul McKinstry is a survivor of the September 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. She was only 14 years old when the racially motivated bombing of the church took place, killing four friends of hers, and injuring more than 20 other members of the congregation. She has since dedicated her life to bringing healing to her community. McKinstry's latest book, *While the World Watched*, describes more of her remarkable and courageous journey toward reconciliation.

## Upcoming Events

**Oct. 19** *Academic Session 6:00pm*  
*Phelps Multicultural Lounge*  
*\*Co-sponsored by Multicultural Student Organizations\**

**Nov. 4-6** *GLCA Student Leadership Conference*  
*Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania*  
*\*Advance registration is required. Contact the office via email\**

**Nov. 16** *Native American Heritage Program 6:00-7:30pm*  
*Martha Miller Center in Fried-Hemenway Auditorium*



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