Global Initiative on Disability by Helen McCabe and Solomé Rose

As a new initiative on campus, the Global Initiative on Disability (G.I.D.) has been busy this spring promoting awareness and advocacy about disability around the world. Just as diversity in its many forms is celebrated at HWS Colleges, the G.I.D. has raised the profile of disability as one aspect of diversity to be acknowledged and included. After starting with an opening speaker in February, April has been a busy month for this initiative. Director of Disability Rights at Human Rights Watch, Shantha Rau Barriga, kicked off the G.I.D.’s semester of activities with a campus wide lecture about women with disabilities in Uganda, Ghana and India. As part of the Arts Experience: Festival Celebrating Inclusion and the Arts, G.I.D. sponsored a screening of the film from China, Ocean Heaven, which tells the story of a young man with autism and his dying father who struggles to ensure his son will be well cared for after his death. Also in April, we sponsored a visit and lecture by Professor Seble Kassaye, from Georgetown University, who spoke about her work as a doctor and researcher with persons living with HIV and AIDS.

Moving forward, the Global Initiative on Disability will be doing ongoing research about China, and bring students to China on a service trip in summer 2015. In addition to the existing focus on China, April has also been a month of new connections and programming, with contacts made with two future colleagues working in the disability field in Ethiopia. Professor Tirsuwe Teferra Kidanemariam from Addis Ababa University will be visiting HWS in early June, to explore ways to collaborate in our common efforts for disability services and awareness in the US and Ethiopia. G.I.D. staff are also in the initial planning stages of a collaboration with an educator and leader in the field of autism in Ethiopia, as well as with the director of an autism NGO in Ghana (whose nephew is an HWS student!). We are eager for students to get involved and become more aware and active in working for the educational, social, and vocational rights of individuals with disabilities around the world.

Our Faculty’s Perspective by Justin Rose, Political Science Dept.

As a first-year faculty member of color it has been a priority of mine to work closely with Intercultural Affairs. Some may not know, but as a faculty member we have three components of our job, by which we are assessed: teaching, research and service. As a liberal arts institution we, understandably, place a strong emphasis upon teaching and research. Across the nation, though, faculty members of color are grappling with the “invisible” service that they perform. These invisible forms of service come in the countless hours of counseling that we provide to students of color who come to us simply because these students believe that we can relate to their unique situations. Other forms of service might be serving as an unofficial advisor to students of color, or even multiple cultural clubs. While these activities are noble, they can take up a lot of time that might otherwise be dedicated to researching and preparing for class. Furthermore, these forms of invisible service are rarely factored into decisions about whether or not one should get tenure. However, working with Intercultural Affairs, has allowed me to marry my teaching and service commitments by collaborating on several wonderful programs, such as film screenings and hosting distinguished faculty members. During these events I get to teach outside of the classroom, and to have a quality interaction with an audience that I don’t typically have the privilege of engaging on a daily basis. Consequently, I look forward to each and every opportunity that I have to work closely with Intercultural Affairs.
I am a new staff hire at the colleges in Residential Education. Starting in August 2013, I currently oversee the day to day operations of the Mini Quad Area on campus (Hale, Bartlett, Durfee, Medbery and Geneva halls). I enjoy working with diverse students and becoming a part of the campus community through interactions with faculty, students and staff. One of my major passion areas at the colleges is also working to support and positively impact the LGBTQIA student, faculty, staff, and community members engaged in work with Hobart and William Smith Colleges, on and off campus.

I have been working closely over the last few months with The Intercultural Affairs House, The Provost’s Office and University Advancement to create an admirable 3rd Annual LGBTQ & Allies Reunion Event this upcoming June 7th. Recognizing that many students, faculty and staff have been working tirelessly over the past year to promote positive social change around issues of gender and sexual orientation, the event intends to incorporate increased alumni awareness and support for the initiatives that are happening on campus, through donations of time, talent and/or treasure from esteemed alumnae.

I have also been working closely with PRIDE this year, serving as a chaperone to the New York 6 Spectrum Conference at Hamilton College and to the Northeast LGBTQ Conference at Rutgers University. Working with HWS’s passionate student leaders as they spearhead social justice awareness and change is at the forefront of my ongoing task list. I am also an active member of the LGBTQ & Allies staff working group geared towards promoting programs and initiatives across campus to increase ongoing education and programs. I just completed facilitating a group discussion around the book, “Transgender Explained: For Those Who Are Not”, with multiple members of the working group. I am excited to be one of the newest additions to the HWS community and I plan on continuing the work I am currently involved in and much more!

Chad Freeman, Area Coordinator, Office of Residential Education

In my last month of college before graduation, I had gotten into a few law schools, but decided that I wasn’t ready yet. I didn’t have a focus of what I wanted to do with a law school education and I also didn’t get the amount of scholarship money that I wanted. So, I chose to work at a top law firm to gain more insight. In my position as a corporate paralegal at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, I found that it was hard for me to ignore my true passion to help others in need. So, I worked on a lot of pro bono matters along with my billable work. I coordinated the firm’s partnership with the Bronx Defenders in addressing NYC’s controversial stop and frisk policy and resulting low-level marijuana arrests. I also coordinated the firm’s externship partnership with Legal Outreach (a nonprofit legal-education based college bound program). So, even though I gained a lot of business experience working with paying clients in my paralegal position, I stayed active within the pro bono practice simply due to my core.

Consequently, when I had the chance to be promoted to work as the firm’s Pro Bono Coordinator, I accepted the position without hesitation.

I never left college expecting to have a position like this and never even knew that it was attainable at a top tier firm like Cleary Gottlieb, but I truly believe that my passion, which was fed at HWS, brought me to and prepared me for this position. At HWS, I was surrounded by students and faculty in the Intercultural Affairs house that were motivated to make our community a more just and inclusive one, even though the larger community was very homogenous. I even sat as the William Smith representative for the Commission on Inclusive Excellence, where I realized that finding ways to increase diversity and address the community’s needs as well as figuring out strategies to let stifled voices be heard are all things that speak to my core. Most importantly, I learned never to ignore that core, even in corporate environments like my firm.

I still plan on going to law school, but now I know my focus. I plan on applying to Fordham’s public interest JD program – not for practicing purposes, but for advocacy purposes. I only hope to grow in my current position. Down the line, however, I have plans to start my own nonprofit and eventually work as a professional lobbyist advocating on behalf of New York City public policy.

Akilah Browne WS’11
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

My time here at Hobart and William Smith has been a wonderful journey punctuated with intellectual enlightenment, wonderful relationships and self-discovery. I have had the fortune of taking many eye-opening and sometimes eye-popping classes that have forced me to question assumptions, challenge the status quo and broaden my horizons and framework of analysis in my life. As a result, I have found immense enjoyment in the challenges and I now believe I am equipped with the necessary skills to do my part, however little, to make the world a better place. I don’t think this would have happened if I did not take a risk and leave my comfort zone in Nairobi, Kenya and head to upstate New York to pursue my studies. I have also been blessed to form intimate bonds with some students and a few members of faculty. I believe I have made lifelong friendships on this campus with fellow students and I am grateful everyday that I put myself out there, to know others and to be known by them. Additionally, my professors have been a source of intellectual and emotional support. Many of my professors have encouraged and enabled my intellectual pursuits and have showed patience in the face of my changing interests. I have also been given ample opportunities to explore ideas outside of class. I had a wonderful experience studying abroad in India and to learn more about us as the human race as I encountered ever more similarities among human beings everywhere. I also had the opportunity to do debate, an activity that has given me an opportunity to not only travel some more but to also engage with ideas outside of class and put myself more often than not in the shoes of others. All in all, looking back on the last four years here at Hobart and William Smith Colleges I can truly say that my life was changed for the better and I hope to take the lessons I have learnt here with me and into my interactions with others and the world out there.

A Liberal Arts education has always interested me mainly because it makes students strive to become well-rounded individuals, which I believe will help me as I pursue a life of a physician in years to come. This is why I chose to attend Hobart and William Smith Colleges. I knew this school had the assets that would propel me to do great things. Such assets included the Academic Opportunities Program (AOP) which exposed me to a wonderful group advisors who sought to ensure students were given enough resources to excel at the colleges, which I am very appreciative for. Another asset included my involvements with Sankofa and Hobart club soccer which helped improve my organizational skills and has helped me tremendously in balancing my time, kept me active and less stressed. My overall experience at the colleges has been worthwhile. I have met great professors, and have surrounded myself with friends who have similar aspirations as me and are dedicated to achieve those goals.

All I remember from my first year here at HWS is all the greenery and quaintness of the campus. Little did I know that this campus could offer me a plethora of opportunity. I learned a lot from all the classes that I took. Being a Biology major and Asian Studies minor I learned a lot from many lenses of academia. Studying abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark, my dream of being a doctor was solidified. I took part of the Health and Human Disease program and was able to set up an IV on my classmates. HWS made it possible to lead me on my dream. I obtained an internship at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan. In addition being involved on campus with Project Nur and South Asian Culture Club, I was able to celebrate and express my heritage (Pakistani and Filipino) and my advocacy for social justice. I made great friends with students and faculty members alike. I am now headed for a career in health and hope to incorporate everything that I learned here at HWS.

GENEVA COMMUNITY

By Pablo Falbru, Founder of the U.G. Collective

The U.G. Collective was Founded in January 2012 to strengthen the community through the arts. This vision has driven us to host benefits that raise awareness and support for community arts organizations as well as sponsor events that promote cultural vibrancy in our community. Our mission has evolved over the past two years to focus on increasing community engagement through service by connecting artists to community needs. By collaborating with organizations and institutions like the Smith Center for the Arts, the Geneva Theater Guild, the Cracker Factory, the Geneva Community Center and Hobart & William Smith Colleges, we are finding creative ways to give back to our community. Members of the U.G. Collective have had the pleasure of performing for the Sankofa Kwanzaa Dinner and the Charity Ball which raised funds for the scholarship awarded to Geneva High School students attending HWS. This year we also participated in the HWS Arts Experience; an annual event meant to cultivate spirit of inclusion through participation in the arts, artistic performance and celebration. HWS students have contributed to some of our community events as well, both as students and as members of the community. This spring semester students have helped with the development and growth of Geneva Night Out and Two Herons Drum Circle. It’s through these collaborations that our vision of strengthening the community through the arts can be realized.
**SPRING 2014 Calendar**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote Honorable Helen Shores Lee**  
January 28, 7:30 p.m.

**Community Conversation with Nelson Carrasquillo, Immigration Advocate**  
February 6, 6 p.m.

**Lunch and Conversation on Internships and Careers with Brandi Ferrara**  
February 12, 12 p.m.

**Palestinian Identity through the Poetic Lens of Mahmoud Darwish**  
February 17, 5 p.m.

**Lunch with Ambassador Eric Benjaminson**  
March 6, 12:30 p.m.

**International Women’s Day**  
March 10, 5 p.m.

**Community Conversation with Professor Shelly Haley, Classics and Africana Studies at Hamilton College**  
March 25, 7 p.m.

**Cleopatra: From African Queen to Shifting Icon**  
March 27, 7 p.m.

**Breakfast and Conversation with Dr. Daniel Wildcat, Haskell Indian Nations University**  
March 28, 5 p.m.

**Lunch and Conversation with Ben Cox, Peace Corps Volunteer**  
March 31, 12pm

**Dinner and Conversation with Howard McGary**  
April 8, 6p.m.

**Developing and Marketing your Leadership Skills with Brandi Ferrara and Amy Forbes**  
April 14, 6 p.m.

**From Exclusion to Power: NY Dairy Farmworkers Organizing for Justice**  
April 30, 5 p.m.

**HWS Classes of 2014 Dinner Reception**  
May 17, 6 p.m.

**HWS Classes of 2014 Lunch Reception**  
May 18, 1 p.m.

---

**Intercultural Affairs Programming**

- **The Cross-Cultural Coffee Hour** gives students a chance to talk informally about their experiences of crossing borders.
- **The Fireside Chat with Faculty** gives students the opportunity to listen to faculty discuss their research in an informal setting.
- **Lunch and Conversation** brings a guest speaker to talk about their projects and community organization over a meal.
- **The Writing Table** staff of the Center for Teaching and Learning Writing Program hold one-on-one sessions weekly with students who need support with their writing skills.
- **Community Conversation** community leaders from the Geneva Community are invited to have conversations with students. Conversations span from careers after college, current events and local issues.
- **Warm Wednesdays with Wormley** provide an opportunity for students to enjoy a nice warm meal prepared by our very own “Chef” (Assistant Director of Opportunity Programs Edith Wormley) and conversation with guest HWS staff.

---

**Club Meetings @ IC**

**Monday**  
5pm International Student Association  
8pm Campus Greens

**Tuesday**  
7pm Sankofa

**Wednesday**  
5pm Asian Student Union  
7pm Latin American Organization  
9pm Pride Alliance

**Thursday**  
7pm Caribbean Student Association

---

**Publications Available @ IC**

- The Week
- The Black Collegian
- Crisis
- Out
- Hyphen
- Islamic Horizons
- Native Peoples
- Yes!
- Nueva Luz
- Asian American Magazine

---

Be sure to check out our blog:  
hwsinterculturalaffairscenter.wordpress.com/