

# SPECTRUM

## New Year, New Faces, & New Issues

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## Director's Editorial: Carleton at the Crossroads

A chicken is being sacrificed  
At a crossroads, a simple mound of earth  
A mud shrine for *Eshu*  
*Yoruba* god of indeterminacy,  
Who blesses her choice of path.  
She begins her journey.

-Gloria Anzaldua

In Yoruban spiritual traditions *Legba* is the deity of the crossroads, the messenger between human and divine worlds. He understands all languages, acts as an interpreter for the gods. *Legba* is always the first god honored in every ritual because he opens the door to the spirit world. It is only through him that the other *orishas* can be contacted. *Legba* unifies opposites, enables communication between worlds: male and female, human and divine, older and younger generations, the living and the dead, the sacred and the secular, the universe and its origin. His nature is both generous and cruel. *Kafou Legba* is his dark aspect, the malevolent trickster who diverts humans from their true paths. Many Yorubans envision this deity as the trickster who teaches valuable lessons.

Perhaps some of us at Carleton should make a ritual offering to *Legba* because we seem to be at a cultural crossroads. Thanks to the efforts of our Admissions Office, alumni, faculty, staff, and students, Carleton welcomed it's most culturally diverse entering class. Twenty-four percent of the class of 2009 is comprised of students of color. More broadly, almost 23% of Carleton students from the United States are African American, Latino, Asian American, or Native American. In comparison, 20 years ago, 482 students entered Carleton as the Class of 1988, and only 13% were students of color. Unfortunately, we have not had similar success in diversifying our faculty. In the 2002-03 academic year just over 83% of our faculty were white. The other 17% is a combination of international and domestic faculty of color. This lumping obscures the exceptionally low number of African American and U.S. born Latino faculty on our campus. Nationally, whites comprised 95% of all faculty members in 1972 and 83% in 1997. Most of the growth in minority participation has been by Asian Americans, from 2.2% in 1975 to 4.5% in 1997. The percentage of African American faculty members at all levels has been remarkably stagnant—4.4% in 1975 and 5% in 1997—and almost half of all black faculty members teach at historically black colleges. The increase in Latino faculty has also been slow: 1.4% in 1975 to 2.8% in 1997.

Who teaches matters. Racially diverse faculty provide support to students from diverse backgrounds and improve retention and graduation rates. The presence of diverse faculty and staff is also a symbol to students of color that the institution cares about them. Finally, the presence of diverse faculty and staff creates a comfortable environment for students from under-represented backgrounds. Recent research suggests that diversity among students also enhances the academic and campus climate for faculty of color. Thus, there is an important dialectical relationship between the recruitment and retention of students and faculty of color. Moreover, cutting-edge scholarship and the growth of knowledge depend on discussion and debate incorporating multicultural perspectives, theories and approaches

This year's faculty retreat addressed the theme; "Who Are Our Students?" Based in Student Life, I was especially intrigued by the title of the Faculty Retreat and a packet of related essays. I was very disappointed by the content and limited scope of the essays. Four of the essays focused on Posse students, while there were individual articles on first generation students, international students, and the changing contours of Carleton's religious culture. Missing was any discussion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. There was also no mention of the fact that increasing numbers of our students arrive on campus with serious mental health issues. Nor was there any reference to the 40% of our students who come from families who can afford to pay full-tuition, room, and board each year. Among our community, are also male students who were admitted over more qualified women because of an institutional commitment to gender-balance in the student population. Why weren't these other sectors of our student population discussed? In focusing so narrowly on students of color and in particular Posse students, the faculty retreat failed to address the needs of and challenges presented by other student populations. Among the more problematic essays was one that reproduced discredited culture of poverty theories in implying that the cultural values of students of color were the major obstacles to their academic success at Carleton. This same piece also inappropriately contributed to the rumor mill about the supposed drug-dealing of a particular black male student and in so doing reinforced negative stereotypes about the criminality of Black men. The probable reality is that most of the drug dealers on this campus are white male students. Conspicuously absent from any of these essays was any substantive reflection on the ways in which faculty attitudes and behaviors and institutional policies may work to undermine the wellness and academic success of students of color. One of the trends in the work of cultural anthropologists is an examination of positionality. That is, many anthropologists are arguing that the beginning of understanding of "The Other", begins with a reflection of the ways in which one's own ethnicity, gender, class, and power impacts one's interpretations of the group or issue being studied. Perhaps a better place to begin a faculty conversation about the increased diversity of our students is with the question: "Who are our faculty?"

I have already provided a partial answer to that question. They are overwhelmingly white. And perhaps it is the lack of significant diversity among our faculty that diminishes our understanding of the experiences of our students from under-represented and marginalized backgrounds. As was suggested at a recent LTC event entitled "Carleton Classrooms: Safe Spaces, Challenging Conversations", education involves some level of discomfort or in Piaget's terms, "cognitive dissonance". Yet the ethnic homogeneity of our faculty means that many of our white students don't have the experience of discomfort that may come from the fresh perspectives that faculty of color bring into the classroom. Success in diversifying our student population provides us with a valuable opportunity to re-double our efforts to maintain and increase the representation of faculty of color at Carleton. In so doing, we will improve the quality of education that *all* students receive, including their development of cross-cultural competency. We are at the crossroads. Will we dedicate the human and financial resources to sustain and expand our diversity and build a campus where students and faculty of color are not only well-represented, but feel welcome, valued and safe? *Legba* guide us!

## Father Songs: Men's Retreat Kicks Off Term By Byron White



The Men's Retreat took place once again at Koinonia Retreat Center over the weekend of October 17. Thirty men participated in the retreat, including several new students, majority students, faculty, and staff. Newcomers to Carleton as well as to the retreat included Melvin Rogers of the Political Science department and new Associate Dean of Students Joe Baggot. Introductions were only the beginning to the weekend, of course, as we soon delved into important exchanges with a very special guest.

The theme of the retreat was "Father Songs," and the most distinguished contributor was Joseph White, Ph.D., the "Godfather" of African-American psychology. Dr. White has written several books and most recently, *Black Man Emerging*. Dr. White's role in the retreat was to help us express and exchange ideas of manhood, frequently going deeply into themes of fatherhood and manhood. The exchanges that resulted in Dr. White's guidance and the openness of all the men involved really *made* the retreat.

As a second-year participant in the retreat, I was able to reinforce the bonds that I formed with the other returning men, as well as to push myself and others beyond our comfort levels. Listening, questioning, and sharing marked the retreat, which was at times a draining experience. Of course, our nights were spent playing cards, table tennis, pool, and just enjoying each other's company. Spending leisure time in the evenings with people I had spent all day getting to know better was a definite highlight of the retreat for me.

Like those before it, the retreat ended with students sleeping or thinking on the bus back to campus. Processing the weekend's interactions and growing from those experiences takes some time to rest and think, and I stepped back onto Carleton's campus Sunday afternoon better off than when I'd left on Friday.

## Don't Uncork the Champagne: Gaza Strip Is Still A Prison By Leena Odeh



The recent events of the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza strip and parts of the West Bank have received substantial media coverage within the United States. The U.S. media has deceptively portrayed the Israeli settlers as victims. Misleading human interest stories of images of distress and 'displacement' of an 'indigenous' people forced to leave their homes have bombarded the American public. In the aftermath of the Israeli pullout from Gaza and parts of the West Bank, the U.S. seems to forget that the Israeli settlements within Gaza and the West Bank were established on the land of Palestinian refugees. These are refugees expelled from their native towns, villages and homes for 38 years. Unreported to the American and Global public, the reality is that settlers were under the awareness and understanding that they were squatting and moving to an area that was conquered in war. Evidence of this conviction is in the form of contracts for the sale and rental of land in the occupied territories with a clause that explicitly stated the temporary nature.

In the U.S. and abroad there is a lack of discourse around the certainty that the construction of Israeli settlements within occupied Palestinian territories are a violation of international law. Reaffirming this view are the advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice, the 4th Geneva Convention and numerous United Nations resolutions, such as resolutions 194, 302, 212, etc. The U.S. and Israel repeatedly ignored these advisory opinions as reflected in their actions toward the U.N. Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa in 2001. The U.S. and Israel were encouraged to discuss global racism, primarily racism perpetuated by the institution of slavery within the U.S. and defining Zionism as a racist ideology.

When the U.S. and Israel were pressured to dialogue over issues such as reparations for descendants of slaves and defining Zionism as racism, the U.S. and Israel boycotted the conference.

The international community has done nothing about this blatant violation and disregard of international law and human rights. The United States and other leading world powers have condoned this illegal situation and are even paying for the costs of the withdrawal from Gaza. Gradually increasing funds to Israel reach more than 5.5 billion dollars a year. Free weaponry supply, "special deals" and contracts with various American corporations such as Boeing and Caterpillar have helped develop Israel into one of the world's leading military powers. The latter is a company that produces bulldozers and is currently facing a lawsuit from the parents of Rachel Corrie, an American International Solidarity Movement worker who was run over and killed while protesting a home demolition in Gaza. Also it is rarely reported that settlers are receiving compensation, otherwise known as 'reparations' for their loss. Israeli colonizers are due to receive an average of four hundred thousand dollars and two years of free housing as their 'reparations', paid for by U.S. tax dollars.

It is deceiving to think that the Israeli pullout from Gaza is simply a result of pressure from the international community. Certainly it is true that the Security Council, including the U.S., has long insisted that Israel withdraw to the pre-1967 borders. It is also true that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) had confirmed numerous resolutions and expert reports that the settlements have all been constructed illegally and that they must be dismantled. However, none of these demands have been followed up by concrete

action. Israel's policy has been to ignore the ICJ decision as "irrelevant", accelerate its settlement programme in the West Bank and present the Gaza 'withdrawal' as a significant, one-sided 'concession,' offering no promises of a full withdrawal from all Occupied Territories and still continuing a military occupation.

It was not till mounting costs for protection of settlers and the refusal of many Israeli soldiers to serve in Gaza did Israel consider withdrawing from Gaza. One would think that the decision for Israel to remove settlers from Gaza and parts of the West Bank would have to do with violations of international law, human rights, and the Oslo Accords. Or because Gaza is the most densely populated area in the world as well as one of the most impoverished areas with 1.3 million Palestinian refugees living in 140 sq miles.

For Palestinians who have been living under Israeli occupation and displaced off of their indigenous land, one would think Israel's removal of the settlements within Gaza is a major turning point. However, while Israel has continual control over all borders surrounding Gaza, Palestinians are prohibited from movement through check points and are not allowed to travel in a 650-meter perimeter between the border of Gaza and Israel. The only access to the outside world for Palestinians in Gaza, Rafah International Crossing, has remained closed. The simple necessity of seeking medical aid or providing for family has also been prohibited by Israel with the closing of Beit Hanoun crossing. With such restrictions and enforced curfews Gaza is a virtual prison for Palestinians living within it.



## Afro-Colombian Communities Under Siege

African descendants in Colombia comprise 26% of Colombia's total population, making it the third largest African Diaspora population in the Western Hemisphere (after Brazil and the United States). After many years of organizing, Afro-Colombians and indigenous people secured collective lands rights in Colombia's 1991 Constitution to their ancestral lands along Colombia's Pacific coast, where African descendants comprise over 80-90% of the population. As Afro-Colombians began filing for collective land titles, they were massacred by Colombia's U.S.-funded military working in close collaboration with brutal illegal paramilitaries, creating massive displacement. Paramilitaries are now illegally occupying these lands, growing, among other things, coca plants used for cocaine. This has triggered U.S. funded aerial chemical fumigations, poisoning this most biodiverse ecosystem in the hemisphere as it creates new waves of Afro-Colombian displacement. The United Nations has called Colombia "a humanitarian catastrophe", in which Afro-Colombians are now disproportionately impacted.



## Puerto Rican Activist Killed by FBI



On September 23, the anniversary of "El Grito de Lares" ("The Cry of Lares") members of the FBI surrounded a modest home in the outskirts of the town of Hormigueros, Puerto Rico, where Ojeda Ríos was believed to be hiding. Some shots were fired from inside and outside the house (although it has not been established whether the FBI or Ojeda shot first) wounding an FBI agent and fatally wounding Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, whom the coroner speculates bled to death over the course of several hours. According to his wife (Elma Beatriz Rosada Barbosa) and neighbor (Hector Reyes) it was the FBI agents who initiated the shooting at 3:00 pm. Elma Beatriz has made statements suggesting Ojeda Ríos was allegedly willing to turn himself in to journalist Jesús Dávila, but his offer was disregarded by the agents who feared he would take the journalist as a hostage.

The circumstances of his death are still unclear and questions have been raised as to the intentions of the FBI agents during the operation. Members of the independence movement in Puerto Rico, which historically has been shown to represent some 4% of the total electorate, have called the operation a "political assassination". Some members of all political parties in Puerto Rico have criticized how this case was handled, and have questioned the selection of the 23rd of September for the operation since it is a special day for Puerto Ricans known as "el Grito de Lares" (even though it is well known that Ojeda Ríos would always pick this day to make statements to his followers from undisclosed hideouts). "El Grito de Lares" ("the Lares Cry") celebrates Puerto Rican resistance to the Spanish empire. On this day in 1868, a group of Puerto Rican revolutionaries rose up in rebellion against the then-ruling Spanish colonial power. Although the rebellion was quickly suppressed, the anniversary of the uprising is commemorated annually and is one of the most important dates for the independence movement.

Filiberto Ojeda Ríos was the "Responsible General" of the Broicua Popular Army or *Ejército Popular Boricua – Los Macheteros*, a clandestine paramilitary organization, considered by United States law enforcement agencies to be a terrorist organization, based on the island of Puerto Rico, with branches throughout the United States and other countries. *Los Macheteros* is an ultra-minority political group that campaigns, supports, and promotes the independence of Puerto Rico through violent means from what they characterize as an oppressive U.S. colonial rule they claim has lasted 107 years.

Ojeda Ríos was wanted as a fugitive by the FBI for his role in the 1983 Wells Fargo depot robbery in West Hartford Connecticut, as well as a bail bond default in September 1990.





## Annual Block Party Fills Union Street

By Alessandra Aponte



On Saturday, September 17th, the corner of First and Union was the epicenter of the Block Party. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Gender and Sexuality Center, this event intended to bring the Carleton Community together and to set a good and relaxed start for the new academic year. It counted with the participation of several student organizations such as: CHS, Club Caribé, Pangea, MOC and COWOC, as well as the cultural houses of Freedom House, Asia House and Casa del Sol.

The tarot card reader, the Thai massage, Mehendi and the dunk tank, first time activities of the Block Party, were the main highlights of the event. As means to raise money for the victims of Hurricane Katrina the dunk tank was the only paid activity of the fair. "It was fun. I ate, met new people, played, was part of the dunk tank, all of that in only an hour" (Amy Trieu, class '06).

However, the event would not have been what it was if it had not been for the food, which was the perfect complement. The variety of food ranged from the popular Chili from the Office of Multicultural Affairs, fried chicken, bubble tea, noodles, Rice Krispy Bars and caramel apples, just to mention a few.

Another general remark about the event mentioned how "even though it was vibrant, it was high on energy and it was colorful, I would like to see a more diverse group of people being engaged in these types of events" (Manasi Nair, class '08). Nevertheless, this year's Block party is part of another of Carleton's memories. Even though it was first started in 2001, it is increasingly becoming one of the established events much anticipated by the Carleton community and along Chili Nights it is one of the tokens of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

## Carleton Student Helps Change the Face of Wall Street By Robert McMillan

Wall Street is a high paced world where fortunes are made. Investment Bankers dress in flashy suits and stroll through the crowded streets of New York after a long night entertaining clients; Consultants present new business strategies to a small-cap company in the morning and work on a business plan for a fortune 500 company in the afternoon; Corporate lawyers debate the legality of two billion dollar merger while others litigate a corporate buyout during an dinner meeting. Day in and day out the “street ” is buzzing with new deals and this past summer I had the opportunity to experience all this first hand.



I was given this opportunity through a program called Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO). SEO is a non profit organization that offers minorities paid summer internships in the world’s most competitive industry. It was my door into what seemed like an impossible world to reach, my coach in the most important game of my life, and my family who offered endless advice while genuinely caring about my success. The SEO program has a demanding schedule that woke me up early and had me out late, but gave me exposure to the most influential people in some of the world’s largest and most important firms. If you would like to learn more about this program or my experience to contact Robert McMillan at [mcmillar@carleton.edu](mailto:mcmillar@carleton.edu)

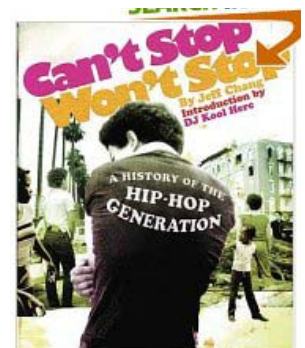


## Hip Hop & The Academy: The Cutting-Edge Research of a Mellon Mays Scholar By Byron White

The Mellon Mayes Undergraduate Fellowship program is an important resource for undergrads who want to get the kind of research that will help them during the arduous path through grad school and into faculty positions at colleges and universities. I recently sat down with junior Chris Courneen to find out more about the program by asking some questions about how the program his helping to guide him towards the academy.

Courneen gave me some background on the purpose of the program first. “ The goal is to get more diversity among faculty in colleges and universities around the country, so it’s geared towards people who intend to become faculty members of color in these universities,” says Courneen of the program. Chris spent his summer researching “folk hip-hop” and “pop hip-hop,” a process that is helping him clarify the differences between hip-hop and rap.

This research process is supplemented by mentoring and support from people with whom he hopes to work in the future, says Chris. On the path to becoming a professor that began this past summer, Chris has found that he “loves doing research almost as much as sharing that research (teaching).” Look for Chris Courneen’s Mellon Mays research talk later this term.



## Interview with Brandon Walker

By Pachia Yang



*I was fortunate enough to meet Brandon Walker an aspiring freshman with a good view about Carleton this year. He came to Carleton with a great story about his experiences in broadcast journalism, including covering the story of Hurricane Katrina from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Here is the interview I had with this amazing person:*

### **Why did you decide to come to Carleton?**

I actually was looking at 15 different colleges, specifically Howard University. I have always told myself that Howard was the place for me. Then one day one of the admissions counselor came down to my high school in New Orleans, Louisiana to talk to the top students in my class including myself and that was when I found out about Carleton but then I thought “hey, who cares because you are going to Howard anyways.” I finally got around to the application around January and filled it out. By then the admission’s office kept on calling and bothering me so I decided to take a trip up to Minnesota to visit the campus. When I arrived, I saw that the atmosphere of the campus was nice. It was something I can see myself enjoying for four years. I also sat in on Professor William’s class, History 110, which I am currently taking right now. After my visit I did receive the acceptance letter. I thought about my decision and finally made Carleton my final choice because it would be more beneficial for my future.

### **Now that you are finally here on campus as a student, what is your perspective or thoughts on what/how Carleton is?**

Intense, intense, intense! Although it is pretty intense, I can see that the professors do care a lot about the students and they are open to talking to their students and helping them. They seem to understand the pressure of Carleton.

### **What is the most fun/memorable experience that you have had since you arrived on campus?**

Meeting new people everyday is the best experience that I have had so far.

### **What do you plan to major in?**

I want to major in Political Science because I am very involved in journalism and one must know about the world or politics, economics, criminal justice and other things in order to be good in this industry. Also, I always say that “you can’t go to school to learn how to have a TV personality.” I do think that getting my degree in Political Science would put me ahead of the game because I would have a well-rounded background.

### **I can see that you are into journalism. I also read in the Freshmen Class Profile that you are very active in journalism, specifically broadcasting. How did you get into it and what was/ is your inspiration?**

As a young child I remember growing up watching nothing but the news. My parents and grandparents were news freaks who always had it on all the time. I then became infatuated with the news anchors. It was in 7th grade that I thought about broadcasting and during that time my teacher told me that I could control my voice. I still don’t really understand what she meant by it. When I was in 8th grade I made my first documentary. Then I went to high school and became a part of the school’s TV program working in production such as running the camera. After having a little experience, I applied for an internship with *ABC 26 WGNO TV* but was turned down because they thought that 15 years old was too young. So I went back and concentrated on my work in high school as the newly selected graphic producer for the school’s show. Four months later I tried again for the same position with *ABC 26 WGNO TV* and was given the position. As I look around me, I decided that I loved doing the work that I did. However, I was not completely satisfied because I wanted to be in front of the camera and not behind it. My big break came when they needed me to take on the show because there was no other choice. I remembered that I was so scared. I was too nervous that I could not interview my guests. Having the opportunity to work in the newsroom made it possible for me to improve big time that I became ready for the camera. During my junior year in high school I was promoted to be Associate Editor in the high school production. At that same time I applied for an actual job with *ABC 26 WGNO TV* but did not get it. Fortunately four months later I was given the job and became Assignment Editor. I then started hosting, producing, and writing for a TV program called *Two Cents*, which is an urban information program that mocks stereotypical issues. This one time we shot a whole episode of me getting an AIDS test as an informative show.

### **Wow, that was a lot of things that you were doing all at the same time. You must have had a lot of time managing to do. Out of all of those tasks, which one was the one with the most responsibility?**

I think that working as an Assignment Editor at *ABC 26 WGNO TV* was quite an experience. I would start work on a Friday night and go on to the whole day Saturday. I ran the whole news program during the weekend. I would read the news and check with the law enforcement office to see if there was any news that happened the earlier day/night that have not been covered, especially overnight, and that would be where I get the information that needs to be covered on the news. Being the Assignment Editor meant that you ran the show. If you were one second late on showing a breaking story or something was given to the anchors that should have not been broadcast, it was your head that would get the blame.

### **Now that you are at Carleton, are you still directly working with *ABC 26 WGNO TV*?**

I am still a staff member. However, I will be working only when I am on my breaks. I will be picking things up again as soon as winter break begins.

### **Since you are not with *ABC 26 WGNO TV* right now and you are here at Carleton, how do you plan to share your skills and talent with the campus?**

Right now I am working with *KRLX* and the news here on campus. Also I am co-hosting a show on the *KRLX* called “*Weekly Local*” that comes on every Sunday at 9pm. The show is strictly about community news for Northfield.



**You ran a lot of programs and even created new ones within journalism before coming to Carleton. Do you have any goals or a vision of a new program that you would like to establish here on campus?**

I would like to be a part of the process to evolve the media studies program. Also I am thinking about creating a monthly/bi-weekly TV news magazine on air. I think this is a good idea because it's good for the campus to actually see what is going on rather than just reading about it. Also, not too many people know about Carleton and I would like to make it more visible, but I think [students] like it that way.

**Do you have a long-term goal or a vision as to where you may want to be later in life?**

Yes, I do. I want to be an anchor for the *Today Show* by the age of 35.

**Wow, that is a very direct goal. Aside from school and work, what did you do this summer before becoming a responsible adult who will in college?**

Well, I didn't do much but just work. I spent the summer working at the station and as a sales associate at *Express*. Then of course, Hurricane Katrina was going to hit New Orleans and we had to evacuate.

**What were you doing as those hours were approaching?**

As we evacuated, I actually stuck with the news team to cover the storm. We did a full 24 hours coverage all day and night. Since we relocated to Baton Rouge, there were fewer materials for operations. Also, the station received a lot of calls asking for assistance, asking about their lost relatives and friends, and what they should do. At times it was hard to answer these questions because we didn't know how to completely help as well.

**As you were doing the coverage of the hurricane, what was your reaction and thoughts about it?**

Actually the situation did not hit me until 4 days after the storm had hit. This whole time I was doing the news coverage I was not paying attention to what was actually happening around the area. I was thinking "oh, I feel sorry for these people. Then I started thinking and realized "wait a minute, I am doing coverage on my own story because everyone who was affected shares the story of this disaster."

**As you start to see the disaster all around, how did you separate your personal from the professional?**

Well I received little sleep because we worked with endless hours. While I was working I tried not to think about the situation and to just get the story and do my job correctly. It gave me time to put my thoughts together and not have my thoughts put on the side.

**How did you deal with the circumstances when you realized the effect it had?**

I don't think I will ever forget it. I do feel fortunate to be safe and here at school and having my family safe and my home with little damage. I am just taking this situation one day at a time. That is all that you can do. Just taking it one day at a time.

***Thank you Brandon for sharing your story. I can definitely say that you are a very ambitious young man and have a lot to offer the world. Enjoy the rest of the year here at Carleton as a freshman and have a wonderful school year.***

It was nice meeting you too.



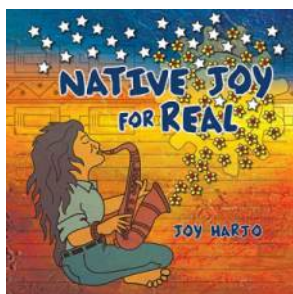
## Vani Narayana Joins Office of Multicultural Affairs

This past August, Vanita Narayan joined the staff of the Office of Multicultural Affairs as Assistant Director. Before coming to Carleton Vani worked as a Senior Admissions Counselor at St Olaf College for two years. Prior to that she served as a full-time administrator and the Paraprofessional Coordinator of Minority Student Life at Colorado College. In this position she was an advisor to twelve different minority student organizations, planned multicultural programming and services, and managed the Student Cultural Center on campus. Vani also helped develop in collaboration with the Boettcher Counseling Center an initiative focused on providing support for African American women on campus.

Vani has also been an active member of the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) Minority Concerns Committee and will continue to stay engaged with the group in her new position at Carleton. She is currently working on a masters degree in Leadership in College student Affairs at the University of St. Thomas.

Vani lives in Northfield with her husband Justin and their Jack-Russell Terrier named Honey-Bee. If you haven't already done so, please stop by the office and introduce yourself to this valuable new addition to our office.

## Joy Harjo Will Give Native American Heritage Month Convocation Address



Internationally known Native American poet and musician Joy Harjo will share a special convocation performance on Friday November 4 in the Chapel at 10:50 AM. The title is: "How We Became Human: A Performance." Harjo's work is grounded in her relationship to the earth, on a physical, spiritual and mythopoetic level, and her writing contains a disturbing mixture of darkness and beauty, at once a lament and a moving incantation. Her work provides a unique perspective and piquant examination of American culture from a native point of view.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and an enrolled member of the Muscogee Tribe, Joy Harjo came to New Mexico to attend the Institute of American Indian Arts where she studied painting and theater, not music and poetry, though she did write a few lyrics for an Indian acid rock band.

She began writing poetry

when the national political climate demanded singers and speakers, and was taken by the intensity and beauty possible in the craft. Her most recent book of poetry is the best-selling *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems*, from W.W. Norton.

It wasn't until she was in Denver that she took up the saxophone because she wanted to learn how to sing and had in mind a band that would combine poetry with music there were no words yet to define, a music involving elements of tribal musics, jazz, and rock.

She eventually returned to New Mexico where she began the first stirrings of what was to be her first band, Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice. Joy now lives in Hawaii, teaches at UCLA and the University of Hawaii. She now performs simply as Joy Harjo.

### This Is My Heart

This is my heart. It is a good heart.  
Weaves a membrane of mist and fire.  
When we make love in the flower world  
My heart is close enough to sing to you  
in a language too clumsy,  
for human words.

This is my head. It is a good head.  
Whirrs inside with a swarm of worries.  
What is the source of this mystery.  
Why can't I see it right here, right now  
as real as these hands hammering  
the world together?

This is my soul. It is a good soul.  
It tells me, "Come here forgetful one."  
And we sit together  
We cook a little something to eat,  
then a sip of something sweet,  
for memory, for memory.

This is my song. It is a good song.  
It walked forever the border of fire and  
water  
climbed ribs of desire to sing to you.  
Its new wings quiver with vulnerability.

Come lie next to me.  
Put your head here.  
My heart is close enough to sing.



# A Poem Read at Open Mic by Amber Riley

## Work In Progress

Inspired by Fidel Castro's *History Will Absolve Me* speech, 1953

[ab\*solve: 1.to set free, or release  
2. to pronounce free 3. to finish or accomplish]

history will

absolve

me

absolve but not erase

past existence

and passive resistance

demonstrations, marches

boycotts, sit-ins and silent persistence

from the middles passage on slave ships

to the lash of the whip

i'm talking from

slave chains

to chain gangs

to gang bang

and the cell block frame

the institution of bondage still remains

blame it on raising cain

planting cane

plowing cane

pulling cane

that field ni\*\*a "yes masa" "no masa"

"i ain't gotta take no mo a yo shit masa" cane

or a dream deferred like a raisin in the sun

now we raisin sons

raising a battalion of sons

and given un guns

blllllllllllllllaaaka the bullets aren't made of metal

but of mental enlightenment son

we are the next generation of buffalo soldier

it's our revolution

YES WE HAVE OVERCOME

history will absolve but not erase

the disgrace they tried to place upon my race

or the faces of

tubman-king-malcolm-parks-bobby.seale

-crispus.attucks-douglass-sojourner-and- emmitt.till

littlerock.birmingham.harlem.mississippi.....

this goes out to you and all you did to set us free

granting my soul sacred sanctuary and my mind sweet liberty

putting MY enslavement to death

Rest in Piece with your pieces of justice knocking at the door

your spirit mingled with

my destiny

i will now implore

"condemn me

it does not matter.

history will

absolve

me



**THE OFFICE OF  
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Spectrum is now online at:  
[http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/  
multicultural/news/](http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/multicultural/news/)

New Journals in the  
Office of Multicultural  
Affairs:

- **ColorLines: Race,  
Culture, Action**
- **Cultural Survival**



**MALiCool**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**8:00 PM**

**CONCERT HALL**

**Chili Night**

**Race,  
Political  
Prisoners  
and the  
Prison Indus-  
trial Complex**

- **Date: Wednesday,  
November 2**
- **Time: 5:00 p.m.**
- **Place: Goodhue  
Super Lounge**

