CCCE Information Night

By: Anthony Harris

Representatives from three disparate branches of the Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE) came to advertise various opportunities, both paid and unpaid. The three committees were the Public Health, Food and Sustainability, and Education.

The first committee to present was the Public Health lead by Sam Hayward and Meera Sury. Meera explained that their Public Health division is dedicated to helping spread awareness and be proactive in regards to various health concerns from malaria outbreak and immunization controversy to sustainable water sources. After Meera pruned the audience with the mission of the Public Health division, we informed us how we could get involved. The programs she mentioned included Health-Finders, Red Cross Blood Drive, and Carls Against Cancer just to name a few.

Next, Shira Kaufman (one of three CCCE Food and Sustainability Fellows) represented the Food and Sustainability division. Students interested in ways to get involved with food in and around Carleton found themselves with plenty of opportunities. Some of the campus initiatives mentioned included: Volunteer at the Food Shelf, Gleaning Program, Eat the Lawn, and Young Northfield Chefs Program. Lastly, a representative for the Education division spoke about the mission of this division. His mission includes coordinating a wide variety of educational engagement opportunities that allow the students to apply their classroom learning to the real world.

Continued on Page 6

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

- President Barack Obama

The Spectrum is designed to be a space where students of color, international students, and their allies can find space to verbalize and express concerns, excitement, and their college experiences. It is meant to motivate and inspire.
With the lights dimmed and tables dressed in black and white, the Weitz common area invited students, faculty, and staff to an undoubtedly reverent occasion on the evening of January 20th. It was the annual Martin Luther King Dinner, and within half an hour, nearly two hundred Carls filled the hall. As a member of the Office of Intercultural and International Life’s planning committee for the event, I was moved to see so many people gathered in celebration of the Reverend. On the other hand, there was a lot of pressure behind being a part of the committee that was responsible for conveying a meaningful message to the entire community.

However, I quickly learned that every worry I had was completely unfounded. The student band Sunship started its jazzy numbers, and the night opened with the energy of students who stand out as examples of the dinner’s theme, Everyday Activism. As one could imagine, these students expressed great passion for their causes — ranging from education to immigration policy reform — but they also called the community to action in their own ways. Sofia Rosales Juarez (class of 2016) affirmed the value of speaking out to begin the most difficult conversations, Nikki Rhodes (class of 2014) invited us to explore the relationship between faith and social justice, and Todd Campbell (class of 2016) challenged us to recognize our responsibility to each other. Though many of us have heard these messages in some shape or form before, it was eye opening to hear these words come from students.

### 2013-2014 OIIL Sponsored Convo Speakers

**Fall Term**
- **Leo Chavez** — Scholar and author presents an anthropological view of immigration, offering an analysis of myths vs. facts.
- **Zonnie Gorman** — Recognized historian of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II.

**Winter Term**
- **Joy DeGruy** — Author of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America’s Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing.

**Spring Term**
- **Kao Kalia Yang** — is a Minnesota writer with a story that stretches across the globe. Author of The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir, Kao Kalia is also a Carleton graduate.
who not only learn in the same classrooms and balance an assortment of activities, but who also regularly fight alongside their causes with admirable humility. There was no doubt that among many qualities, the unyielding spirit of Dr. King lives through Sofia, Nikki, and Todd.

After a delicious meal, every set of eyes turned to our keynote speaker, Emilia Gonzales Avalos. A small handful of students could remember Avalos as the speaker in the Minneapolis March for Dignity and Respect last September, but for most of the student body, she was an unfamiliar face. I was stunned to learn at the start of her speech, though, that Northfield was formative in her activism — she had trained with Paul Wellstone, a past professor at Carleton and cherished community organizer.

After a warm thanks to the college, Avalos began the story of her family’s move to the United States. She remembered walking to school in Mexico one day when violence broke out in the streets, forcing her and her brother indoors where they could only hear the terrifying sounds. Avalos arrived in the states soon afterward and advocated for the DREAM Act that would grant her financial assistance for higher education despite being an undocumented woman. When she described her father’s heartbreak upon learning that the Minnesota DREAM Act was passed but not extended to his daughter for a detail as arbitrary as her birthdate, the Weitz was palpably still — tears were falling and I could feel people holding their breath. Avalos’ voice remained steady and deliberate as she urged us to consider the power behind a "tiny ripple of hope"; because of its force, the "mighty stream" of justice and compassion that Martin Luther King believed in could be propelled by love. Without once explicitly listing her reasons for her activism in immigration reform, feminism, and human rights, Avalos trusted us with an honest illustration of the motivations, defeats, and triumphs of her work.

The explosive applause that followed Avalos’ delivery and the sniffles I could hear around me confirmed that we could not have invited a better speaker in honor of Dr. King. The night made clear that while the struggle for social justice is transformed by the ordinary individual, it is still picked up and carried on from person to person with immense resiliency. After the dinner, I believe that while Martin Luther King was an accomplished man in many ways, one of his greatest impacts on American society was in inspiring generations of activists who, in turn, inspire us — because of this, recognizing everyday activism is one of the best celebrations in his name.

Thank you to the 2014 MLK Dinner Celebration Planning Committee!

Sijin Chen
Zizi Li
Ruoqing Gan
Rui Su
Tori Jones
Kathryn Melendez
Vicky Wu
Jay Shen
Joshua Reason
Todd Campbell
Kenny Harvey
Ruiyi Shen
Sofia Rosales Juarez
Kaylee Shiao
Meg Crenshaw
Sarah Goldman
Continued Cover Story: CCCE Info Night

Some of the great opportunities expounded upon included: Tutoring at Northfield Middle School, Project Friendship, Uplift, TORCH, and many others. At the conclusion of the information session, the audience was divided into three interest groups for each respectively committee. In these groups the CCCE Fellows took email/contact information where they would be emailing this interest groups with more interest-tailor upcoming opportunities.

United World Colleges Alumni Luncheon

United World Colleges Alumni Luncheon

Congratulations to Our UWC Seniors!!

Katherine Goodyear, U.S. citizen who attended the UWC South East Asia (Singapore)
Prateik Madhavan, Indian national who attended UWC Mahindra College (India)
Khadija Tall, Senegalese who attended UWC-USA
(Kayla) Yuen Yee Tam, from Hong Kong who attended Li Po Chun (Hong Kong)
Every year the Office of Intercultural and International Life joins TRIO in hosting an event called Tropical Night. It is one of my favorite events of the year! The event takes place in Cowling Gym on a cold Friday night during winter term. The decorations are beach-themed, which is a great distraction from the freezing temperatures during the winter months. What I look forward to the most is the food and the great company. Wings, pineapple pizza, ‘tropical’ fruit, shrimp, banana pudding and coconut cake are always served that night. I thoroughly enjoy hanging out with other peers, and I always leave the night with amazing memories. My freshman year tropical night experience was spent primarily in the dance studio, while sophomore year I spent a lot of time in the pool; THIS year I stayed in the gym playing volleyball and basketball. This is just to give you an idea of the variety of fun things you can try out! Tropical Night is a special night because everyone can find an activity just right for them, and for those two hours Carls have a place to de-stress and have fun. I recommend attending Tropical Night at least once before graduation.
Cultural Houses

What Do Current Cultural House Residents Say About Living in the Cultural House Community?

“Great location makes it convenient to either go to class or go to the town!”

“Friendly residences make me feel like this is my home.”

“Cultural events throughout the term are fun and meaningful.”

“Living in a cultural house is being a part of a multi-cultural community in Carleton. You are meeting with new groups of people who soon become your best friends, and constantly exposed to new experiences you would otherwise have missed.”

“Without ASIA house, there are many events I would not have attended and a lot of great people I would not have met. I’m really looking forward to the next two terms we have together as a house, both as a opportunity to bond further amongst ourselves and to participate in the greater Carleton community.”

“Living in Asia is a pleasure. The people are so nice and the overall atmosphere is so comfortable.”

“Wonderful housemates! Interesting conversations all the time! I am very lucky to have the chance to live in Asia House!”

“I love living in Casa for many reasons but the main one is that it is the one place on campus where I feel at home. The community that the house promotes is incredible everything from having house breakfast together on Sundays to having LASO meeting in our living room creates an atmosphere where people thrive and grow with each other. Casa has been my home since sophomore year and I don’t know what I would have or where I would have lived without it.”

"I really enjoy the events hosted by Casa. I make new connections and learn about a lot of things that I wouldn’t otherwise know if I don’t live in Casa."

“Living in the Cultural House community is a great space for me to live in because I am in close contact with people who are very much like me. Usually, those living in the cultural house come from the same, city, state, culture, etc., and it’s a great comfort to be surrounded by people who I can easily connect with based off these characteristics. The Cultural community also provides a space for me to educate others about diversity, but also my specific culture, or those that I might not be directly from, but feel a strong connection to. Living in these spaces the past 2, going on 3 years, has allowed me to educate myself in my own culture as well as others, it has allowed me to educate others about these cultures, and it has given me a safe and comfortable space for me to live in.”
**Freedom House**
The mission of Freedom House is to provide a culturally safe space for students of the African Diaspora and their allies at Carleton College, and to contribute to an environment that facilitates their success. Freedom House will provide a variety of educational, cultural, and social programs related to their culture and issues, while simultaneously providing to them a cultural comfort-zone. All Carleton community members are invited to participate in all programs, meetings and invited to apply to live in the Freedom House.

**ASIA House**
Asia House provides support to Asian and Asian American students at Carleton College. In addition to providing support, the House will provide educational and social programs aimed towards the understanding of Asian and Asian American cultures and issues. All Carleton students are invited to apply to live in the house and to participate in programs in Asia House.

**La Casa del Sol**
La Casa del Sol is a house designed to serve the Latino community at Carleton, as well as the larger Carleton and local Northfield community, through education and programming. We welcome the Carleton Community to come and celebrate our diversity. La Casa is an integral part of the Latino community at Carleton because it encourages academic success and community development. All Carleton students are invited to apply to live in the house and to participate in programs in La Casa del Sol.

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**APPLY TO LIVE IN THE CULTURAL HOUSES!!**

**Applications are DUE APRIL 2**

See OIIL website for details!
Mission Statement

For over 25 years, the Office of Intercultural & International Life has been an integral part of Carleton’s initiatives to enhance diversity and cultivate a fully inclusive community, enriched by persons of different ethnicities, nationalities, genders, economic backgrounds, ages, abilities, sexual orientations, and spiritual values. The primary mission of the Office of Intercultural & International Life is to provide programming that fosters intercultural dialogue in the service of greater cross-cultural awareness, empathy, mutual respect, tolerance, and recognition.

Want to submit an article?

If you are interested in writing an article for the Spectrum, please contact Martin Olague or Toni Grant by email (molague@carleton.edu, agrant@carleton.edu) with the subject title “Spectrum Article Submission”.

Responding to the Spectrum

See anything you have a question, response, or comment on? Shoot us an email with the subject title “Spectrum Response”. If we like your idea, we’ll put it into our next submission.

This Spectrum was coordinated and designed by: Toni Grant & Martin Olague