The most valuable aspect of the retreat for me was how it offered a different perspective on identity in America. My skin color, gender, education, and family income level all provide me with a great deal of privilege, and one of the greatest privileges is not needing to be aware of all the advantages I have. I came out of the retreat with a much greater respect for the Carls who come from less-advantaged backgrounds compared to me.

Sometimes, feeling out-of-place can be a rewarding experience. That was the lesson I learned from being the only white American guy at the OIIL retreat this September, and it is a valuable lesson to learn. I signed up to go on the retreat in the first place because a friend told me that I should attend and I had nothing planned for that weekend. Of course, this being Carleton, I ended up missing half a dozen things which I hadn’t known about when I signed up, but I don’t regret that in the least.

When I told people that I was going on the People of Color Retreat, most of them gave me a slightly confused smile since, y’know, I’m whiter than sour cream. The reason that I went is the same reason that I attended Bay Buchanan’s talk last week despite strongly disagreeing on immigration - I understand that my experiences and my outlook are very limited compared to the sum total of everyone’s lives, so I treasure whatever opportunities I can get to try and understand people who are different from me. Everyone’s got a story, and everyone’s story is worth hearing.

Continued on page 4.
The Hmong New Year was a great success. The purpose as to why we celebrate the Hmong New Year is to welcome the upcoming new year as well as recognizing our hard work throughout the year. Each year, we collaborate with St. Olaf College’s Hmong Cultural Outreach organization and we alternate hosting our event between both campuses. This year, we hosted the 10th annual Hmong New Year at the Lion’s Pause on St. Olaf’s campus. We had a good turnout of families, friends, and staffs from both schools. We were also able to connect with students from St. Catherine’s University and Mankato State University. We were honored to have the presence of Professor Lee Pao Xiong from Concordia University as our keynote speaker. One message that he left behind with us was that what makes us Hmong is not our traditions, but our history. Traditions can always change over time, but our history will remain the same. We had a great variety of performances coming from both colleges such as Hmong dance, Hmong poetry, singing, and a skit from St. Olaf. We were also able to invite a Hmong Qeej (bamboo instrument) group to perform all the way from Saint Paul. We catered from a Hmong restaurant in Minneapolis called Banana Blossom. There were egg rolls, purple sticky rice, peev chaj (clear rice noodles), and chicken laj (ground meat salad), both meat and vegetarian options. Overall, this year was a successful year and we hope to continue this tradition in years to come.

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

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.

Convo Speaker:
Zonnie Gorman
Reflection on the Kente Summit

By: Jeffrey Bissoy-Mattis

The Kente Summit Conference, hosted by Macalester and Augsburg colleges in the twin cities November 8th and 9th figured to be a life changing event in my life. When the opportunity to attend this event arose, I quickly jumped to it and responded; little did I know the impact it would have on the outlook I have about life as an educated black man at a private institution and in our society. During this conference I had the opportunity to share my experiences as a black man while in college and the real to ignite conversations. Never in my life have I been surrounded by so many different African and African-American intellectuals, eye-opening to say the least.

During the conference I also gained insight that I never truly understood; the idea that I serve a greater purpose in life than my own self-enlightenment. I learned that it is my duty down the line to give back my experiences and my lessons to those still lost amidst the challenges, trials and errors that our black brothers and sisters go through every day. I would love to give large thanks as well to the three speakers at the event, as they provided ideals and advice to how to go about life.

First to, Alexs Pate, an author of five novels, who two years ago founded Innocent Technologies LLC a company devoted to addressing inequities through stronger relations. He introduced me to the idea of securing my innocence. His talk dealt in part with how throughout history media has produced and portrayed the African American man in a negative light, and how it is our duty to regain our innocence because we are not guilty men, meaning we should stop feeling like the target and redefine our cultures negative stereotypes of ourselves. He shared a story that resonates with me still: He was in elevator with an elderly white women, as they were ascending the women moved her purse to her opposite shoulder to protect it from Alexs, who then took his wallet and put it in the opposite pocket. This exchange hits close to home for most black males who've ever been racially profiled whilst minding their own business. It reminds me of when I was in high school senior and my school had a late start spring term for seniors. A Latino friend of mine came and picked an African American friend of mine and I up from house on this day. As we headed to school, that wasn't too far away, we were pulled over in our school parking lot by a cop who questioned us on our destination and why we weren't at school, we quickly replied that we had a late start. The cop didn't believe us, thankfully our school principal quickly rushed outside to handle the affair. These are two of examples that show that we, people of African descent, must stand up and redefine our image and then redefine the image given to us by the higher power.

The second speaker, Shed G aka Shedrick “Can I vent” Garrett, amused the crowd with his well-crafted and well performed comedy skit. He's well known for his participation in Tyler Perry's Madea movies, as well as his morning radio show on KMOJ 89.9FM. He talked a little bit about his challenges as a young black male and how he had to decide between his number one love, basketball, and his education, and ultimately he chose his education. I would like to thank him for giving me new ideas on how to branch out and make connections. As an aspiring broadcast journalist, he showed me new ways on how to promote myself now rather than later.

“During the conference I also gained insight that I never truly understood; the idea that I serve a greater purpose in life than my own self-enlightenment.”
John Noltner: A Piece of Mind Project Reflection

By: Takuya Amagai

John Noltner, is a freelance photographer, who specializes in taking images of people, lifestyle, and travel. One of his many well known projects is A Piece of Mind Project. A Piece of Mind Project is a multimedia project started in 2009 that tries to raise awareness of issues such as conflict resolution and peace. Noltner did this by having a poster for each individual, with their black and white portrait, a background story of each person, and what the word peace meant for each individual.

It was astounding to see A Piece of Mind Project in real life. Rows and rows of panels, each of which illustrated the person Noltner interviewed, had covered most of the Goodhue Super Lounge’s walls. The group of people Noltner interviewed included a surprising number of Carleton faculty and staff members, such as Professor Harry Williams, and OIIIL Associate Director Luyen Phan. What was also surprising from the exhibit that out of all the people Noltner interviewed none of the answers were completely identical.

At the exhibit, Noltner stated that he is no closer to understanding the true meaning of Peace, due to each individual having a more personalized conception of what Peace means to them and that achieving Peace in war is not the only thing we should do. What is probably the takeaway message from that statement is that even if the meanings of Peace may not be the exact same, people have very strong attachments towards the notion of peace. It is important for people to continue their efforts toward the resolution of conflict, not only on the battlefield but also within our own communities and our homes.
After a busy eighth week, the time had finally arrived for the annual Kente Summit. This year the gathering was split over the course of two days at two different colleges. We met at Macalester College in St. Paul on Friday November 8th and Augsburg College in Minneapolis on Saturday November 9th. I not only had the opportunity to spend the weekend with great company and indulge in deliciously fantastic food, I was given the chance to partake in powerful and intimate conversations. The purpose of the summit is to bring together African and African-American male students attending Minnesota’s private colleges in order to facilitate discussions of the challenges minority male students may encounter during the course of their education or while in the public domain.

After a forty-five minute drive, we arrived at Macalester College’s cultural center. I have to say, I admire the individuals who traveled four hours from Moorhead Minnesota for the summit. Their devotion symbolized the great impact the summit has had in the past. Although I am usually not very conscious about diversity or race, I have to admit I experienced something different when I became part of the majority race in the cultural center. I socialized with individuals with unique experiences at the dinner table. After dinner, the Keynote speaker, Alexis Pate who is the author of four novels and the founder of Technologies LLC, discussed the perceptions of black men in society and how we can defeat these stereotypes by remaining innocent to ourselves. For example, we shouldn’t react when we see the police nor should we fear them. Also, as black men, our race can affect how we are perceived by our employers. We have to be strong, have value and a target because we are evaluated differently due to some of the negative stereotypes that have been nurtured over the years.

Saturday, the summit was at Augsburg College where we continued to be inspired. The people’s comedian, Shed G, opened with a very entertaining comedy show. If you want to listen to him, he’s also a radio host on 89.9 KMOJ in the Twin Cities. After the comedy show, he held a session called “African Americans in the Media” where he talked about the importance of maintaining a strong image in social media and the internet in general. The session was tailored more towards students interested in working in entertainment and media, but I think his advice is applicable to all individuals. We learned how to use YouTube as a resume. Posting videos of yourself online doing the kind of job you hope to obtain in the future can help you attract employers. For example, if you want to become a sports analyst, post videos of yourself commenting on game highlights. Also, you can watch your own videos and evaluate them in order to improve yourself.

In the afternoon, former St. Paul city council member Melvin Carter III, shared his journey to politics with us. He was a student athlete at Florida A&M University who became involved in politics in 2000 after having learned people were being turned away from voting polls for no rational reason. The take away for me was that as a collective group, we need to present ourselves in politics so we can serve our communities’ employment and educational needs. He held a session after his talk called “talkback” where he spoke about the importance of reaching out to our city council members because they are the ones who can help with the small problems that exist in our communities. For instance, if there is graffiti or reckless driving in a particular
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.

APPLY TO LIVE IN THE CULTURAL HOUSES!!
Watch for email and website updates about the application process for the 2014-2015 academic year!!
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 an 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 on 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.”
Chicken Tinga (Serving size 6-8)

**Ingredients**
- 3 lbs of chicken leg quarters (bone in, skin on)
- 1 small can 7 oz. chipotle peppers
- 2 cups diced yellow onions
- 1 medium yellow onion, peeled but left whole
- 2 cups diced tomatillos
- 3 tbsp. of vegetable oil
- Salt to taste

**Directions:**
In a pot place chicken with whole onion and cover with water (allow an extra 2 inches of water coverage). Place on stove top on high heat until boiling, then lower to medium heat. ADD 2 tbsp. of salt. Allow chicken to cook until meat falls of bone (about 45min). Pull chicken out of broth, allow to cool, then shred chicken, toss skin and bones. In a large pan, on medium heat, add oil. When the oil is hot, add diced onions and diced tomatillos. Allow these ingredients to cook for 10 minutes. In the meantime, pour entire can of chipotle peppers into a blender with 4 cups of chicken broth (left over from boiled chicken). ADD 1 tbsp. of salt, then blend well. Add blender contents to pot with onions and peppers. Allow to boil for 5 minutes, then add shredded chicken. Allow all ingredients to simmer for 15 minutes. **ENJOY!**

You can enjoy chicken tinga on warm corn tortillas…or my favorite… tinga tostadas! Get a tostada, put some sour cream on it, then top with chicken tinga and shredded lettuce. Delicious!!!

**Continued Story: Men & Women of Color Retreat**

Because while we all have hurdles to overcome in our lives, few are as persistent or systematic as those that people of color or other minority groups face.

Did I mention that the trip was a lot of fun? It was a lot of fun. People were open and enthusiastic and just generally cool, and by the time we boarded the bus home I felt like I had been adopted into the international student community. One of the best compliments I received was that I’m “brown on the inside.” I still hang out with the friends I made that weekend, and the experience of going in hardly knowing anyone helped me become a lot more comfortable with stepping out of my comfort zone and meeting new people. All I’ve really got to say is that our differences are just as valuable as our similarities, and that exposing yourself to unfamiliar situations will (usually) make you happier and healthier in the end. Be excellent to each other, dudes.
Continued Story: Reflection on the Kente Summit

Continued on page 5. Lastly, we had Melvin Carter III, a St. Paul native who was recently appointed Director of the Office of Early Learning at the Minnesota Department of Education. His speech was dedicated to his life-changing experience as a black college runner freshman during the 2000 elections. His sentiments on how he wish he could have done more to help change the outcome, and how had he just reached out to one more person, they could’ve made a difference. This lesson teaches us all, and definitely taught me that sometimes you must put in just a little bit more energy into fighting for your cause, if you want your cause to be a reality. Ultimately, we must keep fighting if we want to reconstruct our identity and lead successful lives.

Continued Story: The Kente Summit

neighborhood, the city council members are one of the best resources to seek out. Carter continuous to be a great role model for black men and a part of the Twin Cities community as he now serves as Director of the Office of Early Learning at the Minnesota Department of Education.

In the final hours of the summit, I participated in a discussion about the experiences of Africans and African-Americans. I shared my experience as a Somali immigrant. First, I initially found it challenging to adjust to the American culture and learn the English language because the United States was a completely different world from my homeland. I considered it a utopia for most of my life until I was made aware of the disparities that exist as a result of one’s culture or background. As a Somali-American, I developed two separate identities that were isolated by my languages, Somali and English. When I am at Carleton, I blend very easily into the community because of the English language, which enables me to engage in discussions and activities similar to my peers. When I go home during the breaks, I am able to pick up my Somali lifestyle where I left it off. I return to speaking Somali, dinning at Somali restaurants and hanging out with Somali friends. Sharing my story at the summit helped me realize that I don’t have two identities. I’m one individual living in two different environments. Most importantly, I should integrate my two “identities” because they are what make me Yasir.
The Diwali celebration this year was organized by MOSAIC with the help of the Chaplain’s Associates and was a wonderful event full of color, dance and song. It was held in the Great Hall to accommodate the hundred or so people who attended, and the ambience was beautiful and festive.

The evening began with a short poem to explain the myth associated with the festival of Diwali and was followed by some international students talking about how they celebrated Diwali in their respective homes and countries. In order to give everyone a sense of the historical significance and the societal implications behind the festival, MOSAIC invited Prof. Anantanand Rambachan, who is the Professor of Religion, Philosophy and Asian Studies at St. Olaf to deliver a speech about the major festival of a tradition that he is especially passionate about. His speech was very informative and chronologically assessed the importance of Diwali across Indian history and its significance as a religious holiday that draws people together. Upon completing his speech, Prof. Rambachan along with his wife and a student from St. Olaf graced the gathering with some religious Hindu songs.

The second portion of the evening was extremely lively with the students of MOSAIC performing dance routines to popular Bollywood songs. The energy in the room really escalated as people cheered and clapped to songs that they recognized and watched their friends perform on stage. The routines were extremely well choreographed and really exemplified the celebratory spirit of the festival of Diwali.

The performances were followed by dinner, which was catered by ‘Chapati’ and there was a variety of traditional Indian food that was well liked and enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Overall the event was a wonderful mix of the religious, historical and cultural aspects of Diwali and the events encompassed these perfectly, giving everyone a better understanding of the importance of one of the biggest holidays of the Hindu calendar.
A few weeks ago, the Career Center and OIIIL hosted a joint event to familiarize first year students with the Career Center. Associate Director Abby Trout and Program Director for Student Engagement Alena Rivera were joined by Career Advisors Annie Doubleday ’14, Bailey Ulbricht ’15, Alex Siemers ’14, Anna Versen ’14 and Katherine Greenberg ’14 to provide an overview of the Career Center’s services and answer student questions.

Abby began the session by briefly introducing the Career Center’s website and the multiple resources it has to offer. She focused particularly on how to navigate the Tunnel, the main database to find and search for funding, internships, information sessions and job opportunities. The Career Advisors then divided the students into smaller groups where they led sessions tailored to the students’ personal interests and questions, and shared their knowledge and experience related to career planning. These sessions proved to be especially beneficial when students had specific questions ready. Future events of this nature may therefore benefit from encouraging students to come prepared with questions for the Career Advisors, thereby ensuring that they get the most out of their time with the experts!

One of the most important things we hope students took away from this event is the advantage of becoming familiarized with the Career Center as early as possible. This idea was voiced by upperclassmen present at the event, who expressed that they were either glad to have visited the Career Center early on, or that they wished they had done so earlier. We hope students have gained an understanding of the wide variety of services that the Career Center has to offer and that setting up an appointment is a great way to get started. It is not necessary to have a polished résumé or a specific internship in mind; a simple desire to learn more about the Career Center and how they can help you is enough!

Fun Fact: Did you know that you can get funding from the Career Center for unpaid internships and travel costs to interviews? Speak with a Career Counselor to learn more about these funding opportunities that are available for students of all years. Learn more here: [http://apps.carleton.edu/career/students/find_jobs/resources/find_internship/](http://apps.carleton.edu/career/students/find_jobs/resources/find_internship/).

Stay tuned for future website updates!

Career Center Hours
Career Counselor walk-in hours: Mon-Fri 10-noon or by appointment
Career Advisor hours: Mon-Fri 11-5pm walk-in in the career center OR Sun-Thurs 8-10pm 4th Libe

“One of the most important things we hope students took away from this event is the advantage of becoming familiarized with the Career Center as early as possible.”

By: Jojo Kuria, Emma Rossby, and Roberto Sande
Inclusion, Empathy, and Cultural Engagement

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.

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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