

AHANA Hotline

FALL 2006, ISSUE I - NOVEMBER 1, 2006

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**AHANA HOTLINE
Staff 2006-2007**

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Letter from the Editors

Welcome back and a huge welcome to the class of 2010. We hope that your year is full of success and that the Office of AHANA Student Programs can be there for your support. While you all begin your journey, seniors are embarking on their last year as part of this community and are hoping to make it a memorable one.

This fall brings about several changes in the office as we say farewell to Siu Ming Luie and wish her the best of luck at Northeastern University. We welcome Katiria Adorno as the Interim Program Coordinator and Counselor. We'd also like to wel-

come our new student employees: Joseph Al-Shanniek '09, Somban Boeun '08, Maria Centeno '08, Harold Hinds '09 and Julissa Jimenez '08. We'd also like to welcome back: Niurka De Jesus '07, Ashley Hazelwood '08, Adrienne Leslie '08 and Charlene Victorino '07.

Along with all the excitement of starting a new semester we must also remember to celebrate our heritage months. September 15th to October 15th marks Hispanic Heritage Month. October celebrates Filipino Heritage Month and November marks American Indian Heritage Month. This

is a time to recognize our past, celebrate our present, and anticipate our future.

As co-editors of the AHANA Hotline, we hope this newsletter serves as a positive resource of important information and prevalent issues surrounding the AHANA community.

Much Love,

-Nora & Amaany



Amaany & Nora

Big-Ups!

Fall 2006: Karen Campbell Book Award Recipients:

John Manuel Marti, A&S '08 and Morgan Wilson, A&S '07.

Office of AHANA Student Programs Welcome BBQ

Thank you to all of you who came out! We hope to see you all throughout the year.

AHANA Leadership Council Annual Boat Cruise

Congratulations on a successful night!

OLAA's Hispanic Heritage Month Events:

Yo Soy Latina!, Freshman Welcome, 1st Annual Cook-off, and Salsa Night.

Reflections from the Director



Dr. Inés Maturana Sendoya
Director, Office of AHANA
Student Programs

Witnessing the events of these past few weeks and the ways they have unfolded has given me hope. In the aftermath of the most recent incidents of racial and ethnic hostility, many positive things have emerged. My hope is that they continue and do not die after Thanksgiving break.

The public forum that AHANA students convened to share their stories, express their opinions, and name their frustrations was beneficial. It was powerful to see AHANA students standing in solidarity with their peers from many other cultural and ethnic backgrounds. By addressing their issues and concerns together, these students provided an important kind of collaborative community that can make real change occur. Taking responsibility for this new type of community dialogue is not only the role of ALC and other AHANA organizations; it is the job of the community—all of us who work, teach, and learn here.

I hope that hearing the experiences of discomfort of AHANA students provided an opportunity for reflection about our responsibilities to this community and how we contribute, collude or reinforce inhospitable environments for its members.

As these kinds of incidents unfold, the primary obligation and role of the Office of AHANA Student Programs is to provide support to individual students who have been affected and to serve as a resource to them. Often, the personal interests of individual students get lost in the excitement of the public rallies, the speeches and calls for action, designed to collectivize support.

A university—and more specifically, a Jesuit University—is a place for reflection and learning. As such, there is always room for dialogue. We should not close our doors and our minds and prevent ourselves from learning from those who are around us. Dialogue is an appropriate and necessary tool to further the gains that previous generations of AHANA students have achieved. We owe it to them and to generations of students to come to continue the dialogue about how to improve our university.

Racial and ethnic hostility - alleged or real - provides the community with the opportunity to articulate ways in which it can become better, be more welcoming, and create spaces that can serve as models for other Catholic and Jesuit universities and communities in the world.

Before this incident disappears from the public forum, we should also take note of its lessons so to better prepare us for next time something of this nature happens.

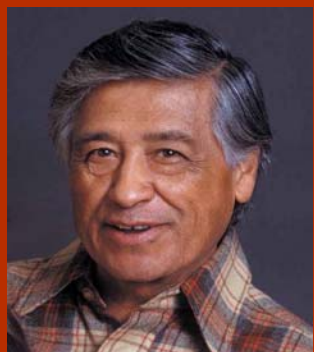
Lesson 1. Amidst the calls for justice, let's not forget that that students directly involved in the situation suffered profoundly personal pain. Each time we approach them to recount their stories we inadvertently ask them to relive a hurtful experience. Please give these students privacy so that they can focus on their academic work and find ways to heal from this experience. Their ill-begotten celebrity status can be detrimental to their psychological, physical and academic well being.

Lesson 2. It is important to remember that many University staff, including those from AHANA backgrounds, are active colleagues in the fight for social change. However, given the unique professional roles which they play, it may often be difficult or inappropriate to share these perspectives directly with students. Remember that individuals demonstrate leadership for change in many different ways.

I would like to end with something that I heard at a conference this past week: "The dream of all of us in a university is not to find the truth but to open the space for the many truths that make up this community and to engage in a dialogue about those truths." OASP plans to develop more programs to engage students across campus in dialogues that will foster greater understanding and stronger interpersonal relationships. Let's engage in those dialogues with each other because you have the power to make a difference.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Nora Frias, A&S '07



Cesar Chavez



Michelle Bachelet

September 15th to October 15th marks National Hispanic Heritage Month. The reason why these dates stand is because September 15th is the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16th and Chile on September 18th. Hispanic Heritage Month has officially been recognized nationally since 1988. The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race.

There has been a constant debate about what we should call ourselves, what we should label ourselves as. Are we Hispanics? Are we Latinos? And then are we Boricuas, Mexicanos, Colombianos or Nuyoricans? However, whatever we choose to identify ourselves as we must realize that we are all united and connected by some common values, common histories and more importantly a common love for our particular cultures. The contributions that Latinos have made and continue to make to US society is so large and extends to all corners of our country but are often times overlooked or ignored. Hispanic Heritage Month provides us with a time to commemorate our past and rejoice in the present. Celebrating our heritage and culture however, should not just be restricted to a single month but something US society should consistently acknowledge.

While American society may only recognize certain Latino heroes and leaders such as Ernesto “Che” Guevara, there are Latino men and women all over the world who left their mark in our history and those striving today to create change and better conditions for their people. People like **Cesar Chavez who lead the United Farm Workers of America** alongside Dolores Huerta; Rita Moreno, an actress who won all four of entertainments biggest awards; Jaime Escalante, an educator who affected the lives of many Latino students; Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic woman to become an astronaut; and **Michelle Bachelet, current president of Chile and the first woman to hold this position in her country**. The struggle that Latinos face both on their own soil and here in the US is an ongoing one that we must all be aware of and fight for.

The Organization of Latin American Affairs (OLAA) here on campus strives to host events and organize activities to help raise awareness and educate on our history and the state of Latinos in the US and in our homelands. To start the month, OLAA hosted a production company from New York to perform *Yo Soy Latina!* The production dealt with issues that Latinas face including, body image, interracial dating, family responsibility, images in the media, and many others. OLAA also hosted its 1st Annual Cook-off where members came out, were given ingredients, a rec-

ipe and an hour to cook a dish. OLAA’s mission is to create a true sense of family for its members and a home away from home for Latinos at BC. This past weekend members partook in our *Hermandad* Retreat. It was a time to discuss important issues, have some fun and really build strong bonds and friendships to help better the organization.

It is projected by the Population Reference Bureau that by the year 2055 one of every four residents in the US will be Latino. As Latinos grow by number, they grow by influence, impact and importance in the US. Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the beauty of our history, the power of our present and the hope of our future.



OTE 2006: A preceptors view

Julissa Jimenez, A&S '08

The Options Through Education (OTE) Transitional Summer Program is a six week enrichment program designed for a select number of incoming freshmen who face financial and educational adversity. OTE gives these students the opportunity to come to Boston College the summer before their freshman year, take courses in English and Math, and become familiar with the campus and surrounding community.

Last summer, I was one of eleven preceptors for the OTE class of 2006 (graduating in the class of 2010). As a preceptor, I was responsible for assisting the students in their adjustment to the Boston College community, providing tutorial support, and planning fun extracurricular activities that would alleviate the students stress as well as foster interpersonal relationships. I was very excited to meet the students and start working with them. At first, however, they did not share my enthusiasm.

The students moved into Fitzpatrick on a rainy Sunday morning in late June. They met their roommate and unpacked their things. As I helped them find their room and put in their room codes, I heard many of them say that they were about to embark on "six weeks of hell." Many of them resented the fact that Boston College was making them go through this program. Later that afternoon, the students were invited to Merkert Hall to attend the OTE orientation. There, they learned the rules of the program which included a strict 12 o'clock curfew and they were told all of the things that were expected of them. Needless to say, the only thing the students were looking forward to were the awesome weekend trips, which included Duck Tours, Six Flags, Boston Bowl, and Martha's Vineyard.

The students became even more frustrated with the program when they realized that it would consume their entire day, leaving them little time to relax and enjoy the beautiful weather. The students were in class all morning, had an hour for lunch, another course in the afternoon, then three hours of "study hall" in the evening. Study hall was a time block where the students were obligated to do academic work. During that time, they were not allowed to talk on the phone, watch television, or surf the web. Tutors were available to them every evening if they needed help with their homework.

When "study hall" ended, the students and preceptors sometimes played games like TABOO (my favorite) or Mafia. These are the times that form my fondest memories of the OTE experience. It was during that time that I got to have fun with the students and talk to them outside of an academic setting.

The program ended with a closing ceremony in Gasson Hall. There, the students put on skits making fun of their beloved preceptors, watched a slide show that recaptured the events of the summer, and were given certificates awarding them for successfully completing the program. Afterwards, we celebrated by having a dance party in the O'Connell House.

It was difficult to watch the student pack up and leave Fitzpatrick the following morning because during those six weeks, the students as well as the preceptors became like my family. However, it was great to see the students come full circle - to watch them go from hating the program to saying that they would like to be preceptors in the future. Being an OTE preceptor has been one of the best and most rewarding experiences I have had at Boston College.



Preceptors



Students



Closing Ceremony

AHANA Outreach Program

Derek J. Leak, A&S '07

Ever wanted to check out a different part of the world? At one point in time, I

laughed at this question. Traveling to another country was not something that an African-American male, with a low economic background, was capable of doing. After simply checking out an information session about study abroad, however, I realized that it was possible, and not too difficult. After studying in Madrid, **Spain**, this past year, my life was impacted in ways I never considered possible. I, also, was able to educate individuals across the ocean on what it means to be a person of color in the United States.

Being given such an opportunity inspired me to raise more awareness of the study abroad options at BC. Thus, I got involved with the AHANA Outreach Program, coordinated by the Office of AHANA Student Programs and CIPP (Center for International Partnerships and Programs). The AHANA Outreach Program seeks to increase the interest of AHANA students at Boston College in the study abroad programs of BC. Our aim is to increase the number of AHANA students who study abroad at Boston College. Throughout the semester, the AHANA Outreach Program will work with both the AHANA Caucus and Asian Caucus, along with individual members of the AHANA community, to spread more information about study abroad opportunities.

If you are an officer or member of an intercultural club and would like to hear or learn more about study abroad, please contact Derek Leak (leakd@bc.edu) for more information. Weekly information sessions, every Monday and Thursday at 4:30PM, are also available through CIPP, located at the Hovey House. Individual appointments can be made with Ben Tobin (tobinba@bc.edu), International Program Advisor.

Discovering what lies outside of your normal, everyday world can be unforgettable experience. Not to mention, going abroad is an opportunity

that most people will never receive. If you have any interests at all, seek out the possibility. This guy took a chance on what seemed impossible and his world has never been so rich, ever since.

“...my life was impacted in ways I never considered possible.”



Argentina



Canada



England



Nepal



South Africa

These are some of the places where you can study abroad!



Upcoming Events & Programs at BC

Graduate School Information Session, Tuesday, November 7th, Walsh Function Room, 6-8 pm. For more information please contact: Margela Andrews at andrewmo@bc.edu.

Summer Abroad Information Sessions - All at the Hovey House Library at 6pm. Meet with an advisor and learn about the different opportunities available! **Tuesday, November 7th; Monday, November 13th OR Monday, December 4th.**

As Long As This Fire is Burning, There Will Still Be Cherokees: Stories and Pictures from an Oklahoma Ceremonial Ground, Wednesday, November 8th, Connors Family Learning Center, O'Neill Library, 2nd floor, 3-4pm.

Come and Speak Your Mind! If you identify yourself as Black, African-American, African, Cape Verdean, Caribbean/West Indian or Haitian, please come to a focus group to share your experience as a BC student. **Thursday, November 9th**, Vanderslice 6th Floor Lounge 6-7:30pm **OR Wednesday, November 15th**, Ignacio Lounge, 6-7:30pm.

A Room of Our Own, Thursday, November 9th, Vanderslice Cabaret Room, 6:30pm Ladies! Exhibit your art: sculptures, drawings, photography, paintings or paper maché. Drop off your art at the Women's Resource Center, 141 McElroy by Monday, November 6th. For more information call WRC x2-3489.

Kamayan, Saturday, November 11th, Boston University Tsai Center, Time TBA. Annual arts event hosted by Boston-area university Filipino clubs.

Newton Academic Fair, Thursday, November 16th, Stuart Dining Hall, 5:30-7:30pm. This fair will provide academic resources to students on the Newton Campus and help students prepare for their academic careers. Participants include: Halftime, Women's Resource Center, Pre-Law and Pre-Med programs, Study Abroad and much more!

Professor and Pastries Series Events - Mingle with faculty on **Wednesday's** 3:30-5pm
November 29th: Gasson Hall 100 — Nations, Societies, and Organizations
December 6th: Honors Jenks Library — The Fine and Performing Arts

Service & Other Opportunities

Spring 2007: NEW course available: “Social Justice in MesoAmerica”

Course will cover the histories, political economies and cultures of Central America and Chiapas as well as an evaluation of the US’ role in the region. Service work in the Latin America and Boston community is required as part of the course work. Course requires registration by permission and completion of a pre-registration questionnaire.

For further information please contact: Professor Deborah Levenson-Estrada if interested in History credits at levensod@bc.edu or Professor Michael Malec if interested in Sociology credits at malec@bc.edu.



The MLK Scholarship, is available to all rising seniors paying 75% of the winner’s tuition senior year. It is awarded each year at the MLK Jr. Dinner in February by President Leahy.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 2006.

Apply at: http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/svp/mlkmc/mlkhome.html

Karen Campbell Severin Book Award

New deadlines! Each fall and spring semester, this Book Award is given to two undergraduate students who best exemplify Karen’s legacy of giving unselfishly to the community. In order to apply for this award, students must demonstrate financial need and submit an essay, their resume and their course schedule. The deadline to submit the application will be the last day of class of each fall and spring semester.

THE NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING ‘07 AWARD IS: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 2006. Applications are available in the Office of AHANA Student Programs.





Enhance Learning
Through Diversity

Boston College

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The Office of AHANA Student Programs

Mission Statement

The mission of the Office of AHANA Student Programs is to model servant leadership to students of AHANA descent and to provide a broad array of services that nurture their academic, social, cultural and spiritual development. While the traditional target group of the office is students who enter Boston College through the office's six week summer Options Through Education Program, the office's vision is to reach out and embrace all AHANA students in an attempt to help them actualize their dreams, fulfill their potential and become servant-leaders. The Office of AHANA Student Programs provides quality programs and services aimed at responding to the continuum of needs of students.

Programs and Services

- Comprehensive Academic Advisement Program
 - Performance Monitoring
- Options Through Education (OTE)—Transitional Summer Program
- Benjamin Elijah Mays Mentoring Program
- Jaime Escalante Tutorial Program (Fall schedule below)
- Father Ellacuria AHANA Resource Center
- Ladies Let's Talk
- AHANA Hotline
- Sister Thea Bowman AHANA Scholars Program
- Gospel Caravan



Jaime Escalante Tutorial Program **FREE ACADEMIC TUTORING!!!**

**APPOINTMENTS
NOT
REQUIRED**

Fall 2006
09/25/06—12/07/06

Day	Time	Subjects
Monday	5PM—7PM	• English
Tuesday	5PM—7PM	• Calculus
Wednesday	5PM—7PM	• Calculus • English-as-a-Foreign Language (EFL) • General Chemistry/Organic Chemistry
Thursday	5PM—7PM	• Calculus