

Voice and Vision

The Newsletter for Hamline University's
Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity Initiatives & Programs

Fall 2011

Volume XIV, Edition I

Tia Nguyen, Editor

Statement of Purpose



The **Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity Initiatives and Programs** helps create and sustain an inclusive community

that appreciates celebrates and advances student and campus diversity at Hamline University.

In partnership with other university and community members, our initiatives help prepare students to live, serve and succeed in a diverse university and world.

Professional Staff

Carlos D. Sneed

Assistant Dean/ Director
csneed@hamline.edu

Bao L. Thao

Associate Director for
Multicultural Student Programs
bthao03@hamline.edu

Steph Wilenchek

Assistant Director for Gender and
Sexual Orientation Initiatives
swilenchek01@hamline.edu

Keisha Blackman

Administrative Assistant
kblackman02@hamline.edu

Welcome to Another Exciting Year!



Although it's only October and we've only been in this school year six weeks, a great deal has already happened at Hamline and in the Hedgeman Center, including retreats, Hispanic Heritage and African Month events, BBQs, and a new pre-orientation program. Additionally, the "This is My Story" and the Hedgeman Center Student Success Lunch Series have begun. We've also welcomed new staff including, Steph Wilenchek, Assistant Director for Gender and Sexual Orientation Initiatives, and new student workers, Smari Shrestha and Bri Brown.

We began the year with the Multicultural Mosaic, a new program based on the success of Student of Color Orientation but broader in its focus and in the students served. Thirty-one new first-year and transfer students from diverse racial, ethnic, gender and sexual orientation joined us for three and a half days to learn about complex and interconnected identities and social justice issues of race, gender and sexual orientation.

By all accounts the experience was a positive one for participants, and the information they learned, growth experiences and relations built continue to serve them well in the classroom, in student organizations, and in the other co-curricular events in which they have participated including Piper Passages, the ACTC Queer Student Leadership Retreat, Hedgeman Student Empowerment Retreat and others.

So much behind us already, but so much ahead of us this semester also. I invite you to start or continue joining us for the many upcoming programs, activities and initiatives we have in store to complement your academic experience. Continue to look for and read our Monday "Hedgeman Happenings" notices, email, flyers, calendars and updated website for all the information about what's happening. Our student organizations, Safe Zone Network, NCORE Network and staff are busy putting the finishing touches on cultural, social, political and personal enriching events for you.

And, as always, please let us if there's anything we can do support your success and experience at Hamline. Call (651-523-2423), email (hedgeman@hamline.edu) or stop by the office, 1475 Hewitt Avenue, anytime. We'd love to see and hear from you.

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Pathway to Hamline: Multicultural Mosaic Pathway



John Vang is a junior and a president of Hmong Student Association (HSA). He was an upper class volunteer for the Multicultural Mosaic Pathway. He has been a part of HSA for two years. Vang wants to continue to support and educate Hamline's community about Hmong's culture. One of his goals is to help the Hmong community find its voice.

Vang is majoring in English and aiming for Education because he wants to become an ESL/ELL teacher for students of color with limited English knowledge. "Students who do not have speak English well have a significantly lower chance of succeeding in this society; I want to change that," Vang stated.

What did you think of Multicultural Mosaic Pathway (MMP)?

"I thought it was great. It was just like the same year when I arrived at Hamline with more topics to go over...it always brings a smile to me when I see the future of Hamline enjoying such a program as well as dive into the discussion of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation issues."



Ayja Radwanski is from New Richmond, Wisconsin. She was one of 37 new students who participated in the Multicultural Mosaic Pathway. "I thought MMP was an incredible experience, I learned so much!" said Radwanski.

Radwanski is unsure what to major in, but it didn't stop her from being a part of the Cappella choir. She's also hoping to join the Social Justice Troupe. With her busy schedule as a tutor for Hancock and as an overnight and lunch host for admissions, she always finds time to sing!

What can you use from MMP to further your academic years?

"I can use what I learned in MMP to educate others as well as to form a better understanding of different cultures."



George Luangoudom is a first-year student at Hamline University. Luangoudom's brings two different cultures to our community, Laotian and Chinese.

Hamline's small class size and its location were hard for Luangoudom to turn down. He doesn't know what he wants to major in at this moment, but he wants to try gymnastics for fun!

What did you like about the Multicultural Mosaic Pathway?

"I liked the Multicultural Mosaic because I became more connected with the people that I was with."

What are you looking forward to this upcoming year?

"I look forward to a new adventure."



Mayra Lala Quito is a Latina sophomore student who is originally from Ecuador. The transition to Hamline was indescribable easy to her. Right away, she started networking with the Hamline community, and has made a lot of friends. This year, she serves as the vice president for Hispanic and Latino Organization. Mayra's is also a part of Hancock's Hand in Hand, and the Hamline Red Grays.

Lala is pursuing a double major in psychology and criminal justice with a certificate in Spanish. Even though it's a lot of work, Mayra believes the Hamline's community will help her through the next three years.

What do you think of Hamline so far?

"I love Hamline!!! I am so glad I picked it because the size of the classes is something that I appreciate for I'm not a simple number in the class but rather acknowledged by the professor. I like that I can go to my professors' offices without having to schedule an appointment."

Staff Spotlights

Steph Wilenckek



Steph Wilenckek is the Hedgeman Center's newest staff member as the **Assistant Director for Gender and Sexual Orientation Initiatives**.

Wilenckek's position helps to educate about and advocate for LGBTQIA issues on Hamline's campus. Steph will also be coordinating programs to educate the Hamline

community about intersections of gender and sexual orientation.

Although Wilenckek is new to Minnesota and the Hamline community, Steph has already settled in and started making a mark here at Hamline. Steph has facilitated numerous Safe Zone training sessions and co-lead a overnight retreat with other ACTC colleges to discuss gender and LGBTQIA issues.

Before Hamline, Steph was the director of the GLBTQ Resource Center for 6 ½ years at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Steph also worked at Duke University's Women's Center in North Carolina as one of the voices for violence prevention. "I love working with social justice issues," Wilenckek said.

When asked about looking forward to this year at Hamline

and to future in general, Wilenckek says with a smile, "Peace on earth! I'm looking forward to continuing to get to know Hamline students, working with different organizations, and working with social justice and GLBTQ issues."

Wilenckek enjoys the opportunity to work with students. Wilenckek says, "I really love the students here; they're really nice and engaged. I love the small campus which allows me to get to know people easily."

Some fun facts about Wilenckek are: Besides having a fun and quirky personality, Steph is (slowly) learning to play the ukulele, has run a 26.3 mile marathon; and has climbed an active volcano in Central America. What fun!

Lamar Shingles



Shingles has a very important position at Hamline! He is entering his third as the **Coordinator of Campus Recreation** in the Student Leadership and Activities Office. He oversees the campus recreation programs (intramural and club sports).

As an undergraduate student, Shingles' goal was to become an automotive engineer. He says he has always had a passion for cars and wanted a career where he would be designing and testing vehicles every day. But, as it turns out, working with intramurals and college students is what his passion is currently.

So how did Shingles get into his current position? Originally he came to Hamline as an Area Coordinator in Residential Life. During his third year as a professional staff member in the residence halls, Shingles was given the opportunity to develop a new recreation program on campus. So he jumped to the opportunity because one of his

other passion in life is sports! He understands the importance sports play in society, and also our students experience at Hamline.

When asked what he loves most about his job, Shingle says, "I enjoy working with students more than anything else in my position, specifically, the day-to-day interactions and working with good student leaders!"

If you have questions or are interested in joining a club or intramural sport, you can contact Lamar at: **lshingles01@hamlin.edu** or call him at **(651) 523-2817**. You can also stop by his office is located in Bush Student Center HUB.

2011 Hedgeman Student Empowerment Retreat



The Student Empowerment Retreat is one of the Hedgeman Center's annual signature programs that allow students to "relate, relax, and release."

This year's theme was "Weaving Intertwined and Inclusive Webs of Identity and Community." There were 59 student participants, a diverse group of new and returning participants. Also, a diverse range of first years students to seniors who attended.

During the overnight retreat, participants learned about their individual identities (i.e., cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, sexual orientation etc). Participants also discussed the intersections of identities as well as racism and stereotypes. Most importantly, the overnight retreat gave the opportunity for upper class students and new students to network, support each other and form lasting relationships.

Workshops ranged from looking at one's cultural identity, LGBTQ issues, bi-racial/multi-racial issues, stereotypes in the media, and insights into

being a stronger college student.

Dayliar Htoo, a sophomore, explains, "The retreat was great, it helped me understand the community. The activity that I like the most was the closing activity. It helped us get together as a family."

Participants also had a great time during the Group Relay games. The best part of the relay games was to see how creative everyone was and who were most competitive!

During the retreat, we also discovered there were many talented participants. During a lull in the activities, several students filled in the gap by performing spoken word, singing and playing the piano. We also had fun dancing throughout the retreat. Thank you to all the talented participants who shared a little of themselves to the group!

The 2011 Student Empowerment Retreat has the highest number of students registered in recent years, with registration closing early and a waiting list employed.

A special **Thank you** to **Javier Gutierrez**, *Director of Residential Life* and **LaToya Beck**, *Residential Life Area Coordinator*, who volunteered and facilitated retreat.

RETREAT EVALUATIONS

(55 completed evaluations, scores are averages of scores from 1 to 5)

Publicity, Recruitment, Communication	4.29
Presenters' Preparation and Effectiveness	4.64
Relevance of the presentations (usefulness)	4.75
Maintenance of audience's interest	4.64
Opportunities for questions and student participation	4.87
Appropriate use of your time/ Good use of your time	4.87
Visual Aids and Resource Lists	4.51
Level to which program goals were stated and met	4.76
Your enjoyment of the orientation	4.91
Overall orientation evaluation	4.85

My Voice, My Vision

Lisa Fralish



Lisa Fralish is a third-year student, with one more year to fulfill her English major and Elementary Education minor. Fralish's vision is to educate young children how to engage in difficult dialogues with those who are different and celebrate diversity. Fralish explains, "Thinking about how early young children can be socialized to think one way or another, depending on the messages to which they are exposed, inspires me to make the world a better place."

One of Fralish's goals is for the children to learn how to live in a multicultural society. Fralish explains, that is important for "the children to stay grounded in their identities and try to understand identities different than their own." Drawing from her academic and curricular interests and relationships with mentors and teachers, Fralish gained courage and strategies for connecting with people around racism and other forms of oppression. She wants to advocate for the voice of unheard subordinate groups and continue working with social justice.

In Fralish's own words:

"I grew up in Mankato, MN about 1.5 hours south of the metro area. When I came to Hamline, my diversity standpoint was "every individual is an individual" so I should not judge someone by how they appear to me - skin color, language, the brand of clothes they wear, etc. Since my first year, I have become more aware of systemic oppression that sometimes means individuals with a shared identity have similar experiences of oppression or unearned privilege.

I have also changed from criticizing "society" for being oppressive to getting more involved in government, political affairs, advocacy, and education to actually change "society" - which is made up of all of us. Also, I have focused on my own privileges and how I can use them for good or step down when appropriate. I have become most passionate about racism and racial justice.

To work on these issues on campus, I have attended Hamline University Conference On Race and Ethnicity (HUCORE) to educate myself and share what I have learned; I have been in an excellent Race Dialogue class (look for it this spring again!); I have joined the National Conference On Race Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE) Network and will be putting on events throughout the year to hopefully bring together more people on campus to talk about racism and racial justice. Also, I am in MPIRG, which works for change on environmental and social issues that often disproportionately affect people of color. I have also been part of a casual dialogue group, White Women for Racial Justice.

I have chosen teaching for my career because I think education is empowering. A main goal of mine as a teacher is to prepare students to interact in respectful ways and use critical thinking to make decisions about social issues around them. I think I will learn a lot from my students, which will be empowering for me too.

If anyone is interested in attending HUCORE, contact the Hedgeman Center. If you want more information about the upcoming NCORE or MPIRG events, please email me at lfralish01@hamlineuniversity.edu"

Hispanic Heritage Month

Like many colleges, universities, communities and organizations, Hamline University celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) from September 15th – October 15th. Hispanic Heritage Month is a celebration of history, culture, achievements and contributions made by Latinos. At Hamline, Hispanic Heritage Month activities are coordinated by the Hispanic and Latino Organization (HALO). HALO kicked off with Latino Karaoke Night in the Student Center Lobby. They will also have the Fiesta Latina, where people will experience different type of foods, and performances and many more events to come!



Juan Puentes is a junior at Hamline. This is Puentes' second year as co-president of Hispanic and Latinos Organization (HALO). Puentes shared his thoughts and goals for the Hispanic Heritage Month. "I am looking forward to our many on-campus events throughout Hispanic Heritage Month," Puentes explains, "We want to show everyone the accomplishments of Latino leaders and to recognize them so their hard work does not go unnoticed."

"What I am aiming for is helping our members and the larger community to be more knowledgeable about our culture and our history as a whole. For example, for me personally is important to be able to tell you, not only about my culture (Mexican) but those from different parts of Latin America. Although we have differences, we should celebrate them all equally."

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

September 15	4:00-6:00PM	HHM Kick-Off & Hedgeman Center BBQ
September 21	4:00-8:00PM	Karaoke Night
October 6	4:30-7:00PM	Fiesta Latina
October 7-8		MN Network for Latinos
October 10	7:00PM	Movie Night w/Spectrum

Recent Pictures of HALO Members



MORE HEDGEMEN CENTER EVENTS

SPECTRUM Coming Out Week

October 10th

Movie Night and Discussion
of Movie: "La Mission"

Student Center HUB 7:00 PM

October 11th

Coming Out Week Picnic Celebration

Old Main Mall 4:30-6:30 PM

Coming Out Vigil

Student center Chapel 8:30 PM

October 12th

Faculty and Staff Stories

GLC 108W 6:00-8:00 PM

October 13th

Coming Out Around the World

Student Center HUB 7:00-8:30 PM

October 14th

Spectrum's Annual Drag Show

BSC Ballroom 7:00-9:00PM

This Is My Story

The monthly discussion series, *This Is My Story*, invites members of the university and local communities to share personal stories about their racial and cultural identities and journeys.

All sessions are held in Giddens Learning Center, room 100E from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and include the following dates:

- ◆ October 6: **Muslim Americans**
- ◆ November 10: **Native Americans/American Indians**
- ◆ December 1: **People Living with HIV/AIDS**
- ◆ February 9: **Multi-Racial Americans**
- ◆ March 1: **People With Disabilities**
- ◆ April 5: **Transgender/Gender Queer**

October is African Heritage Month

Sponsored by *HASA*

Hamline African Student Association

"Committed to nourishing cultural, intellectual, political, and economic awareness of the African continent."

~Pamoja Night~

October 7, 2011;

Student Center Ballroom

*Fashion, Cuisine, Drumming,
Dance, Poetry, History*

Fall Events

DATE

EVENT

LOCATION

October - African Heritage Month

Oct. 4	11:30AM-12:30PM	Hedgeman Center Lunch Series	104E Giddens Learning Center
Oct. 5	4:30PM-9:30PM	SOSA Henna Night	Student Center Lobby
Oct. 7	5:00PM-9:00PM	African Pamoja Night	Student Center Ballroom
Oct 10-14		National Coming Out Week	
Oct. 11	11:30AM-12:30PM	Hedgeman Center Lunch Series	104E Giddens Learning Center
Oct. 13	11:30AM	African Heritage Month Keynote Speaker	Sorin Hall, Room A&B
Oct. 13	7:00PM	Safe Zone - "Coming Out. Around the World"	Student Center HUB
Oct. 14	7:00PM	Spectrum Drag Show	Bush Student Center Ballroom
Oct. 18	11:30AM-12:30PM	Hedgeman Center Lunch Series	104E Giddens Learning Center
Oct. 20	6:00-9:00PM	SOSA Movie Night	Student Center HUB
Oct. 21	3:00-6:00PM	HU-CORE Pre-Conference Workshop	Sorin Hall, Room A&B
Oct. 22		Homecoming Game and Dance	
Oct. 23	1:00PM-5:00PM	Safe Zone Training (pre-registration required)	Kay Fredericks Ballroom, Klas
Oct. 25	11:30AM-12:30PM	Hedgeman Center Lunch Series	104E Giddens Learning Center
Oct. 26	6:00-9:00PM	HSA Spooky Night	Manor Lounge
Oct. 27-28		HUCORE Retreat	Off Campus

November - Hmong Month

Nov. 3	6:00-8:00PM	HSA Open House	Student Center HUB
Nov. 4	3:00-6:00PM	HU-CORE Pre-Conference Workshop	Sorin Hall, Rooms A&B
Nov. 8	3:30-5:00 PM	NCORE Speaker: Race in Film	118 Drew Science Hall
Nov. 8	7:00-8:30 PM	NCORE Workshop: Diversity Issues in Film	100E Giddens Learning Center
Nov. 10	7:00 PM	HSA Keynote Speaker	Student Center HUB
Nov. 13	6:00 PM	PRIDE BSA Gospel Night	Sundin Music Hall
Nov. 15	7:00 PM	NCORE Speaker: Race in Television	100 Giddens Learning Center
Nov. 16	3:00PM	Safe Zone - "Gender Identity and Expression"	Drew Science 118
Nov. 20	6:00-9:00PM	HSA New Year Celebration	Location: TBA
Nov. 22	7:00 PM	NCORE Workshop: Race in Music	100 Giddens Learning Center
Nov. 29	12:30-4:30PM	Safe Zone Training (pre-registration required)	Kay Fredericks Ballroom, Klas



The Hedgeman Center

Student Diversity Initiatives and Programs
1536 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104
651-523-2423

hedgemancenter@hamline.edu
www.hamline.edu/hedgeman

