



Voice and Vision

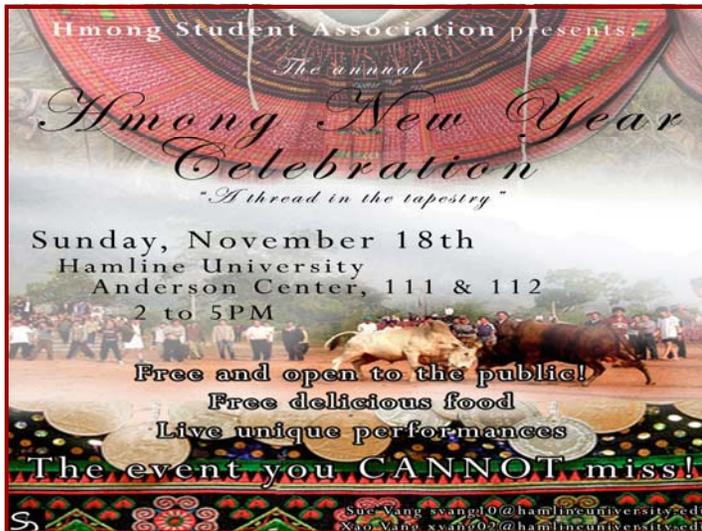
The Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity Initiatives and Programs

Fall 2012

Volume XV, Edition II

Esha Seth, Editor

Fall Semester a Success, November Brings Hmong Month



What A Semester! Fall 2012 has not disappointed us. Did not [Michelle Alexander](#) start things off with a big bang? Professor Alexander's lecture on *The New Jim Crow* was amazing, as were the events for [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) and [African Heritage Week](#). We thank Commitment to Community, Hispanic and Latino Organization and Hamline African Student Association for bringing us outstanding cultural, social and educational events. Continuing a long tradition of outstanding student community building and diversity programming, [the Horizons Student Empowerment Retreat](#), [the LGBT Student Leadership Retreat](#), [the Hamline Undergraduate Conference on Race and Ethnicity](#), and [the HU Student Diversity Summit](#) were successful as well.

With passionate demonstrations debate, dialogue, campaigning and voting for local, statewide and national campaigns and issues, **the Hedgeman Center applauds and celebrates the return of Hamline student activism. We tip our hats to your courageous dialogue and activism across and about difference. Your passionate, informed, respectful discourse and dialogue reflects and epitomizes the type of education you are receiving here at Hamline University. Our hope is that we will continue to come together as a diverse community committed to personal, institutional and systemic change through education, dialogue, activism and inclusion.**

As we come to the close of this semester and turn our attention to the final events and final examinations, we hope that you will manage your time wisely to continue to give you all to your studies but to also make time to attend some of the events advertised in this newsletter, including the Hmong Student Association's **HMONG MONTH** events:

- **HMONG MONTH OPENER**- Thursday, November 1 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bush Center HUB;
- **HMONG NEW YEAR CELEBRATION** - Sunday, November 18 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in 112 Anderson Center; and
- **HMONG KEYNOTE SPEAKER** - Thursday, November 28, location and time to be announced.

For more information about these events, please contact the Hedgeman Center at 651-523-2423, hedgemancenter@hamline.edu or in person at 317 Anderson Center.

Hamline Undergraduate Student Demographics	1st Year Students	All Students
Total Undergraduate Students	541	2007
White, non-Hispanic	72%	72%
Students of color (domestic students with known race/ethnicity)	27%	24%
American Indian or Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic	0%	1%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	7%	6%
Black or African American, non-Hispanic	8%	7%
Hispanic	7%	5%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	0%	1%
Two or More Races, non-Hispanic	5%	4%
Race and/or Ethnicity Unknown	1%	3%
Non-Resident Alien	1%	2%
First-Generation Students (neither parent completed college)	15%	19%
Women	63%	59%
Men	37%	41%

****Data obtained from HU Office of Institutional Advancement and Research. For the full report please visit their website: www.hamline.edu/offices/institutional-research/basic-data.html**



2012 HUCORE Retreat

"Working within the white caucus group allowed for community building, connections and moments to challenge each other beyond our comfort zones."

-Steph Wilenchek, HU staff



2012 HU-CORE Participants

On Thursday, October 25th, instead of taking advantage of the midterm break to study, go home, or just relax, twenty-nine diverse undergraduate students set out to an off campus site to attend the **13th Annual Hamline University Conference of Race and Ethnicity** (HU-CORE).

In addition to the overnight retreat, participants committed themselves to attend pre- and post-conference session. One senior student and first-time participant commented, "(the pre-conference session) set a good foundation for the rest of the workshop and let us all get to know each other and build trust before the retreat."

Participants also committed themselves to spend two days of learning about issues of race, racism and racial justice. The Hmong Student Association (HSA), sent a few of their executive board members to attend this HU-CORE as a part of their leadership development. Kong Vang, public relations officer of HSA, commented on a session about stereotypes, "I learned that we all must feel uncomfortable to fully understand the details and inner content of race and ethnicity. It changed and increased my views and

education about this topic and has opened me up to intersectionality of other related topics such as LGBTQIA, socioeconomic, etc."

During the conference, the facilitators, core group leaders and participants, created an environment where individuals explored and pushed their comfort zones on issues of race and ethnicity. Allie Rice, a first year student reflected, "(It) forced everyone to really reflect on their own experience in life, and at the same time, genuinely listen to the stories of others. I've never seen such a large group collectively step up to the plate and challenger themselves to really think about racial injustices in such a personal and vulnerable way. I was touched, and also very proud of the group."

Also explored during HU-CORE were the origins, manifestations and perceptions of race and ethnicity. Discussions in small and large groups examined issues of race and racial identity development. Participants learned different racial identity development theories and how to use those theories as entry points to look at their own racial identity. One participant wrote in her evaluation about valuing opportunities

for "Meeting amazing people, getting a chance to better understand my own white identity and digging deeper into acknowledging the unearned privileges I have."

Building bridges and strengthen relationships between different campus racial groups was another topic that was discussed during the conference. Another student commented, "(HU-CORE) helped me grow on my journey towards social justice, and it was an good opportunity to hear from people who wouldn't normally jump into race conversations."

The best part of the conference for many ranged from large/small racial caucus group discussions, to the Privilege Walk activity, and the "Asking Questions about Racial Stereotypes with no Consequences" session.

THANK YOU to the Coordinating Committee: Carlos Sneed, Colleen Bell, Javier Gutierrez, Wendy Burns; Core Group Leaders: Margot Howard, Mike Gerald, Steph Wilenchek, Bao L. Thao; and the participants who helped make this another successful HUCORE!

2012 ACTC LGBTQIA Leadership Retreat



2012 ACTC LGBTQIA Retreat Participants

“You never can know all there is to know about the LGBTQIA community, and I learn something new - every time ”

-Brianna Brown ('16)

This year the Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity helped sponsor the ACTC LGBTQIA Leadership Retreat for the second year in a row. Twenty-two students, staff and faculty from Hamline University, St. Catherine University, St. Thomas University and Augsburg gathered at Camp Courage in Maple Lake, MN for a weekend of community building and leadership development. Participants had the opportunity to share their stories, explore their social identities, discuss social and political issues, create action plans and develop long lasting relationships with one another.

Brianna Brown, a sophomore and second year participant of the retreat said “I’ve been on both this year and last year’s ACTC LGBTQIA Retreat. I am positive that the experiences I had and connections I made will stay with me forever.” The retreats are so powerful and the sense of community is always refreshing. It’s nice making connections with Augsburg, St. Thomas, St. Kate’s, and Macalester because there are so many areas that we can help each other out with, in terms of

queer issues. These retreats help queer students leaders develop skills and connections to take back to campus, which is so important to me. You never can know all there is to know about the LGBTQIA community, and I learn something new every time.”

Top things students took away from the retreat:

- The effects of the proposed Minnesota marriage and voter-ID amendments
- How to effectively lead discussions and respond to difficult questions in a respectful way
- How to collaborate with other ACTC schools
- That reaching out is a difficult thing to do, but when it happens, change can start
- Specifics in the topic of gender identity
- Slow down and listen
- Not to stereotype
- I am beautiful and I can do great things in the world
- How much acceptance comes from our own community

We were excited to sponsor eight students from Hamline. Our hope is to create this opportunity for ACTC students each year. A follow up to the ACTC LGBTQIA Retreat will be the Hamline Q-Unity Retreat, February 15-16th, 2013.

Q-Unity is an overnight, “lock-in” retreat for Hamline students that identify as LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, ally) or related identities. The purpose of the retreat is to engage students in community building, self-awareness, peer-to-peer conversations and building stronger support systems on campus. We hope students leave the retreat with a better understanding of self and others as it relates to LGBTQIA identities. Look for more information next semester.

Through both the ACTC and Q-Unity retreats, the Hedgeman Center for Student Diversity is working to build stronger communities, educate about LGBTQIA issues and develop student leaders engaged in their community and beyond for years to come.

Transgender Day of Remembrance



Transgender Day of Remembrance is a nationally known event presented in communities across the country to honor and remember those who were killed due to transgender hatred and prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose murder on November 28, 1998 kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Although not every person represented during the Day of Remembrance self-identified as transgender, each was a victim of violence based on bias against transgender and gender variant people.

Campus Speaker: Jamie Ann Meyers

**Tuesday, November 20, 2012
11:30am - 12:30pm
304 Anderson Center**

Jamie Ann Meyers is a transsexual woman advocate and activist for transgender people in secular and faith communities.

She serves as the transgender representative to the board of Lutherans Concerned/North America, works with GenderFold in the UCC, is a lead trainer with the Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance, and serves on the board of the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition. She lives in Winona, MN, with her wife of 45 years.

Kwanzaa Celebration



Celebrate the Spirit of "Nia" with PRIDE BSA

Kwanzaa is an African American celebration that focuses on the traditional African values of family, spirituality, commerce, community responsibility and self-improvement. It is a time of reaffirming people of African descent, the ancestors and African and African-American cultures.

**Kwanzaa Celebration
Tuesday, December 4
5:00-6:00 pm
112 Anderson Center**

The Kwanzaa Celebration was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga who thought it was important for African American people to learn about their history, culture and connections to Africa. Dr. Karenga envisioned and created Kwanzaa as a holiday to bring family and friends together to create their own customs, learn about their shared history, share food and exchange personal gifts. Not religious in nature, Kwanzaa does incorporate and celebrate the importance of faith to people of African descent

This year's Kwanzaa Celebration will be the 15th anniversary of the event at Hamline. The program includes reflections, lighting the Kwanzaa candles, food and performances, including the HU Gospel Choir.

Multicultural Alliance Karaoke Night



Join the Multicultural Alliance for the annual Karaoke Night. Come show off your singing skills, enjoy some food and watch as MA organizations compete for the coveted title of Karaoke Champion.

**Karaoke Night
Friday, December 7
6:30-9:00 pm
112 Anderson Center**



Previous Karaoke Winners:

- 2011 - HSA
- 2010 - PRIDE BSA
- 2009 - HASA & HALO
- 2008 - APAC

Professor Rachel Endo



Professor Rachel Endo is the Chair of the Teacher Education Department in the School of Education. She is also teaching a FYSEM, *Multicultural Literature for Children and Youth*, and will teach a graduate course in education and cultural diversity in the spring.

“Do your best to shine and stand out. College is the prime time to not only have fun and make friends, but develop life-long habits that will serve you well anywhere you go.”

on the lives of others by, for instance, mentoring and tutoring K-12 students. Rachel is also inspired when students inform her about agitating change and forging solidarities in productive ways, particularly around issues of civil rights and social justice.

Teaching and working with students tops her list. She also enjoys doing work around curriculum development and working with other faculty to launch new initiatives, partnerships, and programs that will help improve the state of education for all Americans, particularly underserved communities.

As a first-generation college student who started out in the community-

college system, Rachel’s biggest aspiration going in was just to graduate. Navigating and negotiating the college system was challenging for her. However, she had professors who not only cared about her, but pushed her to accomplish goals that she never thought were possible. “Dr. Jody Neathery-Castro from the University of Nebraska at Omaha was someone who encouraged me to not only dream big, but to accomplish as much as possible before graduating. For instance, she encouraged me to join the Honors Program, which was rigorous and required the completion of a senior research project. At first, I was hesitant; I had graduated from high school in the lower 25% of my graduating class, and came into college with the equivalent of a seventh-grade education. However, I am grateful that I followed her advice because I ended up graduating with high honors.

Some advice Rachel would like to share with current undergraduate students are first, no matter what, **keep showing up**. Life is not perfect, and there will certainly be difficult days, people, and situations that you will encounter. However, be grateful for what you have, and try to move on if you stumble. Second, **do your best to shine and stand out**. College is the prime time to not only have fun and make friends, but to develop life-long habits that will serve you well anywhere you go. For instance, **be very attentive to details—always doing your best work, being present in class to participate whenever possible, following directions, and turning in assignments on time**.

Both of Rachel’s parents are equally an inspiration to her. She says they raised a family during a time of significant anti-Asian sentiment. They did not sugarcoat the realities that they faced due to their socio-economic class, cultural background/nationality, language, and race. She goes on to say, that “they were very honest about the challenges that we encountered because of our actual or perceived differences.” Throughout her life, she has always admired them for refusing to assimilate

to the dominant culture’s norms, and for staying true to their values regardless of what others tell them to do or not to do.

Many triumphs and overcoming challenges led her to her current professional career. She started out working in minimum-wage jobs where the prospects for upward mobility seemed impossible, so going to college was really the only path to help her reach her career goal, which was to eventually work in a leadership position.

Over the past ten years, Rachel has worked in a variety of roles including as a curriculum specialist, education consultant, educator, and program director, but still enjoys teaching the most.

“By heart, I am an activist who wants collaborate with others to quickly change, eradicate, or resolve oppressive institutional cultural norms and practices”

Rachel’s areas of interest include: anthropology and sociology of education; Asian American education; critical approaches to multicultural education; demography; immigrant and refugee American experiences, particularly how newcomers and their descendants negotiate citizenship and integration in metropolitan areas and midsize-to-small urban communities; interpretive and qualitative methods in educational research; the roles of co-ethnic networks in the education and socialization of Asian American children and youth; and transnational studies in education with an emphasis on diasporas Asian American communities

When Rachel is not working, she loves to cook, and of course engaging in mindful meditation.

Rachel’s office is in Drew Hall/School of Education Room 190. She can be reached at rendo01@hamline.edu or (651) 523-2960.

Kevin Yang ('14)

Kevin Yang is currently the Multi-cultural Alliance Representative in the Hamline University Student Congress. Kevin feels honored to represent the organizations that have been largely responsible into molding him into the human being he is today. Kevin feels these student organizations provided an opportunity for him to meet like minded people and to work towards missions larger than his own. At their best, he believes student organizations have provided him with family outside of his family, for which he is very grateful.

Kevin has had the opportunity of growing up in a variety of neighborhoods. From the age of birth to 11 years old, he lived in South Minneapolis. It was a very diverse neighborhood and a fairly dense neighborhood compared to where he live now. "There was a sizable Latino and Hmong population in my neighborhood and I often remember playing with them all. When I in 6th grade I moved to Brooklyn Park. The houses were much farther apart from one another and there were far fewer people of color in my neighborhood."

Kevin, a Junior, plans to major in political science and minor in urban studies. He chose his major because throughout high school, he was very involved in the study of politics through activities such as forensics and Boys' State. His favorite thing about political science is understanding institutional power and understanding where it has traditionally existed and where it hasn't, and understanding how and why he can create change. He also feels that at the core of political science is understanding how people exist with one another, how we can all get along despite our differences, and how our systems of government can reflect that.

Besides wanting to become an urban planner one day, he would love to do a poetry tour one day, traveling around the country doing small shows and meeting with people from all over the country who love to do the same thing he does and seeing how they do it differently or similarly.

Kevin reflects about his experience coming to college. The idea of living in the middle of the city while staying close to his family in Minnesota and wanting to be in a small college setting drew him to Hamline. As a first year student, he quickly "re-learned" time management and study techniques to overcome his new academic challenges, although there were moments he felt frustrated because of the rigor. The most difficult part of the transition for Kevin was the social aspect of college. For most of his life, his immediate family and a few close friends were the only support structure. Opening up wasn't very easy for Kevin. However, over time Hamline has given him the opportunity to explore his strengths and to meet many people who are like minded in ways that he has never imagined.

One goal Kevin set for himself this year is to step out of his comfort zone more and dedicate more time doing personal projects and be in positions of leadership. So far it has been exhausting for Kevin, but he feels the rewards still outweigh the challenges he faces.

Even though Kevin has little spare time, he finds time for his writing and performances. This is where Kevin shines and inspires all those who hear



"Spoken word poetry has been an enormous part of my life the past few years and being able to witness as well as share it with a larger community has been phenomenal."

his spoken word and see his performances. Kevin says, "Spoken word poetry has been an enormous part of my life the past few years, and being able to witness as well as share it with the community has been phenomenal."

Kevin also enjoys engaging with music, film, and literature as forms of art and not just forms of entertainment. One of his accomplishments this year was that he was casted in a *The Confessions of a Lazy Hmong Woman*, a play written completely in Hmong. Kevin says, "It was a very proud moment for me because I haven't recently been very close to my language and at that moment in my life it allowed me to combine something very new in my life, performance, with aspects of my culture that I had not appreciated in a long time."

Students Write Of Their Passions



Josh Wood ('15)

I am in my second year here at Hamline, double majoring in Social Justice and Elementary Education, with a minor in Women's Studies. My career goals in-

volve working in urban schools, particularly schools with high populations of low-income, at-risk students. I think that there are a lot of problems with the education system in terms of equity, and I hope to be able to have a toolbox full of resources to deal with this issue after graduating from Hamline.

Compared to last year, I am significantly busier this year. Service and activism are very important to me, but it took me just about my whole first year to start getting involved on campus. In terms of my involvement on campus, I am the public relations officer for Commitment to Community, I attended HUCORE Retreat this fall, and I am a part of a collection of students committed to social equity and social change called *The Movement*. As my intended major implies, Social Justice is extremely important to me and there are tons of wonderful advocacy orgs on campus and I enjoy going to as many events as possible!

Aside from my volunteerism and involvement in organizations, I am a student worker at the Center for Academic Services. I really enjoy working at CAS because I am constantly working with peers for a variety of reasons. Working here has also proved very helpful in navigating a double major, and with any other registration question I have.

There are so many cool opportunities and organizations that I have yet to get involved in! As I get better at managing my time and building my own connections, I will look to new and fun ways to get more involved on campus.

If something that I am involved with interests you, or if you have any opportunities that you think I might like to know about shoot me an email at jwood06@hamlineuniversity.edu!



Keyonis Johnson ('14)

This Year's Commitment to Community (C2C) Keynote speaker, *Michelle Alexander* was amazing!

In anticipation for Alexander's visit, I began to read her book, **The New Jim Crow**. I was and still am enticed from her words because although the prison system has always been stored

in my mind as an unjust system, I would have never described it as a new form of racial caste. The book put into perspective different issues that I had given little attention to before.

Listening to Alexander speak in person was beyond words. I was so star struck as if I were seeing my idol in person as opposed to on television. She was so well-spoken and passionate. Her voice was filled with emotion one hundred percent of the time, so much that I found myself feeling every emotion that she felt while telling her story.

The moment that will forever stay with me was when Alexander shared the story of her "wake up call". Alexander refused to help a potential client because of his felony record. The man shouted to Alexander that she "was no better than the police". This moment influenced me is because it was obvious the impact it had on her. Alexander stressed that we all need that wake up call and once our eyes are open to

injustice, there is no closing them again.

Alexander's book and her keynote address has incredibly influenced me to educate myself more on the injustices of the mass incarceration system and to organize to raise awareness. It is no secret that I am not afraid to take a stand on issues that I feel are important.

I want to use my education and voice as tools beyond Hamline's community into the larger African American community because everyday more and more of our young men and women are falling victim to this system of mass incarceration. As Alexander said, "It is going to take nothing less than a major social movement to defeat this system and I am prepared to be a part of it!" I too am committed to changing our society to be a better place for me and those who come after me!

November Events

DATE		EVENT	LOCATION
Nov. 1	11:20-12:40 pm	"This is My Story" - LGBT Families	100E Giddens Learning Center
Nov. 1	5:00-7:00 pm	SOSA's Henna Night	Bush Student Center Lobby
Nov. 1	6:00-8:00 pm	Hmong Month Kick-off	Student Center HUB
Nov. 2	3:00-6:00 pm	HU-CORE Post Conference Workshop	106 East Hall
Nov. 4	1:00-5:00 pm	Safe Zone Training I for Students	Kay Fredericks Room
Nov. 5	7:00 pm	MPIRG's Campus Speak Out	Anderson Center Forum
Nov. 6	7:00-10:00 pm	PRIDE BSA's Election Results Viewing	Bush Student Center Lobby
Nov. 8	11:30-12:30 pm	Response to Super Storm Sandy	Bush Student Center Lobby
Nov. 8	4:00-5:00 pm	Diversity Conversation with the Provost	Learning center Art Gallery
Nov. 8	5:00 pm	Post-Election Conversation	Drew Conference Room
Nov. 8	7:00-9:00 pm	HIPS: Dream Catcher Night	106 East Hall
Nov. 9	7:00 pm	PRIDE BSA: Chill Night	PRIDE House
Nov. 10	9:15 am	APAC: Badminton Tournament	Walker Field House
Nov. 11	11:00-5:30 pm	HUSC Diversity Summit on Socio-Economic Class	112 Anderson Center
Nov. 12	4:10 pm	"Theory of Mind" & Multicultural Mosaic Reunion	Student Center HUB
Nov. 16	7:00 pm	PRIDE BSA Fundraiser	Student Center HUB
Nov. 18	2:00-5:00 pm	Hmong Month New Year Celebration	112 Anderson Center
Nov. 20	11:30-12:30 pm	Transgender Day of Remembrance	304 Anderson Center
Nov. 20	6:30 pm	Spectrum's Movie Night - "Boys Don't Cry"	Student Center HUB
Nov. 26	7:00-8:30 pm	Black Male Collective Meeting	302 Anderson Center
Nov. 29	1:00-5:00 pm	Safe Zone I Training	304 Anderson Center
Nov. 29	TBD	Hmong Month Keynote Speaker	TBD
Nov. 29	6:00-7:45 pm	FUSION's Adoptee Dinner	Drew Conference Room

December Events

Dec. 2	10:00-8:00 pm	APAC: Soccer Tournament Fundraiser	Walker Field House
Dec. 4	5:00 pm	PRIDE BSA: Kwanzaa Celebration	111 & 112 Anderson Center
Dec. 6	11:20-12:40 pm	"This is My Story" - Religious Diversity	100E Giddens Learning Center
Dec. 7	6:30-9:00 pm	Multicultural Alliance: Karaoke Night	112 Anderson Center
Dec. 10	7:00-8:30 pm	Black Male Collective	302 Anderson Center
Dec. 11	4:00 pm	Diversity Conversation with the Provost	Location TBA
Dec 17 - 21		Undergraduate Finals Week	



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