

# Cultural Times Bulletin

ALANA STUDENT CENTER EST. 1989

ALANA=African American, Latinx American, Asian American, Native American &amp; Friends



## Stop, Drop & BOWL!



*Pictured: Niesha Morrison '21, Morgan Morris '21, Fantaysia Figueroa '21, Amaya Dennis '21, Isaiah Lee '22, Marnisha Brooks '19, Marcos Tellez '19, Kamerius Hartsfield '22, DesTiny Overton '22, Angelique Langellier '19, Danielle Smikle '19, Monica Boway '19 and Avyana Morehead '19*

On January 27<sup>th</sup> 2019, the ALANA Student Center hosted a bowling trip for sixteen Canisius students. I had such an amazing time with my friends and other members of the student body. While on the trip, one of the students, DesTiny Overton '22, had a birthday and ASC was so kind to help her celebrate with a large cake for everyone to enjoy. I personally enjoy attending ALANA's group trips because it is a time where students can be stress-free and take their minds off their busy schedule for a few hours. I appreciate ASC's hard work and dedication to students and can't wait for the next trip!

- Danielle Smikle '19

## February 5, 2019 Celebrating the legacy of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Through ASC, Canisius celebrated the legacy of Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. In the company of over 100 Canisius students, faculty and Buffalo community leaders, attendees were able to listen to the beautiful vocals of Canisius alum Sydnie Perkins '16, while also reflecting on the impact that Dr. King had on society. The esteemed panel's outlooks (right photo) enlightened the audience with their words of wisdom about society today. This program was very insightful and fostered open dialogue between faculty and peers. As we continue to live our lives, we must not forget where we come from, and who fought for us to be in the position we are in today.

- Chandler Hawkins '20



*Pictured: Sandy White '77 (award winning journalist), Rod Watson (Urban Affairs Editor/ Columnist for The Buffalo News) and Dr. Rev. James Lewis III (Senior Pastor/Miracle Missions Full Gospel Church, Inc., Buffalo, NY.)*

## February 18, 2019 Kleinhans Music Hall Presents: An MLK Celebration

mesmerized and cheered for her great performance. This year, the concert was postponed due to a snowstorm, but the people who were there were ready to celebrate. As the children entered the stage to be cheered for our progressive futures, we could feel the joy and pride in the people's hearts as they celebrated how far we as a society have fought to live the dream Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had wished for us.

- Eita Nanda '22

## Captivating & Invigorating Paul Robeson Theatre Presents: 'Native Son'



Pictured: Paulette D. Harris (directory of the play/PRT), Chandler Hawkins '20, Avyana Morehead '19, Actor Alphonso Walker Jr., Jeniya Wilson '20, Mackenzie Nish '20, Jesana Gadley '20, Eita Nanda '22 and Mark Humphrey '20

I attended *The Native Son* play at the African American Cultural Center with the ALANA staff. The play was originally written by Nambi E. Kelly, a Chicago native, in reference to the novel by Richard Wright. The story followed Bigger Thomas, a poor African American man and his troubled journey of making it in Chicago. The play took place during an era where black men were cast out by society due to the color of their skin. This performance was truly a treat to experience as it was powerful, insightful and emotional. There were many interesting aspects of this show that made me experience many different feelings, especially with the character of the "black rat" serving as the conscience of Bigger guiding his problematic decisions. It was also a great addition to experience this with a group of people willing to discuss and debrief the performance afterwards. I was also exposed to a cultural performing arts center that I did not even realize was just a few blocks away from my home. Overall, this opportunity was very rewarding and I will gladly attend the next performances that the African American Cultural Center/ Paul Robeson Theatre has in the future.

- Jeniya Wilson '20

February 9, 2019

I really enjoyed the production of *Native Son* at Buffalo's Paul Robeson Theatre. I was fortunate enough to have read the book by Richard Wright my senior year of high school. The performance differs from the book in many ways. For instance, there is a character that follows Bigger during the play as a second conscious that is not directly present in the book. However, the play does hold true to the atmosphere and moods that the book created for me when reading. Important moments adequately produced eeriness, violence, and urgency that seem to be core parts of the plot. As the book does, the audience had to ask themselves: "Who is responsible for the strand of events?" which seemed to snowball beyond control. I am grateful for the opportunity to have witnessed this local performance offered by ASC. I recommend to anyone looking to dive into race relations in the United States to pick up *Native Son*. It's a good one.

- Mackenzie Nish '20



Pictured: Actors Alphonso Walker Jr. who played Bigger Thomas and Augustus Donaldson Jr who played The Black Rat  
Photo courtesy of Paul Roberson Theatre, Buffalo, NY

## February 27, 2019 Honoring Women of Color: Dr. Angela Davis

On February 27<sup>th</sup> I traveled with ASC to listen to an amazing social justice pioneer, Dr. Angela Davis. Beyond the nostalgia that came with getting an opportunity to listen to such an important figure in the Black community, I counted it an even greater joy being able to attend such an event with like-minded students who appreciated her significance as well. It was a wonderful experience to hear how much Davis drew upon issues that affect people of all walks of life. However, I think one of the major takeaways I got from her awesome speech was that no matter the gruesome experiences, and/or circumstances we endure, we can always take our pain and transform it into prophecy. Dr. Angela Davis's passion for social justice, extending beyond the Black community, is one that has ignited my desire to keep concerns of our political and social climate at the forefront of my future endeavors.

- Avyana Morehead '19

President of Canisius College's Afro American Society

“ I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change... I'm changing the things I cannot accept. ”

- Dr. Angela Davis



*Pictured: Marcos Tellez '19, Marcus Brown '20, Greg Catalano '21, Jesse Brodka '21 and Kevin Koch '07. The Troupe recently performed at Bennett High School, Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, Burgard Vocational High School, Emerson School of Hospitality (eleven classes!)*

## Setting the Stage: The Canisius College Performance Troupe

On Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, the Canisius College Performance Troupe wowed the audience (over 50 in attendance) with a spoken-word performance. Marcus Brown '20 and his charisma served as a coolant that made addressing a sense of belonging, race, societal pressures easy to digest. Hosted by alum Salley Crews, Jesse Brodka '21 (A.K.A. "The Tech Guy") cleared up any sound/tech issues with his rendition of Chance The Rapper's *Blessings (reprise)*. Overall, the show was a mixture of laughs, snaps, and tears — of joy! This performance was symbolic of the way Sababu of ASC (Troupe director) has touched the lives of so many over the years.

- Jordan Saunders '20

Back in the Fall of 2015, Sababu C. Norris of ASC introduced me to an opportunity that would change my life as an undergraduate student. I was invited to join the Canisius College Performance Troupe, who focus on interpreting poetry, spoken word, and many other works of literature. At first, I was nervous about performing at different high schools since I always had stage fright. Little by little, I learned how to overcome many challenges while expressing myself with poetry and spoken word. After 3 years of being with the Troupe, the experience I had made me want to continue enlightening young minds about society's most pressing issues. Every time I stepped into a classroom full of students, I felt that I was changing their lives because by performing spoken word, students would be inspired to do something for themselves that would really make an impact to their life. Meeting new people and sharing different stories was also part of my experience with the troupe that I enjoyed very much. The most precious moments that I have had at Canisius have been with the Performance Troupe, and I can never forget the invaluable skills that I acquired as a member. Just as poetry changed my life for the better, it can also change the life of many others.



*Pictured: Marcos Tellez '19, Marcus Brown '20, Greg Catalano '21, Salley Crews '07, Kevin Koch '07 and Jesse Brodka '21 at Canisius*

- Marcos Tellez '19

## Growing my Network & Knowledge March 3 – 6, 2019



*Pictured: Jordan Saunders '20, Cassie Clark '20, Tasia Clemons '20, Sam Ashley '19 and Chandler Hawkins '20 (Editor of the Cultural Times Bulletin)*

As a young an up and coming higher education professional, I believe in continuous learning, growth and development. Recently, I had the honor and opportunity to attend the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), a higher education conference in Boston, MA. During this experience, I was afforded the opportunity to foster my knowledge on familiar topics, while also expanding on unfamiliar topics. ACPA provided an environment that not only focused on the work of higher education professionals, but also fixated on individual passions thus empowering individuals to create a sense of community. While in attendance, I learned a lot about myself and the goals I would like to achieve while working in the higher education field. For instance, I was afforded the opportunity to attend an empirical research session. This session focused on the experiences of women of color in the field of higher education. This session was very special to me, as it spoke to both of my marginalized identities in society, being a woman and a person of color. I was accompanied by women of color who either possessed a doctoral degree or were in the midst of finishing their dissertations. This was not only motivational, but also reassuring that it was possible for me to achieve my goals. Overall, I was able to walk away with an incredible learning

- Chandler Hawkins '20



## Student Spotlight: Jasmine Thomas '22

During March 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> I had the opportunity to watch both the men and women compete at the MAAC tournament in Albany, which was a wonderful experience. I am a part of the school fan club called C- Block which provided the resources to allow us to travel to Albany and support our teams. Basketball is my favorite sport to watch, so being able to watch both teams fight for a chance to win their conference title was awesome. From the atmosphere of the venue, to the band, the cheerleaders and dancers, and of course the fans, overall it was such a great time. I enjoyed rooting and cheering for my school despite the outcome. I cannot wait until tournament time next year.  
- Jasmine Thomas '22

## ALUMS in focus Kevin Koch '07



Looking back on my time at Canisius, it's hard to pick the things that had the most impact on me. There were so many amazing learning experiences. Highlights would definitely include Latin and Classics classes with Professor Thomas Banchich, and my Creative Writing courses. Also topping the list would be my time at ASC. As a CEEP student, I was able to work in the ASC for four years, and it opened me up to a lot of great experiences. The most transformative experience I became involved with through ASC was the Canisius College Performance Troupe. I did things that I didn't think I was even capable of doing, like performing poetry in front of high school classes. I'm naturally very shy, and the Troupe helped me to get out of my comfort zone. Performing helped me to become a confident public speaker, on eventually leading to a career in teaching. Speaking to a crowd is easy now, and sometimes I forget all the steps it took to get to where I am. The experience with the Troupe even led me to creating my own one-man touring show. My time at Canisius also instilled a strong sense of service. Serving my students helps fulfill that desire to help others. I've also continued with the creative writing I started at Canisius, writing a couple of novels that I'll hopefully be able to get published. My advice to students is simple to say, but harder to follow through on: Get involved. Find a club, or activity, or volunteer opportunity, and care about it and follow through. Really dedicating yourself to something is how you grow. Whether you're growing skills or growing as a person (or even better, both at once), you will appreciate that growth more and more as you continue with your life. Too often I see students participating in so many activities that they never truly become involved in any of them. Find something worthy of your focus and you'll get more out of it than you thought possible. Also, don't forget to make time to have fun.

### CTB brought to you by:

Editor.....Chandler Hawkins '20  
 Bulletin Assistant..... Sr. Patricia Brady, SSMN  
 Student Staff.....Michelle Calhoun '20  
 Student Staff.....Khin Htike '22  
 Student Staff.....Rodrigo Ortiz '21  
 Student Staff..... Siti Farah '21  
 Administrative Specialist..... Madonna Mckernon '12  
 Director..... Sababu Norris

Canisius College is one of 28 Jesuit Universities in the nation and the premier private university in Western New York.

### Enter for the chance to win!

**3 WINNERS will be chosen!**  
 Unscramble the letters below to enter a raffle to win a  
**\$20 Bookstore Gift Card.**  
 Deadline: April 15, 2019  
**AUCOEGR**

Know a student that ASC should highlight in our CTB? Contact Chandler Hawkins '20 at [hawkin14@canisius.edu](mailto:hawkin14@canisius.edu) to let us know!



### Positivity from the Pope

“ Grace is not part of consciousness; it is the amount of light in our souls, not knowledge nor reason. ”