

THE ENLIGHTENMENT



A Year In Review

As another semester comes to a close here at Fredonia, the Center for Multicultural Affairs (CMA) would like to share our last Enlightenment of the semester with the campus. Amongst other things, this issue takes a look at some of the seniors who will be graduating, and leaving the CMA, We will be losing at least one student from each of our cultural groups. Whether it be a past or present member, they have made an impact here at Fredonia but more specifically the day to day life in the CMA. Join us in congratulating them on their accomplishments! We also want to pay tribute to the work done by all of the student groups collectively. Much time and dedication goes into each history month and they deserve a round of applause. Thank you also to everyone who has shown continued support in our events and our mission as a whole. We would like to wish everyone at Fredonia a successful, safe, and prosperous end to the school year!

Upcoming Events!

Intersectionality Panel

Join us to discuss and learn how similar issues can affect several different communities!

April 28
McEwen 202
5-6 PM

Featuring
all CMA groups, SASA and
International Club



LinkedIn

WORKSHOP

Get help updating your resume and LinkedIn

Please RSVP by Noon on May 2nd to:

Kim.Miller@fredonia.edu

&

Send your Resume by 5pm on May 2nd to:

Jennifer.Wilkins@fredonia.edu

Sponsored by:



May 4th

@ noon in CMA
Thompson E125

Please bring your laptop or let
Kim know if you need to
borrow one.

Refreshments provided



Gay Marriage Recognized by Cherokee Nation

By: Karolyn Karsten



In 2015, the federal government on the United States legalized gay marriage in all 50 states. Many indigenous nations, however, are considered separate, sovereign nations that are not necessarily affected by U.S. federal legislation, which means that the ruling did not affect these tribes. Most tribes do not usually take a stance on this issue either way, but are increasingly being called upon to take a stance on the topic. The Cherokee nation was one of these groups being encouraged by their people to bring this to the board.

Ultimately, there was not any real battle against the question that gay marriage should be legal. Chrissi Nimmo, the assistant attorney general for the Cherokee Nation, voiced the Nation's support by noting, "Through historical research, we were able to identify research sources that indicate there was some type of historical recognition of homosexuality." The Nation's ruling also noted that:

"Our oral history teaches us also that the Cherokee and Euro-American worldviews differed dramatically regarding appropriate gender roles, marriage, sexuality, and spiritual beliefs. Indeed, while the majority of Cherokees subscribed to the traditional gender roles, evidence suggests a tradition of homosexuality or alternative sexuality among a minority of Cherokees."

This new law overrides a previous law passed twelve years ago, the *Cherokee Nation and Family Protection Act*, which outlawed gay marriage in the Cherokee Nation. This new law took effect immediately. Many people expressed their excitement and support for the Nation's decision on social media when they heard about the ruling. This is definitely a great leap forward in progression for gay

United In Anger:

ACT UP and Intersectional Activism

By Alyssa Clark

The 2012 documentary *United in Anger* depicts the history of the activist group ACT UP, or AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, and follows its advocacy actions through the height of its popularity from the late eighties to mid-nineties. Much of what ACT UP targeted as worthy of protest included institutional policies and public conceptions perhaps leading to those policies, which otherwise led to quicker deaths for those living with HIV/AIDS. This activism worked for those directly involved in the group, but equally helped those not privileged enough to attend meetings or demonstrations. ACT UP did well to recognize intersecting identities possessed by those living with HIV/AIDS and organized many demonstrations specifically to combat varying institutional policies targeting many already marginalized people.

It is important to note members of ACT UP took time to recognize their own privilege as participants in a highly organized and active advocacy group. As one member commented, when “you’re already queer and you’re HIV positive, you think you’re at the margin of marginality,” when really such a support group was “was kind of the privilege within that margin” (United). Readjusting the group’s understanding of its own demographics allowed them to “focus on the fact that people of color [and] people of lower economic brackets died faster after diagnosis, if they were diagnosed at all.” As public awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic grew, it focused primarily on gay white cisgender men, while mostly ignoring other susceptible communities. ACT UP challenged this representation of HIV/AIDS and attempted to engage in intersectional activism.

The oppressed identities of those living with HIV/AIDS had much to do with their consequent inability to be properly diagnosed and treated. ACT UP’s very first demonstrations protested the price of AZT, one of the first drugs developed to help slow the progression of the disease, because it was given a ten thousand dollar price tag per person, per year. Such a price isolated many in need of the drug and so it becomes an example of institutionalized classism.

In May of 1990, the group protested AIDS Clinical Trial Groups at the National Institute of Health in Maryland because the trials did not include people of color, women, children, or homeless. Even the definition by which people were diagnosed and subsequently given certain benefits

was “developed through an observational systematized collection of diseases that were being seen in [cis] gay men alone”. The establishment in this case was ignoring class status as well as racial identity, factors of age, and bodies with different anatomic structures than those used in the trials. By advocating for inclusivity in scientific trials and a redefinition of how AIDS was to be diagnosed, ACT UP helped take steps towards saving the lives of those who would otherwise remain overlooked by institutional powers.

A final powerful institution targeted by ACT UP was the Catholic Church; their campaign focused specifically on Cardinal O’Connor, who condemned the distribution of condoms as a method to prevent transmission of HIV/AIDS. Given the intense sociopolitical influences the Catholic Church wields as an institution and the privilege it provides to those who identify under its title, challenging the church was a daunting but valiant task for the activist group to take on.

In December of 1989, ACT UP protested at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City: some members staged a die-in inside during the service while others, standing atop pews, shouted their objections, and still more members protested outside. One member of ACT UP described the reason for this protest: “At that point, any administration in New York had to pay attention to the Catholic Church. This is not about people’s right to practice their religion individually; this is about an institution, an institution that is spending millions of dollars a year to make sure that we do not live.” ACT UP was sure to note that it was not the religion they were opposing, but rather policies set forth by their institution affecting those who did not identify with that religion, therefore dying because of such policies. Protecting the right to use and have access to condoms was at least one effective method to protect sexuality in the middle of such a crisis.

ACT UP turned advocacy into action and actually made the difference between life and death for a great many people with a variety of identities beyond just ‘someone living with HIV/AIDS.’

A year in review: some special moments



Chocolate Seder/Death by Chocolate was a HUUUUUUGE success, not to mention delicious.



Jane Elliott meets with BSU eboard members and CMA staff to discuss current events and rac-



Group activity at a Latinos Unidos general body meeting.



African Wear at the BSU Fashion Show, an annual Multicultural Weekend event.



Fredonia Feminists staying fierce as ever.

A year in review: some special moments



We could not have asked for a better turn out at Culturefest!



Here in the CMA, one puppy is just not enough. Fortunately, we have lots of love to share!



Participants at NASU's annual Dreamcatcher weaving event.



Thanks for all your hard work and dedication, and all the memorable moments in the CMA.



Pride Alliance's bi-annual drag show is always a blast, and it's always extra special when alumni host!

2017 MEN OF COLOR SUMMIT



President Horvath dropped by to join in on important conversation regarding empowerment and change with students, keynote speaker Kevin Powell (pictured center), and Niagara Falls Councilman Ezra P. Scott (pictured center right).

The CMA's first Men of Color Summit was held April 22, 2017. This summit was open to all students, faculty & staff of all identities. The keynote speaker, Kevin Powell shared his story growing up poor and provided students with 6 steps to success. By the end of his talk everyone had #readstudytravel engrained into their mind.

Students also had the option to attend workshops conducted by Ntare Ali Gault entitled "From Motown, to Hiplet, to Poetry: Speak Your Soul..." He focused on students learning to own their art to achieve success. Or a workshop hosted by Fredonia's own Coach, Philip Seymore entitled "Men of Color and Athletics." Finally after lunch, participants were able to engage with the Young Professionals Panel (seen top right) and ask the tough questions. Niagara Falls Councilman Ezra P. Scott and Dante Batson-Griggs, founder of Chase the Dream, shared stories about their paths and provided students with resources for success. The event was a jammed packed day of learning, laughter and even having circle time with the keynote. (seen bottom right)



Congratulations to our graduating seniors!



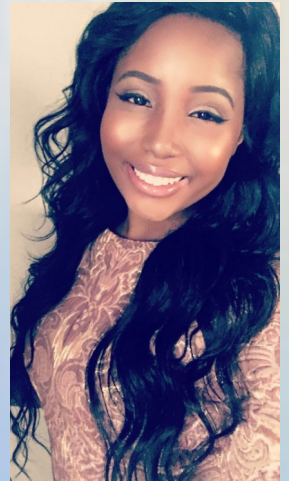
Alyssa Clark



Kayla Newland



Nalani Love



Jasmine Bell



Kiman Baldon



Maimouna Sylla



Nayla Kabir



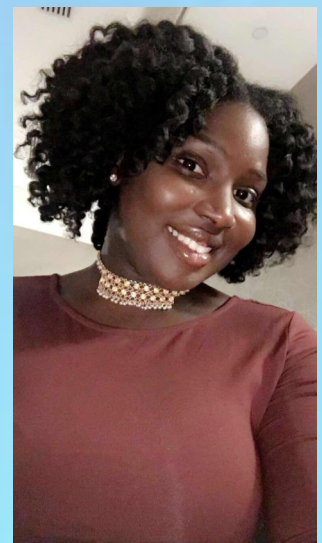
Riley Cox



Lois Aborah



Geoffrey Thompson



Patrice Douglas

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR ROSA PARKS
SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS!**

Photographed left to right:

Jalen Wright

Multimedia print entitled:
“Justice (Black Lives Matter)”

Stephanie Pierre-Jacques

Visual Piece entitled:
“White Aesthetic”

Connor Aitcheson

Poem entitled:
“In My Clase/En Mi Clase”



**We wish the best of luck to our graduating seniors, and
we look forward to seeing incoming and returning
students in the Fall 2017-Spring 2018 academic year.
Have a great summer everyone!**

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Contact us for more information or stop by
any day between 8:30 AM – 5 PM!

