2013

College of Ethnic Studies
San Francisco State University
44th Anniversary Celebration
Yoshi’s, San Francisco
October 6, 2013
“Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it.” - Frantz Fanon

Dear Ethnic Studies Family,

2013 is the 45th anniversary of the beginning of the 1968 BSU/TWLF strike, which ended spring of 1969 with a number of historic accomplishments including the establishment of the first and only College (then called school) of Ethnic Studies and its four inaugural departments. That small yet dynamic group guided by the visionary plan laid out from its founders has become a College of 6000 students, attending about 175 course sections and providing thousands of hours of community service, including work at a free health clinic founded by a collaboration of our students and faculty.

For the past four years, the College has held an annual event commemorating its birth, honoring its founders, communicating its academic and community work, thanking our partners and recommitting to our community’s future. In the previous years, we have celebrated by honoring exemplary community leaders, leaders who had made significant individual contribution while doing so in a manner that collaborated with and exemplified the values of a larger body of our community.

This year, to signal the importance of recognizing the power and importance of our emerging community leaders, our students, we are honoring six of our student scholar/activists who are living the continued spirit of the movement that made their place at San Francisco State University possible and more fulfilling.

Today, I encourage us to come together as a community that spans generations. Let us network with the College’s founders as well as those who have contributed to it over the decades. In addition, let us listen to the struggles, dreams and aspirations of the emerging leaders and learn how we can commit to their success, and thereby assure our communal successes.

With warmest regards, I remain in your service,

Kenneth P. Monteiro, Dean
Student Awarded

Jessie Fernandez was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. Both of his parents emigrated to the U.S. from Mexico, and he is the first to attend a four-year university. In high school, he became involved with a local youth group, South Central Youth Empowered through Action, and began to grapple with institutional oppression and the potential for everyday people to create change. He and others helped pass a resolution in the LA Unified School District that aligned high school graduation requirements with the requirements for eligibility to a four-year university, and his local chapter implemented the “opt-out” option for students who wanted their information withheld from military recruiters. At SFSU, Jesse has worked with students and faculty on improving administrative and trustee accountability, rallying support for the CFA, raising awareness and funds for the Ethnic Studies program in Tucson Unified, establishing an ongoing archive of movement history at SFSU, organizing against predatory remittance services, facilitating a summer literacy program based on people of color literature, and establishing the Race and Resistance Studies Minor. His education as an RRS minor guides his focus on Urban Studies and Planning. As he states, “I am concerned with economic development without gentrification, that is, ways to reinvest in our inner cities while remembering that communities of color have been waiting on those resources for generations.” Through his focus on the broader processes of racialization that impact communities of color, and on seeking justice for those communities, Jesse is an exemplar of Race and Resistance Studies.

Jewell Bachelor, an exemplar student respected by faculty and peers alike, is a graduating senior of San Francisco State University who will be attending graduate school in the fall of 2014. Through her years as a full time student, she struggled with a career path that would keep her fulfilled and involved within the community. As she transferred into the University system from multiple community colleges, she met Professor Laura Head who guided her with her research that focuses on African American girls and how they are socialized. Through this journey of writing and figuring out herself as a growing woman, mentor, tutor and student, Jewell recognized that her calling was to create a safe-space for Black girls. With a place to explore her interest and talent with writing, Jewell was given the opportunity to be published in the Africana Studies Journal while working under Dr. Dorothy Tsuruta where she wrote an article titled “Breaking the Silence For Black Girls.” As Jewell progressed through her academic years at SFSU she made the Dean’s list 3 times, with her Spring 2013 semester being her highest GPA 3.76. Through the summer of 2013, Jewell followed through with her vision and worked with Oakland Freedom School, which is a cultural enrichment program for Black young people where she had a chance to host as a teacher to a class full of first and second graders. As a progressing student, scholar, and activist, Jewell plans to always stay grounded within the Black community.
Everyday at 8am, Lawrence Festin is in the kitchen at Downtown High School in San Francisco making homemade breakfast for the students who walk through its doors. Everything from a homemade smoothie to scrambled eggs to whole wheat French toast, Lawrence has gone the extra mile to make palatable, but more importantly nutritious and wholesome meals. His understanding of the importance of food has been shaped by over 14 years of community work with youth. Lawrence has aided in coordinating an after school program for at risk youth of color at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School. He has also been teaching with Pin@y Educational Partnerships (PEP) for four years. Last year Lawrence was the PEP curriculum coordinator for James Denman Middle School. He has served as a mentor in the Mentoring for Success program. Currently, he is a Community Health Outreach Worker for Downtown High School. Moreover, he has maintained a 3.67 GPA while working full-time. Lawrence is also completing his M.A. thesis on food justice including the voices and experiences of Asian Americans through the use of ethnographies and interviews. Moreover, Lawrence has translated his study of food inequality to community service and leadership. Because he has gone the extra mile and through his leadership in turning around the school breakfast program from frozen food to “homemade” nutritious meals, the attendance at the school breakfast program has increased 500%. This attests to Lawrence’s innovativeness, leadership and service, and demonstrates his deservingness of this year’s Exemplar Award.

An exemplar student, Amanda WhiteCrane says Maheo (Creator) has given her many opportunities in life, including the opportunity to overcome obstacles. She grew up on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana, where she received her junior college degree. Education was always a stabilizer in her life, but Amanda never knew how far she wanted to go with her education until she came to San Francisco State University. She came to the Bay Area seven years ago pursuing a sober life for her daughter and herself. Amanda was embraced by a Native community that became an anchor of her recovery, and she soon felt that she wanted to give back. Amanda says, “I wanted everyone new to the community feel the support I felt and to honor the founders.” She worked for the Native TANF Program and decided to return to school. Amanda felt this past year has been amazing, majoring in Psychology and being part of the Career Opportunities in Research program funded through the National Institute of Mental Health. She has been interning with the Native American Health Center Community Wellness Department where she assists with community involvement and evaluation. She learned that evaluation is essential to the continuation of Native American programs. Her career goal now is to use research to empower mental health policy changes that reflect Native culture. It is also her dream to see a Native American Cultural Center established in San Francisco. Amanda says, “I thank Maheo every day for the opportunities he has given me, as I do all for my children.”
Veronica Garcia
Latina/Latino Studies Major (2014)

Latina/Latino Studies Exemplar Award Winner for 2013

Veronica Garcia is the Latina/Latino Studies major we chose to honor based on her exemplary record of academic achievement and community service. Veronica started at transferred to SFSU as a junior from SF City College. Her excellent grades together with a steady record of community service made her a top choice for scholarships; she received the Mosaic scholarship at CCSF, and the Angela Buckle Scholarship, New Leader Scholarship, and the Philip McGee Memorial Scholarship at SFSU. Ms. Garcia has distinguished herself as both an excellent scholar and a dedicated community activist, fighting tirelessly for the rights of young mothers as the coordinator and founder of a teen mom empowerment group, Moms Making A Change, a program of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth. Prior to that, Ms. Garcia worked as an organizing Fellow for Coleman Advocates with Students Making a Change. Ms. Garcia is also a Commissioner with the Balboa Park Station Community Advisory Committee representing youth and family in the community, and a graduate of the Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute offered by Urban Habitat in Oakland. In addition, Ms. Garcia works part-time as a Social Media Coordinator/Public Service Aide with the SF Public Utilities Commission, External Affairs, Community Benefits Department, managing the social media for youth workforce development for approximately 640 youth. Veronica’s outstanding achievements were recently recognized by the SF Human Rights Commission when they chose her to receive the Hero Award for Student Leadership for her efforts to advance economic justice and civil rights. Veronica seamlessly combines her intellectual curiosity with her passion for social justice. She is a shining example of Latina/Latino Studies in the service of community. Felicidades Veronica!
Leslie E. Wong was appointed as the 13th president of San Francisco State University effective August 1, 2012. Previously, he served nine years as president of Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan.

Dr. Wong is actively committed to student success and to fostering an institutional environment that is adaptable to the needs of 21st century students. He encourages students at San Francisco State University to “own their own minds” by developing their ability to independently evaluate information in an increasingly partisan world. As the leader of a campus that is deeply invested in its community, Dr. Wong invites students to find their voices, but he cautions that being remembered is more important than being heard. As president, he leads a talented group of faculty and staff committed to social justice, equity and making public higher education an essential asset to our collective future.

Robert Keith Collins, PhD, an anthropologist, is Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University. He holds a BA in Anthropology and a BA in Native American Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Collins also holds an MA and PhD in Anthropology from UCLA. Using a person-centered ethnographic approach, his research explores American Indian cultural changes and African and Native American interactions in North, Central, and South America. His recent academic efforts include being a co-curator on the Smithsonian’s traveling banner exhibit “IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas” which recently concluded a two month run at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, ME and will soon be hosted by The Malcom X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center from January 25, 2014-March 23, 2014 in New York, NY, an edited volume for the American Indian Culture and Research Journal at UCLA on “Reducing Barriers to American Indian Student Success”, and two books in final preparation: “African-Native Americans: Racial Expectations and Red-Black Lived Realities” (University of Minnesota Press) and “Memoirs of Kin that Race Can’t Erase: Kinship, Memory, and Self Among African-Chocotaw Mixed Bloods” (University of North Carolina Press).
In Memory of
Participants in the BSU/TWLF Strike of 1968
and College of Ethnic Studies*

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Tom Gable         Ted Murguia        Sid Welch
Isidro Gali      Sachiko Nakamura   Herbert Williams
Velia Garcia      Donna Nomura       Herbert Wilner
John "Tito" Gerassi Richard Oakes    James Dudley Yasuda

♦This list is unlikely to be comprehensive. It includes only those names submitted to date. Please inform us of others to be included in future commemorations.
We gratefully thank all of our donors, in-kind partners and friends.

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College of Ethnic Studies

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Minor: Africana Behavioral and Social Sciences

Karina Tolentino, Senior - $5,472
Major: Dietetics

Tran Trang, Senior - $5,472
Major: Psychology
Minor: Counseling

SFSU College of Ethnic Studies Costco Scholarship

Tran Trang, Senior - $5,472
Major: Psychology
Minor: Counseling

SFSU College of Ethnic Studies Costco Scholarship

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Minor: Latina/Latino Studies

Sophia Rodriguez, Sophomore - $3,000
Major: Geography
Minor: Latina/Latino Studies

Jackeline Monroy Marroquin, Junior - $3,000
Major: Business Administration

Square and Circle Club Graduate Studies Scholarship

Jordan Lee Loey, Graduate Student - $1,500
MA Asian American Studies

James Akira Hirabayashi, Person for All Seasons Scholarship

Mario Burrus, Senior - $1,000
Major: Africana Studies/History
Minor: Africana Behavioral and Social Sciences

Anthony Chan, Senior - $1,000
Major: Kinesiology
Minor: Asian American Studies

D. Phillip McGee Memorial Scholarship

Veronica Garcia, Senior - $1,000
Major: Latina/Latino Studies

Ronald Bentley Scholarship

Jewell Bachelor, Senior - $900
Major: Africana Studies

Johnet Scholarship

Amanda Jean White Crane, Senior - $1,000
Major: Psychology

Jesse Dumont, Junior - $1,000
Major: Undeclared

Betty Parent Achievement Award

Edher Zamudio, Senior - $100
Major: Sociology

Kim Nguyen, Graduate Student - $100
MA Ethnic Studies

Congratulations!
Thank You!

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Nnenna Obioma – guest vocalist, SF State student

Photographer: Luigino De Grandis

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