

Talking Points

Monthly Newsletter from the Office for Multicultural Affairs



Welcome Back! from the Dean for Multicultural Affairs

As I begin this Fall semester I am both sadden and excited. I am sad, because there are several people (faculty, staff, and students) who are not present. Many have chosen to go other places because it has just proven too hard and too much of an emotional drain to remain here at Calvin. All will be sorely missed and Calvin College will be a little poorer for their absence. However, within my sadness for the loss of members of our community, I am reminded that there still remains a remnant of people who have vowed not to let our campus so easily forget that we are not yet the multiracial, antiracist, and reconciling campus that the From Every Nation document calls us to be. Last year could be called a year of set-backs for the cause of racial justice and cross-cultural understanding on our campus. Our shortcomings made both local and national news. However, for all the hurt that these shortcomings have caused, they have also inspired a renewed commitment

within myself to fight for what I believe is still possible. At the beginning of this new academic year, I invite all of Calvin College to commit (or recommit) themselves to helping this community become a multiracial, antiracist, and reconciling campus. We have many opportunities lined up this fall to help you challenge yourself and this campus to do more. Visit our website for the latest information. www.calvin.edu/go/multicultural/

Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate September 15-October 15

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988 on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of Sept. 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is Oct. 12, falls within this 30 day period.

Taken from the Library of Congress Hispanic Heritage Portal.
<http://www.loc.gov/topics/hispanicheritage/>

Hispanic Americans in the U. S.**

42.7 million-The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2005, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest ethnic or race minority.

Roughly half of the nation's Dominicans live in New York City, with about half of the nation's Cubans residing in Miami-Dade County, Fla.

13-The number of states with at least half a million Hispanic residents. These states are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Texas and Washington.

\$222 billion-Revenue generated by Hispanic-owned businesses in 2002, up 19 percent from 1997.

31 million-The number of U.S. household residents age 5 and older who speak Spanish at home. Spanish speakers constitute a ratio of more than 1-in-10 U.S. household residents.

**Obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau

Challenging you to keep talking!

Cultural Calendar

Reconciliation and Restoration Reading Group

This fall the Office for Multicultural Affairs will be facilitating a discussion of the book, "Silent Racism: How Well Meaning White People Perpetuate the Racial Divide" by Dr. Barbara Trepagnier. Dr. Trepagnier is a professor of sociology at Texas State University-San Marcos. Dr. T. (as her students call her) has received a number of teaching awards while at Texas State, and has recently been promoted to full professor. Silent Racism, her first book, has been characterized as a compelling and insightful perspective on racism. Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, professor at Duke University, describes "Silent Racism" as "Important [because] it addresses white folks who see themselves as 'not racist.' This is a group that has been sorely understudied.... Highly significant."

Group 1-Mondays

September 22 Chapter 1
September 29 Chapters 2
October 6 Chapters 3
October 13 Chapters 4
October 20 Chapters 5
October 27 Chapters 6, 7
November 3 Potluck/Make-up Day

Group 2-Wednesdays

September 24 Chapter 1
October 1 Chapters 2
October 8 Chapters 3
October 15 Chapters 4
October 22 Chapters 5
October 29 Chapters 6, 7
November 5 Potluck/Make-up Day

To sign up or for more info contact Ebonie Atkins era4@calvin.edu 616.526.8703

Anti-Racism Day September 10, 2008

Anti-Racism Fair

9am-4pm, Hekman Library Lobby

View displays from campus offices and local organizations on their efforts towards diversity.

Chapel Service: Responding to the Sin of Racism

10am, Chapel

DORR: Theological Basis for Diversity

3:30-4:30pm and 5-6pm, Hiemenga Hall Room 315

Reverend Esteban Lugo of the Christian Reformed Church of North America will use Biblical text to enlighten us on God's mandate for diversity on earth.

Separating Spoof from Truth: Conversations Toward Healing

3:30-4:30pm and 5-6pm, Hiemenga Hall Room 320

This time will allow us to continue the conversation on the Spoof issue, its affects, and what's the next step in achieving a multicultural community.

Ending Stereotypes

3:30-4:30pm and 5-6pm, Hiemenga Hall Room 334

This workshop will focus on what we can do to end stereotypes and work toward racial reconciliation and restoration.

Cookies and Conversation

7pm Commons Lecture Hall

We will view a short film by Trinity Christian College students discussing stereotypes on their campus. Afterwards, small group discussions will examine how we define ourselves and how stereotypes shape the definitions others place on us.

