SPEAK! Series: Embodying Transformative Justice

On Tuesday, April 21st, the final SPEAK! Series event of the 2014-2015 academic year, “Embodying Transformative Justice,” took place in the John B. Davis Lecture Hall. Students, staff, and community members welcomed the panel moderator, SooJin Pate, a writer, scholar, and educator and panelists Brianna Wilson & Mica Grimm, activists from Black Lives Matter in Minneapolis, and Mia Mingus, a Bay Area disability justice educator. They discussed how their intersecting identities showed up in their work and how these identities inform the reasons why they fight for justice within their communities. They were also able to reference multiple experiences where they made mistakes in organizing and how the learning and growing process was a constant and continuous one.

The audience left with working definitions and deeper understandings of transformative justice, disability justice, and how self-care can manifest itself for organizers. The panelists relayed to the audience how they attempt to work in coalition with other communities whose struggles are intertwined with theirs. Alternative paths to state-sponsored reactions and prevention tactics for intimate violence were provided by the speakers. Mia spoke of her desires to return to the Macalester campus to facilitate a transformative justice workshop.

The event was funded by the Department of Multicultural Life and the Office of the President and was co-sponsored by many student organizations and academic departments.
Pride Month

Macalester's first ever Pride Month of programs related to gender and sexuality came to a great start. Throughout the month of April, the Pride Month Committee co-sponsored 14 awesome programs. Some of the highlights included: a screening of the documentary “Genderfication,” a Soup and Substance panel on navigating multiple identities in the queer community, the Big Queer Dance, and Queer Union's annual Gala program.

The DML would like to thank the following departments and organizations for helping to put on this great month of events: Pride Month Committee, Fund for Lavender Life, International Center, Career Development Center, Alumni Relations, and Queer Union.

C-House Art Gallery

The 2nd Annual C-House Art Gallery program entitled “Portraits of Gender and Sexuality” was a great success!

The C-House Staff (Abaki Beck ’15, Charlie Birge ’15, Elise Ong ’16, Samia Habli ’16, Keri Ann Yatogo ’16, Emily Walls ’16, and Daga Franczak ’17) did a fantastic job with all of their art projects that formed the basis for the showcase. A number of students made the trek through the C-house on a busy sunny day to see how the Macalester community thinks about gender and sexuality. Many of the gallery attendees commented on how the project made them reflect on how their experiences intersect and differ from others.

Over 75 Macalester community members participated in this project. Pictures that were featured in the project will be featured in photo albums on the DML Facebook page. Also, select art projects are still on display in the C-House until the end of the semester.
Gender & Sexuality
(By Isabel Ruelas ’15, Vivian Liu ’17 and Errol Phalo ’17)

The California Senate Bill 358, also known as the Fair Pay Act, was proposed to protect women in the workforce from being fired, retaliated or discriminated against if they ask about or discuss pay at work, especially if it is to seek equal pay. It recently passed out of committee, and if signed into law, it will be the strongest equal pay law in the nation.

Venezuelan politician Freddy Bernal made a public apology this weekend after a live television interview on Wednesday in which he said gay police officers should conceal their “sexual appetites” in the workplace. While insisting that gay men are welcome to join the forces, Bernal told the Globovision reporter that if such an officer were to “wear a pink shirt, or wear lipstick,” it would go against “Venezuelan culture.”

Homophobic signs advocating for “straight pride” appeared on Ohio’s Youngstown State University campus. Some of the posters were pinned over YS-Unity fliers advertising a rally for marriage equality. The reactions on social media have expressed a range of responses including fear of violence and anger.

Economic Justice
(By elisa lee ’15, Mitch Paquette ’16, and Abbey Feola ’17)

Increased awareness about the added difficulties and struggles of homeless people who menstruate has lead to a boost in the donation of sanitary products in New York City compared to the number of donations in 2014. According to the Coalition for the Homeless, there are “more than 3,310 women in the city’s shelters every night, grappling with restricted access to safe sanitary spaces.”

This past Earth Day, the Milwaukee County Board unveiled a new food security initiative in collaboration with the Hunger Task Force. The program includes a plan to construct 100 new community gardens before the next Earth Day and create a “mobile market,” delivering fresh produce and nutritious foods to food deserts within the county. The project hopes to improve wellness and food security in low-income neighborhoods.

On April 15, low-wage workers in more than 200 cities and towns went on strike. Organizers picked April 15, Tax Day, to draw attention to the fact that the U.S. government uses taxpayers’ money to subsidize many corporations paying workers poverty wages.

Mayor de Blasio has announced a plan to jointly address issues of poverty and the environment.
DML Corners!

LSC Issue Areas

Religion & Spirituality
(By Emma Stout '15, Grace Zhu '16, and Andjelka Radevic '16)

Nuns in NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby group, are encouraging folks in the U.S. to speak out about why taxes are important. The project is designed to bring attention to the importance of taxes in paying for social services like healthcare, education, and public transportation. Furthermore, it shifts the conversation about taxes away from the individualistic idea that wealthy people have a right to keep their money.

Seventy years after the Holocaust, anti-Semitism is again growing more virulent in Europe? A just-released study confirms that this is hardly a recent phenomenon. According to Pew Research Center, by 2013, Jews were harassed in 34 of 45 European countries, and anti-Semitic harassment worldwide had reached a seven-year high.

Speaking to an influential gathering in New York City on Thursday, Hillary Clinton declared that "religious beliefs" that condemn "reproductive rights," “have to be changed.” The line received rousing applause at the feminist conference, hosted in Manhattan's Lincoln Center by Tina Brown. American critics, however, called Clinton's suggestion that a nation founded upon freedom of religion begin using state force to change religious practices is unprecedented.

Racial/Ethnic/National Identities
(By Kyla Martin '15 and Jinath Tasnim '16)

NYPD has revised its training materials to include classes and sessions on not engaging in racial profiling and not to “tell or tolerate ethnic, racial, and sexist jokes.” The updates in training are due to the 2013 ruling declaring the “Stop, Question and Frisk” practice unconstitutional. A federal monitor oversaw the changes being implemented in the training. The general idea is to not do things that demean others and may be “possibly racist”. The article also speaks about the benefits for the future officers if they follow these new guidelines, such as building allies within the community and making their job “easier and safer.” A federal judge must approve these revisions, and if it is approved, the updates will be integrated in the curriculum for the current cadet class expected to graduate in June and future classes.

An Islamic center in Melbourne, Australia shut down last month due to pressures from their community because it was attended by two teenagers charged with terrorism-related offences. In a statement the center provided, "We believe that given the constant harassment, pressure and false accusations levelled against the centre - particularly by media and politicians - this is the best course of action for the protection of the local community, its members, and the broader Muslim community that is often implicated in these insidious campaigns."
ESP: A Reflection on Mentoring!

As the daughter of Vietnamese immigrant parents, I aspire to become a family physician. Although there were many personal and academic challenges I had to surpass during my three years at Macalester, my determination and resourcefulness, coupled with support from friends, family, and faculty, have allowed me to advance one step closer to realizing my dream. Using the information I gained from attending the Futures Opportunities Panel my freshmen year, I applied to and got accepted into the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-Young Researchers Program. This 10-week research program allowed me to apply the scientific knowledge gained in the classroom to the laboratory and helped to build my confidence as a premedical student. The program was also a stepping-stone for my second (more rigorous and competitive) research program at Sanford Hospital for the summer 2015.

Without the support and guidance from the Emerging Scholars Program, I would have struggled with searching for the available resources offered at Macalester to nurture my career goals. This year, I had the opportunity to give back to the Emerging Scholars Program by mentoring underclassmen and advising them on how to take advantage of undergraduate fellowships/internships/research opportunities through the Future Opportunities Panel. It has been an honor to be able to help others, and I am glad to assist students through the challenging process of premedical studies.

Xpressions’ Events

This Month the Xpressions team held two great events. The first event which kicked off the beginning of the month was Gender Xpressions: A Community Mural Project. For this event, two local artists, Joy Spika and Ivoire Foreman, led a mural creation around ideas of gender, gender expression, and sexuality. Participants each painted their own canvas and shared with the group the meaning behind their piece. The group then pieced all the canvases together to create the final piece. The mural was a collaborative project between the Xpressions team, the Gender Sexuality Resource Center, and Mac Activists for Reproductive Justice. As a part of Pride Week events, the mural was unveiled in the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center at the Breaking the Silence event.

The second event was the Xpressions: Cultural Fest, which was an opportunity for the student cultural organizations to showcase the ways in which they express their culture. This event took place on a beautiful and sunny Friday afternoon during a sampler weekend. It provided current students, prospective students and their families an opportunity to see some of the things that cultural orgs do on campus and also learn more about that specific culture. The orgs featured at the event were BLAC, PIPE, MJO, MSA, FIA*STARSA, Afrika!, Adelante!, and Ua Ke. Each org had a different booth set up that provided students an opportunity to try new foods, listen to music, look at fashion and jewelry, play games, and learn about past and upcoming events.
Another Wonderful Year Celebrated at The DML

- Harambee! May 5th
- Lavender Graduation: May 13th
- Rites of Passage: May 15th
- Honoring the Journey: Celebration for First Generation Graduates: May 16th

Congratulations 2015 Graduates And Happy Summer to all!

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