



The President's Diversity Fund





The President's Diversity Fund Committee (left to right): Michael Clifthorne, Merci Mohagheghi, Emily Roberts, William Wallace, Emmie Forman, Sara Teshome, Sarah Bland (Support Staff), Zhang Er. Not pictured: M'Liss DeWald, George Freeman, Dalya Perez and Norma Alicia Pino.

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"Say Wow"	
A Poem by Chelan Weiler	inside back cover

The President's Diversity Fund Committee

The fund is managed by a culturally diverse committee of students, faculty, staff and alumni, who serve two-year terms. New members are added annually.

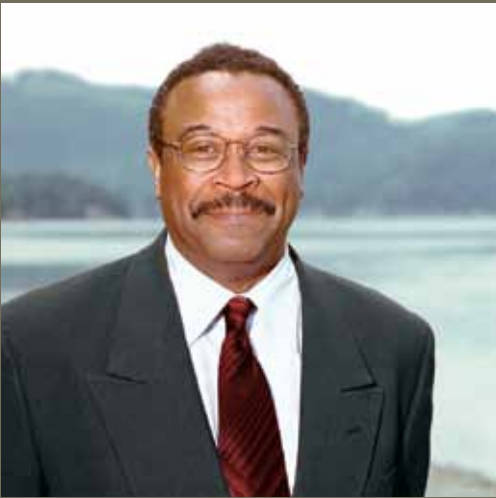
Community Enabling Grants

The committee awards grants throughout the academic year for activities that support Evergreen's commitment to a healthy multicultural learning community. All current students, staff and faculty of The Evergreen State College are eligible to apply.

Get Involved

If you would like to be considered to serve on the committee or to apply for an activity grant, visit the Diversity Fund's website at:

www.evergreen.edu/diversity/fund



Thomas L. Purce
President, The Evergreen State College

Evergreen has long been dedicated to the values of diversity, multiculturalism, equity and social justice. This work goes on every day in academic programs, student organizations and through standing committees and disappearing task forces.

The President's Diversity Fund provides support for this work and serves as a catalyst to raise visibility and promote coordination among these many efforts. I am grateful to the members of the Diversity Fund Committee for guiding this important work and to all the students, faculty and staff who have contributed to these efforts.



Paul D. Gallegos
Special Assistant to the President
Chair, President's Diversity Fund Committee

The actions of our community bring its values to life. In the pages that follow, we report to you on the activities supported by the fund during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years. More importantly, we recognize and honor our community members who initiated this important work.

These students, faculty and staff are among the many allies of teaching and learning for social justice and equity across the college. Their projects contributed to our growth. I hope their creativity inspires you to action. Remember, the President's Diversity Fund is here to help.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Gallegos".

DIVERSITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FUNDED IN 2008-09 AND 2009-10

Tranny Roadshow \$500	<p>Items in blue were grant-funded student, faculty and/or staff productions. Items in yellow were institutionally initiated productions.</p>			
Memorial Day \$500				
Zawadi Nikuze \$500	Race & Pedagogy \$1,115	sGiGial?tx \$1,780		
Religion in Wartime \$450	Willie Baptist \$1,115	Asian Studies Forum \$1,720		
Chinese Poetry \$265	Veterans Medallion \$1,020	Inservice on Veterans \$1,600		
African Am. Pioneers \$250	Veterans Day \$884	Turtle Island \$1,585		
Pouring Tea \$200	Gardens of Light \$865	Mid-East Film Fest \$1,550	Angela Davis & Akom \$2,375	Diversity Series, '09 & '08 \$11,800 (Total)
Democracy & Humanities \$150	Muslim Women \$850	MLK Day, '09 & '08 \$1,470 (Total)	Giving in to Love \$2,375	Veterans Summit \$9,400
Veterans Class \$0 (Staff Support only)	Swil Kanim \$710	Dr. Emoto \$1,030	Weaving Research \$2,307	Beyond Inclusion \$2,500
\$0-600	\$601-1200	\$1200-1800	\$1801-2400	over \$2400

GRANT AWARDS	
Range in \$	Frequency
\$0-600	9
\$601-1200	7
\$1200-1800	7
\$1801-2400	3
over \$2400	3

TOTAL AWARDS	
Total Grants Awarded	\$21,077
Total Support for Institutional Activities	\$29,789

GRANT-FUNDED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The following events were produced by Evergreen students, faculty and/or staff with enabling grants from The President's Diversity Fund. They are examples of how the Evergreen learning community fuses traditional tools of academia with contemporary multicultural modes of expression, media, art, activism, organization skills, and community involvement to create opportunities for learning across significant differences. The Diversity Fund Committee hopes they will inspire you to learn more about the issues.

The President's Diversity Fund offers grants every month of the academic year for projects like these that inform and educate our community about diversity, equity and social justice.



“Peace is possible through a total understanding that the world is one, and we are all brothers and sisters of one big Global family, honoring the privileges of being the custodians of this Earth, and taking full responsibility to sustain her well-being.”

— Chungliang Ai Huang

Asian Studies Development Forum

Winter Quarter, 2009

Coordinator: Hirsh Diamant, Faculty

The Asian Studies Development Forum was designed to help college faculty infuse content on Asian culture into their undergraduate courses. Activities began with a town hall meeting to look at overall needs and continued throughout the quarter with sessions examining the dynamism and complexity of Asian cultures and how these influence current academic perspectives. The forum brought together scholars, faculty, students, and community members to learn how an understanding of sacred traditions has inspired Asian cultures and our collective wisdom and how these traditions help us envision a more peaceful and just world.

The renowned Tai Ji master Chungliang Ai Huang shared his wisdom and expertise at the forum. Master Huang's teaching is characterized by humanitarian optimism, wisdom, and soulful engagement. In a Tai Ji workshop, Master Huang urged participants to be open to experiences and to be filled with wonder.

“Everything is possible. That has been my life's work, finding people who are living in the dark and taking the light, turning them to see the light within.”

— Krishnammal Jagannathan, recipient of The Right Livelihood Award, widely recognized as the world's premier award for personal courage and social transformation

“The Asian Studies Development Forum was auspicious to be held during the twelfth annual Season for Nonviolence,” said faculty member Mukti Khanna. “The Season for Nonviolence is observed globally in the 64 days between January 30 (death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi) and April 4 (death anniversary of Martin Luther King) as a time to engage in both inner and outer transformation to promote social justice, environmental sustainability and peace.”



Pouring Tea

October 23, 2008

Coordinator: Greg Mullins, Faculty, Gender and Sexuality: History, Culture and Politics

Before E. Patrick Johnson’s research, black gay studies in the United States focused primarily on northern cities. By traveling throughout the rural south and collecting oral histories, Professor Johnson created an archive of tremendous value for both casual and scholarly readers. Johnson extended the vibrancy of the interview contained in his book “Sweet Tea” by staging selected stories in a performance at Evergreen’s Experimental Theater. For those in the audience unfamiliar with rural, southern, queer, black men’s lives, Johnson embodied stories of religion, sex, transgenderism, coming of age in the South, love stories, and coming out. “Pouring Tea” evaporated preconceptions and prejudices and gave voice to the rich complexity of race, gender, and sexuality in the rural South.

“Professor Johnson’s lively portrayal of his oral history interviewees plopped us right into the deep South. Sans the blazing heat and heaping plates of home-cooked soul food, it was as if we were there ourselves.”

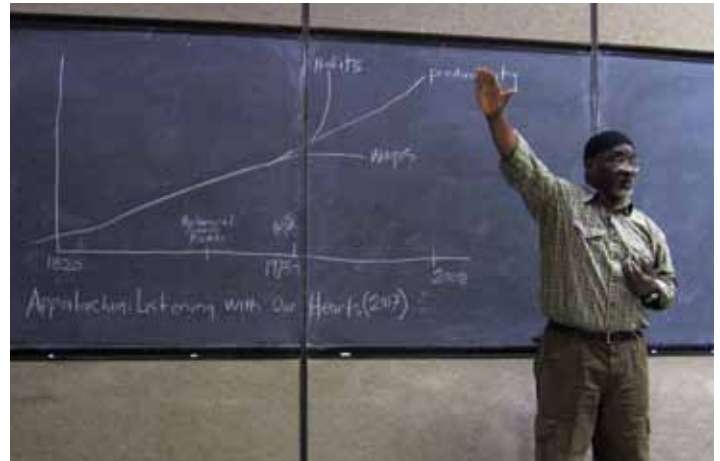
– Anthony Sesari, student

Willie Baptist Forums

November 21, 2008

Coordinator: Tony Zaragoza, Faculty

Willie Baptist, the Scholar-in-Residence for the Poverty Initiative at Union Theological Seminary, spoke to over 500 people at a series of events designed to encourage dialogue on issues facing poor and low income people here and across the nation. He inspired the participants to find ways to be active in their own communities to bring an end to poverty. He emphasized the need for clear, competent and committed leaders to step forward to meet this challenge and to promote unity across our society so we understand that we, and our communities, are not isolated in the struggle.



Gardens of Light

January 2009

Coordinators: Hirsh Diamant and Marja Eloheimo, Faculty

Inspired by Festival of Light traditions across the globe, such as the Solar and Lunar New Years, Diwali, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, Christmas, and the Chinese Lantern Festival, members of the Living in the Sacred Garden program created “Gardens of Light,” a lighted outdoor art exhibit. The gardens lit up every January evening to celebrate darkness and the coming of new light. The exhibit brought delight on rainy winter nights to hundreds of campus users and visitors to Evergreen. In addition to light sculptures made by Evergreen students, the show included works by artists from the Olympia community and Tacoma High School.



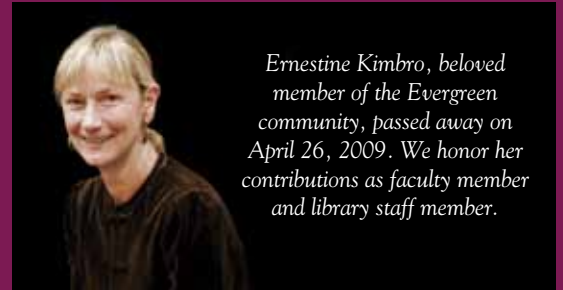


Exposed: The Unique History of African American Pioneers

February 2009

Coordinator: Ernestine Kimbro, Staff, Library

This important show featured 13 larger-than-life portraits of Black individuals who played significant roles in the history of Washington state. At the artist's reception at the Daniel J. Evans Library, Dionne Bonner expounded on her series of paintings. She started work on the series in 1994 with a commission from the African American Museum in Tacoma. Accompanying each portrait was a biographical account of the lives of each of her subjects. On exhibit in the Library for an entire academic quarter, these works inspired hundreds to consider how each person behind the image gave of themselves to bring about change.



Ernestine Kimbro, beloved member of the Evergreen community, passed away on April 26, 2009. We honor her contributions as faculty member and library staff member.

Giving in to Love in Chinese Poetry, Music and Theatre

A Celebration of Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day

February 15, 2009

Coordinator: Rose Jang, Faculty, Changing China

"This was a particularly memorable experience out of more than four decades' performance history we have accumulated with this piece. We could tell that the audience was educated and curious, with a sincere desire to learn from the artistic tradition we were presenting." — Cai Qinglin and Shi Jiehua Chinese Opera performers in Taken Alive



The talent of local music professors combined with Chinese Opera actors and musicians from Shanghai to create lyrical beauty and elegant movements, all in the name of love. The concept and expression of love ran throughout the production. Thriving on melding seemingly separate and even opposing elements, the performance chained together stories from different cultures, showing the universality of human emotions and experiences across time and space. East and West, classical and contemporary music, young and old, dance and martial arts, human and ghostly love—all seek unity and harmony.

"Thanks to Rose's artistic vision and dedication, we were able to create a unified and lively production that truly celebrated the Chinese culture and exposed Olympia to its beauty."

—Jeremy Reynolds, Scene Designer/Technical Director

Race and Pedagogy: Dr. Dexter Gordon

October 4, 2009

Coordinators: Zhang Er and Artee Young, Faculty, Evergreen Tacoma, Cycle Makers and Cycle Breakers

More than 200 students, faculty and community members were enthusiastically engaged by Dr. Dexter Gordon's presentation on the complicated, intertwined relationship between race and pedagogy in higher education. Drawing data from nationally known resources and his own research, Dr. Gordon facilitated conversations and answered questions on race and race-related issues from the audience at Evergreen Tacoma. He demonstrated how to conduct respectful and effective discourse on difficult and sensitive topics such as race, gender and sexual orientation issues.



sGiGial?tx — “House of Welcome” Longhouse Education and Cultural Center Grand Re-opening Celebration

October 17, 2009

Coordinators: Tina Kuckkahn-Miller, Director, and Laura Grabhorn, Assistant Director

The “House of Welcome” Longhouse Education and Cultural Center hosted a grand re-opening celebration in honor of the newly expanded and renovated Longhouse. It was an important opportunity to reflect on the 14 years that the Longhouse has been in existence, and to thank not only those who helped turn the vision of the Longhouse at Evergreen into a reality, but to also acknowledge the many supporters who are vital to the Longhouse today. A gift of a carved paddle was presented from Provost Richard Jefferies of Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi, a Maori university in New Zealand, as a symbol of the growing connection between the two institutions. Hiko’ula Hanapi, president of the Keomailani Hanapi Foundation, led a presentation by Native Hawaiian artists honoring the re-opening. These presentations demonstrated the importance of the Longhouse’s role in the development of relationships among indigenous peoples of the Pacific Rim.

“The reopening celebration went far beyond the evening. The commitment of the community at large was tremendous, evidenced by the attendance at new workshops offered to create art work for the event and the number of people in attendance.”

— Joan Staples-Baum (White Earth Chippewa), director,
The Tahoma Indian Center, Tacoma

Reading and Presentation by Chinese Poet and Artist Yan Li

February 2, 2010

Coordinator: Zhang Er, Faculty, Evergreen Tacoma, Cycle Makers and Cycle Breakers

Chinese poet Yan Li’s presentation at the Tacoma campus told the story of surviving and thriving under censorship, of the perseverance of the underground community, of the true value of imagination and creativity, and of what a courageous individual can do. Yan Li read his work and discussed the unofficial contemporary Chinese poetry scene. After reciting selected poems in Chinese, Yan Li asked students and community members to take turns reading his work in English, which they did with concentrated effort and clear joy. He then answered many questions from the audience on his own writing and publication as well as on Chinese poetic traditions and Chinese language in general.

Walking on Turtle Island

February 20, 2010

Coordinator: Regina Corpus, Co-Director
Reservation Based–Community Determined Program

In this one-man performance, Robert Greygrass, as Iyeska, a Native spirit helper guide, led the audience on a journey entitled Walking on Turtle Island. Actually four stories within one play, two of the stories were historical and two were contemporary. Iyeska conveyed to the audience how it is to live on Turtle Island, a metaphor for the North American continent. The audience journeyed with Iyeska as he introduced them to 21 fascinating characters in four compelling stories, during a two-act epic tale.



Religion in Wartime

March 3, 2010

Coordinators: Laurina Shelly, Student, and Suzanne Simons, Faculty, Religion and Society

This annual community-wide forum on religion was developed by students of the Religion and Society program and featured a panel of representatives from local faith communities. The goals of the forum were twofold: 1. To promote learning across the significant differences inherent in varying religious beliefs and worldviews. 2. To foster communication, dialogue and sharing of ideas among groups with diverse beliefs and practices. The challenge this year came from panelist Fred LaMotte, who hosts a website of writing by U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan: “If you want to do something really radical, get to know a soldier and their family.” Religion and Society students noted that this comment by Fred was the most compelling of the evening and broadened their views on what social activism can look like.

*“If you want to do something really radical,
get to know a soldier and their family.”*

— Fred LaMotte, Quaker, campus minister of Common Bread, and yoga/meditation instructor
for active-duty service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan

Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities

March 12, 2010

Coordinator: Nancy Koppelman, Faculty, *Them’s That Got Shall Get: Inheritance and Justice*

Dr. Martha Nussbaum, the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, is widely considered one of the most important contemporary philosophers. For the last three years, Dr. Nussbaum has shown a special interest in Evergreen’s history, philosophy of education, and practices. More than 400 people came to campus to hear this discussion based on her book, *Not For Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities* (Princeton University Press, 2010), the manuscript of which Dr. Nussbaum generously provided to seven Evergreen academic programs before publication. In it, she draws on pedagogical and political writings from John Dewey in the United States and Rabindranath Tagore in India. Dr. Nussbaum challenged her audience to consider how Humanities education is crucial to children’s moral development and why the seeds of democracy are best planted during childhood.

*“The capacity to imagine the experience of another—a capacity almost all human beings possess
in some form—needs to be greatly enhanced and refined if we are to have any hope of sustaining
decent institutions across the many divisions that any modern society contains.”*

— Dr. Martha Nussbaum

Tranny Roadshow

April 14, 2010

Coordinator: Lance Worth, Student

The Tranny Roadshow was a multimedia performance art extravaganza composed of an eclectic group of transgender artists. People can be intensely curious about the lives of trans-and-gender-variant people, but trans identities are only one facet of identity. One of the aims of this performance was to present trans people as they are – whole, multifaceted people. There can be a fisheye lens effect when we see things through the eyes of those we do not understand well. The Tranny Roadshow gave a clearer view of oppression based on gender identity and how trans folks navigate life's roadblocks with grace and panache.

Weaving Research Communities Together

The 2010 NW Regional Conference on Protection of Cultural Properties and Tribal and Indigenous Peoples

April 16, 2010

Coordinators: Aleticia Tijerina, Erin Genia and The Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute

Distinguished tribal researchers, students and interested community members assembled at The Longhouse Education and Cultural Center to address issues ranging from tribal involvement in international decisions that impact sovereignty over cultural assets to a discussion of how local tribes are protecting their knowledge. The keynote lecture by renowned educator and author Dr. Gregory Cajete, *Creating Sustainable Indigenous Community in a 21st Century World*, focused on the importance of learning from indigenous peoples' worldviews to build strong, sustainable communities. The 150+ attendees came away from the conference with a clear idea of what community-based participatory research is, why it is needed, how to protect cultural resources, and why it is important to partner with tribes when conducting professional research.



Dr. Masaru Emoto – Message from Water

April 21 & April 24, 2010, in association with Earth Day

Coordinators: Rebecca Chamberlain, Pat Rasmussen, and Hirsh Diamant, Faculty

Dr. Emoto's presentation was part of a weeklong series of community events across the Puget Sound that stimulated peoples' awareness of issues of sustainability (locally and globally), our role in protecting the waters and life of the Earth and Salish Sea, and the role of consciousness (individually and collectively) in shaping our future. At the Longhouse event, local elders shared a blessing to honor the waters of the Salish Sea. As part of Earth Day events, Dr. Emoto led a blessing for the healing of Salish Sea waters and water everywhere. Simultaneously, groups at different locations around the Salish Sea participated in similar blessing ceremonies in order to raise awareness.

"We want to generate awareness about the importance of the waters of our region, as well as the complex relationships between humans and the ecological diversity of the Salish Sea."

— Rebecca Chamberlain, Faculty

Seventh Annual Middle East Film Festival

Spring Quarter, 2010

Coordinator: Valoree Schurpf, Student

The Mideast Solidarity Project has organized film festivals focused on Middle East issues for the past seven years. This year, they offered a combination of films and speakers. The films represented a variety of struggles of oppressed populations in the Middle East that the organizers hoped audiences would recognize as related to the struggles in their own communities. Themes included women's issues, anti-Arab racism, immigration and the Diaspora, the distinction between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, the occupations of Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan, politics and civil rights in Iran, and LGBTQ issues in the Middle East. The organizers' aim was to create a platform for campus and community dialogue around Middle East and South Asian issues, many of which are underreported or misrepresented in the media and academia.



Defamation, a 2009 film by Yoav Shamir, received the Stanley Kubrick Award for Bold and Innovative Filmmaking.



Muslim Women and the Pity Committee: Resistance is Futile

May 12, 2010

Coordinator: Therese Saliba, Faculty

Dr. Mohja Kahf, award-winning poet, novelist, and professor of comparative literature and Islamic studies at the University of Arkansas, spoke at Evergreen as part of the Seventh Annual Middle East Film Festival. Dressed in a multicolored tunic and bright red hijab, Kahf read lively poetry, and gave a dramatic performance that involved members of the audience in a choral response. She underscored the agency and diversity of attitudes and experiences among Muslim women in the U.S. She engaged the audience with lots of surprises to help them understand how persistent are the “undead” stereotypes of Muslims and Muslim women. The audience laughed as she read and performed, and several commented that she was not at all what they expected.

Kahf exposed and countered the stereotypes of Muslim women as oppressed, mute, passive victims of (in Kahf's words) “the horrible harem, the brutal brother, the cruel country, rotten religion,” etc. She showed how these are tied to institutions of power, and how they suppress the diversity within Islam and obscure any understanding of it. She offered constructive tools of critical thinking and challenged the audience with an eye toward justice and solidarity. Kahf suggested seeing religions (especially Judaism, Christianity and Islam) as relatives, drawing cross-cultural parallels, understanding the role of supportive mothers and fathers in the culture, and attacking historical amnesia to understand pre-modern history of the Middle East, as well as the role of colonialism, militarization, and imperialism in the region, and being attentive to economics and class.

“These stereotypes of Muslims are what Muslims are needed to be by the imperialist world economy. People will continue to resist as long as these stereotypes persist, and yet I have said that resistance is futile. It is futile as long as structural power—imperialist and militarist—exists. We—Arabs and Muslims—are needed to be held as inferior, needed to fill the role of structural inferiority. And the stereotype recuperates faster than the alternatives proliferate.”

— Dr. Mohja Kahf

Swil Kanim Performance

May 11, 2010

Coordinator: Liberty Rothbaum, Student

Swil Kanim is a world-class virtuoso violinist who advocates for self-expression to create stronger community. As a Lummi Native American, he is dedicated to strengthening cultural and personal understanding. Kanim encouraged his audience to question societal stereotypes and to come together to create thriving communities. He touched on his Native background, using captivating stories and speaking openly about discrimination and depression that he has experienced. He intertwined his music with storytelling, poetry, and audience interaction. Those in attendance hung on every word, crying, laughing, and ultimately leaving refreshed and excited.



Angela Davis

Angela Davis and Antwi Akom Speak!

May 22, 2010

Coordinator: Oscar Overlund and The Black Student Union

A standing-room only crowd at Evergreen's gymnasium welcomed Angela Davis and Antwi Akom, who discussed the history of abolition movements, how they connect to sustainability, and the importance of student activism. Dr. Davis is renowned for her lifelong scholarship and activism for social justice. Dr. Akom, a leading expert on the green economy, climate change and educational equity, spoke on the links between race, environmental health, and educational equity in our communities; the role of the green economy in facilitating pathways out of poverty; and the role of local knowledge in achieving environmental health and educational equity. The audience took full advantage of the discussion period to explore the implications of their message for local issues and informed activism.



Antwi Akom

EVENT CO-SPONSORS

The recipients of activity grants successfully collaborated with many academic programs, administrative offices, student organizations and the South Sound community to produce their events. Here is a listing of their co-sponsors.

Asian Studies Development Forum

Academic Programs: Asian Studies Development, Changing China, Russia and Eurasia, India: Tradition and Beyond, Organizational Systems Theory, East-West Integrated Psychology.

Academic Deans, The Freeman Foundation, The Olympia Community Fund, Olympia Federal Savings, The Chinese Language and Cultural Research Foundation.

Pouring Tea

Academic Programs: Gender and Sexuality: History, Culture and Politics, Acting and Directing: Queer Theory and Practice.

The Evergreen Queer Alliance, Evergreen Expressions.

Willie Baptist Forums

Academic Programs: Gateways: Popular Education and Political Economy; Wonderful Ideas; Music, Math, and Motion; Beyond the News; Advocacy and Social Change; Venezuela: Building Economic and Social Justice; Hop on Pop, 'Race' in the United States.

Community Connections, Center for Community Based Learning and Action, Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, Evergreen Tacoma, Academic Deans, The Masters in Public Administration program, MEChA, Black Student Union.

Gardens of Light

Academic Programs: Living in the Sacred Garden.

First Peoples Advising, artists from the greater Olympia community, Tacoma High School students.

Giving in to Love in Chinese Poetry, Music & Theatre

Academic Programs: Changing China; Performance Works: Telling Stories; Music Composition Intensive; Living in the Sacred Garden.

Washington State Arts Commission and National Endowment for the Arts, Evergreen Expressions, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Seattle), The Kunqu Society (New York), The Seniors' Research Group of Chinese Opera (Vancouver B.C.), Hwa Sheng Chinese Opera Club (Seattle), Olympia Area Chinese Fellowship, Chinese Arts and Music Association, South Puget Sound Chinese American Club, Don Foran.

Longhouse Education and Cultural Center, Grand Re-opening Celebration

The Provost's Office, Finance and Administration, the Evergreen State College Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Lucky Eagle Casino, Seven Cedars Casino, the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Nisqually Tribe, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Aramark/Conference Services, the Longhouse.

Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities

Academic Programs: Eye of the Story; Greece and Italy; Master in Teaching program; Social Dilemmas; Money's Value/Soul's Worth; American Stories; Logopoesis.

Provost's office, Academic Deans.

Tranny Roadshow

Academic Programs: Social Psychology of Gender.

Folk Dance Alliance, Evergreen Queer Alliance, Gender Alliance of the South Sound, Stonewall Youth, Rainbow Family Law.

Weaving Research Communities Together

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, Evergreen First Peoples Advising.

Seventh Annual Middle East Film Festival

Academic Programs: Arab and Muslim Women Writers; Current Economic and Social Issues: Explanations, Actions and Solutions.

The Student Activities Office.

Muslim Women and the Pity Committee: Resistance is Futile

Academic Programs: Arab and Muslim Women Writers; Islam and Science: An Historical Perspective.

Middle East Solidarity Project.

Swil Kanim

Academic Programs: Performing Meaning, Translating Thought, Objects in Performance: An Experimental Laboratory; Social Work/Human Services Skill Sets.

National Resident Hall Honorary, Greener Organization.

Angela Davis and Antwi Akom Speak!

The Black Student Union, Synergy Symposium.

INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



The following events were produced by offices of The Evergreen State College with support from The President's Diversity Fund.

Veterans Issues are Diversity Issues

Many veterans of war return with physical and emotional wounds that are disabling. Over 5.2 million Americans have fought in the ongoing Gulf Wars. That number grows as the global war continues. Additionally, 7.8 million Vietnam-era veterans survive today. Add to these millions their spouses and children and one begins to glimpse the scale of the social justice issues that revolve around our responsibility to them.

Evergreen understands it has a role to play in the reintegration and education of America's war veterans and their dependents. Through tuition waivers, targeted services, commemorative and honoring events, the college is reaching out and giving back to the veteran community. To enhance its efforts, in 2007 the college created a Veterans Workgroup, collaboratively led by the Diversity Affairs and Veterans Affairs offices. The workgroup evaluated the needs of Evergreen's veterans and developed 14 recommendations that were accepted by the administration. One was to establish a standing committee, later identified as The Veterans of Evergreen Transition and Success (VETS Team), to implement many of the recommendations and to provide ongoing guidance on veterans' issues. Here are the actions the college took during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 academic years with support from the President's Diversity Fund.

Veterans Day

November 11, 2008 & 2009

The college hosted commemoration programs bridging political ideologies to recognize the Evergreen students, faculty and staff who served their community through the military. In fall 2008, the program featured guest speaker Steven Tice, the former director of the inpatient post-traumatic stress disorder treatment program at American Lake VA Hospital. Tice talked about his personal journey of recovery from severe injuries (physical and emotional) he suffered in the 1969 assault on Ap Bia Mountain in Vietnam, otherwise known as the Battle of Hamburger Hill. In 2009, the program featured veteran alumnus Steven J. Gill and a panel of student veterans who spoke about their service and the experience of transitioning from military to civilian and student life at Evergreen. This annual event has taken place on campus since 1995.

Retention of Students and Staff Recently Returned from War Zones

Faculty and Staff Professional Development

January 29, 2010

Hosted by veteran and faculty member Daryl Morgan and with content delivered by experts, this program introduced educators to the challenges of life and learning with combat-related disabilities. Nervous system diseases, post-traumatic stress, sexual trauma, and traumatic brain injury present many combat veterans with new learning challenges. The session was part of ongoing faculty and staff professional development related to the needs of veteran students and staff. It was a collaborative production by the VETS Team and Diversity Affairs Office.

Memorial Day – Remembrance Poppies

May 2009 & 2010

In 2008, the VETS Team wanted to find a way to acknowledge the importance of Memorial Day. With Diversity Fund support, they began a new tradition of distributing red paper poppies to the Evergreen learning community along with an invitation to honor the holiday. Since WWI, the red poppy has been associated with the losses of war. A powerful symbol of the persistence of hope, the poppies are becoming a permanent feature in many of the college's offices.



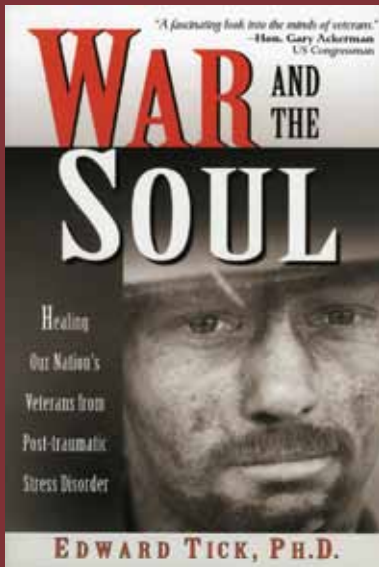
A New Tradition: The Annual Evergreen Veterans Medallion Reception

April 30, 2009 and November 5, 2009

On April 30, 2009, The Evergreen State College established another honoring tradition for Evergreen's military veterans. Evergreen's current staff, faculty and student veterans were invited to a reception in their honor and were presented with the newly minted Evergreen Veterans Medallion. At the inaugural ceremony, President Purce and his executive team were joined by World War II veterans Emily Horswell and o'Kelly McCluskey to present the coins. The Diversity Fund was proud to co-sponsor the coin design and reception, along with the President's Office, Veterans Affairs and Student Affairs. On November 5, 2009, President Purce was joined by Washington's First Gentleman and U.S. Army Veteran Mike Gregoire for the 2nd Annual Evergreen Veterans Reception. The presentation of the medallion is now an annual event.



O'Kelly McCluskey, Captain, Ret., WWII Disabled Veteran
passed away on February 11, 2010.
We honor his sacrifice and service for peace.



Veterans Summit

War and the Soul: Creating Healing Communities for Our Nation's Veterans

May 6-7, 2010

The VETS Team of The Evergreen State College organized the first-ever regional higher education summit on veterans' needs, experiences and retention. More than 200 participants from five states participated in this training and networking conference for those in the higher education and military communities. It featured Dr. Edward Tick, a consultant, psychotherapist and educator with three decades experience working with veterans. Nancy Schiesari, a university professor and award-winning filmmaker, discussed *Tattooed Under Fire*, her documentary portrait of soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Participants heard from student veterans about their experiences in combat and in college, explored strategies to better serve student veterans, exchanged best practices with colleagues from across the region, and were introduced to resource agencies that serve students and institutions. Both Tick and Schiesari also gave talks that were open to the general public.

Veterans Educational Transition Strategies (Academic class – 4 credits)

Fall 2010

The VETS course is a class designed for veterans, active-duty military, and dependents who are beginning their college lives at Evergreen. The goal of the new course is to assure that these students get the most out of their education, with a focus on the transition from deployment to post-deployment life. The course was conceived and designed by members of the college's VETS Team – Bob McIntosh, Nancy Anderson and Paul Gallegos. The VETS Team identifies best practices for supporting the educational goals of military veterans.

THE DIVERSITY SERIES

A project of Evergreen's Office for Diversity Affairs, The Diversity Series draws upon the interests and energies of the college community to provide college-wide forums and small group seminars. Its goal is to cultivate cultural competencies, promote equity and social justice, and to remind us that we are one college comprised of many cultures that benefits from varied ways of being, knowing, teaching and learning.

The 2008-09 Diversity Series

Ancestral Teachings for Times of Unprecedented Change



This weeklong spring quarter colloquium featured four representatives of The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers, which works to protect diverse cultures: lands, medicines, language, and ceremonial ways of prayer through projects that educate and nurture. The theme of the colloquium, which was powerfully reflected by the Grandmothers' teachings and interactions throughout the week, was "Ancestral Teachings for Times of Unprecedented Change."

The visiting council members met with 18 groups over six days. Their enthusiastic audiences included incarcerated young men at facilities in Rochester and Chehalis, elementary and middle school students in Tacoma, Shelton and Oakville, undergraduate and graduate students in Olympia and Tacoma, elders of numerous tribes, student organizations, and the college's administration. They were also treated to a visit to a local casino and a community garden.

Grandmother Agnes Baker Pilgrim, the Chairman of the Council of Thirteen Grandmothers, is the oldest known living female member of her tribe, the Takelma Indians, originally from Southern Oregon, and keeper of the Sacred Salmon Ceremony.

Grandmother Rita Long-Visitor Holy Dance is a Lakota keeper of the traditional ways, great grandmother, Native American Church elder, and bead worker. She is involved in the Grandmothers' efforts to encourage the Vatican to rescind several Papal Bulls and edicts that set the stage for the "doctrine of conquest" that has had such far-reaching effects on the treatment of indigenous peoples.

Grandmother Rita Pitka Blumenstein, the first certified tribal doctor in the state of Alaska, is a traditional healer, teacher, and artist. She has spent over 40 years investigating, producing, and passing on many aspects of Alaska Native culture such as song, drumming, skin sewing, basketry, storytelling, and use of plants for dyes and medicinal purposes.

Grandmother Mona Polacca, a Hopi/Havasupai /Tewa elder, advocates for the elderly, is involved in important educational work with indigenous children and their families, and provides trans-cultural training to individuals, families, and healthcare professionals.

The colloquium was produced in conjunction with the college's Willi Unsoeld Seminar Series and the Synergy Conference. Planning partners included the Longhouse Education and Cultural Center, First Peoples Advising, the Gateways Program, Masters in Teaching Program, the Center for Community Based Learning and Action, academic programs studying sustainability and social justice, and Evergreen's Tacoma Program.



Grandmother Rita Pitka Blumenstein

The 2009-10 Diversity Series

In 2009-10, the series used film and discussion to explore equitable and sustainable communities. College staff and faculty were invited to nominate films and facilitate community discussions after each film screening. Seminar facilitators received \$300 from The President's Diversity Fund to complement their program budgets. To be eligible, nominated films needed to address the meaning of community by exploring how people's perceptions, needs and capacities for community are being shaped by cultural influences such as science, technology, multinational entities, the arts, community service organizations, corporatism, religion, media, etc. Films also qualified if they explored the benefits of collaboration informed by diverse cultural values, beliefs, and ways of knowing, seeing, and being in the world.

The Diversity Fund Committee selected the films and hosts from those nominated. Selected films were screened and discussed twice to accommodate daytime and evening students. The following films and hosts were selected:



The Great Pinoy Boxing Era, a documentary about how prize-winning Filipino boxers of the 1920's and 30's represented pride and hope for equality in an unwelcoming America. Hosted by faculty member Peter Bacho.



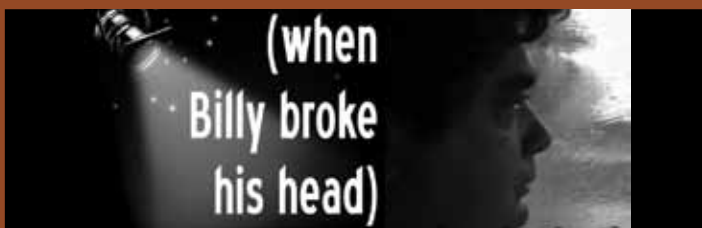
The Future of Food, a documentary that distills the complex technology and key regulatory, legal, ethical, environmental and consumer issues surrounding the changes happening in the food system today – genetically engineered foods, patenting, and the corporatization of food – into terms the average person can easily understand. Hosted by staff of The Flaming Eggplant.



The Philosopher Kings, a thought-provoking documentary that interweaves the untold stories of triumph and tragedy from the members of society who are often disregarded and ignored, the custodians of some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in America. Hosted by faculty member Sara Ryan.



Tattooed Under Fire, an intimate, character-driven documentary of Iraq-bound and returning U.S. soldiers as they go under the tattoo needle. The tattoos cross lines of gender, class, and political affinity, revealing the inner lives of young men and women as they live through the horrors of the Iraq War. Hosted by staff member Paul Gallegos and coordinators of the Student Veterans Organization.



When Billy Broke His Head...and other tales of wonder, a breakthrough film that explores what it is really like to live with a disability in America — where pervasive discrimination and bureaucracy too often keep people with disabilities trapped in a labyrinth of government rules and legislated poverty. Hosted by faculty member Joli Sandoz.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration

January 19, 2009 & January 18, 2010

Every year, members of the Evergreen learning community help organize and perform at celebrations of Dr. King's birthday. For more than ten years, the college has been a sponsor of the Thurston County festivities and community service effort. Greeners get involved in community service projects, interfaith services, and a scholarship dinner. The holiday is capped by a community celebration at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts that features local talent, including Evergreen faculty, staff and students. In 2008, faculty member Gilda Sheppard was the master of ceremonies. County-wide activities in 2009 and 2010 included: Musical Instrument Drive – a project to collect, repair and provide musical instruments for underprivileged youth; Street Art – an all-day arts workshop to increase the community's understanding of the issues at-risk youth face; Nutritional Awareness Project (NAP) to create and distribute food baskets to the Rochester community through ROOF Community Services; and Thurston County Teens Celebrate the Life of Dr. King.

Latino Youth Summit

October 29, 2008 and October 16, 2009

South Puget Sound Community College and Saint Martin's University

For four years, The Evergreen State College has been a sponsor of the annual Latino Youth Summit. Organized by the Hispanic Roundtable, the summit is a one-day conference for high school students focusing on higher education, careers and healthy lifestyles. It is hosted on a rotational basis by the Roundtable's four South Sound higher education partners. Approximately 500 students from Thurston, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason and Pacific counties attend the conference. In fall of 2010, The Evergreen State College will host the summit for the first time.



Beyond Inclusion/Beyond Empowerment: Strategic Interventions for Anti-Oppression

Faculty, Student and Staff Development

February 5, 2010

The College's CARE Network offered this training to students, faculty and staff to support communication and empowerment. Leticia Nieto, M.A. Psy.D., a psychotherapist and trainer specializing in cross-cultural communication, offered the interactive course. Focused on clarifying the complexities of working across significant differences and on understanding the dynamics of oppression, the session encouraged participants to take on action plans to bring about positive change. Participants examined social identity development concepts; privilege and rights; internalized oppression; individual, institutional, and cultural factors; agent allyship and target empowerment. For purposes of the course, diversity was explored along the following categories: age, disability, religious culture, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, indigenous background, national origin, and gender. It was co-sponsored by The Diversity Fund and Human Resource Services.

Zawadi Nikuze

May 27, 2010

Hosted by the Coalition Against Sexual Violence (CASV) and Common Bread

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's 14-year civil war has led to the deaths of more people than any other conflict since World War II. Zawadi Nikuze has been active in peace-building since high school. As Coordinator of the African Great Lakes Initiative's work in North Kivu, she plans and facilitates Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities workshops on trauma healing and reconciliation with citizens of Goma and displaced persons who fled violence to camps outside Goma. Ms. Nikuze spoke of her firsthand experience of what is happening in this country and the projects that are underway to help address the deep wounds the war has caused. She discussed the Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as her work with rape survivors.

Say Wow!

each day before our surroundings become
flat with familiarity
and the shapes of our lives click into place –
dimensionless and average as tetris cubes,

before hunger knocks from our bellies
like a cantankerous old man
and the duties of the day stack up like dishes
and the architecture of our basic needs
commissions all thought
to construct the 4 door sedan of safety,

before gravity clings to our skin
like a cumbersome parasite
and the colored dust of dreams
sweeps itself obscure in the vacuum of reason,

before we think 3 grams of fiber! and
how's my serotonin?
and what would Jesus or Oprah do?

each morning, before we wrestle the world
and our hearts into the shape of our brains

look around and say, Wow!!
feed yourself fire,
scoop up the day entire
like a planet sized bouquet of marvel
sent by the universe directly into your arms,
and say Wow!

break yourself down
into the basic components of primitive awe
and let the crescendo of each moment
carbonate every capillary
and say, Wow!

yes, before our poems become calloused with revision
let them shriek off the page of spontaneity
like tourette's syndrome

and before our metaphors get too regular,

notice all the boilers lit in the east
and let the sun stay
a conflagration of homing pigeons
that fights through fire
each day to find us.



The President's Diversity Fund

EVERGREEN

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