As the semester comes to an end, we would like your feedback (multicultural@marist.edu) so as to improve our services.

Visit us on Facebook or email us letting us know your thoughts to the following questions:

1. Have you seen the flyers for our sponsored events around campus?
2. What event would attract you to attend?
3. Do you have any cultural speaker/presenter suggestions?

Thank you for your feedback, we look forward to another great academic year!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!
NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Inspired by other national history months, the Academy of American Poets decided to initiate the first National Poetry Month in April of 1996. During this time, many people come together to share their love and passion for poetry – schools, poets, libraries, publishers, and others. Some of the most common events that occur during this time (especially for high school students and those living in the five boroughs of New York City) include poetry slams and Poem In Your Pocket Day, which falls on April 24. Poetry slams are very similar to a talent show – you perform a poem of your choice in front of an audience, whether it is your own poem or a favored poem by a poet you admire. On Poem In Your Pocket Day, you literally carry your favorite poem in your pocket throughout the entire day. This can either be one that you wrote or one that someone else wrote that you absolutely adore. Throughout the day, you read your poem and become inspired by it and share it with others.

Sources:
http://poetry.about.com/od/natpomo/a/natpomohistory.htm
http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41

STUDENT POEM SPOTLIGHT

Africa
A place that is not known to me
Not known in the sense of heritage or origin
A place of natural resources, sun, and filled with history and pride

AfricA
A place of different dialects
Dialects that connects a blood line of pain and suffering
A suffering that can only be healed through the words of God and true bonding

Africa
A place rooted with growth and determination to create culture, pride and unity
This place, not just any place
A place that is not like no other
A place that I connect with through ancestors, images and teachings
A place where all man kind comes from but a place ignorant to most
There is not much I can say about this place but Africa is a place of true home.

By Ariel Velasquez
EASTER

Easter marks the end of the 40 day period known as Lent in Christianity. The Christian church, following the Gregorian calendar, celebrates Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox. This is why the date of Easter changes so drastically from year to year; it can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25. Eastern Orthodox churches follow the Julian calendar, which can cause a difference of up to five weeks between Orthodox and Western Easters. This year, however, both Easters happened to fall on April 20.

The week leading up to Easter is known as Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday and including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter itself on the following Sunday. Palm Sunday is the celebration of Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem. The remaining days of Holy Week are the time period in which Jesus was arrested, betrayed, crucified and resurrected. According to Christian traditions, Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday, is the recognition of Jesus’ last supper with his apostles, and Good Friday is the day Jesus was crucified and then buried in the tomb. Christians believe that Jesus was then resurrected on Easter Sunday.

The Easter Vigil is a special service held in the early morning hours of Easter Sunday. In the Catholic Church, the Easter Vigil mass is typically held at midnight on Easter Saturday. It is common for American Protestant churches to hold services at sunrise on Easter Sunday. The symbolism and use of light, primarily through candles, is an important aspect of the Easter Vigil.

The two most popular symbols associated with Easter today actually pre-date the Christian holiday. Rabbits and eggs have been used throughout the world and across religions to symbolize the coming of spring for thousands of years. Rabbits were seen as a prominent symbol of rebirth and the rejuvenation of life that comes after winter. Eggs were also seen as a symbol of rebirth and new life. Over time, these symbols were adopted by Christians to have meaning within the church related to Easter as well as spring.

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How is Easter celebrated around the world? We asked some of our international students to tell us about their Easter traditions!

Esmeralda Diaz is a senior from Puebla, Mexico.

“On Easter morning, everyone goes down to the ‘Banuaries’ to play in the water, and then we all go to mass. There is a procession that goes throughout the town and ends at the church, showing the scenes of Jesus’ life. Typically everyone eats a big meal at home afterward.”

Alekksandra Simeonova is a freshman from Bulgaria.

“We color Easter eggs the week before Easter. The first egg has to be red. The tradition is to rub this egg on the cheeks and forehead of children so they will be healthy in the next year. On Easter day, each person takes an egg and knocks it against the eggs of others to crack them— whoever has the egg that does not crack will be the most prosperous in the following year.”

Amanda Amorosa is a freshman from Montreal, Canada.

“For Easter at my house, my whole family goes over to my grandmother’s house to have dinner. My grandmother usually makes her homemade pasta, along with a bunch of other delicious foods. After we eat, we have an Easter egg hunt in her house. It is always great to have everyone together in one place, since we all have such busy schedules now.”

Fredrik Bjerke is a sophomore from Norway.

“The entire week before Easter is a school holiday in Norway. Families traditionally go away for the weekend to cross-country ski, arriving at a ski cabin on Thursday night and staying until Monday. On Friday, they celebrate with a big meal including an appetizer of stuffed eggs seasoned with salt, pepper, and fish, followed by a big dinner of lamb with potatoes and salad, and ending with dessert. It is customary to eat an orange and a chocolate bar, similar to a Kit-Kat bar but MUCH better, while cross-country skiing. It is traditional to hide Easter eggs and to have Easter baskets as well.”

Sources:
http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/176858/Easter
http://go.galegroup.com/online/library/marist.edu/EBchecked/topic/176858/Easter

By Lizzie Grisaﬁ
Chris Bowser is a part-time instructor in Marist’s School of Science and a full-time education specialist for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell’s Water Resource Institute.

“Piti piti, wazo fe nich”: “little by little the bird builds its nest.”

I have had the privilege of bringing my passion for environmental education to Haiti in the last few years. In 2012, the Marist Praxis program was looking for professors to accompany some students along with the Home Education Love Opportunity (HELO) organization, a non-profit founded by Elizabeth Kennedy, which has set up an orphanage and school near the city of Les Cayes in southwestern Haiti.

In that first trip, fellow professor Lea Graham and I were occupied with getting our bearings, meeting the teachers and “parents” of the orphanage, working with the children, helping a construction crew build a roof for the church/classroom, and trying our best to pick up the Creole language. The biologist in me was delighted to take the students to a local lagoon and seine up fish and crabs, even a few species I was familiar with from my work on our Hudson River! People young and old are the same everywhere; a net full of fish is an instant crowd pleaser.

Professor Graham and I also lectured at the American University of the Caribbean (AUC), a small agricultural and environmental college staffed with devoted faculty like Jan Davis and Cathy Baker of the United States, and William Cinea, a Haitian dynamo who does double duty as the director of the Les Cayes Botanical Garden.

In 2013 I went back to Les Cayes with Elizabeth Kennedy and the HELO crew, including several Marist students. This time, in addition to working with the HELO school, I also led several water quality workshops with AUC focused on using donated equipment to study local waterways. Both Marist and Haitian students got involved with exploring the streams running through the Botanical Garden and even looking at household water supplies.

On our last day there, we brought both the college students and the children from the orphanage to a local beach, where the AUC students seized up fish and then each of them taught a small group of youngsters about what they had learned. As a teacher, the best part of the whole trip was watching Haitians teaching Haitians about Haiti... and I didn’t have to say a word. A few Haitian college students are now armed with the skills and equipment to study their local waterways, and a few more young people got to explore their country’s beautiful natural resources. Little by little, that’s how it gets done.

By Chris Bowser (guest writer)
On Friday April 25th, the Center for Multicultural Affairs sponsored Indian New Year at Marist College. The idea for the event was a collaborative effort between Professor Gayatree Siddhanta Sarma from the School of Management and a group of Indian graduate students here at Marist. Coordinator of International Programs under the Center for Multicultural Affairs, Karen Tomkins-Tinch, was instrumental in helping organize the event with Professor Sarma.

“The New Year celebration all over India includes good food, good music, new clothes and a prayer for prosperity and health for everyone,” said professor Sarma, “Half the world away, the Indian graduate students at Marist only could imagine the festivities at home until I proposed a celebration on campus. A few students enthusiastically joined in and we began the preparations.”

The majority of the night consisted of the students performing a series of traditional Indian dances, while wearing traditional dresses called Saris. One graduate student is a professional Bollywood dancer, and he along with other students practiced the dances for weeks leading up to the performance on Friday with the help of Professor Sarma. “I really enjoyed the dances,” said Marist senior Liz Hamburger, “I could tell the students worked hard on preparing and coordinating them.”

The food was prepared by Sodexo, with the help of professor Sarma’s own traditional Indian recipes and consultation of the Indian students. There were samosas, kebabs, and cucumber sandwiches, along with cardamom tea and carrot cake. There was a wide variety of spices and herbs in the food traditionally used in Indian cuisine. The food was a highlight of the evening for many.

The New Year event was well attended by both students and faculty. Many professors from the School of Management and the School of Computer Science and Mathematics came to the event. The president of Marist College, Dr. Dennis J. Murray, also came to support the Indian students, at which time they performed an encore dance for him.

Everyone in attendance experienced authentic delicious Indian food, traditional Indian dances and clothing. It was a unique experience for the graduate students to be able to share their holiday on campus with other non-Indians, who were receptive of the new cultural experience. “I loved how the Indian students were so active and engaged, and not shy at all about dancing in front of everyone,” said Karen Tomkins-Tinch.

Reflecting on the event, professor Sarma said “my most favorite memory from the event has to be the enthusiastic participation of our graduate students. They put together a very beautiful performance and also played a very involved role in entertaining our guests. For me, the experience was also rewarding as the Marist community extended a helping hand in every possible way. The function was dedicated to the ‘Gurus,’ the Professors, and everyone else who help the students in their intellectual journey.”

By Lizzie Grisafi
I remember when I visited Marist College for the first time three years ago, breathing in the fresh air, and suddenly telling myself, “I belong here.” Looking beyond the Hudson River, Marist College was everything I had imagined. A year later, with hope and hard work, my dream of attending Marist College became reality. I was one of the lucky thirteen admitted to Marist College through the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP).

Part of the requirements of being an HEOP student is attending a six-week pre-freshman summer program where students take two classes and attend various workshops intended to facilitate the transition from high school to college. My first thought about the summer program was, “Do I really have to take classes during the summer?” Although attending classes and workshops felt tedious sometimes, I now see its objective. The summer program helped me learn my way around campus, allowed me to meet important faculty, and most importantly let me experience what life in college would be like. I was also able to meet a diverse group of individuals, who I now consider my HEOP family.

HEOP has provided me with many opportunities that have allowed me to evolve as a person. During the summer program I considered myself more reserved, quiet and hesitant to participate in different activities. By joining different clubs on campus, attending rigorous business classes, and working, I was able to become a more outgoing person this year. HEOP has also provided me with other services throughout the academic year, such as counseling, tutoring, and leadership training. Through these services, I was able to gain skills I did not have before, as well as additional knowledge that has enhanced me as a person.

HEOP unites people from different ethnic backgrounds and contributes to the diversity found at Marist. I am proud to contribute to this diversity and feel extremely grateful towards all those who contributed to my acceptance into the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP).

When I first came to Marist, I was nervous beyond belief. I thought that I would never make a connection with any of the other students or staff. For the first year, I closed myself off completely from everyone else; I did everything by the book and I kept to myself, even if that meant I had to let others walk all over me to avoid drama. Most of all, I had no idea as to what I wanted to do with myself after college.

Now, somehow, I have changed entirely. I am a senior now, finishing up and getting ready to graduate. I know what I want to do and I am taking initiative in all of the things I am interested in. I have connected with some of the most amazing people on campus. It is funny how four years can really change a person. I went from quiet and lost, to outspoken and adventurous. I even like to challenge myself once in a while with my work. During my freshman year, I would have wanted everything to be easy, but now, I find a thrill in taking on even the most stressful tasks. When I complete a challenge, it is the most amazing feeling in the world.

My perspective on Marist has really changed. This place feels like home to me and now I find myself facing yet another challenge – I do not want to leave. Even so, my mentality has changed a bit – even though I am nervous to leave this place, I know I will find a way to make a new home for myself and I know I will succeed. Many find me to be odd, but very interesting to work with, and I am perfectly fine with that. I do not want to be normal – I want to stick out and have my own path. I want to be myself and work for someone else who is interested in me for my work and who I am. At the end of the day, I know I will hit the ground running after graduation. And if I run into walls, I will smash right through them and keep running. If Marist has taught me anything, it is that we all fit somewhere, somehow. Just be persistent and confident.

By Ariel Velasquez
HEOP STUDENTS

Ariel Velasquez
BS Digital Media, Creative Writing Minor

Caterina Armenter
BS Business Administration, International Business and Entrepreneurship Concentrations

Catherine Espino
BS Psychology and Criminal Justice

Daybelis Ramirez
BS Social Work

Deirdre Marsh
BS Digital Media

Esmeralda Diaz
BS Business Administration

Alberto Frometa
BS Business Administration

Jason Acosta
BS Social Work

John Lu
BS Business Administration, Finance Concentration, Accounting and Psychology Minors

Karlelle Rice
BA English, Writing Concentration, Paralegal Certificate

Mustafa Ahmed
BS Biomedical Sciences

Thurman Reed
BA Communications, Sports Communications/Radio, TV, and Film Concentrations, Psychology Minor

INTERNATIONAL AND AEP STUDENTS

Academic Enrichment Program Students:

DeRon Billups: BS Information Technology and Systems
Nicholas Craven: BA Communication, Radio/TV/Film concentration
Jazmonai Haynes: BS Business Administration, Marketing concentration
Lucitania Hernandez: BA Communication, Public Relations concentration and Spanish Psychology and Latin American Caribbean Studies Minors
(Bear Foundation Scholar)

Brianna Richards: BA Psychology/Special Education
BS Business Administration, Marketing concentration

Chloris Turner: BS Biology

Melissa Zuleta: BS Business, Human Resources concentration
Psychology and Spanish Minors

International Students:

Harrison Drouin-Reed: BS Business Administration, International Business emphasis Global Studies Minor
(St. Martin)

Emelia Lartey: BA Communications, Journalism concentration
(Ghana)

Vitor Lira: BA Philosophy
(Brazil) Coaching Certificate

Yuanyuan Liu: BS Biology
(China)

William Reznek: BA Psychology
(Canada)

Anthony Sokalski: BA English, Writing concentration
(Canada)

Jacob Solly: BA Accounting
(Australia) Economics minor

Yu Ju Tseng: BS Business Administration, International Business emphasis
Music minor
(China)

Danid Yangli Wang: BS Political Science, Public Affairs concentration
(France)
For further information:
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