

Diversity *Spotlight* 2015



Religion *and Spirituality*

In A Diverse World



John A. Logan College  
Diversity & Inclusion Program

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## **DESIGN**

*The mission of the Diversity and Inclusion program is to educate, advocate for, promote and support campus wide diversity efforts and the community at large.*

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Front cover: *Religion and Spirituality in a Diverse World* Graphic Art  
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**Diversity and Inclusion Program**

# Acknowledgements

Special thanks go to the diversity planning committee: Dr. David Cochran, Angela Calcaterra, Art FitzGerald, Jennifer Rose and Julie Martin for their help and support in planning, organizing and encouraging people to participate.

Many thanks to all our guest speakers and presenters: Dr. Lasana Kazembe, Father Ken Schaefer, Ms. Tricia Burns, Rupa Chandrashekar, Colleen Springer, Rev. Sonja Ingebritsen, Father Didace Kamana, Mr. Dale Horas from the Marion Veteran's office, Dr. Ras Brown, Mr. Steve Howerton, Mr. Jeff McGoy, Sgt. Angelo Hightower, Marion Police Department, Dr. Catherine Field, Racial Justice Coalition, Carbondale, Ms. Carmen Adeoye, a Mother and Community leader in Marion, and Mark Walker and Stefan Santiago, Ms. Sarah Heyer, Ms. Claire Chance, Ms. Reem Alshiddi, Ms. Gillian Harrison and lastly our former IL Lt. Governor, Ms. Sheila Simon.

The Reconciliation through Truth Telling event reached far and wider audience in our district and we thank Rev. Sonya Ingebritsen for her vision and for organizing this very important project.

Thank you to Art Fitzgerald and Dr. Myron Jackson who read and edited most of the pieces submitted for this booklet and to Robin Egelston who helped with formatting and the final production.

Our gratitude also goes to Derrick Davis for giving of his time and talent to design the cover for this booklet and a logo for the Diversity website.

Many thanks to Dr. Mike Dreith, the President for his continuous support and encouragement.

And finally, most sincere thanks go to our audience; students, staff and the community, who attended these events and programs to hear the multiple perspectives. Their attention at all these events is what keeps the program alive and interesting.

# GREETINGS!

We are very excited to have the second edition of the Diversity Spotlight issued. Diversity Spotlight is dedicated to providing you information about diversity events, activities, and initiatives on our campus as well as reflections offered by our students and campus community. Since the last edition, we have had a variety of enriching diversity events on our campus. Our diversity keynote events started with a spotlight on Hip Hop culture featuring Dr. Lasana Kazembe and topping this with other keynotes like Suicide Prevention for Veterans, African Based Spiritual Cultures in celebration of Black History Month by Dr. Ras Brown, a panel presentation on Beyond Ferguson:



Perspectives, Reconciliation through Truth Telling by Fr. Didace Kamana, a Rwandan genocide survivor and Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives by the former Illinois Lt. Governor, Sheila Simon.

Moreover, we are also making progress with our multicultural perspectives series (MPS), a monthly program that features speakers/presenters from different backgrounds, including students, faculty and staff, and community members. This academic year, we have focused on Spirituality and Religion in Higher Education, which explores the relationship between faith and knowledge. Our hope is that these monthly conversations during the fall and spring semesters will provide an opportunity to learn about different religious groups in our community in an effort to increase our understanding and promote an inclusive, comfortable and safe environment.

Much is happening currently in our nation and around the globe which compels our attention to issues of diversity; religious conflicts, religious freedom restoration controversies, elections debates and so on provide a great opportunity to talk about religious and secular identity on campuses. Not only that, various studies have shown that students want to talk about religious identity and spirituality while in college, regardless of their traditional backgrounds. According to the findings of longitudinal studies by the Higher Education Research Institute (2003), spirituality in higher education provides a powerful argument for educational experiences and practices that promote spiritual development – especially service learning, interdisciplinary courses, study abroad, self-reflection, and meditation – that have uniformly positive effects on traditional college outcomes. The study further postulates that “assisting students’ spiritual growth will help create a new generation who are more caring, more globally aware, and more committed to social justice than previous generations, while also enabling students to respond to the many stresses and tensions of our rapidly changing technological society with a greater sense of equanimity” (Higher Education Research Institute, 2003).

Our MPS have featured topics such as Catholicism, Mormonism, Protestantism, and Food, Culture and Rituals: an interfaith presentation that featured Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. Some of the topics and issues addressed during these events and activities were sensitive and delicate topics and we are very appreciative of everyone's civility and respect toward others and their different perspectives and the efforts that students, faculty, staff, and our community members put into making these events a worthwhile success.

The Diversity Events Planning Committee has worked hard and are pleased with several new endeavors which we believe and hope will provide additional information and knowledge as a stronger asset to our campus community. We welcome you to join us in strengthening our efforts.

*Sincerely,*

***Toyin Fox, Director of Diversity and Inclusion***



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Greetings,

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the Diversity Spotlight here at John A. Logan College. This is part of an ongoing effort to highlight the college's inclusion efforts through the use of literature, artwork, short stories, poetry, and other media.

The college has long believed inclusive excellence extends direct and indirect benefits to our college community through a free exchange of ideas and perspectives, and a deeper empathy and respect for those of different racial, ethnic, and cultural groups.

Diverse learning environments positively affect students' critical thinking skills, their civic commitment, and preparedness for work in a global environment. In order to enrich the lives of those in our community, John A Logan college is committed to the advancement of equity and firmly grounded in allegiance to our core values of service, responsibility, respect, compassion, and integrity.

We are particularly proud of the breadth of Multicultural Perspective Series focusing on spirituality and religion. The Series provides a unique perspective once a month in the fall and spring semesters. Our office of Diversity and Inclusion also spotlights hot button issues, such as, suicide prevention for returning veterans and the real plight of those in our world who struggle to find food, to name just a few.

Enjoy this program and welcome to our efforts to promote diversity and inclusiveness.

Cordially,  
Mike Dreith, Ed.D.  
President

# PRESIDENTIAL SPOTLIGHT

*This is an interview with John A. Logan College President, Dr. Michael Dreith, to get his insights on leadership in a diverse and multicultural environment, and was conducted by Toyin Fox, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at John A. Logan College.*

*Throughout the history of the United States, some groups of people have been and continue to be subject to systematic discrimination due to race, age, religion, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, economic class and disability.*

*John A. Logan College in its diversity statement “recognizes that an ethnically, racially and culturally diverse composition of students and faculty enhances the education of all students” and it is “committed to the advancement of equity”. It has both ethnically and racially diverse and all white communities within its district and this is reflected in its student enrollment demographics. However, within the John A. Logan College workforce, some minority groups, especially Black, non-Hispanic are “underutilized” in almost all its job categories and Hispanics are also slightly “underutilized” in some categories.*

**TF:** Let us start with the title of this booklet, “Diversity Spotlight,” and its intent of featuring diversity activities, initiatives, programs and also people who have made an impact on diversity and inclusion on our campus. This booklet is one of the outcomes of our diversity initiative efforts – spurred by your leadership right at the start of your presidency here at Logan - to refocus our energy on diversity and inclusion on our campus. How do you define diversity?

**President:** *We have worked hard on our definition. After several drafts, we decided to use the broad definition that notes we value ethnicity, race and cultural diversity. I firmly believe diversity of students and faculty enhances the education of all students. It is our responsibility to provide a global environment here at JALC.*

**TF:** How do we go about achieving it?

**President:** *I think we are doing a solid job of bringing speakers and programs which provide reflection on inclusion. Our office of Diversity and Inclusion is active and funded to shine a light on their mission. Our next step is to instill an internal value for diversity in our hiring processes.*

**TF:** What have you learned from working with diverse populations?

**President:** *My personal journey had me sheltered from a culturally diverse population. I was raised in an all-white suburb of St. Louis. While I was taught to fight prejudice as a young man, it was only after enrolling at a university did I have an awakening to the history of race relations and came to fully embrace cultural diversity.*

**TF:** What insights do you have on leadership, identity and social justice?

**President:** *Rationale, Systematic, Purposeful and Humane. Four words that I hope define me as a leader. I'm entering my 15th year as a college president. But my experience as a businessman, a faculty member, a union chief and a dean serve me even better. That's because I've been on the other side of the table. I know what good leadership looks like...because I was an active observer...a disciple of followership. Being humane translates into my innate compassion for people from all walks of life. I embrace everyone's differences and celebrate them in my role as a college president.*

**TF:** How can we seek opportunities to improve inequality in higher education both in the areas of student success, in the hiring of minority and professional development of faculty and staff?

**President:** *I believe our support for student organizations that identify diversity in their charters is a positive move. The birth of the National Society of Leadership and Success on campus has been a welcome addition to encourage diversity and inclusion. We face a daunting task in the area of hiring because of the demographics of the region. That is one of the prime objectives of the college's five-year strategic plan.*

**TF:** John A. Logan College is located in Southern Illinois and has a positive reputation for its focus on aging through our intergenerational program and disabilities through Gallaudet University Regional Center and the veterans' program. It has both ethnically and racially diverse and all white communities within its district. In light of this complexity, the college has had a more challenging task with regard to its racial and ethnic diversity and inclusion. What is your sense of the complexities and leadership challenges of an increasingly diverse academic community? What initiatives have you taken to meet such challenges?

**President:** *The numbers do not lie. JALC continues to see increases in the number of students with diverse backgrounds. In my three years as president, we have seen the minority student population grow from 11-to-13%. We are asking an outside consultant to appear on campus this fall to address the issue of attracting and retaining diverse employees.*

**TF:** Any final thoughts?

**President:** *I am pleased to see the growth and popularity of the programming provided by our office of Diversity and Inclusion. The work is only starting.*





**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 @ 11:00 AM  
LOCATED IN THE BATTEAU & IVEY  
ROOMS IN THE CONFERENCE CENTER**

## **CHECK THE RHIME: THE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ROOTS OF HIP-HOP**

This one of a kind presentation uses video, music & lyrics to examine the classical legacy of Hip-Hop and analyze the social, cultural and political forces that paved the way for its creation.



Lasana Kazembe, Ph.D.  
Illinois Humanities Council  
Road Scholar

**Explores the  
Historical  
Foundations of  
Hip-Hop Music &  
Culture**

**Provides an in-  
depth look at the  
Pioneers**

**Addresses the  
serious knowledge  
gap regarding the  
history & cultural  
significance of  
Hip-Hop**

**Encourages others  
to develop a more  
meaningful  
understanding &  
positive view of  
Hip-Hop**

### **JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE**

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(618) 985-2828 ext. 8383

[www.jalc.edu](http://www.jalc.edu)

Monday Sept. 15, 2014  
11:00 am.  
Bateau & Ivey Rooms  
Located in the  
Conference Center



# Orquesta Minsita Cheran



**Performed on John A. Logan College Campus  
In Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month**

“Orquesta Minsita Cheran” performed on John A. Logan College Campus on September 18, 2015 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. “Orquesta Minsita Cheran” is a folkloric musical group of musicians and dancers from Cheran, Michoacán in Mexico. They brought a show of traditional folkloric music and dance styles to provide a glimpse into the culture of their region in Mexico. The group is intergenerational and is eclectic. It comprises high schools students, college age students, teachers and music professors. The performance group was interactive and engaging. They got some members of the audience to the dance floor to test the rhythm of their music. The audience enjoyed this beautiful performance and learned more about Mexico’s lively and delightful cultural entertainment. Special Thanks to Ms. Colleen Springer for helping to organize this event.

The audience made monetary donations at the door for “Orquesta Minsita Cheran” to take care of their expenses while they are in the U. S. Orquesta Minsita Cheran appreciated our Southern Illinois hospitality.



# DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

The Diversity and Inclusion Office *presents*

## Attitudinal Barriers for Persons with Disabilities: From Education to Travel

Dr. Rupa Chandrashekar

Thursday, October 16, 2014

12:00 P.M. to 1:15 P.M.

Terrace Dining Room

Dr. Rupa Chandrashekar has a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

She has been a part-time instructor here at John A. Logan College for seven years. She currently teaches General Psychology.

Although teaching is her passion, Rupa has also done research work with individuals who have suffered head injuries within our own district and also in the St. Louis, Mo. area. Her research work focus on the grieving process that people with head injuries go through. Dr. Chandrashekar also spoke about her experiences in accessibility with regards to using a wheelchair. In addition, she talked about her widespread travels and the challenges of accessibility issues she has faced in other cultures.

*Dr. Rupa Chandrashekar speaking to a group of students.*





## JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION OFFICE

*Presents* 2014 -2015  
Multicultural Perspective Series

### *Spirituality and Religion in Higher Education: A Focus on Faith and Knowledge*

**Presenter:** Monsignor Ken Schaefer, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

**Date:** Tuesday, October 21, 2014

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. till 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Terrace Dining Room



Father Schaefer has been a priest in Southern Illinois for the past 40 years and has spent the last 20 years at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Herrin.

He grew up in the little town of Millstadt, just south of Belleville, IL; he was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Belleville on June 8, 1974.

Father Ken received his Master Degree in Theology at Josephinum Pontifical Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

*Father Schaefer discussing Catholicism as part of the Multicultural Perspective Series.*

*Father Schaefer chatting with one of the students after his presentation.*





## SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

Mr. Dale Horas from Marion VA  
will be speaking.

Thursday, November 06  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Terrace Dining Room

John A. Logan College  
700 Logan College Road  
Carterville, IL 62918

Sponsored by  
Veteran' Office, Student Success Center,  
& the Diversity & Inclusion Office.

## MAY MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES SERIES

# Confucianism

**The Core of Confucianism and its Expressions in Chinese Culture**

***Presenter: Dr. Xiu Shuxin***

Dr. Xiu is a visiting scholar doing research at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and teaches Literature in China. Her presentation featured the basic facts about China, Confucius and Confucianism, Chinese family values, seniority in Chinese culture, traditional Chinese festivals and related food, and the western cultural influence.

***Sponsored by***  
**John A. Logan College Diversity and Inclusion office**

*Dr. Xiu Shuxin speaking to guests.*



# “Food, Culture and Rituals”

The Multicultural Perspectives Series presented “Global Logan: Food, Culture and Rituals” in celebration of International Week and National Geographic Awareness Week. This event was held on November 21st, 2014 in the Terrace Dining Room, John A. Logan College.

The panel presentation focused on Food, Culture and Rituals in some of the major religions in the world. The panelists were Ms. Sarah Heyer (Christianity), Ms. Clave Chance (Judaism), Ms. Reem Alshiddi (Islam), and Ms. Gillian Harrison (Buddhism). Our guest speakers explained the food rituals and dietary laws behind ceremonies/celebrations in Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism and their significance. The conversations hopefully will help us more to make connections between religious dietary laws, everyday eating and holiday food rituals. Also, the audience had another opportunity to learn more about similarities and differences in food rituals among the four religious groups. The event was sponsored by the International Education and the Diversity and Inclusion Office.



# JANUARY MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE SERIES:

## Mormonism

**Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

**John A. Logan College**

**9:30 am – 10:30 am**

**Terrace Dining Room**

Ms. Tricia Burns was the guest speaker on Mormonism. She is affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Carbondale. She explained the basic facts of Mormonism, its distinct beliefs, its history, its similarities and differences with other Christian denominations and its increasing influence in America and its missionary efforts elsewhere in the world. Mormonism is relatively a new religion in the world and was founded by Joseph Smith in the middle of the 19th century in the Northeastern part of United States. The official name of the religion is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mormons do not exactly adhere to the same doctrines about the person and work of Jesus Christ as Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism do. For example, Mormons do not believe in the Trinity and have additional sacred books that are highly revered for establishing doctrines and right conduct, such as the Book of Mormon.

***Sponsored by***  
**John A. Logan College Diversity  
& Inclusion Office**

*Tricia Burns speaking to a group  
of students about Mormonism.*



## FEBRUARY MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE SERIES

# Protestantism

Reverend Sonja L. Ingebritsen from the United Church of Christ in Carbondale was the guest speaker at the February Multicultural Perspective Series and spoke on Protestantism held on Logan campus. She received her Master's degree in Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. In addition to being a pastor, Rev. Ingebritsen is also an activist. She continues to facilitate the Carbondale Racial Justice Coalition which she helped to establish in 2013 and she is an advocate for the LGBTQ Rights as well.

During this presentation, Rev. Sonja talked about her church's mission which is to strive and nurture the people's faith in God, to enhance their understanding of God's World, and to inspire hope in, passion for, and commitment to the example set by Jesus Christ.

Rev. Sonja talked about the churches three Covenants.

1. **Just Peace** is not simply the absence of violence but the presence of justice for all. They stand for non-violent resolution of conflict, and strive for mutual respect for varying views.
2. **Whole Earth** is god's creation held together by god's creative presence. They address the spiritual roots of our environmental crisis and living in harmony with the natural systems on earth.
3. **Open & Affirming** - every person no matter what race, gender, age, sexual orientation, nationalities, ethnicities, economic classes, family types, and physical and psychological abilities are welcome to participate in all aspects of their congregational life.

**Sponsored by John A. Logan College Diversity & Inclusion Office**

*(right) Toyin and Rev. Sonja addressing students  
(below) Rev. Sonja speaking to students*







# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

John A. Logan College invites you to join us  
for this event in support and celebration  
of diversity and higher education success:

## **African – based Spiritual Cultures** *In Celebration of Black History Month*

Tuesday, February 24, 2015  
11:00 am. – 12:15 pm.

Located in Tarvin/Crisp Conference Rooms  
**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Keynote Speaker: DR. RAS MICHAEL BROWN**



**Dr. Ras Brown** is an Associate Professor of History & Africana Studies at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He teaches courses on World History, the African Diaspora, the Atlantic World, and Religion. His book, *African-Atlantic Cultures and the South Carolina Lowcountry* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) received the 2013 Albert J. Raboteau Book Prize for the Best Book in Africana Religions by *the Journal of Africana Religions*. His research centers on the religious and environmental cultures of African-descended people throughout the African-Atlantic Diaspora with particular

attention given to the cultures of West-Central Africans and their descendants in the United States South.



*Participants at the event.*

# Beyond Ferguson: Perspectives

The Diversity Advisory Committee hosted a panel discussion titled “Beyond Ferguson: Perspectives” on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, at the John A. Logan College Conference Center, featuring panelists Sgt. Angelo Hightower (Marion Police Department), Catherine Field (Racial Justice Coalition, Carbondale), Ms. Carmen Allen Adeoye (A Community Leader from Marion), Mark Walker (JALC Student), Stefan Santiago (JALC Student), and moderated by Dr. David Cochran, professor of history.

Participants listened to the narratives and misunderstandings from both sides of the badge: the community of color narratives and the Police narratives, which form the basis of tension and hostility. The discussion raised the issues of over-policing or overly aggressive patrol practices, high demands for increased protection and service in the people of color communities, perceived lack of respect and trust on both sides, and accountability issues.

Comments from the audience threw more light on the underlying factors that are fueling and complicating the above issues, such as the historical context of slavery and the civil rights era that has always clouded police legitimacy and created mistrust on both sides, lack of employment in the Black and Hispanic communities, quality of housing and education, discriminatory attitudes, a biased justice system (with regard to policies and legislation) and inadequate government programs to eliminate or reduce racial disparities.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the realization is even more evident that Ferguson’s problems are not Ferguson’s alone. They mirror issues of racial justice, equity and economic disparity in the U.S.A.

The Diversity Advisory Committee appreciates the civility of everyone at the event despite the hard questions posed and the emotions and sensitivity of the issues. One of the participants commented that “this event demonstrates the importance of the college as a vehicle for public discussion by providing a forum for civic engagement.” As officer Hightower suggested, “I hope there can be continued dialogue between and among the various communities in our region.”

*(right) Sgt. Angelo Hightower speaking to guests.*

*(below) Panelists at the event.*



# Reconciliation Through Truth-Telling

## Community Conversation with

**Fr. Didace Kamana, Rwanda Genocide**

**Survivor & Leader in Restorative Justice**



**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**9:30 – 10:50 am**

**John A. Logan College Conference Center**

**F118 & 119**

**Fr. Didace Kamana** presented at our March Multicultural Perspective Series to students and at the Closing the Gap conference to educators. He did a number of presentations and participated in a number of activities relating to the theme “Reconciliation through Truth-Telling” in our district including Carbondale.

Just a child when left for dead among his family members during the Rwandan genocide, Father Didace Kamana survived to become a priest who ministered not only to other survivors, but to the perpetrators of violence. He has made restoration and reconciliation in both secular and religious settings his life’s work.

The groundwork for reconciliation is truth-telling. Whose story gets told? Whose is left out? These questions shape a community’s narrative and influence systems and relationships. Whether in post-genocide Rwanda, in Ferguson, MO, or in Carbondale, IL, acknowledging the truth of multiple perspectives is essential where divisions persist. Kamana engaged his audience by relating his own experience with reconciliation and invited participants into dialogue.

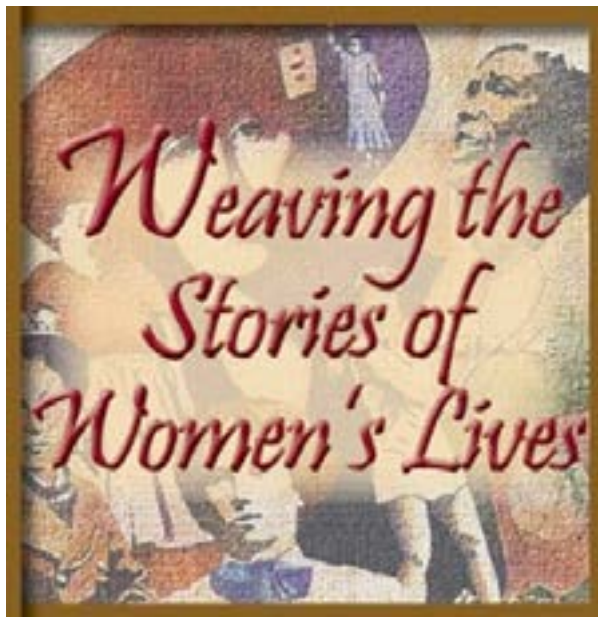
Kamana just graduated from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago with his Master’s degree and has studied and traveled around the globe. His experience includes prison chaplaincy to perpetrators of genocide; organizing peace forums; planning regional, national, and international youth and young adult conferences; work with the Taize Community; and engagement with the Rwandan traditional justice system known as Gacaca Court and the Rwanda National Commission of Unity and Reconciliation.

Kamana has been accepted into the doctoral program at the American University, Washington, DC in “Ethics, Peace and Global Affairs.”



The co-sponsors for this event are Carbondale Racial Justice Coalition, Church of the Good Shepherd UCC, Carbondale Human Relations Commission, Carbondale Interfaith Council, Newman Catholic Student Center, Ralph Anderson Interfaith Dialogues, and Diversity & Inclusion Office at John A. Logan Community College

*(left) Father Didace Kamana*



# Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives

I had the honor to spend time listening to Sheila Simon speak on the John A Logan College Campus this semester at the Women's History Month commemoration in March. She spoke about the importance of women in society and how we all form a sturdy background.

The theme of this year's presentation was "Weaving the Stories of Woman's Lives". Sheila came prepared with a scarf weaved and crocheting needles in hand to prove just what the slogan meant. When crocheting, if you miss one knot of the single thread, everything falls apart. On the other hand, with weaving, each individual, unique string, supports the next to end with one strong creation. It was a fantastic representation of how we, as women, ought to support each other. I was honored to attend this presentation, and to receive the AAWCC scholarship, "Change Makes a Difference".

**Leslie Hancock (2015)**  
JALC Student

*Former Lt. Governor,  
Mrs. Shelia Simon  
speaking to guests*



*Hancock, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Trustees  
at JALC welcoming the participants at this event.*



# I was there...

This session is devoted to reflections and responses from students, staff and the community members about the diversity events held during the academic year. Some of the students in Dr.



David Cochran's History class reflect on and describe their experiences at the keynote presentation on hip-hop titled "Check the Rhime": "the Cultural and Political Roots of Hip-hop", given by Dr. Lasana Kazembe on September 15, 2015 at the John A. Logan College Campus Conference Center.

## CHECK THE RHIME: THE CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ROOTS OF HIP-HOP

Attending Lasana Kazembe informative and compelling lecture has been one of the highlights of this school year. "Check the Rhime: Cultural & Political Roots of Hip-Hop" focused on the amazing history of hip-hop. Hip-hop is a social movement that came directly from civil rights struggles for urban black communities. In the 1970's Kazembe said, expressways were built cross-country. Since these roads "needed" to serve cities, parts of cities must be bulldozed to make way for these monstrosities. Therefore, city planners across the country opted to bulldoze urban black communities. Of course, oppressed groups have less resources available to fight this kind of institutionalized nudge towards poverty. This had an incredible deleterious effect on morale and socioeconomic status. People who work their whole lives to be able to afford to buy a house found themselves stranded and relocated by force. In this sense, hip-hop was a social movement. In its early days, the pioneers of hip-hop called themselves "up rockers," and had dance battles to Steely Dan. Many Cultural roots of hip-hop can be found in African culture. For instance, "toasting" was a narrative form of poetry which grew into MC-ing. Capoeira, the famous South American martial art, is actually an African art (I never knew that!) and heavily influenced the b-boys who developed breakdancing. DJ Kool Herc and Clive Campbell were two of these early pioneers. This expanded to both coasts. East coast pioneers of hip-hop called their dance style "popping", and the west coasters like Fred Berry called their style "locking". This eventually morphed into the "pop-n-lock" of today. Kazembe spent a lot of time discussing Afrika Bambaataa, one of my favorite artists. He constantly quoted on of Bambaataa most well-known tunes: Peace! Unity! Love! & having fun!" he told the story of Bambaataa journey to discovery. Kevin Donovan, a gangbanger, entered a UNICEF writing competition in the 1970's. He won a trip to Africa. After learning about

Chaka Zulu and his African roots, he became empowered, abandoned his lifestyle, and was reborn as Afrika Bambaataa, bringer of the Soul Sonic Force! Kazembe maintained that Afrika Bambaataa was the first to integrate the 5 elements of hip-hop: knowledge, aerosol art (graffiti), b-boying (breakdancing), MC-ing, and DJ-ing. Many people outside of the culture think hip-hop is only about MC-ing and DJ-ing. Kazembe said many today include political activism and entrepreneurship as the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> elements of hip-hop.

Kazembe stressed that, since Afrika Bambaataa was the grandfather of hip-hop and developed the 5 elements of hip-hop, anything that does not combine those 5 elements is NOT hip-hop. That is, Nikki Minaj, whose music blatantly lacks knowledge, is not a rapper. Party rap is not hip-hop. Most modern top 401 music is about as far from hip-hop as one could get. As an “old school” fan of “conscious hip-hop,” I found his lecture completely inspiring, thoroughly informative, and thoroughly entertaining. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend. I learned a ton. For, instance, he discussed the African ideals that inspired Bambaataa (such as Sankofa, or the idea that one must understand one’s past in order to comprehend ones present; Nommo, or the Dogon term for the power of the spoken word and generative, life-giving force that is present everywhere; and jail, also known by the colonizer’s term griot, or a transmitter of this life force, or ‘storyteller’ in our culture’s deprecating terms)

*Siggi Schroth, Sophomore*

Dr. Lasana Kazembe presentation was a history lesson about hip-hop. He first took us through hip hop’s early origins, which are rooted in the Bronx, NY, but are African in nature. He then took us through the development of perfection of hip hop which is based on the principles of peace, love, unity, and having fun and is comprised of the elements of MC-ing, DJ-ing, breakdancing, and graffiti writing. Dr. Kazembe made a very clear distinction between what hip-hop was intended to be and what it’s being marketed as now, which he labeled corporate hip hop. Original hip-hop grew from the inspiration and originality of the poverty stricken Blacks living in the South Bronx. It flourished from the organization and creativity of people like DJ Kool Herc, Afrika Bambaataa who put it all tighter. Hip-hop then finally branched out because of the technology and ingenuity of its leaders like Grand Wizard who invented scratching and Grandmaster Flash who developed the mixer. Other factors like self-actualization and consciousness are present as well.

The presentation was so much more than I expected it to be. I will admit that I was hesitant to go because I was never a big fan of hip-hop but I’m very glad I attended. The information I learned was truly eye opening for me, and I feel very differently about hip-hop now. The presentation also stirred many emotions inside me that I have not had a chance to confront for a long time.

I grew up in Harlem, NY, and then moved to Brooklyn during my high school years so I have always been aware of the presence of hip hop. I was not aware however, of the prominent distinction between the two kinds. I went to a predominantly Black, Catholic middle school in Harlem and the music I had the most exposure to was hip-hop, R-&-B, Gospel, and Rap. It was not until I attended Saint Vincent Ferrer High

School, a much more diverse Catholic high school on the upper east side of NYC, that I realized how much more there was to music and culture in general.

Growing up in Harlem meant that I had the privilege of living in one of America's most culturally rich cities. It also meant that I not only saw the good, but I also saw the bad. I am of two ethnic backgrounds: Black and White. At St. Aloysius elementary and middle school in Harlem, I was by far the "whitest" person in my class. The boys and girls alike would tease me for having frizzy hair, "talking white," and being a "know it all". This made no sense to me, as I had always seen myself as Black, and may be just a little bit different. Throughout my all-girls middle school experience, I braved all sorts of comments from fellow classmates like "Why don't you go color yourself in with a black crayon?" and "She only gets so many awards because she's half-white." I sat back and took the comments, crying to my father later who comforted me by giving meaning to the ignorance. By the time I graduated from middle school, I was ashamed of being Black. Why would I even want to belong to a race where shaming your own people is okay, or degrading lyrics are the basis for every song? I was always embarrassed by corporate hip hop anyway, and only listened to it because my friends did. High school was a completely different experience for me however. On the upper east side of Manhattan, I finally learned what acceptance was. All of my friends are multicultural; Black and Filipino, Puerto Rican and Filipino, Black and Polish, Puerto Rican and Dominican, Syrian and Puerto Rican, Thai, Dutch, Irish, Italian...etc. And we have one very important thing in common - a love for all people.

Forgive me for getting off topic, but I feel it is necessary to illustrate the truth behind Dr. Kazembe words. What Dr. Kazembe said that really spoke to me on so many levels is that people will call you white for being as intelligent as you can be or make fun of you for trying to better yourself. Sadly, this is still widely believed. To this day people still try to exclude me from the racial category of being "Black" by telling me "You don't even look Black!" or "You're only half Black, you don't count!" Despite this, me middle school crisis, I have since embraced being Black. While I do acknowledge that I am also half White, I identify more with the side of me that is Black. I always check the 'African American' box during surveys and I always speak out in effort to crush stereotypes. I wish that there were more Lasana Kazembe in the world that could educate people on this matter.

***Brittan Cobb, Sophomore***

"Check the Rhyme: The Cultural and Political Roots of Hip-Hop" was an amazing presentation given by Dr. Lasana Kazembe, A Chicago-based poet, professor, and educational consultant with a Ph. D. in Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago. The main objective of the presentation was to explore what hip-hop truly is. Dr. Kazembe explained that hip-hop culture arose approximately thirty-five years ago and that, today, the culture is misused and mistreated. A recurring and important theme presented was the fact that mainstream, or corporate, hip-hop is not real hip-hop. Kazembe discussed the evolution of hip-hop, which included the relevance of Sankofa and Nommo, two beliefs concepts with roots in Africa. The inspiration of hip-hop grew out of the South Bronx, New York in the early 1970's. Up rockers, Clive

Campbell, and DJ Kool Herc played big parts in the making of hip-hop. DJ Kool Herc developed the idea that became the basis of hip-hop; he played instrumental breaks back and forth to create a new kind of music. Young black men that called themselves “b-boys” created the art known as breakdancing. At the same time there was a lot of social unrest in black communities because of institutionalized racism, and one form of rebellion that became popular was graffiti. In the mid-1970’s, Kevin Donovan, a gangbanger, won a UNICEF writing competition, he was awarded a trip to Africa, and learned a lot about his history while there. He took what he learned in Africa and incorporated it into his music; he even changed his name to Afrika Bambaataa. Dr. Kazembe referred to him as the architect of hip-hop. Bambaataa stated that hip-hop was comprised of five things: B-boying, DJ-ing, MC-ing, Aerosol Art (graffiti), and Knowledge. Kazembe presented the four principles of hip-hop: peace, love, unity, and having fun! He said, “If you’re not doing those four things, you’re not doing hip-hop.” Unfortunately, a betrayal occurred as hip-hop became more and more popular. A great rhymer known as Casanova Fly was betrayed by his so-called friend, Hank. Hank stole some of Casanova Fly’s rhymes, altered them slightly, and ended up on the radio; corporate hip-hop was born. The “hip-hop” that we hear on the radio today is not real hip-hop. Misogyny, profanity, and general hatred are the main aspects of this corporate form of hip-hop. About a dozen white men maintain the industry that keeps corporate hip-hop culture mainstream even though Black people founded real hip-hop culture decades ago. It’s sickening, and Dr. Kazembe made it clear that people must be educated about the differences between corporate hip-hop and real hip-hop. In closing, Kazembe explained that hip-hop embodies the ability to self-actualize, unleash, and the projection of the real you.

I thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Lasana Kazembe presentation. It was upbeat, fun, and educational. Most of the history of hip-hop culture was unknown to me before this presentation. I knew that hip-hop had not been horrible in its beginning, but I thought that it had evolved into what Kazembe called corporate hip-hop over time because mainstream media tends to reflect society. However, I learned that real hip-hop-which revolves around peace, love, unity, and having fun- still exists and is unfortunately overshadowed by the form of hip-hop that capitalism created. When I hear songs like “Talk Dirty” by Jason Derulo and “Blurred Lines” by Robin Thicke on the radio, I become angry, sad, and sick to my stomach. As a radical feminist, it was easy to agree with Kazembe ideas and become excited with him when he spoke negatively about capitalism and misogyny. I am so glad Dr. Kazembe is speaking out against corporate hip-hop. As he said, there is nothing wrong with hip-hop; corporate hip-hop culture must end.

***Taelor Furry***

Hip-hop has been a part of the fabric of culture for several decades. Dr. Kazembe gave a presentation on the roots of hip-hop and how it evolved. In his presentation he stated how hip-hop begun with a combination of music genres such as disco, funk, and rock. That was all there was at the time. After a while different artists began



mixing the genre's melodies and beats to form a new kind of music. The intervals between sound switched became known as the breaks, and a dance now known as break dancing took place during this moment. This wasn't the only feature of hip-hop though. It stemmed from other cultural practices such as graffiti, dance, and DJ's. The fundamental roots of hip-hop also stemmed from Africa with the principles of peace, love, unity, and having fun.

Dr. Kazembe went on to explain how hip-hop has changed over the years. The genre gained popularity and soon became a money producing industry. Giant record companies began signing hip-hop artist making millions. As usual, where massive amounts of money flows, corruption follows. It soon became all about making the money and no longer the fundamental principles in which hip-hop has started. Money, violence, drugs and sex became the main theme of most hip-hop today.

My beliefs on this are the hip-hop industry, like any other industry, grew so big to the point where corruption was inevitable. The scandalous themes portrayed are hard for anyone to ignore. That with a combination of a catchy beat, the music becomes almost irresistible. This is what draws in the most money therefore is capitalized on. The fact that the music influences negative aspects in the culture are unimportant to those reaping the benefits. Dr. Kazembe is doing a great thing by going around educating people about hip-hop. He has not only given me a better perspective on hip-hop, but a better understanding of the history and culture as well.

***Vlad Noland***

Dr. Kazembe was an excitable character with so much enthusiasm. He gave the history of hip-hop and traced it all the way back to Africa. The inspiration of hip-hop came from an African saying "Sankofa" meaning know your past and make use of your future. It also come from the saying "Nommo", which is a creative power of the spoken word. These people of Mali believed that words carry life force that produces all life and is present everywhere. Hip-hop derived from these sayings and when it was created it meant peace, love, unity, and having fun. There were many people who influenced hip hop, such as, Clive Campbell, who was known as the father of hip-hop. He became DJ Herc and invented break beats. This lead too many styles of dancing that we were today and are always adding to keeping the unity and having fun in hip-hop. However, there is downside to today's "hip-hop". Corporations grabbed onto it and started making money on it. This started horrible trends in people and took the good poetry out of hip-hop. This is not real hip-hop; this is corporate hip-hop. Dr. Kazembe claims hip hop is consciousness, the real you, the ability to self-actualization. Hip-hop is a projection of the real you. It gives you the power to think, do and become. It uses lyrics to liberate, links content to reality, and builds critical consciousness via art.

This was a very interesting seminar. I have always believed that corporations have started to ruin music and influence people too much with their choices. It was very interesting to find out the music could be traced to Africa, showing how old and how world-wide it is practiced. People today need to know about hip-hop and how it can

influence a society and it could help build some of the falling cities up. If everyone knew and believed hip hop was peace, love, unity, and having fun the crime rate would drop. There would be no shooting because somebody said something about someone's mother. There would be more energy put into making the music or living by listening and dancing to the music. Words carry a life force!

***Renee Boyd***

What I found to be thoroughly interesting about the presentation was the actual roots of the music behind hip-hop. Myself being not exactly a rap aficionado, I found it enticing how the music progressed from DJ's simply spinning popular records to them working with the turntables to supply continuous breaks and eventually the inventing of the process of mixing and scratching. The shift from hip-hop as a means of expression to that of a means of turning a profit was both interesting and infuriating. One point in the lecture that I found to be truly powerful was when Dr. Kazembe revealed a slide that showed a handful of the major record company owners, the people who were producing modern day rap and hip-hop, and they were all quite obviously upper class businessmen with no correlation to the roots of the music that they claim to produce. I find the evolution of musical theory exciting, not to mention the changes through history in cultural expression. That being said, I truly enjoyed Dr. Kazembe presentation and I admire his research and ability to present it in a fascinating and relatable way.

***Jacob Greer***

The main point of the presentation was that the name of hip-hop is misused and abused all of the time. Hip-hop was created due to a lot of social upheaval and competitive spirit. Some forms of hip-hop were happening in the late 1960's, these would include up rockers, or competitive dance offs while Steely Dan was playing. In the early 1970's, Locking dances were happening on the west coast and popping dancing was happening out east, both styles merged to help contribute more to hip-hop music. While prior events helped shape what hip-hop would become. It was not until the late 1970's when Afrika Bambaataa defined what hip-hop was, and what the purpose was intended to be. The purposes of hip-hop are peace, love, unity and having fun. After hip-hop was defined, more techniques started entering into the music. Such as, scratching records, which was credited to Grand Wizard Theodore. As well the mixer, created by an electrician and DJ, Grand Master Flash. Both of those inventions helped hip-hop evolve in the genre. Early hip-hop was very positive and uplifting, much different than today's so called "corporate hip-hop" that is negative and degrading to many. The speaker made a very strong case that today's hip-hop was not real hip-hop but just "corporate hip-hop."

I enjoyed the presentation. I always like to broaden my musical genre perspective. While I do not like current corporate hip-hop, I find myself enjoying early hip-hop. The speaker made a case to connect hip-hop to everyday life, and I didn't really buy into that. However, the main argument for this is that hip-hop is about consciousness, ability to self-actualize, and project the real you. Three things that in no plain sense

a bad thing, but that does not make your entire life. I thought the speaker was very educated and it was obvious that he enjoys what he does. I liked the way he presented on the culture, and the saying I took away was, “accept your past to accept your future.”

***Michael Glaub***

I was very moved by Dr. Kazembe talk. Although I was unfamiliar with the majority of artists that he showed, the concept really grabbed my attention. Seeing the amount of soul and emotion that went into the music before it was about the money really changed my view on old school hip-hop. Having grown in the time that hip-hop that was mostly about money, drugs, and violence, I wrote off hip-hop as mostly garbage that was made for the big cities. It was fascinating to see that the elements of hip-hop: MC-ing, DJ-ing, Bboy-ing, and aerosol art were all means of self-expression and letting their voice be heard. The fact that those people could convert their aggression, sadness, and hopelessness into such creative things just shows the power of the human spirit. Dr. Kazembe presentation definitely changed my view on the entire interpretation of hip-hop.

***Grant Mills***

Walking in, I had very little experience with, or knowledge of, Hip-Hop music and culture. I did walk in with a love of learning and a love of music. Because of Dr. Kazembe engaging presentation style and obvious enthusiasm in his topic, he was easily able to draw a roomful of community college students into the world of Hip-Hop. I was intrigued by his use of the term, “cultural memory.” He also placed a strong emphasis on the importance of history and how we can learn from it. I found this presentation to be informative and interesting.

***Jodie Salazar***

Dr. Kazembe began with explaining where hip-hop came from. Although, its origins were pretty much well known, its themes, values, and elements were not. The four values of hip-hop are love, peace, unity, and having fun. It was started by an ex-gang member that had made a few trips to Africa and been taught the importance of these things for life and for his community. He began to implement them into his life, and in turn, they had a big impact on the people around him. They had already been jamming out and dancing to music of the time period, but different elements were being added, such as, beat boxing, lock and pop, graffiti, and DJ-ing. Many of the people associated with this genre were also very politically active and had much knowledge. These ideas about hip-hop are much different, thankfully, than those of our present age. Much of today’s hip-hop is demeaning, hurtful, distasteful, and filled with arrogant and vulgar language. It would be in the interest of our generation to take a look at the “good-ole days” and learn from them.

***Rebekah Hickman***

As a lover of all types of music, I thought that Kazembe presentation was very interesting and informative about the history and nature of hip-hop. I realized that my knowledge of hip hop thus far was completely scued from its true origins. I would have agreed that the hip-hop on the radio is not hip hop but my reasoning was

altogether different. I would have said that true hip-hop was alive in the 1990's with artist such as Wu-Tang Clan, N.W.A., the Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac. However to my shame, these artists go against the very nature of what hip-hop initially set out to do, namely to promote peace, love, and having fun. I think that more education of the true roots of hip hop would be a great way to influence our generation for the better. The "thug life" that is portrayed in corporate hip hop, is attractive and is a model that is tragically easily followed by many today. I think that encouraging kids that they artistically use the art forms of hip-hop for good, in a manner that builds up rather than tears down, would influence our generation for the better and we as a society would benefit from the pleasure of quality art.

***Michael Nolan***

Back in the day when the seeds of music enthusiasm were just being planted into my soul, some would be shocked to find that my first love was for hip-hop. This all started on the Christmas on 2007 when oddly enough someone thought it was appropriate to get me a copy of Snoop Dogg's "Blue Carpet Treatment." Needless to say, they were not fully aware of the CD's content, but by the point I had put it into my CD player the damage was done and I was hooked. This began my journey into the world of hip hop and I continued by trying to keep up with the latest thing out. That year was a game changer in mainstream hip-hop as 50 Cent and Kanye West were battling it out for album sales, which would ultimately signify where the genre was headed. Kayne dwarfed 50 in sales and so began the decline of gangster rap. I immediately went out to get the latest Kayne offering "Graduation", that sort of felt like a graduation in itself. I felt like I was getting into a more genuine side of rap, but little did I know that there was more to it than that. Through Kanye I found JayZ, but the important discovery came with Jay's beef in the early 2000's. He had gotten into it with another New York City rapper, one who I now revere as one of the best to have ever done it. That man was Nas. Nas at the very start of his career was out of the gate with what seemed at the time like an instant classic, "Illmatic." That album changed everything I thought hip-hop was about and I've been better off ever since. It turned me onto real, organic hip-hop. Though my taste in the topic gained better judgement, I still never truly knew the fundamentals of the art. By the time I had gotten burnt out on rap and another force by the name of "Black Flag" was carving its impression on me, I gradually stopped listening for a long time. So, I came into that presentation thinking I knew a thing or two, and I did. But in comparison to the information Lasana Kazembe informed the audience with, I quite literally realized I knew less than I thought. It was fascinating to say the least. Everyone knows hip-hop was birthed in New York, but never had I bothered to trace it back its African roots. The terms he used to describe it were intriguing. Nommo, or creative power of the spoken word. He really went about attacking this subject in its very essence which to me made his lecture all the more interesting. But he went beyond hip-hop, when he correlated its birth to what was going on in the environment around it, I had no idea about them bull dozing through black communities to expand or create highways.

When he said America suffered from a strong amnesia, he wasn't kidding. But how are the people of today ever supposed to remember things they weren't properly taught? Needless to say he had gained my focus. The highlight for me came early on and remained a strong point throughout, and involved the guise of Independent Vs. Corporate hip-hop. Before my discovery of Nas and more genuine music in general, I was eating out of the hands of corporate music. Fast food every day, a dumbed-down meal for the masses. Another factor I never considered came from the principles of hip-hop: peace, love, unity, and fun. Honestly, as much as I considered myself well versed in the genre, I would not have ever guessed in a million years this was its foundation. You just do not hear it in the music anymore. Overall the lecture was an eye opening process and something I would be more than happily to sit through again as his take on the topic is fresh and simply all around interesting.

***Julian Martin***

I never really thought of hip-hop as being a culture. After hearing Dr. Lasana Kazembe talk, it really changed how I look at it. I now have a different outlook on graffiti, break dancing, Mc-ing, and DJ-ing. These things have changed over the years making it hard to see the art in it today. You see it now and some of it seems disrespectful and dirty. I hope people start bringing the art and beauty back into Hip-Hop. My favorite thing Dr. Kazembe said was "We are fine with corporate Hip-Hop being played on the radio, but we want equality with corporate Hip-Hop and real Hip-Hop." I do not like today's "Hip-Hop". It is dirty and I never feel good after listening to it. Dr. Lasana Kazembe presentation made me realize that the "Hip-Hop" I hear today is not genuine, that I need to find the authentic stuff, listen, and remember what it really was, and hope that it will find its way back to our generation.

***Kaitlyn Forbes***

# SPOTLIGHT ON HUMANITIES



## **From Riches to Rags**

*Photo and words by Derrick Davis*

The lovely town of Cairo,  
Illinois was once one of the most profitable cities of the country.

Its fall from grace is truly tragic. Once, a booming city, full of opportunity and hope,

And now, a city slowly decaying and being swept away by the tides of time.

You can walk down a street in Cairo  
and on one side the houses are well kept and in good shape,

While on the opposite side they are broken down,  
falling in on themselves, and left for nature to reclaim.

Yet the people of Cairo are some of the nicest you will ever meet  
which makes this all the more disheartening.

How could a city that was so great fall so hard?



## **Soulful Melody**

*Photo and Words by Derrick Davis*

The emotion behind music has always been a beautiful thing,  
It entices and captivates many people  
Some listen to it to help with sadness,  
While others use it to transport them back in time to a memory they hold very dear.  
The sound produced by the instrument tells the feelings, and emotions of its owner.  
I was treated to an astounding performance  
by a young man by the name of Daryl Gonzalez,  
With every press of the key his story began to unveil in front of me.



## **True Labor**

*Photo and words by Derrick Davis*

The work our school's students put into their projects, is truly astounding.  
A heart full of pride and a desire to strive for perfection.  
The tempering of steel and welding of joints is an art all on its own  
While the sound of flame and hammers create a symphony of thunderous roars.  
It is truly a sight to see a craftsman at work forging their dreams into reality.

## **“In Lak’ech Ala K’in” ~ “I Am Another You”**

Our souls are the same,  
Spun in life’s mill,  
of cotton from fate’s field,  
Reels pegged on the weaver’s creel,  
in a countless permuted warp.  
Treading the heddles,  
Time drives the shuttle forward,  
to match the draft of the weaver’s plan.  
We see the passing portion of our run,  
Oblivious to the beauty,  
and the fineness of the fabric’s weave,  
and the intricate tapestry woven in time.

Our hearts are the same,  
Earthen, beating together,  
Asking but to Love, Love,  
Beating in time to time,  
Not keeping it nor measuring it,  
Fed from, and feeding the fountain of love,  
Love sets on fire, and love salves our pain,  
Igniting flames of passionate empathy,  
Lighting a zeal to love hearts like ours.  
Unconditionally, without seeking acclaim,  
not seeking reciprocation, nor reward,  
a well spring that grows into an ocean of love.

Our bodies are the same,  
Cast in the same foundry,  
From elements of ancient stars,  
I the pitcher, you the bowl,  
We contain and share Love,  
That flows from soul to soul,  
Our hands work the fields,  
To produce from the bounty,  
Of the one who provides for you and me.  
Who asks only that we love each other,  
and, share the goodness of his love,  
with all, who have been cast from the same mold.

“The Mayans have a Law, “In Lak’ech Ala K’in” which mean I am another yourself. It also means I am you, and you are me. This is a Law of oneness and unity. In the Yucatan, they salute each other with In Lak’ech, and the proper response is Ala K’in or as some people pronounce it as Hal A Ken...is the response, which says the same thing, to your “you are another me” answers “YOU are the other me”  
“<http://www.alunajoy.com/2007nov.html>” In Lak’ech Ala K’in – the Living Code of the Heart”

***By Charles Coelho***



## **Old Bread**

YEAH! I am older. Yes, I am here. Did you mention that in the brochure? Why aren't there pictures of our struggles on Social media? Why are we always excluded? I want to be counted in with the majority. Being here for a reason is my right too, and I am not making a quilt or a blanket. I am here to study, learn and explore. I am a senior citizen – where are my discounts on life? I need 10% off because I deserve it. Trials and tribulations are a history that we can now enjoy to share. Sit back and let us explain it, before it was written, before it was history, before we are forgotten. We are the chosen few that are pondered upon, skipped over, and omitted from the excitement. Not like Old bread but like a breath of fresh air, spring flowers and morning dew. We are here to bring life back to the Old Bread.

***By Brenda Dozier***

## **Being Black:**

Walk away so hard to do. Everything good, bad and ugly. So hard to do. Being Black. Walking into a relationship that felt so good became abusive addictive and abominating. Being Black. We can't walk away from it. Being Black the drudging feeling that's sustainable for years. It even outlasts the green earth and the Blue skies. Being Black as a young child I celebrated the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Being Black. As an adult I celebrate the first and second terms of the Barack Obama. Being Black. You can't walk away from your heritage. The wig is on the outside, it's long and silky hair doesn't conceal the walks across the Bridge in Selma Alabama. Being Black is not a Diversity. It's my Life. Celebrate Being Black. Being Black is not the new orange or white. Being Black is just Being Me.

***By Brenda Dozier***

## **Gratias ago tibi, Deus!**

In this moment, I sipped some coffee,  
And it jolted me into the reality,  
Of the gift of this moment that you give me,  
In this moment I say I love you,  
In this moment I thank You for loving me,  
When my existence was but as a particle,  
Of minuscule unaccreted stellar matter.  
In an unformed universe across time scattered.

In this moment I could kiss your hands,  
in gratitude, for each of the many moments,  
the instances that will be my life.  
In this moment, I will Love with an open heart,  
For, I have learnt in this moment to love,  
as a child, to love unconditionally.  
In this moment I love you in all those I see,  
Because, I know you love them equally.

In this moment and every moment hence,  
your face will be in all that I see,  
your seal of approval on all that is,  
that says "made in love for you today."  
Its seeds were planted in an eternity,  
which in my present state I cannot see,  
in this earthen vessel is the Lord of Eternity,  
This I know, for it is your grace that embodies me.

***By Charles Coelho***

## Colored Tube

I, a barely used crimson tube,  
lie, midst squeezed tubes of other colors,  
their dry mixed views, unused, on life's palette,  
Dry, they lie waiting for the oil of mercy,  
to enliven them once more.  
To be spread, on the canvas of that Time.

Accusingly, I ask The Artist,  
"Why have you used me so little,  
in the depiction of these times?  
Is it fair you choose Burnt Umber?  
Raw Sienna, Cerulean Blue,  
and other attention grabbing colors, over me?"  
Saddened by my marginalization,  
Depressed, I lie midst my multi-hued peers.

The artist washed his brushes and cleaned his hands.  
"It is done!" he said of the canvas on the easel.  
In front of a cloudy blue sky,  
stood a rocky escarpment,  
Sparse with young green trees.  
On it, stood three brown umber crosses,  
on the crosses, three men,  
from one, flowed blood, crimson red.

"No greater love" he said,  
"Is there than to lay down my life for my friends."  
Humbled, I lie sparsely used in a box of paints.  
Used but once, in the presence of man's cruelty to man,  
And in the face of sin, condemned, to depict eternal love.

I am but a trickle, on the Face of Mercy,  
I am but a drop, in the Ocean of Love,  
I am but a mote, in the Book of Life.  
I am but a sliver, of the Mirror of Joy.  
Here I lie contentedly still.

*By Charles Coelho*

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Marilyn Toliver

Dr. Marilyn Toliver is a native of Carbondale, IL and a professor of Early Childhood Education. She has been an instructor at Logan since 1992 and teaches core courses in Early Childhood Education Program. She received her PhD, M.S. and B.S. from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Prior to coming to Logan, she worked as a social worker and taught at SIU.



Dr. Toliver has membership in several advisory boards and councils, including the Professional Development Advisory Council, INCCRRA, Child Care Resource and Referral Service and the Diversity Advisory Committee at John A. Logan College. In addition, she has given many scholarly and professional presentations in her field and has received academic honors and awards including a “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers Award” in 1998 and consecutively from 2002-2005. Dr. Toliver received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi) this year during their induction ceremony. Her students said she is a great teacher. She is very helpful and explains things in a way that is easy to comprehend.

Also Dr. Toliver has contributed to the Black Student Association and Sigma Alpha Pi by encouraging students and supporting them to take the steps to achieve their goals. She has participated in the new student welcome orientations organized by the Black Student Association in the last few years. She even went beyond the call of duty to assist students by accompanying one of the Sigma Alpha Pi members to their orientation session and sitting in to learn more about what the Society stands for.

Dr. Toliver is the author of Marcellus Alphabet Book: One, Two, Three, What A



Words Do You See? and Marcellus Really Wants A Pet, both published by Trafford Publishing Inc. She is also a wife, mother and grandmother who enjoys working with young children and their families. Her passions include a love for poetry, reading, music, singing, dramatizations, storytelling and sewing. She also co-facilitates an online Christian ministry with her son.

We appreciate your support of the college’s diversity and inclusion initiatives and applaud your efforts to help our students.

# ON THE MOVE SPOTLIGHT: Q & A

## Ms. Claudia Merrett

Administrative Assistant to the President



After 24 years of service to John A. Logan College, Assistant to the President, Ms. Claudia Merrett will be retiring at the end of this spring semester. Ms. Merrett was an asset during the creation of Diversity Spotlight. A reception was hosted in her honor and Toyin Fox, director of Diversity and Inclusion interviewed her as she starts a new chapter in her life journey.

### Q. Tell us about your background. Are you originally from Southern Illinois?

I am originally from central Illinois, Decatur. I moved to southern Illinois to join my husband who was attending Southern Illinois University. We loved the area and ended up making our home here and raising two children.

### Q. How long have you worked at JALC?

This is my 24<sup>th</sup> year working at JALC. I began in the Admissions Office in 1991.

### Q. What is your educational background?

I received my Associate in Arts from JALC and completed my Bachelor's in Science, Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University in 2004.

### Q. Have you always worked with the presidents throughout your career at JALC?

I worked five years in Admissions, and taught GED classes for two semesters on Tues/Thurs evenings at the Du Quoin Extension Office. I have worked under three presidents at John A. Logan College, Dr. Ray Hancock, Dr. Robert Mees, and Dr. Mike Dreith.

### Q. Please tell us about your family life?

I am blessed with my husband of 42 years, Mike, a daughter Tobey and son-in-law Nathan and three beautiful grandchildren, Merrett age 11, Sophia age 9 and James Michael age 2. Our son, Seth was a student at JALC when he was tragically killed in a motorcycle/truck accident in 1999 at the age of twenty. As a Christian, when we experience tragedy or heartache in our lives, we draw from the strength that God gives us through His Holy Spirit the Comforter, the promises that God gives us in His Word, and the prayers and love of the Community of Believers.

**Q. What are your hobbies?**

**I love to read, ride bicycles,** hike, garden, spend time with our grandchildren, travel and volunteer.

**Q. You have worked for the institution a long time. Why is diversity important to you?**

Diversity is important to our world because we must learn from each other about our cultures, our faiths, and our backgrounds. Only when we see each other as another human being, created in the image of God, will we begin to accept our differences and learn from them. Once accepted, we can begin to see how similar our aspirations and dreams really are. We are all striving for peace in our world for our children and grandchildren.

**Q. What would you like to share with students and staff about “service”?**

When we reach out in service to our communities and our world we are blessed beyond measure. It may be volunteering with *Habitat for Humanity*, or *Prison Family Support* through Lutheran Social Services. Serving at the local *Soup Kitchen* makes one aware of the hardships many people can experience in their lives. *Marion Medical Mission* reaches out across the globe to the continent of Africa, where water is scarce and villages must drink unsafe water. *MMM*, who I have supported for many years, works side-by-side with the villagers throughout southeastern African countries to build shallow wells. This year alone they completed 2,650 wells, providing clean water for 397,500 people. Dedicating the wells to the *Glory of God*. Another organization that my dear friend works for and I support is *Children’s Relief International*. This group reaches out to poor children, mainly in South Asia and Africa. So many are orphaned with no place to go. *CRI* feeds, cares for and educates these children. There are so many opportunities for service. Pick one or two that are near and dear to your heart and serve!

**Mr. John Sanders**  
**Former John A. Logan College**  
**Board of Trustees Member**



Mr. John Sanders was a long-time member of the Board of Trustees until March this year when Governor Bruce Rauner appointed him to the Illinois State Board of Education. He is a Marion, IL lawyer and was elected to John A. Logan College Board in 1997 and served for 18 years. He was a member of the Diversity Advisory Committee at Logan and in the Association of Community College Trustees. We appreciate Mr. Sander's contributions to Logan Diversity initiatives and wish him the best as he moves on.



**Dr. Tim Daugherty**  
**Retired John A. Logan College Vice-President for**  
**Student Affairs and Community Education**

Dr. Daugherty began his career at DePaul University in Chicago in 1979. He joined Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg in 1984 where he worked for 24 years. Dr. Daugherty became Vice President of Student Affairs and Community Education at JALC in 2009. Since joining JALC, he has served on many committees including the Diversity Advisory Committee to improve student services and promote College policies and programs. Dr. Daugherty was named Distinguished College Administrator by Phi

Theta Kappa in an award ceremony that took place in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2015.

Dr. Daugherty is a Herrin High School graduate. After high school, he went to Eastern Illinois University to complete his Bachelor's in Art in 1978 and his Master's in Science Education in 1979. In 1984, he completed his Ph.D. in Education at SIU Carbondale. Dr. Daugherty serves as deacon at Dorrisville Baptist Church in Harrisburg and as a board member of Rides Mass Transit.

# Fun at Deaf Fest 2015

***Thanks to Sheri Cook, Misty Harrison, Valeria Shaw and all who helped make this year Deaf Fest another success.***

John Maucere, star of the fabulous movie, “No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie was a keynote presenter at the event. “John Maucere is an internationally recognized performer who played a critical part in breaking down social stereotypes by being the very first Deaf actor to take part in ABC’s Talent Development Program with Tom Hanks and Arsenio Hall. John created and portrayed the SuperDeafy

character, a Deaf superhero in a movie, No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie starring Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin, which was recently released to rave reviews at the Heartland Film Festival. ” ([http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1638179/bio?ref\\_=nm\\_ov\\_bio\\_sm](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1638179/bio?ref_=nm_ov_bio_sm))



*Valeria Shaw & Misti Harrison  
Interpreter Preparation Instructors  
posing with John Maucere*



*John Maucere with some of the  
Interpreter Preparation students*



*John & Angela Calcaterra,  
Coordinator of Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing Services*



*John Maucere with participants from the community.*



# The National Society of Leadership and Success

The National Society of Leadership and Success (also known as Sigma Alpha Pi) was founded in 2001 by visionary Gary Tuerack for the purpose of helping individuals discover and achieve their dreams. It is the largest leadership honor society in the United States. It has over 350 chapters and 300,000 members.

The John A. Logan College chapter was established in January, 2014 and its goals are to have successful induction of new members, be active on campus, maintain activity in the community through service involvement, and to unify the college campus by filling the gap between the classroom and campus life. The Society's mission statement is "We build Leaders Who Make a Better World."

The John A. Logan College chapter had its first induction ceremony in May 2014 and recently held its second one. It has inducted a total of forty-four members so far. Members have participated in several on-campus and community service activities. Moreover, there are many benefits to being a member, such as scholarships and awards, leadership opportunities and training materials, customized letter of recommendation, resume enhancement, personal success coaching, live broadcast of highly successful people around the world, and so on.

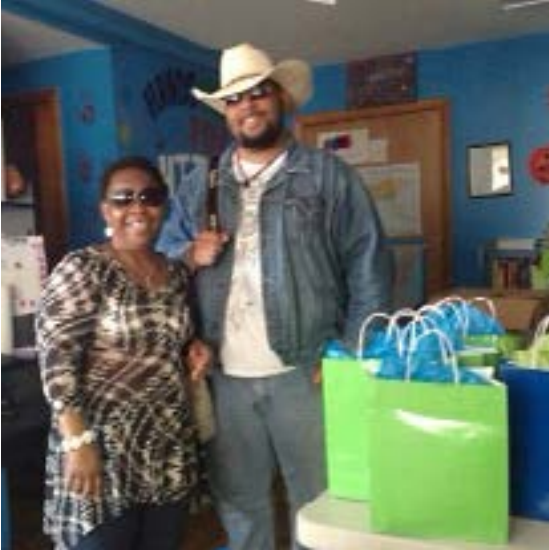


*Pictured left is a group photo of inducted members taken at the May 2015 induction ceremony with Dr. Dreith, John A. Logan College President and Toyin Fox, one of the Society's advisors.*

As a special gift from the Society, each school chapter is allowed to give up to nine awards to those who helped the Society succeed on campus. All recipients receive a framed award to recognize their efforts. **Excellence in Teaching** award is given to an individual who teaches a class on campus with passion and inspires students beyond the classroom, who demonstrates dedication to developing students beyond academic qualifications or someone who makes a positive difference in the lives of Society members. Dr. Marilyn Toliver, Ms. Jo Forer and Ms. Misti Harrison were the 2015 recipients. **Excellence in Service to Students** award is given to anyone that works on campus that exemplifies leadership and mentorship and has demonstrated commitment to bettering the lives of Society members. Mr. Keith Krapf, Ms. Teri Campbell and Ms. JaDean Towle were the recipients for 2015. **Honorary Membership Award** given to faculty, staff, administrator, and or members of the greater community who embody the society mission and demonstrate leadership qualities in a personal or professional capacity. The Honorary membership gives full membership privileges and benefits. The recipients for 2015 were Dr. Laurel Klinkenberg, Mr. Brad McCormick and Ms. Mandy Little. Local chapter awards are given to some members to recognize their leadership and service.

## Camera Spotlight

*Toyin Fox with  
Dr. Marilyn Toliver.*



*Black Student Association donated gift bags to mothers at the Women's Center in Carbondale in celebration of Mother's Day 2015. Derrick Davis, President and Ms. Abby Odior, the Women's Center Domestic Violence Shelter Coordinator.*

*John Becker, Agricultural Development Officer and consultant with the U.S. Agency for International Development with Dr. Sue Trammell when he spoke on "The Future of Production Agriculture Worldwide: Foodstuffs, Feedstocks and Fluxes" in celebration of International Week in November, 2014*





*Chi Alpha Club members award recipients, Paula Magee and Kim Wong, on Honors Night with their assistant director, Pastor Kudzai Musumhi.*



*Ms. Lauvenia Hill Memorial Outstanding Leadership award recipient posed with Ms. Hill's family, Ms. Marilyn Haywood and Toyin Fox.*

***The Diversity and Inclusion Program at John A. Logan College is doing interesting and good work to engage the students and the community.***

## **SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:**

### **Diversity Advisory Committee**

The role of the Diversity Advisory Committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the President to meet diversity goals of the strategic plan and support campus wide diversity efforts.

### **Diversity Events Programming**

Cultural heritage programs, social justice programs, underrepresented student groups and organizations, student leadership programs and other diversity initiatives.

### **Multicultural Perspectives Series (MPS)**

MPS is a forum that provides an informal atmosphere for students to engage with John A. Logan College Alumni, fellow students, faculty and staff, and community members. Guest speakers/presenters share their personal and/or professional multicultural experiences with students. The goal of this program is to increase opportunities for our students to experience more diverse views and cultures that will create openness to enriching their future professional responsibilities and personal lives in today's global politics and economy. **MPS** will be scheduled once a month in the fall and spring semesters.

### **International Program/Week**

International Program offers a wide range of international education opportunities for students and the community. Lectures, exhibits, and performances frequently have an international flavor, and roundtable discussions on topics of international interest are also held several times each semester. Contact the director: Dr. Sue Trammell at [suetrammell@jalc.edu](mailto:suetrammell@jalc.edu) or ext. 8324

### **Acts of Kindness Project**

Acts of Kindness Project provides an opportunity for John A. Logan College students to reach out and serve the youth in the community.

### **Diversity Spotlight**

*A booklet to showcase Diversity and Inclusion programming*

### **National Society of Leadership and Success**

It is a student honors society that build leaders who make a better world [www.societyleadership.org](http://www.societyleadership.org) The Society activities include peer mentoring, teambuilding, leadership training and community service

**\*Attend Student Leadership Workshops and Conferences**

### **Scholarships and Awards**

If you are interested in contributing in any way to any of the above or would like to make donations to help promote our diversity efforts, please contact Toyin Fox at 618-985-3741 Ext. 8586 or [toyinfox@jalc.edu](mailto:toyinfox@jalc.edu) and JaDean Towle at 618-985-3741 Ext. 8383 or [jadeantowle@jalc.edu](mailto:jadeantowle@jalc.edu). For more information about the Diversity and Inclusion Program, visit us online at [www.jalc.edu](http://www.jalc.edu).