

Religion's seat at the Multicultural Table



University Dialogue Center

Interfaith Breakfast

With background music provided by *Echoes*, Lehigh faculty, staff and students had the unique opportunity to enjoy an amazing breakfast buffet while reflecting on the role Dr. King's religion played in his journey for social justice. The impact religion has on individuals in the campus community was woven into the discussion throughout.

Each table in Asa Packer Dining Room was equipped with eating utensils and a small copy of the program agenda with an excerpt from Dr. King's "An Autobiography of Religious Development." As the attendees enjoyed breakfast, Dr. Steffen and several Lehigh students referenced this excerpt and shared their personal reflections. Students representing Catholic, Christian and Muslim faiths spoke candidly about the role religion plays in their lives, experiences of discrimination and prejudice as a result of their faith, as well as feelings of inclusion in Lehigh's religious communities.

The interfaith breakfast concluded with a warm story from COE student Katey Burke. Katey described how her Sunday school students questioned whether their prayers and rosaries sent to Haitian survivors would be received if the survivors were not Catholic. She explained to them that the blessings they sent would indeed be received regardless of the survivors' religion because the rosaries symbolized blessings for ALL people. What a wonderful way to illustrate the power of interfaith initiatives!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Religious Diversity at Lehigh University
- ◆ Privilege, Power and Difference events
- ◆ LUV Week
- ◆ Black Heritage Month
- ◆ Teacher Development Program for Graduate Students



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Open Conversation on Religion, Inclusion and Diversity

Faculty, staff and students representing various multicultural entities on campus—including the Council for Equity and Community (CEC), the Chaplain’s Office, the Women’s Center, the COE Multicultural Resource Center (MRC), and the Admissions office—engaged in a lively discussion about religion at Lehigh University. Assistant chaplain Seth Goren opened the conversation by announcing that he did not expect the conversation to go in any particular direction and was ready for anything—leaving the door wide open for commentary!

The overall goals of the discussion were to (1) identify what religious diversity looks like at Lehigh, (2) identify how the discussants would like religious diversity to look at Lehigh, and (3) brainstorm ideas and steps discussants can take to reach their vision of

religious diversity at Lehigh.

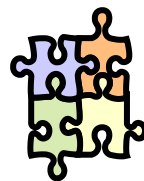
Pondering the first discussion goal, discussants expressed that there are resources, people and space available to explore religious diversity, however religion is rarely acknowledged publicly on campus. This, it was added, contributes to the lack of visible religious diversity. The second goal allowed discussants to express their desire to see religious groups and interfaith initiatives visible on campus. A representative from the admissions office explained how their recruitment efforts aim to attract a diverse student body, but religion is not reported on admission applications nor is it feasible to track the religious affiliation of current students. The last goal was addressed by announcing the university’s effort to promote interfaith education and opportunities in addition to

ensuring religion has a seat at the multicultural table. The idea is to make certain that when issues of diversity are discussed, religion is included. A list of participants interested in future discussions and efforts related to religious diversity was collected by Seth Goren at the event’s conclusion

For more information on how you can assist with these efforts and to ensure that your culture is represented in such initiatives, please contact Seth at (seg208).

Solving the Relationship Puzzle: Tuesday February 23, 12pm-1pm in the MRC

Graduate students are encouraged to attend this brown bag discussion about the challenges of maintaining and building several types of interpersonal relationships as a student. Come share your experiences and gain insight from other students and representatives from the Women’s Center, LGBTQ services, the Counseling Center and Graduate Student Life. Attendees will also have the opportunity to suggest ways in which the campus can aid graduate students in building new relationships and maintaining existing ones.



Feel free to bring your lunch and enjoy a mid-day snack on us!

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**We're on the
web!**
[www.lehigh.edu/
mrc](http://www.lehigh.edu/mrc)

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

Black Heritage Month

2/5- Myth Busters: Let's Talk About Sex- The 'M'-Room (UC C204)- 12PM-1PM
2/12- "Love Jones" Spoken Word – Lambertson Great Hall– 7pm
2/15-2/19- Caribbean Culture Week
2/19-2/21- Black solidarity Conference at Yale University (Sponsored by BSU)
2/24- Speaker Dr. Walter Kimbrough
2/27- "Honor our Women" ball at Lafayette College

V-Week - "The Vagina Monologues" - 2010 - presents 'V-Week'!

2/4-Vagina Night @ Starters (Riverport)!-7:00-9:00 PM - ALL bar tips go to "The Vagina Monologues!!!"

2/5- Talent Show in Lambertson- 7:00 PM - FREE ADMISSION!

2/8- "Let's Talk About Sex"- 7:00 PM, Packard 101 - A Fishbowl Discussion on Relationships and Sex; (Co-sponsored by Health, Medicine & Society)

2/9- "Spin the Bottle"- 7:00 PM- Kenner Theatre - Movie & Discussion on Binge Drinking & Sexual Assault

2/10- Congo Teach-In- 4:15 PM, Neville 2

2/12- Lunch @ Deja Brew- 11:00-1:00 PM - 10% of all tickets go to "The Vagina Monologues;" Wear your Vagina Monologues T-Shirt!

2/12 & 2/13-"The Vagina Monologues" - 7:00 PM, Packard 101- (Tickets = \$5; Buy Ahead!)

2/14- "The Vagina Monologues"-2:00 PM- Packard 101 - (Tickets = \$5; Buy Ahead!)

V-Week tickets and shirts available in the COE Tues. 9am-1pm & Thurs. 11am-12:30pm

Spring 2010 Teacher Development Program for Graduate Students

The Grad Life Office and the Office of Faculty Development are again partnering to offer a series of Teacher Development Opportunities for Graduate Students at Lehigh.

Session dates:

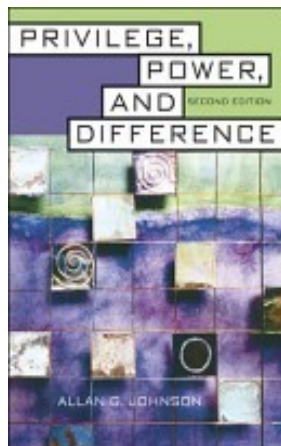
February 4th & 18th

March 4th & 18th

April 1st & 15th

For session topics and sign up go to http://www.lehigh.edu/gradlife/event_sign_up.html

Dr. Allan G. Johnson facilitates programs to address "Privilege, Power and Difference" at Lehigh University



Thursday, April 8, 2010, 6pm-8pm- Open forum on Privilege, Power and Difference- Rauch 091

Friday, April 9, 2010, 10am-12pm- Faculty and Staff Breakfast discussion with Allan Johnson- Women's Center, UC C207-(students may attend)

Friday, April 9, 2010, 1pm-3pm- Privilege, Power and Difference World Café- Wood Dining Room