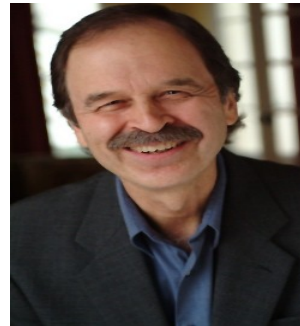


MRC NEWS

“Privilege, Power and Difference” at Lehigh University

Lehigh University had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Dr. Allan G. Johnson to campus on April 8-9, 2010. Dr. Johnson hosted three events that encouraged and inspired the Lehigh community to express their concerns regarding privilege and power dynamics that impact our campus. Each event built on the previous. The first laid foundational knowledge about privilege. This was followed by an event that provided a specific context in which privilege exists. The culmination was a forum that allowed the campus to engage in dialogue

about their experiences and thoughts regarding privilege. On Thursday, April 8, Dr. Johnson delivered a lecture to the campus community on the history and consequences of racism and White privilege. Dr. Johnson used this opportunity to examine the historical significance of racism in the United States and its connection to White privilege. Attendees were encouraged to identify their own privilege and challenged to find ways to use their privilege to combat the negative impact it has on non-majority groups.



Allan G. Johnson
Writer, Author and Public Speaker

On Friday, April 9, Dr. Johnson continued the “Privilege, Power and Difference” series with a breakfast discussion on masculinity and privilege in the university Women’s Center. During this discussion, Dr. Johnson shared his journey to publish his very controversial book on domestic violence, *The First Thing and the Last*.
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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Allan G. Johnson’s visit to Lehigh
- ◆ “Speak Up” film premier at Lehigh
- ◆ Dance Fest 2010
- ◆ Greater focus on disability awareness

“Privilege, Power and Difference” at Lehigh University continued...

He continued by using that story and excerpts from the book to explain the concept of male privilege and its role in violence against women.

The day concluded with a world café entitled “Privilege: What It All Has To Do With Us.” The format allowed students, faculty and staff to engage in a series of roundtable discussions focusing on the following questions: (1) What is privilege? Why is it a problem? In what ways do privilege dynamics manifest themselves at Lehigh University? (2) How are we—

students, faculty, staff, and administrators—involved in privilege and oppression? To what extent are our answers to the first set of questions reflected in our university’s culture, leadership, values, and technologies? and (3)

Attendees valued his ability to push them into an uncomfortable emotional space that allowed them to think!

In what ways does Lehigh need to change to address the imbalance of privilege? What is my role as a member of this community in helping to facilitate that change? What challenges/opportunities exist

that impede/facilitate our making a difference collectively?

Overall the “Privilege, Power and Difference” series was well received by those who attended. Dr. Johnson was praised for modeling ways in which White Americans can acknowledge and confront problems associated with privilege. His knowledge and passion regarding the issue exuded through his energetic presentation, and attendees valued his ability to push them into an uncomfortable emotional space that allowed them to think!

“Speak Up!” Film Premiere Calls for Positive Change at Lehigh By Karen Kegel

Tuesday, April 13 was the premiere screening of “Speak Up!”, a riveting new documentary that highlighted students’ experiences with prejudice and diversity on campus and in the classroom. The film, which was shown in Lamberton Hall, drew a sizeable crowd of students eager to bear witness to how it feels to be treated as “different” here at Lehigh.

“Speak Up!” is the innovative work of Quiana Daniel, a Residence Life Coordinator for McClintic-Marshall

and Trembley Park. On top of directing, producing, and editing the film, Ms. Daniel was the main force behind coordinating the event.

Students openly and honestly disclosed their reasons for coming to Lehigh, general and specific personal experiences of discrimination, and suggestions for creating a more culturally sensitive and appreciative atmosphere at Lehigh. Those interviewed included students with physical disabilities,

racial/ethnic minority students, religious minority students, and students from underrepresented states, among others. The film also presented a thought-provoking collection of Lehigh-specific and national statistics regarding student demographics, bias-related incidents, and hate crimes.

Seth Goren, Director of Jewish Student Life and Associate Chaplain, led an active discussion following the screening. *Cont’d pg. 3*

“Speak Up!” Film Premiere Calls for Positive Change at Lehigh continued...

Students were invited to take to the microphones and respond to a variety of debate-sparking questions posed by their peers. Questions ranged from why some men may feel they can't cry and whether “black” and “brown” are appropriate terms to describe someone's race.

Campus organizations that helped make the Speak Up! event possible included the Residence Hall Association, the Office of Residence Life, the Council for Equity and Community, and the Global Union. The night was bookended by wise opening and closing words from Jame'l Hodges, Director of Multicultural Affairs.

Ms. Daniel foresees the “Speak Up!” film being used in multiple venues in the future, including Gryphon training, orientation for first-year students, and faculty and staff workshops. Describing what motivated her to produce the film, Ms. Daniel states, “It is my hope that students will begin to understand that we all are first human beings and should be treated with respect. We may not agree with one another's lifestyle or life choices due to our own individual morals, faith and beliefs, but that doesn't mean that one human being is more valuable than another.” Another goal was to “shine some light on these acts of discrimination and prejudices that are happening right here on

Lehigh's campus. It's time for each of us to begin making a positive change on this campus.”



United through DANCE!

Though we've seen many efforts to engage the entire campus community this year, one of the most successful was Dance Fest 2010. The idea to unite the campus through dance was inspired by residence life coordinator Tyrone Russell, and soon grew into one of the biggest campus events this year.

DANCE FEST 2010

18 Lehigh University clubs and organizations composed of students and staff alike participated in this groundbreaking event. The sold-out performance at Baker Hall exhibited a variety of cultures, music, and forms of artistic expression. Featured Dance Fest forms included swing, hip hop, step, and ballet to name a few. We hope this was the first of many years for Dance Fest; it was a wonderful way to wrap up the school year!

Multicultural Resource Center (MRC)

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111 Research Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Phone: 610-758-6119
E-mail: mrc@lehigh.edu



Thanks for your continuous support of the College of Education Diversity Committee and Multicultural Resource Center (MRC). Feel free to suggest future programming ideas and resources you would like us to provide. One of our goals for next year is to focus more on disability awareness and the challenges faced by persons with disabilities at Lehigh. If you have an interest in this area and would like to assist our efforts, please contact Shalena at mrc@lehigh.edu. Have a great summer!

Thank you!

Upcoming Campus Events

The Environmental Initiative and several student groups sponsor Earth Week, April 19-23

Events include: April 20, 4pm, Sinclair Auditorium, Public Lecture, "Taking the Natural "Steps" Toward a Greener Campus", Maryann Helferty, EPA Environmental Assessment and Innovation Division; April 21, 11am-4pm, UC lawn (Rain Location: Lambertson Hall), Lehigh Earth Day Celebration! Photo contest, tree planting service, organic food demo., biodiesel & geothermal demo., and much more!; April 22, 4:15 pm, STEPS Building Tour. Come and join any events. For a full schedule of events, visit: <http://www.ei.lehigh.edu/earthDay.html>

"Intersectionality" Brown Bag Wednesday, April 21, 2010 - 12:00-1:00 PM, The Women's Center (UC C207),

Here at Lehigh, we don't talk about the intersection of multiple identities as often as we discuss them individually. However, that's about to change. While the Multicultural Room, the Women's Center, and the Rainbow Room represent marginalized identities on campus, what happens when one identifies with multiple groups? What societal implications arise? This discussion/chat will focus on gender, race, and sexuality.

Brazilian Women Entrepreneurs: More Cracks in the Glass Ceiling featuring speaker Daise Rosas, Brazilian

Entrepreneurism Researcher **Thursday, April 22 - 4 p.m. - Maginnes 102**, Sponsored by: The Finance Department, Women's Studies, the Martindale Program, Globalization and Social Change, Latin American Studies, Africana Studies, and the Fulbright on-campus Office

The Hawks4Haiti Event will be held this FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd on the UC Front Lawn. The Hawks4Haiti Event is a carnival-fundraiser for the Lehigh Haiti Relief Fund. There will be fun games and prizes throughout the day, including a dunk tank, tie-dye t-shirts, cotton candy, a bounce house, inflatable Twister, and much more! Festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m. *All proceeds will be turned over to the Community Service Office to benefit the Lehigh Haiti Relief Efforts.

Global Women's Discussion Series: "Global Beauty", Thursday, April 29, 2010 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm - The Women's Center (UC C207) Take a look at both the psychological and commercial sides of the topic of global beauty. *Refreshments will be served.**