



Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
3 Bartlett Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

732-932-1711  
732-932-8670  
Fax: 732-932-3123  
socialjustice.rutgers.edu

## **The Committee to Advance Our Common Purposes 2008-2009**

### **Grant Programs Funded by the CACP for the Academic Year 2008-2009:**

#### **Exhibition: RU Student Activism 1960-1985**

**Newark, Camden, and New Brunswick campuses, October 17, 2008—January 31, 2008. Awarded \$1,300.** An exhibition to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by focusing on Rutgers University campus activism, before and after the assassination of Dr. King, from 1960-1985. The mobilization of various groups that supported desegregation and voter registration in the early 1960's, as well as the black student protests later that decade, were events that demonstrated significant engagement and consciousness-raising among Rutgers students and the university community. The exhibit was on each site/campus for two weeks at a time.

#### **Yuyachkani (I Will Remember): Performing Human Rights**

**New Brunswick campus, September 26, 2008. Awarded \$1,000.** A performance troupe from Peru famous for its involvements in human rights. 1980-2000 Peru experienced an epoch of political violence that included kidnappings, torture, disappearances, and many other human rights violations. Yuyachkani accompanied public hearings in Peru and performed in markets, church atriums, plazas, and other outdoor spaces where the public hearings were held.

#### **A Day Without Hate**

**New Brunswick campus, November 10—12, 2008. Awarded \$2,500.** The annual event was founded in 1997 after the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The climate of hateful rhetoric at that time in Israeli society directly led to the assassination of Rabin. A Day without Hate is a program that encourages and challenges students to go an entire day without partaking in hateful speech or acts that may harm their peers. It is also a means of exposing and celebrating the rich diversity that the Rutgers campus has. This event has various activities such as anti-hate pledges, blood drives, forums concerning topics of human rights, and a cultural celebration that highlights the ideals and beliefs of various student organizations. This event challenges students to see beyond their personal beliefs by exposing them to the beliefs of others. It is intended to increase empathy and understanding.

#### **Urban Youth: A Weekend in College**

**New Brunswick, December 5—6, 2008. Awarded \$1,000.** A program to mentor underprivileged youths and help them obtain college educations. Nearly 100 high school students are invited from nearby cities to come experience college life by giving them a comprehensive tour of Rutgers, take them to different departments such as Admissions, Financial Aid, and Residence Life—followed by a lunch intermission and panel discussion.

### **Never Has She Ever**

**New Brunswick campus, Fall 2008. Awarded \$2,000.** A solo exhibition of photographs centering on Cox's "Queen Nanny of the Maroons Series" set in Jamaica. The artist takes on many guises—from rebel fighter against colonialist rule, to church lady, and mother, as the tableaux move from historical to contemporary times. She also includes portraits of the Jamaican populace. Renee Cox is one of the most controversial African-American artists working today, using her own body to celebrate black womanhood and critique a society she views as sexist and racist. Oct 22 she will present a public lecture in the Douglass Library. Her large-scale works will be featured in Part II of this event, showing 10 women artists who re-represent the female gaze by challenging internalized notions of beauty and womanhood. This exhibition runs from Oct 14 through the 31 at the Mason Gross Galleries. The artists employ a wide variety of visual language using diverse media—painting, drawing, photography, digital media, and film/video— to explore issues of race, ethnicity, feminism, gender, sexuality, and representation of the female.

### **Annual Play "Hoop Girls"**

**New Brunswick campus, November 17, 2008. Awarded \$2,000.** "Hoop Girls" written by Gabriela Lopez uses hoop earrings as representations of the ever-changing stages in the life of a Latina. Part fairytale, drama, and comedy, "Hoop Girls" portrays female unity by concentrating on a seemingly mundane accessory, every girl's old favorite, the hoop earring. By sharing the story of a group of six friends from all different walks of life and their attachments to, memories of, and experiences involving hoop earrings she demonstrates the struggles, triumphs and trials of each girl. We see them grow, change, and ultimately find their voices as strong Latinas.

### **Yoko Hiraoka: Japanese Biwa Performance "Tale of Heike"**

**New Brunswick campus, November 4, 2008. Awarded \$300.** Performance of a Japanese oral text, "The Tale of the Heike," accompanied by a musical instrument, the lute or Biwa, by a master of the genre, Mr. Yoko Hiraoka.

### **East Coast Asian American Student Union conference (ECAASU)**

**New Brunswick campus, February 27–March 1, 2009. Awarded \$2,000.** The premiere Asian American collegiate conference in the U.S. This annual conference brings together over 1500 student leaders from over 100 major universities throughout the country. The purpose of the conference is to be at the forefront of the movement towards a stronger Asian American student community. This year the conference is taking place at Rutgers.

### **Gregory Ramos and Border Stories**

**New Brunswick, November 18–19, 2008. Awarded \$1,000.** *Border Stories* is a solo performance piece comprised of a series of monologues based on interviews conducted with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people who live on the U.S.–Mexico border. The work is a theatrical montage featuring 21 personal stories of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons living along the border. The work addresses issues of marginality and stigmatization among migrant populations and lays bare what it means to form a sense of self against the background of tradition and culture. The journey is a provocative and touching celebration of the human spirit and our infinite capacity to love. After the performance there will be a discussion.

### **Panel Discussion and Dialogue on "Religion and Public Schools"**

**New Brunswick, November 11, 2008. Awarded \$1,400.** Panel discussion and dialogue as part of an international exchange with educators from Serbia and Senegal. The purpose was to establish an understanding of the history of development of democracy in Serbia, Senegal, and the United States; acquaint international educators with exemplary curricular and teacher training programs in civic education; facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences in civic education among education, governmental, and private sector leaders in the United States, Senegal, and Serbia; and establish a basis for long-term civic education partnership.

## **Discover Ghana**

**New Brunswick, Spring 2009. Awarded \$2,000.** Designed to provide undergraduates with an interactive spring semester learning experience. Students will engage in hands-on cross-cultural coursework through academic exposure and approaches to traditional West African dance, music, philosophy, and folklore. Part one of this two-part initiative introduces the customs of Ghanaian people through lectures, workshops, and demonstrations; part two includes a cultural submersion trip of ten days to Ghana, West Africa during Spring Break 2009.

## **The Wiz and Parade**

**New Brunswick, December 4–6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Awarded \$875/\$450.** The musical production *Parade* by Jason Robert Brown tells the true story of Leo Frank, a lone Jew from the north who lives in Georgia. Because of his origins and religion, Leo becomes a target of one of the worst hate crimes ever committed on American soil. Leo is falsely convicted of raping and murdering a thirteen year old girl and sentenced to life in prison. This production highlights how anti-Semitism and intolerance still exist blatantly unchecked in some part of America. *Parade* will follow another production also organized by the Livingston Theater Company: *The Wiz* which is an African-American interpretation of *The Wizard of Oz* and is a prime example of how the social movements that took place in the 1960's set the stage for Americans to begin incorporating cultures unlike their own into their daily lives.

## **Symposium on “The Culture of Rights/The Rights of Culture”**

**New Brunswick campus, February 26–28, 2009. Awarded \$3,000.** A special three-day symposium of distinguished scholars from within and beyond Rutgers, whose work, located in a number of disciplines, geographic locations, and specific cultural/religious traditions, turns a critical lens on the assumptions inherent in universalist conception of human rights. This will feature discussions of pre-circulated papers with an eye toward identifying and addressing the ways in which contemporary discourses on women's and human rights can respectfully address a variety of traditional and/or religious cultural contexts and practices without imposing universalizing assumptions and values. An extraordinary roster of some of the most prominent scholars internationally who are exploring the gendered tensions of culture and rights are confirmed for the program. The symposium will be well-publicized through *Targum*, listservs, and flyers circulated to classes in a number of disciplines.

## **Alternative Spring Break for Social Justice**

**New Brunswick, March 15–19, 2009. Awarded \$1,700.** Alternative spring break trip to The Highlander Research and Education Center in New Market, Tennessee. This center focuses on fostering activist development and learning and provides training on strategies to combat racism and seek economic justice. Students will also meet local activists such as the McAdoo Cultural Center (a civil rights museum) and the Children's Defense Fund that will share their work on these issues.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Nuyorican Poets Café: A Celebration of Poetry and Spoken Word**

**New Brunswick campus, April 17, 2009. Awarded \$3,250.** This event will serve as an educational, social, and political forum for the Rutgers community as the performers address concepts of beauty, color, class, ethnicity, culture, and politics through performances infused with music and knowledge. The event will also feature a live band that will back up the verbal barrage of the poets. Food will be provided for students and faculty.

## **Dr. MLK Jr. Annual Build the Dream Banquet**

**New Brunswick campus, February 22, 2009. Awarded \$3,000.** In recognition of Black History Month, an evening of conversation, music, and dynamic multimedia presentations at this gala event in order to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. King. Keynote speaker Kevin Powell will give a speech which highlights the life of Dr. King and the relevance of his message in America today. In addition, King's Dream Performers will give an account of the Civil Rights Movement, and Dr. King's message of non-violent social change, illustrated through a live documentary multi-media presentation. A professor from the African Studies Department will give an account of the Civil Rights Movement and how it has impacted the society in which we live today.

### **Noche Dorada: Remnants of All Time**

**New Brunswick campus, February 20, 2009. Awarded \$1,000.** Fundraising banquet in which all proceeds will be donated to a selected charity that renders its services to underrepresented groups. This formal social event includes students, faculty, staff, friends and family of assorted backgrounds to come together and enjoy a night full of diversity. Noche Dorada serves to educate on the diversity within the various Latin cultures through dance, music, inspirational speakers, and other cultural displays. An award presentation will be made to a minority leader within the Rutgers community. As a finale, a check of all the proceeds will be presented to the Developing Resources for the Educational Advance of Minorities (D.R.E.A.M.) Program.

### **Human Rights in Latin America & The Caribbean: A Documentary Film Series**

**New Brunswick campus, February 17, 19, 26 and March 5, 9, 12, 2009. Awarded \$1,000.** Presentation of a series of five documentary films with featured speakers and discussion that highlight current rights conditions in the region. The program features highly acclaimed documentary films that explore the human rights situation in various Latin American and Caribbean countries. Topics explored include the social cost of sugar production in the Dominican Republic, the plight of unaccompanied minors entering the United States from Mexico, the impunity of violence against women in Guatemala, the impact of mining enterprises on peasant communities in Ecuador, and the effect of terrorism and violence in Peru over the last twenty years.

### **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: Lincoln, the NAACP, and the World They Created**

**Newark Campus, February 21, 2009. Awarded \$5,000.** This one-day program acknowledges the significance of the bicentennial anniversary of President Lincoln's birth and the centennial anniversary of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in many ways set the stage for the urgency and activism that marked the formation of the NAACP in 1909. A diverse audience of 500-600 typically attends which is comprised of community residents, students, scholars, civic leaders, and secondary school teachers in history and the humanities.

### **The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the '69 Conklin Hall Takeover: "We Only Know What We Can Remember"**

**Newark campus, February 2009. Awarded \$3,000.** The purpose of the exhibit and screens of the DVD called by the same name is to celebrate and acknowledge the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Conklin Hall Takeover. This celebration of diversity takes place in February 2009 and with inform and educated Rutgers students, faculty and staff and the greater Newark community of this historic event in Rutgers-Newark history. It will be displayed in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, the cultural hub of the campus, and will generate discussion among students and visitors serving as motivation to understand each other's culture.

### **Making Monkey Business with Guerilla Girls**

**Newark campus, March 11, 2009. Awarded \$900.** The Guerrilla Girls are a group of masked feminists who base their community action on other models such as Robin Hood, Wonder Woman, and Batman. They use facts, humor, and outrageous visuals to expose sexism, racism, and corruption in politics, art, film, and pop culture. The exact number of members in this group is unknown. Their identities are never revealed and they are always found to be wearing masks that hide their face. Each member has adopted a name of a dead female artist. The program will include founding members Frida Kahlo and Kathe Kollwitz who will present their work, philosophy of activism, and their campaign against the lack of ethics in the art world. The intent of this program is to inform the community of the mechanism of sexism and racism within an institutional setting.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Minority Medical Recruitment Fair**

**Newark campus, April 19, 2009. Awarded \$600.** This program invites medical, osteopathic, and dental students to campus to meet with students and discuss the admission requirements for that particular school. There are also designated special workshops for each student. The keynote speaker will deliver an inspirational message for students planning careers in the healthcare industry. This program specifically connects those in underrepresented healthcare groups such as African-Americans, Mexicans, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Islanders, and mainland Puerto Ricans.

## **Women's Studies Symposium "Feminism for the Planet" and Women's History Month Speaker Series**

**Newark campus, February and March 2009. Awarded \$4,000.** The Women's History month commemorates a long and diverse history of women's contributions, locally and internationally. The centerpiece of this is the Annual Women's Studies Symposium which interprets the national theme of "Women Taking the Lead to Save the Planet" through a day-long series of conversations about "Feminism for the Planet". This will showcase research and activism related to women, women's history, feminist theory, and queer studies.

## **60 Miles East**

**New Brunswick campus, April 28, 2009. Awarded \$1,000.** Documentary and speaker on immigration. Film documents the experiences of Dominican, Haitian, and other individuals living in the Dominican Republic who have made several attempts to escape to Puerto Rico by boat.

## **Beyond Polarities: A Literary & Arts Magazine**

**New Brunswick campus, April 2009. Awarded \$1,275.** A literary and arts magazine that will ensure a safe space specifically for LGBTQA students to display social and political concerns and outlooks within the community through the creative space of literature and art. This magazine hopes to bridge the disconnect between the Rutgers community and the LGBTQA community.

## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Show: "A World Colored Blind"**

**New Brunswick campus, April 13, 2009. Awarded \$2,000.** A show that celebrates and displays the diversity that exists at Rutgers. A showcasing of traditional and multicultural performances, fashions, and foods. A 12 year tradition that promotes learning about various cultures.

## **Manifestaciones, Latino Leaders Retreat**

**New Brunswick campus, April 10–12, 2009. Awarded \$940.** Weekend retreat for first and second year Rutgers students who are interested in activism and wish to become leaders that organize around Latino and Latin American identity, culture, history, and activism. This retreat brings together the new and prospective leaders for the 09-10 academic year with the purpose of better understanding personal and group leadership skills, building community amongst student leaders, looking at the history of activism of Latinos (past, present, and future) and to start strategically planning for the year to come.

## **LLEGO Student Leadership Activity Northeast LGBT Conference Award**

**New Brunswick campus, April 17–19, 2009. Awarded \$500.** LLEGO and BiGLARU will be attending the Northeast LGBT Conference (NELG BTC) located at the State University of NY at Albany. This is an annual conference to unite the LGBT community through education, activism, and networking among students, faculty, and staff. The 2009 theme is Facets of Oppression. The conference features a number of workshops that highlight different issues that plague the LGBT community such as hate language, intersections of racism, and homophobia.