



The Center for Civic Engagement Observer

Democracies need
engaged citizens

"A different world cannot be built by indifferent people."

-Horace Mann, American education reformer

Volume 3.3 - Week of March 21, 2010

Look Forward to our Upcoming Events!

April 13, 2010
Day for Haiti

April 19-22, 2010
Earth Week

April 26-30, 2010
Refugee Campus

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Commemorating A Stand Taken for Civil Rights, and a Step Towards Universal "Colorblindness"

By Madelyne Mostiller

On Tuesday, February 23, Hofstra University and the Center for Civic Engagement presented a Civil Rights day program. The event began with a retelling of the Woolworth's lunch counter demonstrations. This is the 50th Anniversary year of the demonstrations. The four students from North Carolina A and T saw a need for change and an increase in social justice and equality and took a stand for what they believed in by sitting down at a "whites-only" lunch counter after they were refused service. The sit-in lasted for days and gained support of over 300 other protestors. This protest inspired sit-ins and economic boycotts that were the source of great success for the American civil rights movement. It is for this reason that we at Hofstra commemorate their bravery every year in February.



Photo Courtesy: Raleigh City Museum

African American students (left to right: Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, William Smith, and Clarence Henderson) held a sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., Feb. 1, 1960.

We also had the pleasure of hearing a talk on skin color and the social implication of skin color. This dynamic talk was delivered by Professor Kevin Maillard, who is a visiting professor at Hofstra University School of Law. Professor Maillard's talk explored the origins and roots of color barriers and the resulting effects of the so called, "color complex". He led a riveting discussion, in which he proposed that America become a colorless society. He suggests that Americans should progressively continue to push for the melting pot, that the variety of colors and cultures play a significant role, but none socially superior than the other.

The Center for Civic Engagement would like to thank everyone who came out and participated in the Civil Rights day program this year.

Sustainable Choices Living Today with Tomorrow in Mind



Photos Courtesy: David Gordon of *The Chronicle*

“Sustainable Choices” features environmentally-friendly displays, including methods for washing clothes that conserve water, energy conservation efforts in the use of light and heat bulbs, eco-friendly ways to consume, and recycling methods. “I think it’s a great opportunity that we have this exhibit on campus. The exhibit offers students the experience of interacting with sustainable practices, to learn the very basics of sustainability in every day life,” said Isabelle Goodman of the CCE. The exhibit will be on display from March 16-25 in the Student center.

Globalization Day Opens Eyes While Stimulating Minds

By Anthony Lucci

A CCE planning committee set out in December to create a day of speakers and panels on the topic of globalization. March 3rd 2010 marked the culmination of these efforts with the CCE’s first ever Globalization Day. While focusing mainly on the economic effects of globalization, the day also touched upon democratic participation of women and global perspectives of the US. The planning committee, composed of myself and two other interns, thought it important to utilize speakers from across the spectrum. Among a few of the many speakers, was Hofstra’s Robert Guttman who spoke on the net benefit of free trade. His colleague, Dr. Conrad Herold, spoke on globalization as class struggle from a Marxian perspective. Other speakers included Hofstra professors Margaret Abraham, Sharryn Kasmir, Fatemah Moghadam, and Mario Murillo and Professor Max Wolff from New York’s New School.

I had the pleasure of attending Dr. Herold’s lecture this day. The core of his argument was that the warm and fuzzy process of globalization, usually portrayed by technological advancements leading to increased interconnectedness, was misleading at best. Herold argued that what we think of as globalization is really the process of removal of capital controls on an international level. Herold stated that the rise of the Keynesian Productivity Deal (labor’s and the owners of capital’s share of profit remaining fixed) weakened the control of the owners of capital on labor. Subsequently, Herold argued, the owners of capital fought for removal of capital controls and succeeded. Thus, owners of capital invested outside of the advanced world to exploit the low cost of labor in developing countries. It is this process that Herold called ‘globalization.’

Perspectives like those, shared by Professors Guttman and Herold, are the kind that need to be more in the minds of average citizens. That two very intelligent professional economists with PhD’s can come to starkly different conclusions shows the need for the individual to set out on a course of fact finding and meaning. It is this process of finding meaning that guided Globalization Day and made it such a success.

