



A WORD FROM DR. DIAZ

Bienvenidos a todos! As we welcome everyone to the Hilltop this month, we acknowledge that this summer has been tumultuous for many individuals and communities. The odd roller coaster of excitement and anticipation to the new school year is tinted by the recent violence in the U.S. **As an Anselmian, I take comfort and courage in the belief that our Creator calls each of us to do what is in our power to minimize violence and maximize openness and respect for others. Nothing less is acceptable.** I recently attended a discussion of a pastoral letter from the U.S. Conference of Bishops with colleagues from a number of Catholic colleges and universities. Together we made time for Lectio Divino and contemplated the following lines from the Bishops' letter:

*Too many good and faithful Catholics remain unaware of the connection between institutional racism and the continued erosion of the sanctity of life. We are not finished with the work.*

— "Open Wide Our Hearts, the enduring call to love" 2018, p. 10.

What is "the connection"? What is "the work"? Together Anselmians can answer these questions! This issue of the bulletin spotlights the college's new Faculty Fellows for Inclusion from the departments of English and theology. This issue also looks at experiences on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in S.D., and offers some reflections by recent innovation fund winners. Lastly, we included SAVE THE DATES for exciting programs this fall. Read on!

# Inviting Perspectives & Inspiring People

**SPOTLIGHT: NEW FACULTY FELLOWS FOR INCLUSION!**

The Office for Diversity & Inclusion is pleased to announce the appointment of the college's first Faculty Fellows for Inclusion, Dr. Gilberto Ruiz and Dr. Michael New. Drs. Ruiz and New were selected in an open and competitive application process and will assist the college's Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) Dr. Ande Diaz to provide programming, consultations, and support on special initiatives regarding the issues of diversity and inclusion.



Dr. Ruiz is beginning his fourth year here at Saint Anselm College and an Assistant Professor in the Theology Department. Previously, he has taught at Loyola University and Rivier University. He holds a B.A. in theology and English from Boston College, M.T.S. in Scripture and Interpretation from Harvard Divinity School, and a Ph.D. in Religion from Emory University.

Dr. Ruiz has prioritized diversity in the form and content of his teaching and mentoring both in and outside the classroom.

His theology classes focus on studying the Bible in its ancient context, examining how its meanings inform theological thinking and contemporary social issues, and how it can be interpreted through the lenses of his students. Students in Dr. Ruiz's classes analyze biblical texts as well as their own backgrounds and points of view to greater expand the Bible's meaning and ongoing relevance for diverse communities today. A close collaborator with both Campus Ministry and the Intercultural Center, Dr. Ruiz shines a light on diversity and inclusion within Saint Anselm's Catholic identity.

Dr. Michael New is also entering his fourth year at Saint Anselm College in the English Department. Before he was an Assistant Professor here at Saint Anselm, Dr. New was a lecturer at Keene State College and a postdoctoral fellow at Penn State. He has earned his B.A. in English from The University of Rochester, and his M.A. and doctorate in English from Penn State.



In his time on the Hilltop, Dr. New has become an important contributor of the college's increasingly diverse curriculum with classes like the Poetics of Hip-Hop, Contemporary West African Fiction, and the Harlem Renaissance. His American and African American literature courses include popular and canonical, as well as experimental and neglected texts.

Working with the Meelia Center for Community Engagement and the Intercultural Center, Dr. New has developed programs for high school and college students that draw connections between literature and life. As a Faculty Fellow, Dr. New plans to continue engaging with our campus and the broader community to build common understanding around shared experiences as well as to recognize and celebrate our differences and diversity.

Be sure to say hello when you see Drs. Ruiz and New on campus and don't hesitate to set a time to share your insights and experiences on diversity.



Re-Member "Head Volunteer" Cory True '09 with Maddie Pratte '19, Dr. Ande Diaz, and Cullen Clougherty '19 at a Pine Ridge community worksite this summer.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### THE OGLALA LAKOTA TRIBE AND PINE RIDGE RESERVATION, SOUTH DAKOTA

#### Pine Ridge Reservation statistics

- Reservation population: 18,834  
Tribal enrollment: 38,332
- Oglala Lakota county is the poorest county in the United States
- The reservation has an 80-90% unemployment rate
- 42.4% of the population is said to be 20 years-old or younger

Re-Member is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of reservation life through relationships, shared resources, and volunteer services. It is directed by Saint Anselm College alumnus and former employee, Cory True '09. Many students, faculty, and alumni of the college are familiar with the work of Re-Member as they have hosted Service and Solidarity Missions Trips through Campus Ministry, totaling roughly 160 Anselmians through 10 different trips over the years beginning in 2006.

This past June, Dr. Ande Diaz, Chief Diversity Officer at Saint Anselm, was one of 50 volunteers who spent a week on the reservation in Pine Ridge, S.D. She had a chance to catch up with Re-Member's director Cory True about the organization and his involvement.

#### HOW DID YOU FIRST LEARN OF PINE RIDGE RESERVATION AND RE-MEMBER?

My first visit to Pine Ridge was during the 2008 Spring Break Alternative (SBA) trip, offered through Campus Ministry. I wasn't a traditional volunteer, rather, I joined the trip as an 'embedded student reporter' on behalf of the College Communications and Marketing team. The college wanted to cover SBA with daily photos and blogs. I returned to Pine Ridge and Re-Member after graduating, in 2009.

#### HOW DID YOU BECOME STAFF AND LATER GAIN THE POSITION OF "HEAD VOLUNTEER"?

My experience in Pine Ridge stuck with me. I was intrigued by the Lakota people and their culture. I was inspired by the blend of service and solidarity Re-Member offered volunteers. I applied for a four-week "Program Manager" position with Re-Member during my senior spring. Unsure of my post-grad plans, returning to Pine Ridge felt like a good opportunity to discern my next steps. I was offered a position, and booked a one-way flight...four weeks turned into four-months. I returned to the reservation in 2010. I ran worksites as a Construction Manager, where I was responsible for leading crews on worksites to skirt (insulate) mobile homes.

Saint Anselm called in July of 2010. A position was open in the Communications and Marketing office. Although it was hard to leave South Dakota, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to come 'home' to the Hilltop. I returned to Saint Anselm from 2010 - 2018. Re-Member asked that I join the Board of Directors, and I served for eight years including two years as president of the board. I returned to South Dakota each year - including several trips with volunteers from Saint Anselm.

In 2017, Re-Member's director announced that he planned to retire. After contemplating my personal and professional opportunities, I approached Re-Member's board with an offer to lead the organization. Although bittersweet to leave the Hilltop and New England, I relocated to South Dakota in 2018.

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE REWARDS OF WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY WITH RE-MEMBER?

Re-Member has been on Pine Ridge for 21 years. Over the years, one of the most important things Re-Member has done is build relationships. We're not just here to 'serve' - we're here to stand in solidarity with the Oglala Lakota people of Pine Ridge.

I've inherited 20-years of Re-Member's legacy, and have the opportunity to build upon an incredibly strong foundation. To build the trust and friendship of people here takes time.

To know that we have an opportunity every day to build relationships, to exchange cultures, to educate, engage, and empower our volunteers and the Oglala Lakota community is powerful. I am honored and humbled every day, knowing that I have the privilege to learn from our volunteers -- and to learn from the Oglala Lakota people of Pine Ridge. And I do learn something new every day.

#### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO WORK WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES?

Every week I share a quote with our volunteers. This one is from Charlie Knight, a Ute Indian:

*"Pick a road, any road and follow it. Follow it for the rest of your life. No expectations. Just possibilities."*

Simple - but powerful - and a phrase I've come to embrace!

*"The beauty, reverence for nature, and resilience in the Oglala-Lakota people inspired me. Witnessing Anselmian love in action makes me grateful to be part of this community!"*

— Dr. Ande Diaz, Chief Diversity Officer

# REFLECTIONS ON INCLUSIVE INNOVATIONS



Georgia O'Keeffe:  
Art, Image, Style



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION INNOVATION FUND RECIPIENTS WERE ASKED "WHAT WAS THE GREATEST LEARNING EXPERIENCE FROM YOUR EVENT/INITIATIVE? BELOW ARE A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT WINNERS:

Previous winner and recent graduate, Emmanuel Akinlosotu '19 photographed and directed Sincerely, St. A's, a photo campaign that was inspired by the "Dear World" Project Photo Series. This project captured students, faculty, and staff in their honest and human reactions to tough questions surrounding issues of civility, social change, and advocacy. The array of photos was installed in the Geisel Library. The exhibit and discussion was a part of the Martin Luther King celebration in collaboration with the Intercultural Center.

*"Winning an Innovation Grant was a great experience for me as a photographer and as a human being. I was able to take a deep dive into how each individual felt about society and what mattered."*

Maggie Dimock, Curator of the *Alva de Mars Megan* Chapel Art Center, and Jennifer Thorn, Professor of English, partnered on a college trip to visit two landmark exhibitions at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., in February 2018. A group of Saint Anselm students, faculty, and administrative staff and families spent a day touring Georgia O'Keeffe: Art, Image, Style, a groundbreaking exhibition exploring O'Keeffe's art and modernist personal aesthetic as a unified expression of progressive politics, feminism, and creative identity. The group also had the privilege of touring the award-winning exhibition T.C. Cannon: At the Edge of America, a milestone retrospective of the extraordinary work of twentieth-century Native American painter T.C. Cannon.

*Quote: "This grant made it possible for us to take an idea that emerged from conversations about sponsoring art-centered experiences that would be enticing and accessible to people across various communities at Saint Anselm. The grant enabled us to offer free museum admission, lunch, transportation, and guided discussion of these two important local exhibitions, which represented the viewpoints of artists who unapologetically positioned their personal identity as a woman, or as a Native American, as a central theme in their work."*

Working with computer science (CS) majors Pauline Yates '19 and Sneha Hoda '20, Professor Jennifer Thorn of the English Department, who is also coordinator of the interdisciplinary Gender Studies minor, presented a series of events on "Empowering Women Computer Science Majors." They held meetings with women CS majors to present information about women-friendly computer science programs and employers and to make students aware of great books about women who overcame obstacles to find success as programmers, like *The Future of Tech is Female* by Douglas Branson. The three also organized meetings with resource groups in the area such as the Society of Women Engineers at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and, as a public event, showed the film "Code: Debugging the Gender Gap" in September, which describes the wonderful careers of women in tech like Danielle Feinberg at Pixar, Aliya Rahman of Code for Progress, and Kimberly Bryant (founder of Black Girls Code) and had a great discussion of the obstacles, successes, and initiatives described in the film.

*Quote from Jennifer Thorn: "As coordinator of the Gender Studies minor here, it's very important to me to build relationships across all departments and to hear from students what gender means to them, in relation to their aspirations and experience."*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**CONTACT OFFICES DIRECTLY FOR DETAILS.**

DR. TONI MORRISON, 2/18/31 TO 8/5/19  
AT AGE 88 – FROM NOBEL PRIZE IN  
LITERATURE IN 1993

*“Oppressive language does more than represent violence; it is violence; does more than represent the limits of knowledge; it limits knowledge.”*

*“We pray to our Creator, please – please help the Saint Anselm community to use knowledge in every public and private space – to halt hatred and violence, everywhere. Let there be peace, Shanti!”*

– Dr. Ande Diaz, Chief Diversity Officer

SEPTEMBER 20	Interfaith Prayer for Peace, 12:30pm <i>Multifaith Prayer Room, Campus Ministry</i>
SEPTEMBER 21	Multicultural Day, Campus Green, 1-4pm <i>Center for Intercultural Learning and Inclusion</i>
SEPTEMBER 25	Spirituality Supper, 7pm <i>Campus Ministry</i>
SEPTEMBER 26	Foster and Adoptive Parent's Night Out <i>Carr Center</i>
SEPTEMBER 30	Rosh Hashanah
OCTOBER 9	Yom Kippur
OCTOBER 14	Indigenous Peoples' Day
OCTOBER 14-20	Sukkot
OCTOBER 23	Spirituality Supper, 7pm <i>Campus Ministry</i>
OCTOBER 24	Foster and Adoptive Parent's Night Out <i>Carr Center</i>
OCTOBER 27	Diwali (Hindu Festival of Light)
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER	Hispanic Heritage Month
OCTOBER - DECEMBER	Cupcakes and Conversations <i>Meelia Center and Center for Intercultural Learning and Inclusion</i>
OCTOBER	Salsa Madness - Hispanic Heritage Month
NOVEMBER	Native American Heritage Month Events
NOVEMBER 18-22	Hunger and Homelessness Week
NOVEMBER 20	Spirituality Supper, 7pm <i>Campus Ministry</i>
NOVEMBER 21	Foster and Adoptive Parent's Night Out <i>Carr Center</i>
NOVEMBER 23	Holiday Fair <i>Carr Center</i>
DECEMBER	Intercultural/Celebration of Light Holiday Dinner



Saint Anselm College  
**OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY  
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