**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.

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.
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.

WHAT 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.

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.

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“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

Follow it for the rest of your life.

No expectations. Just possibilities.

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!
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

SEPTEMBER 20
Interfaith Prayer for Peace, 12:30pm
Multifaith Prayer Room, Campus Ministry

SEPTEMBER 21
Multicultural Day, Campus Green, 1-4pm
Center for Intercultural Learning and Inclusion

SEPTEMBER 25
Spirituality Supper, 7pm
Campus Ministry

SEPTEMBER 26
Foster and Adoptive Parent’s Night Out
Carr Center

SEPTEMBER 30
Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER 9
Yom Kippur

OCTOBER 14
Indigenous Peoples’ Day

OCTOBER 14-20
Sukkot

OCTOBER 23
Spirituality Supper, 7pm
Campus Ministry

OCTOBER 24
Foster and Adoptive Parent’s Night Out
Carr Center

OCTOBER 27
Diwali (Hindu Festival of Light)

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
Hispanic Heritage Month

OCTOBER - DECEMBER
Cupcakes and Conversations
Meelia Center and Center for
Intercultural Learning and Inclusion

OCTOBER
Salsa Madness - Hispanic Heritage Month

NOVEMBER
Native American Heritage Month Events
Hunger and Homelessness Week

NOVEMBER 20
Spirituality Supper, 7pm
Campus Ministry

NOVEMBER 21
Foster and Adoptive Parent’s Night Out
Carr Center

NOVEMBER 23
Holiday Fair
Carr Center

DECEMBER
Intercultural/Celebration of Light
Holiday Dinner

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.”

— Dr. Ande Diaz, Chief Diversity Officer

“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!”

Saint Anselm College
OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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