Newsletter
Winter 2012

A RESEARCH CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, S.U.N.Y

Major Fall Conferences

Dr. Ayana Eliot

The Center sponsored two major conferences this fall. On November 7th and 8th "Health Disparities in Sexual Minorities Along the Life Cycle: A Beginning Community Discussion" brought together nurses, physicians and social scientists from around the country to discuss health disparities in the LBGT community. Then, on November 19th, the Center welcomed Dr. Joy DeGruy, author of *Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome*, for a half-day seminar that reviewed how the institution of slavery, and the racism and public policies that accompanied it, created health disparities in communities of color.

Health Disparities in Sexual Minorities Along the Life Cycle: A Beginning Community Discussion.

Dr. Guthrie Birkhead, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Public Health at the NYS Department of Health, opened the conference with a discussion of health disparities among sexual minorities in New York State. Presentations began with Lisa Bowleg, Ph.D., who spoke on "The Complexity of Intersectionality: When Sexual Identity Tells Everything and Nothing about the Stress and Resilience of Being Black, Woman, Lesbian or Bisexual in the United States of America." Leo Wilton, Ph.D. then discussed issues in interdisciplinary health disparities research in black gay men's communities. Ayana Elliot, D.N.P. gave a presentation entitled: "When Health Care Isn't Caring: Issues for Transgender People of Color."

Dr. Lisa Bowleg

Other speakers included Dr. Henry Ng, who spoke on health disparities in pediatric and adolescent sexual minorities of color; Sheldon Fields, Ph.D., who discussed HIV prevention research with young MSM of color; Dr. David Malebranche, who discussed healthcare access, genetic and biological issues in HIV disparity among black MSM; and Souhail Malave, Ph.D., who presented on HIV/AIDS stigma in Puerto Rico.

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Jason Ward, Kristen Pergolino, Dina Addario, and Barry Walston

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FAST FACTS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.

85% of domestic violence victims are women. Each year, 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner. Most cases are never reported to the police.

Women between the ages of 20 and 24 are at the greatest risk for intimate partner violence.

Witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.

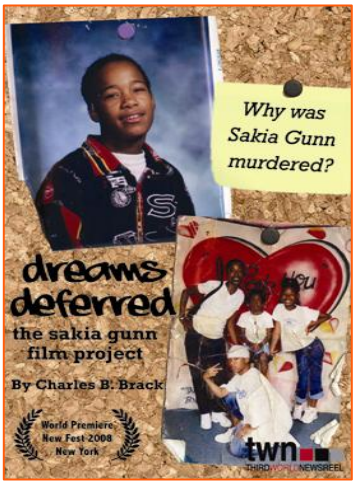
Boys who witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.

NYS Domestic Violence Hotline:
1-800-942-6906.

Source: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Mr. Charles Brack, director of *The Saquia Gunn Story*, joined the conference on the first evening to screen and discuss his film, a little-known story about a 15 year- old who was killed in an anti-gay hate crime in Newark, New Jersey.

The conference was co-sponsored by the School of Social Welfare, the School of Public Health, and the SOGI Project.



Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome: and Health. Creating a Blueprint for Healing.

With support from the CEMHD, Dr. Joy DeGruy, author of *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome,* conducted a half-day workshop on Nov. 19. The event was co-sponsored by the Macedonia Baptist Church, the Albany Chapter of the Black Child Development Institute, and Fathers Incorporated.

During the workshop sessions, Dr. DeGruy discussed different aspects of the historical and psychological legacy of slavery as an institution, and how racism and public policies have contributed to health problems among African Americans today. The workshop was extremely well attended, with more than 70 people, including community advocates, providers, students and faculty members participating.

Dr. Joy DeGruy

New Certificate Program

In response to the need for leaders in public health, social work, medicine, and the social sciences to be knowledgeable about health disparities and the strategies needed to address them, the University has created a Health Disparities Certificate program. Housed in the School of Public Health, the program is a partnership with the School of Education and the School of Social Welfare.

Who Should Apply?

- Individuals working towards degrees or currently working in health services, policy, promotion, or provision;
- students enrolled in a relevant graduate program who are in good academic standing;
- and those with a BA, BS or RN degree from an accredited institution with 6 credits in the social sciences.

For more information, call Dr. Robert Miller at 442-5374, Dr. Janine Jurkowski at 402-0420, or visit our website: www.albany.edu/cemhd

Spring 2012 Research Awards

CEMHD is pleased to offer $6,000 awards for research on minority health disparities. Proposals should fit within the Center's focus on conducting Community-Based Participatory Research in New York's smaller cities and towns. The competition is open to both junior and senior faculty members. The deadline is February 20, 2012.

Contact Drs. Robert Miller (442-5374), Janine Jurkowski (402-0420) or Lawrence Schell (442-4714) for more information. The application is available on the first page of our website: www.albany.edu/cemhd.

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Community Partners and Supporters

• Amsterdam Resource Center for Independent Living • Black Child Development Institute, Albany Chapter • Centro Civico of Amsterdam, Inc. • Capital District African-American Coalition on AIDS • Centro Civico Hispanoamericano, Albany • Capital Area School Development Association • The College of Saint Rose • Empire State College • Fulton -Montgomery Community College • HealthNow New York, Inc. • Healthy Capital District Initiative • Hudson Valley Community College • Internships in Aging Project •Macedonia Baptist Church • Montgomery County Community Services • Montgomery County Office for Aging • NYS Department of Health • St. Mary's Hospital, Amsterdam • United Way of Northeastern New York, Inc. • Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood • Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center