C.H.A.R.G.E. is an acronym for: Celebrating diversity, Honoring our histories struggle, Acting for change, Rising to our higher humanity, Gaining empowerment & Educating self and community. We have developed Culture Shock, a series of 6 programs that represent each of the letters of the C.H.A.R.G.E. acronym.

The Culture Shock Series identifies persistent issues, which exist within every community and are consistently “swept under the rug.” CHARGE would like to tackle issues that are seemingly too taboo; this allows for a thoughtful and in depth discussion of issues our students face each day. It is our hope that these programs serve as the catalyst for future discussion throughout Residential Life and the UAlbany campus.

Recap of September

We would like to thank everyone who attended our programs for the month of September. We had an amazing turnout with 9 successful events. With programs like A taste of Asian Etiquette and It's all in the mix (which explored interracial dating) it is our mission to engender a deep respect and appreciation for differences in culture, race, ethnicity, religion, language, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender. Even though our open house is over please feel free to stop by the office any time, our office hours are on the back!
Some would say that food is one of the largest cultural customs and who doesn’t love to eat? Come join us in the first program of our Culture Shock Series for “A Taste of the World.” You can sample traditional foods from regions of Africa, the Middle East, India and the Philippines. Participants who attend all of the stations sampling food (including Alumni Quad) will receive a prize!

Black hair care is a $9,000,000,000 a year business. From relaxers, to weaves, dyes to bleaching, curling to straightening; do we spend so much time with our hair to make it more manageable or do we want to achieve a more European aesthetic of beauty? Come join us to discuss the social implications and ramifications of the paradox of “Black People’s Hair.” This is a hot topic that has garnered the attention of Oprah, Tyra and even Chris Rock. There will be a discussion panel, videos and handouts.
Is the Southern Flag an important piece of American history that should be revered or is it the physical remnant of past oppression and segregation? This program serves to understand both arguments. We here at C.H.A.R.G.E. want to encourage an open dialogue about the historical, psychological and emotional impact of the Southern Flag; or if there is any impact at all.

Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont have passed bills that allow same-sex couples to legally marry. Others have passed bills that recognize same sex marriages from other states. Still turmoil exists in states like California where debate rages over the issue. Would gay marriage make this country better or worse? Does gay marriage open the door for polygamy and other forms of marriage? Come help our panel discuss this heated topic.
Upcoming Programs

October 2009

October 1st – Mid-Autumn Moon Festival
October 6th – A Taste of the World
October 11th – Underground Railroad Tour
October 20th – Black People’s Hair
October 27th – The Southern Flag
Movie Matinee starting at 3pm

October 9th – El Crime de Padre Amaro
October 14th – Turistas
October 21st – A Girl Like Me
October 28th – Y Tu Mama Tambien

CHARGE Welcomes: Leslie Mortland;
Gender & Sexuality Concerns Director Wednesday’s 2-4pm

C.H.A.R.G.E Assistants & Office Hours

Assiat:
Tuesday 3-5pm
Thursday 3-4pm

Johnathan:
Monday 3:30-6:30pm
Wednesday: 4-5pm

Dierdre:
Tuesday 12-2pm
Thursday 12:30-2:30pm

Jagdeep:
Wednesday 2-3pm
Thursday 5-7pm
Friday 9-10am

Victoria:
Monday 10:30-2:30pm

Aaron:
Tues & Thurs 9-1pm
Friday 1-5pm