Africana &
Latin American Studies

Congratulations Seniors
The Africana and Latin American Studies (ALST) Program is an interdisciplinary program that studies the histories and cultures, both material and expressive, of the peoples of Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America, and African Americans in the United States. It draws heavily from several disciplines in the humanities (art, language, literature, music) and the social sciences (anthropology, archaeology, economics, geography, history, political science, and sociology), as well as educational studies, philosophy, psychology, religion, and writing and rhetoric.

The program offers a major and a minor with concentration in African, African American, Caribbean, and Latin American studies. United by a shared historical connection within the Atlantic world, these geographical areas and the diverse peoples who inhabit them provide rich opportunities for interdisciplinary and comparative studies. The program aims to promote an understanding both of the constituent regions individually and their mutual interdependence. It offers students the opportunity to study one particular area in relation to others in the wider Atlantic world with which it shares a historical and cultural connection. It examines the indigenous civilizations of these regions and studies the impact of migration, imperialism and colonialism, racism, nationalism, and globalization in shaping the lives, ideas, and cultural identities of their inhabitants.

**Check us out online!**

**Website:** www.colgate.edu/alst  
**Twitter:** @ALSTColgate  
**Facebook:** ALST at Colgate University

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**This newsletter serves as a spotlight on the graduating Africana & Latin American Studies Majors and Minors. These 10 people have made their mark on this campus and it will endure for years to come. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. The ALST Community wish you all luck in the future. Don’t forget us when you’re famous!**
From the Director's Desk

From the perspective of someone who is serving in this position on a temporary basis (while Professor Brian Moore is in Jamaica with the study group), it has been amazing to see the breadth of our ALST program and the ways in which we continue to embody the ideals set out by founding director, Manning Marable. Last spring at this time, I was preparing to co-direct a new extended study trip to South Africa, in conjunction with a new course, ALST 380 (Movements for Social Justice in South Africa). With Professor Mark Stern of the department of Educational Studies, I had envisioned a course that would culminate in bringing Colgate students together with civil society activists in a country that was literally brought into being through the power of social movements. We had a large number of well qualified applicants, and were able to bring a select group of 19 on the trip to Durban and Cape Town, where students met with scholars, artists, and grassroots activists all committed to realizing the rights guaranteed by the South African constitution, celebrated as the most progressive in the world. It was gratifying to see many of the students who participated in that trip become active in the ACC movement that galvanized the campus the following fall.

Social movements are truly global phenomena, and activists learn from each other; adapting their local tactics and strategies to fit particular conditions. In South Africa, we traced the routes of Mahatma Gandhi, whose experience in South Africa led to the development of techniques of non-violent civil disobedience adopted by Dr. Martin Luther King, whose leadership then became an inspiration to anti-apartheid leaders like Nelson Mandela. The Du Bois lecture in the fall of 2014, organized by Professor Jonathan Hyslop, was delivered by Robert Trent Vinson on the connections between W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Garvey, and South African activists of the early twentieth century. Events such as this allow all our ALST students, whether they are concentrating in African American, African, Caribbean, or Latin American Studies, to see the intellectual connections within and across the global African Diaspora and the world created by European colonialism in both hemispheres. All these events bring home to me, usually focused on my own little corner of African Studies, how interconnected all of our programs really are; how much it still makes sense to organize the curriculum as we do. It is with great excitement that I look forward to taking a new extended study group to South Africa in just a few weeks, but I will never look at this program as just for “African Studies” again.

This issue of The Point celebrates our students, especially seniors. Our majors and minors have achieved recognition and acclaim within the program and in the larger Colgate community, and a number of students who are “friends” of ALST (if not formally our majors and minors) have contributed their talents, friendship, and intellectual power to our many endeavors, from Model African Union to participation in a newly translated play from Martinique. One example is Gloria Keibirungi, a Political Science major who won the prestigious “Outstanding Chair” Award at this year’s Model African Union simulation (see right). No matter how many students formally sign up as majors and minors, we in ALST know we are serving a wide segment of the Colgate population through our programming, courses, and associated activities.

We on the faculty and staff are grateful to all our students for your energy, your passion, and your commitment to putting what you have learned in the classroom into practice in the wider world. We will miss you as you move on with your lives, but we celebrate your accomplishments, we cheer your brilliant futures, and we wish you well in all you do! Please keep in touch with us, and help us continue to make the ALST program stronger and better. In the following articles, my colleagues Rhonda Levine and Fred Luciani profile two ALST students who have made a significant impact on Colgate.

Mary Moran
Professor of Anthropology and Africana & Latin American Studies
Interim Director of the Africana & Latin American Studies Program
Congratulations to Kori Strother, ’15, Africana and Latin American Studies major with an emphasis in African American Studies, recipient of Colgate’s 1819 Award, the highest student honor granted by the university. The 1819 Award is given annually to one student representing character, sportsmanship, scholarship, and service above and beyond their peers. Kori is also a co-recipient of the Arthur Schomburg Award for Excellence in Africana Studies.

Kori’s sportsmanship is evidenced by her being captain on Colgate’s Division I women’s track team and co-vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Her service to Colgate ranges from working as a community leader in residential life, to being an intern in the Office of LGBTQ Life and most notably as one of the leaders of the 100-hour sit-in at James B. Colgate Hall, calling for a more inclusive campus united against racial intolerance.

Kori’s scholarship is most impressive. A Dean’s Award winner and member of the Raider Academic Honor roll, she was a 2013 summer fellow with the Colgate Upstate Institute and a 2014 Lampert Institute fellow. It is perhaps her independent research that culminated in her High Honors Thesis that is her most significant scholarly accomplishment to date. Her thesis, “Bridge to Nowhere: A Study of the Role of Bridge Programs in the Transition to College of Under-Represented Students” acknowledges how research shows that under-represented students, such as racial-ethnic minority and low-income students, typically have less positive social and academic experiences at predominantly white, selective colleges in comparison to white students, and then examines how remediation programs and institutional culture impact the academic and social success of under-represented students. Her research also investigated if there was a disconnect between the intent of bridge programs and how the program participants are perceiving and experiencing the program.

Looking through the lens of Colgate University, Kori’s findings, based on interviews with first year students, both OUS and non-OUS, suggest that while bridge programs such as the Summer Institute and the OUS program at Colgate have proven to be a good source of social and academic support for students both during the program and also by continuing to provide support for the participants throughout their first year at Colgate, OUS is not the sole source of support for students, nor is it the main determining factor driving students academic and social experiences. Here is where there may be a disconnect between the intent of the program and what the student’s claim the main factor influencing their academic and social success is. Kori’s interviews suggest that one of the largest contributing factors to the students’ academic success is the preparation that they receive in high school. Kori concludes that although bridge programs are still necessary at predominantly white, affluent schools like Colgate, further research needs to be done to assess the impact of bridge programs and whether they should be primarily “scholar” programs that are mostly a source of social support for under-represented students, or programs of “remediation” that are primarily a source of academic support.

Kori’s research on bridge programs and its implications, along with her activism for a more racially inclusive Colgate, will no doubt have a lasting impact. Kudos to Kori!

Rhonda Levine
Professor of Sociology

The faculty of the ALST Program are enormously proud of Latin American Studies concentrator Susie Meyer (’15) who will head off to Mexico in the fall with a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Susie’s abiding fascination with Latin America is reflected in her life, travel and volunteer experiences, including as a teacher of English in a primarily indigenous community in rural Oaxaca and as an intern with the Garces Foundation through which she taught English as a second language in the Mexican community in her native Philadelphia. Susie honed her linguistic skills and expanded her cultural vision through participation in Colgate’s Madrid Study Group in her junior fall. Even in Spain, her interest in Latin America found expression in the research she conducted there on Ecuadorian immigrant communities in Madrid. Susie has also been a varsity athlete at Colgate, and her Fulbright project in Mexico will integrate athletics and team-building exercises with the teaching of English.

Susie’s own words capture best what being a Latin American Studies concentrator has meant to her: “As a concentrator in ALST, I was able to explore a wide range of topics throughout various disciplines. It was great to be able to take classes in a variety of departments because not only did this offer a variety of perspectives and frameworks through which I could develop an understanding of Latin America, but it also gave me the opportunity to engage with a diverse group of faculty and students. These courses provided me with opportunities to explore histories of race and ethnicity in Latin America, to discuss politics of sexuality and crime in contemporary literature and other narratives, and to apply development theories to the current economic situation in Latin America. The program challenged me to discuss topics in disciplines where I may not have always felt the most comfortable, but that eventually provided me with a broader and more complex understanding of Latin America. I am very grateful for the support of such passionate faculty and the friendship of fellow concentrators and classmates for allowing me to have such a positive experience in this concentration, an experience that has prepared me well for future work in Latin America and with Latino communities at home.”

We wish Susie well as she embarks upon her Fulbright experience, and as she furthers her long-term plans to study immigration reform and policy and eventually to work for an organization that provides services to unauthorized immigrants. Susie’s professors and fellow students in ALST courses have benefitted from her generous spirit and moral vision and she will be missed.

Fred Luciani
Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and Latin American Studies
Salote Tenisi ‘15  
Double Major: Asian Studies  
Africana & Latin American Studies  
[African American Studies]

Some of my favorite moments at Colgate have been....  
Every time Brian Moore calls me 'Tenisi' - it makes me smile.  
Also seeing Kezia Page, anywhere :) brightens my day.

My future plan is...  
I want to be a Documentary Film Maker.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...  
Sisters of the Round Table (SORT), Black Student Union (BSU), Hawaii Club, Dance at Colgate (LAD, CSA, Tahitian, DDT),  
OUS Scholar, Communications Intern - Video Journalist

My experience on the extended study through ALST to South Africa in Spring 2014...  
South Africa challenged me as a human being. I had to recognize things that I did not want to recognize before. It was hard, but I am thankful that I was given the opportunity to go.

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Greg White ‘15  
Major: Political Science  
Minor: Africana & Latin American Studies  
[African Studies]

Some of my favorite moments at Colgate have been....  
All three years that I participated in Model African Union.

My future plan is...  

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...  
Brothers, African Student Union (ASU), Black Student Union (BSU), Video Coordinator for the Colgate Football Team

My experience in Model African Union...  
I have had a wonderful experience with Model African Union; not only do you get to go to DC for a week, but you are also immerse yourself in African politics. There are debates about semantics and conversations about problems affecting Africa right now. Not only do we get to experience DC from a government standpoint with meetings and visits to embassies and the African Union, but we also have time to explore the city. MAU is a place to learn, it tests your character of whether you can represent something bigger than yourself.
Victoria Linney  ‘15  
Double Major: Political Science  
Africana & Latin American Studies  
[African American Studies]

Victoria has been awarded the Arthur Schomburg Award for Excellence in Africana Studies.

One of my favorite moments at Colgate was...
When one of my older professors did a star jump in the middle of class. I had no idea why he did that, but I laughed for a good five minutes afterwards. He really made my day.

My future plan is....
Attending law school at the University of Richmond in the fall. So long term I would say lawyer.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...
Black Student Union (BSU), Tri Delta, Student Government Association (SGA) and SGA Elections Commissioner, Dance Groups—Kuumba and Belly dancing

Susie Meyer  ‘15  
Double Major: Geography  
Africana & Latin American Studies  
[Latin American Studies]

Susie has been awarded a 2015 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Mexico.

Some of my favorite moments at Colgate have been....
Whenever the crew team sends off a boat at the start of a race the girls on land sing the Colgate fight song as the boat begins to warm up. It’s a team tradition and a great way to get pumped up before a race and foster some ‘gate pride!
“Ohhh We will fight fight fight for dear old Colgate” Come to a race to hear the rest!

My future plan is...
There’s a lot of travel on the horizon for me! I will be going on the Western Australia extended study for three weeks with Professor Burnett and Professor Kraly right after graduation. Then in August I will be going to Mexico for 9 months on a Fulbright ETA grant.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...
I founded the crossword puzzle club my freshman year. Sophomore year I joined the Women’s Crew team. I am also a member of Delta Delta Delta and have participated in a few dance groups.
Muturi Njeri ‘15  
Major: Psychology  
Minor: Africana & Latin American Studies  
[African Studies]

Muturi has been awarded the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Award-2014-2015. He has also been awarded the Joseph and Carol Trimmer Awards in Writing and Rhetoric.

Some of my favorite moments at Colgate have been....
It's hard to pick one because I have a lot. I really enjoyed Model African Union because we got so into it and sometimes we would be speaking diplomatically even when talking about food. It was also a great bonding and learning experience.

My future plan is...
I am interested in writing and entrepreneurship on the African continent. As such, in ten years I see myself working on a second book and running a business that empowers a good number of people in our continent.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...
I was happily involved in our African Students Union family over my four years, one of them as the President of the club. I was also a DJ 254 in WRCU FM where I blasted some heavy African chuuunes (misspelling intended) and gave lots of shout-outs alongside my dream team composed of DJ GK, DJ Antenna, DJ Freshprince Vic, DJ Dorobucci, DJ Eskaleni and DJ Izzie. I was also part of the Entrepreneurship Club at some points, as well as the ITS service team.

My experience studying abroad through ALST in Jamaica Spring 2015...
Well, the weather would be an obvious topic but I'll leave the cliche to tourist brochures. Jamaica has been a trans-formative experience for me. When you study the history of Jamaica and see the spirit of Afro-centric resistance embedded in groups such as the Maroons or the Rastafari, and not just in class but also in interacting with them in their own spaces, you learn to stand up for what you believe is right for you and others. You learn to treasure what is yours even though theories may have been spun for centuries to denigrate it. In addition, travelling around the island and learning a bit of patois has made it quite a worthwhile experience. Furthermore, I got to enjoy literature of not just Jamaica but the entire Caribbean in my West Indian Novel and Jamaican classes. And to top if off, I got to hang out with my good buddies Barack Obama and Usain Bolt!
Aja Isler ’15
Major: Educational Studies
Minor: Africana & Latin American Studies
[African American Studies]

Aja has been awarded the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Award-2014-2015

Some of my favorite moments at Colgate have been....
Going to NYCoRe and the White Privilege Conference with other Colgate students and really getting to know each other through discussing those topics. Another favorite moment was shooting off fireworks on the beach of the East Sea with my South Korea study group.

My future plan is...
After college I will be a Corps Member for City Year Boston. In the long run, I will be a social activist for life! Reforming the educational system and working to build positive Black identity in the Black community.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...
President of Black Student Union (BSU), Sisters of the Round Table (SORT), Anti Racism Coalition (ARC), Ambassador for the ALANA Cultural Center, Residential Community Leader

Jamie Newsome ‘15
Double Major: Sociology
Africana & Latin American Studies
[Latin American Studies]

Some of my favorite moments at Colgate have been....
All of my favorite moments at Colgate happen in the Mailroom. They’re some of my favorite people on campus, always making me laugh. And they keep me sane.

My future plan is...
My most important plan after Colgate is to adopt a dog. That’s the number one priority. After that, I’d like to take a year off before going to graduate school for social work.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...
Mail room, Club Ice Hockey, La Casa, Hamilton Central Tutoring, LASO, HRC, Friendship Inn
Kori Strother ‘15
Major: Africana & Latin American Studies
[African American Studies]
Minor: Environmental Studies

Kori has been awarded the Arthur Schomburg Award for Excellence in Africana Studies.
Kori has also been awarded Colgate’s 1819 Award, the highest student honor granted by the university.

Some of my favorite moments at Colgate have been....
I do not think I have any particular favorite moments, but some of the best moments at Colgate have been when I have presented my research on The Role of Bridge Programs in the Social and Academic Transition to College of Underrepresented Students. This research was rooted in my desire to ensure that all underrepresented students have the necessary academic and social resources to feel integrated, loved, and able to persevere on campuses like Colgate. It was in these movements that I presented my work on this that I felt like I had agency, like I was smart, and actually had something to offer to this world. I felt empowered and like I had finally gotten what I was supposed to out of my Colgate education. In these moments I found my purpose, my voice, and most importantly I found myself.

My future plan is...
Phd in Sociology, then start an institution of higher education founded on LOVE.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...
Colgate Women’s Track and Field (Captain, Jumper, Sprinter), LGBTQ Initiatives Intern, Association of Critical Collegians (ACC) Co-Founder and Core Member, Co-Vice President of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, Residential Life Community Leader, SORT member

Stefan Oliva ‘15
Double Major: International Relations
Africana & Latin American Studies
[African Studies]

One of my favorite moments at Colgate was....
While abroad, Professor Douglas took me into a salt mine in Austria.

My future plan is...
To continue studying and working with developmental economics in Africa and the Middle East.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...
Varsity Men's Cross Country, Track and Field, Model African Union (MAU), Student Government Association, The 'Do Kindness Everywhere' Society
Whitney Robins  
Double Major: English  
Africana & Latin American Studies  
[Caribbean Studies]

Some of my favorite moments at Colgate have been....  
The recent moments and conversations of solidarity and love among students of color. Also when Professor Kiese Laymon of Vassar College came to give a reading and lecture. That lecture and his later return for a more intimate conversation with a group of students has encouraged great conversation and changes surrounding this community I am apart of and passionate about.

My future plan is...  
Lets go with English Professor... maybe? I don’t know what I wanna be when I grow up.

Throughout my time here at Colgate I have been involved with...  
Member of Sisters of the Round Table (SORT), LGBTQ Initiatives Intern (3 years), Model African Union (MAU)

My experience studying abroad through ALST in Jamaica Spring 2013...  
My experience while abroad in Jamaica is beyond words. It was such an amazing experience; its one thing to learn about a place through books, but to learn about it while actually being there was ideal! As a Caribbean Studies major, it was such a pleasure to be able to meet some writers of some of the novels and works that I had been reading. We did a lot of traveling, and got to see so many amazingly beautiful and historical places. I fell in love with Jamaica, and try to go back as often as I can. It was an experience that I’ll cherish forever!
Learn About the Africana & Latin American Studies Program

Are you interested in learning about the histories, cultures, environments, and politics of African, African American, Caribbean, or Latin American peoples?

Do you find yourself using words like “intersectionality,” “privilege,” and “diaspora” in your daily life?

Do you frequent websites like BlackGirlDangerous, Colorlines, and Upworthy?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you should consider a concentration in ALST

If you have taken any of the following classes...

- Any CORE Cultures/Identities focused on the Africa, the Caribbean, or Latin America, including:
  - Core South Africa
  - Core Caribbean
  - Core Mexico
  - Core Sahara
  - Core Peru
  - Core Brazil
  - Core Rwanda
  - Core Ethiopia
  - Core West Africa
  - Core Africa
  - And many others!

- The Black Diaspora
- Advanced Spanish courses
- Environmental Justice
- Economic Development
- New York City History
- The History of Jazz
- Power, Racism, and Privilege
- Another class in which you talk about Africa, African American culture, the Caribbean, or Latin American

... then you are well on your way to becoming an ALST major or minor!
## Concentration Requirements

### MAJOR (9 courses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>African Studies</th>
<th>African American Studies</th>
<th>Caribbean Studies</th>
<th>Latin American Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALST 220–The Black Diaspora</td>
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### MINOR (6 courses)

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**Honors:** The semester before you enroll for honors project, you need to discuss your project with the director of ALST, write a proposal, and contact a faculty member who would advise you in your project (and become your adviser). You also need to find a second reader for your honors thesis. In the semester you are working on your honors thesis, you need to enroll in an independent studies class (ALST 499) with your project adviser.

**Contact:** ALST Program Assistant Anneliese Gretsch in Alumni 218 or at agrets@colgate.edu for more information!
## African Studies

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>Moran M.</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>African Art</td>
<td>Lorenz C.</td>
<td>MW</td>
<td>1120</td>
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<td>Photography—Anthropology &amp; Archeology</td>
<td>Sheperd N.</td>
<td>MW</td>
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<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>Mandle J.</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<td>French Lit IV: Francophone World</td>
<td>Julien H.</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<td>Monk D.</td>
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<td>Medical Geography &amp; Disease Ecology</td>
<td>Kraly E.</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<td>Somalia: Independence to Collapse</td>
<td>Etefa T.</td>
<td>MWF</td>
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<td>Darfur in Historical Perspective</td>
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<td>Elementary Arabic</td>
<td>Abdal-Ghaffar N.</td>
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<td>Religion, War, Peace, Reconciliation</td>
<td>Sindima H.</td>
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<td>1020</td>
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<td>Christianity, Islam Political Change Africa</td>
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<td>MWF</td>
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## Caribbean Studies

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<td>Caribbean Conquest/Colonialism</td>
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### Latin American Studies

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### African American Studies

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These are just a few of the posters from events the Africana & Latin American Studies Program and their affiliated groups, programs, and departments put on this Spring.