



CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE

Save the date!

February:
Molly Hayward '10
visits campus to talk
about reproductive
justice and social
entrepreneurship

April 5:
PICA Class of 2013
Conference and
Banquet

April 27:
7th Annual Walk
for the Homeless

May 17:
PICA Certificate
Ceremony

Woman for woman, month for month

By Molly Hayward, CC'10



Molly Hayward, PICA class of 2010, majored in Government, minored in Philosophy and received her certification through the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy. After receiving her bachelor's degree, Molly launched an environmentally sustainable/ethically produced clothing line with a designer in London. Recently, she became the Founder of Cora, a global movement for women's health and empowerment. Cora delivers safe, healthy organic menstrual management and wellness products to women monthly by mail. For every monthly order that Cora ships, the revenue provides a month's supply of sustainable sanitary pads to a girl in a developing country. Cora's support allows for young girls to stay in school, play with their friends, and be radiant every day of the month. Hayward believes the purpose of community action is: 1) to share with those around us. 2) lighten the burdens and contribute to the wellbeing of those in need, and 3) leverage advantages and privileges in order to rectify inequalities.



Through PICA, Molly was able to explore the issues that resonated with her

basic humanity and experiment with doing the type of work that stimulated her intellectually. Molly had several things she liked about being part of PICA such as volunteering at a shelter in New London, Connecticut; learning from world leaders in Geneva, Switzerland and interning at a development organization in Brisbane, Australia. All of those experiences contributed to her life after graduation. As an alumna, Molly's advice to current students is to make it a priority to see the world, however you can; take the time to identify the things that ignite your passion and make you happy; fight relentlessly to do them every day, even if it means breaking from convention and forging your own path. Never let fear or dogma discourage you from doing what you feel you are meant to do. If you would like to learn more about Molly Hayward and her wonderful work, please visit the Cora website at www.corawomen.com. She will be on campus during V-Week in February to discuss her project in-depth.

Other and Self

By Kaitlin Fung '14



As a Senior Studio Art and Psychology double major, Kaitlin's interest in using psychosocial concepts in her art is not only evident but integral to her process. A series of drip paintings on linens and canvases has recently received a lot of publicity, because of her use of menstrual fluids as material. Kaitlin's inter-

est in using menstrual fluids in art stemmed from a conceptual art project defining "battery," where she used her menstrual fluids to fertilize a set of plants. Fung started to think about cycles and repurposing the fluids. With guidance from Dr. Chrisler in the psychology department, she became interested in attitudes toward menstruation and exploring the ties between her academic interests and artistic pursuits. The Holleran Center Program encourages Kaitlin to channel her concepts and ideas in a constructive and activist approach through art. Presenting menstrual drippings as art and seeing life as a work of art in progress could add to the dialogue about the universality of art and experience. Kaitlin thinks it is incredibly damaging when we do not talk about things, especially regarding our bodies. Silence tends to foster fear and she wants people to talk about not only menstruation but about all kinds of issues surrounding the body that we tend to stray away from. Those topics include masturbation, sex, and hair. One goal about being more open about menstruation is cultivating healthy embodiment and a mindful space where people feel a sense of validation about their experiences. Currently, Fung is working on an art honors thesis and exploring the physical and psychological spaces where we find and create boundaries between Self and Other. Much of her work draws back to the body as a medium through which we experience everything. Her process consists of direct engagement with evidence, traces, and residue of the body as well as with presence and intimacy. As a result, her work opens up the conversation for people to think of themselves and their bodies, what is considered abject or repulsive about the body, and why. Why is that we so quickly discard things that were once a part of us? Consciously or not, we distance ourselves from bodily fluids, body parts, bodies, people, ideas, both physically and psychologically. Kaitlin is interested in how to use art to communicate these introspective and personal investigations with the Other both without and within Self.

PICA student activist portrays women through positive lenses

by Alia Roth '14



The 100 Men Rise for V-Day campaign was by far the biggest project Alia undertook this semester. Saturday November 2, she had the honor of speaking at the Harvard University Conference: Speak Up To Take Rape

Culture Down, about the importance of engaging young men in the feminist movement in order to change the rape culture on campuses. Roth is now consulting with student organizers across the country to discuss new initiatives to engage young men on a national level.

Alia is also working on an Independent Study in the Government Department where she is examining the school to prison pipeline as it pertains to youth with special needs

Producing *The Vagina Monologues* is definitely a full time job for Roth. She is working really hard to encourage new groups of students to get involved in this movement or attend the show. Alia is actually thrilled about a project that she will be beginning in the spring semester with Professor Jaffe from the Theater Department. She will examine gender, politics and activism through art. Alia plans to produce a photography campaign as well as another video campaign after the production of *The Vagina Monologues*!

Eventually, Roth hopes to attend law school and continue working as an advocate for women and children; and hopefully spend some time in public defense. Ultimately, she would like to work on initiatives that defend child survivors of physical and sexual abuse who have also been incarcerated. Alia envisions developing educational programs for these incarcerated kids so that through arts, writing workshops, performances, and other artistic outlets, they can find their voice and their own sense of healing.

Sophomore year in PICA had a tremendous impact on the work she is doing. She had a leadership position on the fundraising com-

mittee for the Walk for The Homeless which completely shaped how she organizes and runs events.

Alia also appreciated the grant writing workshops that Dean Tracee Reiser ran in the junior seminar class. Grant writing has become such an integral skill in almost every profession. The fundamental skills that Tracee taught them were crucial in the success of her internship at the Children's Defense Fund, as well as being awarded the Gail Burns-Smith "Dare to Dream" award by Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. (CONNSACS).

Roth cannot emphasize how much being a part of the PICA community has impacted her college experience, her academic work, her advocacy work and her perspectives on almost everything. It is so rare that a group of students are brought together through their joint passion for social justice and action. PICA not only provides them with the tools to delve deeper into their particular projects, but offers a platform to educate her peers and communities on issues that they are committed to working on.

Interfaith Youth Conference

By Andrea Levinsky '15

On November 25th, 2013, fifteen local 8-12th grade students participated in an Interfaith Youth Conference planned by Andrea Levinsky '15 for her Junior Holleran Center PICA seminar project and overseen by Aracelis Vasquez-Haye. The Social Entrepreneurship Initiative grant from the Holleran Center provided the resources to hold this conference. The participants were joined by nine Connecticut College students who conducted presentations on Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. The theme of the conference was inspired by President Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge for college campuses and their surrounding communities to engage in interfaith service collaborations. The idea is that people from the three Abrahamic faiths are more similar than different, and they can work together to create change. The conference was modeled after the World of Difference Institute from the Anti-Defamation League.

The day started out with some ice breakers and an introduction to why interfaith work is important. Next, Jessica Weldon '15 and Olivia Villalon-Iglesias '14 presented the fundamentals of Christianity with emphasis on Catholicism and Quakerism. Lamyia Khandaker '17, Mohammad Khan '17

and Saad Haider '17 presented on the basics of Islam. Following the presentation, the participants were treated to lunch in Harris. After lunch Joanna Marks '16 and Toby Blumberg '16 presented on Judaism. Next Leela Riesz '16 and Andrea Levinsky '15 facilitated a discussion about how to use what they had learned in order to create change. They showed the participants how to combat the Pyramid of Hate with the Pyramid of Alliance. The day ended with action planning about what the students want to do with their new knowledge. This conference was only the start of a New London interfaith dialogue. The participants will continue the conversation over the next year and engage in service projects to make a difference in their local communities based on the interests of the participants. The students were very engaged and asked very meaningful and interesting questions of the presenters. They left inspired to create change and wanting more information!



Holleran Center Staff

Jennifer Fredricks, Director and Associate Professor of Human Development

Tracee Reiser, Associate Director and Associate Dean for Community Learning

Rebecca McCue, Associate Director

Diana Whitelaw, Associate Director

Penney Jade Beaubrun '11, Assistant Director for Alumni Development and Publications

Kiesha Henry, Administrative Staff

Ariella Rotramel, Gateway Course Instructor and Professor of Gender and Women's Studies

Aracelis Vazquez-Haye, Junior Seminar Instructor

This edition of HC In Action was edited by the Holleran Center Assistant Director for Alumni Development and Publications

Penney Jade Beaubrun '11