

My NCORE trip was a unique opportunity to talk to and hear from people in higher education from around the country, and of course, to explore the West Coast culture. A lot of the people I encountered during my workshops were from large universities where there is a distinct separation between disciplines. It helped me appreciate the opportunities that I get at Muhlenberg to further explore not only my major and minor, but also, my other interests.

One of the most salient workshops I went to was a talk titled "Breaking Down the Glass Walls of Racism, Sexism and Homophobia in Higher Education," which was based on Dr. Mary Yu Danico's forthcoming book, *Transforming the Ivory Tower: Challenging Racism, Sexism, and Homophobia in Higher Education*. She discussed how various multicultural organizations can be divided and pitted against each other. It reminded me of something I read by Angela Davis in my Philosophy of Feminism class. The reading was about how the women (White women) and Black (men) suffragists were ultimately pitted against each other. I hope that the different multicultural organizations on campus can find a way to support each other and ideally put on events together. Some members of the NCORE team discussed having a potluck in the Multicultural Center as a way to bring all of the organizations together.

Although there is a sense of community within the Multicultural Center on our campus, I worry that there isn't enough interaction between the organizations. Dr. Danico offered a few suggestions as to how to break down the glass walls between the different groups. She spoke about the importance of putting theoretical understandings into practice by engaging in face to face dialogue. Although she recognizes the importance of having a safe space, she also addressed the problem of having the same conversations with the same people: no progress is made within the larger community. She encouraged students to be more active throughout the community by building coalitions and organizing workshops on multicultural issues. Dr. Danico emphasized the importance of having more aware people in the pipeline. I hope that when we return to Muhlenberg next semester, the NCORE team can collaborate with faculty, staff, and students to organize a workshop to educate and inform our community.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know Muhlenberg's NCORE team. I was familiar with a few of the students, but I don't think that I would have ever gotten to know them past a friendly smile if not for NCORE. We represented different class years, organizations, races, and ethnicities. It is really easy to get stuck in our own pockets on campus, but we were really able to offer each other new perspectives of life at Muhlenberg. We also were fortunate enough to get to know the faculty and staff on the trip. Again, I had worked with some of them prior to our experience at NCORE, but getting to know them through NCORE was a truly unique experience. I have no doubt that our NCORE team can work to each other's strengths when we get back to campus.