DANA Scholars

Class of 2010

Christopher Alvaro
Rachel Ammerman
Joseph Armenti
Matthew Balaban
Kelly Butler
Cecilia de Souza
Ian Dworkin
Sarah Evans
Amber Gray
Emily Harris
Rebecca Haverson
Tyler Huffman
Justine Ide
Sarah Illing
Lauren Jensen
Trisha Kadakia
Alison Long
Heather Mill
Emily Morse
Sarah Rosenthal
Anna Stressenger
Jessica Walch
Meghan Wilson

Monday, April 26, 2010 — Seegers Union, room 113
Tuesday, April 27, 2010 — Seegers Union, room 112

Muhlenberg College
One of the fundamental goals of the DANA Scholars program is to “help outstanding students relate their education to the world beyond college.” Furthermore, through a sequence of academic experiences, DANA scholars will have many opportunities to explore their beliefs about “learning, work, community life, and personal responsibility.” In keeping with these goals, the DANA forum will provide students with an avenue to explore ideas in greater depth and to make meaningful connections between their academic experiences and the world around them. The DANA forum is intended to serve as a culminating experience that fosters a greater sense of community among DANA scholars and enriches the intellectual climate on campus.

In the Forum, students in teams of two or three research a topic related to the College’s Center for Ethics theme (this year it is “Ethics of Space/Power of Place”). The Dana Forum is completed during the spring semester of the Dana Scholar's senior year. Each team works with one or two faculty members much in the same way that students currently work on their mentorships. The specific nature of each team’s project depends on the students’ background, interests, and goals. Because of the goals of the DANA program, projects that also serve the community (e.g., needs assessment for local agency) are strongly encouraged.
**Event Schedule**

**April 27**  
**8:20 P.M.**

**DESCRIPTION**

**Between the Rock and a hard place: Ethics of Space in the Old City of Jerusalem**

Our study is an in depth analysis of the old city of Jerusalem pertaining to the ethics of space. We begin by looking at the breakdown of the city’s history between neighboring communities (Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Armenian), religious sites, and political influence on space, before inviting an additional layer of complexity to our analysis by incorporating the concept of identity. In order to better understand many of the dynamics of the city space, Jerusalem can be utilized as a case study in expanding on the complexities of contested and sacred space. By relating Jerusalem to other cities with deeply rooted identities, there emerge certain distinctions regarding this “holy city” and questions of who feels a connection to the space and for what reasons.

**Center for Ethics**

Space. We know it when we see it—or so we think. There are the physical spaces we inhabit, like our homes, dorm rooms, classrooms, workplaces, sidewalks and streets. We experience them everyday. But how often do we acknowledge these spaces as bounded entities shaped by the constraints of culture and race, class and gender, economics and politics, ideology and style? And how often do we recognize them as components of the real and metaphoric local, state, national, and global communities that surround them? Then, too, we also talk ofouterspace, cyberspace, and virtual space. These common terms denoting the unbounded, even limitless, distances in-between bodies express the abstract nature of space, while hinting at the scientific and technological tools used to measure or create them. Space, in short, is a complex concept that raises myriad ethical questions. What is space? How do we measure it? What boundaries delineate it? Who or what regulates it and who has access to it? How is it contested? This year-long programming series will foreground Muhlenberg College as an experimental space through which students, faculty, staff, and community members will engage these questions.
**Schedule of Events**

**Monday, April 26**  
Opening Remarks and Welcome to the Forum  
(Hors D’Oeuvres Served)  
Dr. Jack Gambino, Forum Director

6:15 p.m.  
*Puerto Rican Identity in a City*  
Rachel Ammerman, Ian Dworkin, Emily Harris, Tyler Huffman

6:55 p.m.  
*Washington D.C.: Reflecting an American Identity*  
Sarah Evans, Lauren Jensen, Jessica Walch

7:35 p.m.  
*Putting Up a Front? Exploring Cultural Authenticity in Diasporic Space*  
Christopher Alvarro, Cecelia de Souza, Trisha Kadakia, Meghan Wilson

8:15 p.m.  
*Environmental Justice*  
Sarah Illing, Alison Long, Anna Stressenger

**Event Schedule**

**April 27**  
7:40 P.M.  
*The Global City: Negotiating the Identity of Mumbai*

**Presenters**  
Joseph Armenti  
Matthew Balaban  
Amber Gray  
Rebecca Haverson

**Mentor**  
Professor Janine Chi

This paper examines the identity of “the global city” using Mumbai, India as a case study. Due to the globalization phenomenon, Mumbai has a new international dimension that must be negotiated with a national as well as a local identity. This negotiation adds complexity to the meaning of Mumbai for city dwellers, Indian nationals, non-residential Indians and the global community. This paper begins with an analysis of how Mumbai is represented on three distinct levels: the international, national, and local. At first, these levels appear independent of each other, operating within the context of their own parameters, but further scrutiny reveals a different picture. In fact, these levels of representation are not static, fixed, or entirely separate from one another, but rather they fluctuate, intersect, and form not one, but many complicated representations of Mumbai. Such representations are embodied in Bollywood, the slums, government policies, economic interests and many other aspects of Mumbai. These different representations flow together, creating a dynamic city space.
Event Schedule

April 27
7:00 P.M.

DESCRIPTION

Sacred Spaces in the City of Allentown: Bearing the Collective Memory

Presenters
Heather Mill
Emily Morse

Mentor
Reverend Peter Bredlau

Judeo-Christian religion in downtown Allentown exists in a state of flux as the changing population transforms the city and the congregations must adapt to survive. There is a tension between religious communities and resistance to change and the necessity of adaptation to endure into the future. Communities must bear the collective memory, which is interrupted with the transformation of sacred space.
Puerto Rican Identity in a City

By evaluating two unique Puerto Rican communities, Rincon, Puerto Rico and Allentown, Pennsylvania, this project analyzes how Puerto Ricans have used the physical space around them to create a strong ethnic identity and how this identity compares and contrasts with those in other communities. By looking at these two communities and how they have developed, this study creates a firm historical framework in order to give insight into the futures of not just the Puerto Rican communities in Allentown and Rincon, but the future of similar communities of people living in a space that is not necessarily their own.

Deconstructing “Natural” Disaster: Exploring Hurricane Katrina from a Race-Conscious Perspective

Although the disastrous impact of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans is widely understood as a “natural” disaster, we contend that the black population was disproportionately impacted due to preexisting socially constructed vulnerabilities. A number of social and psychological factors comprise these social vulnerabilities, including notions that racism is conscious and individually based, lack of access to social, political and economic resources, and historically racist policies that have forced the black population into racially segregated communities at lower elevations. We will investigate how the current national policy of “colorblindness,” as employed in response to the hurricane, has exacerbated preexisting racial inequalities. Finally, we will explore options for race-conscious policies as a means to counteract the historical legacy of structural racism and environmental injustice to the United States.
Putting Up a Front?: Exploring Cultural Authenticity in Diasporic Space

Large urban centers, such as New York City, attract various ethnic populations in a limited amount of physical space. Our group traveled to the urban diaspora communities of Jackson Heights and Chinatown in an effort to better understand how cultural authenticity and physical space are in constant dialogue with each other. What do we view as culturally authentic? How does performance of ethnicity shape cultural authenticity? What is the function of this performance and how does it construct and maintain the identity of a given diaspora?

Washington D.C.: Reflecting an American Identity

Washington D.C. was built to be the political and cultural heart of our nation. We intend to explore the ways in which the design of Washington, D.C. reflects and portrays an American identity. To do this, we will first analyze the original intentions that inspired the layout of this planned capital. We will then look at the construction of an American identity and how the notion of a national character has changed over time. Lastly, we intend to demonstrate the ways in which the American citizen of 2010 relates to the implied symbolism of a city that was built in 1791.