

DIVERSITY NEWS



THE DEFAMATION EXPERIENCE

A riveting courtroom drama that explores issues of race, religion, gender, class, and the law with a twist...

The Defamation Experience was a unique interactive diversity program that took place at the start of this school year. It was funded by a grant from the Nordson Corporation Foundation. The play explored the highly charged issues of race, religion, gender, class and the law with a twist: our students became the jury. Through deliberations and post-show discussions, our students and faculty engaged in civil discourse that challenged preconceived notions.

Playwright Todd Logan says, "Whether we like it or not, we still have major divides in this country. Most of us still go to bed at night in cities, communities and neighborhoods that are segregated by race, religion, ethnicity and/or class. I wanted to write a play that encourages open, honest conversation leading to greater understanding and empathy to combat today's prevailing trends."

Students and community members were compelled to grapple with both emotional and rational responses –learning about self and others in the dialogue. The conversation continued in the classroom through our Theology department.



Students making a difference

After the destructive path of Hurricane Maria through Puerto Rico, a few members of our student body and faculty had loved ones who were affected by the storm and in need of assistance. Rather than sit idly by, students from the Spanish and Latino Student Association (S.A.L.S.A), under the direction of Mrs. Fernanda Goldberg, led an effort to raise funds during the community period by selling Puerto Rican food and desserts. Everyday the menu featured empanadas and rice and other Latin cuisine.



DIVERSITY

Making our school a more **inclusive** place starts with you...



A Place Where All Can Flourish

Over the past year, the diversity department has been working with former student Max Peralta '17 on a series of artworks entitled, "Inclusion." The idea of inclusion came about through the diversity club wanting to highlight the diversity that is present within our school. St. Edward is not just a place to belong, but it is also a place to thrive—a place where every student can flourish. In the first installment, Max captures the many different colors that exist within our school. In painting number two, the inspiration came from Norman Rockwell's *The Golden Rule*, a piece that highlighted the fact that we are all one. Through our cultural, national, political, racial, ethnic and religious differences, we are all the same. In the same fashion Max captures the diversity and oneness that is present within Eds.

No Place For Hate

No Place for Hate is designed to create inclusive school communities by promoting unity and respect, and empowering schools to reduce bullying, name-calling and other expressions of bias. No Place for Hate offers schools the opportunity to be recognized for their staff development and student training related to bullying, harassment and discrimination. To be designated a No Place for Hate school, each student must have an opportunity to participate in three approved activities that address bias and bullying and involve discussion, active learning, and an action plan, and faculty must participate in diversity training. St. Edward is now in its second year of participating in the No Place for Hate program.





Town halls have become an excellent place for members of the St. Edward community to come together during the community period to discuss pertinent matters in our world and within our own community. One of our most recent town halls was on the power of words and censorship. Students were challenged to be mindful about the casual words they speak around school and the impact those words might have. Questions were raised on what should and should not be censored. One of the challenges that were given to our young men during the presentation was if they witness someone using the “N-word,” “fag,” or anything that is offensive, they have an opportunity to speak up.

The message of the presentation was a call for our young men to be allies and not bystanders. The challenge was for our students to have the courage to act by speaking up should they hear things that might be offensive to other groups.

Cultural Understanding

Students in diversity club have been working on a project that will inform faculty and staff about what it is like to be the “other” at St. Edward. Students expressed a desire to connect more with their teachers and for the teachers to have a better understanding of the context that some students come from when they come to Eds. Students began to form a survey where they can express anonymously what their life is like on a day-to-day basis outside of Eds. The goal of this project is to gain a deeper cultural understanding of every student regardless of color, creed, or social-economic status.





STUDENTS VISIT ST. FRANCIS



SALSA AT LUIS MUNOZ MARIN

One of the goals of the diversity department has been to expand our outreach to different communities where there is little knowledge or awareness about the benefits of St. Edward education and the diversity that exist here. Part of that strategy has been to use current students of color as ambassadors who share their experiences at St. Edward with potential students from new school communities where we would like to strengthen our relationship. In partnership with the marketing department, the diversity department took students to St. Francis and Luis Munoz Marin for a day of service and outreach. By working with the principals at each of these schools, our students had the opportunity to visit classes, sit on discussion panels, and share with prospective students and teachers about why they chose Eds and the opportunities that exist.

Something special happens when future students can hear from current students about what life is like at a place like Eds. Some students had never heard of St. Edward nor did they think a place like St. Edward could be attainable. Teachers learned about the Cleveland Scholarship and other resources. Staff from both schools had the opportunity to visit our campus with a select group of their students as a follow up to our visit with them. In the coming future, more schools will be added as we continue to reach out to untapped markets.



ST. FRANCIS COMES TO EDS



LUIS MUNOZ MARIN VISITS EDS



ST. JOSEPH VISITS EDS

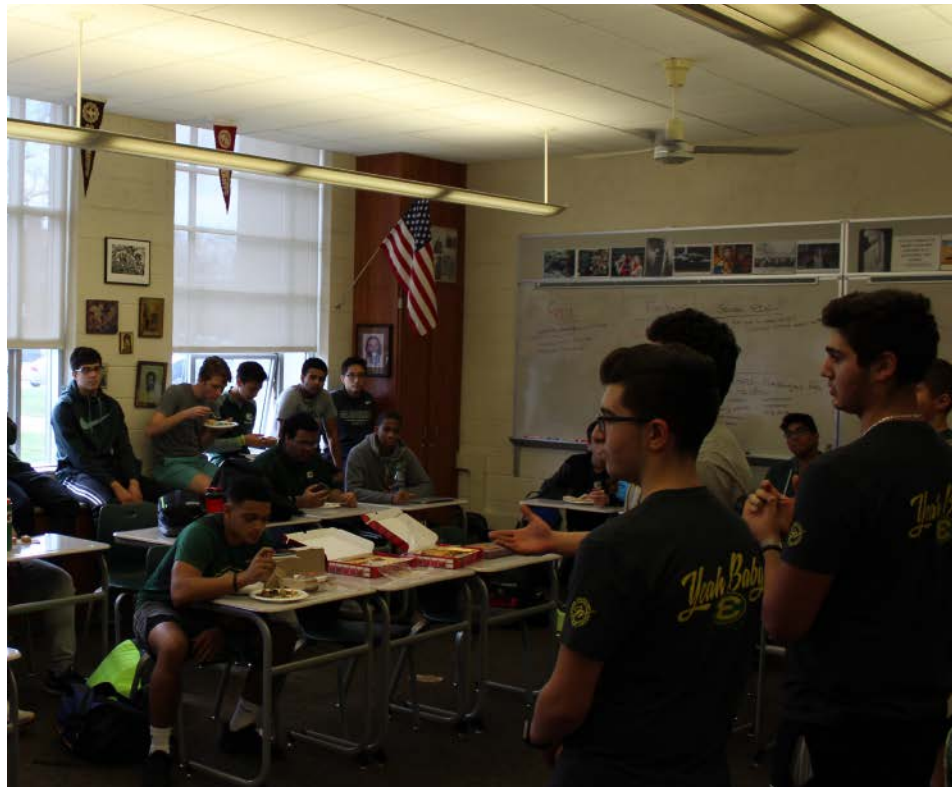
Students learning to Tango

Mrs. Fernanda Goldberg and Mrs. Martinez are finding creative ways to infuse Latino/a culture in practical ways especially through the form of dance into the St. Edward community. Students from St. Edward are learning salsa and other cultural dances alongside students from Saint Joseph Academy. Next month students in the Spanish department will be working with the diversity department on a town hall discussion about cultural appropriation.

Diverse Perspectives

The Muslim Student Association met to discuss Jesus in Scripture. Students looked at how Jesus was revealed in the Quran and compared how he was revealed in the Bible. Students went back and forth discussing their religious experiences and what this means in the context of a Catholic school. Mr. Chris Merriman, head of our Theology department provided oversight and gave students the Catholic Church's teaching and position on the role of scripture and how we are to live out our faith in a diverse and complex world.

One student shared how blessed and fortunate he is to be at a place like St. Eds, where he is embraced for the person he is, regardless of the color of his skin or his religious preference.



Giving Back

Members of the diversity club and the S.A.L.S.A group have been visiting Luis Munoz Marin School every month to reinforce some of the things they have been learning in their Spanish courses and to offer academic support to students needing help with their schoolwork.

Through this partnership, our students have received training through the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Cleveland on best strategies for mentoring and tutoring. This experience has been fantastic thus far as it has created an excitement and curiosity within Luis Munoz Marin as it is a bilingual Cleveland public school that has been untapped and is unfamiliar with the St. Edward community. It is our hope by continuing to serve this diverse community we will see some of their students matriculate to St. Edward.