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Zavaleta named Assistant Director of MED

Alumnus, cofounder of Soy un Lider, to join faculty in Spring 2015 semester

BY ZACHARY LINDSEY
STAFF WRITER

Irving Zavaleta '08 became the new assistant director of the Multicultural Educational Department starting the Spring 2015 semester. The MED primarily works with people of color and the LGBTQA communities and provides students with educational, cultural and spiritual support.

Zavaleta expressed utmost gratitude and euphoria at being back and a part of the Guilford community.

"It's a dream come true," said Zavaleta.

Zavaleta was the founder of Hispanos Unidos de Guilford, as well as cofounder of the Soy un Lider Conference, an annual conference held at Guilford for underprivileged Latino high school students. Before departing from Guilford, Zavaleta was also vice president of Guilford's anti-racism team and president of Community Senate.

Zavaleta wants students to be successful in the communities they serve after Guilford.

"Building community and reaching out to as many students as possible is a primary focus to the betterment of the multicultural education department," said Zavaleta. "I have desire and compassion for (not only) working with people but improving access to higher education for individuals of all ethnicities."

President of Community Senate and sophomore José Oliva expressed optimism for the MED and Guilford community.

"The MED being better staffed will be a positive asset for the Latino community on campus as well a better-equipped resource center for individuals of color," said Oliva.

"I hope I can be a positive figure for my students," said Zavaleta. "Students can persevere in life with large amounts of positivity."

Director for Educational Initiatives and Partnerships Jada Drew '07 states that one of the MED's goals is to serve the international student community better.

"I am excited that I get the opportunity to figure out how to make Guilford a better place when it comes to diversity and inclusion," said Drew.

In addition, Drew admires Zavaleta's wealth of knowledge when it comes to professional development and making sure that students do what they need to do to think about being successful.

"I think Irving is the perfect fit because he is very intentional about student development, and that's what made him stand out among the other candidates," said Drew.

Sophomore and secretary of HUG Jennifer Urdaneta, remarked that the MED is a positive environment for her to express her identity at Guilford.

"I've always had a great time at the MED," said Urdaneta. "I enjoy surrounding myself with likeminded individuals who are able to speak Spanish. I'm able to be myself. The MED is culturally understanding."

One of Zavaleta's long-term goals for the semester and years to come is working on the intersection of various issues and understanding individuals' perspectives.

"Creating a safe space for dialogues and conversations is key for me, so I want to contribute to the MED's development of making it a safe space for everyone on campus," said Zavaleta. "I'm ready to reach out to as many students as possible."



Irving Zavaleta '08 led a seminar on empowerment at Soy Un Lider in 2014.

**Multicultural Education
Department is located in
King Hall, room 127**

Students learn new skills at AVP workshop

BY ABE KENMORE
WORLD & NATION EDITOR

The two women co-facilitating the Alternatives to Violence Project workshop introduced themselves as "Natural" Nancy and "Angelic" Angeline. It was Jan. 16, a Friday evening, and a handful of students, alumni and others had gathered in the living room of Campbell House, clutching cups of tea.

The participants' first task was to choose an AVP name of their own, just as the facilitators had, by adding

a positive, alliterative adjective to their first name. This would be how they introduced themselves for the rest of the three-day retreat. Between selecting and remembering adjectives for everyone, the whole room was soon laughing.

"(AVP) offers an opportunity to meet new people and engage with them on a different level," said Kacey Minnick '13, one of the participants in the workshop. "It offers insight into how people perceive violence and nonviolence."

First held in 1975, AVP workshops were developed at the Green Haven Prison in New York, in response to the 1971 Attica Prison riot, which led to the death of several inmates and guards. Since then, it has spread to 35 states and 40 countries. While most of the programs in the U.S. are still held in prisons, there are numerous community workshops as well, both in the U.S. and around the world.

According to "Natural" Nancy Shippen, workshops have

been run for Christians and Muslims in Nigeria, Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda and even the Kenyan police force.

"It's a hugely powerful way to expand your knowledge and experience while learning some useful skills," said Shippen.

Phoebe Hogue-Rodley, sophomore and member of the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program, decided to bring this workshop to Guilford along with sophomore Eva Cosgrove, the Conflict Resolution Center and the peace and conflict studies department. She had done the workshop once before but wanted to revisit the training as

balance between discussion, activities and "light 'n' livelies," or icebreaker activities, to get people moving and give participants a break between heavy topics.

A major focus of the weekend was a series of role-plays, giving participants a chance to practice their conflict resolutions skills in various scenarios. Most of the incidents were relatively benign, like arguments with parents or neighbors. Others were more violent or dangerous. All were things that could conceivably happen.

There was also time for more positive conversations, including a time on Sunday to share something — a

poem, story, book or song — that gave the participants strength or encouragement. The "light 'n' livelies" got people out of the small living room and moving around while lunch gave people a less structured time to build community.

Hogue-Rodley hopes to have another workshop later this semester.

"It's a draining workshop ... and I'm working on ways to spread AVP out and get students the basic certification with maybe fewer hours," she said. "I'm hoping to make it an institution, like Understanding Racism."

Despite the long weekend, all participants interviewed afterwards had found something of value in the workshop.

"Everything ... was refreshing," said Jesse Garvin, a first-year at Guilford Technical Community College who also attended the workshop. "I learned a few things about myself. (I would recommend it) if for no other reason than the camaraderie."

“Doing the workshop for a second time affirmed my feeling that AVP is important ... and something we should be pursuing at this college as part of our mission statement.”

PHOEBE HOGUE-RODLEY, SOPHOMORE & QLSP MEMBER

a potential way to address injustice in the criminal justice system.

"Doing the workshop for a second time affirmed my feeling that AVP is important ... and something we should be pursuing at this college as part of our mission statement," said Hogue-Rodley.

The workshop is highly interactive and involves a