



# Across Cultures

NOTES FROM WESTMONT'S DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

ISSUE 17

SPRING 2008

## INTERNATIONAL ADVOCATE CALLS STUDENTS TO PRAY FOR PAPUA

by Cassie Joiner '10 and Natalie Reppa '11

*From the Horizon dated 1.29.08*

Students met with journalist and activist Octo Mote to discuss the injustices against West Papuans. Christians in America are less active when it comes to social problems, while the West Paupan church must rely on God for freedom against an oppressive government, said Octo Mote, an international journalist who spoke with students in the Monroe Dining Room on January 25.

Mote said the church in the United States “seems more disconnected from social problems than the church in [West] Papua ... because they witness daily the abuse, intimidation, and killing of the members of their congregations and they have to respond.”

Dr. Charles Farhadian, assistant professor of world religions and mission, facilitated an informal discussion with Octo Mote where half a dozen students heard about the largely-unknown human rights violations committed against West Papuans, such as poisoning, torture and the deliberate spreading of AIDS. The discussion took place just days before the death of Suharto, former Indonesian president and 32-year occupier of West Papua.

Among the discussion attendees was Santa Barbara local Craig Harris, whose short documentary “West Papua: Freedom to Choose” was shown at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival on Sunday. Mote worked as a journalist and activist when in West Papua but has had asylum in the United States since 1991. Until peace is reached in the area, Mote cannot return.

Dr. Farhadian, editor of “The Testimony Project: Papua,” which presents readers with stories from West Papuan Christian leaders about the realities of living in the hostile land, urged the church to recognize itself as “having a [meaningful] place in the world” that can get involved to make a difference. Since West Papuans are largely Christian, they suffer at the hands of Indonesian Islamic groups, including the military. As a minority group without a direct voice in this environment, West Papuans have experienced uncondemned brutality for any speech against the government or any sign of a desire for freedom, including Christian gatherings. As a result, Special Assistant to U.N. Secretary General Juan Mandez has named West Papuans among the people groups who will soon become extinct without international intervention. “They’re such devout Christians and they believe the Lord will one day give them freedom; their only power against the government is faith,” said Mote.

In the U.S., Mote continues to work toward a peace in West Papua with the Faith-Based Network on West Papua and now, with U.S. church and political leaders. Since international reporters and researchers have been banned from the region, much of the truth remains unknown, but Mote and Farhadian urge Christians here to raise awareness and promote education and action in their congregations and with their political leaders, but above all, to pray.

For more information on West Papua, see: <http://www.etan.org/issues/wpapua>.

Westmont strives to be a community informed and enriched by thoughtful and intentional study of and interaction with multiple cultures. As a liberal arts college rooted in Christ, we celebrate diversity as an aspect of God’s creation; we strive to create community out of rich diversity as an aspect of building God’s Kingdom in the world; we value the range of perspectives on the world that stimulates intellectual and personal growth; and we seek for faculty and staff to apprentice students in the art of dealing with diversity in constructive ways. It is an aim of Westmont to prepare graduates who will function intelligently, effectively and for the good of our increasingly intercultural world.

*From Long Range Plan Excerpts*

### FIRST-YEAR DIVERSITY SUMMARY AS OF APRIL 17, 2008

Applications from students of color for fall 2008 admission reached an all-time high, increasing from 448 last year to 693 this year. A similar trend also occurred in the number of admitted applicants, from 295 in 2007 to 344 in 2008. In admitted applicants there are significant increases among Hispanic and African-American students. Of the 344 admitted applicants, 218 (63 percent) are receiving academic scholarships. Eight of the 30 Monroe Scholarship applicants this year were students of color, one of whom was selected for the full-tuition scholarship.

*Continued under Summary, page 2*



## ARDÓN LECTURES ON FIVE MISSIONS IN MEXICO

in Querétaro, Mexico.” Father Junipero Serra and his fellow Franciscans set out to evangelize the semi-nomadic Indian tribes who lived in Querétaro in the 1750s as he did later in California. Within a few years, he established five missions in the area, now famous for their magnificently painted and sculpted facades.

Ardón has been a professor of Spanish as a second language and Latin American literature for more than 20 years in Mexico and the United States. She has taught students studying in the Westmont in Mexico program at the Interamerican University Studies Institute in Querétaro.

She has also written biographies of Mexican entrepreneurs Roberto Ruiz and Fernando Barba, a children’s book, “La pandilla de Miguel,” a novel, “Historias íntimas de la casa de Don Eulogio,” and the short-story compilation “El arzobispo de gorro azul.” One of her stories “It is Nothing of Mine,” translated by C.M. Mayo, was selected to appear in the anthology “Mexico: A Traveler’s Literary Companion,” published last year by Whereabouts Press.

The lecture included a slide presentation with photographs of the missions taken by Ardón and Professors Laura Montgomery and Mary Docter.

Visiting scholar Araceli Ardón delivered a lecture on five missions in the majestic mountains of northern Querétaro April 8th in Westmont’s Founders Room. The lecture’s focus was “The Missions of Father Serra

## WESTMONT AND BIOLA SCORR TOGETHER

by Kaitlin McDonald, ‘11

Friday, February 8, Elena Yee, director of Westmont Intercultural Programs took students to Biola University’s twelfth annual Student Conference on Racial Reconciliation. Both the speakers and the students traveled from all over the country to participate in the SCORR conference.

Friday night was met with an enthusiastic multicultural worship service. The evening began with praise songs in a blend of English and Spanish. The women of the Polynesian Ministry Team performed several traditional Polynesian dances while the men sang praise and played the ukulele. Following the praise from the east came sounds from the south- bass guitar and blues reminiscent of southern jazz

nights, bubbling into the joyful sounds of gospel choir. Reverend Brenda Salter McNeil finished off the evening with a brief introduction to the weekend, explaining how racial reconciliation is analogous to a puzzle. She explained that every person has an important piece to the puzzle and the puzzle, “doesn’t make sense” unless everyone brings their own piece to the table to put it together.

Saturday was all meetings and conferences with several different speakers addressing all manner of subjects from African dance to Biblical diversity to the idea of white culture. Students conferred with each other over coffee breaks to discuss what they learned and to share their opinions. One Biola student addressed the role of

spirituality in diversity stating, “Christianity is more than bringing people a Bible, it is bringing them a God who cares.”

One seminar speaker, author Doug Schuapp, suggested practical ways for students to break through the racial barrier: visit the home of a student who comes from a different background (financially, socially, ethnically etc.) and to read a book about one’s own culture and that of another person. These two steps would go a long way into making Westmont’s diversity less about statistics and more about true knowledge, appreciation and understanding, from a Christian perspective of the world’s cultures and the richness they bring to both Westmont’s campus and the rest of society.

### DIVERSITY COMMITTEE 2007-2008

Randy VanderMey, Chair

Miguel Aguilar	Jane Higa
Chris Call	Shala Kiewert
Beth Cauwels	Joyce Luy
Mary Collier	Michele Mollkoy
Toya Cooper	Helen Rhee
Julissa Delgado	Bill Wright
T.K. Erickson	Jon Young
Michelle Hardley	

## FIRST-YEAR DIVERSITY SUMMARY

Summary, cont. from page 1

T.K. Erickson, Assistant Director of Admissions for Diversity Concerns, reports that she and other admissions staff have been busy recruiting more students of color. This has involved attending an Urban Youth Workers Conference last summer; working to establish a strong relationship with Urban Young life; hosting more than a half-dozen “intensive college visits” by Cal-SOAP (California Student Opportunity and Access Programs) students since September; making presentations at 20 AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) groups last Fall, and hosting five AVID groups on campus this year; co-hosting with the Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts nearly 90 Latino migrant students and parents; abd scheduling on-campus events with the Future Leaders of America, and the Young Black Scholars.

## A NEW ROLE FACES WHITES IN DIVERSE WORLD

by *Elena Yee, director of Westmont Intercultural Programs*

**D**oug Schaupp, a writer and teacher of racial issues, says America is challenged with the prospect of true integration as diverse populations increase in an increasingly global society. Considering the current presidential election in the United States, this topic is even more apropos than ever. He currently serves as the associate regional director for the greater Los Angeles division of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and has toured the country lecturing on topics including multiethnicity and justice. He co-authored “Being White: Finding Our Place in a Multiethnic World.”

On March 12, a group of about fifty students, faculty, staff and community members heard Schaupp discuss what role white people play in contributing to multiethnic community building and justice. He shared his own multiethnic journey from his marriage to a Korean American woman to being the minority of the pastoral staff at an African American Church in Los Angeles.

His lecture started with the story of Jacob from the Old Testament to encourage the group to not allow the past to hinder one’s ability to enact justice in the present and future.



He also led the group in a meaningful exercise to brainstorm how one can leverage one’s resources and to make choices to live more simply so others may benefit through greater access and equity.

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## TAKING INTEGRATION BEYOND THE BASEBALL DIAMOND

by *Kaitlin McDonald, ‘11*

*From the Horizon dated 1.29.08*

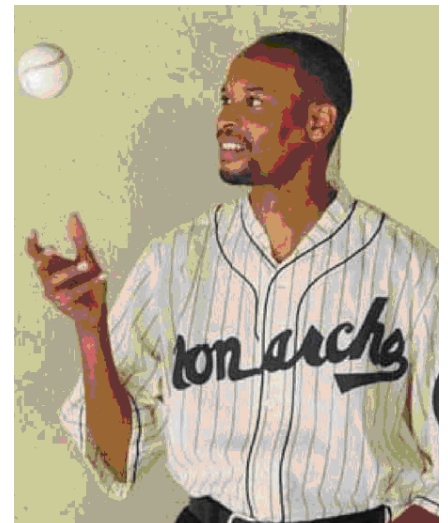
**Y**ears before integration began taking place in the United States, the Negro Baseball League took the first steps toward equality, explained singer, actor and author Byron Motley on February 1.

Speaking to a few dozen students, half the baseball team and members of the community, Motley shared the story of his father’s experiences as an umpire for the NBL and recounted the biographies of several major African-American players in the history of baseball. Motley explained how the Negro Baseball League came into existence and the important contributions it has made not only to baseball, but also to the process of integration in America. The NBL was the first to institute night games, something modern-day Americans take for granted. The League was also the first to have female players, use batting helmets and shin guards, as well as the first to take the game to Japan.

The Negro Baseball League had some of the best major league baseball players of all time, most of whom never became celebrities. James “Cool Papa” Bell is recorded to have run all the bases in under 12 seconds. Leroy “Satchel” Paige was the highest-paid baseball player of the time, black or white. He is also the only man to have ever hit a ball out of Yankee Stadium. Andrew “Rube” Foster established the first African-American league in Kansas City and organized the other African-American teams to play against each other.

The first to be drafted into the white major leagues was Jackie Robinson. After Robinson broke into the white leagues, the Negro Baseball League began to disintegrate. Other white major league teams began recruiting from the NBL and integrating their own teams. “These men paved the way for us,” explained Motley, because all of these events happened before any major integration movements. Major boycotts had not yet taken place. Brown vs. The Board of

Education had not been brought to court, Rosa Parks had not yet refused to change seats and Martin Luther King Jr. was only a sophomore at Morehouse College when Jackie Robinson signed his first contract. Jackie Robinson’s contract was more than a signature and a pay check; it was a step towards equality.



Ethnicity 2007 - National Study of Student Engagement at Westmont College						
Responded "very often" or "often"	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Latino/a	Multi-racial	Native American	White (non- Hispanic)
Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions.	45%	40%	45%	87%	100%	64%
Talked about career plans with a faculty member or advisor.	30%	20%	33%	60%	60%	43%
Worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework.	20%	40%	22%	33%	33%	26%
Had a serious conversation with students of a different race or ethnicity than your own.	75%	80%	67%	87%	67%	51%
Responded "excellent" or "good"	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Latino/a	Multi-racial	Native American	White (non- Hispanic)
Overall, how would you evaluate the quality of academic advising you have received at your institution?	75%	80%	78%	87%	67%	82%
Responded "6" or "7" on a 7-point scale (7 most positive; 4 neutral)	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Latino/a	Multi-racial	Native American	White (non- Hispanic)
Quality of relationships with other students.	75%	60%	78%	80%	83%	80%
Quality of relationships with faculty members.	65%	40%	56%	60%	100%	77%
Quality of relationships with administrative personnel and offices.	35%	60%	44%	67%	50%	51%
Responded "very much" or "quite a bit"	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Latino/a	Multi-racial	Native American	White (non- Hispanic)
To what extent has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds?	85%	60%	61%	60%	100%	70%
To what extent does your institution emphasize providing the support you need to help you succeed academically?	85%	80%	72%	100%	83%	89%
To what extent does your institution emphasize encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds?	80%	60%	50%	73%	83%	63%
To what extent does your institution emphasize providing the support you need to thrive socially?	65%	20%	50%	53%	100%	71%
To what extent does your institution emphasize helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family)?	50%	40%	33%	43%	67%	48%
How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Latino/a	Multi-racial	Native American	White (non- Hispanic)
Excellent	60%	60%	50%	60%	83%	70%
Good	40%	20%	44%	40%	17%	28%
If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Latino/a	Multi-racial	Native American	White (non- Hispanic)
Definitely yes	55%	60%	61%	73%	50%	70%
Probably yes	30%	0%	33%	20%	33%	25%

More information on the National Study of Student Engagement Report is included in the recent survey section of the institutional portfolio that is accessible via the academics web page.

## A MARTYRED ZIMBABWE PASTOR'S PRAYER

*"I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made-- I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean in His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and I labor with power. My face is set, my*

*goal is heaven, my roads narrow, my way rough, my companions are few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And, when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me... my banner will be clear!"*