

many voices, one movement



FIRST GENERATION

performing arts and youth leadership

A newsletter for ensemble, families and friends of First Generation

JANUARY 2011



News of Nepali Bhutanese Family!

We are the Nepali speaking Bhutanese people who have spend 17 years in Eastern part of Nepal. We were given the name of "refugees" because we were homeless, landless, and hopeless because of politics, religion, and loss of freedom.

Now we are 50 families in Springfield, West Springfield, and Westfield. More than 500 families are living in Massachusetts. Many more are setting in other states, Canada, Demark, Australia, Norway and so on.

We are lost in our new environment. But also our hopes are rising up with other hands to hands. We are happy to be in USA.

We want to preserve our religion, our traditions and customs. So now we are conducting cultural programs to preserve our human identification.

Please join us for our cultural Program on Saturday, January 8th at 5:00pm at Rebecca M Johnson School, 55 Catharine St, Springfield, MA. **-Ago Gurung**

LOOKING FORWARD ... 2011

Upcoming Events!

- ★ SATURDAY, JANUARY 8th
NEPALI CULTURAL PROGRAM
Rebecca M Johnson School, 55 Catharine St, Springfield, 5:00pm
- ★ SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19th
FIRST GENERATION PERFORMANCE (NEW WORK)
Springfield Technical Community College, 7:00 pm (Theater)
- ★ SATURDAY, MARCH 5th
FIRST GENERATION PERFORMANCE (NEW WORK)
Springfield College, 7:00 pm (Fuller Arts Center)
- ★ SATURDAY, APRIL 30th
FIRST GENERATION PERFORMANCE
Northampton Center for the Arts, 7:00 pm
- ★ SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH
FAMILY & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
Tapestry Health, 365 Bay St., Springfield, 6:00 pm

Intern Spotlight: Meet our Fabulous Interns!



Yves Singletary

My name is Yves Singletary and I am a senior at Springfield College where I am majoring in Youth Development. During my years at Springfield College I have gained a real interest in seeing what I could do to help uplift the Springfield Community. I'm interested in going into the field of community organizing after graduation, since I feel that this field would allow me the self fulfillment of being able to interact with the members of the community in a positive manner, to improve our quality of life, along with the opportunity to gain personal growth.

One of my biggest passions is working with young people and helping to make a positive impact in their lives, while stressing the

importance of a good education. Growing up in the inner city of Boston, MA and going to public schools I know the difficulties that face young people today. I was lucky enough to have teachers who cared, and support from not only my family but outside individuals as well. Not every youth who lives under those same conditions has that kind of support and I would like to do what I can to ensure that they grow up to be educated young men and women.

As President of the Student Society for Bridging Diversity club, I met First Generation on Humanics and Action Day in Springfield, and I enjoy being a First Generation coordinator this year.



Tharanga Yakupitiyage

My name is Tharanga Yakupitiyage and I am currently a 3rd year at Hampshire College studying visual art (drawing and photography) and community development. I'm really interested in intersecting both fields, finding ways to address and involve local communities in the development process through art. The Performance Project has therefore been a perfect fit for me as it has helped me learn more about the relationship and importance of art and community development; it has more importantly gotten me even more interested, excited and in love with what I do! Though I mainly work at the office in Northampton, fundraising and networking with the Northampton and Five college communities, I identify with the Performance Project and particularly the First Generation being "first generation" myself: I was born to Sri Lankan parents in Bangkok, Thailand and studied in American international schools all my life; I moved to the U.S. only in the Fall of 2008 to attend Hampshire. This multicultural identity has come to be important in my life, despite its complexities, and has led me to the Performance Project and First Generation. It has been an amazing experience working here and though I am on leave next semester to study in Buenos Aires, Argentina, I will without a doubt come straight back to work with Julie and the First Generation ensemble!

Shout Outs! THANK YOU Tiger Press, our Community Business Partner, as always, for donating the printing of our newsletters and programs and now, our youth program journals too! THANK YOU ALSO Tapestry Health for providing a home for us. Martin and La Veracruzana for the nurturing food, Springfield, Hampshire, Westfield State, and Holyoke Community Colleges for providing FG with fabulous interns. THANK YOU ALSO Walgreens (Tim Delisle), Home Depot (Ron Szafir), Florence Paint (Lee), and Sherwin Williams (Barbara) for supplies. THANK YOU Beattle of Morrows Auto Repair for keeping "Roberta" on the road, so we have transportation! MANY THANKS to Pascal Akimana and Saugat Bhattarai for their work translating for the script!



INTERN SPOTLIGHT continued



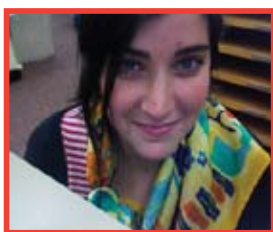
Susana Sanchez

Susana is an international student from Costa Rica, where she grew up. In 2005, she came to the U.S.; she is the first in her family to attend college. She is a fourth-year student at Hampshire College, where she majors in immigration and gender studies. She loves to spend time with her family in New Jersey and dreams of the day she will return to her native Costa Rica to work on health care public policy and enjoy the country's beautiful seashore. She also loves swimming, jogging outdoors and sunny days.



Paris Ortiz

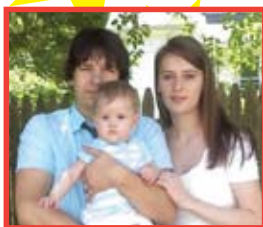
My name is Paris Ortiz, I am 21 years old and I am a Business Management student at Westfield State University. I also take classes at Springfield College twice a week. In January I will not be returning to work with the Performance Project because I got an internship at Disney World for the semester. In May I plan to walk at my graduation from college, and then I plan to attend grad school in September. I have had my license in Cosmetology for four years now, and I plan to open my own hair salon once I graduate.



Gillian Cannon

My name is Gillian Cannon and I am third year student at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. In school, I am studying United States history and society with a particular focus on the prison system, as well as photography and performance. I am committed to working against oppression in all its forms and I am constantly struggling to become a more educated and aware person in order to best do that work. First Generation is one of the ways that I am involved in art making and social justice. I am a colorful queer woman and am very proud. I love Indian food and ice cream and penguins.

I have been an intern for the Performance Project since October. Every Tuesday and Thursday we meet with a group of young woman and teach them values of life through art. This group of young woman is filled with very beautiful, passionate woman who want to make a better future for them and depend on us for guidance. I enjoy being that woman older but closer in age for them, to look at as an example of what it takes to be a successful woman.



Yulia Moka

I am Yulia Moka, I came to the U.S.A. from Moldova when I was 7 years old. I finished high school a year earlier by taking a college course, and now I am finishing Holyoke Community College with a degree in Accounting. I am married and have a beautiful one year old daughter named Amy. This is my first semester working with The Performance Project, and unfortunately also my last. I enjoyed my job at the office, which included accounting/admin work. After graduation I plan to stay home and take part time classes at a state college.

Originally I applied for this internship because I wanted to learn more about myself, and help younger woman achieve their goals. I believe that faster and faster our city is being destroyed and trashed. Outsiders view our city as a place to stay away from. Last month a friend of mine Sawayne Wayne Rankine was the 13th homicide in Springfield of this year. My heart hurts every time I hear about all these homicides asking myself where all this hatred from what can I do to make a change. I think having these programs that get youth involved is making a step to improve my city. My passion is simply to make a difference, to better my city and to save lives by making the youth understand their value.



Nicki Tebeau

I am a senior at Springfield College majoring in Psychology and plan to continue my education by earning my Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. My passion is working with different mediums of art and ballroom dancing, so interning with the Generaciones program was a perfect fit. This semester I have been working with Generaciones to teach young women about leadership as they prepare to paint a mural that will permanently hang in Springfield.



Allegra Fisher

I was born in Italy and moved to the US for High School. When I graduated I enrolled at Hampshire college studying ethnic food and dance. It's been a lot of fun working with the Performance Project this semester, but soon I'm going to have to leave, since I am going around the world on field study in 2011, to study food, dance, music and art in 23 countries around the globe.

This is a critical time for First Generation. At this moment We need your support more than ever! We are asking for your help in raising \$10,000 so that First Generation can continue. Every little bit helps! Please send a check or go online (<http://www.performanceproject.org/donate.html>) to donate to First Generation! Any amount no matter how large or small will help us to carry on!



This program is supported by the Springfield Cultural Council and the Northampton Arts Council.

First Generation is an intensive, arts and youth leadership program in Springfield, Massachusetts that provides a platform for young people to have a public voice in their community, and beyond.

The Performance Project creates theater about oppression and liberation. Through our multi-generational collaborations we examine the effects of racism, economic oppression, bigotry, and violence, and create compelling works of theater, movement, and spoken-word. Our performances engage audiences in dialogue about critical social and cultural issues.

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