

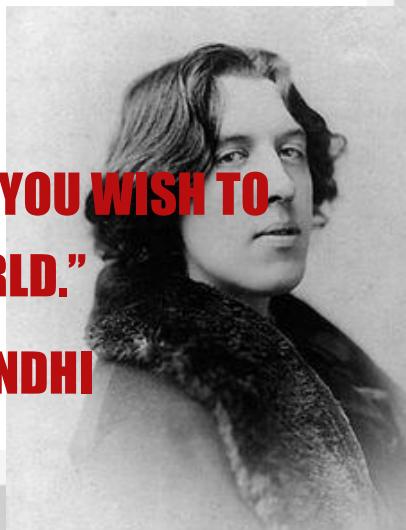
**DIVERSITY**

# Cayey Students Write



**"BE THE CHANGE THAT YOU WISH TO  
SEE IN THE WORLD."**

**— MAHATMA GANDHI**



# CAYEY STUDENTS WRITE

SIGMA TAU DELTA

## THE PAPER CHIMNEY: ENGLISH WEEK

By: Kevin Román & Alejandra Rodriguez

### Monday: A Workshop

On Monday, the English Week had a wonderful opening event, that took place in front of Ramon Frade Theatre, which was titled "The poetry of the body: Image theatre Workshop Lydia Platón". Afterwards, the week continued with some very interesting student presentations.

### Tuesday: Student presentations



On Tuesday, students got the unique opportunity to share their work with everyone at the MC building. Songs, poems, memoirs and essays filled the room with muse and joy. From a simple yet cleverly precise Haiku titled *Darkness* by Emanuel Santiago, to a romantic essay titled *The Fall* by Reyamill, students let their

creativity rise and their voice heard.

Short stories were told, like Denise Morales's *How to Get Better* and also, personal experiences were expressed, like Stephanie Román's *A torture called a Memoir: A Memoir*. We even got to see clever pieces of art such as Ricardo Melendez's *Time Capsule Letter* and Alexandra Torres' *Do You Feel The Pull*, among other works from various students. A very interesting scene took place, portrayed by two music aspiring students, their band and an amazing cover of the song *Face Down*, by The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus as well as a song of their own called *This is My Time*.

### Wednesday: Digital poetry exhibit



A truly unique exhibit organized by Dr. Goodwin. Several students and other literature loving people, shared their words online by creating digital poetry inspired by modern day society. This type of poetry was referred to as interactive poetry. One of the works that captivated the attention of many students was a map.

This map dealt with the controversy of blind belief. The idea for it was that "the truth exposed by a map because we believe anything a map says". Some of the interactive poetry included audio and videos so that it could be more intuitive. Also, the website I <3 Poetry

was introduced as an electronic literature collection, which housed several of these digital poems with interactive interface. A video was played on how to read digital poems, which main idea emphasized the evolution of literature and its influences by music and images. A very interesting and controversial topic was the authoring machine: "you create your own code and people can 'steal' it and also use it." Many were impressed on how original pieces of work were transformed with other ideas and turned into a new piece of literature, an interactive poem.



Thursday: The digital muse



The conference The digital muse started out with humorous memes, which led to the introduction of Leonardo "Leo", owner of the I <3 Poetry website. This website is rather interesting, containing numerous collaborations in which different people from around the world create their own pieces of art, whether it's in the form of videos, music or programing. The conference then emphasizes on the future of interactive literature, which in a way could be classified as E-poetry. Also, video games were mentioned as the original way of interactive literature. The first E-poem was the Ferranti Mark 1 computer, which generated love letters.

Later on, Taroko Gorge Remixes took the spotlight by creating an infinite poem written by auto generated words in the form of poetry, mimicking an author. It is then that the topic of Bots was introduced in the conference, and how these bots, specialized in imitating human behavior, actually created clever Twitter accounts.

English week was truly a fascinating experience, and its modern day theme focusing on how the digital world has changed poetry as we know it

gave a very interesting angle. Students collaborating, making their own works and exposing them in public filled the entire room with inspiration, giving a new perspective towards the students of UPR in Cayey. The special guest Leo added a comical relief to the week, giving us a taste of a new type of poetry that originated in the form of comedy, such as memes. The introduction to 'I <3 E-Poem' website, which included a vast collection of e-poems and flash games, certainly indicated how much undiscovered talent exists and how easy it can be to stumble upon it. Overall the experience was fruitful in both areas, academic and emotional. Such activities should occur more often and should be given the amount of promotion it deserves.



## PARADISE PARADOX

### by Eric D. Monserrate Montes

I must say, I think I've moved into the right neighborhood for a young adult. This small town could be considered a utopia. The location is great, it's right next to the beach, and there is no poverty or racism. Crime here is basically non-existent with only the exception of some burglaries every now and again. Finding a job is really easy and as long as you are willing to work hard and acquire some skills you can get a promotion. I went from a teacher's assistant, to my school's principal in only a year. The police, fire department, and hospitals provide excellent service. The people here are mostly friendly and trustworthy, nobody is an extremist so it's pretty easy to develop any type of romantic relationship. Everyone was very welcoming when we first moved here, my partner and I. However, something that we noticed was that the people here do act really strange sometimes. Their actions are so uncalled for and out of the blue. You might get verbally abused by a good friend, get stalked by a sad clown or get hit on by an old lady.

It kept happening so I started to get used to it. Kind of. So maybe this place wasn't as perfect as we thought. No big deal. But no, things just kept getting worse.

Even weirder shit began to happen, and more often My neighbor, Stacy, who was an experienced cook died in a house fire after leaving the stove on for hours. What made that even stranger was that she had thrown away her fire alarm right before it happened. Meanwhile, other people in the neighborhood have begun to drown in their pools. I'm talking about young, healthy, sober people drowning in their fucking pools. There not even that deep!

I could learn to deal with all of that! Except that my family started acting strangely as well. My husband quit his job as an office clerk and now just paints all day long. I bet his quitting has something to do with all the weird shit that's been happening, but he hasn't told me anything. In fact, he hasn't talked to me at all over the past week.

Today though, has been the scariest day of my life. I woke up really early and I had no control over my actions. It was like I was trapped inside my own body and started doing things against my will.

I didn't go to work. I painted half of my house and spent 4 hours on the treadmill. And not matter how hard I tried or, hungry and tired I was, I couldn't stop. Mo matter what I did, or how much I begged, I couldn't stop. It was like this for most of the day. I only regained my body's control a few minutes ago, and after talking to my husband about it, I was unable to describe

my experience. It was like nothing I had ever experienced before. Strangely, he was not surprised by my abnormal behavior at all. He understood. He said I didn't have to explain, because he had been going through the same thing.

The creepiest thing though, was when I looked up, and there was a fucking green diamond hovering over my head.

## HAMILTON: THE REVOLUTION

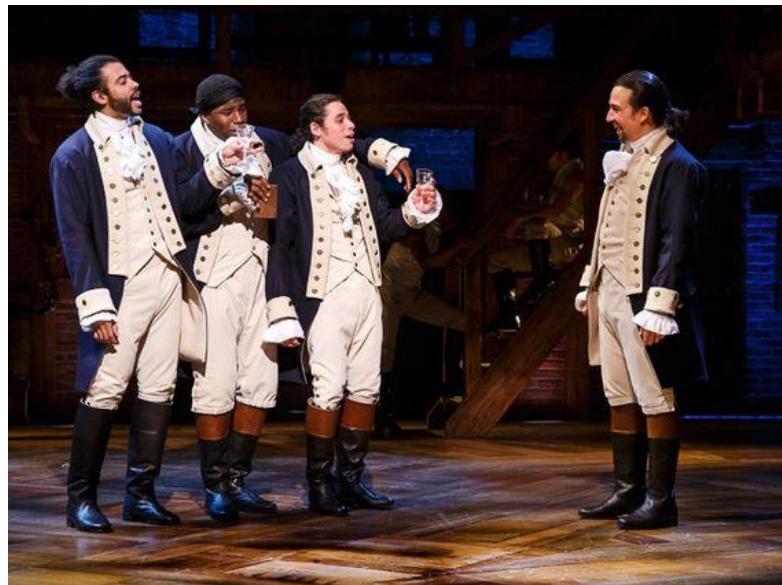
by Denise Morales Soto

How does a bastard, orphan, son of a whore and Scotsman, dropped in the middle of a forgotten spot in the Caribbean by providence, impoverished by squalor, grow up to be a hero and a scholar?



Well, Lin-Manuel Miranda answers this question to all of us in the form of the most unique and innovative musicals to ever bless our generation. Look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now. We have been given the honor to exist at the same time as this musical. I mean, what else could you ask for? (Not much, that is the answer to that question.) Not only has he changed the Broadway world for life, but he's changed history itself.

As a Broadway Geek, this is very exciting, and let me tell you why! Really, I can't shut up about it, ask anyone who knows me. My poor roommate...



Hamilton tells the story of the ten-dollar founding father. His rise and his fall, and his role in American History. You would think that a musical about the story of America's founding father who never made it to be president, the very first Secretary of the Treasury, and the man who pretty much single handedly developed America's financial system that we still use to this day, wouldn't be very exciting, but you would be so wrong my friend. Because this show is amazing, not only in its unique narrative of hip-hop, R&B and other genres of contemporary music, but in the way he has presented it.

The cast of Hamilton is the most diverse cast ever, in the history of musical theatre. "It's the story of America then, told by America now," says Miranda, which is brilliant. He also thought it obvious to cast the people that can best perform the type of music he composed for the story of America. Makes sense.

His cast is filled with people of every kind, shape, and color. Alexander Hamilton is played by Miranda himself, a Puerto Rican from New York City, whose parents moved over to America in their youth, and who greatly inspired his writing and his ambitions. Daveed Diggs, who plays Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson, our third president. Leslie Odom Jr., who plays Aaron Burr, Jefferson's Vice President, and the man responsible for Hamilton's death. There is Christopher Jackson who plays America's very first President and leader of the Revolution, George Washington. Renee Elise Goldsberry who plays one of the most badass ladies in American History, Angelica Schuyler. Phillipa Soo who plays Angelica's sister and Hamilton's wife Eliza, who was also a badass lady that doesn't get enough credit for her awesomeness. (History, very unfairly, overlooks these awesome ladies, but that's another topic for another day.) And dozens of other extremely talented people that maybe wouldn't have made it as big as quickly, if it wasn't for this play's revolutionary and modern way of thinking.

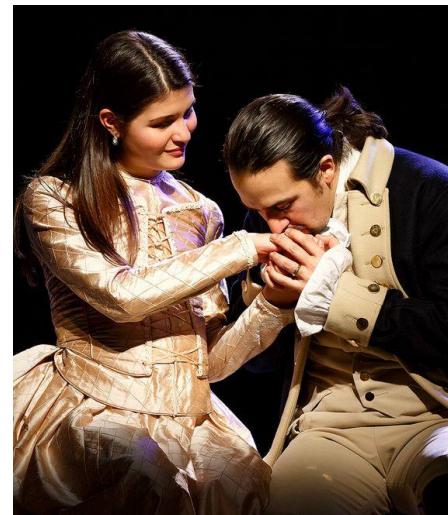


Miranda's musical is not only reaching to so many people of different ages and backgrounds and bringing life back into Broadway, but he has inspired curiosity in people and encouraged them to learn more about history. Not to forget that he has also inspired hundreds of young people who don't 'fit the mold' and given them hope that they are capable of amazing things, and nothing can hold them back. I mean this is the story of America's first real immigrant really, and how amazing and critical he was to the country's founding, growth, and development.

It's a truly inspiring story made more relatable with Lin Manuel's story telling skills and awesome music.

Lin-Manuel's work is nothing short of pure genius. I mean if Michelle Obama thinks so, you know it's true. Besides, there is a reason why he's won the MacArthur Genius Grant. He is the first person ever to receive a Pulitzer Prize for a musical. Ever. Which how amazing is that?! But on top of that, Hamilton has won a Grammie, and is currently nominated for not one, not two, but sixteen Tony's.

WHAT?!



And let's be honest, it's bound to win at least one or two. (Although it deserves all sixteen, and then some. In my humble opinion.)

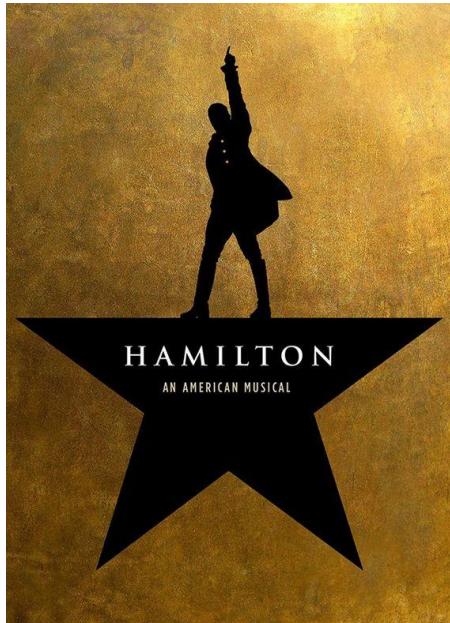
History has its eyes on you, Lin Manuel Miranda. He has truly become an inspiration to everyone, not only because of his work, but how his using his work and talent to change things, and bring light to things that matter. I haven't stopped listening to the soundtrack since I first discovered it. I truly believe he deserves all of the praise and recognition, and then some, if I'm completely honest.

He is awesome and he has made his mark on history, and changed the world, for the better too, if I do say so myself. He has given boys and girls in every way that they come the hope that they will no longer be held back by things that they cannot control. But not only that, to be proud of that difference as well.

If you want to watch the show, good luck, because Hamilton tickets have been sold all the way through till November 2017. Get in line, bud. But it's worth it. In the meantime, you can

listen to the soundtrack which is available everywhere, and begin to cry yourself to sleep every night, not just because of its genius, but because you will probably never get your hands on a ticket, ever. Not even if you know someone in the black market. They're sold out too. Don't ask me how I know this.

The End.



Top Five Songs:

- Alexander Hamilton
- What'd I Miss?
- The Schuyler Sisters
- You'll Be Back
- Cabinet Battle #1 & #2

## THE TAPESTRY

by Adriana Nuñez Ortiz

At what point is diversity too diverse?

If we take a look at modern feminism, we might be able to see when. 51% of the population inevitably ends up with different priorities. After all, people are quick to share on Facebook graphics saying that, while women in the Middle East (never specifying which country) are fighting against honor killings, in the Western hemisphere (particularly in the United States), it is vapid to be concerned about shaving our body hair, or showing bra straps, or choosing to wear makeup or not, or so on and so forth about “trivial” third wave issues.

It's true: worldwide, there are different concerns. Some African countries such as Ethiopia are fighting against female genital mutilation and absurdly high rape statistics; in some Middle Eastern countries such as Pakistan, women are being shot for having the audacity to fight for education; in Asia, women in China are being subjected to cruel punishments for violating the One Child Policy. Some claim that we need to focus on a worldwide perspective, that our feminism in particular, Western feminism, is too Eurocentric, finding it hard to sympathize and understand non-European cultures. At the same time, however, their issues are “not our issues”, so let's bring the scope closer to home.

This brings us to the Americas. Even within the feminism here, being mostly cultures influenced in varying ways by Europe, there is a large amount of diversity, which some do claim (mostly those in more privileged positions) to be unnecessary, if not distracting. There's mainstream feminism fights for equal pay, reproductive rights, social equality, and so on. Mainstream feminism also tends to be white feminism, which leads to the other varieties. There's black feminism, caused by the fact that the first does not cater to their specific racial problems. Other races also have their own groups, as well. In countries lucky enough to still have their native population, they also have concerns that are not the same as black feminism. Other groups also have forged their own groups out of necessity, such as Asian feminists, Middle Eastern feminists, and in non-Latin American countries, Hispanic feminists. In terms of gender, trans women also have their own thriving feminist movement. It seems like everybody is, if you pardon my Puerto Rican, “halando pa' su la'o”, pulling to their own side, and if everybody only focuses on themselves, there will be no progress.

That's an incredibly privileged thing to say.

Diversity is beneficial! Yes, we have to admit that our scope is limited due to different issues. We cannot pretend to know what's best for women in other cultures. A white Puerto Rican woman cannot pretend to know what is best for an Egyptian feminist that has gone through genital mutilation, nor for a Bengali acid attack victim, or so on. Only they can navigate successfully through the patriarchy specific to their cultures. Even within our own Puerto Rican culture, a light-skinned woman from Guaynabo cannot pretend to speak for a dark-skinned woman from Loiza. However, the one, vital thing women of different cultures can do is support each other. Spread the word. Ally with each other. Be the one to set the speakers and the stage, but not be the one speaking in the microphone. In other words, help others be heard. This will help the movements gain traction. Plus, while problems are specific to certain cultures, we do have things in common: first, of course, is the fight against a patriarchal society. There is also the fact that women are objectified; sexual harassment is a worldwide phenomenon, women's virtue (read: virginity and number of sexual partners) are a big part of their "worth" in society. We can all unite under this.

At what point is diversity too diverse?

The answer is never. Our differences make us stronger, woven in multicolor, standing out bright against the backdrop -- as long as we support each other.

## DOUBLE EVERYTHING!

by: Stephanie A. Roman Morales

A student of the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey has a lot of options to pick from when it comes to what he or she wants to study. The university's main areas are Natural Sciences, Pedagogy, Business Administration, Humanities, Social Sciences, Hispanic Studies, and the one with the good news, English Arts. The good news is simple: double everything!

Back in the days, you only studied the classes you had to take for your major and that's it. Later on, things changed a bit and they added to the curriculums different classes from other departments to be a little more interdisciplinary. An example of this would be that as a Natural Sciences major student, you have to take credits from other departments, such as Social Sciences, but on top of that the student has to take an Interdisciplinary course. But, as of December 17, 2015, the English department has improved their curriculum, and instead of majoring in just one area of the University, any student can do a double major or a double degree. Meaning that, the same student from Natural Sciences can make his or her Bachelor Degree in English too. Or that a student from the English department can make a double major in it.

What the English department says is that you can make a Double Major or a Double Degree in English. It can be in General Studies, Literature, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Literature of the Caribbean and Linguistics/Language. The main goal being to become conversant in diverse and current areas of English studies; develop essential speaking, writing, critical, and analytical abilities

for success in their field, their future professions, and their lives. They are learning both within and beyond the university classroom; and enhancing their sense of social responsibility.

The good news is good for everyone! In an interview with the department's director, Prof. David Lizardi, he informed us about the following: "As the director I am highly enthusiastic and optimistic that this will greatly benefit the program, its faculty, other programs, the institution, but most importantly, the students who undertake the double major. It maintains one of the department's cornerstone traits; constant renovation and expansion, thus keeping themselves academically active and up-to-date in diverse areas. It provides variety for faculty that then requires them to constantly pursue research, enhance their creativity for the betterment of the program and institution, and avoid "academic boredom and complacency": teaching the same courses over and over."

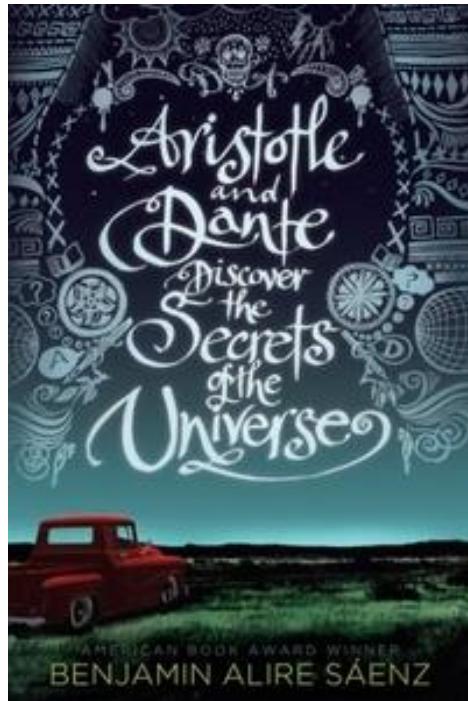
Anyone can agree with him that this is a huge step for everyone in the university. It gives hope to the other departments, as well as to follow their footsteps and expand the "double everything" to the whole university.

As a student myself, I have to admit this encourages us to keep living the dream of becoming whatever we want to be in the future. To not conform to just one thing, but to expand our knowledge and learn a variety of things that the world has to offer us.

So take part in this endeavor. It's double or nothing! Double everything!

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

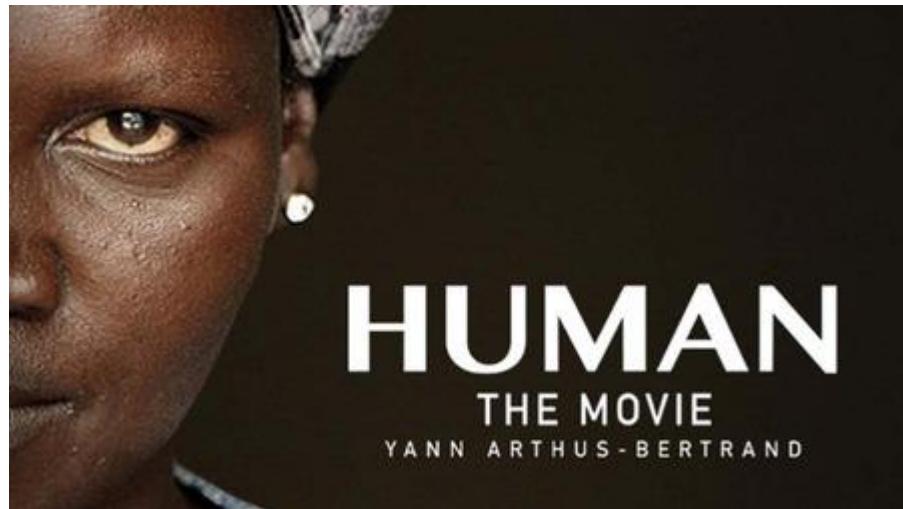
Are you in the mood to read? Looking for something to pick up during summer break? But you don't want to read just any book. Of course you don't! You want a book that's a little different, that has a little bit of everything. Fret not good sir or madam, because Sigma Tau Delta has got you covered. Again. We're kind of awesome that way.



*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, tells the story of two boys -who seem to have nothing in common- trying to discover who they are and who they want to be. Along the way they develop the kind of friendship that changes your life and lasts a lifetime. This book has it all, love, friendship, existential crisis, beautiful writing, and a heartwarming story that will last with you for a very long time. This book will make you laugh, will make you cry, and all of those other nice things that happen when you emotionally invest yourself in a book. The perfect summer read to get you going.

## BONUS: DOCUMENTARY OF THE MONTH!

What?! It's true, your eyes do not deceive you. We decided to do something extra special for this edition of Cayey Students Write.



"An epic document of the struggles and triumphs that unite us all, HUMAN takes viewers on a journey across the globe to uncover the essential truths about what it means to be human. Through a series of more than 2000 interviews conducted throughout 60 countries, director Yann Arthus-Bertrand successfully expresses the collective human experience in all its forms - from deeply personal and wounding stories of poverty, domestic abuse and anguish to tales of love, joy and the euphoria of being alive."

- Top Documentary Films

This month's theme encompasses a lot of things, and due to the vast nature of Diversity, we couldn't let this one out, because it says it all in the most beautiful way possible. It makes you wonder what it really is to be Human, and how life is so different to everyone, because we all experience different things, and live different lives, and are different people; with views and priorities of our own. But even taking that all into consideration, life is still the one thing we all have in common, and that makes it so relatable in a way that we will never truly understand.

Watch it. You won't regret it.

# We wish you a Merry Summer, and a Happy Next Semester!

Like our Facebook Page: *Sigma Tau Delta CUC*

---

Denise  
Sigma Tau Delta  
Editor: Denise Morales Soto

**Issue:** March/April/May 2016  
**Edition:** Diversity

If you would like to take part in our next issue, please email us at:  
**[sigmataudeltacayey@gmail.com](mailto:sigmataudeltacayey@gmail.com)**