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# THE BUTLER CENTER

## NEWSLETTER

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### STUDENT SUCCESS SCHOLARS PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH FINANCIAL AID

**By Violet Datcu**

SSSP worked alongside Abby Wilson from financial aid to offer a valuable workshop on the difficulties of completing the CSS Profile and FAFSA applications. Low-income and first-generation college students often bear the burden of completing financial aid applications on their own, so with the help of Abby, we were able to compile a financial aid application Help Sheet and presentation to be a resource for students as they apply. We discussed what is taxable income, how to read tax documents, what you will need from yourself and your parents in order to complete the applications, and how to navigate the applications if you come from a non-nuclear household. We hope this workshop will help students far into the future by providing them with financial literacy that is key to obtaining an accessible education.

Photo Credit: Gray Warrior. From left to right: Jordan Bates (SSSP Mentor), Christian Gonzalez (TBC Director), Violet Datcu (SSSP Mentor)

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



### **Ben Ruddock**

He/Him - Undeclared Major

#### **What do you do at the Butler Center?**

I am a Peer Educator, I create and run workshops about ADEI for different student groups, organizations, clubs, and teams.

#### **What are you studying and what do you want to do after CC?**

I am currently deciding between sociology and psychology as a major, I am also undecided in the field I want to go into after CC. I am considering therapy, conflict resolution, and other similar roles.

#### **What is one interest you have outside of school?**

One interest I have is sci-fi tv and films. Especially Star Wars, but I have recently got back into Doctor Who since the new episodes have come out.

#### **What does ADEI work mean to you or why did you get into this?**

I got into ADEI work because I want to use my positionality to have a positive impact on this community and the experiences of marginalized and underrepresented people on this campus. I want people to feel safe and included on this campus no matter their identities or the identities of those around them.

#### **What is one change you'd like to see at CC?**

One thing I would like to see changed about CC is for CC to become a need-blind school, so that people can access the education and opportunities that CC has to offer no matter their ability to pay tuition.

#### **What is one fun fact people might not expect about you?**

One thing that people might not expect about me is that I am donor conceived and have had interviews, been in films and in articles talking about my experience as a donor conceived person.



## REFLECTING ON THE YEAR AT THE BUTLER CENTER



As we close out both the calendar year and the fall semester, the need to reflect often harkens to us. It has been a busy and fruitful semester at the Butler Center. We started the academic year by bringing on two new staff members - Irina Amouzou (Multicultural Student Leadership Coordinator) and Thecla Shubert (Administrative Assistant). We also celebrated Deka Spear's promotion to Assistant Director and welcomed Lacy Karpilo as the new VP of Student Life. We kicked off the year by welcoming back our team of eighteen student workers - including peer mentors, programming interns, peer educators, and our office coordinator as well as our wonderful Thrive Fellows who work in positions around campus.

This year the Butler Center has strove to further our relationships with partners around campus. As we reflect, it is these collaborations that boldly stand out in our memory. We collaborated with Campus Activities to host Silent Disco for our NSO students - an event that reached nearly 200 students and partnered with CCSGA, Arts and Crafts, and Sustainability to host GOTH PROM which provided a safe space for 150 students to party responsibly on Halloween weekend. Beyond that, we have partnered with student organizations as well as academic departments to provide meaningful spaces for intimate conversations and discussions like our "Beyond Land Acknowledgement" and "Breaking Down Latinidad" events. [cont next page]

Photo shows, from left to right, Ren Coryell (QTC peer mentor), Deka Spears (Assistant Director), and Giorgio Gioele Sirito (QTC Peer Mentor) at the QTC grand opening.

## REFLECTING ON THE YEAR AT THE BUTLER CENTER



The Wellness Resource Center partnered with us to revive the “Good Sex” series and organize panels on healthy consent practices and pansexuality. The Pride LLCs helped us facilitate an LGBTQIA+ community lunch. We also partnered with the ADEI office to facilitate the second Antiracism Book Club meetings of the year, all centered around We are Not Dreamers. All of these partnerships have helped us strengthen our relationships as a CC community, reach and serve more students, and provide more extensive programming. We are so grateful for all of our partnerships and collaborations this year and are excited to further those relationships in the coming year.

We also want to thank YOU for being our partners and collaborators! All your support - whether you’ve attended our events, provided logistical support, read our newsletter, lent a supportive ear to our students, or simply joined us in the shared mission of **celebrating** diversity, **advocating** for equity, and **educating** about antiracism - has been deeply meaningful to us. **YOU are co-creators of our aspirational community.**

Here’s to another great year! And if you ever have suggestions, comments, or questions please feel free to reach out to us! We’ll see you after the break!

### CELEBRATE. ADVOCATE. EDUCATE.



## WEEKLY PAIRINGS - BOOK RECOMENDATIONS

### Found Families and Cozy Vibes for Tough Holidays



The holidays can be a difficult time for many - especially LGBTQIA folks. Curl up with Casey McQuiston (Author of *Red White and Royal Blue*)'s thrillingly adventurous and romantic *One Last Stop*. As August finds her way as a young adult in NY, she'll receive support

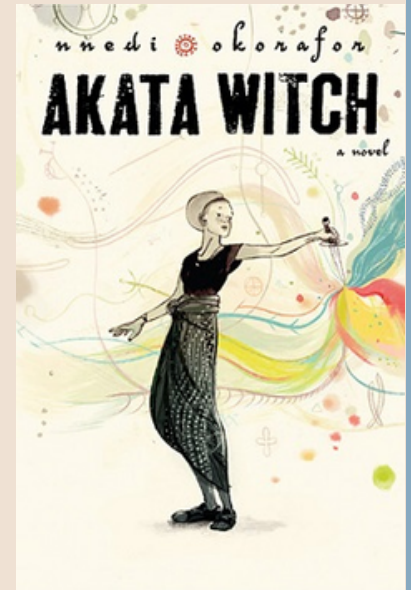
navigating life's biggest challenges (how to not get scurvy on a student budget and how to pass your first college classes) from a lively queer cast of found family friends. Together they'll team up with drag queens and diner chefs to help rescue a mysterious, dazzling woman trapped in a time loop since the 1970s.

This cozy, feel good fantasy is marketed as *The Umbrella Academy* meets Douglass Adams and *Good Omens*. *The House on the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune tells the story of Linus Baker, a case worker for the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. His job is simple -



determine which of six magical children is most likely to cause the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus runs the orphanage and would do anything to protect his children. This book is a heartwarming, enchanting love story featuring the discovery of an unforgettable found family.

Often called "the Nigerian Harry Potter," *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor tells the story of a young girl, Sunny who feels out of place everywhere. She's Nigerian but born in America. African but Albino. Protagonist, Sunny then discovers she has magic powers and can alter reality. She



teams up with a group of magical students to take down an infamous magical criminal. This coming of age novel combines magic and science fiction with a cozy friends and family vibe that is sure to make everyone smile.



The NYT's called this "one of the coziest reads of the year." *The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches* by Sangu Mandanna features Mika Moon - a witch who knows all the rules: don't mingle. Don't draw attention. But someone does notice her, and she gets invited to teach young

witches at Nowehre House. There she meets her three young pupils, a cast of vibrant caretakers including an archaeologist, a retired actor, the estate caretakers, and a handsome librarian. As Mika falls in love with her new found family, she must choose what she's willing to risk to protect them all from the danger that come knocking.

## PHOTO OF THE WEEK



A throwback photo from the TBC 2023 winter retreat at CC's Cabin. Picturing office coordinator, Galy Berthon and former administrative assistant, Flor Ramirez.