

# Love Your Melon

## Hats Off to a Good Cause

By Brianna Holtmeier

What is the story behind those fashionable, irresistibly soft knit hats everyone has been clamoring for? Love Your Melon started out as a college class project that expanded into a must-have apparel brand that is constantly being sold out. Most importantly, these hats are being sold for a good cause.

The Love Your Melon organization began with a buy one give one deal. When someone bought a beanie, another hat was donated to a child with cancer. Now, the organization donates 50% of its proceeds to CureSearch and The Pinky Promise Foundation. CureSearch is dedicated to researching and finding a cure for cancer. The Pinky Promise organization promises to provide practical funds to families who need financial help to cover expenses while their loved one fights cancer. The added stress of money trouble is the last thing that families need while their brother, sister, or child is going through surgeries, chemotherapy, and/or radiation.

Concordia recently established their own LYM crew in August of 2015. Concordia's crew captain, Amanda Whiting said, "It has been awesome to see this organization grow across the country and all of the children it has impacted." Observing the difference that LYM has made prompted Whiting to rally fellow Doctor of Physical Therapy students to set up a Love Your Melon presence on campus. The LYM crew has had a booth at basketball games giving away prizes. They have also done volunteer work attaching pom-poms to beanies at the Minneapolis Love Your Melon warehouse.

There are 45,000 kids fighting off cancer in the United States,



so the LYM Foundation set aside that many hats to personally give to each child with their LYM college ambassador crews, usually dressed as superheroes. If you know any child battling cancer who would like a Love Your Melon hat, please email [csploveyourmelon@gmail.com](mailto:csploveyourmelon@gmail.com) and Concordia's LYM crew would love to hand-deliver a hat to them!

If you would like to become a part of the CSP Love Your Melon team, there is a waitlist for the actual crew which is limited to 20 members. You can fill out a quick application to become a member at [loveyourmelon.com](http://loveyourmelon.com). As a crew member, one attends monthly meetings where the crew talks about the best strategies for selling the hats. There are also several promotional, volunteer, and sales events members are expected to participate in. An easier way to become involved with Love Your Melon is through the LYM campus club. It is open to any number of students and you can join by simply emailing [csploveyourmelon@gmail.com](mailto:csploveyourmelon@gmail.com).

If you feel inspired to help out children with cancer, while sporting a fabulous hat, you can preorder or purchase a beanie online at [loveyourmelon.com](http://loveyourmelon.com). Remember to select "Concordia St. Paul" at checkout to give our crew some credit. The Love Your Melon beanies sell out within an hour of each release, which usually happens every Monday, so stay alert for the limited window of beanie buying opportunities. Join millions and tip your hat to support the thousands of children fighting for their lives against cancer.

# CSP Discusses Diversity

## UMOJA Black History Month Event

By Brooke Steigauf

The African Diaspora refers to communities located across the globe that are made up of African people who have immigrated to other countries as a result of a historical movement. This was the introductory point made at the Umoja's Black History Month event on Thursday, February 4th. The Umoja event drew attention to how cultures have taken root in this country and the positive and negative aspects that come with that. In groups, people shared opinions, experiences, and hardships on both sides of the matter through thoughtful discussion and respectful exchanges.

The event began with an ice breaker in which the audience was divided into pairs and given a card with an African country written on it. Each pair explored interesting facts and shared why the people of the country chose or were forced to immigrate. Many students were amazed by the unknown and profound details each country had to offer.

The hosts of the event then proceeded to have the audience discuss the stereotypes and tensions between Africans and African Americans. The group's consensus was that the tension comes from cultural misunderstandings, jealousy, and conflicting individual opinions based off of their own personal experiences. The last question that was brought to the various circles was how the diaspora of Africa was still affecting students today. The groups all seemed to agree that the continuous clash of cultures experienced or witnessed by all people is a result of misperceptions. It was discussed that if society as a whole decides to learn from, and about, other cultures, accept their beliefs and practices, or

even encourage them, then the world would function much more peacefully. America in particular has such a diverse surface that it could benefit all of its residents if society managed to take the best pieces of people and cultures and adopt them, while still allowing their differences to remain.

For a long time, America was called "the melting pot" of the world. It was considered a place where people of every background came and were emerged into a single culture. In more recent years, as racism and discrimination continue to be fought and the idea of embracing differences is more and more prevalent, the metaphor has been modified to view The United States as more of a "tossed salad." This meaning that this country has begun to learn how to take on other cultures, not in attempt to transform them into its own, but rather to welcome them as another branch of the society. Discussions like the one that took place at Umoja's black history month event are exactly what is needed to overcome the bridges between harmony and hatred. Exposure to both the hardships and the positive pieces of each individual and culture is the first step to finding peace. The students of Concordia's diverse campus continuously manage to conquer these differences in order to create a safe, welcoming environment for everyone to learn. It is crucial that students continue to support not only events such as these, but also classmates of every ethnicity, sex, religion, race, gender, and culture.