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Borders in Play Culture Quilts

Borders in Play

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Scout Crowell Culture Quilt

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Professor Román-Odio

Spanish 380

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Cultural Quilt Questions

1. *How would you describe your home community and how has that affected you?*

I grew up in small town called Ortonville, Michigan, which hosts a population of only 1,457 people with only about 20% of those residents having college degrees. Ortonville is a generally conservative town and only upon coming to Kenyon did I realize the extent to which Ortonville had affected me and my views. At Kenyon I learned about social issues, politics, and political correctness, all of which opened my eyes to a whole new world that myself and almost everyone that I knew at home had never been exposed to. With this new found knowledge, I came to feel a bit resentment towards my close minded home, only to come to the understanding that education is what allows a majority of people to think the way they do, and an education is something that the majority of people have never been able to peruse. I'm now proud of my home and feel extremely lucky to have the opportunity to get the education that many of my neighbors were never able to get.

2. *What's the most important thing you've gained or learned from your parents growing up?*

The most important thing that I learned from my parents growing up is that no matter what the world says you can and cannot do, if you work hard enough, you can achieve anything. This lesson is one that I learned at a very young age from my mom. She has always encouraged my brother and I in everything we did whether it was getting a role in the school play or being the first in our family to attend college. Because she taught me from day one that I can do

anything if I want it bad enough, I have never been afraid to go for what I want and have always had a strong mind and positive attitude.

3. *What's the most prominent border you have experienced in your life and how has it affected you?*

The most prominent border within my life has been my social economic status. Growing up, I always knew that my family didn't have as much money as other people, even in the context of my rural community. I knew that most of the other kids didn't have to go to the food kitchen for groceries and I knew that they probably didn't have to worry about whether or not they'd have a house next month or power when they got home, but it was never really a huge deal to me, after all, I loved the food kitchen noodles and lighting candles when the power got shut off. Then I got to Kenyon where I learned what boarding school was and what "the one percent" meant, and it was then that there was a border between myself and my classmates. I haven't had half of their life experiences, opportunities, internships, connections, or educations, which left me feeling very alone, confused, and frustrated that I had to work myself into the ground for the same opportunities that they never thought twice about. I had to learn that being the American standard of "poor" is not something to be ashamed of but just another obstacle to get through. I had to teach myself how to ignore faces of distaste when I answered "truck driver" as my friends' parents asked me what my parents "do," and I am still learning how to not feel resentful towards people who have no idea the extent to which they are blessed. All in all, I am proud of where I come from because I have never had anything handed to me, I have worked immensely hard for everything I have, and I know that because of this, my success will be all the more worth it.

4. *At Kenyon, what parts of your identity are the most celebrated and which are the most suppressed?*

At Kenyon, the part of my identity that is the most celebrated is my go-get-em, hard working, you-can-do it outlook on life. My religion, on the other hand, is the most suppressed here on the hill. I am a die-hard lover of Christ and if someone asks me what makes me tick, my answer is undoubtedly Jesus. However, this is not a commonly accepted answer at Kenyon and I have had to defend my faith more times than I can count in the face of those who laugh and mock. It is sometimes frustrating, but my answer to that question will never change.

5. *What do you like most about yourself/ what's your best quality?*

My best quality is my ability to love others. I have always had a passion for people and the amazing things they can do and am very proud of this. I love to love people and I think that this is something that the world needs more of.

6. *What are some of your most important rituals and why?*

My most important rituals are seen in my time with God. I can't make it through the day without praying as it gives me hope and comfort to know that the creator of the universe is listening to what I have to say. I also love to spend time in nature because it is then that I feel God's presence the most. My favorite part of the week is each Wednesday on my way to lead youth group. I take the most beautiful road which, is painted with trees, hilly fields, and amazing sunsets. I often stop at the top of a hill on the road and just pray because it is in those moments that I truly appreciate the beauty of earth and feel the most in touch with my spirituality.