EDI Update ~ Monday, February 11, 2019

We hope you enjoy this second issue of the EDI Update! This issue contains information about important programs and recent events as well as upcoming events through February 22nd.

**EDI Times:** On Tuesday, January 30, EDI published the Inaugural edition of the *EDI Times*, our twice yearly newsletter. This edition included a graphic representation of our Inclusive Excellence framework, brief staff biographies, our annual report, our program and service descriptions and an events calendar. We also published our calendar of events through December 2019.

**Women's Herstory Month:** A representative committee was established last week to make plans for our community’s celebration of women during Women's Herstory Month, March 2019. Our focus will be Deaf Women as part of a conscious effort to build on Deaf Gain, Deaf women’s cultural capital.

The committee members are, in alphabetical order, Teresa Burke, PhD (associate professor, History, Philosophy, Religion & Sociology), Elvia Guillermo (Coordinator, Cross-Campus Multicultural & International Student Programs), Mary Keane, PhD (Director, Campus Activities & Community Programs), Arlene Kelly, PhD (Professor & Chair, Department of ASL & Deaf Studies), Davina Kwong (Director, Campus Business Development), Elizabeth Stone (University Ombuds), Patricia Suarez (Project Management Specialist, Office of the President), and Felicia Williams (Lecturer/ASL Center Coordinator, Department of ASL and Deaf Studies). Bunmi Aina, Director, Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion is also a member of the committee.
Three activities are already in the works for the Month: Women's Gratitude Project, a month-long initiative; Deaf Women's panel as part of the Diversity Monologues Series to kick off the Month; and on March 29 12:00-3:00 PM, Day of Gratitude: 3 hours of massage service for women only.

More information on the Day of Gratitude will be forthcoming. For more information about Women’s Herstory Month, please contact Bunmi.Aina@gallaudet.edu

**Mentoring:** The Mentoring Program is working in collaboration with the associate provost for Student Success and Academic Quality, Dr. Thomas Horejes; chair of the faculty senate, Dr. William Ennis; and Transformational Leadership consultant, Jackie Woodside, to develop a training schedule that will lead to training all university faculty to become mentors for incoming, first-time freshmen in time for fall, 2019. A schedule for the training sessions is in the works. In the interim, the next mentor training will be held on February 20, 2019 from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm in the Washburn Arts Building (WAB) Room 210. For more information email mentoring@gallaudet.edu.

**LGBTQA Resource Center Open House:** As the brand new coordinator of the LGBTQA Resource Center, Alex Leffers hosted an open house on January 31, from 11am.-2pm. This was a casual event with refreshments and afforded Alex the opportunity to meet students, staff and faculty and start building relationships. Several staff and faculty members popped by to congratulate Alex on his new job and to wish him luck.

SBG president Gregorio Mata also stopped by to discuss LGBTQA issues, including plans for ColorFest in April. President Mata also shared that the Rainbow Society is holding elections on Thursday, February 7, so yet another networking and outreach opportunity presents itself! So, if other campus organizations would like to partner with us to offer LGBTQA programming, please contact Alex at lgbtqa@gallaudet.edu.
Keeping the Promise & Multicultural Transition Student Program: On January 30, Keeping the Promise held a Fellowship Workshop: Understanding Human Trafficking in the Deaf Community. Imonie Gwaltney, ‘17, KTP alumnae and Resilience Education Coordinator at Deaf Abused Women's Network (DAWN) discussed sex trafficking, its impact on people, and the efforts currently being made nationally to address the scourge.

On February 6, 2019 there was another Keeping the Promise Fellowship Workshop: National Wellness Observance: Boost your Self-Care Routine. The Health and Wellness Programs’ Peer Health Advocates provided an interactive activity focusing on self-care, an important aspect of overall well-being to improve mental, emotional, and physical health.

KTP has an upcoming event on February 13, 2019 in commemoration of Black History Month in collaboration with the Black Students Union (BSU). Appreciating the Influence of Deaf African-Americans. BSU Vice-President, Chiquita Jackson-Grant will present about prominent Deaf African-Americans. Please contact KTP coordinator Delia Lozano at delia.lozano@gallaudet.edu to RSVP your attendance.

Connecting Hearts & Minds: On February 5th, as part of the series formerly known as Diversity Monologues but which has now been renamed Connecting Hearts & Minds, a panel discussion was held at the MultiPurpose Room (MPR) in the I. King Jordan Student Academic Center entitled, "Pioneers and Torchbearers for Inclusive Excellence: A Panel Discussion with Members of the Black Deaf Community."

The panel brought together leaders from the Black Deaf community to reflect and reminisce through stories about individuals who have been significant trailblazers, pioneers and torchbearers in the Black Deaf community. Moderator Franklin Jones, ASL and Deaf Studies Faculty member led a robust conversation with seven panelists who shared the influence these trailblazers had on their lives and their work.
Panelists included: Antines “NuNu” Davis, Event Coordinator of National Deaf People of Color Conference - Boston 2020; Dr. Carolyn McCaskill, Professor, ASL and Deaf Studies and co-author of *The Hidden Treasure of Black ASL*, Erica Miley, BSU President and graduating senior, Dr. Ernest Hairston, co-author of *Black and Deaf in America: Are We that Different?*, Evon Black, President, National Black Deaf Advocates, Dr. Khadijat Rashid, Dean, School of Education, Business and Human Services and Niesha Washington Shepard, ASL and Deaf Studies Faculty. *Moderator Franklin Jones and panelists.*

**Turn-A-Page-Together (TAPT)**

Turn-A-Page-Together (TAPT), an 8-11 week campus “book club” offered during each fall and spring semester and open to students, faculty and staff members, continues its 17th consecutive year. TAPT brings people together on Wednesdays to, over lunch, share their diverse views and perspectives through group discussions about the books they read from or about different cultures.

This spring, 3 books have been selected: *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures* (Anne Fadiman), *Homegoing* (Yaa Gyasi) and *Finding Zoe* (Brandi Rarus). We will begin meeting on February 13th.

Sign up for TAPT by pointing your phone’s camera at the code to reserve your spot. Contact Elvia at elvia.guillermo@gallaudet.edu for more information or stop by to see her HMB-S141-C.

**UnityFest:** CCMISP is proud to host our 13th Annual “UnityFest” on the Gallaudet University Mall on Friday, April 12, 2019, from 11 am to 4 pm. UnityFest is a day-long festival that celebrates the many different cultures at Gallaudet University. The full day of events will provide students, staff, faculty, alumni, friends, and families an opportunity to explore and experience the wide variety of cultures that make up our campus community.

The day-long festivities will include various types of entertainment, booths featuring information about community-based organizations, crafts, and ethnic cuisine, as well as cultural activities designed to unite the campus and celebrate its diversity! This year, our collaboration with Gallaudet Open

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*Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, 2019 Page 4 of 7 Listen ~ Collaborate ~ Transform*
House and Academic Bowl ensures that all three will happen on the same day, making for a lively campus buzzing with activity.

You can sign up to reserve a booth on the registration form or point your phone’s camera at the code below to reserve.

Please contact Elvia Guillermo at elvia.guillermo@gallaudet.edu if you would like to provide a performance.

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**Student of Color Leadership Institute (SCLI):** The 2019 iteration of the Students of Color Leadership Institute has a theme of **Identity, Diversity & Leadership.** Participants will explore and examine their intersectionality, their multiple identities and the prevailing systems of oppression, privilege and empowerment. Additionally, they will explore the concepts of power and privilege in the context of leadership, and examine how our social identities confer unearned privileges and impose unearned disadvantages. Participants will examine their own identities, develop new, or build upon existing, insights into how to work effectively with those from different backgrounds, and build skills on addressing conflicts within diverse groups across multicultural and international settings. Sign up for SCLI on the application form or point your phone’s camera at the code below to apply.

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**Creating Symbiosis: EDI and the Bilingual Mission Framework Task Force Present to the Board of Trustees:** The Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion embarked on a journey towards symbiosis with the Bilingual Mission Framework Task Force (BMFTF) on January 30, 2019 when VP Ndura, ‘Bunmi Aina and Candas Barnes met with Dr. Kristin Mulrooney, and Dr. Jeffrey Lewis, BMFTF co-chairs. This culminated in Dr. Ndura, Dr. Lewis and Mr. Aina jointly delivering a presentation titled “**Creating Symbiosis: Supporting the Bilingual Mission through the EDI Inclusive Excellence Framework to Promote the Living, Wellbeing and Belonging of the Gallaudet Community**” during an open session of the Board of Trustees on Friday February 8.

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Dr. Elavie Ndura, Vice-President, Division of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Dr. Jeffrey Lewis, Professor, Department of Counseling and Mr. ‘Bunmi Aina, Director, Division of EDI after their joint presentation to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Lewis received an Ubuntu basket from Dr. Ndura in appreciation for his work.
**Camp Catch Them Young:** Registration for Camp Catch Them Young, a seven-day Youth Cultural Immersion Summit for high school youth from 9th through 12th grades, scheduled for July 14th through 21st at Gallaudet, is now open. A distinguished Camp faculty from a cross section of University faculty, staff and administrators many of whom are aligned with affinity groups like National Black Deaf Advocates, Council de Manos, and the Greater Washington Asian Deaf Association (GWADA) has been identified, and work will soon begin to recruit and hire student workers to serve as camp counselors.

The Camp flyer was disseminated electronically nationwide on Thursday, February 7th. To nominate potential campers or suggest camp counselors, contact Bunmi Aina at bunmi.aina@gallaudet.edu.

For more information on the Camp or to apply, please point your phone’s camera to the code on the application below.

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**Cross-cultural Conversations with the Board of Trustees:** In August some of the local members of the Board of Trustees (BOT) joined campus leaders during a cross-cultural conversations experience facilitated by Lee Mun Wah. During the recent BOT meeting Trustee Greg Hlibok and Dr. Ndura co-facilitated an evening conversation entitled “Enhancing Collaborative Leadership through Cross-Cultural Conversations.” Members of the Board and the Executive Team engaged in robust, intimate, compassionate conversations where they embraced brave spaces for sharing and learning things about one another some had never share with each other before. The evening culminated with Dr. Ndura gifting Trustee Hlibok with one of her signature ubuntu baskets in gratitude for his partnership and collaboration.

**Inclusive Excellence Ambassadors:** We are pleased to begin training our first cohort of Inclusive Excellence Ambassadors. They have been hand-selected by their Division leader(s) to serve on a collaborative team. The Ambassadors will serve as liaisons between their divisions and EDI, they will participate in professional development activities and will advise EDI in our work. Their first training will occur as part of the Mindful Facilitation Training beginning on Monday, February 11. For more information about the Ambassadors contact candas.barnes@gallaudet.edu.
EDI events - February 11th through February 22nd

The full EDI calendar of events, through December 2019 is published on our calendar of events.

February 11th 12th & 13th (Times vary depending on audience) Mindful Facilitation Training with Lee Mun Wab for the University faculty, staff and Clerc Center leadership (GUKCH)

February 13th (12 noon-1 p.m.) Turn-a Page-Together Kick off for the Spring semester (JSAC MPR)

February 13th (6-7 p.m.) KTP Workshop: Black History Month: Appreciating the Influence of Deaf African-Americans (LLRH6 Co-Lab)

February 15th (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) Campus wide Cross-Cultural Conversations and Diversity Training with Lee Mun Wab (GUKCH)

February 19th (6-9 p.m.) Cross-Cultural Conversations and Diversity Training for Students (JSAC MPR)

February 20th (10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Mentoring Training Washburn Arts Building, Room 210

February 20th (11 a.m.-1 p.m. A Conversation with Our Black Deaf Elders (JSAC MPR)

February 20th (1:30-2:30 pm) Zuzu African Acrobats (MSSD Gymnasium)