

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

3-22-2021

Women in Leadership and Social Justice' talk contextualizes strides toward gender equity at UMaine

Abigail Martin
University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Martin, Abigail, "Women in Leadership and Social Justice' talk contextualizes strides toward gender equity at UMaine" (2021). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 311.
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/311

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

'Women in Leadership and Social Justice' talk contextualizes strides toward gender equity at UMaine

Home / Culture / Campus & Community / 'Women in Leadership and Social Justice' talk contextualizes strides toward gender equity at UMaine



Photo by Antyna Gould.



Abigail Martin

Campus & Community, Culture | March 22, 2021



University of Maine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy hosted "The Women in Leadership and Social Justice: The Importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" talk on March 15 at 4 p.m. This talk was a part of Women's History Month and focused on discussing women's issues and the importance of diversity.

The talk featured three female panelists: Angela Okafor, a Bangor City Council member, attorney and business owner; Leigh Saufley, the dean of the UMaine School of Law and a former chief justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court and Shontay Delaloue, the vice president for institutional equality and diversity at Brown University.

The panelists spoke about inclusion and diversity in a professional setting, also touching on what inclusion and diversity means to them on a more personal basis. The panelists spoke of their own personal experiences and perspectives regarding social justice and equity in society.

In addition to leading the discussion of equity and social justice, President Ferrini-Mundy was able to provide insight from a more educational context as both the UMaine and UMaine Machias president.

Saufley graduated from law school in 1980. "The number of women in law was about equal to the number of men," she explained, saying how incredible this statistic was, as it was the first time that she had heard of these numbers being equal.

Saufley also works for the University of Maine System. Saufley's main focus in the talk was advocating for equal access to education. Saufley also noted that despite some demographic shifts for the better concerning women's involvement in higher education, cost remains a "frequent barrier," citing her experience in law school during the 1980s.

She recommends the educational system provide a larger, more varied pool of scholarships for education than what is already available to help mitigate this barrier.

"There hasn't been investment in this regard," Saufley said. She noted this type of investment would make a huge positive impact and would therefore be worthwhile for the future of our country, but finding the money to implement systematic change can often be a challenge.

"There has to be access assistance...[and that allocating resources for education] is something we [UMaine] can be intentional about," Ferrini-Mundy said, in response to Saufley.

In a similar light to Saufley, Delaloue explained how a longer discussion is necessary in



Search ...

Recent Posts

Police Beat

UMaine celebrates Greek Week

Escape the Fate's new album has an even further pop twist on rock than their last album

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presents awards to outstanding students

The McGillicuddy fellowship showcase: An annual opportunity for enlightenment

View by Category

Select Category



order to really address financial barriers, but understood that a substantial shift in resources will be required to fulfill a meaningful discussion to further progress.

Delalue then spoke of the difference between equality and equity as advice to students and young adults. First, she emphasized how important it is to find allies with patience and respect.

"[One] undoes one-hundreds of years of an unhealthy and unfair system," Delalue said.

Okafor explained that we need to be inclusive in relation to one another and that purpose is an important aspect of diversity and inclusion. Noting the important role of empathy in cultural awareness, she explained how only when we enter conversations with openness about vulnerability and about our system, then we will be productive.

"We all have limits to our own knowledge [so it is important that] diversity [be] an access point," Okafor said.

LOCALLY-BASED BAND OTIS. SHARES INSIGHT INTO SOPHOMORE ALBUM 'KILL THE CAR'

GRAB SOME BREAKFAST AND FLIP ON APPLE TV'S 'THE MORNING SHOW' BEFORE YOUR ZOOM MORNING COMMUTE

RELATED POSTS



Photo via [express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk).

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS: APRIL 19 THROUGH...



Graphic by Antyna Gould.

MOVING ON: HOW COVID-19 CUT...



"The collaborative art exhibit 'Free the Vaccine for COVID-19' on display at the IMRC Center." Photo by David Jakacky.

UMAINE INTERMEDIA STUDENTS 'FREE THE...

ALSO ON THE MAINECAMPUS

Black Bear Abroad: Study Abroad ... 5 months ago Guest Author: Gustav Anderson. The fear of snakes is undoubtedly ...	Popularity in Washington aside, ... 3 months ago - 1 comment My three younger siblings and I were raised by the restaurant industry. My ...	Editorial: For graduates starting a ... 3 days ago - 1 comment After a bizarre and exhausting academic year, students at the University ...	University of M System trustee a month ago - 1 com On Mar. 22, 2021, University of Maine held its monthly bo
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

What do you think?

0 Responses

Upvote Funny Love Surprised Angry Sad

The MaineCampus Comment Policy

Please read our Comment Policy before commenting.

0 Comments The MaineCampus Disqus' Privacy Policy Login

Recommend Tweet Share Sort by Best

Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?
D f t G Name

Be the first to comment.

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site Do Not Sell My Data DISQUS



Maine Campus

5738 Memorial Union, Room 131
Orono, Maine 04469-5738

207-581-1273
info@mainecampus.com

Recent Posts

Police Beat

UMaine celebrates Greek Week

Categories

Select Category

