UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion_Doing The Work this Native American Heritage Month

University of Maine Office for Diversity and Inclusion

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Doing The Work this Native American Heritage Month

1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <robert.jackson@maine.edu> Mon, Nov 1, 2021 at 4:37 PM
Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <robert.jackson@maine.edu>
To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu
Happy Native American Heritage Month, friends!

I have a LOT to share with you this week. Some of it joyous, some solemn, but all incredibly important, so I ask for your patience and time to read this message in its entirety. It's November 1st already, and that means we're kicking off Native American Heritage Month on campus. I'm excited to share more details of the events we have coming up this month as they become finalized, but I can ask that you mark your calendars for Thursday, November 18th. We're rebranding our former Gay Thanksgiving and Multicultural Thanksgiving events to a new combined ODI Family Feast! Dinner will start at 5 in the North Pod of Memorial Union and all are welcome.

Stay tuned to this newsletter and our social media for updates!

As always, it's important not just to acknowledge the presence of our campus on stolen Penobscot land, but also to name and begin reconciling the continued exploitation and disenfranchisement of our native neighbors and friends. Colonization is not just a blemish on human history. It is an ongoing process that we have yet to...
truly address. We still fail to grant tribes the full sovereignty and rights promised to them in countless treaties signed. We continue to ignore their legal claims to land and water here in Maine and around the continent. We still fail to face the painful reality and full extent of the horrors faced by native children in residential schools around the United States and Canada. This November, I'm asking all of us to find ways we can do better and face the hard truth about the history of abuse and discrimination that cannot be separated from any true and full account of American history.

Today, we raised the Penobscot Nation flag on campus, as we have done for five years now. In her remarks at the event, Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador Maulian Dana shared an action item, and I'll share it again with you now. LD 1626 is currently working its way through the Maine legislature, and it would bring the tribes of Maine to a more equal legal footing with tribes in the other U.S. states by restoring their inherent right to self-govern. In the last several decades, tribes in Maine have been prevented from exercising the full extent of their rights as sovereign entities the same way other federally recognized tribes are, and passing LD 1626 will take steps to remove those barriers and elevate the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Maliseet to true sovereignty under the law. I urge you to learn more about LD 1626 (Wabanaki Alliance has an excellent FAQ page on their website and a Take Action toolkit if you're looking for a place to start).

Today also marks Day 1 of the Kyle Rittenhouse trial. Rittenhouse has pleaded not guilty to intentional, reckless and attempted homicide, reckless endangerment and curfew violation, as well as a misdemeanor charge for possessing a firearm when under the age of 18.

The charges stem from the night of August 25, 2020 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Protestors gathered to express their anger at the shooting of Jacob Blake by a Kenosha police officer that left him paralyzed. Rittenhouse, in addition to a number of other armed men, were in attendance with the purpose of protecting the people and property they believed the protestors posed a threat to. I'll spare you all the details and encourage you to learn more about the events that followed, but the night ended with two men dead, a third wounded, and Kyle Rittenhouse walking past the countless Kenosha Police Department vehicles and officers present, rifle still in hand, and making it home before finally being arrested the next day.

Some folks see Rittenhouse as something of a hero, a prime example of the importance of arming yourself for self-defense purposes. Others see him as a white supremacist who came to Kenosha that evening (he is a resident of Illinois and does not live in Kenosha) hoping to engage in the conflict in a physical way. I have no interest in persuading your opinion one way or another, but I want to highlight a parameter set by the judge in the case that underlines the extent to which our implicit (or explicit) bias can change the way systems treat minoritized folks.
Judge Bruce Schroeder ruled that the prosecution in the case could not refer to the two men killed, Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber, as 'victims,' but that the defense could refer to the protestors as "looters, rioters, and arsonists." When elaborating on the decision to allow this language in referring to the protestors that night, he said “He can demonize them if he wants, if he thinks it will win points with the jury.” Again, I mention this not to convince you that Rittenhouse is either guilty or innocent, but to underscore the ways in which even our most hallowed institutions are influenced by systems of oppression. It's important to note that all three of the men shot that night were white, but they were all present at and likely perceived to be part of an important moment and movement for racial justice. When we talk about 'doing the work' to make ourselves and our spaces more inclusive, we're talking about things like removing the structures, expectations, and language used to gatekeep or frame the way we see and understand folks based on their identity. We may not be doing so in such an overt way as the example I've provided, but there are almost certainly ways in which we, intentionally or not, signal to marginalized folks.

"Doing the work" is hard, and I know that for those of us that hold a great deal of privilege, it can be uncomfortable to confront and deal with it. We're not taught how to have these conversations because our privilege allows us to opt out of them. I don't have to talk about race because I'm a white person working at a predominantly white institution in a very white state in a country designed and governed largely by white folks, but that's why it's so important that I do. It's important that we all do.

As always, our team is here to help offer some advice and guidance to get you started when you're ready. Happy Native American Heritage Month. Black Lives STILL Matter. Trans rights are STILL human rights. 'No human is illegal' STILL applies. Let's keep doing the work together.

In solidarity,
Rob Jackson (He/Him)
Staff Associate for Diversity and Inclusion
JOIN US WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS AT 3PM ON ZOOM FOR LGBTQIA+ SUPPORT GROUP

Starts on September 29th, 2021

SIGN UP BY EMAILING JULIA TANER AT JULIA.TANER@MAINE.EDU

THIS GROUP IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COUNSELING CENTER. THIS GROUP IS A PRIVATE, NON-CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT GROUP.
Community Building with Students of Color

Get to know other students of color and staff in an informal community space.
Food provided with great conversation and activities.

DATE: 11/18 / MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER / TIME: 12-1 PM
Contact sabrina.murray@maine.edu for more info!

"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."
Intersectional Feminist Brunch

Bunch:
Jewish feminist liberation and right to prayer
Guest Speaker: Rachel Pellis

Wednesday November 3rd
12-1pm
Memorial Union Room 312
Multicultural Resource Center

Celebrate the new Hebrew month and the holiday of Rosh Chodesh with free refreshments

"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."
THE WILSON CENTER
INVITES YOU TO OUR WEEKLY

MEDITATION GROUP

Thursdays 6-7PM at The Wilson Center
67 College Ave. in Orono

please bring a mask
all are welcome, beginner and expert

RSVPS APPRECIATED - ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE BY REQUEST
WILSONCENTERORONO@GMAIL.COM
# 2021 Veterans Week

**November 6th-12th**

**For More Information About Any Events Please Visit**

[UMaine.edu/Veterans](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=483c7a7ff8&view=pt&search=all...)

| **Saturday** 11/6 | **UMaine Football vs Stony Brook** - 12:00PM | Join us for the final home game of the season! Stop by the Veterans Center during the week for tickets for student veterans and their families! (50 tickets available) |
| **Monday** 11/8 | **Flag Ceremony** - 11:00AM | A flag raising ceremony will be held on the mall in front of Fogler Library to celebrate UMaine veterans. The US flag and POW/MIA flag will be raised in honor of the veteran community. |
| **Tuesday** 11/9 | **Coffee and Donuts in the Veterans Center** - 9:00AM | Stop by the Veterans Center for some coffee and donuts to start your day! |
| **Wednesday** 11/10 | **Lunch on Us** - 11:00AM | Lunch vouchers available to student veterans on campus. Voucher is good for single use this week. (Limit 100) |
| **Thursday** 11/11 | **Veterans Day Recognized** - No Classes | Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans, that is, persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. |
| **Friday** 11/12 | **Pizza and a Movie** - 11:30AM | Join us for pizza and a movie in the Veterans Resource Center, stay for a movie if you have time as we watch the veteran-friendly classic "Fury." |

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**The University of Maine**

**Student Life**

**Veteran Education and Transition Services**

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**For Additional Information Contact**

UMaine Veterans Center: 381 Kreider
5748 Memorial Union, rm 161
UM.Veterans@maine.edu
WWW.UMaine.edu/Veterans
LETTERS OF SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT

Join us to write letters of encouragement to cancer patients and letters of appreciation to oncology workers at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center.

BUMPS ROOM (MEMORIAL UNION)
NOV. 2ND AND 3RD
11AM - 2PM

"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution."
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION

An opportunity to learn and teach about the Indigenous Peoples of America

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
4:30 PM
Corbett 210

Contact Sage Neptune (sage.neptune1@maine.edu) for more information
SOLIDARITY MEETING

A SAFE PLACE TO FIND SOLIDARITY! A PLACE TO SHARE AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER AS STUDENTS OF COLOR AT UMAINE

MEETING WILL BE HELD BI-WEEKLY STARTING 9/15/21 AT 2PM
SIGN UP VIA ATTACHED LINK

This meeting is offered online for the time being. Students must be physically in Maine to attend.
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLUB

MONDAYS 6PM-7PM

WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE?
The purpose of American Sign Language (ASL) Club is to get club members comfortable with signing an introduction of who they are/where they come from in order to feel prepared to engage in conversation with deaf or hard of hearing people. Students will be a part of bridging the gap between hearing and Deaf cultures; they will gain new perspective. This preparedness will also come through learning about Deaf culture and the proper use of ASL.

WHERE?
We are currently meeting in front of the bear statue (on the opposite end of the library). When it gets too cold, we will relocate inside!

CONTACT:
Please direct any questions to our President, Morgan Oehler, or Vice President, Shanna Scribner. Morgan.oehler@maine.edu, Shanna.scribner@maine.edu

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
Seeking Survey Participants

Earn a $20 Amazon gift card

Are you from Maine?
Are you LGBTQ+?
Did you leave your rural hometown to live elsewhere?

Zach Davis, Dr. Jessica Leahy and Dr. Kathleen Bell are seeking study participants for one hour Zoom interviews in the Fall of 2021.

Follow this link to an eligibility survey, or scan the QR code:
https://bit.ly/2X4h1ka
Weekly Meetings
Wednesday @ 5pm at the Multicultural Student Center
3rd Floor, Memorial Union

- Holiday Events and Services
- Jewish Cooking
- Resources and Support
- Shabbat Dinners
- Fun and Games
- Volunteer Opportunities

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To learn more contact our president at sarah.meyerwaldo@maine.edu
or message us on facebook or on instagram @umaineHillel
Asian Student Association
6 - 7 PM every other Friday at Room 312, Memorial Union

WHO WE ARE
We are a student organization who welcomes everyone from different backgrounds to join us for our events.

WHAT WE DO
Join our general meetings for fun games, movie nights, cooking and study sessions. Have fun and make friends along the way!

CONTACT
annapurna.leung@maine.edu
anna.bishop@maine.edu
abigail.novak@maine.edu

FOLLOW US
Facebook: University of Maine Asian Student Association
Instagram: @asa_umaine

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.
Tired of paying hundreds for textbooks and selling them back for pennies? Check out UMaine's new student-to-student FREE TEXTBOOK LIBRARY! TAKE A BOOK - LEAVE A BOOK - PAY IT FORWARD

Hosted at the Wilson Center 67 College Ave. in Orono Donation bin on the front porch
Are you passionate about spiritual exploration and multifaith dialogue?

Join the UMaine Interfaith Group!

MONDAYS @ 6PM
WILSON CENTER, ORONO

Email dominique.dispirito@maine.edu with questions! We hope to see you there!

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