UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion_Hanukkah, World AIDS Day, and more! Email

University of Maine Office for Diversity and Inclusion

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Y’all, it really feels like winter outside. As November and Native American Heritage Month come to an end, it is important that we celebrate Indigenous brilliance, stories, and experiences not just this month, but every month, to counter the continuous erasure of Indigenous history in the United States.

With that in mind, I’d like to highlight an upcoming program that provides an opportunity to learn about the history and impact of Maine’s Child Welfare practices within Indigenous communities. A showing of Dawnland will take place in the North Pod of the Memorial Union on Thursday, December 2nd at 7pm. The event is a joint collaboration between the Office for Diversity and Inclusion and the American Indian Student Organization (AISO). Endeavoring allies: This event is an opportunity to center the lived experiences of the Wabanaki people. Support and solidarity in educational spaces begin with protecting the space and the people in it, witnessing what is happening in the space and to yourself at the moment, and most importantly, honoring what is shared in the space and finding a way for it to mean something in your life.

The winter season also brings an abundance of holidays centered around family, food, joy, and light. Many of our Jewish friends on campus and in our community gather to celebrate Hanukkah: a Jewish holiday that celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during Greek rule. Due to Hanukkah’s proximity to Christmas, many Americans assume Hanukkah is the most important Jewish holiday. Yet, Hanukkah is not the most important holiday; Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are by far the most holy and significant Jewish holidays, and are holidays on which many Jewish students continue to have classes, exams, leadership meetings, and so on. Nevertheless, Hanukkah still holds cultural significance for Jewish folks: the struggle to practice Judaism while under the constant pressure to assimilate or remain invisible. So, regardless if Hanukkah is a minor Jewish holiday or not, it is a special time for many of our Jewish friends; it is a time to remind people that we are still here.

We find the theme of erasure present not only during the winter holiday season as Hanukkah is reduced to a “Jewish Christmas,” or even Kwanzaa to a “Hanukkah knock off,” but throughout the year as well. Many students on campus are filled with pride for their individual cultural and religious practices, but because most North American college campuses center whiteness and
Christianity, intentionally or not, many students struggle to find a sense of cultural and religious community. How can we honor, celebrate, and support our friends from marginalized religious and cultural backgrounds, not just during the winter holiday season, but year round for Diwali, Eid al-Adha, and Rosh Hashanah? First, we must recognize diversity within religious and cultural communities. Join the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at our final Lunch and Learn of the fall semester, Diversifying Understandings of Religion with Professor Derek Michaud, this Wednesday, December 1st at 12pm in the Multicultural Student Center. This Lunch and Learn provides a unique opportunity to discuss supportive practices from incorporating more religious holidays into the academic calendar to offering more inclusive spaces for meditation and prayer. Join us as we work towards ensuring all students, staff, and faculty feel as though they are recognized and validated as a part of our university’s diverse religious, spiritual, and cultural spectrum.

Find a comprehensive calendar of religious and spiritually significant holidays here.

This Wednesday, December 1st is World AIDS Day: an international day dedicated to spreading awareness about the AIDS epidemic. This Wednesday, and every day, we should mourn and honor the lives of those lost to the disease and stand in solidarity with folks living HIV-positive and with AIDS. I would like to take a moment to highlight a regional health justice organization, Health Equity Alliance (HEAL), that serves communities throughout Northern and Central Maine. HEAL works closely with marginalized communities throughout Maine, combating stigma surrounding HIV, AIDS, and overall sexual health. HEAL’s educational and outreach efforts focus on cultural competency and advancing the health and well-being of folks living with HIV, people who use drugs, the LGBTQ+ community, and anyone else who needs their care. Be on the lookout for HEAL pop-up testing events in our centers. More information about HEAL, their mission, and services can be found here.

Y’all, have a wonderful week. Please see below for some programming opportunities our student-workers and other student organizations have been working hard on to create opportunities to celebrate, learn from, and connect with one another. I encourage you to read through the flyers and make an effort to attend some of these events folks on campus have put so much time, heart, and energy into.

All the best,

Katherine McCarthy (she/her)
Graduate Assistant for the Office for Diversity and Inclusion
Lunch and Learn

Diversifying Understandings of Religion

Featuring UMaine’s Professor Derek Michaud as guest speaker

Wednesday, December 1st from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Multicultural Student Center, Room 314 in the Memorial Union
JOIN ODI & AIS0 ON:

DOCUMENTARY NIGHT

Understanding Native American History in Maine

featuring speakers from the documentary

Thursday, Dec. 2nd
7pm-9pm
North Pod,
Memorial Union

DAWNLAND
A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT CULTURAL SURVIVAL
AND STOLEN CHILDREN
Come to the Rainbow Resource Center (Room 224 Memorial Union) on Monday, Nov 30th from 4pm-7pm to make beaded bracelets!
SHREDDING AWAY 2021

Boxes will be located in:
Multicultural Student Center
Rainbow Resource Center and Intersectional Feminist Resource Center of Memorial Union
from Dec. 7-16.

The program will also be tabled outside the Bear’s Den from 12-1pm on Dec. 7-10.

The Shredding:
Dec. 17th at 12pm - 2pm
Multicultural Student Center

How was 2021 to you? Good? Terrible? Just want to forget this year existed? COVID-19 ruined another year of plans? Have a secret, regret, disappointment or just something you want to get off your chest?

1. Take a piece of paper and write it out.
2. Then slip it in the box.
3. Enter 2022 with a clear mind and nothing holding you back.
4. The notes written will remain private and anonymous.
Unwind Before Finals

• Board games
• Card games
• TV
• Coloring
• Snacks
& More!

DECEMBER 6TH, 8TH, & 10TH
4PM-7PM
RAINFOREST RESOURCE CENTER
(ROOM 224 MEMORIAL UNION)
LET'S FEAST!
DINNER AND DIALOGUE: A CONVERSATION WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ABOUT THE CULTURE SHOCK THEY FACE.

DINNER'S ON US
Dec. 8 2021 | 5PM
Room 312, Multicultural Student Center,
Memorial Union 3rd floor

If anyone wants to be a part of the discussion please contact shreyash.parajuli@maine.edu.
The 2022 International Dance Festival will go on!!! If you would like to participate in the 2022 International Dance Festival please attend one of the upcoming informational meetings on Zoom.

Meetings dates and times:
11/30 @ 4:30pm, 12/1 @ 11:00am, 12/2 @ 2:00pm, 12/3 @ 12:00pm

Join at the Zoom link in this email.

Meetings dates and times:
11/30 @ 4:30pm, 12/1 @ 11:00am, 12/2 @ 2:00pm, 12/3 @ 12:00pm

Zoom Link: https://maine.zoom.us/j/88176072560?pwd=YnB1bFJGQiJzNEtRMEEweWpHaEtuQT09

For more information about the event please visit our website or check out this clip of a past event.
Wednesday, December 1st  |  6:00-7:30 p.m.  
(Eastern)

With just a few days until our discussion, we hope you will join us! If you haven't registered already, please do so below.

Join us for an honest, unscripted kitchen-table conversation among three generations of inspiring Maine-based Black feminist activists, academics, and community builders. Coming together to seek the roots and trace the branches of Black feminism in Maine, panelists will interweave themes of Black women’s history, solidarity, and connections to nature, science, environmental and social justice movements, creativity, and the arts.

This webinar celebrates Black feminism as an ongoing, multi-faceted, transformative force in the speakers' lives, as well as in communities across the United States and right here in Maine.
The conversation will be facilitated by Laren Babb who pursued a graduate degree in chemistry from the University of Maine. Around the table will be: Dr. Samaa Abdurraqib, Associate Director, Maine Humanities Council; Dr. Lori Banks, Assistant Professor of Biology, Bates College; Dr. Leslie Hill, Professor Emerita of Politics, Bates College; Amara Ifeji, Director of Youth Engagement and Policy, Maine Environmental Association and National Geographic Young Explorer; and Kosi Ifeji, Bangor High School student and Youth Hub Coordinator, Maine Environmental Education Association.

The event is made possible with generous support from the Alton ’38 and Adelaide Hamm Campus Activity Fund.

About the Panelists:

Dr. Samaa Abdurraqib

After spending most of her life in the Midwest, Samaa has spent the last decade loving and living on Wabanaki/Abenaki land. Since 2017, she has been focused on writing poetry which represents a return to the form after a 20-year hiatus. Each Day Is Like An Anchor (2020) is her first published collection of poetry. After working in Maine’s domestic violence movement for 5 years, she spends much of her free time appreciating the outdoors, enjoying the waterways, mountains, birds, and woods of Maine and New Hampshire.

Dr. Lori Banks

In 2020, Dr. Lori Banks was named on the list of "1000 Inspiring Black Scientists in America" for her work in molecular biology. Lori is an assistant professor of biology at Bates College, where she heads the Banks Lab focusing on microbial systems manipulations. Inspired to pursue the study of biology and chemistry following the Ameri-thrax attacks and other subsequent bioterrorism threats during her sophomore year in college, Dr. Banks is committed to easing pain and suffering through science applications. Further, she aims to inspire future generations of women-identified scientists and scientists of color. Her story of scientific knowledge as a spiritual gift was recently featured on the Biologos podcast.
Dr. Leslie Hill

After retiring from the Bates College faculty—where Leslie taught courses examining gender politics, African politics, as well as the politics of race in U.S. law and policy—she is the Harward Center's Faculty Fellow for 2020-21 and 2020-22. Aiming to enrich Bates instructors' knowledge of racial inequities and social justice advocacy in Maine, she organizes opportunities for faculty to discuss and design learning projects that prepare students to think critically with, learn from, and work collaboratively with community partners to address white supremacy and racial justice.

Amara Ifeji

Amara Ifeji serves as the Director of Youth Engagement and Policy with the Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA). Her childhood barriers to access to environmental learning drove her commitment to advancing equitable access to the outdoors and climate justice education for all youth. In high school, she organized community science learning efforts for youth and conducted internationally awarded climate change research. Through her role with MEEA, she strives to empower a network of over 400+ youth environmental activists and pushes for both state and federal environmental education policy reform. In recognition of her work, she was awarded the 2021 National Geographic Young Explorer Award—one of only 24 youth in the world.

Kosi Ifeji
Kosi Ifeji is a high school junior, intersectional climate justice activist, and environmental steward from Bangor, Maine. Her passion for the environment led her to pursue citizen science efforts through her school's Stormwater Management and Research Team (SMART), which focuses on monitoring the health of the Penobscot watershed. Kosi shares her time as a Changemakers fellow, co-chairs the Nature-Based Education Consortium (NBEC) Climate Education Task Force and serves on the NBEC Steering Committee, and collaborates with the Maine climate Table Intergen cohort. Kosi also advocates for policy and culture-based change in both her school and local communities through addressing the inequities at her school district.

Wabanaki Voices

invites you to a discussion with

Lisa Sockabasin

Co-Director of Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness

Noon, November 30

Science Building 102, University of Maine Machias

Lisa Sockabasin will provide an overview of Wabanaki Public Health & Wellness programs, and discuss opportunities for collaboration with the UMaine Machias community and Washington County wellness organizations.

Attend in person or by Zoom:

https://maine.zoom.us/j/83111451033?pwd=Rlo3MG0rQi94SHR4SHITamIQA0RIQT09
About the Exhibit

The Bangor Public Library is one of 50 U.S. libraries - and the only New England library - selected out of over 250 applicants to host *Americans and the Holocaust*, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans’ responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

Based on extensive new research of that period, *Americans and the Holocaust* addresses important themes in American history, exploring the many factors — including the Great Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism and antisemitism — that influenced decisions made by the U.S. government, the news media, organizations and individuals as they responded to Nazism. This exhibition will challenge the commonly held assumptions that Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded.
Fidget Toy making program Wednesday, November 17th at noon! We will be providing beads and yarn to make a woven type of fidget toy, to relieve stress and anxiety during Fall Break and Finals Week!
University of Maine System Mail - Hanukkah, World AIDS Day, and more!

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=483c7a7ff8&view=pt&search=all...
CALL FOR ARTISTS!

$100 REWARD!

Your artwork could hang in the Rec Center and/or Maine Bound for years to come!

Design a banner to showcase the spirit of campus recreation and its diversity, equity, and inclusion values.

https://umaine.edu/campusrecreation/diversity-inclusion/callforartists/

Questions?
beth.jackson
@maine.edu

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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.neptune@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.

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institute. Students should request accommodations a week in advance.
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 came 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

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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
obigail.novak@maine.edu

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