UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion_ Happy Valentines and Self-Care! Email

Anila Karunakar

University of Maine University of Maine Office for Diversity and Inclusion

Sonja K. Birthsel

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Dear ODI Community,

In solidarity with the Wabanaki peoples of Maine, I am writing today to highlight an important event happening at the State House in Augusta (and over Zoom): on Tuesday February 15th the Maine Legislature will hear public testimony about LD 1626, an important bill upholding the sovereignty of Wabanaki peoples. You can learn more about the issue and how to participate at: https://wabanakialliance.com/take-action/. I share below my own written testimony in hope that others will feel

Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Happy Valentines and Self-Care!

1 message

UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu> Reply-To: UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion <Anila.karunakar@maine.edu>
To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu
inspired to join me in lending voice to this issue.

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To: Sen. Carney, Rep. Harnett, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

From: Sonja Birthisel, 80 Stillwater Ave. Orono, ME04473, Director of the Wilson Center at the University of Maine

Re: Support for LD 1626, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Hartnett and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I grew up in Maine and have lived and worked in Orono since 2011. In recent years, I have been blessed with deep friendships with Indigenous people, including members of the Penobscot Nation. My interest in tribal sovereignty is informed by these friendships, which have allowed me to learn, grow, and appreciate that support of LD 1626 is a pressing issue of equity and justice.

In my professional life, I serve as Director of the Wilson Center for Spiritual Exploration and Multifaith Dialogue at the University of Maine. The Wilson Center is an independent non-profit organization located in Orono. The mission of the Wilson Center is “to create progressive, ecumenical, and multifaith dialogue for the University of Maine community and through worship, study, and service, to work for social justice, honor diversity, and offer opportunities for spiritual growth.” As a community, our most central value is the equality of all people - and we take this seriously. The Wilson Center’s 16-member multifaith Board has voted unanimously to support LD 1626, and I submit this testimony to you with their blessing.

Upholding the inherent sovereignty of our Wabanaki neighbors through support of LD 1626 is a moral imperative. The Staff and Board of the Wilson Center stand united with conviction in favor of adopting the 22 consensus recommendations to revise the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act of 1980, as summarized by the bipartisan Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. These measures will materially improve the relationship between Wabanaki peoples and the State of Maine, undoing wrongs of the past and bringing our Wabanaki siblings into parity with treatment of Indigenous peoples throughout the rest of the United States.
As a faith leader deeply committed to equity and justice, I mourn the decades Wabanaki peoples have spent struggling to regain their sovereign rights. I am reminded of a legal maxim popularized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that “justice too long delayed is justice denied.” I thank you for attending to this important legislation without further delay.

In solidarity with the Indigenous people I hold dear, and eternal optimism for a just and equitable future, I urge you to vote in support of LD 1626.

Peace and blessings to you this day and always,
Dr. Sonja K. Birthisel
Director of the Wilson Center
ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE

I WANT TO SMASH PATRIARCHY WITH YOU
The history of self-care intertwines with the Black Panthers activism from the Civil Right Movement. Learn how by watching this video.
OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Jan 27 - "Holocaust Remembrance Day"
North Pod | 6pm - 7pm

Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 - "Stargazers of Africa"
Versant Power Astronomy Center | 7pm

Jan 27, Feb 10, 24 - Solidarity Meeting
(BIPOC Support) Union Rm 314 | 5pm - 6pm

Feb 9 - Lunch and Learn
Multicultural Student Center | 12pm - 1pm

Jan 27 - Resilience and Empowerment
Multicultural Student Center | 4pm - 5pm

Feb 10 - Know your Rights: Sean OMara
Multicultural Student Center | 2pm - 3pm

Feb 1 - Black Lives Matter Flag Raising
1st floor Union - near the Bookstore | 12pm

Feb 14 - Interracial Dating
Multicultural Student Center | 12pm - 1pm

Feb 2 - Snack and Chat: Jen Costa
Multicultural Student Center | 2pm - 3pm

Feb 16 - Lunch and Learn: Frank Wang
Multicultural Student Center | 12pm - 1pm

Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 - LGBTQ Support Group
Rainbow Resource Center | 3pm - 4pm

Feb 16 - Trace the Line: Maine Business School
Virtual | 6:30pm

Feb 3 - Decentering Whiteness: Sabrina Murray
Multicultural Student Center | 3pm - 4pm

Feb 16 - Dinner & Dialogue
Wilson Center | 6pm - 8pm

Feb 5, 9 - LGBTQ Support Group
Rainbow Resource Center | 3pm - 4pm

Feb 17 - Climb Night and Film Series
Maine Bound | 6pm - 8pm

Feb 16 - Coffee Hour: OIP
North Pod | 4pm - 5pm

Feb 23 - The Hair Care Fair
Woolley Room DTAV | 10am - 4pm

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XOXO

INTERRACIAL RELATIONSHIPS

PANEL ABOUT THE COMPLEXITIES OF BEING IN AN INTERRACIAL RELATIONSHIP

FEBRUARY 14
12 - 1 PM
MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION.
In celebration of Black History Month, the Maine Business School will present a special virtual screening of the documentary film, Trace the Line on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 6:30 p.m. This film was produced by Bravebird, an indigenous and female-owned production company. A Q&A with the producers, Alejandro Miranda Cruz and Noel Miranda, will follow the screening.

Trace the Line is a powerful narrative that follows the lives of two artists, one black and one white. These characters forge a relationship through the tumultuous year of 2020, showing what needs to happen for these two communities to work together and not against each other. Director Alejandro Miranda Cruz hopes that viewers will experience a truly authentic film that doesn’t have any answers but shows a lot of hope.

“Trace the Line offers an intimate look at life in the United States while living through a pandemic, a spotlight on racial inequality, and increased political division,” says C. Matt Graham, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Business Information Systems. “The goal of sharing this film is to provide faculty, students and staff an opportunity to see life in these trying times through the lens of someone different than them. This film shows how art can be a medium to bring us together and remind us of what we have in common — our humanity.”

Alejandro Miranda Cruz, the director, producer, and screenwriter for Trace the Line, is fueled by a passion for creating authentic narratives that portray all people with dignity. He worked as an actor for 15 years, witnessing the lack of equity and diversity on set. With Huichol and Taino roots, Miranda Cruz was routinely typecast as a delinquent, a gang member, and uneducated. As a script reader, he saw how stories of BIPOC communities were ignored and
dismissed. These experiences set him on the path to transforming the narrative pushed by film and advertising.

Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82403967296?pwd=UlAwUTh2L21OMkxkM2ZKN2duNlgvdz09#success

ODI DIVERSITEA PARTY: EXPECTATIONS OF TRANSNESS

Come talk about topics related to trans experiences while enjoying tea and hot cocoa! All are welcome!

Friday, February 18th, from 2 pm to 3 pm in the Rainbow Resource Center, Room 224 in the Memorial Union

"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer"
Black History Month

Climbing Night and Film Series

Thursday, February 17
Films: 6:00 - 7:30 PM * Climbing: 7:30 - 9:00 PM

February is Black History Month. Come into Maine Bound Adventure Center for a film series featuring Black outdoor athletes in a variety of sports including running, biking, skiing, and climbing!

We will have Maine Bounds staff available to belay and teach climbing skills after the film.
Pop Up Testing

Get tested for HIV!
Memorial Union, 223

Thursday, Feb. 17th: 10am-2pm
Thursday, March 3rd: 12-4pm
Tuesday, March 22nd: 10am-2pm
Thursday, April 7th: 12-4pm

Free and open to everyone!
ODI DiversiTea Party:
LBGTQ+ Student Experiences in Rural Maine

Featuring grad researcher Zach Davis

Rainbow Resource Center,
Memorial Union Rm 224
February 22 @ 2pm

Beverages and light snacks provided

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Chai Chat

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PROFESSIONAL?

Thursday
February 24th
4pm-5pm
Memorial Union Room 312
Multicultural Resource Center

“The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution”
YARN PARTY!

CALLING ALL CROCHET, KNITTING, AND OTHER YARN ARTISTS!

ANY EXPERIENCE LEVEL WELCOME!

BYO MATERIALS OR USE OURS!

Friday, Feb. 25, 2022 / 2-4 PM
Rainbow Resource Center
Room 224 Memorial Union

"THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION INSTITUTION."
Applications for All Maine Women Class of 2023 are now open!

All Maine Women is the inclusive traditions society for rising seniors identifying as women, transwomen, or nonbinary that demonstrate exemplary leadership, scholarship, peer mentorship, and campus involvement at the University of Maine.

Nomination materials are available at bit.ly/AMW2023 and are due to hahudson1@gmail.com by Sunday, March 6th at 11:59PM.
LGBTQIA+ SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS
3-4PM
RAINBOW RESOURCE CENTER (UNION 224)

For questions, contact 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.

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From the dawn of time, African people have looked to the skies above for inspiration and guidance. Stargazers of Africa is a journey connecting the stars, moon and planets to the people across this great continent — from long ago to the stargazers of today. Experience African tales from the Yoruba people and a Nigerian story about the far away stars. Discover the African Stonehenge and moon calendars made from bones over 40,000 years ago.

Tickets for planetarium programs are $7 for Adults, $6 for UMaine Students/Veterans/Senior Citizens, and $5 for children under 12. Click here to view the Versant Power Astronomy Center calendar.

Tickets may be purchased online, by phone at 207.581.1341, or at the Versant Power Astronomy Center ticket box office prior to the show.
CELEBRATE

self love

THIS

Valentine's Day

Friday, Feb. 18th
2-4 pm

Come talk self love while painting your nails or getting your nails painted!

In the IFRC room 227 of the Memorial Union

nail painting supplies provided

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Hello.
We hope your semester is going well.

You have been recommended to participate in the STEM Bridge program this spring! This faculty and peer-led mentoring program will meet weekly throughout the semester, providing opportunities to connect with other students, get one on one help from faculty, and engage in fun activities, all for free!
The meetings will begin this month and continue once a week until May. You will receive a $250 University Bookstore gift card for completing the program, and a free 3-day retreat on the Maine’s coast at Blueberry Cove from May 7-9.

Please join us for this exciting mentoring venture for first-generation students this semester. First-generation college students are the first in their families to earn a college degree even if a sibling is currently enrolled in college or has earned a degree.

Space is limited! Please sign up by completing this short (one minute) Google Form.

Qualifications:

- Must identify as a first-generation student
- Current Student in the Liberal Arts and Sciences or the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture
- Preference will be given to first-year and sophomore students, but any student who meets the criteria above will be considered on an individual basis

You should do it because you will:

Build valuable connections with other first-generation students in STEM majors, faculty in your major and a first-gen peer mentor.

- Participate in a free adventure on the Maine coast, gain leadership skills, and reflect on your goals for the next school year.
- Receive a $250 gift card to the University Bookstore
- Work with a peer student and faculty who want to support your growth at UMaine and develop skills to help you succeed at the university.

Please contact the Division of Lifelong Learning with questions: um.summerprograms@maine.edu or 207-581-4750.

Sincerely,

**Raphael Okutoro**

Coordinator of Summer Programs

Division of Lifelong Learning
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 IN PERSON STARTING 1/27/22 AT 5PM
SIGN UP VIA QR CODE OR THE LINK BELOW

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4D1OST-g3muzMPOahuJoU5PTQ8U2iOHNW9güjsV7_oUZTw/viewform?usp=sf_link

For more questions, please contact frank.wang@maine.edu

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