UMaine Office for Diversity and Inclusion_Happy Black History Month and Happy Lunar New Year! Email

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University of Maine Office for Diversity and Inclusion

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Happy Black History Month!
What does Black History Month mean to you?

Starting February 1st, we celebrate Black innovations, creativities, and lives in the making of these United States of America today by raising the Black Lives Matter Flag. Meet us in the atrium, in front of the bookstore, in the Memorial Union at 12pm.

The dedication of this month started in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, who is called the, "father of Black history." His purpose was to educate people by starting academic programs that explore African American experiences. A way to acknowledge that Blackness, its representation and influence is present in all facets of American society.

These last couple of years, during the pandemic, we started to face the inequities based on race, gender, sexuality, and other underrepresented identities. All while also losing BIPOC lives.

This year’s theme for Black History Month focuses on Black Health and Wellness. Click on this link to learn more here. I hope you will take time that to expand your understanding of Blackness, Black History, representation and influence in your life.

Proudly celebrating Black History Everyday!

Anila Karunakar (She, her, hers)
Director of the Office for Diversity and Inclusion
Happy New Year to all of our friends who start celebrating the Lunar New Year on February 1st! We welcome the year of the Tiger. If you are born in the years of 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 and 2022 - this is your year. We hope for good health, safety and prosperity for all year!
Black History Month is a great time to dive deeper into intersectional feminism and examine how you can support and uplift black women. These black women have created platforms to promote wellness and self-care within the black community and remind the world that wellness isn’t whiteness. It’s for everyone. Hear from them in their own words what wellness means to them and what inspired them to share their journey with the world to create change.

Leah Thomas
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 Taíno 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=U1AwUTh2L21OMkxkM2ZKN2duNlgvdz09#success

**SNACK AND CHAT**

**WHY DO SOME PEOPLE KNEEL DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM?**

**FEB. 2 AT 2-3PM**

**MULTICULTURAL STUDENT CENTER RM 314**
ODI PRESENTS

Decentering Whiteness

A three-part conversation about whiteness, allyship, & identity.

Starting Thursday, February 3 at 3-4 pm
Multicultural Student Center

IF INTERESTED EMAIL SABRINA.MURRAY@MAINE.EDU

“The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.”
SNACK & CHAT: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Conversation around protesting and interactions with the police with Attorney Sean O'Mara from Student Legal Services

Thursday, February 10, 2022
Multicultural Student Center (MSC) in the Memorial Union 312

This event is free and open to everyone
Food provided

"The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution"
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/1FAIpQLsdvDIOST-g3muZMPDvJVoU5PTQ0D2UHWN9yju3V7_dLiZIw/viewform?usp=sf_link

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

Black Health Disparities Go Back To Slavery |
Discovered Truth: Full Documentary