

# D.I.C.E. Newsletter

IN THIS EDITION:  
MLK Week Highlights  
What's New?  
In Our Offices  
DICE in the Community  
Student Spotlight  
The WHO and HOW

## A word from our Vice President



Dear Campus Community,

I am pleased to introduce the first in a series of monthly newsletters from the Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement (DICE). This division formed almost one year ago, and we continue to be excited by the opportunities that are before us – opportunities to build on your great efforts to make our campus an even more welcoming and affirming environment for students, staff, and faculty. For all our achievements, we acknowledge that there's still much work to do, so we look forward to strengthening existing campus partnerships and identifying new ones in the months ahead.

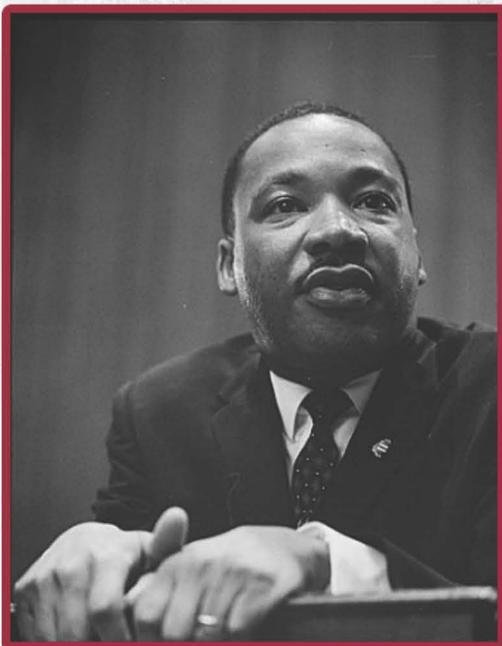
While our primary focus is on all of you, our campus community, we also recognize the importance of our off-campus partnerships and collaborations. These relationships are vitally important to helping us broaden our notion of community, both in terms of what we share with our neighbors, and as we consider ways to learn and grow from our interactions with them. We hope this newsletter will be informative and inspiring.

Sincerely,

*Heather Lobban-Viravong*

# MLK WEEK

**JANUARY 16-22, 2023**



As in past years, the MLK Week/Beloved Community Team dedicated a full week to recognizing and celebrating Dr. King's many contributions to our country, and the world. Centered on the theme of **"His Words Still Speak,"** we paid particular attention to his speeches and writings, asking campus constituents and community partners who participated in our week-long programs to reflect on a quote that inspired them both personally and professionally.

In addition to service opportunities at the top of the week, we used the traditional day of service to engage in learning and conversations with local non-profit organizations. The rest of the week included a stimulating discussion at the Berman regarding Labor Movements in Museums; lightning talks from faculty, staff, and students; a showing of the movie "Till" and a "Conversations" lunch dedicated to the film. On Saturday, our friends in athletics dedicated a basketball doubleheader to Dr. King. Finally, Sunday found us at the Community Interfaith Service in Bomberger. In addition to hearing from President Hannigan and local community leaders, we were treated to a keynote address from Rabbi Marx from Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, PA.

# MLK WEEK ...in pictures



## What's new?

### Crossroads Mentoring Program

Calling all Sophomores! We recently launched a pilot program that provides an opportunity for sophomores to be paired with a faculty or staff mentor. Mentors and mentees will meet bi-weekly for conversations. Participating students can use these meetings as an opportunity to set goals, learn about resources, and build a network across campus.

### Community Cooperation Program (CCP)

Students interested in connecting with community leaders to learn more about their work are invited to do so through the Community Cooperation Program. The best part is that you don't have to make a long-term commitment. You can meet with a community partner for one, two, or three or more times. It's entirely up to you. Our community leaders represent a number of industries and organizations, education, small businesses, elected representatives, and more. The CCP is a partnership with Career and Post-Graduate Development (CPD), so reach out to our friends in CPD if you want to get connected.

### Welcome Home Project

If you haven't heard about the Welcome Home Project, then it's new to you. Just over 18 months ago, the college was fortunate to forge a partnership with the Lenape people, particularly the Delaware Tribe of Indians from Bartlesville, Oklahoma. This relationship led to the adoption of a Land Acknowledgement Statement, and a Statement of Mutual Intentions, which outlines a basic plan for our work together. The progress we've made to date has been guided by the Delaware Tribe of Indians, and we're also grateful to students, faculty, and staff, in Environmental Studies, History, the Office of Sustainability, and Myrin Library for their tireless dedication to this work. We are also grateful to our partners from the Perkiomen Valley School District, and the larger community who allowed us to participate in this journey with them. Reach out to our office if you're interested in learning more about this project and about how you can support an important aspect of our shared history.

# In our offices

## **Institute for Inclusion and Community Engagement (IIE)**

The office has compiled an extensive list of Black History Month events happening across our campus. Please visit [www.ursinus.edu/BlackHistoryMonth](http://www.ursinus.edu/BlackHistoryMonth) for details.

## **Office of Disability and Access (ODA)**

Our focus is to facilitate accessible environments and to provide opportunities for connection on equitable design. Look for opportunities to connect with ODA and check out our new student profiles on the website!

## **Ursinus Center for Advocacy, Responsibility and Engagement (UCARE)**

UCARE welcomes graduate assistant Nic Schoppe.  
The Community Closet project is up and running.

## **Religious and Spiritual Life**

Our focus is to encourage, enhance and uplift the various faith communities on campus and to foster interfaith collaboration. Join us for events in February: 2/10 and 2/13 Valentine's Day in Lower Wismer; 2/22 Ash Wednesday service; and 2/26 Soul Food Sunday: "Global Black Spirituality" - a partnership with the IIE and Sankofa Umoja Nia (SUN).

# DICE in the Community

- The Sycamore Community Engagement Award was recently created to honor campus constituents and community members who are committed to community service and building bridges of understanding across different groups and organizations.
- We are building a webpage that provides info about businesses in town that provide discounts to faculty, staff, and students.
- As part of MLK Week, we host an essay contest for local elementary and middle school students. The essays are judged by Ursinus student athletes. This year we honored students from grades 5 and 7 in the Perkiomen Valley and Spring-Ford school districts.
- We will host the next Perkiomen Valley Chamber mixer for local businesses in early March.

**The Beloved  
Community**



What is the Beloved Community? Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned a beloved community of "total interrelatedness," in which persons consider their well-being to be dependent upon the well-being of their fellow human beings. [Ursinus.edu/BelovedCommunity](http://Ursinus.edu/BelovedCommunity)

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Although she attended Catholic school in Philadelphia, Maia was exposed by her grandmother, to multiple faiths and spiritual practices, learning at an early age about the broad spectrum of faith and belief communities which exist. Once at Ursinus, this led her to become a Chapel Leader, and her family's dedication to service inspired her to become a Bonner Scholar.

Proud to be part of her family's non-profit organization, The Emir Healing Center which supports victims of homicide and trauma, Maia has set her sites on a graduate program in divinity after Ursinus. She is particularly interested in theology and body image in Black women and women of color.

When asked what she wants others to know about her, she replied,  
**"I am multi-layered. I am still evolving, growing.....  
I want to make a difference."**

## Maia Peele '23



Anthropology and Sociology Major  
Bonner Scholar  
President, Rotaract  
Vice President, Chapel Leaders  
Student Consultant, TLI  
Student Curator, Berman Museum

## WHO ARE WE?

**Heather Lobban-Viravong** | Vice President, Inclusion and Community Engagement

**Rosa Abrahams** | Jewish Ritual Leader

**Melanie Cunningham** | Administrative Support Coordinator

**Ashley Henderson** | Director, Institute for Inclusion and Equity

**Monique Kelly** | Director of Community Engagement and Internal Programs

**Todd McKinney** | Director of Community Engagement and Student Programs

**Aziz Nathoo** | Muslim Life Coordinator

**Christian Rice** | Asst. Professor of Philosophy & the Humanities/ Associate Dean for Civic Learning/ Bonner Director/ Project Pericles Program Director

**Nic Schoppe** | Graduate Assistant, UCARE

**Dee Singley** | Director of Disability Services and 504 Coordinator

**Xochitl Shuru** | Affiliated Faculty for Inclusion and Equity

**Jasmine Soriano** | Assistant Director of Inclusion and Equity, Intercultural and Community Engagement

**Michael Thompkins** | Jewish Life Coordinator

**Joanna Timmerman** | Assistant Director of Disability and Access

**Angela Upright** | Assistant Director of UCARE

**Brandon M. Winfield** | Post-Baccalaureate Chapel Coordinator, Office of Religious Life

**Betty Wright-Riggins** | Interim Chaplain, Office of Religious Life

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

### For Students

- Take part in our Community Cooperation Project with CPD

### For Faculty and Staff

- Submit your activities to the inclusion inventory survey
- Contact us for a DICE Collaboration lunch date

### For All

- Attend a Conversations About and Across Difference lunch
- Check out our Black History Month events
- Tag an event with Beloved Community
- Volunteer with UCARE
- Propose an Inclusive Community Project
- Ask us about our Crossroads Mentoring program
- Ask us about the Welcome Home Project
- Submit a nomination for the Inclusion and/or Sycamore Community Awards

## QUESTIONS?

email us at

[inclusionandcommunityengagement@ursinus.edu](mailto:inclusionandcommunityengagement@ursinus.edu)