

D.I.C.E. Newsletter

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Student Spotlight

On March 1, we hosted our first DICE student mixer. All the students who are connected to one of our programs, work in one of our offices, or who want to establish a connection to the division, were invited to have conversation and socialize over lunch.

Student Mixer



Student groups connected to the division include: ALMA | Bonner leaders | Chapel Leaders | Crigler Scholars and Mentors | Disability and Access Student Advocates | Hillel | InterVarsity | Rice Scholars | Rotaract | Scholars in service | SUN | UC Ambassadors | Voices in Praise Gospel Choir



DICE AWARDS

On March 15, students, staff, faculty, and community members joined us in the Berman Museum to celebrate the newly established DICE Awards. Awardees were recognized with either an Inclusion and Equity Award, or the Sycamore Community Engagement Award.

The **Inclusion and Equity Award** recognizes those around us who have, often quietly, demonstrated commitment to Ursinus's value of fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable environment in or outside of the classroom, in clubs and other organizations, in recruitment and outreach efforts, in everyday encounters with colleagues, peers, and other groups.

The **Sycamore Community Engagement Award** honors those who have demonstrated excellence in bringing people together in a spirit of learning, unity, understanding, and cooperation. The recipient recognizes the interconnectedness between the campus and the surrounding community and acknowledge that the campus is as much a laboratory for learning as the community is for building knowledge. It was the inaugural year for our new Sycamore Community Engagement Award.

We are pleased to present you with the following winners!

INCLUSION AND EQUITY AWARDS

STUDENT:
Serena Rose Gaskin '23

STAFF:
Jordan Scharaga '17

FACULTY:
Nicole Snodgrass



SYCAMORE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

STUDENT:
Maia Peele '23

STAFF:
Steve Gehringer

FACULTY:
Giovanna Steyaert

COMMUNITY MEMBER:
Cathy Kernen



Black History Month

RECAP

February was a month packed with events and activities across campus, celebrating Black history and culture. Jeanine Osayande, Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance, treated us to the first in a series of global dance lessons with “Moving Bodies, Making Space – Soul Line Dance.” We had the pleasure of hosting internationally renowned “Step Afrika!” whose members also took time to meet and talk with our very own Seismic Step student group [right]. The Berman Museum hosted Michael Dela Dika, who gave a tour of his work, “Shaping Rhapsody,” which was installed with a team of student curators and incorporates themes of belonging and collectivism. Other events included “Queering Black History: Artists for All,” a discussion hosted by Radiance Peer Connections, the Nia Walking Group committed participants to walking while reflecting on a question, S.U.N. hosted a showing of “Wakanda Forever,” and On the Same Page (OSP) continued its discussion of Ibram Kendi’s “How to be an Antiracist”.



Michael Dela Dika, *Field Formation*, 2022 and *Fruits of Labour*, 2022. Photo by Joseph Hu.

In Our Offices

Institute for Inclusion and Community Engagement (IIE)

Stop by Hora de Café Friday, March 24 at 6:00 pm in IIE classroom. We will have a fun Mayan Glyphs painting activity along with tasty treats! LATIN NIGHT is coming! Stay tuned for more details.

Office of Disability and Access (ODA)

Dee Singley and Joanna Timmerman were at the 21st Annual Weingarten Center Disability Symposium at the University of Pennsylvania on March 10th presenting on implementation of the social model of disability, and building sustainable, accessible events with Kate Keppen, director of sustainability.

Ursinus Center for Advocacy, Responsibility and Engagement (UCARE)

The Bonner program just returned from their annual service trip to Jamaica. This was the twelfth annual trip and we worked once more with our partners in Westmoreland Parish after a three-year delay due to COVID. This year, the Bonners were joined by seven Abele Scholars. The students worked on five projects in the community, including both painting and construction projects.

Religious and Spiritual Life

RSL will be visiting the newly created mosque in Phoenixville, Khair Community Center. Chapel Leaders, MSA, the Interfaith Alliance and members of the Newman Society will join together for dialogue, witnessing evening prayers and sharing a meal with members of the Islamic community center. Members of MSA are joining additional Mosques to break the daily fast during Ramadan which begins March 22.

To read more, visit our office pages on the website!

DICE in the Community...



Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins, Interim Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life, and Brandon Winfield '22, Post Baccalaureate Chapel Coordinator, brought the Voices In Praise Gospel Choir to Calvary Moravian Church in Allentown, PA. They were hosted by Pastor Janel Rice '00, wife of our very own Christian Rice '98.



On March 8, we hosted the Perkiomen Valley Chamber of Commerce mixer event, bringing local community leaders from all sectors onto campus.



Keep an eye out soon for our community partners discount webpage - and send us your suggestions for a business we should connect with!

What is the Beloved Community?

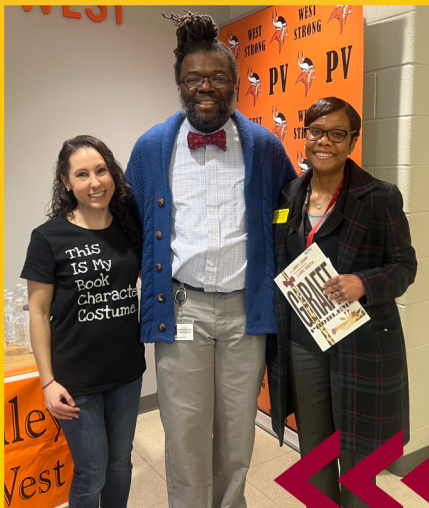
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned a beloved community of "total interrelatedness," in which persons consider their well-being to be dependent upon the well-being of their fellow human beings.

Ursinus.edu/BelovedCommunity

The Beloved Community



Read Across America



Heather Lobban-Viravong and Todd McKinney stopped by Perkiomen Valley Middle School West to participate in Read Across America, which was celebrated the week of February 27 to March 3. It is the nation's largest celebration of reading, and was conceived to inspire and motivate students to read. They each read a book to a class, and stayed to talk about the text with students afterwards. In Todd's class, the students shifted from the text to ask questions about Ursinus College!



Jessica Dean, Reading Specialist at PVMS West, and Steven V. Willis, PVSD Coordinator of Equity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement

Blanca Andrade is a senior majoring in both Spanish and Media and Communications Studies. She is currently participating in the ESL program at Accion Comunal Latinoamericana de Montgomery County, or the Latin American Action Committee of Montgomery County (ACLAMO). In addition to teaching at ACLAMO, she creates some of the lesson plans in civics and geography, taking into consideration the specific needs of Spanish speakers. Her understanding of the Spanish speaking community, along with her creativity and caring personality, make her an invaluable member of this volunteer program.



On campus, Blanca has held leadership roles as a Crigler Peer Mentor and as Social Media Chair on the A.L.M.A (Association of Latinx Motivated to Achieve) executive board for multiple terms. Blanca intentionally pays it forward within the Ursinus community and beyond, thus making her commitment to others evident in all she does.

OUR OFFICES

- DICE Office Staff** - VP, Administrative Support Coordinator, Community Engagement Leaders
- IIE** - Institute for Inclusion and Equity
- ODA** - Office of Disability and Access
- RSL** - Religious and Spiritual Life
- UCARE** - Ursinus Center for Advocacy, Responsibility, and Engagement

GET INVOLVED

- Community Cooperation Project (a partnership with CPD)
- Contact us for a DICE Collaboration lunch date
- Attend a Conversations About and Across Difference lunch
- Tag an event with Beloved Community
- Volunteer with UCARE
- Ask us about our Crossroads Mentoring program
- Ask us about the Welcome Home Project

also of note...



Heather Lobban-Viravong and Missy Bryant share their insights on being women in higher education in the February 24 episode of **J.A.M With Us**, a student run podcast found on Spotify

Art4Visibility



Originally an Inclusive Community grant project, Art 4 Visibility will be continuing with support from DICE, the Art and Art History Department, and other partners across campus. Watch a recent video on the website for more!

Community Closet



A video about the UCARE Community Closet was just released on the website! Learn more about how Angela Upright '17 started this project with the help of Inclusive Community Grant funding.

QUESTIONS?

email us at inclusionandcommunityengagement@ursinus.edu