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D.I.C.E. Newsletter

recent events

PRIDE WEEK RECAP

We celebrated Pride Week from April 10-20. Many events were hosted by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and Radiance Peer Connections. In addition to information tables, a craft night, karaoke, and hosting a Conversations About and Across Difference lunch, the week included the annual Gayla semi-formal, a movie night, and LGBTea Time. Students also engaged with Point of Pride, writing letters to trans individuals as an expression of support, acceptance, and inclusion. The week also included a fundraiser, aimed at providing shapewear to those in need of this product. Once again, Pride Week raised the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community, but we continue to strive to make such visibility commonplace at Ursinus.



INTERFAITH IFTAR

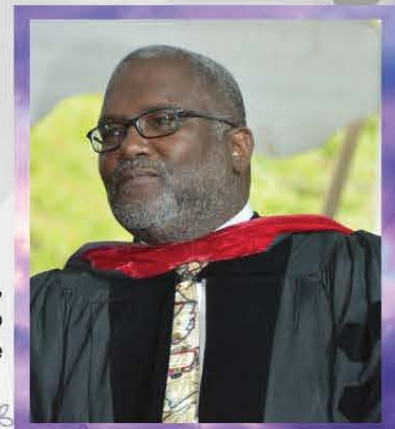
On April 11, the Office of the Chaplain, IIE and the Muslim Students Association (MSA) collectively hosted an interfaith Iftar at sunset. Iftar is the traditional breaking of the fast at sunset for Muslims observing the holy month of Ramadan, the month when the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. The observation of the month of fasting is one of the 5 major pillars of the Islamic faith, when Muslims abstain from food and water from sunup to sunset and fast towards piety, abundant charity and deep spiritual search. The breaking of the fast is a festival occasion, where food is shared with family, friends and community. About 40 students gathered to break bread and engage in meaningful conversation about the occasion and engaged in learning.

REV CHARLES RICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARS



With the creation of the Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement, a renewed focus on student groups has brought attention to the Rev. Charles Rice Memorial Scholars.

In late April, we held a year-end celebration, honoring the first graduating seniors in the program. Tonya Rice, who met all the cohorts for the first time in January, offered brief remarks and presented each senior with a cord and a small gift.



Other key gatherings this spring included a listening session for DICE staff with the scholars, and a session with Andy Prock, Scholarly Communications & Metadata Librarian, who introduced the students to all the materials on Rev. Rice that are currently housed in the Digital Commons.



On May 1, Heather Lobban-Viravong, Vice President for Inclusion and Community Engagement, along with collaborator and friend, Jan Gross, Professor Emerita, Grinnell College, performed a dramatic dialogue entitled “More than Skin Deep” in the Black Box theater. The performance explored the unspoken ways that difference affects our sense of self and how we interact with others. This very personal presentation - featuring the work of Gross and Lobban-Viravong, and adapted by Lesley Delmenico (Associate Professor, Grinnell College) featured candid exchanges, shared writings, and poetry. The latter half of the event included a conversation among audience members.

A Special Conversations About and Across Difference

engaged students

Brothers of Excellence Luncheon

On April 8, staff members from the Institute for Inclusion and Equity, traveled with student representatives from Ursinus, to attend the 7th Annual Brothers of Excellence Luncheon at West Chester University. The luncheon’s theme, “Health, Happiness, and Harmony” centered on the “importance of unity amongst the community of Men of Color.” The event featured a keynote speaker, a panel, and conversation with faculty staff, and alumni.



Latin Night

On April 14, students gathered to support the Association of Latinx Motivated to Achieve (ALMA) as they hosted Latin Night, an event that features authentic cuisine from local restaurants, music, and fun.



Cloake House - CODE

If you're a student that lives/has lived in Cloake House, which hosts the Community of Diverse Excellence (CODE), then please reach out to Caden Johnson at cajohnson2@ursinus.edu. Caden is interested in recording the history of the house, which relies on the stories and experiences of past and current residents, and other members of the Ursinus community. If you have a story that was documented in pictures, then please share those with Caden as well. Thanks in advance for your support.



UCARE

On April 3, UCARE hosted a group of high school students, families, and staff from CCATE (Centro de Cultura Arte Trabajo y Educacion), located in Norristown. CCATE students used their spring break to visit multiple college campuses, and they included Ursinus on their list. Xochitl Shuru, Ashley Henderson, Nic Shoppe, Jasmine Soriano, Dee Singley, Joanna Timmerman, and Christian Rice and UC students (Melanie Hiotis '26, Ilyssa Marsh '24, Amelia Plaza '26, and Paige Weidman '23) led meaningful activities and conversations with our guests. Marqus Hunter, Associate Athletic Director, donated UC t-shirts (they were a big hit!), adding to this special day.

ODA

This semester, Residence Life implemented a new housing software called StarRez, which provided a new opportunity for the Office of Disability and Access (ODA) to collaborate with the residence life team on the housing accommodations process. Based on past feedback, our offices were excited to offer students with residential accommodations the ability to select their own rooms in the newly created medical accommodations lottery. This change gave students more agency than ever before while still meeting their required needs. Not surprisingly, there were challenges and successes with the new system, so be on the lookout for a survey to give your feedback on the process.



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



from one of the events in Francophone Week

DICE AT COSA

Over the noon hour on CoSA day, Inclusive Community Grant recipients shared the results of their projects to an audience of faculty, staff, and students in the Bears' Den. Presenters were asked to consider the following questions: What did you hope to achieve with your project? What will the campus community gain from your project both now and in the future? Presentations covered such topics as the community closet, safety on campus, creating an inclusive campus for faculty and staff caring for children, social statistics, the francophone world, and faculty partnerships to strengthen living and learning communities. We are grateful to our grant recipients for their efforts to foster a welcoming environment on campus. If you're interested in submitting an Inclusive Community Grant proposal, be on the lookout for a call for proposals in late August/early September 2023.

AN OPPORTUNITY...DICE FELLOW!

The Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement seeks an Ursinus student to serve as a DICE Fellow for the 2023-24 academic year. The individual should be in good academic standing and have an interest in furthering efforts to create an inclusive and welcoming climate on campus, as well as working to engage community partners. Be on the lookout for more information in early August.

student spotlights



Olivia Negro is a civic engagement rock star! She has served as a Bonner scholar for the past four years and, this year, she's a Bonner intern. She has earned the respect of her peers and Bonner staff due to her dedication and commitment to the program. In addition to community service, her contributions range from constructing a Canvas page for a Bonner class to developing UCARE's partnership with *Integrate for Good* - a partnership that continues to grow each year. Olivia has also taken the initiative on such projects as the *Redrawing Democracy* workshop and *Reimagining Collegeville*, which focuses on sustainability and climate change. Last summer, an internship in Washington D.C. gave her the opportunity to lobby Congress for the passage of burn pits legislation. As a graduating senior, we are confident Olivia will continue to be a rock star in her future endeavors.

Isabella Villegas is an exemplary student in so many ways - a dedicated scholar, engaged leader, and a reliable employee. Within the Office of Disability and Access, Isabella stands out as an alternative testing proctor because she is a self-starter, problem solver, and is always ready to help in a pinch. As a graduating senior, Olivia will be missed on campus, but we are excited for her to begin her law school journey.



Outstanding DICE seniors... where are they headed?

Several students who participate in DICE roles shared their plans for after graduation.

Michael Adelson will attend law school at Widener University

Rachel Arthur has accepted the Fraser-Kruzel-Drew Memorial Fellowship at the U.S. Department of State through James Madison University

Sam Beckman will enter a PhD program in biomedical sciences at the University of Toledo

Aylin Castillo has accepted a position as a college counselor at Boston University

Serena Rose Gaskin will attend Bryn Mawr's Graduate School of Social Work

Julia Paiano will pursue a graduate degree in communications at Villanova University

Maia Peele will attend Harvard Divinity School

Carly Rodriguez will pursue a PhD in Neuroscience through Tufts University's Neuro at JAX program

Phoebe Tompkins will pursue a master's degree in higher education at Villanova University

KENTE CEREMONY

IIE seniors were invited to participate in a banquet highlighting their achievements and upcoming graduation with the gift of a traditional Kente stole. The formal dinner was held on May 3, in a transformed lower Wismer, complete with musical offerings from the VIP Gospel choir, Jazmine Jones '24, and Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance, Jeannine Osayande & *Dunya Performing Arts Company* drummers, who engaged the attendees in African dance to celebrate the occasion. Students from AANHPI held a raffle, and a festive time was had by all.

Congratulations, seniors, on your many accomplishments. We wish you the best in the years to come!



QUESTIONS?

email us at

inclusionandcommunityengagement@ursinus.edu