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**D.I.C.E.**  
Newsletter

**UP TO DATE**

Sankofa Umoja Nia (SUN) hosted **Cafe Nia**, an annual event, on October 28, homecoming weekend. This year's event was held outside of the Kaleidoscope Performing Arts Center. In addition to a barbecue meal, guests were treated to original student performances, including Seismic Step and Voices of Ursinus. The program also featured a 45-minute set with vocalists from John Graves Productions, a local arts organization in Philadelphia, PA.



**LATIN NIGHT**

Presented by ALMA (Association of Latinx Motivated to Achieve) was on October 20, students danced and celebrated Latinx culture with food, music, and good times

**Dia de Los Muertos**

Dia de Los Muertos was celebrated in the Institute for Inclusion and Equity (IIE) on November 2. This Mexican holiday honors friends and family who have died. In memory of loved ones who have passed, students, faculty, and staff were invited to create a shadowbox, or add to the ofrendas (offerings) altar in the IIE. Participants brought cherished items as an offering to the dead to the dead to celebrate their time with us.



On December 5, African American & Africana Studies and the Institute for Inclusion and Equity held their Annual **Kwanzaa Celebration** in Lower Wismer.

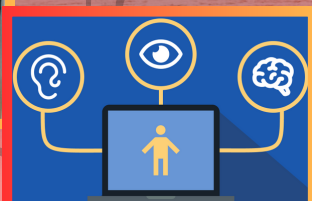
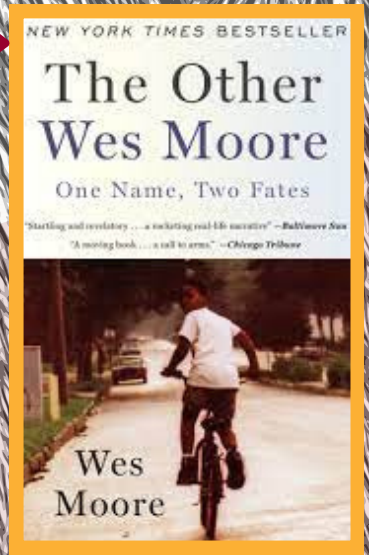
Professors Edward Onaci and Patricia Lott hosted the event. Attendees were treated to a powerful keynote address from Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins. Crigler scholars offered readings of the seven Kwanzaa principles, *Seismic Step* performed and Nzadi Keita, Professor Emerita, gave a special poetry reading for the occasion.





ASQ

On the Same Page (OSP) Book Club just wrapped up their fall semester with the last of a series of bi-weekly lunch meetings, dedicated to reading and reflecting on a text together. This semester's text was *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*. The story chronicled the lives of two young boys with the same name, highlighting their different life outcomes due to a combination of personal choices and environment. Co-sponsored by the Smith Program, Religious & Spiritual Life, and the Institute for Inclusion and Equity (IIE), the group brought students, staff, and faculty together in conversation. OSP was originally named TAB Time (Time Alone with [James] Baldwin) and was started by alum Codi Yhap '20 in memory of the late Rev. Charles Rice. Stay tuned for the announcement of next semester's text. If you are interested in joining in OSP, contact Ashley Henderson (ahenderson@ursinus.edu) or Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins (bwrighttriggins@ursinus.edu).



# A LONG TALK

ABOUT THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH

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](mailto: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 documented in pictures, please share those with Caden too. Thanks in advance for your support.

On November 29th, UC Possibilities student organization hosted an event centered around **digital accessibility**. Attendees received information from a few campus experts and came away with more information about the regulations around digital accessibility, how to engage in more inclusive digital practices, and resources available to them for access and success in the classroom.

In October and November, 11 students and 18 faculty and staff members participated in 4 hours of online sessions with "A Long Talk," an "antiracism activation experience" designed to foster discussion and discovery about our roles and experiences with racism and develop strategies for disrupting it in everyday life. After participating in the program, participants automatically gain access to additional resources, including an online community and event roster. And an Ursinus learning community which will soon meet to discuss and reflect on the program's themes. Look for a "Conversations About and Across Difference" lunch in the spring, in which "A Long Talk" participants will share their experience of the program with the greater campus community.



Over finals week, Office of Disability and Access interim director Joanna Timmerman hosted a 4-part series of **Syllabus Sessions** for faculty designed to go deep on the subjects of accessible and inclusive practice in the realms of Attendance, Deadlines, and Assessment policies. Timed to work with the creation of syllabi for spring courses, this focus expands the toolbox for faculty striving to grow their own use of the social model for disability embraced by the college.



# WELCOME HOME PROJECT



Over the last two years, Ursinus College has developed a relationship with the Lenape people called the Welcome Home Project. On November 30, Elder John Thomas, of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, along with Christian Rice (Asst. Professor of Philosophy & the Humanities/ Associate Dean for Civic Learning), and Monique Kelly, (Director of Community Engagement and Internal Programs) traveled to Bethlehem, PA to Central Moravian Church. Part of a complex relationship, the Moravians may have had more contact with the Lenape than any other early American Christian group. There are several Lenape buried in God's Acre in Bethlehem where Rice, Thomas, and Kelly visited graves, and ancestors were given ceremonial rites.



"My ancestors are buried in the same cemetery during the same time period, so this was especially meaningful to me," commented Dr. Rice. They also visited the Moravian Archives and saw original documents, some of which were written in both Lenape and German, recording the relationship between the two communities. He added, "After decades of little contact, I think there is now great hope for a future filled with friendship and partnership on projects that are important to both communities."

## Gratitude, Peace...

Members of Religious and Spiritual Life (RSL) met with students on November 13 for an event titled *Paint Night for Peace* where students painted stones with messages promoting peace and awareness of ongoing acts of injustice and genocide in the world. The aim of the program was to unite around an action of love and community.

On November 16, RSL hosted an Interfaith Gratitude service which included the creation of a gratitude tree on which participants wrote or drew things they were thankful for.

On December 9, elementary and middle school students from ACLAMO, a Norristown based non-profit community partner, came to campus for a holiday party with Ursinus UCARE Fellows, Bonners, Scholars, SAAC, & other student volunteers.



Organizers fulfilled their goal of collecting gifts for all 75+ kids participating. Attendees were entertained with students running various activities like bingo, crafts, and minute to win games.

## ...and Holiday Joy





# MLK Week 2024



This year's theme is "Let Freedom Ring," which recognizes that identity-based discrimination—based on race, religion, gender, or national origin to name a few—continues to plague our nation and remains not only resistant to change but even re-emerges in response to national and global developments.

Our theme also recognizes the legacy of mass incarceration and its disproportionate impact on bodies from underrepresented communities. Thus, this year's program will feature events and speakers that reflect on the notion of freedom, and we will invite the campus community to join us in a literal ringing of bells that symbolizes our theme of "Let Freedom Ring!"

## Highlights for this year's festivities include:

- **Wednesday, January 17** - Opening Ceremony
- **Saturday, January 20** - Day of Service
- **Sunday, January 21** - "Let Freedom Ring" interfaith service featuring Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri, director of intercultural ministries, American Baptist Home Mission Societies
- **Wednesday, January 24** - Faculty, staff, and community roundtable on mass incarceration



Although MLK Week will run from January 17-24, there will be events that extend into February in celebration of Black History Month, including the first-ever Clark and Bumbry Celebration Bowl, named to honor Carol Lynne Clark and Deborah A.C. Bumbry, the first two African American women to graduate from Ursinus in 1973.



"Let Freedom Ring" complements our year-round, overarching "Beloved Community" theme, which is designed to bring greater awareness to the activities and programs that engage difference, promote our community values of creating a welcoming environment, and respond in thoughtful ways to the Quest curriculum.

## Spring things:

February Black History Month Events | Student Mixer  
DICE Inclusion and Sycamore Awards | New Conversations  
About and Across Difference Series | New Office Spaces



Visit our webpage to learn more about DICE staff, programs, and events