GREETINGS!

Welcome to the Campus Life and Diversity Newsletter. Our aim is to highlight work within the division and to amplify important efforts to advance inclusion and equity across campus in support of students and the campus community.

First Year Students View Film, I'm Not Racist...Am I?

Shona Tucker, associate professor of Drama, introduces the first of three screenings of I'm Not Racist...Am I? on October 17-18. The documentary film was shown to more than 400 first-year students and was sponsored by the Campus Life/Vassar First Year Program with support from the Drama and Film Departments, the Engaging Pluralism Initiative, and the Dean of Students/Residential Life Office. Small group discussions, led by faculty and administrators, followed each screening.
**BIRT RESPONSE TEAM CLARIFIES PROCESS**

The Bias Incident Response Team exists to support students and others when bias or hate incidents are reported. As a community, it is important to respond when such behavior or words threaten inclusion and equity. Following a reported bias incident in the Women’s Center on September 25, students asked questions about the particular incident and requested clarifications on the process. VSA Equity and Inclusion Chair, Tamar Ballard ’19, met with Dean Pittman, who also attended the October 15 Senate meeting. The meetings led to some changes to the website where the BIRT protocol is outlined. The changes include listing in order the steps BIRT takes when responding to reports. **You can read more about the BIRT process on the campus life website.**

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**ENGAGING PLURALISM WORLD CAFE**

The Engaging Pluralism Initiative (EPI) held its second World Cafe on November 9th in the Villard Room. EPI is a college-wide initiative to build a more inclusive campus through engaging employees and students.

During the World Cafe, facilitators at several tables and poster sessions relating to various EPI working groups invited participants to share perspectives on how to build a more inclusive community. A storytelling cube was also installed on the lawn outside the College Center as part of the World Cafe. The Cube was acquired by CAAD (Creative Arts Across Disciplines) and various partners. Pairs of people were invited to enter the cube and record two-minute answers to questions about their Vassar experience.

Campus Life and Diversity’s Director of the ALANA Center, Wendy Maragh Taylor and associate professor of Anthropology, Candice Swift, are co-chairs of this Mellon Grant funded initiative. Patrick Tanks serves as the EPI coordinator. For more information go to: engagedpluralism.vassar.edu

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**KALEIDOSCOPE HOSTED BY OIS & VISA**

Vassar’s annual International Education Week featured the popular Kaleidoscope event on November 15. A flag ceremony, a dessert cook off, World’s Got Talent, plenty of food from around the world and a festive mood filled the Villard Room.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Annual All College Day Lecture**

February 19

Villard Room

Past lectures have focused on building campus community and inclusion.

Speaker TBA

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**COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE...**

We will highlight the role of student staff in the campus life and diversity office. More than 30 students work across the various offices and play a vital role in developing programs and initiatives.