

Intercultural Happenings

Office of Intercultural Affairs Monthly Newsletter

Issue 3 | November 2017

ABS Program Gets a New Name

ALANA-A Brothers & Sisters Leadership Program name changed to Advocates for a Brighter Stonehill

The abbreviation “ABS” that has long been synonymous with the widely known ALANA-A Brothers and Sisters Leadership Program now will take on new meaning. The now former name has been replaced with a new identity: the **Advocates for a Brighter Stonehill** Leadership Program.

This name change was initiated and supported by the program’s student leaders—or ABS Leaders—who believed that the new name will bring forth an era of promoting greater inclusion of underrepresented students at Stonehill College. This name change also comes at a critical time for the Office of Intercultural Affairs and the College in their growing commitment to the needs and experiences of underrepresented students and diversity education for all across campus.

The rationale for the name change was two-fold. First, the current ABS Leaders shared their feedback that the current name used language that was outdated and not inclusive of people who identify outside of the gender binary with the “Brothers & Sisters” language. The phrase “ALANA-A” (African, Latino/a, Asian, Native American and Allies) was not inclusive of students who are born outside of the U.S., nor of bi- or multi-racial students.

The second rationale for the name change was that it reflects a broader goal of supporting all underrepresented students, and not just students of color. The Office of Intercultural Affairs has been valiant in its efforts to support students who also identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender queer and questioning (LGBTQ+) students, first-generation college students, and international students.



Back row (L-R): Victoria Pierre '19, Matt Moschella '18, Jorelis Peguero '18, Denis Garcia Reyes '19, Azariah Boyd '18. Middle row (L-R): Marnie Walsh '20, Nikia Davis '18, Jenise Gonzalez '18, Cris DePina '18. Front row (L-R): Angelina Awad '19, Anh Do '20, Lizzie Riley '20, Caitlin Woodman '18. Photo credit: Patrick Hale.

One key feature to the new name of this signature leadership program is the use of the term “brighter”, which is connected to the College’s motto, “Lux et Spes” which translate from Latin to “Light and Hope.” One ABS leader noted that the new name is symbolic of how “ABS leaders contribute to the light that shines at Stonehill.”

Current ABS Leaders also expressed a desire to see the role achieve greater visibility across campus, with a stronger emphasis on engaging in advocacy for social justice issues on campus.

The program’s new name goes into effect with the recruitment of the 2018-2019 ABS Leaders, with applications going live on November 28, 2017 via the Intercultural Affairs website.

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Native American Heritage Month

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mourning: Thanksgiving from a Native American Perspective

Thursday, November 16, 2017 • 2:30pm-3:30pm • Duffy 149

Thanksgiving has long been a traditional holiday celebrated in the United States since the 19th century. However, we often hear of the urban myth of the “peaceful” encounter between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans and the story of the “first Thanksgiving.” This particular program aims to tell the story of Thanksgiving from the Native American point of view and challenge participants to think about the history of Native American people in the United States.

Keep It Reel Films presents

“Urban Rez”

Wednesday, November 30, 2017 • 4pm-5:30pm • Duffy 149

Urban Rez explores the controversial legacy and modern-day repercussions of the Urban Relocation Program (1952-1973), the greatest voluntary upheaval of Native Americans during the 20th century. During the documentary, dozens of American Indians representing tribal groups from across the West recall their first-hand experiences with relocation, including the early hardships, struggles with isolation and racism. Interviewees also speak about the challenges of maintaining one’s own tribal traditions—from language to hunting—while assimilating into the larger society. Actor, musician and Oglala Lakota member Moses Brings Plenty narrates this insightful film about this seldom-told chapter in American history.

The *Keep It Reel* Social Justice Film Series provides community members an opportunity to learn about historical and contemporary issues of diversity, inclusion, and social justice through films and documentaries.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Workshop Added for Fall 2017



Safe Zone Workshop for Faculty & Staff

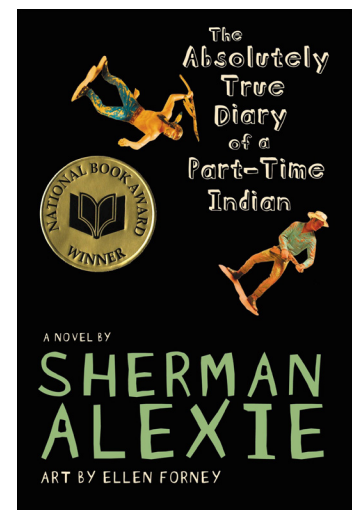
Tuesday, December 19, 2017 • 9am-11:30am • Chapel of Mary, Office of Campus Ministry Large Conference Room

This program is designed to educate those who want to serve as allies to individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT). Community members participate in Safe Zone workshops to better understand information, terms, and experiences of those who identify as LGBT. At the conclusion of the workshop, individuals may choose to post a “Stonehill Safe Space” card on their door. This card symbolizes that the person has engaged in conversations to serve as a resource for LGBT community members. We reserve the “Stonehill Safe Space” cards particularly for those who attended a training at Stonehill because we have conversations unique to our Catholic identity and mission.

About Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month began as a campaign by Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who in the early 20th century convinced the Boy Scouts of America to adopt a “First Americans” day to celebrate. In 1915, Congress approved a plan to celebrate Native Americans annually on the second Saturday of each May. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush expanded celebration of Native American people and heritage by approving a resolution to have Native American Heritage Month take place in November.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

by Sherman Alexie

Bestselling author Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author’s own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character’s art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.