Check out the latest from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equity!

Since 1987, National Women’s History Month has been celebrated in March, to coincide with International Women’s day on March 8th. This year’s theme is Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced. Since many celebrations from 2020, the 100 year anniversary of women’s right to vote in the United States, were canceled or curtailed, the theme was extended into 2021. Click here for more information on national events in recognition.

Save the Date to Celebrate! The Lehigh University Center for Gender Equity will celebrate its 30th Anniversary on April 8, 2021 at 7 PM via Zoom. Established in 1991 as the Women’s Center, the name was changed to the Center for Gender Equity in 2017 to reflect greater inclusivity and engagement among all genders. The Center for Gender Equity strives to create a gender equitable campus that exposes today’s systemic and social gender-related barriers to inclusive excellence and to prepare students, staff and faculty for a socially just tomorrow. Read all about the Center here, and register for the 30th Anniversary celebration here.
In April of 2020, Lehigh launched the 2019-2020 HEDS Diversity and Equity Campus Climate Survey, which invited students, faculty, staff and administrators to share their perceptions of the university’s climate and its support of diversity and equity, as well as their experiences with insensitive or disparaging remarks and discrimination and harassment. We are deeply grateful to those who participated in the survey and provided honest feedback.

The survey results offer valuable insights into Lehigh’s campus climate, and will be critical to our continued efforts to make Lehigh a more welcoming and inclusive place for all members of our community.

We invite you to read more about the survey results here.

Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President Emerita of Spelman College and well-known race relations expert, will give a webinar presentation on Tuesday March 30 at 6:00 PM. The discussion, moderated by Dr. Valerie Taylor, will touch on her best-selling book Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?, race, gender, intersectionality and current events. This event is rescheduled from March 2020 and is free and open to the public. Read more about the event, and register for the webinar here.

A Message to the Lehigh Community About Anti-Asian Bias and Violence

We write to express sadness and horror over the recent murders of eight people in Georgia, including six Asian women. The reported rise in anti-Asian bias and violence in the U.S. which preceded these incidents is deeply troubling. We stand in solidarity with the members of the Lehigh community who identify as Asian, Asian-American and Pacific Islander and condemn these acts of anti-Asian discrimination and violence. Identity- and race-based violence have no place in our community, in our state or in our nation.

Reports of such incidents can be traumatising and unsettling, especially for members of targeted communities. Support services are available and we urge students in need to reach out to Counseling and Psychological Services. Resources for faculty and staff can be accessed through the Employee Assistance Program.

Lehigh University strongly encourages faculty, staff, and students who experience or witness bias, harassment or discrimination to promptly report such conduct so that it can be addressed and resources and support provided by reaching out to the Equal Opportunity Compliance Coordinator (EOCC), reporting incidents through Lehigh’s web-based reporting form or by contacting the Lehigh University Police Department (LUPD) at (610) 758-4200 or through the HawkWatch app.

Sincerely,
Donald A. Outing, Vice President for Equity & Community
Cheryl Matherly, Vice President/Vice Provost, International Affairs

Raven Monique Gaddy ’15 graduated from Lehigh with a degree in Global Studies and Africana Studies, and is now the liaison between Lehigh’s Black and Latino Alumni Network for Community and Equity (BALANCE) and the LUAA Board of Directors. Raven, who experienced several study abroad opportunities at Lehigh, was serving in the Peace Corps as a TEFL educator in Madagascar until COVID forced her to return to D.C., where she recently started a job as an International Affairs Specialist at U.S. Department of Justice. As a student, Raven was a part of Lehigh’s African-Caribbean Culture Club (ACCC) and Black Student Union (BSU). Raven was also a student manager for the men’s basketball team, a charter member of the Tau Zeta Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. — a historically black sorority, and the president of the Residential Hall Council during her junior year in UMÖJA. Read more about Raven here.

Want to keep up with BALANCE? Join the Facebook page here!
The Center for Gender Equity and the Office of Sustainability have partnered with Organicup, a sustainability-focused menstrual cup company, to offer free menstrual cups to interested students. Between now and March 26, go to organicup.com/size-guide to find your fit, scan the QR code above to sign up for a Free OrganiCup, then pick up your cup in April! Please send questions to sustainability@lehigh.edu.

Introducing My Time, a self-care program for students! 2020 was a hard year for most. My Time is a new program that promotes self-care while giving Lehigh students rewards for being active in the Office of Multicultural Affairs and around campus. Open to all students. Register here—space is limited!

The Department of Journalism and Communication, Africana Studies and ODIE proudly present Reporting on and Living in Times of Trauma, two panel discussions for Wellness Week featuring professionals in journalism and psychology discussing what it’s like to live through and report on current events. Panels are March 23 and March 24 from 4:30-6:00 PM. For more information and to register, click here.

The Pride center presents Rafiki, part of Fierce Film Friday, on March 19 from 2:00-3:30 PM. This romance story, set in a place where such love is unlawful on screen and in real life, was initially banned. It’s the first film of its kind to be shown in Kenyan theaters. Screening at go.lehigh.edu/virtualpridecenterlounge.