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

Since 1990, November has been recognized as National Native American Heritage Month, though the name varies as National American Indian Heritage Month and National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month as well. It is a month to recognize the significant contributions made by the first Americans to the establishment and growth of the United States. For more information on the history of the month, and for resources from the Smithsonian and other national institutions, click here.

Locally, the Museum of Indian Culture at 2825 Fish Hatchery Road in Allentown offers their annual “Saturdays at the Museum” events, a series of Native American lifeways demonstrations to celebrate the culture and heritage of this nation’s First Peoples. For a full list of those events, visit the Museum’s events calendar. They are open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 4 PM, with admission price at $5 for adults, $4 for seniors and children 12-17; children under 12 are free. More information about the Museum of Indian Culture can be found on their website.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs hosted its inaugural BIPOC Retreat at Spruce Lake over the weekend of November 5th through the 7th. Participants cited it as a weekend full of relationship building, personal reflection and strong community. Keep your eye out for information on the next retreat, and in the meantime check out these photos from the event!
Dr. Donald Outing, vice president for equity & community, and Dr. Lesley Chow, assistant professor of materials science and bioengineering, shared their perspectives with Science magazine on “How to begin building a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion in your research group.” The article, [which can be found here](#), features the experiences and thoughts of many from various schools and areas of expertise on why DI&E work is critical to STEM fields. “By not creating more inclusive lab spaces, you risk becoming illegitimate in the eyes of those who will be seeking these opportunities in the future,” suggests Outing. For her part, Chow says, “I talk very openly with my lab. By talking about things, it validates it. I also tell my group if something happens [to you], tell me so I can stand up and fight for [you].”

Lehigh honored its active, reserve and retired members of the military services with a day full of in-person events on November 11, 2021, including a flag raising ceremony in the morning and the 12th annual Veterans Day luncheon featuring guest speaker U.S. Army Col. Kandace M. Daffin, commander of the 2nd Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. Daffin, the first female guest speaker in the event’s history, talked about the importance of diversity, particularly within the Department of Defense. “Not only do we always strive to be reflective of the nation we are sworn to protect, we want to ensure that we have an inclusive culture in order to retain those individuals who are willing to serve,” she said. Read more about the day’s events and Lehigh’s military history [here](#).

The Office of Jewish Student Life has been busy this semester! They are excited to report a high level of engagement with our Lehigh community, over 475 people have taken part in their events, with over 50 people attending 6 or more. Thanks go to their Peer Engagement Staff and Tyler Katz, the Engagement and Program Associate! And speaking of Tyler, congratulations are in order as they have been accepted to the Katz Innovation Fellowship (no relation!) sponsored by University of Pennsylvania Hillel & Hillel International. The program, and an accompanying stipend, will enable Tyler to create experimental programming throughout the year on campus, as well as providing a personal library of resources and other items to help develop their long-term innovation and engagement strategy. They will learn from the best and brightest minds in Jewish innovation on college campuses, relational engagement, and so much more. Mazel Tov Tyler!

OJSL has also been hard at work bringing back the LU Multi-Faith Initiative (LUMI) now that campus life is back in full swing. The reconstituted group had their first meeting on November 4, featuring Adrian Suarez ’22 telling the story about his journey from Palestine to Bethlehem (PA!). LUMI is in need of interested students to fill out their board positions. If you’re interested, or know someone who you think would be great, please email inlumi@lehigh.edu.
Check out Diversity, Inclusion & Equity offerings coming up soon!

Join the Pride Center for a Queer Art Workshop exploring the Art of Collage, Monday November 22 from 6-8 PM in Williams Hall 070. Artists Rei Ukon and Jay Kozlov will give an overview of LGBTQ+ artists who have had their works displayed in the LU Art Galleries followed by an art-making session. All materials will be provided by the Pride Center! Hope to see you there.

Join the Center for Gender Equity for the Lehigh Women’s Network December gathering, Friday December 10 at 12 PM in Williams Hall 070 (or via Zoom)! The LWN is open to all women-identified faculty, staff, graduate students and their allies. The group meets once a month for networking and discussions. Register at go.lehigh.edu/lwnfall2021. If the CGE can do anything to make the space fully accessible to you, please contact Rita Jones at rmj207@lehigh.edu.

In case you didn’t know, the Jewish Student Center has moved! Visit them at 233 W. Packer Avenue. The building is open from 9 AM to 9 PM every day; office hours are Monday -Friday from 8:15 am - 4:45 pm. The space offers study rooms, a recreation area, and snacks and beverages! Masks are required indoors. Your ID gives you access to the building. Any questions, email injlife@lehigh.edu, or visit go.lehigh.edu/jewishlife for more information.

Spectrum, Lehigh’s undergraduate student club that provides support and community building for LGBTQ+ students and allies, hosts this year’s Transgender Day of Remembrance Memorial Service. Remember and honor those who have lost their lives from anti-transgender violence on Friday November 19 at 5:45 PM at the UC Flagpole (rain location: Global Commons).