Division of Student Affairs
Fall 2015
Diversity/Civility Programs

Saturday, August 29, 2015; 10:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts
interACT Performances (2)
This program is being conducted for all students new to UConn as part of the Weeks of Welcome (WOW) agenda. interACT is a nationally renowned social justice performance troupe based out of California State University, Long Beach. Since its birth in 2000, the troupe has reached thousands of audience members through its “proactive” (highest level of audience involvement) shows. During performances audience members are literally invited on stage to become active participants, rather than passive observers. The performances allow audience members a safe space to rehearse assertive communication strategies and inspire social and political change. This program has been proven effective in multiple quantitative, qualitative, and longitudinal published studies. They have performed throughout the country on college campuses, naval bases, and for academic conferences.

Sunday, August 30, 2015; 1:00 p.m.; Gampel Pavilion
Eavesdropping on America’s Conversation on Race – Michele Norris
This program is being conducted for all students new to UConn as part of the Weeks of Welcome (WOW) agenda. NPR Host and Special Correspondent, and Founder of The Race Card Project Michele Norris is an award-winning journalist & former host of NPR’s longest running show All Things Considered. Norris engages audiences in an honest dialogue on the attitudes & beliefs about race in America since the election of President Barack Obama. Norris is the author of The Grace of Silence & has developed two successful initiatives: The Race Card Project and NPR’s Backseat Book Club. At this presentation, Ms. Norris will focus on The Race Card Project.

Sunday, August 30, 2015; 3:30-5:00 p.m., Rainbow Center, Student Union, 403
Rainbow Center FAMILEE Mentor Program Info Session
F.A.M.I.L.E.E. Mentor Program: Fostering Academics, Maturity, Independence, Leadership, Empowerment & Excellence pairs new students with continuing students during their first or transfer year, involving group activities and one-on-one meetings. This program is designed to assist students in their first year at UConn-Storrs including regional campus and transfer students who are new to the Storrs campus with their transition by pairing them with peer mentors.

September 2015; UConn CARE Campaign
WeAreU
Student Affairs is working with an external communications firm to develop a social and print media campaign addressing themes of diversity, civility and community. The campaign will launch in September 2015 and represents a strategic initiative to support the University’s focus on civility and diversity as well as student health and well-being.
Thursday, September 3, 2015; 5:30-6:20 p.m.; African American Cultural Center Community Room, Student Union (Meets every Thursday)
The PA²SS (Preparing African American and all students to Sustain Success class/Program)
This class/program is designed to assist first-year and transfer students with their transition to the UConn community. The course provides first year students access to a network of upper class mentors, graduate students, faculty and staff.

Thursday, September 10, 2015; 12–1:30 p.m.; Rainbow Center; Student Union, Room 403
Out to Lunch Lecture Series; Lecture title and presenter is TBD
Gender, Sexuality and Community is a weekly academic lecture and discussion series with guest scholars and community activists from various disciplines examining a variety of topics related to gender identity, gender expression and sexuality. Each semester offers a broad sampling of the existing research and current activism on topics that may include public health, religion, spirituality, business, military, science, K-12 education, families, immigration, literature, politics, law, community organizing, history, violence, race & ethnicity, age, counseling, therapy, sports, romance, policy and many other areas.

Thursday, September 17, 2015; 6:00 p.m.; TBD
Candlelight Vigil in Remembrance of Charleston Victims
Tentative plan for a candlelight vigil on campus

Tuesday, September 22, 2015; 1–3 p.m.; Women’s Center; Student Union 4th Floor, Room 421G
Women’s Circle
Women’s Circle is a supportive, facilitated group for women identified students to share, explore, build skills, and encourage one another to live authentically in all aspects of their lives. This semester’s Circle will focus on self–discovery and empowerment through meaningful, gender-relevant discussions and capacity building activities that focus on self-exploration, examining societal messages about identity and their impact, and promoting confidence and connection in their lives and communities.

Thursday, September 24, 2015; 7:00 p.m.; Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts
Genomics, Family, and Health
The Institute for Systems Genomics in collaboration with the Berlin lecture series, University of Connecticut Foundation, Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS), College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, School of Medicine and Dental Medicine, The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine (JAX-GM), School of Pharmacy, Health Disparities Institute, School of Social Work, and the Institute for Africana Studies (IAS) will be hosting bestselling author Rebecca Skloot (“The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”) and the Lacks Family. Open to the public and free admission; please contact University Events and Conference Services at 486-1038 with questions.

Saturday, September 26, 2015 and Sunday, September 27, 2015; All Day
Alternative Breaks – Diversity/Multicultural Training
As part of BreakAway training, student leaders will learn how to work diverse populations; both in their groups and the communities in which they serve.
**Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 3-5 p.m.; Location TBD**

**Painting the Bigger Picture**

Students will be provided the opportunity to participate in a campus-wide art project symbolizing community at UConn. This event will engage students to think about their own personal impact at UConn.

**Tuesday, October 6, 2015 October 6, 2015; 6-9 p.m.; Student Union Theater**

**So Many Fronts**

The Asian American Cultural Center and Asian & Asian American Studies Institute present Will & Company theatre troupe *So Many Fronts* – a 65 minute, 3-actor, multimedia production that explores social justice issues.

**Wednesday, October 7, 2015; 7:30 p.m.; Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts**

**Illuminating the Path with Rosario Dawson— a program sponsored by SUBOG**

Puerto Rican Latin American Cultural Center presents *Illuminating the Path*, one of their signature programs and UConn’s featured event of Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Ms. Dawson will inspire students, particularly our Latina/o students, to consider what it means to be global citizens, socially conscientious, and why getting actively involved in social change is important. We believe that influential Latina/o speakers will ignite the spark in them.

Rosario Dawson, a well-renowned American actress who self-identifies as an Afro-Latina will be the keynote speaker of our Illuminating the Path speaker series as part of the Hispanic/Latina/o Heritage Month. Dawson has appeared in films such as Men in Black II, 25th Hour, Sin City, Clerks II, Rent, and recently in Trance and Chavez just to mention a few. Furthermore, Rosario is a philanthropist and an activist for social justice. She has been actively involved with Oxfam, Amnesty International, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, etc. She is the co-founder of Voto Latino a nonpartisan organization that empowers Latino Millennials to claim a better future for themselves and their community. Enforcing our right to vote is our civil duty, Rosario’s message will empower our Huskies to exert this right. Her talk will be uplifting, empowering, and thought provoking.

**Monday, October 12-Thursday, October 15, 2015; 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. each day; Fairfield Way**

**The Clothesline Project**

The Women’s Center brings The Clothesline Project, a traveling visual display of t-shirts made by survivors and secondary survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence to raise awareness about the prevalence of these violations right here on campus. Survivors and supporters are encouraged to stop by the VAWPP Office (SU Room 419) anytime between Wednesday, October 7 and Friday, October 9, 11:00AM – 1:00PM, to create a t-shirt of their own in a private and safe environment. If you cannot make a t-shirt during the times scheduled, please contact the VAWPP Coordinator at lauren.donais@uconn.edu
Tuesday, October 20, 2015; 4:00 p.m.; Konover Auditorium
Expression Rights & Responsibilities on Campus – Peter F. Lake
Professor Lake is a highly sought after speaker and futurist, particularly in the field of higher education law and policy, where he has served as a presenter or keynote speaker at several hundred international, national, regional, and local meetings.

Monday, October 26, 2015; 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.; Laurel Hall 102
Strange Like Me: An Interactive Program on Racism, Sexism and Homophobia, exclusively for Greek Organizations
Presented by GTC Dramatic Dialogues, Strange Like Me begins with a monologue that lays bare the ugliness of hate, setting the stage for a lively discussion of diversity. The program follows students as they attempt to navigate the sometimes difficult terrain of multicultural campus relationships. During “talk-backs,” students can confront the characters and voice their own opinions on issues of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Strange Like Me is a program that gets college students talking about diversity.

Monday, October 26-Wednesday, October 28, 2015; 6-8 p.m.; Oak Hall 111
Cultural Competency
Workshop designed to allow students to discuss diversity and issues relating to diversity and leadership. Please note this is open to those students enrolled in one of the Leadership Certificate Series.

Monday, November 2, 2015; 4 p.m.-5 p.m.; Student Union Art Gallery
Opening of Brent Learned Art Exhibit
Brett Learned is a well-known Native American artist

Monday, November 9-Wednesday, November 11, 2015; 6-8 p.m.; Oak Hall 109
Putting It All Together/Social Justice
Participants will participate in a conversation/dialogue around “What would you DO” in a variety of circumstances that involve racial profiling, racism, stealing from the poor, body shaming and lgbt bullying. Please note this is open to those students enrolled in one of the Leadership Certificate Series.

Tuesday, November 10, 2015; 7-9:30 p.m.; Student Union Theater
Lecture and Meet and Greet with Shoni Schimmel (Tentative)
Shoni Schimmel is a Native American WNBA player who attended University of Louisville.

Friday, November 13, 2015; 7:30 p.m.; Student Union Theater
DEFAMATION – A play that will be performed live at UConn
Nationally acclaimed, DEFAMATION is a riveting courtroom drama that explores the highly charged issue of race, religion, gender, class and the law with a twist: our audience is the jury.

Saturday, November 14, 2015; 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Student Union Ballroom and Theater
IMPAACT Student Conference
Asian American Cultural Center Pan Asian Council will host Identifying the Missing Power of Asian Americans in CT – the annual student leadership conference. Keynote and breakout sessions on leadership, skill building and current issues in the APA community are covered. This year the conference will be open to other CT colleges and universities.
November 2015; Time and Location TBD

You Matter: A Discussion on Identity and Belonging at UConn

UConn Faculty Discussion on the challenges of achieving a diverse representation of scholars among our faculty; the connection between college/university campuses and the incidents that have led to substantial civil rights movements (present day included); the interpersonal dynamics among students with different identities and degrees of familiarity with diverse learning environments; and the role/possibility of the classroom and the campus experience in exposing students to diversity.

Fall 2015

Women’s Center and Ballard Institute and Museum of Puppetry Unfolding the Story: A Journey of Her Own

Unfolding the Story: A Journey of Her Own is a new international project in which a diverse group of artist come together to create an original puppet theatre production delving into the themes of women’s wisdom and empowerment. The idea for this project was born out of the quote, “We don’t receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us.” (Marcel Proust). This production aims to engage in contemporary feminist issues.

Fall 2015 and Spring 2016

Women’s Center Makers Film Series; 12-1 p.m., Women’s Center

These six documentaries focus on specific fields where women have broken new ground and reshaped central American institutions, and tell the known and unknown stories of women in the areas of war space, comedy, business, Hollywood and politics. These stories share women’s contributions to some of the most important moments in the history of our country and the world.