



A WORD FROM DR. DIAZ

Bienvenidos a todos! Saludos a todos! [Greetings everyone!]

This issue of the bulletin spotlights one of our international students who is making a difference on campus. We also welcome autumn by introducing the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops letter on racism and inviting reflections from a few campus leaders. This issue highlights three Diversity & Inclusion Innovation Fund winners. Lastly, don't forget to SAVE THE DATES for exciting programs this fall. Read on!

Inviting Perspectives & Inspiring People

SPOTLIGHT: YOUSSEF EL SHAARAWY, CLASS OF 2023

Q: Where's home for you?

For me home is anywhere where I feel welcomed and loved for who I am. In my eyes home isn't a setting but it's the sense of camaraderie and coziness. I felt like I was home whenever I was sitting with my family or whenever I visited my best friends in Egypt. Similarly, I feel like home whenever I visit the Multicultural Center on campus and find my friends greeting me there and inviting me to play board games.

Q: What are some things you think Saint A's is doing well in fostering a diverse and inclusive community?

I believe that Saint Anselm's Intercultural Center and the multi-faith prayer room are very effective in providing a sense of acceptance and inclusion. Additionally, the Transitions Program helped me adjust and feel welcomed and a part of the community without feeling overwhelmed. It gave me enough time and space to get to talk to my mentor and establish a connection and was a great kick-start to my year.



Q: What are some things you think the college can work on?

I think the college can increase the amount of available counseling sessions so that students can seek counselling without waiting for long intervals of time. Also, I think the college can have frequent Q&A sessions regarding the topic of mental health.

Q: How can you personally help make Saint A's more welcoming to everyone?

I try my best to spread positivity and initiate conversation with all students. I know the drastic effect of loneliness on the social and academic life of students. Hence, whenever I get the chance, I break the ice with people. Whenever I find people that I don't know at the Intercultural Center I invite them to play card games. Also, I am in the process of starting a Mental Health Awareness club so that students wouldn't feel isolated and to provide students with a safe space to vent and increase their awareness regarding their mental health.



open wide our hearts

DID YOU KNOW?

THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS ISSUED A LETTER ENTITLED **“OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS: THE ENDURING CALL TO LOVE - A PASTORAL LETTER AGAINST RACISM.”** THE DOCUMENT WAS APPROVED AT A GENERAL MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER OF 2018.

THE TOPICS COVERED IN THE LETTER INCLUDE; WHAT IS RACISM?, DO JUSTICE, THE NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, THE HISPANIC EXPERIENCE, THE URGENT CALL OF LOVE, BEING OPEN TO ENCOUNTER AND NEW RELATIONSHIPS, RESOLVING TO WORK FOR JUSTICE, EDUCATING OURSELVES, CHANGING STRUCTURES, AND, OUR COMMITMENT TO LIFE. NOT ONLY DOES IT TALK ABOUT RACISM IN SOCIETY, BUT ALSO HOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CAN SHOW SUPPORT IN AN OUTSPOKEN WAY.

TOO MANY GOOD AND FAITHFUL CATHOLICS REMAIN UNAWARE OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AND THE CONTINUED EROSION OF THE SANCTITY OF LIFE. WE ARE NOT FINISHED WITH THE WORK.

IF WE DON'T SPEAK UP ABOUT THE INJUSTICES THAT ARE GOING ON IN THE WORLD THEN, WE ARE ENABLING THEM TO CONTINUE. OR AS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING SAID, “OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT ABOUT THINGS THAT MATTER.”

“WHY YOU BELIEVE RACE IS IMPORTANT TO SAINT A'S A CATHOLIC COLLEGE?”

“As an institution of higher learning, we are called to inclusive excellence the recognition that our institutions success is dependent on how well we value, engage and include a rich diversity of students, faculty, and staff. Fundamental to our identity as a Catholic Benedictine college is our commitment to the truth that all human persons are created in the image and likeness of God. This truth guides our encounters with one another and requires us to welcome and respect all persons. It calls upon us to respond loudly and clearly against racism, as “Racism directly places brother and sister against each other, violating the dignity inherent in each person.”(2018, Open Wide Our Hearts, USCCB, 30)
- Susan Gabert, Director of Campus Ministry

“Exploration of issues of race and privilege is essential to a college education as race impacts all aspects of life, from health care and education to business and politics. Examining one’s understanding of and experiences with race and privilege is especially important for Catholic college education as Catholic social teaching lays out such clear expectations regarding the protection of basic human dignity for all persons, as all are children of God. The racial climate in today’s America could be considered a direct threat to our collective human dignity.”
- Daniel Forbes, Director Service Education, Meelia Center for Community Engagement

“WHY THE U.S BISHOP LETTER ON RACE MATTERS TO SAINT A'S?”

“... I think it is extremely important for institutions of education at all levels, like Saint Anselm College at the level of

higher education, to engage the religious, laity, teachers and students in age-appropriate and educational-level appropriate ways to grow in their awareness of and in their responsibility to address the issue of racism in multiple ways, especially at first right here at the local level.” - Fr. John Fortin, O.S.B.

“Near the end of their letter, the US Bishops write, ‘Racism directly places brother and sister against each other, violating the dignity inherent in each person.’ This statement, and the letter as a whole, reminds us that Saint Anselm College’s Catholic identity compels us to confront the sin of racism as it appears in ourselves and on our campus. The letter challenges us to recognize that, as members of a Catholic institution that seeks to affirm human dignity, we must strive to foster a campus environment where all are valued and no one is judged as inferior because of their race or ethnicity.” - Gilberto Ruiz, Assistant Professor of Theology

“As part of our mission at Saint Anselm to educate the whole student, we cannot sidestep the issue of race. Beyond standing firm against overt acts of racism and increasing the diversity of our students, faculty and staff, we must take seriously the work of breaking down structures of white privilege. To this end, each of us must do the internal work of reflecting about race and identify those areas where we need to learn more. As a campus community, we affirm the identity of each student so that all students have the experience of knowing they belong at Saint Anselm College.”

- Dr. Joseph Favazza, President

FALL 2019 INCLUSION INNOVATIONS



Cultural and Linguistic Competence Training
Associate Professor Elizabeth Fouts, Modern Languages and Literature
Assistant Professor Pamela Preston, Nursing

This project will bring Dr. Mercedes Avila, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Vermont Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment Disabilities Program and adjunct faculty member in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the Health Equity Inclusive Excellence Liaison at the College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, to campus for cultural and linguistic competency training focused on health disparities.

“Dr. Mercedes Avila’s training session will allow trainees the opportunity to develop self-awareness of racial, ethnic, class, and gender identity biases; to help define cultural and linguistic competency and indicate familiarity with the continuum of cultural competency; to describe the implications of demographic trends and to describe how cultural beliefs shape clinical encounters and patients’ health outcomes.”

-Elizabeth Fouts, Associate Professor of Modern Languages and Literature

Foundations of Health Care Training Program for Visiting Students with Intellectual Disabilities
Kenneth Walker, Academic Resource Center Director

This pilot is a limited post-secondary educational opportunity at Saint Anselm College for young adults with intellectual disabilities to come to campus and receive basic training in skills fundamental to employment within healthcare environments. Nursing faculty and students, after receiving training from the Moore Center in Manchester, will provide classroom teaching, simulation lab training, and hands-on experience to a small group

of local students with ID, giving them the opportunity to successfully earn a certificate of completion.

LGBT SportsSafe Initiative
Coach Carolyn King-Robitaille, Athletics
Matthew Solomon '20

LGBT SportSafe is an organization which was developed to create an infrastructure for athletic administrators, coaches and recreational sports leaders to support LGBTQ+ inclusion in college, high school and professional sports. This initiative is designed to provide members of the LGBTQ community a sense of safety and inclusion on the Saint Anselm campus, as well as to provide opportunities for members of the college community to educate themselves about the LGBTQ+ community. Athletics department administrators and coaches will undergo inclusion training to earn the SportSafe medallion; an LGBTQ+ inclusion statement and policy for posting and dissemination to prospective student-athletes and their families as well as current campus community members will also be created.

“The greatest thing was the genuine interest of the Saint Anselm community to become more educated on and inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community. From a student perspective, seeing my peers actively engage with initiatives like this is an uplifting sight that leaves me feeling hopeful for the future.”

-Matthew Solomon, Class of 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE CONTACT OFFICES
DIRECTLY FOR DETAILS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER: HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

OCTOBER: LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER 24: MULTICULTURAL STUDENT COALITION HALLOWEEN BASH - 7 P.M. - EVENT SPACE, JEAN STUDENT CENTER

OCTOBER 27: DIWALI (HINDU FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS)

OCTOBER - DECEMBER: CUPCAKES AND CONVERSATIONS (MEELIA CENTER AND INTERCULTURAL CENTER)

NOVEMBER: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

NOVEMBER 5: VIEWING OF "UNSLUT: A DOCUMENTARY" (FILM ON SEXUAL CYBERBULLYING) - 7 P.M. IN DANA 1D

NOVEMBER 6: VIEWING OF "DREAMCATCHER" (FILM ON SEX WORKERS AND TRAUMA) - 6 P.M. IN DANA 1D

NOVEMBER 13: VIEWING OF "DAWNLAND" (FILM ON MAINE'S CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS ON NATIVE AMERICANS) - 4 P.M. IN LLC CLASSROOM

NOVEMBER 18-22: HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS WEEK - MEELIA CENTER

NOVEMBER 20: SPIRITUALITY SUPPER - 7 P.M. CAMPUS MINISTRY

NOVEMBER 20: MT. KEARSAREG INDIAN MUSEUM PRESENTATION- 12:30 P.M. IN DANA 1D

NOVEMBER 21: FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENT'S NIGHT OUT - CARR CENTER

NOVEMBER 23: HOLIDAY FAIR- CARR CENTER

NOVEMBER 25: NAHM ARTS AND CRAFTS DAY- 12:30 P.M. IN JEAN STUDENT CENTER LOBBY

DECEMBER: INTERCULTURAL/CELEBRATION OF LIGHT HOLIDAY DINNER



Saint Anselm College
**OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION**