

Abstracts

American Karma: Race, Culture and Identity in the Indian

Diaspora. Dr. Sunil Bhatia, *Associate Professor, Human Development, Connecticut College*. His book *American Karma: Race, Culture and Identity in the Indian Diaspora* (2007) traces the processes of post-colonial identity reconstruction for the Indian professional classes who migrate to the United States after 1965. Identified by traditional markers of socioeconomic class, culture, and geography in their native country, the new immigrants encounter a new system of racial and cultural labels that seeks to impose minority status and downward assimilation upon them. This workshop invites participants to understand the social dynamics of American society; and the creative coping strategies of Indian professionals in defending their upward mobility while repositioning themselves in relation to other minorities, and reframing their notions of self, other, and home. **Fri, 9/26@11am**

Annual Choral Performance. The URI Chorus, under the direction of Mark Conley, *Assistant Professor, Music*. The URI Chorus presents its annual program (with commentary) of diverse musical selections drawn from different cultures, different eras, different languages, different styles and sources, and differing concepts of beauty in music. The audience is invited to share the experience of training the ear and the mind to discriminate, understand, and enjoy culturally diverse choral performance. **Thur, 9/25@3:30pm**

Anyone and Everyone – Families and Coming Out (Video)

Andrew Winters, *Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs for GLBT Programs*; Ann Bonetti, *Vice President, PFLAG of South Central RI*; and Ed Bonetti, *Co-President, PFLAG of South Central RI*. Created out of a mother's struggle and desire to accept her son's sexual orientation, this documentary relates the stories of families from New York to North Carolina to Utah to Wyoming, all connected by a common thread – a gay or lesbian child. Parents from a diverse array of religions, ethnicities, and political stances discuss their child's coming out. While some show unconditional support, others struggle with feats of alienation from extended family, church, or community. These persistent fears explain why 26% of GLBT teens who come out to their families are banished from their homes. **Tue, 9/23@7:30pm**

The Battle of the Sexes in Fitness and Wellness. Leticia Orozco, *Coordinator, Recreational Services*. One of sport's most persistent gender myths is that women lack stamina and endurance. This conventional logic is the reason for limiting women's tennis matches to three sets, while men's matches can extend to five sets. Actually, the physiological differences that generally cause muscle mass in men to be greater result in no advantage in endurance. Studies suggest that women can exercise as intensely as men. In recognition of National Women's Health and Fitness Day, September 24, this workshop will discuss the misconceptions men and women often hold about fitness and wellness; explore the role of the popular culture in amplifying these myths; and address their pervasive effects. **Fri, 9/26@11am**

The Building of Mutual Relationships between the United States and China: The Work of the URI Confucius Institute. Dr. Yan Ma, *Director, Confucius Institute, and Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies*; Dr. Wen Xiong, *Confucius Institute, and Hanban-URI Faculty, Chinese Languages*; and Ying Liao, *Assistant Professor, Chinese Languages, Confucius Institute*. In the 21st century, many predict that the United States, the most powerful developed nation; and China, the most powerful developing nation, will be the world's most important bilateral relationship in maintaining global peace and prosperity. Economically, China, with the world's fastest-growing economy, is expected to continue to expand its intricate ties with the United States, owner of the world's largest economy. At least 450 of the top 500 American corporations have significant investments in China. China is the leading lender to the United States. Since 2004, China has created more than 200 Confucius Institutes around the world, named after the great Chinese philosopher of the 6th century B. C. This workshop introduces the programs of the new URI Confucius Institute in teaching Chinese language and culture, and developing friendly relationships. **Mon, 9/22@1pm**

Can't Truss It: Hip Hop as a Political Tool. Kalyana Champlain, *Graduate Student, Communication Studies*. Conceived as a form of vernacular expression by urban black youth in the New York City Bronx during the 1970's, hip hop has exploded into a global mode of critique in the 1990's, with youth around the world creating solidarity, giving voice, and developing resistance to their systemic marginalization. Hip hop scholar Dr. Tricia Rose, Brown University describes hip hop culture as a "style that {can} create counterdominant narratives". Utilizing music and video excerpts, this workshop will explore the potential of hip hop to think critically about the conditions under which youth live and work, to develop the skills of interrogating and deconstructing, and to create new forms of community in the post Civil-Rights era. **Thur, 9/25@12:30pm**

Climbing the Stairs: Out of Prejudice and into Multicultural

Dialogue. Dr. Padma Venkatraman, *Director, Graduate Diversity Affairs*. This workshop will use Padma Venkatraman's debut novel, *Climbing the Stairs*, as a basis for exploring issues of prejudice. Set in India in the 1940's, the nonviolent Indian independence movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, forms the backdrop for this coming-of-age story of a young woman's personal freedom struggle. Web-based tools will be used to create virtual discussions centered around the book's themes of colonialism, nonviolence, women's rights, and World War II. Participants will examine racial, gender-based, and religious prejudice as it affects the key characters in the book, and themselves; and will develop multicultural strategies that enable them to help eradicate prejudice. **Thur, 9/25@10am**

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Coming to Consciousness: Stories of Diversity in Sport and Physical Activity. Dr. Kyle Kusz, *Assistant Professor, Kinesiology*. Sociologist C. Wright Mills has defined the “sociological imagination” as the act of recognition that one’s own biography is shaped by the sociological moment in which one lives. This workshop discusses the production of a video in which students tell personal stories and engage in reflection about the ways in which race, class, gender, and/or sexuality have influenced their participation in sports and physical activity. Participants will have the opportunity to visualize how sociological ideas can materialize in their own personal lives. **Wed, 9/24@1pm**

Community Sing. Sue Warford, *Coordinator, Child Development Center (CDC)*, along with teachers, preschool, and kindergarten children from the CDC. This workshop presents children in performance as they explore how age-appropriate music can be used to enhance personal growth and development and to increase awareness of diversity. **Thur, 9/25@10am**

“Crash” (Video) and Discussion. URI Peer Advocates, *Violence Prevention and Advocacy Services, Women’s Center*. Winner of the 2005 Academy Award for Best Picture, *Crash* presents a dystopian portrait of interracial conflict in post-9/11 American society. The movie traces a sequence of interactive collisions around racial, cultural, and class differences that take place in Los Angeles, CA, over the course of two days, framed by a literal car accident. Through these collisions, a rigid social hierarchy is revealed that assigns social location, salience of viewpoint, and locus of control on the basis of race. Only when these collisions occur are there fleeting moments of consciousness, usually involving the self, rather than the other. Is *Crash* a warning about society’s need to face and negotiate racial fears and anger? Is race privilege presented as a tragic flaw? Is *Crash* inhabited only by anti-heroes? How is the American Dream altered by the assumptions underlying *Crash*? Discussion follows the screening. **Tue, 9/23@7:30pm**

Culture Clash: Transition Challenges Facing the New Population of Student Veterans. Dr. Jennifer Lambert, *Staff Psychologist, PTSD Clinic, Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center*; and Daniel Ustick, *Career Advisor, Career Services*. Over 270,000 of the 1.65 million U. S. military veterans serving since 9/11 have finished their tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and at other bases around the world. Many of these student veterans are returning to civilian American society and enrolling in colleges across the nation. With the average service obligation ranging from five to seven years, enrolling veterans are often older and more disciplined than their classmates. However, many student veterans have experienced sights, sounds, and emotions of military conflict that differentiate them from their civilian peers. Seeking to facilitate the transition from military service to campus life, this workshop assists student veterans and their allies in understanding the process of acclimation to college life; in building support networks; and in connecting to other student veterans and on- and off-campus resources. **Tue, 9/23@11am**

“Depression: Fighting the Dragon” (Video). Pamela Rohland, *Assistant Director, Disability Services*; Rosemary Lavigne, *Coordinator, Disability Services*; Mary Jane Klinkhammer, *Clinical Counselor, Counseling Center*; and Dr. Jasmine Mena, *University Psychologist, Counseling Center*. The World Health Organization predicts that depression will soon rival heart disease as a primary cause of premature death and disability. While the increasing incidence of depression now affects up to 10% of the population during their life cycle, the vast majority never seek treatment. This video and discussion examines the struggles of five people to overcome depression. The moving personal narratives are enhanced by the insights of prominent researchers discussing new imaging technologies that enable us to see changes in the human brain during depression and its treatment; describing new approaches to treatment; and advocating the need for greater public education. **Tue, 9/23@3:30pm**

Diversity Week Open Mic. Chris Bannon, *Coordinator, Origins*. One of the most popular events during Diversity Week, the Open Mic is a student-generated and student-judged performance event, open to poets, musicians, dancers, comedians and storytellers, who sign up in accordance with the rules of the night. Inspired by the “spoken word” emphasis in hip hop culture, the Open Mic attracts performers at all stages of their careers, from seasoned veterans to novices, providing them an opportunity to showcase their talents before a live audience. To sign up for slots that usually last 3-5 minutes, visit <http://www.uri.edu/mcc>. Some speculate that the popularity of open mic performance since 2000 helped to lay the foundation for the blockbuster success of *American Idol*. **Mon, 9/22@8pm**

Diversity Week’s Empty Canvas: Help Us Fill It. Justin Quintanilla, *Undergraduate, Computer Science*; and Allyson Van Wyk, *Undergraduate, English*. Creative minds in art, media, music, and literature are encouraged to submit original compositions for display, with a short description explaining what makes the creator and their work unique. The works will be displayed in the 193° Coffee House, Memorial Union during URI Diversity Week. Music can be submitted to Justin at infinity_of_thought@hotmail.com. Artwork, writing, or any other compositions can be submitted to Ally at arisan@mail.uri.edu. **Mon, 9/22-Fri, 9/26**

Embracing Culture: The Origins of African Dance. *Alima International Dance Company* and *Cape Verdean Student Association dancers*. Deriving its name from an Arabic word denoting “those who are skilled in dancing and music”, the Alima International Dance Association joins with the Cape Verdean Student Association in an interactive celebration of African dance, drawing cultural referents from countries as diverse as Liberia, Cape Verde, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal. **Wed, 9/24@7pm**

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Existing Within a Majority Setting: Minorities Straddling the Great Divide. Catalina Martinez, *Marine Scientist, NOAA*; and Dr. Padma Venkatraman, *Director, Graduate Diversity Affairs*. This workshop examines cultural and socioeconomic factors in students' selection of STEM fields of study in higher education; addresses issues and misperceptions about the under-representation of people of color and women; and discusses pros and cons of choosing a non-traditional major or career path. **Fri, 9/26@2pm**

Face to Face: Learning to Dialogue with Differences. Dr. Robert Samuels, *Director, Counseling Center*; and Dr. Jasmine Mena, *University Psychologist, Counseling Center*. In an increasingly globalized world, the ability to engage others in face-to-face interaction across differences of identities of identity, culture, and viewpoint is one of the most highly valued skills in business, government, and education. This facilitated workshop offers an open, inclusive space in which participants take part in individual and small group activities that enable them to identify boundaries by which people define themselves, and to relate across those boundaries. **Tue, 9/23@2pm**

Fiesta de Diversidad (Celebration of Diversity). Chris Bannon, *Coordinator, Origins, URI Diversity Week Planning Committee, Alima International Dance Association, and Student Alliance for the Welfare of Africa*. Initiating Diversity Week, this celebration of the cultural and artistic heritages of the diverse social groups that comprise the global society presents their experience through music, dance, and other modes of expression. All are invited to wear their national dress. **Mon, 9/22@12pm**

From Kingston to Birmingham: Discovering Cultural Diversity through Service Learning. Gail Rashed Faris, *Assistant Director, Women's Center; URI Academic Spring Break students; and Habitat for Humanity International*. Since 2006, URI students have traveled to the Deep South during their spring breaks to learn about complex cultural, economic, and political issues through experiential learning, community visits and interviews, community service, readings, and reflection activities for academic credit. This workshop presents a panel of students who visited Birmingham, AL, a prominent site of struggle during the Civil Rights Movement; and will share lessons learned from their immersion experience. **Fri, 9/26@12pm**

From 'Silent Spring' to Silent Night: The Silent Attack of Pesticides on the Human Immune System. Introduction by Dr. Donald DeHayes, *Provost, University of Rhode Island*. Keynote Address by Dr. Tyrone Hayes, *Professor, Integrative Biology, University of California-Berkeley*. **Thur, 9/25@7:30pm**

Frontiers in Food Policy and Hunger Programs in the US. Dr. Diane Martins, *Assistant Professor, Nursing*. While an estimated 35 million Americans annually endure chronic hunger and food insecurity, all Americans should be aware and involved in the making of decisions by government, business, education, agriculture, health and medicine, and public advocacy about access, affordability, and quality of food. This workshop invites participants to discuss recent controversies related to food policy, such as the production of ethanol and other biofuels, biotechnology and genetic engineering, food stamps and other anti-hunger programs, children's advertising, natural foods, and obesity; to analyze the effects on the population; and to address the politics of food. **Wed, 9/24@3pm**

Frontiers in Health Care Policy: Containment of Health Care Costs in the U.S. Dr. Michael Fine, *M. D., Physician-in-Chief, Family and Community Medicine, Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals*. Uniquely, the United States has the world's most costly health care service, spending over 15% of its Gross Domestic Product while other industrialized countries were spending 8-11%. In 2005, the US spent \$6401 per person on health, while Canada, France, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom spent about half as much per capita. Yet the US consistently underperforms these countries in access, overall quality, and efficiency. The disparities in the US health care system fall most severely on the poor, the underinsured, and people of color. This workshop presents the case for population-based primary care as a critically needed health care reform, while discussing the problems in the system posed by the practices of health plan administrators. **Wed, 9/24@1pm**

Frontiers in Medical Practice: Transfusion-Free Surgery in the US. Kevin Wright, *Manager, Transfusion-Free Medicine and Surgery, Rhode Island Hospital*. Over the past quarter-century, transfusion-free medicine and surgery in the United States has emerged as a body of practices that utilize an array of medications and technologies to stimulate blood cell production and to minimize blood loss without engaging in invasive medical procedures. Research indicates that transfusion-free practices have generally resulted in lower rates of infection and mortality, faster recovery times, reduced costs, and greater patient satisfaction. The numbers of bloodless medical centers has grown from a few in the 1990's to over 100 in 2007. This workshop orients participants to this new body of practice, and to its key issues. **Wed, 9/24@2pm**

Genderqueer: Beyond Binary Boxes. Kade Langston Aris, *Undergraduate, Psychology*. During the late 1990's, the term "genderqueer" emerged into usage to refer to people who reject the adequacy of the conventional binary system of female/male to define their gender identity and roles. This workshop discusses the unique needs of genderqueer people to make and affirm their own gender choices, describe their own experience, and challenge prevailing assumptions about identity, language, politics, and health. **Fri, 9/26@10am**

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Get Up and Dance: Israeli Folk Dancing. Amy Olson, *Executive Director, Hillel*; and *Hillel Students*. Try your skill at Israeli folk dancing. Even people with no experience can learn these simple circle dances in less than 20 minutes. Watch the leaders, learn the steps, and give it a whirl. Refreshments appropriate to the Fall Jewish Holidays will be served. **Thur, 9/25@12:30pm**

Happy New Year 5769. Amy Olson, *Executive Director, Hillel Center*. Based on the lunar calendar, Rosh Hashanah is commonly referred to as the Jewish New Year. The first of the High Holidays, the most solemn days of the Jewish year, it is a commemoration of the “day of judgment”, when the people of the world pass before their Creator. This workshop engages participants in understanding and observing the traditional customs associated with Rosh Hashanah, such as the reciting of prayers; the blowing of the *shofar*, a trumpet fashioned from a ram’s horn; and the partaking of ceremonial foods. **Tue, 9/23@5pm**

The Haves and the Have Nots. Denise Couchon, *Senior Clerk Stenographer, Human Development and Family Studies*; and Dr. Kyle Kusz, *Assistant Professor, Kinesiology*. This workshop explores the institutional barriers that exclude and prevent diverse communities from reaching their individual and collective goals. Through examples of inequality in resources, participants will learn reasons some groups choose to assert dominance over others. Awareness of inequality will develop in participants an increase in cultural sensitivity, and an understanding of the importance of diversity. **Fri, 9/26@10am**

Help Us Develop a One-Man Play About the Extraordinary URI Graduate, George A. Wiley. Ricardo Pitts-Wiley, *Artistic Director, Mixed Magic Theatre, Pawtucket, RI*; Dr. Alice Dzen Gross, *Dean Emeritus, University College, and Board Member, George Wiley Center*; Henry Shelton, *Founder and Coordinator, George Wiley Center*; and Judge Alton Wiley, *Distinguished Alumnus*, '51 This interactive dramatic performance by Ricardo Pitts-Wiley honors the life and contributions of Dr. George A. Wiley (1913-1973) to the civil rights and social welfare movements of the 1960’s-70’s. Reared in Warwick, RI, Wiley, Rhode Island’s first major civil rights leader, earned a B. S. in chemistry from URI in 1953, and a Ph. D. in organic chemistry from Syracuse University in 1957. In 1966, he founded the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), which became the largest national organization of poor people, mostly black women. At its peak in 1970, NWRO claimed 540 local chapters and over 20,000 members. The “Father of the welfare rights movement in the US”, Wiley helped to infuse multiculturalism into the civil rights movement, administering an interracial staff and marshalling a diverse array of funders. His philosophy and contributions toward the eradication of poverty are being sustained at URI through the construction of Wiley Hall, and in Pawtucket through the work of the George Wiley Center. **Fri, 9/26@2pm**

Hunger Banquet. Dr. Kathleen Gorman, *Director, Feinstein Center for Hunger*. In 1948, the United Nations, at the initiative of Eleanor Roosevelt, recognized access to food as a fundamental human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 1981, teachers have designated October 16 as World Food Day to heighten students’ awareness of the inequities in economic, political, and cultural power around the world that lead to widespread hunger. As the current global economic crisis concentrates resources into the hands of a few, the goal of providing access to food for all slips farther away. This workshop dramatizes the world’s food inequities through a banquet in which participants role-play membership in a socioeconomic class that defines their access to quality food, and determines their position in relation to the table and to the other diners. **Tue, 9/23@12:30pm**

The Importance of Black and Latino Greek Letter Organizations at URI. Ana Barraza, *Coordinator, Student Leadership Programs*; and Davida Robinson, *Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies*. Initially formed in response climates of exclusion and hostility on predominantly white college campuses during the first half of the 20th century, Black and Latino fraternities and sororities continue to play an important role in group identity formation on campuses where communities of color are marginalized or otherwise devalued. Since their origins, these organizations have also provided leadership training, role modeling, community service, philanthropy, and support for academic excellence. This workshop discusses the historical and current need; and the current and future roles for Black and Latino Greek letter organizations; media images in films, such as *School Daze* and *Stomp the Yard*; and controversies, such as hazing. **Tue, 9/23@5pm**

The Irish in Rhode Island. Dr. Scott Molloy, *Professor, Labor Research Center*. After the devastating potato famine in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, waves of Irish immigrants came to the US. About 1.9 million immigrants from Ireland arrived in Rhode Island from 1830 to 1860, most of them from 1845 to 1855. Another 1.9 million Irish immigrants came to the state between 1860 and 1900. By the turn of the twentieth century, the Irish were firmly established as the state’s largest ethnic group. The appeal of jobs in the cotton-spinning, weaving, printing, and dyeing industries, the manufacture of woollens, jewelry, silverware, and base metals, and the relief from Anglo religious persecution were magnets to the Irish working-classes. This lecture-discussion traces the economic, social, and political rise of the Irish in a highly competitive ethnic arena from the 1820’s to the 1960’s, addressing the prejudice and discrimination experienced by immigrants; the evolution of Irish-American identity; the role of the Democratic Party and the labor movement in building political power; and promoting education and religion. **Tue, 9/23@9:30am**

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Islam in Brief. Sarah Shihadeh, *Undergraduate, Clinical Lab Science, and Member, Muslim Student Association* and Dr. Assem Sayedahmed, *URI Muslim Chaplain and Assistant Professor, Food Microbiology*. According to the Quran, Muslims are encouraged to communicate with others, and to engage them in open discussion and action about the building of community through spiritual devotion and political reforms. Responding to current levels of polarization around discussion of emotionally charged issues, this workshop invites participants to deepen their existing knowledge about Islam, and to discuss stereotypes reflected in the media about Islam and its values. **Tue, 9/23@3:30pm**

“It’s Just a Joke”: A Workshop on Tolerance. Ally Van Wyk, *Undergraduate, English*. This workshop features a facilitated discussion held by a diverse group of students representing race, religion, sexual orientation, mental and physical disabilities. Facilitators will share stories of their experiences with intolerance or discrimination. Participants are invited to share their stories. Discussion about ways of responding to such intolerance will follow. **Wed, 9/24@4pm**

Latinos Are Here To Stay: The Changing Cultural Dynamic in U.S. Culture. Dr. Tom Morin, *Professor, Languages*. While it has enhanced integration between the world’s economies, globalization has also increased the concentrations and the flows of capital, goods and services, technology, and labor, resulting in a playing field sharply tilted toward the richer nations. In Latin America, the most pervasive impact of globalization has been to intensify the flow of capital, technology, labor, and goods and services. In the United States, these patterns of movement have caused Latinos to become the largest domestic group of color, reaching an estimated 44 million residents. This workshop addresses the conflicting attitudes of Americans toward immigration; examines the political, economic, and cultural impact of Latinos; and analyzes “Latinization” as an array of socio-cultural processes by which Latinos and other Americans reciprocally influence each other, adding value to mainstream American culture. **Mon, 9/22@6pm**

Learn How to Belly Dance: An Introductory Master Class. Nancy Hawksley, *Coordinator, Facilities Services*. This highly participatory workshop will present basic belly dance movements to pre-recorded Middle Eastern music. Wear comfortable clothes! Be prepared to lift your arms, move your body, and uplift your spirit! Bring a hip scarf if possible. Men and women, dancers and non-dancers, are welcome! **Thur, 9/25@2pm**

Lifespan Reception. Attendance is by invitation only. The event is sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Academic Deans, Kappa Delta Pi Honors Fraternity, and the URI Diversity Week Planning Committee. **Thur, 9/25@6pm**

Managing Everyday Conflict: Living in the Present Moment. Dr. Faye Mandell, *Founder and Chief Trainer, InWobble, Inc.* Living in the present moment is being open to the full awareness and appreciation of the life possibilities we have. When we are fully aware of what is happening in ourselves and in our world, we experience our thoughts and emotions without judgment. When we lose our anchoring in the present moment, we are propelled away from our locus of control, where we hang on to guilt from the past, anticipate the future with fear, project our anger onto others, or lose perspective on who we are. Applying insights from psychology and quantum physics, this workshop provides a model for everyday use that reconnects us to the here and now. **Fri, 9/26@1pm**

Margin, Mainstream, and Music: Mishearing African American Music in American History. Dr. Stephanie Dunson, *Assistant Professor, English*. Throughout American history, music has mediated and muddled messages of race and ethnicity. During the antebellum era, music was used to rationalize the dominance of whites over blacks. This workshop enables participants to critically examine representations of race in black music, and to interrogate the (mis)representations of black identity that continue to resonate in American popular culture. After examining a broad sampling of music from the 18th and 19th centuries, we will consider three central questions: How would white Americans exposed exclusively to Western European musical forms have responded to the complex syncopation and cadences of African-influenced musical forms? Why and how were rhythms and melodies of Southern slaves appropriated into the musical forms of “blackface” performers on the minstrel stage? How did the authentic music of black Americans continue to evolve in spite of the (mis)representations of black culture that pervaded American popular culture? **Thur, 9/25@11am**

Meet Dr. Padma Venkatraman, Author of *Climbing the Stairs*, and Participate in a Discussion. Dr. Cheryl McCarthy, *Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies*. During World War II when the British occupation of India is drawing to a close, Vidya, an outspoken and willful fifteen-year-old girl, dreams of attending college. But when her proud father is beaten senseless by British colonial soldiers during a peaceful demonstration, she and her family must live in her grandfather’s tradition-bound home, where women are relegated and assigned to separate quarters on the first floor. Vidya’s only refuge becomes the library on the second floor, where women and girls are forbidden, where she finds the books that she craves. This discussion addresses a panorama of issues that shape the identity and culture of Vidya and those around her, such as pacifism, violence, feminism, gender, colonialism, family, and adolescence. **Wed, 9/24@4pm**

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More Alike than Different: Building Bonds through Books. Dr. Susan Trostle Brand, *Professor, Education*; and Dr. Laura Harper, *Assistant Professor, Family Studies and Human Development*. Through reading, sharing, and extending children's multicultural literature, participants will learn strategies that assist them in selecting and utilizing quality multicultural literature for grade school children. Discourse on cultural views and demonstrations will provide participants with knowledge and enlighten them about the role age-appropriate books can play in empowering children. **Wed, 9/24@10am**

Music for Social Justice, Protest, and Diversity. Dr. Paul Bueno de Mesquita, *Professor, Psychology*; Dr. Libby Miles, *Associate Professor, Writing and Rhetoric*; and Dr. Steve Wood, *Professor, Communication Studies*. Ever wondered how to sing some of those old songs from the 60's that helped to transform the economic, political, and cultural policies of the US? This workshop invites participants to join in and sing songs of protest and social commentary. These songs of the civil rights, anti-war, labor, and immigration movements typically identify a social problem, suggest a response, appeal to common values, arouse external sympathy and support, and develop group unity. **Thur, 9/25@2pm**

One-to-One and Small Group Tutorials: Pedagogies for Promoting Multicultural Learning. Dr. Libby Miles, *Associate Professor, Writing and Rhetoric*; Cathryn Molloy, *Graduate Student, English*; and Jeremy Hawkins, *Alumnus, Writing and Rhetoric*. Most current research on teaching methods focuses on the classroom lecture modes predominant at American universities. As part of a campaign to reclaim ancient traditions of student-centered learning, writing programs have joined the small, but emerging movement to incorporate tutorial education - personalized forms of instruction in which teachers and/or peers can develop more symmetrical relationships that lend themselves more easily to two-way learning. This workshop presents the case for tutorials as learner-specific strategies that even the playing field for diverse learners with diverse learning styles. **Fri, 9/26@1pm**

Out of Diversity: Women Speak. Dr. Jody Lisberger, *Interim Director, and Lecturer, Women's Studies*; Mary Cappello, *Professor, English*; Stephanie Dunson, *Assistant Professor, English*; Rae Ferguson, *Associate Professor, History*; Rosie Pegueros, *Associate Professor, History*; Kim Salerno, *Adjunct Faculty, Art; and Selected Students*. Students and faculty rarely find time to engage each other and share the value of their individual and collective lives. This reading of creative work from culturally diverse faculty and students will reveal the influences of our diverse ways of being and knowing on ourselves and our significant others. By reaching across educational, disciplinary, age-generational, ethnic-racial, and sexuality boundaries, this reading will celebrate the impact of multiculturalism on our intellectual, spiritual, emotional, physical, and occupational choices, and enable us to model collaboration. **Thur, 9/25@3:30**

Pangaea Roots Music Festival, featuring Dhafer Youssef, from Tunisia. Coordinated by Michael Lapointe, *Hall Director, Housing and Residential Life*. Dhafer Youssef is a critically acclaimed vocalist and virtuoso of the oud, the central instrument in traditional Arabic music. In 1990, he moved from his native Tunisia to escape poverty and pursue his passion for music. Influenced by Sufi mystical traditions as well as contemporary world music, his music blends the ancient with the modern, the East with the West, into a jazz fusion musical style. He and his bands have performed before appreciative audiences in Austria, France Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the US, Tunisia, and other countries. One of the world's oldest stringed instruments, the oud is predominant in the Arabic-speaking countries of North Africa and the Middle East, while playing a secondary role in Turkey, Iran, Armenia, Greece, and Azerbaijan. Introduced into Islamic Spain and Sicily by the Moors around the seventh century AD, the oud migrated into Christian Europe becoming the ancestor of the European lute, and ultimately, the Western guitar. The music of the oud is distinctive to Western ears because it utilizes a model scale based on quarter tones halfway between notes. **Fri, 9/26@8pm**

Peace and Harmony Meditation. Dr. Celina Pereira, *Physician, Health Services*; Laurie Johnson, *RN, Health Services*; Dr. Paul Bueno de Mesquita, *Professor, Psychology*; Dr. Art Stein, *Professor Emeritus, Political Science*; Claire Sartori-Stein, *Lecturer, Psychology, CCE*; and Melvin Wade, *Director, Multicultural Center*. Deriving its origins from the ancient Eastern religions, particularly those of India, China, and Japan, meditation is both a body of ancient spiritual practices and a set of contemporary mind-body techniques. It seeks to center the mind by concentrating focus on an object of attention, freeing the mind from material attachment, and opening the mind to heightened consciousness. This gathering increases awareness of basic principles and practices, and offers an opportunity to direct collective energies to attaining peace and harmony on the URI campus. **Fri, 9/26@12pm**

Please Don't Go!: Why Women and Minorities are underrepresented in the Sciences. Dr. Barb Silver, *Director, NSF Advance*; and Dr. Padma Venkatraman, *Director, Graduate Diversity Affairs*. Are there opportunities for underrepresented voices to be heard in mainstream discourse? This panel and presentation will share experiences and examine the racial and gender imbalance in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines and the willingness of underrepresented groups to ignore these fields. This discussion will focus on the reasons women and minorities are underrepresented, and the need for change. By examining assumptions about ability and interest in the STEM fields, discussants will increase awareness of cultural forces that result in unequal career opportunities for women and people of color, discussing the responses of higher education as well as the duality that often challenges these underrepresented groups as they try to conform and sometimes rebel against conceptions addressing issues and misperceptions about underrepresentation; and explores social and cultural capital as they relate to academic and life success. **Wed, 9/24@11am**

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Portia, Pacino, and A Pound of Flesh. Bryna Wortman, *Associate Professor, Theatre*. As early as the 11th century, Jews in England were regarded as outsiders because of their religion. Only Christians were able to pursue conventional paths to respectability by owning land or joining the artisan guilds. In order to earn a living, Jews often resorted to the vocation of usury. In assessing interest and collecting debt, the Jewish money lender often became the target of resentment. By the late 13th century, anti-Semitism and hostility to usurers lead to repressive measures against Jews, resulting in prohibition against usury, and eventually, a period of exile lasting 300 years. When William Shakespeare wrote the romantic comedy *The Merchant of Venice* in the 16th century, certain stereotypes about Jews had crystallized in the popular imagination. Forming the backdrop of ideas upon which Shakespeare wrote was the myth of “blood libel”, based on the groundless notion that Jews kidnapped children at Easter and murdered them in ritual practices. Against this backdrop, Shakespeare presents as his play’s antagonist Shylock, a complex portrait of the Jewish money lender, by then a stock character in Elizabethan drama. After the scene selection, participants are invited to share their reactions to Shylock, and to the power of art to oppose attacks on the human spirit. **Wed, 9/24@6pm**

Promising Scholars: Graduate Student Research Symposium on Diversity (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). Dr. Padma Venkatraman, *Director, Graduate Diversity Affairs*; and Dr. Paul Bueno de Mesquita, *Professor, Psychology*. This forum presents research to the campus community by graduate students of color preparing theses or dissertations in the STEM-related areas; or by other graduate students on diversity-related topics in the STEM-related areas, in order to build a diverse STEM community of critical mass; nurture communication, collaboration, and creativity across disciplinary boundaries; and stimulate critical inquiry. **Mon, 9/22@2pm**

Promising Scholars: Graduate Student Research Symposium on Diversity (Social Sciences, Humanities, Fine Arts, Education). Dr. Paul Bueno de Mesquita, *Professor, Psychology*. This forum presents research to the campus community by graduate students preparing theses or dissertations on diversity-related topics in the social sciences, humanities, fine arts, or education, for the purposes of nurturing communication, collaboration, and creativity across disciplinary boundaries, and stimulating critical inquiry. **Mon, 9/22@3:30pm**

The Representation of Homosexuality in Video Games. Dr. Suellen Adams, *Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies*; and Damien Huffer, *Co-Founder, Learning Games Initiative*. Preliminary research indicates the culture which designs video games, produces their narratives, and consumes them is grounded in an ideology which privileges heterosexual white males. While underrepresented within the culture, homosexual gamers and their allies are beginning to critically challenge the ideologies underlying the fantastic scenarios, linear narratives, and hyped action that typify gaming culture in the US. This workshop outlines student-assisted research utilizing games and social networking sites; and discusses the portrayal of sexual orientation in two popular games. **Tue, 9/23@12:30pm**

The Representation of Race in the Race for the White House. Dr. Kendall Moore, *Assistant Professor, Journalism*; and John Pantalone, *Lecturer, Journalism*. Is the United States becoming a “post-racial” society? Because U. S. Senator Barack Obama was chosen to be the presidential candidate of a major political party, much has been made of the nation’s presumed progress in racial attitudes. His status as a man of color with no apparent ties to an American past of slavery seemed to some to legitimize him as a post-racial candidate. Yet the fact that so much attention is being given to the racial component of the upcoming election emphasizes that race and identity politics are still important in the national narrative. Recent polls indicate the persistence of racial polarization within the American electorate, suggesting that boundaries continue to be constructed in defense of cultural, rather than human rights. This workshop examines the preoccupation of Americans with the contested efforts in the media to define Sen. Obama’s image; and asks participants to visualize the characteristics of an authentic post-racial society. **Wed, 9/24@12pm**

Rhode Island, First in War and Last in Peace (For All the Right Reasons) Hon. Bruce Sundlun, *Governor-in-Residence*, and the *Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities*. After its founding in 1636, Rhode Island constantly found itself at odds with surrounding colonies and with England. Scorned as a haven for social and religious outcasts, Rhode Island earned its outlaw image, skirmishing with the British over efforts to enforce tariff and trade regulations over its lucrative smuggling of rum and molasses, and contesting boundaries with its neighbors. Recognizing US Constitution Day, September 17, this workshop explores Rhode Island’s unique colonial history as one of the first to engage in armed struggle for independence against the British in 1776, and one of the last to ratify the federal constitution in 1790. **Fri, 9/26@3pm**

The Rural Migrant: The Deagrarianization of Mexico and Implications for the U.S. Dr. Rosaria Pisa, *Lecturer, Sociology*. This lecture presentation on how small producer farming cultures in Mexico are diminishing as a result of neoliberal agrarian reforms and the internationalization of food production and distribution examines out-migration from the Mexican countryside to the US. Focusing on the impact of globalization on small-holder farming cultures in Mexico, participants gain insight into the transnational dimensions that have led to the abandonment of farming as a way of life and increasing migration to the US. **Wed, 9/24@3pm**

Sexuality and Multiculturalism: A Look at our Views on Sex. Laurie Johnson, *RN*; Roger Jadosz, *RN*, Anna Stanhewicz, *Undergraduate Student, Kinesiology*; and Angela Lawless, *Undergraduate Student, Marketing*; of *Speakeasy*. This presentation will take a look at different ethnic, cultural, and societal views of human sexuality. Through interactive methods as well as discussion, participants will engage in dialogue, examining their views on sexuality and the effects of cultural standpoints on sexual behavior. **Wed, 9/24@12pm**

Abstracts

Strange Fruit (Video): The Story of Lynching in America, the Ultimate Protest Song, and Jazz Singer Billie Holiday. Dr. George Willis, *Professor, Education*. Between 1882 and 1968, nearly 5,000 African-Americans were hung, burned or otherwise tortured to death by mobs of white vigilantes without resort to due process because they were presumed to be criminals or violators of other community standards. Occurring primarily in the American South, the practice of lynching African-Americans was often a public event, performed before spectators, some of whom would take body parts as mementos. Some say the intent of lynching was to reaffirm the “place” of blacks and whites when the Southern social order was felt to be under moral attack. Shocked by a photograph of a lynching, Abel Meeropol, a Jewish schoolteacher and a member of the American Communist Party, was inspired to write *Strange Fruit* as a poem in 1937. Recorded by jazz great Billie Holliday in 1939, *Strange Fruit* became the anthem of the anti-lynching movement, led by the NAACP. Followed by a discussion, this prize-winning documentary traces the origin and evolution of one of the most influential protest songs ever composed. **Tue, 9/23@9:30am**

Stress Reduction for Every Body. Dr. Celina Pereira, *Physician, Health Services*; Laurie Johnson, *RN, Health Services*; and Donna Leite, *Clinical Psychiatric Nurse Specialist*. Stress is our body’s response to change, pressure, or threat to our well-being. This workshop will teach you to use your inner resources to recognize and relieve the causes and symptoms of stress through practical mind and body relaxation techniques, including meditation and breathing to increase mindfulness. Participants will have the opportunity to learn techniques that enable them to decrease their levels of stress, and to experience life more fully. **Wed, 9/24@11am**

“Then and Now: Civil Rights Revisited” (Video). Gail Rashed Faris, *Assistant Director, Women’s Center*. This video by Faris is a chronicle of the experiences of faculty, staff, students, and friends from the University of Rhode Island and other communities on a civil rights pilgrimage to churches and sites in Atlanta, GA; and Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, AL, at which major battles for desegregation, voting rights, and other aspects of full citizenship were waged by African-Americans and their allies. Under the auspices of the URI Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, members of the group share their reflections about the meaning and significance of the pilgrimage, organized and led by URI Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, their encounters with leaders of the Southern civil rights movement, the strategic importance of nonviolence, and the role of the movement in human rights history. Thousands of people annually conduct similar visits to the South. **Tue, 9/23@2pm**

Understanding the Support Needs of Students with Asperger’s Syndrome. Pamela Rohland, *Assistant Director, Disability Services*; Rosemary Lavigne, *Coordinator, Disability Services*; and Dr. Amy Weiss, *Professor, Communication Disorders*. Asperger’s syndrome is a type of autism that affects the ability to make sense of the world. People with Asperger’s syndrome experience difficulty in understanding how other people think and feel; in interacting with others; and in predicting and imagining the outcomes of others’ thoughts and behavior. The incidence of this developmental disability is on the increase in the US. This workshop presents an overview of students with Asperger’s syndrome; comments on accommodations issues; and discusses strategies for reducing stress and developing effective communications. **Fri, 9/26@3pm**

What Peace Means to Me: A Celebration of Art, Prose, and Music. Dr. Susan Trostle Brand, *Professor, Education*; and Jane Picciotti, *Director, Lower School, Highlander Elementary*. Children from the CVS Highlander Elementary School in Providence share stories, songs, and art that convey the theme of peace and universal harmony. Laying the foundation for multiculturalism and diversity early in life, participants will learn how to establish a curriculum that promotes acceptance and pluralism, teaching that while different, we are very much the same. **Thur, 9/25@11am**

Why Work-Life Balance is a Diversity Issue. Dr. Barb Silver, *Director, NSF Advance*; and Dr. Helen Mederer, *Professor, Sociology*. Since the 1970’s, the influx of women into the public and private sectors in the US has led to a progressive “feminization of the workplace”, resulting in the pursuit of a more family-friendly climate at work. Among the important changes that have benefitted workers is the notion that acknowledging the interrelationship between the work life and the personal life can improve the satisfaction, health, productivity, and commitment of the worker. As the labor force continues to become more diverse, workers need increased flexibility in business policies and practices to accommodate primary child- and elder-care givers, the aging, the disabled, and the religiously observant. This workshop invites participants to increase their awareness of the assumptions underlying the 20th century workforce, and to imagine themselves as members of a new labor force responsive to the changing needs of the 21st century. **Wed, 9/24@2pm**

Working with Future Generations for a Nonviolent Global Community. Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr., *Director, Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies and Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence*. A living link to many of the defining moments of the U.S. Civil Rights movement- the desegregation of Nashville (TN), the founding of SNCC, voter registration in Selma (AL), the Freedom Rides, and the Poor People’s Campaign, Dr. Lafayette has emerged as one of the world’s foremost advocates for international peacebuilding. This workshop introduces participants to ongoing initiatives for peacebuilding and conflict resolution currently underway in countries, such as the United States, Colombia, Cuba, Israel, and Puerto Rico, and provides information and advice for those who wish to enlist in and support these international initiatives. **Wed, 9/24@10am**