The Office of Institutional Diversity's

E-Newsletter

April, 29th, 2020

What's Cookin'?  
Bibi's Prized Recipe for Community Resilience

Ingredients:
- Unbridled ambition
- Unwavering creativity
- Uncompromising integrity
- Unmasked authenticity
- Uncommon heritage
- Unyielding optimism
- Unprecedented circumstances
- Seasoned grace and forbearance molds
- Homogeneity (rare, but may be found in a monopolized market)

Instructions:

Start with homogeneity and spread it generously across a seasoned cast-iron griddle. Warm the griddle to the temperature of the sun for more than 400 years. Homogeneity will begin to bubble and break down to its organic form -- insecurity.

While the griddle heats up, in a separate bowl, shift creativity, authenticity, integrity, optimism, and heritage together into an extra-large bowl. Add a pinch of ambition. This mix, now called an affirmation, will need time to ferment. Set it aside, uncovered, in a room-temperature location. Let it rise.

Once risen, layer affirmation on top of the now the very hot layer of insecurity. The layers will be separated where you can see a clear line between the two layers. Now, push the iron molds of grace and forbearance into the layers, the chemical mix of the seasoned molds and layers will make the layers blend. At last, put the blends with the molds into unprecedented circumstances. Leave it be for at least 6 months to 1 year and you'll have community resilience.

Always Essential: Profiles In Color

Q. Tell me a little about yourself. Where are you from? Your major, hobbies, future career goals.
A. I am from Florence, SC majoring in Psychology with a minor in Healthcare and Medical Services Management. My hobbies include reading, listening to music, and taking walks. I hope to hold a career in healthcare administration field.

Q. Why did you decide to have a leadership role in SDIC?
A. I decided to have a leadership role in SDIC because I wanted to try something different and I also thought the organization would be a great addition to CofC's campus.

Q. Where do you see SDIC heading if CofC continues E-learning next semester? What are some creative ideas that you have to help keep SDIC relevant?
A. If CofC continues into an e-learning semester I'd like to see SDIC hosting virtual events that many other departments are utilizing.

Shykeria King, SDIC President
One positive that can come from this pandemic is the opportunity to slow down and pursue some hobbies that have been put aside. When I was younger, I consumed books like it was nobody’s business. However, as I grew older, I began to prioritize going out with friends, running, and academics. In college, I had a hard time justifying reading for fun when I had so much reading I needed to do for school. When I would pick up a book for fun, I realized my now hectic pace of life made it difficult for me to sit down and enjoy reading. One of my goals for this time at home is to get back in the habit of reading. Here are a few of my recommendations that will also bring in a focus on diversity...

**FACTORY GIRLS: FROM VILLAGE TO CITY IN A CHANGING CHINA BY LESLIE T. CHANG**

This nonfiction book from a reporter’s perspective gives voice to women working in factories in China. I was amazed by this book and definitely saw elements of what she wrote about in my own visit to Southern China three summers ago.

**OVERCOMING BIAS: BUILDING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS DIFFERENCES BY TIFFANY JANA AND MATTHEW FREEMAN**

This book is on the “need to read” list. This book acknowledges the biases that everyone has and provides activities to reflect on your own experiences.

**PARKER LOOKS UP: AN EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT BY PARKER CURRY AND JESSICA CURRY**

This is a children’s book but have a box of tissues nearby; it definitely brought a tear to my eye.

**FACTORY GIRLS: FROM VILLAGE TO CITY IN A CHANGING CHINA BY LESLIE T. CHANG**

If the book is anything like the movie, it’s sure to inspire you about the power of kindness, friendship, and self-confidence.

**WONDER BY R.J. PALACIO**

If the book is anything like the movie, it’s sure to inspire you about the power of kindness, friendship, and self-confidence.
A Town Mouse and a Country Mouse were acquaintances, and the Country Mouse one day invited his friend to come and see him at his home in the fields. The Town Mouse came, and they sat down to a dinner of corn and greens. There wasn’t much variety and the Town Mouse said pitifully, “My poor dear friend, you live here no better than the ants. Now, you should just see the great variety of food where I live! My cupboard is a regular horn of plenty. You must come and stay with me, and I promise you, you shall live on the fat of the land.”

So when he returned to town he took the Country Mouse with him and showed him a cupboard containing flour and oatmeal and figs and honey and dates. The Country Mouse had never seen anything like it and sat down to enjoy the luxuries his friend provided; but before they had begun, the door of the cupboard opened and someone came in. The two Mice scampered off and hid themselves in a narrow and uncomfortable hole. When all was quiet, they ventured out again; but someone else came in, and off they scampered off again. This was too much for the Country Mouse.

“Good-bye,” said the Country Mouse, “I’m off. You live in the lap of luxury, I can see, but you are surrounded by dangers, but when I am at home I can enjoy my simple dinner of corn and greens in peace.”

Better a little in safety than an abundance surrounded by danger.
As CofC looks to implement its new strategic plan it will require fresh thought and new ways of doing business. Staff can prepare to better-engage with the strategic change process by taking advantage of free courses offered through the Staff Training Program which covers one free undergraduate or graduate level course a semester. The only caveat to participation is that staff must earn a grade of C or better in the course of their choice. Taking advantage of this free benefit can ensure that the College has the brain power it needs to thrive both now and in the future.

See additional information below to learn more about the Staff Training Program:

- Staff Training Application (due June 1)
  - email Deana Richardson
- CofC Graduate School Admissions
  - email Susan Hallatt
- School of Professional Studies Admissions
  - email Shelley Brew

**SHARE YOUR STORIES**

If you have a story you would like included in a newsletter feel free to reach out to us via social media or email.  
(hendersonag@cofc.edu)

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