MARCH 25, 1965

"Today I want to tell the city of Selma, today I want to say to the state of Alabama, today I want to say to the people of America and the nations of the world, that we are not about to turn around. We are on the move now. Yes, we are on the move and no wave of racism can stop us..."

Excerpt from Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s speech at the conclusion of the march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.
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Greetings
FROM THE INTERIM AVP AND CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

I hope your New Year is off to a great start! OID looks to build-on the new framework created last semester. We have some exciting campus engagement opportunities, workshops, and initiatives planned for the Spring. Once again, departments, divisions and student organizations are encouraged to share upcoming diversity-related events with us so they can be recognized on our Network-to-Network Visual. Lastly, OID is pleased to announce that it will award a limited number of scholarships to need-based students this semester. Please visit diversity.cofc.edu to learn more about these and other opportunities available throughout the semester.

Thank you again for your support. It’s going to be another exciting semester!

Sincerely,
Dr. Rénard Harris

OID HALL ART UPDATE
seeing the difference

December’s Hall Art unveiling and Holiday Drop-in was a hit! Over 60 students, faculty and staff showed up to view the paintings completed by students during the fall semester.

The event featured stations for ornament design, cookie decorating, hot chocolate and “reindeer food”.

Guests also had the chance to enter a drawing to win a movie night kit or a ginger bread house kit. Once they had their fill of holiday treats, guests took a stroll through OID’s hallway to view the art.

Ornament Decorations
Hall Art Tour
EGDERC Tour
Raffle Winners
Holiday Drop-in
Jill Conway & Dean Valerie Morris
The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.: Volumes I-VII

This seven-volume series contains a collection of Dr. King’s ideas, thoughts and dreams for equality and justice for all.

Stop by the Eddie Ganaway Diversity Education and Resource Center (EGDERC) in Room 236 of the Robert Scott Small Building to see an extensive collection of Dr. King’s work.

EGDERC ITEMS OF THE MONTH

Selma

Set in 1964, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, this film depicts the herculean effort it took to achieve voting rights for African Americans nationwide.

Directed by Ava Duvernay, Selma features an all-star cast including David Oyelowo, Oprah Winfrey, and Common.

Join OID for a screening of this film on January 25, in Room 233 of the Jewish Studies Center from 5:30-8 p.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Monthly Playlist

This month’s playlist is dedicated to "change agents" everywhere. Happy listening from OID - we hope you get inspired to make a difference in your own way!

BIG SEAN
One Man Can Change the World

MICHAEL JACKSON
Man in the Mirror

HAROLD MELVIN AND THE BLUE NOTES
Wake Up Everybody

SAM COOKE
A Change is Gonna Come

JOHN MAYER
Waiting on the World to Change

NEEDtoBREATHE
Difference Maker

MATTHEW WEST
Do Something

will.i.am
Yes We Can

JOHN LEGEND
Dare to Dream
Special Feature

The College’s Center for Civic Engagement hosts an annual Alternative Break trip during the MLK Weekend to honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy of service and social justice. Through this brief experience, students are given the opportunity to engage in service-learning projects in King’s hometown of Atlanta, GA.

To learn more about this important project, the Bridge Builder (BB) met with Stephanie Visser (SV) and Chris Ciarcia (CC) - director and associate director for Civic Engagement - to discuss their upcoming trip. A recap of the conversation is provided below.

BB: How did the MLK Alternative Break Weekend get started?
SV: The Center for Civic Engagement offered its first MLK Weekend Alternative Break in January 2014. As with most of our programming, the original call to action came from our students. They wanted to see more opportunities available to honor Dr. King’s legacy and our office was a natural fit to take up the challenge. In talking with the students our main goal became creating a financially-accessible study away opportunity that connects an intentional service immersion experience with Dr. King’s legacy of active citizenship. While the weekend is tweaked each year to offer a unique experience, it always focuses on exploring social justice issues through education, strong direct service and critical reflection.

BB: What activities do students participate in during the Break?
CC: Students participating in Alternative Break MLK Weekend actually begin to take part in a number of activities prior to departure to prepare them for the experience. On December 6, students met with (Dr.) Mari Crabtree, professor of African American studies at the College, to discuss Dr. King’s legacy of racial and economic justice. On January 12, the night before departure, students will participate in a social justice and diversity workshop. While in Atlanta, students will volunteer with New American Pathways (an organization devoted to refugee resettlement), visit the Martin Luther King Jr. Historic district (and) the Center for Civil and Human Rights, and engage in critical reflection.

BB: What is the goal of the Break?
CC: The goal of Alternative MLK Weekend is for students to have a better understanding of Dr. King’s philosophy of the Beloved Community. In addition, the Center hopes that students will have a better understanding of the American Civil Rights movement and how it’s similar to the modern human rights movements in the United States, i.e. Black Lives Matter.

BB: How can students learn more about participating in the Break?
CC: The application deadline for Alternative MLK Weekend has already passed; however, students interested in applying for Alternative Spring Break can pick-up an application from the Center for Civic Engagement, located in the Lightsey Center, Room 203. Applications for Alternative Spring Break are due January 18.
LOOKING FORWARD
upcoming programs

JANUARY
FOCUS: CIVIL RIGHTS
Jan. 17 & 19 - Share the Dream activity in Cougar Mall from 12-4 p.m.
Jan. 25 - Screening of Selma in Jewish Studies Center (JSC) Room 233 - refreshments provided.

FEBRUARY
FOCUS: MASCULINITY IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR
OID will examine the role masculinity plays in communities of color and the impact it has on in February. More details to come, soon.

MARCH
FOCUS: DISABILITY AWARENESS
Ableism is often left out of conversations on diversity and inclusion. In an effort to change this, OID will explore this important topic in March. More details to come, soon.

APRIL
FOCUS: RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM
OID and the Avery Research Center will co-host the Avery’s first annual Race and Social Justice Symposium (funded by Google) on April 1, in the Stern Center. More details to come, soon.

OID is unveiling a new format for its programs this Spring. Using a four-pronged approach, the goal is to increase program attendance, advance the campus-wide discussion on diversity and inclusion, and broaden the department’s reach by establishing new partnerships with other campus departments.

The new programming format is structured as follows:
1. Knowledge
   information shared about a diversity topic through a lecture or film.

2. Response
   a challenge to become an agent of change in the diversity topic at-hand.

3. Engagement
   an opportunity to make a difference in an action-oriented way central to the diversity topic at-hand.

4. Storytelling
   a first-hand look at the experiences of students, faculty and staff affected by the diversity topic at-hand.
diversity workshops

Dr. Kendall Deas will host a diversity workshop entitled “Team Building Across Cultures” on February 23 in Room 252 of the Robert Scott Small Building from 2-3 p.m.

Attendees can expect to learn how to make cross-cultural connections in order to create a more cohesive campus environment.

Faculty and staff are strongly-encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Each month, OID will host candid conversations with members of the College community on topics central to diversity and inclusion in higher education.

Tune in this month on OID's YouTube channel as Dr. Kendall Deas talks with Dr. Millicent Brown - associate professor and Senior Research Fellow at Claflin University - and Dr. Jon Hale - associate professor of teacher education - about the lasting impact of the Civil Rights Movement on higher-ed.

OID's new talk show

Peer - 2 - Peer Workshop Series

OID's Peer-to-Peer Sensitivity and Civility Workshop Series is going digital! This new format will still utilize a faculty-to-faculty approach but will be hosted online. This will enable all who wish to attend to view the session on their own time without missing it due to teaching, meetings, etc.

Once again, faculty development funds will be awarded to faculty members who facilitate a session. Three 20-minute sessions will be offered in February, March and April. Interested faculty members should send proposal ideas to oid@cofc.edu.

To view last semester's workshop series co-facilitated by Drs. Keonya Booker, Sophia Rodriguez and Ashley Vaughns please visit diversity.cofc.edu.
STUDENT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

The Student Diversity and Inclusion Council (SDIC) is a student run organization under the supervision of the Office of Institutional Diversity. This goal of this organization is to provide College of Charleston students with a platform to promote diversity and inclusion on campus.

There is no application process for students who wish to be a part of this organization. Interested students are encouraged to attend meetings and events hosted by SDIC to become better-acquainted with the group's mission. To learn more about how to join and the regular meeting times, please visit diversity.cofc.edu. SDIC information can be found under the diversity initiatives tab.

Our first event of this semester is a collaborative effort between SDIC and SCOPE (Safe Campus Outreach, Prevention, & Education Peer Team). On January 26 these two organizations will discuss "Rape Culture Around the World."

SDIC will focus on educating students about Middle Eastern Culture with various other events for the rest of the semester. Be sure to be on the look out for flyers with the SDIC logo (shown below) to get more information about the events and programs that SDIC is involved with.

SCOPE & SDIC PRESENTS:

Rape Culture Around the World

Join SCOPE and SDIC in a discussion of the difference and similarities among nations as it relates to rape victims. Come see how different cultures view rape and rape victims.

Free food and drinks will be provided.

Date: January 26, 2017
Time: 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Location: ECTR 116