

April 2021 Newsletter

Check out the latest from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equity!



Every April, The Pride Center for Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity celebrates their graduating students, both graduate and undergraduate, and recognizes folks from across campus who are supporting the Pride Center's work and mission, and generally making campus a better place for all with their Take Pride awards. This year's winners were recognized in a virtual ceremony on April 14. The winners were:

The Henry Baird Award: Given to a Lehigh student whose scholarly achievements in their field and service to the LGBTQ+ community reflect Dr. Henry Baird's dual commitment to academic excellence and to improving the climate for LGBTQ+ people at Lehigh University, this year's winner was Sky Bela. Sky excels inside and outside of the classroom at Lehigh. Their commitment to LGBTQ+ equity is evident in their role as an executive board member with Spectrum and as a founding co-president of the newly established oSTEM Chapter at Lehigh University.

The Allyship in Action Award: Honoring those who have truly lived out the active, intentional journey of allyship during their time at Lehigh, the 2021 Allyship in Action Award was presented to Dr. Jennifer O'Brien-Knotts. For the past several years, Jennifer has been leading a committee comprised of staff in the Provost's Office, Human Resources, General Counsel, LTS, and the Pride Center that have worked tirelessly to create and implement a new Chosen Name Policy at Lehigh which sought to affirm the experiences of our transgender community members. The impetus for this group came as a result of Jennifer's experience with supporting a transgender graduate student who was facing barriers to their success at Lehigh. Jennifer identified the problem and, through her incredible effort, worked to create and get approved a new policy on Chosen Name, Gender Identity, and Pronouns that will ensure that our transgender community is seen, validated, and honored here at Lehigh.

The OUTstanding Initiative Award honors those who created and implemented an innovative program that promotes inclusion and equity at Lehigh and in our community. This year's winner was the Beyond Bars 3.0 Mountaintop Project Team of Leah Canel, Aiden Galbraith, Eliza Howard, Dom Ocampo, and their advisor, Bill Whitney. The Beyond Bars project seeks to: illuminate and broadcast personal, important stories from inside and outside the U.S. carceral system; educate audiences about critical problems with this system; advocate for a societal push toward abolition of the carceral system as it currently exists, and a reconceiving of the notion of societal and legal punishment, ending common practices such as the overuse of solitary confinement; and inspire and Entertain our audiences while pointing us all to a better, more just, and equitable future.

The Lehigh Alumni Pride Association (LAPA) Change Agent Award: Honoring those whose work has had a lasting impact on the culture of our campus community at Lehigh, this year's LAPA Change Agent Award was presented to Fangyi Wang. Fangyi is a member of the student staff in the Pride Center and has brought about important changes to the Pride Center community through her efforts to ensure that the Pride Center is uplifting international communities in their work and leading the Mental Health Monday program.

Please join us in congratulating our winners!



“If we wait for perfection, we’ll never get started.” Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, President Emerita of Spelman College and well-known race relations expert, gave a virtual webinar presentation on Tuesday March 30. The discussion, moderated by Dr. Valerie Taylor, assistant professor of psychology and Africana studies, touched on race, gender, intersectionality, current events, and Tatum’s best-selling book *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*, For the approximately 450 attendees, Tatum offered a hopeful message and some concrete steps to begin actively fighting against racism. To be antiracist means “interrupting the patterns of behavior—not just the attitudes—but the policies and practices that reinforce a sense of white superiority, reinforce a sense of marginalization for people who are disadvantaged by the system,” said Tatum. “And it requires effort. So the first thing we have to do is make an effort. We can’t just talk about it. We have to do something.” You can [read more about Dr. Tatum’s visit here](#), and you can find [recordings of the discussion here](#).



Yamil Sanchez Ed. D.'10 MBA'22 is the Chief Administrative Officer at the Reading School District who is also pursuing an MBA at Lehigh. He struggled a bit in his first year of the program, but thanks to a couple of role models, he now sees how he can parlay his previous experience in the non-profit and educational sectors into the entrepreneurial arena. [Read more about Yamil here.](#)

Want to keep up with BALANCE? [Join the Facebook page here!](#)

Lehigh University's
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Celebration Committee
Presents

Patrisse Cullors

Co-founder of the Black Lives
Matter Global Network
Foundation

and the New York Times bestselling author,
educator, artist, and abolitionist from
Los Angeles, CA.

**Wednesday,
April 28th at 4pm**

Named top 100 influential people by
Time Magazine and nominated for the
2021 Nobel Peace Prize, Patrisse
Cullors has used her love for art,
community and social justice to drive
her fight of activism for over twenty
years. Join us as we welcome Patrisse
Cullors to Lehigh!

[Click Here to Register](#)

or register at
<http://bit.ly/PatrisseCullors>



The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee presents Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation, on Wednesday April 28 at 4:00 PM. Named one of the top 100 influential people by Time Magazine and nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, Patrisse Cullors has used her love for art, community and social justice to drive her fight of activism for over 20 years. [Register at http://bit.ly/PatrisseCullors](http://bit.ly/PatrisseCullors).

Mindful Meditation

w/ Rabbi Steve

A weekly online Zoom meditation session to help us deal with physical and spiritual isolation we haven't experienced before. Join with or without video. No experience required!

OPEN TO ALL!!!

WEDNESDAYS @ 3pm (ET)
go.lehigh.edu/meditation

The Office of Jewish Student Life presents Mindful Meditation with Rabbi Steve, a weekly online Zoom meditation session to help deal with physical and spiritual isolation. Join with or without video—no experience required! Join Wednesdays at 3 PM EDT at go.lehigh.edu/meditation. If you aren't available at that time, or want to meditate at another time, recordings can be found at: <https://lehighhillel.org/mindful-meditation/>



A READING AND CONVERSATION WITH
LAUREN K. ALLEYNE
POET AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE
FURIOUS FLOWER POETRY CENTER



Supported by the Friends of
the Lehigh University Libraries

APRIL 28, 2021 | 5:00 PM

A Reading and Conversation with Lauren K. Alleyne: *Friends of the Libraries speaker series, Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., online via Zoom*

Lauren K. Alleyne will be reading from her latest poetry collection Honeyfish and will be talking about her experiences as the Assistant Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center.

Alleyne's work is a poetics of witness: her poems are lyric and narrative movements toward clarity of vision. With careful attention, her poems reveal the connections between individuals and histories, bodies and spaces, emotions and actions. Within these connections, Alleyne also uncovers blank space: the things we are asked to ignore or do not allow ourselves to see. Addressing violence and loss, Alleyne exposes social injustices and the veiled power structures that perpetuate them.

The lecture will be followed by a Q&A session led by University Librarian Boaz Nadav-Manes.

This event is free and open to the public. [Please register in advance](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

THE PRIDE CENTER LUNCH & LEARN

**APRIL 27, 2021
12:30 PM (EST)**

FORAGING AS A QUEER POLITICAL PRACTICE

HAVE YOU EVER WALKED BY A PLANT
AND WONDERED, CAN I EAT THAT? OR
EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW TO RESIST
THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX?

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER.

JOIN US AT GO.LEHIGH.EDU/VIRTUALPRIDECENTERLOUNGE

You are welcome to do whatever makes you most comfortable engaging in this event such as keeping your camera off and/or changing your zoom name to anonymous.

The Pride Center presents "Foraging as a Queer Political Practice" on Tuesday April 27 at 12:30 PM EDT. Have you ever walked by a plant and wondered, "Can I eat that?" Or ever thought about how to resist the military industrial complex? Let's learn together. Join us at go.lehigh.edu/virtualpridecenterlounge. You are welcome to do whatever makes you most comfortable engaging in this event, such as keeping your camera off and/or changing your Zoom name to remain anonymous.