

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

# IDEI in Our Community

Harkins Hall 312

Moore Hall

MARCH 2023 - ISSUE NO. 12

## A Moment of Reflection

BY JACQUELINE PETERSON, ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT

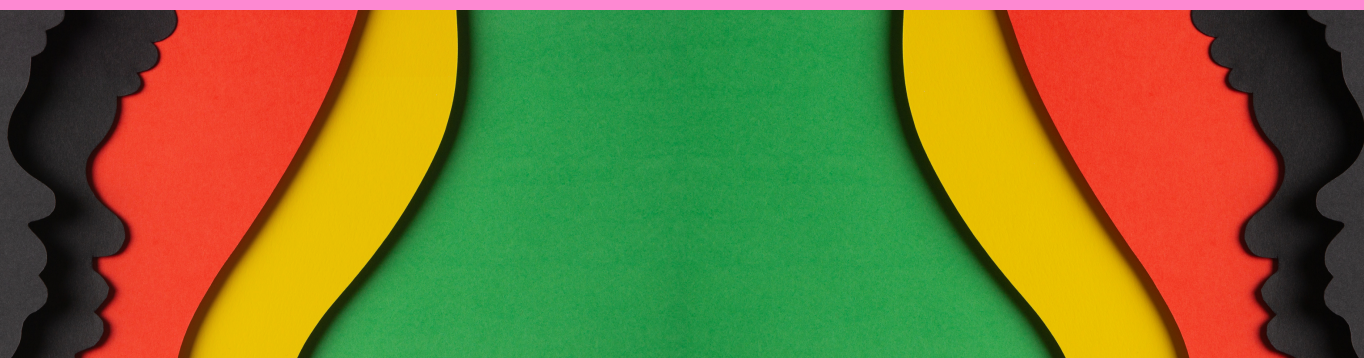
Welcome to the spring semester issue of "IDEI In Our Community," published by the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This issue celebrates Black History Month which occurs in February and Women's History Month which is recognized in March. ***It is most fitting that these observances occur consecutively as women have played a pivotal role in American history, and the history of Black people is also American history.***

Black History Month had its origin in February 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson launched the first Negro History Week through the Association for the Study of African American Life. Founded in 1915, the association's mission was to ensure that the history of Black people in the United States receive the recognition and scholarly attention that it deserves. Fifty years later, in 1976, President, Gerald Ford issued a proclamation that officially changed the recognition of the important contributions of Black people from one week to the full month of February. In 1986, 60 years after Dr. Woodson's historic initiative, Congress passed Public Law 99-244, which designated February as National Black History Month. Specifically, *it proclaimed that "the purpose of Black History Month was to make all Americans aware of the struggle for freedom and equal opportunities and a time to celebrate the many achievements of African Americans."* Each year thereafter, presidents have issued annual proclamations for National Black History Month.

The public observance of women's contribution to events in American history did not occur until 1978, when Austrian-American historian Gerda Lerner's advocacy for women resulted in establishing Women's History Day. In 1980, a week in March was officially declared as Women's History Month by President Jimmy Carter. Seven years later, Congress proclaimed the full month of March as Women's History Month with International Women's History celebration occurring on March 8. ***This special time of the year celebrates the immeasurable impact that women have made in the history of this country.***

For Black women, ***the back-to-back commemorations celebrate the intersection of our inseparable identities and acknowledgment of the achievements and contributions of historically marginalized women whose legacies have often been overlooked.*** It is not widely understood that Black women were instrumental in shaping this country. The untold stories of Black women's contributions to American history are numerous. The incredible work of courageous Black women has been critical to society during the abolishment of slavery, to women's suffrage, the voting rights and civil rights movements, and in the present day of racial reckonings, gender equity, and social justice.

It is significant that two months each year, Black History and Women's History observances bring awareness and amplify the voices of those historically excluded. However, these histories are too important to America to be highlighted only once a year. ***I remain hopeful that incorporating the complete, unedited versions of these histories into the education of current and future generations will not be a point of contention, but rather that our country will realize that thoroughly and accurately educating about these histories matter.***



# MLK Convocation Spring '23

HILL HARPER TALKS PASSION, REASON AND COURAGE IN KEYNOTE SPEECH

REFLECTIONS PROVIDED BY STUDENTS IN THE DIALOGUE, INCLUSION, & DEMOCRACY (D.I.D) DWC COLLOQUIUM.

"During the MLK convocation when Hill Harper was a keynote speaker, I was moved by his **passion**. Harper relayed his love through an engaging speech that was held in a more unconventional manner than past lectures or keynote speakers I have attended. Through his experiences as an actor, author, advocate, and various other roles he has partaken in, Harper brought his knowledge and overall message to the work of Dr. King. The message about the need for courage, reason, and passion resonated with me. Harper examined how those elements are crucial in order for successful change in our society.



**Alyssa Sammataro**  
Class of 2025

He emphasized the importance of an individual taking part in the change. One's truly successful with that change when they carry a true passion for it because that individual wants to see the result of their work. I found that to be important for how it related to the work we are to complete in the course, and how we are to face change together, helping one another. He explains how passion is synonymous with energy, energy to initiate and carry out the work towards progress. I could further see the passion Harper held with how he listened and thoroughly responded to the questions at the end. I hope to utilize the message Harper articulated throughout the course of the semester and throughout my lifetime."

"What struck me most about Hill Harper besides his impressive background, was the way in which he approached his work. Hill was full of energy and positivity on stage and you could tell he wanted to radiate that into the crowd as he spoke. I found it most interesting how Hill approaches his work with different ideas and backgrounds, from the ideas of mentors to things he thought were important. I thought it was really interesting how Hill took Dr. King's work and always tried to apply it in his life, as Hill gives us examples of how Dr. King personally affected him and how we should look at him.



**Brendan Alberry**  
Class of 2025

I was really impressed with how Hill was able to talk about how progress is a steady climb up and down and the gestures he gave us were more of an upward spiral. He used this upward spiral to show us that progress will always have bumps in the road, but with continuing actions, perseverance, and **reason**, the spiraling progress will continue to go in the right direction."

"One thing that resonated with me during Hill Harper's address in the MLK convocation was his emphasis on making a change as a community through passion. He emphasized this point through his comparisons of what things represented and stood for while Dr. King was alive and what those same things represent today. No matter what Dr. King stood for, there was a guarantee that he would do it with all his energy, passion, and **courage**. I think it's clear he set an example for what can be done in communities like Providence College.



**William Mazzaro**  
Class of 2025

When Harper moved on to the Q&A, it seemed like this is where he found most relatability with the audience. When he spoke about hope, it was clear he aims to carry himself with the same passion energy to advocate for change today."

# Black History Month Events Held at PC

An Investigation of Identities

**BLACK EXPO**

An Exploration of the Intersection of Black and LGBTQ+ Identities

Presentations & Performances by  
Dr. Chris Chambers + Believers of Words

February 21st  
7-8:30 PM  
Moore Arts Cafe  
All are welcome!

If you are a person with a disability and require an assistance device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact the Central Reservations Manager (401-865-1040; M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) well in advance of this event

Black Expo by Afro-Am

NAACP.PC PRESENTS...

**BLACK CREATORS MARKET**

COME CELEBRATE THE CLOSING OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH, WITH BLACK BUSINESS AND RESTAURANTS FROM THE AREA

**FEBRUARY 28TH 7-9, MOORE 125**

**BUSINESSS INCLUDE:**

- THE BLACK LEAF TEA
- EARTHLY ESSENTIALS
- SIRENAS SECRET
- VESSELS VASES
- SHOP SOULITA

If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation in order to participate in this event, please contact the Central

Black Creators Market by NAACP\_PC

**MLK CONVOCATION GALA**

Friday, Feb 10th, 2023

'64 HALL  
Doors open at 8:00pm  
Sounds by DJ CORV

CULTURAL FORMAL WEAR EVENT  
Tickets will be sold at  
SLAVIN INFO DESK Beginning on  
JANUARY 27TH  
\$5 FOR PC STUDENTS  
Ticket Sales will Open for Non-PC Guests on Feb 6th for \$8 per Ticket\*

Sponsored by  
MLK Convocation Committee  
Multicultural SSC  
Afro-Am  
Motherland Dance Group  
BBSA

\*360 BOOTH\*

MLK Convocation Student Gala by Motherland Dance Group

**Motherland & Moore Hall Presents: Movement Language Series: Beginner Hip Hop Class**

**Kelvin Fabian**

Kelvin has accomplished much in the field of dance: he won Showtime at the Apollo in 2004 and won Ushe's Dance Contest on B.E.T.'s 106&Park and was on America's Best Dance Crew to name a few. He will be sharing his dance style and techniques in a beginner class.

Location: Moore 112, Dance Studio

Date and Time: February 16th, 2023 7pm - 8:30pm (please arrive for 6:30)

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided

If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in these events, please contact the Central Reservations Manager at (401) 865-1040; M-F 8:30 AM-4:30 PM well in advance of the event

Movement and Language Series by Motherland Dance Group & Moore Hall

Student Congress presents...

**CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS!**

Nominate BIPOC student leaders to be recognized during the month of February!

Nominations are being accepted on a rolling basis until Feb 22

The link to the nomination form can be found in our bio!

BIPOC Student Recognition by Student Congress

# FIRST, ONLY, DIFFERENT: An Alumni Panel

A REFLECTION BY KATIE KRANZ, PH.D, LICSW,  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

It was a delight and privilege to attend The First, Only, Different alumni panel on February 15, celebrating the stories and lived experiences of Maeve DuVally, 83', Judge Linda Rekas Sloan '91, and Osvaldo Jose Marti '07. If you did not have the opportunity to attend, I would like to share a glimpse of what I felt as I listened to these wonderful Providence College alumni talk about their lives of being **first, different, and only**, with grace and dignity.

The **first** Asian-American Rhode Island Superior Court judge, Linda Rekas Sloan, offered her story of the challenges to be a judge in R.I., a place of fierce political competition. Her heartfelt story of joy of being a judge was offset by feelings of doubt, despite her stellar abilities. It felt real, hard, honest, and offered a lens into what Asian females, in these political positions, experience. She is a voice leading the way in our judicial system.

Osvaldo Jose Marti, born in the Dominican Republic, described being **different** as a young student, who could not yet speak the language in the United States and fondly recalled his kindergarten teacher who made a connection with him. This simple, yet powerful connection to feel understood was a touchstone to a passion for teaching and a commitment to diversity and inclusion as the lower school principal at Moses Brown. I felt Osvaldo's warmth, sincerity, and humor which I can imagine is felt by students and teachers.

IDEI and History & Classics Presents :

## First, Only, Different: An Alumni Panel

A panel discussion on the experiences of alumni in their workplaces.



Maeve DuVally, '83    Judge Linda Rekas Sloan, '91    Osvaldo Jose Marti, '07

**Wednesday, February 15th**  
**Ruane 105, 6pm**

**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**  
Link for Alumni Registration Below

Sponsored by:  
The Department of Political Science, the Black Studies Program, the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, Women's & Gender Studies, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, American Studies, Asian & Asian American Studies, the English Department, and Alumni Relations

Maeve DuVally, a transgender woman, who came out less than five years ago and is in addiction recovery told a captivating story. Her account of transitioning, while in a highly visible corporation, Goldman Sachs, offered a rare glimpse of being the **only** one in the corporate business world. Wow. Maeve was riveting. Her empathy for herself and others was profound. Her work in GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders (GLAAD) speaks to her use of stories to advance acceptance, to promote justice and equity.

*I left feeling a sense of real belonging in the community, where first, different and only are words that hold stories that matter. As they should.*



# A Conversation with Magnoly Maria '19

"WHAT DOES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH MEANS TO YOU?"

Magnoly Maria, a member of the Class of 2019, and currently a senior admissions counselor in the admissions office, talks about what Women's History Month means to her. She reflects on her experience when looking for colleges and how a former admissions counselor, Karen Vargas, connected with her and her family. Ms. Vargas, whom Ms. Maria recognized as a woman of color, went beyond her job's requirements to make her feel welcome at Providence College. Ms. Maria expressed her gratitude for the work that Ms. Vargas dedicated to making sure that her experience at PC went well. **Ms. Maria says that it is women like Ms. Vargas, who help other women, that make a large difference.**

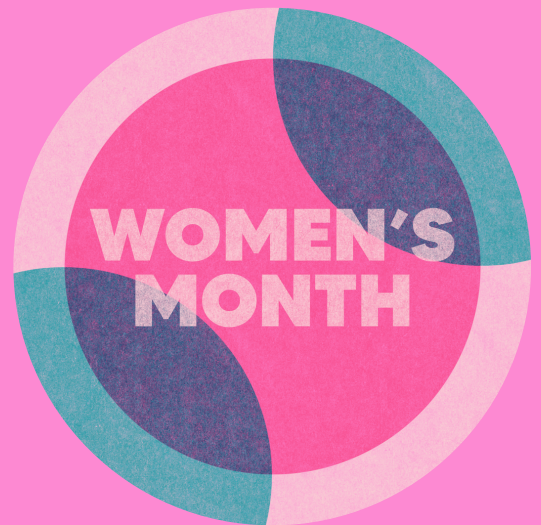
While here at PC, Ms. Maria was a part of clubs such as the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs, Board of Programmers, and Women Empowered, where she felt like she was able to connect with many people, stay comfortable, and enjoy her time on campus. Connecting with other women while she completed her undergraduate years was helpful as she majored in business, a predominately male field. She talks about how the few women in her classes always looked out for one another, partnering up for group projects, doing homework together, and helping each other out whenever possible.

**Ms. Maria says that celebrating Women's History Month is an opportunity to highlight a lot of the current events and accomplishments made by women.** She feels as though women are often overlooked in work positions and projects, and Women's History Month is an opportunity to bring these things to the forefront. Ms. Maria uses this month as an educational tool, as she is informed about women who may have been overlooked in history and on campus. This month is an organic and inspirational way to learn about different women and their work. She appreciates the women who have inspired her and given her many opportunities in life. With being a woman, comes an opportunity for mentorship that is offered between one another, and that is something Ms. Maria finds admirable.

Empowered  
Women  
Empower  
Women



Magnoly Maria '19



# A Spotlight on Women Empowered

WRITTEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS



Women Empowered is a group that supports and encourages diversity amongst Women of Color on campus. In a world where minority women are always put on the outskirts of society, **Women Empowered provides a safe space for voices to not only be heard but amplified for our greater school community.** Our organization also engages in social, cultural, and community service events centered around multicultural womanhood.

We promote ourselves and support one another through **weekly meetings, every Wednesday from 8-9 pm.** These consist of girl talk, self-reflection, bonding activities, professional development, and much more. These meetings are an opportunity to take an academic load off of our shoulders and see each other through multiple lights and view each other as the women we are!



Our exec board coordinates several women-themed events throughout the year for our members and others of the PC community to come and join! Each event is an opportunity for outsiders to come and take a look at the hard work of Women of Color throughout campus and in the spotlight.



This year, **Women Empowered plans to tackle Women's History Month with a full agenda.** Our first event will be our annual **Herstory: Scraps of Time**, where women of color get to share their experiences of what it means in our society. In this exhibit, we will display personalized posters to celebrate the minority women involved in our club, to show our appreciation, and uplift one another! We will also be having more events ranging from hair-care workshops to feminism panels-- stay tuned for more!

# Concluding Reflections about Women's History Month

FEATURING GRADUATE ASSISTANTS ON CAMPUS



**Grace Crowley '22**

Graduate Assistant of Elementary and Special Education and Secondary Education

"Celebrating Women's History Month is extremely important to me, as it allows me to commemorate the strong women I have in my life. I value and respect all female educators, but especially those who have come before me. These women have shaped the minds of the children around them and have paved the way for my future occupation. I believe it is important to surround yourself with driven, passionate women, in order to have a strong support system and a network of mentors. We must celebrate the success of all women around us each and every day, but make sure to shoutout a woman you love this month."

"Women's History Month is important to me because it shows how our drive and passion can lead to systemic change. Reflecting on the work women have put in to give us the opportunities we have today is an essential piece of understanding how we can put in the work ourselves and make our world equitable for the next generation!"



**Liz Hawley '22**

Graduate Assistant for College Event Management and Planning

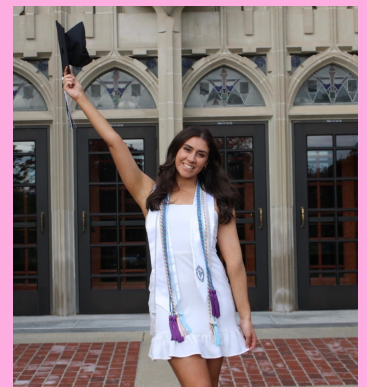
"Women's History Month is important to me because it is a time to celebrate all the contributions that women have made and their impact on society. It is a chance to celebrate the accomplishments of all the strong and dedicated women who have come before us. I am surrounded by real strong women every day who inspire me to do my best, spread kindness, and work hard for what I believe in. This month is a time to reflect and remember that women hold a place in our history and will always be a part of the future."



**Caitlin Lewis, HPU '22**

Graduate Assistant for Graduate Literacy and Leadership Programs

"Women's History Month is an important time for me to reflect on all the determination of the women that came before me. I am able to live my life as I am today because of the work of these powerful women who persevered when faced with struggles. In my own life, I enjoy surrounding myself with caring, strong, and independent women who fight each day for what they believe in. I believe there is strength found in women supporting and depending on each other."



**Faith Murphy '22**

Graduate Assistant for Graduate Counseling and Special Education Programs