**Social Justice Month April 2022 (Plain Text Version)**

**Monday April 11, 10 - 11 am**

Location: O'Reilly 310

**Social Justice in Action: Civic Engagement for Students with Disabilities**

Organizer: Isabel Fernandes

In the higher education setting and bodies of research, the focus is on compliance, undue burden, and reasonable accommodations in the classroom. However, there is not a full understanding of disability history, activism, and identity development in the educational setting. In this presentation, I will discuss the creation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, how it relates to our education system, and the long-term impacts both in and out of the classroom.

**Monday April 11, 4 - 5 pm**

Location: The Writers House

**Anastasia Higginbotham at The Writers House**

The Writers House and Women's and Gender Studies

Anastasia Higginbotham launched her Ordinary Terrible Things children’s book series in 2015 with Divorce Is the Worst. She followed with Death Is Stupid and Tell Me About Sex, Grandma. Her 2018 book, Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness, addresses anti-Black systemic racism and earned the International Children’s Library White Raven Award. Her newest titles are What You Don’t Know (January 2021) and You Ruined It (April 2022). Higginbotham teaches full-impact self defense for Prepare Inc. and writes for social justice organizations. Her work has been featured in The Atlantic, The Believer, The New York Times, and more.

Anastasia Higginbotham will discuss her recent book and writing process with Dr. Susan Marine, Vice Provost of Graduate Education.

**Tuesday April 12, 6:30-7:30 pm**

Location: Crowe 311

**Taking Action for Social Justice**

Together We Rise and the Political Science and Public Policy Department.

Speakers: Matthew Cohen, Valerie Overton, Larry Freeman, and Charles James

The panel will offer suggestions on concrete actions students can take to help support social and racial justice in their daily lives both in day to day interactions and more broadly as part of movements and bigger joint efforts. We will also open up to student questions and thoughts as well so we can try to help students figure out what the best path is for each of them who are interested. The goal is each student will leave knowing a series of concrete steps they can take next to further their knowledge and ability to take meaningful actions, and we will give out handouts that have information on the steps.

**Wednesday April 20, 12:30-1:45 pm**

**Nicole Hassoun: Responding to Pandemics and Extending Access to Essential Medicine: The Human Right to Health and the Virtue of Creative Resolve**

Nicole Hassoun is Professor of Philosophy at Binghamton University. She heads the Global Health Impact project intended to extend access to medicines to the global poor. The project launched at the World Health Organization in January 2015 and is intended to assist policy makers in setting targets for evaluating efforts to increase access to essential medicines.

In addition to publishing about a hundred journal articles, she has published two books: Globalization and Global Justice: Shrinking Distance, Expanding Obligations (Cambridge University Press, 2012), and Global Health Impact: Extending Access on Essential Medicines for the Poor (Oxford University Press, 2020).

Register for virtual event: <https://merrimack.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEod-GtrjwjGtYsI4qVTR13j5EVLxjWZiGm>

**Wednesday April 20, 11:00 am - 1:30 pm**

Location: Main St, Sakowich Center

**Social Justice Pop-Up Pop Quiz!**

Come test your knowledge on social justice! Correct answers will be entered to win a cornhole set!

**Wednesday April 20, 4-5 pm**

Location: The Writers House

**Nina Banks on Democracy, Race, and Justice: The Speeches and Writings of Sadie T. M. Alexander**

Dr. Nina Banks will discuss her new book, *Democracy, Race, and Justice: The Speeches and Writings of Sadie T. M. Alexander.*

Professor Nina Banks will discuss her recovery of the economic thought of the first African American economist, Sadie T.M. Alexander, and the continued relevance of Alexander's intellectual thought to Black protest against ongoing violations of civil rights and liberties for Black Americans.

**Thursday April 21, 10 am - 5 pm**

Location: 1st Floor McQuade Library

**UN-Judge a Book By Its Cover: Visit The Human Library**

Help build understanding for diversity at the Human Library- an internationally recognized event designed to connect people through real conversations about important issues. On Thursday, April 21st, McQuade Library and Unity House at Merrimack college will create spaces for these conversations to take place, and we are recruiting "human books" to share with our community. The Human Library- an internationally recognized event designed to connect people through real conversations about important issues–helps build intercultural understanding for diversity and respect for differences. "Human books" are brave individuals who are willing to share their life-stories about prejudice and adversity with readers in the hope of disrupting stereotypes and working to end intolerance. "Readers" (students, staff, and faculty) can "check out" a human book and speak with them for a period of 15-20 minutes to hear the book's story and ask questions. The Human Library Project is all about open dialogue, without judgment or opinion, and is meant to challenge people's perceptions and stereotypes. This one-of-a-kind event is often a powerful experience for all involved.

**Thursday April 21, 10 - 11 am**

Location: O’Reilly 310

**Shifting Our Mindset: Neurodiversity Through a Strengths-Based Lens**

Drawing on research and first-hand experiences of our neurodiverse students, this workshop explores the nuances of neurodiversity, as well as the need for a strengths-based approach to supporting neurodiverse students.

Neurodiversity is a term that encapsulates the variations in the ways that each person thinks and experiences the world around them. Differences are viewed as a piece of human diversity, not deficits. This umbrella term includes Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, and a number of other labels. Drawing on existing research and the first-hand experiences of our neurodiverse students at Merrimack College, this workshop explores the nuances of neurodiversity, as well as the need for a strengths-based approach to supporting neurodiverse students. Through this, we will develop a deeper understanding of how each of us can use our roles to create an inclusive and affirming campus where all students can thrive.

**Friday April 22, 12 - 1 pm**

**Open Conversation on Global Justice and Issues in Ukraine**

Join the faculty of Political Science and Public Policy for an open and unscripted conversation on current events, global justice, and issues in Ukraine. All students are welcome to participate and bring questions. Note that you will need to be logged in with your Merrimack account to join.

Virtual event: <https://merrimack.zoom.us/j/99305246866>

**Monday April 25, 4 - 6 pm**

Location: Crowe Hall Executive Room

**Food Justice Symposium**

Faculty, staff and students will present on issues of food security and their work to alleviate hunger in the Merrimack Valley.

**Tuesday April 26, 12:30 - 1:00 pm**

Location: 27 Rock Ridge Rd.

**Food Sovereignty and Seed Saving at the Merrimack Garden**

Drop by the Merrimack College garden to learn about food sovereignty and seed saving. Improve the soil, sow seeds, plant seedlings, and take some seeds home with you. Gain knowledge and resources to grow your own food.

**Wednesday April 27, 4-5 pm**

Location: Crowe 310

**Careers in Social Justice**

Organizer: Katrina Everett, The Social Justice Program

Speakers: TBD

Speakers will discuss careers in social justice and their experience working in the field.

**Wednesday April 27, 4-5 pm**

Location: The Writers House

**Dr. Christian Bolden at The Writers House**

Dr. Christian Bolden is author of Out of the Red: My Life of Gangs, Prison, and Redemption.

Christian L. Bolden is the Robert Hunter Distinguished Professor in Criminology and Justice at Loyola University New Orleans. His recent book Out of the Red: My Life of Gangs, Prison, and Redemption(Rutgers University Press) received the 2020 Frank Tannenbaum Outstanding Book Award from the American Society of Criminology’s Division of Convict Criminology. In 2012-2013, Dr. Bolden was the “Futurist in Residence” research fellow for the FBI’s Behavioral Science Unit. His areas of research are gang histories and processes, mass incarceration, and human trafficking.