



Summer Programming Note

Thank you for reading the ODI Weekly Updates letter this year! We appreciate the support you show to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice across the UConn system and are proud to partner with each of you in the important work of moving the needle on UConn's campus climate.

During the summer, the Weekly Updates will come out every other week, rather than every week; full service will resume in August. We also plan on migrating our weekly updates letters to Mailchimp. In the meantime, we hope you each have a restful and restorative summer!

Congratulations!

ODI celebrates the achievements of our partners and allies in the important work of making UConn's campuses more welcoming and inclusive. We are so proud to work alongside each of you! This week, we are especially pleased to celebrate the work of the following achievements:



Dr. Cato T. Laurencin Awarded Inaugural DEI Award of the Society for Biomaterials

Congratulations to Professor Cato T. Laurencin, who received the Inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award from the Society for Biomaterials, the leading professional organization promoting advances in biomedical materials research!

This award recognizes Dr. Laurencin for promoting anti-racism and creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for historically excluded groups in the STEM disciplines, especially in the field of biomaterials

[Read More Here](#)

Dr. Brenda Brueggemann unveils Disability & Accessibility Collective (DAC) Blog

Congratulations to Dr. Brenda Brueggemann, who led undergrads from the Department of English and the UConn Design Team in creating the Disability and Access Collective (DAC) Blog!

This blog features academic, advocacy-activist, and community work that thinks and expresses uninhibitedly, makes connections, and explores what it means to be human. And it all starts right here on the UConn campuses. When it comes to the disability experience, storytelling is so crucial. This blog space seeks to coax out those stories, share them, and learn from them.

[Check out the DAC Blog here!](#)

Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Initiative

The Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) is excited to announce that [UConn has been selected to join the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation \(TRHT\) Campus Centers Initiative!](#)

The [TRHT Campus Centers Initiative](#) is a joint effort by the [American Association of Colleges and Universities \(AAC&U\)](#) and the [W.K. Kellogg Foundation \(WKKF\)](#), two organizations committed to promoting racial equity within the United States. The initiative's goal is to bring about sustainable change to racial inequity by addressing the effects of racism in our communities and institutions. It utilizes a framework of community-based activities and policy design that broadens understandings of diversity and that engages and empowers campus and community stakeholders to uproot biases, advance justice, and build more equitable communities.

Recently, UConn hosted the ICARE4Justice Summit, alongside a TRHT research showcase and a visit from Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. Thank you to everyone who participated in the activities! We'll be sharing stories from these events soon!

Featured Diversity-Related Events



UConn Women's Advance Conference
Strengthening Community - Cultivating Resistance

Wednesday, May 17

Women's Advance Conference

The UConn Women's Advance Conference is a professional development opportunity for women staff, faculty and graduate students at all levels of the University that is designed to expand skills, increase knowledge, and enhance networks to promote a more inclusive and supportive working and learning environment.

This year's conference will be held at the UConn School of Law on Wednesday, May 17th. This year's theme is "**Strengthening Community, Cultivating Resistance.**" Click below for more information more information.

[More Information and Submit](#)

Applications due Friday, May 26

Announcing the Presidential MI Mentorship Award Program!

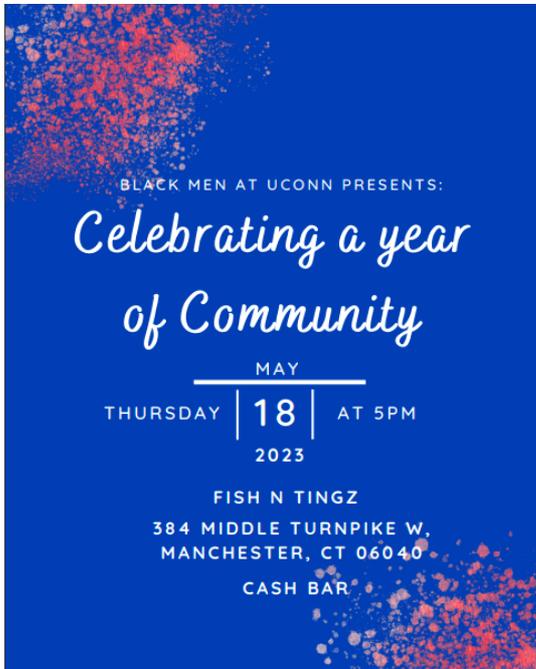
The [Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering](#) and the Office of the Provost are pleased to call for applications for the Presidential MI Mentorship Award Program!

The program intends to create a national model for best practices in mentorship and formalize mentorship as an academic discipline. It aims to establish a cadre of accomplished UConn faculty who will deliver mentorship to racial and ethnic underrepresented individuals along the biomedical science pipeline.



[More Information](#)

Upcoming Diversity-Related Events



Thursday, May 18

Black Men at UConn: Celebrating a Year of Community

Black Men at UConn invite all interested to come celebrate a year of community! This in-person event will be held at Fish N Tingz (384 Middle Turnpike W, Manchester CT 06040), on Thursday, May 18th at 5:00 PM. This event will have a cash bar.

Thursday, 5/18 - Friday, 5/19

RE-Center's 30th Anniversary Celebration

The RE-Center invites you to join them for a 30th Anniversary Celebration!

This two-day event will include a "Sip n' Solidarity" event at the Society Room in Hartford and RE-Center's first Racial Justice Conference at Hartford's Capital Community College.

Tickets for 5/18 are \$95; Tickets for both days are \$125. See below for ticket information and to learn more about the conference.

[Conference and Ticket Info](#)



Friday, May 19

Re-Center Racial Justice

Conference

The moment y'all have been waiting for has arrived! Registration is OPEN NOW for our first annual Racial Justice Conference (#RJC23) which will be held on Friday, May 19th, 2023, in person at Capital Community College in Hartford, and virtually. Buy your tickets now & learn more about the agenda & our speakers here.

We have a tremendous lineup with 2 keynote speakers, Dr. Dena Simmons & Cornelius Minor, and 2 blocks of workshops hosted by RE-Center Race & Equity in Education, Leading with Hearts & Minds, Race Forward's H.E.A.L. Together Initiative, We Do it for the Culture, Kass Minor, and more!

[Info and Tickets](#)



Friday, May 19 – Sunday, May 21

Northeast Human Rights Film Festival

This film festival is a three-day forum for screening and discussing compelling films and digital media projects that address contemporary human rights issues.

In addition to film screenings, filmmakers will have the opportunity to engage with other filmmakers, scholars, and practitioners for skills training, advocacy, and impact strategy development. Festival attendees will engage in dialogue around critical issues related to human rights film.

The festival events will be held in the Konover Auditorium at The Dodd Center for Human Rights, and the Ballard Museum of Puppetry. Click below for the full festival schedule.

[Schedule and Tickets](#)

May 30th

Write On, Black Girl! Call for Submissions

Write on, Black Girl is accepting submissions of original poetry, prose, memoir or artwork of Black girls, Black trans-girls, and Black gender non-conforming folx across the United States in order to foreground their voices in discussions about American identity.

Contest Info



July 10 - August 18

Inclusive STEM Teaching Project MOOC

The [Inclusive STEM Teaching Project](#) developed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) with [support by the National Science Foundation](#). The asynchronous MOOC is designed to advance the awareness, self-efficacy, and ability of faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and staff to cultivate inclusive learning environments for students.

This professional development program is available for free to all interested UConn employees. Despite its label as "STEM" the course is relevant for all disciplines and broader participation is encouraged.

More Info and Registration

A graphic for the Inclusive STEM Teaching Project MOOC. At the top, the letters 'S', 'T', 'E', and 'M' are arranged in a grid, each inside a colored hexagon (purple, teal, red, orange). Below this is the text 'INCLUSIVE STEM TEACHING PROJECT'. The main text reads: 'Incorporate inclusive teaching practices into your classroom! Our asynchronous, online course centers identity, power, and privilege featuring:'. Below this are four icons with labels: 'Embodied Case Studies' (two masks), 'Affinity Spaces' (a circle of people), 'Local Learning Communities' (two people with speech bubbles), and 'My Inclusivity Framework' (a document with a pencil).

Conference Opportunities

August 4-6

Interfaith America invites faculty, staff, and students to the 2023 Interfaith Leadership Summit on August 4-6 in Chicago. The summit has a variety of tracks for both students and campus professionals on engaging religious diversity positively and brings together hundreds of students and educators.

The Summit is the largest gathering of students and educators with a commitment to American religious pluralism. Join the hundreds of people who care about the future of our religiously diverse society as they learn to bridge divides and forge friendships across lines of religious and worldview differences. Learn new skills and return to your campus inspired and ready to build.

[Info and Registration](#)

Podcasts and Other Learning Resources



May 4

Higher Education Anti-Racist Teaching (H.E.A.R.T.) Podcast

On episode 8, [Dr. Mark Overmyer-Velázquez](#), University Campus Director of UConn-Hartford and [Dr. Joshua Abreu](#), Director of the Center for Teaching & Learning Excellence at Albertus Magnus College, share how they have witnessed and been part of social justice-guided transformational practices, given that it is a central pillar of the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) framework being advanced by the American

Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. We discuss ways in which institutional transformation can take place to better support students, faculty, staff, and communities.

[Listen to the new episode](#)

March 21

ICARE4Justice

Intersectional and Comparative Advancement of Racial Equity for Social Justice ([ICARE4Justice](#)) is pleased to announce a new podcast series about the 2022 ICARE4Justice Summer Summit!

The 2022 ICARE4Justice Summer Summit brought transnational scholars together to analyze, assess, and design important considerations for advancing equity in education research, praxis, and policy.

This series contains three episodes detailing some of their work on:

- Decolonizing the University
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
- Islamophobia

Join in the conversation today!

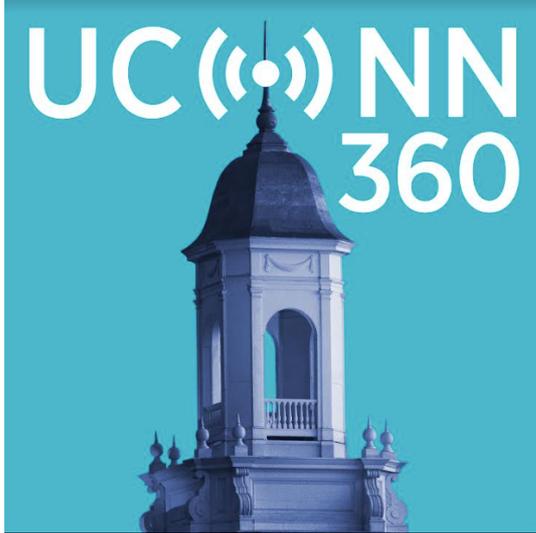
[Listen Here](#)

The logo for the ICARE4JUSTICE PODCAST. It features the text "ICARE4JUSTICE" in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font, with "PODCAST" in a smaller, bold, white, sans-serif font directly below it. The text is set against a dark blue rectangular background with a slight gradient and a white triangular shape in the top right corner.

May 2

Episode 108: How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worthwhile

Dimitris Xygalatas is an anthropologist and cognitive scientist who studies some of the more peculiar aspects of what it means to be human: ritual, music, sports fandom, and other



things that help people connect with each other and make sense of their lives. He is an associated professor in anthropology and psychological sciences at UConn, and the head of the Experimental Anthropology Lab.

His most recent book is "Ritual: How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worth Living," which is available wherever you can get books. We've been trying to make this interview happen for a while, and we're thrilled it happened for this great conversation about personal superstition, public ritual, and why it sort of makes sense to wear the same pair of underwear during a historic NCAA tournament run.

[Listen Here](#)

May 16

Education as a Diabetes Management Tool

Two UConn Health endocrinologists, Drs. [Pooja Luthra](#) and [Parvathy Madhavan](#), and the coordinator of UConn Health's [Diabetes Self-Management Education Program](#), nurse practitioner Luriza Glynn, discuss the importance of recognizing early signs of diabetes and, once diagnosed, managing it with the benefit of education.

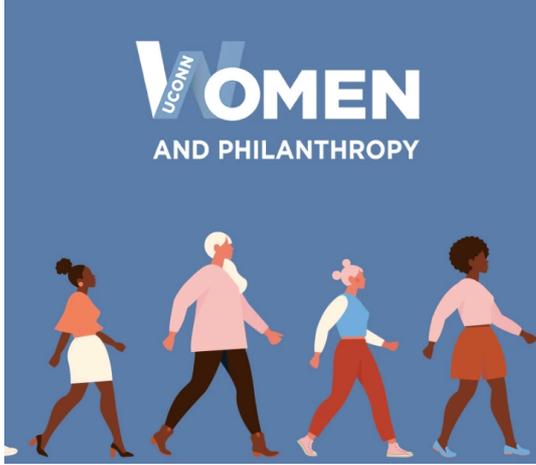
[Listen Here](#)



The UConn Health Pulse Podcast brings a variety of expertise on health topics to the general public.

May 10

The UConn Women: Changing the Game podcast series amplifies UConn women who are breaking down barriers and closing the gender gap, presented by UConn Women & Philanthropy.



Episode 8: Teresa Dufour and Rory McGloin

Former news anchor Teresa Dufour discusses the balancing act between motherhood, entrepreneurship, and brand advocacy with Rory McGloin. This energetic episode between two communication experts and entrepreneurs talks about how dreams evolve and the pivotal moment Teresa embraced her entrepreneurial spirit.

[Listen Here](#)

March 29

President Maric interviews Doug Glanville

In the seventh episode of "Worth Repeating," UConn President Radenka Maric interviews former MLB player and Neag School of Education Professor Doug Glanville about his baseball career, writing publications, teaching aspirations here at UConn, and much more.



[Watch Here](#)

Announcements

Seeking Research Participants: Creating Space for Black Women Faculty Grief in Higher Ed

Dr. Sakeena Everett is conducting a Spencer Foundation funded research project and seeking support in identifying project participants. In an effort to support other Black women in academia who are navigating grief, Dr. Everett developed a grief survey that carefully considers the responsibilities, supports, and challenges of Black

Seeking Research Participants

**Creating Space
for
Black Women Faculty Grief
in Higher Education**



Eligibility: Are you a Black/Caribbean/African descendent woman faculty in higher education who is experiencing (or have experienced) grief in response to a human death of a loved one?

Be gentle with yourself, sis

Research Goals:

- **Create space** for Black women faculty grief
- **Recognize and name** grief experiences
- **Acknowledge** existing grief supports
- **Cultivate community** among Black women faculty

Research Procedures:

- **Qualtrics Survey** ([click here](#) or use QR Code)
- **60-minute individual interview with PI** (optional). Participants will receive \$100.
- **90-minute Grief Focus Group** with 3-4 Black women faculty who are also navigating grief (optional). Grief packages will be provided.



This research is sponsored by

SPENCER

UConn

Contact: (PI) Sakeena Everett, Ph.D.
Email: sakeena.everetteuconn.edu

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women faculty. She designed the survey to:

- create space for Black women faculty grief
- recognize and name grief-related experiences among Black women faculty
- cultivate community among Black women faculty who are grieving
- develop tools and resources to support grieving Black women faculty

If you are a Black woman faculty in higher education who is experiencing grief (or have experienced grief), please consider completing the survey.

Information

Safety, Support, and Wellness at UConn

UConn has a wealth of resources dedicated to improving the living, learning, and working conditions of students, staff, and faculty on all of its campuses. ODI keeps a running list of these resources on the university-wide diversity website. Click below to access them.

Safety, Support, and Wellness at UConn

Would You Like to Share an Event, Class or Opportunity?

Please submit using the link below by the Thursday prior to the event/class/ opportunity. ODI Updates are shared with our ListServ weekly. Please email diversity@uconn.edu if you have any questions.

[Click Here to Submit](#)

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