IN THIS ISSUE

March is a month of celebrating women’s history as well as promoting awareness of those living with disabilities.

Inside this issue, the two awareness months are addressed through trends in higher education, book and movie reviews, and sample programming for each issue.

The “R” Word

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan declared March as National Mental Retardation Awareness Month. The proclamation called for people to provide understanding, encouragement and opportunities to help persons with developmental disabilities to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

However, I do not know about you but I find the “R” word offensive. When I first heard of this awareness month, I did a little bit more research on how to feature this sensitive topic.

Changes reflecting growing understanding and encouragement can be seen on both the state and federal levels. In fact, President Obama reinforced this change when he signed Rosa’s Law in 2010, removing outdated and derogatory terminology that appeared in earlier federal legislation. The change then replaced the “R” word with National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

I wish that I could say that, as a result of all these changes stereotyping has decreased. Some might be encouraged by sensitive portrayals of people with disabilities in film, literature and onstage. On the next page, I provided a synopsis of the film Pumpkin which discusses some of the issues that are still prevalent on some of our campuses for students with developmental disabilities.

For more information on National Developmental Disabilities month follow this link.

For information regarding the services ISU provides, follow this link.

Lastly, a list of Office of Diversity events are provided with links to our social media sites. Don’t forget to save the date for our upcoming events!

IN HIGHER ED

Dr. Rachel Seidman of Duke University started a project with her class to create a global movement on feminism by using a PR boost to combat the post-feminist sentiments and "feminazi" backlash that they saw in the world.

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“Pollock” provides a unique insight to what it means to be an artist

This film stars Ed Harris as the troubled painter struggling with depression. The movie traces the true-life story of American artist Jackson Pollock, a brilliant and avant-garde artist who often suffered from bouts of depression followed by intense creative periods.

“Iron Jawed Angels” parallels the lives of young women striving for equality and the right to vote

Katja von Garnier’s “Iron Jawed Angels” tells the remarkable and little-known story of a group of passionate and dynamic young women, led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and her friend Lucy Burns (Frances O’Connor), who put their lives on the line to fight for American women’s right to vote.

This true story has startling parallels to today, as the young activists struggle with issues such as the challenges of protesting a popular President during wartime and the perennial balancing act between love and career. Utilizing a pulsing soundtrack, vivid colors, and a freewheeling camera, Katja von Garnier’s “bandits” driving filmmaking style shakes up the preconceptions of the period film and gives history a vibrant contemporary energy and relevance.

“Pumpkin” is more than just a comedy, teaches that perfect isn’t always perfect

Perky, perfect Carolyn and her Alpha Omega Pi sisters plan to win Sorority of the Year by impressing the Greek Council with a killer charity: coaching mentally challenged athletes for the regional Challenged Games. When Carolyn’s assigned to coach Pumpkin she's terrified at first, but soon sees in him something she's never seen before: a gentle humanity and honest clarity that touches her soul. To the horror of her friends and Pumpkin’s overprotective mother, Carolyn falls in love, becoming an outcast in the process. As Carolyn’s "perfect life" falls apart, Pumpkin teaches her that perfect isn't always perfect after all.

To view this movie trailer, click here.
Events at Indiana State

Sycamore Safe Zone Training

Sycamore Safe Zone (SSZ) is an ally development program created through the Office of Diversity to establish a campus that is safe and affirming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students, faculty and staff.

The Sycamore Safe Zone program aims to create a visible network of support for LGBTQ individuals and their allies by providing an avenue through which any member of the Indiana State Community can show their support. The program also creates an educational experience through the Safe Zone Workshop. The Safe Zone workshops can be tailored to be 60 or 90-minute workshops that encourage the exploration of personal and cultural identities, privilege, and what it means to be an Ally.

There are two ways to be involved with Sycamore Safe Zone

1. Participate in a Sycamore Safe Zone Workshop  2. Become a Sycamore Safe Zone Facilitator — interested in becoming a facilitator, please contact Joel Phillips at (jphillips32@sycamores.indstate.edu)

The following 60-minute workshops are open to all during the month of March

Tuesday, March 11: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, HMSU Room 416
Thursday, March 13: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, HMSU Room 416
Thursday, March 20: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, HMSU Room 227
Monday, March 24: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM, HMSU Room 314

Eye on Diversity Series

For many diverse groups, engagement is key to success. To increase engagement and the likelihood of recruiting and retaining faculty and staff of color, the Eye on Diversity Series was developed to assist in the transformational change occurring at Indiana State University. This series provides avenues for open discussions revolving around diversity; thereby, increasing understanding of diverse individuals, issues and topics. The goal of the series is to ensure that Indiana State strengthens and embraces the changing needs of their diverse students, faculty and staff. Each session is guided by a video and the discussions are facilitated by ISU faculty and staff.

Generation M: Misogyny in Media & Culture, on Wednesday, March 5 from 6-8pm in Dede III. The facilitators will be Regina Atkins and Venita Stallings. Despite the achievements of the women’s movement over the past four decades, misogyny remains a persistent force in American culture. During this session we explore how negative definitions of femininity and hateful attitudes toward women get constructed and perpetuated at the very heart of our popular culture.

Girls: Moving Beyond Myth, on Thursday, March 27 from 7-8:30pm in Dede III. The facilitators will be Dr. Dwuena Wyre and Monique Mosley. This compelling documentary explores the tensions between our most cherished myths of girlhood and the difficult life choices girls’ face in the real world. The film gives special attention to how girls have been forced to navigate changing expectations in the wake of the women's movement on the one hand, and a commercial culture that trades increasingly in the sexualization of young girls on the other.

Contact Adam Gaunt for more information at agaunt@sycamores.indstate.edu
“Guys Guide to Feminism” is a great read for any gender identification

In just one generation, age-old ideas about women have been swept aside . . . but what does that have to do with men? Authors Michael Kaufman and Michael Kimmel, two of the worlds leading male advocates of gender equality, believe it has everything to do with them—and that it’s crucial to educate men about feminism in order for them to fully understand just how important and positive these changes have been for them.

Kaufman and Kimmel address these issues in "The Guys Guide to Feminism." Hip and accessible, it contains nearly a hundred entries—from "Autonomy" to "Zero Tolerance"—written in varying tones (humorous, satirical, irreverent, thoughtful, and serious) and in many forms ("top ten" lists, comics, interviews, mini-stories, and more). Each topic celebrates the ongoing gains that are improving the lives of women and girls—and what that really means for men.

When I first began reading this book, as a female who doesn’t really identify herself as a feminist, I was taken aback at the ease of understanding that the authors presented the materials. I really enjoyed reading this book and encourage others to read it as well.

Duke Movement Still Prominent a year later, and spreading to social media in a frenzy

In 2012, 16 women in a Duke classroom began a social movement to empower women to define what feminism is to them. In April of 2012, an article was posted in the Independent Daily of Duke University that explained the movement.

Nearly two years later, the movement has exploded onto social media even more so on Tumblr, Facebook and Twitter.

Their original goal in their Women in the Public Sphere class was to create a movement on their campus. They began their movement to explain and to fight back against the popular misconceptions surrounding the feminist movement.

They claimed that their class was disturbed by what we perceive to be an overwhelmingly widespread belief among students that today’s society no longer needs feminism. In order to change this perception on campus, we have launched a PR campaign for feminism. We aim to challenge existing stereotypes surrounding feminists and assert the importance of feminism today.
“The purity myth: How America’s obsession with virginity is hurting women” by Jessica Valenti

In the book Valenti discusses various different elements of society that promote chastity and discourage pre-marital sexual activity in women and teenage girls. She asserts that many sex education programs in the United States will only promote abstinence. Only education, which she feels, gives an unhealthy attitude towards sex and women. Valenti also asserts that the myth uses virginity as an "easy ethical road map" in order to teach women that, unlike the ability to abstain from having sex, their beliefs and actions hold no bearing to their value as human beings. In the book, Valenti does not discourage chastity but shows disapproval over virginity pledge programs such as purity balls and the Silver Ring Thing for the aforementioned reasons.

Valenti also argues that the over-emphasizing and idealization of virginity promotes the Madonna-whore complex. This she feels would make many women and teen girls choose to be hyper sexualized as they cannot live up to the expectations placed upon them. She also states that she believes that the concept of virginity is a myth, as the actual definition of the term is abstract and differs depending on the person, religion, or situation. Valenti explains that she was unable to find an exact medical definition of virginity in the Harvard Medical School library and that the popular concept of virginity did not fit both genders.
The mission of the ISU Office of Diversity is to promote the climate, competencies and connections that enhance the lives of all our students, faculty and staff as well as others who live in the greater Terre Haute community. The ISU Office of Diversity, working in conjunction with the President’s Council on Diversity, advocates for practices, programs and policies that model equity and lead to multicultural excellence.

Diversity is understood as the spectrum of human differences including racial identity, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, age, socio-economic status, national origin, sexual orientation, ability and spiritual beliefs. A focus on diversity can both spotlight the uniqueness of our identities and create opportunities for interaction, dialogue and analysis that build community.

The vision of ISU’s Office of Diversity is the creation of a diverse and just campus where those who learn, live and work can contribute, lead and excel.

**Student Organization Mini-Grant Funding** During the 2013-14 academic year, 34 requests for funding was received totally more than $45,000. Of the 34 requests, eight were from new organizations that had never received funding from the Office of Diversity. Due to the increase of requests and the early submission of spring requests for funding received during the fall semester, the student organization mini-grant funding has been exhausted for the 2013-14 academic year. We look forward to providing more organizations funding in the upcoming 2014-2015 school year.

**Diversity Training Module** Diversity new online learning resource is currently being used by ISU Human Resources for employee training. Some exciting areas of interest to this new site are videos, books, study aids, test preps and more.

To access the new Sycamore eLearning site, please login to myisu.indstate.edu

Select “MyISU Apps” at the bottom of your “MyISU” Homepage and click on the “Sycamore eLearning” badge

Once you are in the on the Welcome to Sycamore eLearning screen, just type diversity in the search box and select

**Diversity on the Job: The Importance of Diversity and the Changing Workplace**

This course defines diversity and dispels some common myths that surround the topic of diversity. The importance of diversity within the ever-changing workplace is described, including the impact of globalization. This course also discusses the barriers and challenges that must be