Equity & Diversity Breakfast

November 15, 2023

OFFICE FOR EQUITY AND DIVERSITY
University of Minnesota
Program

7:45 AM
GALLERY OF EXCELLENCE
A.I. Johnson Room

8:25 AM
BREAKFAST AND PROGRAM
Memorial Hall

FLAG SONG
Spirit Boy (Manido Gwiwizen)

RISE UP
Thomasina Petrus

WELCOME
DR. NATHANIEL STEWART
Assistant Professor; Carmen Starkson Campbell Endowed Fellow for Innovation in Teacher Development, CEHD

JOSIE R. JOHNSON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS
DR. AMELIUS N. WHYTE, JR.
Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Public Engagement, College of Liberal Arts

SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE IN EQUITY AND DIVERSITY (SEED) AWARDS
DR. MALINDA LINDQUIST
Associate Vice President for Institutional Engagement and Education Justice, Office for Equity and Diversity

DR. MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ
CEHD Dean, Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development, and Professor

STUDENT REFLECTION
JALISA SANG
Milton and Danae Andrews SEED Award

Program

JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (JEDI) AWARD
DR. RACHEL T.A. CROSON
Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Minnesota

OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD FOR EQUITY & DIVERSITY
DR. EDGAR ARRIAGA
Faculty Fellow, Office for Equity & Diversity; Northey Professor of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry

REMARKS
DR. MERCEDES RAMÍREZ FERNÁNDEZ
Vice President for Equity & Diversity, Office for Equity & Diversity; Professor

KEYNOTE REMARKS
DR. DAVID TREUER

CLOSING
DR. MERCEDES RAMÍREZ FERNÁNDEZ
Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Award
Honoring faculty who have done significant research, teaching or service/leadership to advance justice, equity, diversity and inclusion at the University, in the person’s field of study, or in our broader community. This award is made possible through the support of the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost and the Office for Equity and Diversity.

DOUGLAS KEARNNEY has published seven collections, including the National Book Award Finalist Sho (Wave Books, 2021); the award-winning poetry collection Buck Studies (Fence Books, 2016); Breath Someone Took They Tongues (Subito, 2016); and criticism Mess and Mess and (Naomi Press, 2015). Kearney is the 2021 recipient of OPERA America’s Campbell Opera Librettist Prize. Kearney is a Whiting Writer’s and Foundation for Contemporary Arts Cy Twombly awardee with residencies/fellowships from Cave Canem, The Rauschenberg Foundation, and others. Kearney is a McKnight Presidential Fellow and Associate Professor of Creative Writing/English at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. Born in Brooklyn, raised in Altadena, CA, he lives in Saint Paul with his family.

DR. SARAH-JANE (SAJE) MATHIEU is an Associate Professor of History who earned a joint Ph.D. in History and African American Studies from Yale University. She specializes in twentieth century American and African American history with an emphasis on immigration, war, race, globalization, social movements, and political resistance. She is the author of two books and several articles. Dr. Mathieu is also the recipient of several international professional, teaching, and mentoring awards for diversifying, internationalizing, and developing the study of race, war, genocide, and the Black Diaspora.

DR. HESSAM MIRGOLBABAEI is the Dr. Howard Higholt Endowed Professor in the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Mirogbabaee is an unwavering advocate for women and the LGBTQIA+ community in the engineering field, and his remarkable journey is marked by resilience and unwavering determination. Emerging from a minority within a minority group, he has fearlessly navigated substantial challenges while pursuing his aspirations within a traditionally conservative Middle Eastern society. Despite encountering discrimination, harassment, and formidable personal and professional obstacles, Hassam’s dedication, enthusiasm, and tireless efforts shine as a beacon in his relentless pursuit of diversity and equity. Hassam’s unwavering commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the realm of engineering stands as a resounding testament to his fervent passion for effecting positive transformation within the academic and professional spheres.

DR. MARY OWEN, a member of the Auk Kwaan Tribe of the Tingit people, serves as the Associate Dean of Native American Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School. After completing her education and family practice residency at the University of Minnesota, she returned to her tribunal community in Juneau, Alaska. In 2014, she joined the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, as the Director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH). Her work involves developing programs to support American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) students’ entry into medical careers, engaging with Native leaders, teaching medical students and providers about AIAN healthcare, and conducting research on AIAN health disparities. Additionally, she offers clinical care in Duluth and is the immediate Past-President of the Association of American Indian Physicians.

DR. HEATHER J. PETERS, Associate Professor of Psychology, focuses on development of culturally sensitive interventions and programs that improve the health and wellbeing of people who experience marginalization. On campus her leadership has facilitated the creation of the Human Services Social Justice Major, Equity and Diversity Advocate program, and new Pre-Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor program. Beyond campus, Dr. Peters partners with Native and non-Native organizations to create just and equitable environments. Some of Dr. Peters’ awards include the Cesar E. Chavez Award, Horace T. Morse-University of Minnesota’s Outstanding Native American Indigenous Student Award, and the Charlotte Stribel Equity Award.

DAVID TREUER is an Ojibwe Indian from Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota. He is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize, two Minnesota Book Awards, and fellowships from the NEH, Bush Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation. His book, The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee was a 2019 finalist for both the National Book Award and Carnegie Medal. He divides his time between his home on the Leech Lake Reservation and Los Angeles, where he is a Professor of English at USC. The son of Robert Treuer, an Austrian Jew and Holocaust survivor, and Margaret Seelye Treuer, a tribal court judge, David Treuer grew up on Leech Lake Reservation. After graduating from high school, he attended Princeton University, where he wrote two senior theses—one in anthropology and one in creative writing—and where he worked with Toni Morrison, Paul Muldoon, and Joanna Scott. Treuer graduated in 1992 and published his first novel, Little, in 1995. He received his Ph.D. in anthropology and published his second novel, The Hiawatha, in 1999. His third novel, The Translation of Dr. Apelles, and a book of criticism, Native American Fiction: A User’s Manual, appeared in 2006. He published his first major work of nonfiction, rez Life, in 2012. His next novel, Prudence, was published by Riverhead Books in 2015.

Keynote Speaker

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Artists

SPRIT BOY (MARIO GWIWIIZEN) DRUM GROUP
The Spirit Boy “Mando Gwiwiizen” Drum Group is a collaboration of lead singers from the Twin Cities and surrounding areas composed of singers from the Ojibwe, Hid-Chunk, Hidatsa, Dakota and Lakota Nations. They are also parents and working professionals composed of college graduates, educators, language speakers, cultural leaders, teachers and advocates.

THOMASINA PETRUS
Thomaisina Petrus is a Twin Cities cabaret and theater veteran whose work includes Five Points at Theater Latté Da, The Color Purple at Park Square and Beauty and the Beast at the Ordway. She has performed in Holiday Inn, Treasure Island, and in Christmas spectaculars at the Little North Pole. She has performed on Broadway, starred in a Woodstock, Empty Hill, and the Holiday club act. She has portrayed lead characters on Denurna, Park Square, Mixed Blood, Illusion, Guthrie, Capri and Old Arizona Theater stages.
Milton and Danae Andrews SEED Award

The Andrews SEED Award was created by Milton and Danae Andrews through the University of Minnesota Foundation to support students demonstrating impressive engagement with and commitment to issues of equity and diversity through outstanding academic achievement and activism.

Sue W. Hancock Seeds of Change Awards

These awards are given to students who are committed to issues of equity and diversity through outstanding academic achievement and activism. These awards are named in honor of Sue W. Hancock, whose 27-year career of service at the U of M inspired her colleagues and students.

Rawan Algahtani is pursuing Human Resources Development and Global Studies in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development and Institute of Global Studies at the College of Education and Human Development and College of Liberal Arts on the Twin Cities Campus. Rawan is also minoring in Management, Industrial Relations, and Leadership and expects to graduate in Fall 2023.

Maria Paula Cadena Amortegui is pursuing a major in the Computer Science Department at the College of Science and Engineering on the Twin Cities Campus. Maria Paula is also minoring in statistics and expects to graduate in Spring 2024.

Dongling Cai is pursuing a Communication, Media & Rhetoric, and Computer Science on the Morris campus. Dongling is also minoring in Data Science & Statistics and expects to graduate in Spring 2024.

Madeleine Schneider is pursuing Software Engineering and Information Technology Management degrees in the College of Science and Technology at the University of Minnesota. Madeleine expects to graduate in Spring 2024.

Lum CHI is an English major with a Certificate in Editing and Publishing in the English Department at the College of Liberal Arts on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Lum is also minoring in Creative Writing and expects to graduate in the Spring of 2024.

Tsebat Getachew is pursuing a major in Health Science at the University of Minnesota Crookston. Tsebat is also minoring in Chemistry and expects to graduate in Spring 2025.

Yusra Hassan is pursuing a major in Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts on the Twin Cities campus with minors in Global Studies and African and African American Studies. She has been involved in student government, leadership, and research throughout her time on campus.

Uyen Nguyen is pursuing a Healthcare Management Degree within the Healthcare Management and Economics Department, in the Laborvitz School of Business and Economics at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Uyen is also minoring in Finance and expects to graduate in Spring of 2024.

Tseten Gurung is pursuing Information Technology Management in the Math, Science, and Technology Department at University of Minnesota on the Crookston Campus. Tseten is also minoring in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance and expects to graduate in Spring 2024.

Lauren Thompson is pursuing a BS in Forest and Natural Resource Management from the Department of Forest Resources at the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences on the Saint Paul campus. Lauren is also minoring in Urban and Community Forestry and Environmental Science, Policy, and Management.

ARIANNA VANG is pursuing a Business and Marketing Education major from the Department in Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development in the College of Education and Human Development. Arianna Vang is also minoring in Management at the Carlson School of Management and expects to graduate in Fall 2024.

Keng Xiong is pursuing a BS in English in the Department of English and a BS in Creative Writing, Leadership, and Asian American Studies in the Individualized Degree Program both in the College of Liberal Arts on the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus. Keng is also minoring in Racial Justice in Urban Schooling and has a certificate in Editing and Publishing. He expects to graduate in Spring 2024.

Maria Paula Cadena Amortegui is an English major with a Certificate in Editing and Publishing in the English Department at the College of Liberal Arts on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. Lum is also minoring in Creative Writing and expects to graduate in the Spring of 2024.

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Environmental Science, Policy, and Management.

Briana Clifton-Hassan is currently working towards a doctorate of medicine (MD) within the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Medical School and will graduate in 2024. Briana completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, majoring in Biology, Society & Environment and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies and minoring in Sociology and Public Health.

Chou Moua is currently specializing in Mong Education and Research at the College of Education and Human Development within the Comparative International Development Education program at the University of Minnesota. Chou completed his undergraduate studies at U of M majoring in Political Science and completed his master’s program at Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs studying International Development Practice.

Cuc Vu is currently researching the underrepresentation of BIPOC students in STEM fields using a multi-factorial model within STEM Education in the College of Education and Human Development on the Twin Cities campus. She earned her undergraduate degree in Biology from Saint Catherine University and her master’s degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Minnesota.
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