



## Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Transforming the Springfield College Community in Spirit, Mind, and Body

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As the Springfield College community continues to create a more socially just, inclusive, and equitable campus, this online publication will highlight our efforts at addressing issues of difference and marginalization in our community.



### Explore Prominent Voices in Black Reads Discussion Series

In an age of technology, the curiosity of our wildest dreams is only a click away. The true silver lining is that, regardless of background and upbringing, one can always explore another's perspective through the stories that they share. This is ever-present at the Harold C. Smith Learning Commons, which houses volumes of such stories. And, those not available at our Learning Commons are readily available via inter-library loan and in e-book format.



During the **Springfield College Black Reads Discussion Series**, prominent writers voices, such as that of our very own Sheona Douglas, are featured. When asked what representation means to her, Douglas said, "Representation means knowing that you're valued, knowing that you matter, and knowing that you're included based on people who look like you or have similar qualities to you." Her book, *Backyard Bashment*, is currently found alongside titles by Ibram X. Kendi and Cornel West.

As we head into Black History Month, we encourage the Springfield College community to take a breather and curl up with a good book. Whether you are hanging out in your room or running on the treadmill, take a break from your world and explore someone else's. For some added intersectionality, we highly recommend the works of James Baldwin, an openly gay, Black man who was passionate about unpacking the discrimination faced by the queer community. His novels, *Another Country* and *Giovanni's Room*, explore love along racial and gender lines, and can be found on display in the Learning Commons today.

**In this short clip**, Baldwin was questioned about love during a larger interview. That interview and **this article featuring other Black LGBTQIA+ authors** make for excellent attestations to the importance of intersectionality in written media.

*Contributors to this article: Sheona Douglas and Taylor Alston, community directors, Office of Housing and Residence Life*



## Racial and Ethnic Issues Working Group Takes Action

With the current climate in our nation and on our campus, it is important and encouraging that we are seeing more groups and initiatives starting to address issues related to diversity and historically marginalized populations. Laurel Davis-Delano, PhD, professor of sociology, and Stephanie Logan, EdD, associate professor of education and chair of the Department of Education, are the current chairs of the Springfield College Racial and Ethnic Issues Working Group. The group, formed in fall 2018, is an offshoot of the *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race* book group.

The goals of this group, according to Davis-Delano and Logan, are to provide education on racial and ethnic issues and to take action to reduce racial and ethnic inequalities and injustices, both on our campus and beyond. Thus far, they say, we have engaged in some self-education, as well as provided some education for the campus. For example, they ran a workshop titled "How to Talk About Race: Barbeque Becky and More," and coordinated a lecture on Puerto Rican history and contemporary issues. They also have brought Springfield College students, alumni, and employees to the group to provide more information on, and dialogue regarding, racial and ethnic issues on campus. They have acted on some campus issues, such as the development of the Language Supports Service statement and have provided



letters of support for the demands of the race-related student clubs. They hope to provide more education and take more actions in the future.

In addition to faculty and staff, students also are welcome to join this working group. Students provide the group with valuable insight into what students are thinking and feeling amidst these turbulent times, as well as how the group can further support their endeavors. Kristian Rhim, Class of 2021, Student Trustee and president of the Men of Excellence student club, is a member of the working group. "It is a great feeling to know that there is a group of faculty and staff committed to improving the BIPOC experience at Springfield. Students feel comfortable knowing that we have allies represented in this group that we can lean on for support and advice," Rhim said.

*Contributors to this article: Nicole Gauthier, assistant director of career advising, student outreach, innovation, and generation; Laurel Davis-Delano, professor of sociology; Stephanie Logan, associate professor of education and chair of the Department of Education; and Kristian Rhim, Class of 2021, Student Trustee and president of the Men of Excellence Student Club*

## Celebrate Black History Month with Variety of February Events

In recognition of Black History Month, the Springfield College Division of Inclusion and Community Engagement will be sponsoring a number of events in February to celebrate the many contributions of African Americans. [Check out the list of events](#), most of which will be held virtually.



## Gender and Sexuality Alliance Boards Play a Welcoming Role for All

Springfield College has two groups that focus on LGBTQIA+ issues: The Student Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and the All-College GSA. Listen to Kayden and

Lexie, both members of the Student GSA executive board, as they discuss the role the GSA has played, and continues to play, in making Springfield College welcoming for all. If you are interested in getting involved with the Student GSA, follow their members on Instagram @gsa\_sc or email the board members at [scgsa@springfield.edu](mailto:scgsa@springfield.edu).

**Hear from GSA executive board members.**

*Contributor to this article: David McMahon, director of Spiritual Life*

## arts & humanities speaker series

**SAVE THE DATE!  
MARCH 25, 2021**

*New York Times* bestselling author Ibram X. Kendi will be the keynote speaker at the annual Springfield College Arts and Humanities Speaker Series on March 25, 2021, which will be held virtually. More information on registering for the event will be shared later this month.

Extra copies of *How to Be an Antiracist* will be available to borrow in the Harold C. Smith Learning Commons, and copies of the book also will be available for purchase in the Springfield College Bookstore located in the Campus Union.



**If you have questions or comments, please contact the  
Office of Student Affairs staff at [studentaffairs@springfield.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@springfield.edu).**

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