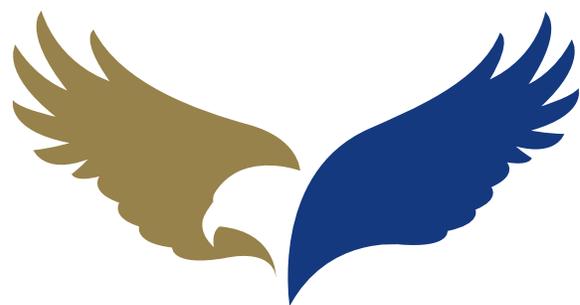




A Report on the **Presidential Commissions**
2018-2019

Prepared by:
The Office of Social Equity
Amy Salsgiver, M.A.



CLARION
UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

Co-Chair Lynne Fleisher
Co-Chair Erin Lewis

Members:

Amy Love, Christina Hearst, John Massa, Stephen Gendler, MaryPat McCarthy, Young-Gyoung Kim, Juanice Vega, Jennifer May, Kristina Dworek, G. Chad Thomas, Lori Taylor, Trobe Barnitz, Melanie Lahr and James Maccaferri.
Student Representative - Sonya Eckert.

Activities

CROSSWALK AWARENESS DAY

The Presidential Commission on Disabilities co-sponsored Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day with PennDOT. Clarion Borough Mayor Dan Parker and Borough Council declared Monday, Oct. 15, to be Clarion Crosswalk Safety Day. The commission conducted campus safety walks during the fall and spring semesters to identify areas of concern. To report an area that may be unsafe or inaccessible, click [here](#).

In November, PCOD sponsored a panel discussion, "Anxiety: Now the #1 Health Diagnosis on College Campuses." Panelists included: Todd Spaulding, Student Affairs; Chris Hearst, Disability Support Services; Sunny Eckert, student advocate; Tom Crissman, Wellness Center; and David Delvaux, Clarion Psychiatric Center. More than 70 students, staff and community members attended.



Crosswalk Awareness Day: John Massa, Chief William Peck and Deborah Casadei (PennDOT)



INVISIBLE DISABILITIES

Guest speaker Christina Irene presented "Invisible Disabilities" in March. Irene spoke to capacity crowds at two afternoon sessions. The commission has invited her to return to campus Oct. 22.



Photos by G. Chad Thomas.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Co-Chair Matthew Shaffer
Co-Chair Caitlyn McNerney

Members:

Sheila Kazar, Andrew C. Keth, Jason Hendershot, Jennifer Graham, Cristin Ketley, Corey Negley, Jim McGee, Ronald E. Radaker, Elsa Wise, Tina Horner and Kelly M. Ryan

Activities

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

The Presidential Commission on Sexual Harassment hosted the second annual Domestic Violence and Abuse Awareness Day in October. This event showcased original poetry by students, staff and faculty to advocate for the prevention of abuse of any kind and for the recovery of the survivors. Photography by Chad Thomas depicted students, staff and faculty representing financial, emotional and physical abuse. A resource fair provided local resources for recovery from the trauma of abuse.

DENIM DAY

The campus participated in Denim Day in April. For the past 20 years, Peace Over Violence has marked April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month through its Denim Day campaign. The campaign began after a ruling by the Italian Supreme Court that overturned a rape conviction. The justices asserted that the victim, who was wearing tight jeans, must have helped the rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, women in the Italian Parliament, in solidarity with the victim, wore jeans to work. Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against destructive attitudes about sexual harassment, abuse, assault and rape. The commission partnered with sororities to provide information about Denim Day and handed out ribbons and buttons for individuals to wear on Denim Day.



Staff from the university and Clarion University Foundation, Inc., showed their Denim Day support: (back row) Jim Geiger, Desiree Beck, Tina Horner, Michelle Port, Mike Greer; (front row) student Kirsten Davis, Shawna Bish, Brook Mays, Ricci Aaron.

The Cycle

By: Mackenzie Pence

He told me my eyes were green
But my whole life I knew they were hazel.
He said they were big and beautiful,
So I believed him.

He told me my hair was unique
It was just ordinary hair with curls.
He insisted it was different and interesting,
And I believed him.

He told me my smile was bright
Although I knew at times it was fake
I felt it could be more genuine,
But I believed him.

He told me he loved me.
Something I had never heard before
He promised he meant it,
And I was glad to believe it.

And then, he told me I was boring
And that I couldn't take a joke,
That I wasn't fun anymore,
And I believed him.

He told me I am worthless
Not with his words, but his actions.
I knew deep down he wanted someone else,
And I didn't want to believe that.

He told me he was joking
When he said he didn't want me,
When he said he didn't love me,
But I didn't believe him.

He said he was sorry for telling me
And he didn't mean what he said.
So I believed him, and forgave him,
And then he told me all over again.



Denim Day: Samantha DiPippa

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN

Co-Chair Young Kim
Co-Chair Jane Walsh

Members:

Naomi O'Neil; YooJin Ha, Sandra Trejos, Jamie Phillips, Kaersten Colvin-woodruff, Cate Stiller, Laurie Bladen, Laurie Pierce, Jeffrey Diamond, Briana Steele, Maria Crespo, Amy Love, Janet Knepper, Carol Brennan Caplan, Jin Qu, Cahndice Matthews, and Renae Shawgo

Activities



Commission members with returning alumnae: (back) Jane Walsh, Sandra Trejos, Erin Lewis, Naomi O'Neil, Jamie Phillips, YooJin Ha, Young Kim; (front) Robin Bilan, Hope Warner, Aimee Zeller, BriAnna Liberto.

WOMEN INSPIRING WOMEN FOR CAREER SUCCESS

The Presidential Commission on the Status of Women hosted "Women Inspiring Women for Career Success" in November. Diverse Clarion University alumnae from different locations and professions returned to Clarion University to share their experiences and expertise.



Kaersten Woodruff-Colvin, Marcy Schlueter, Young Kim, YooJin Ha, Carol Brennan-Caplan, Naomi O'Neil and Cahndice Matthews

WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON

The commission collaborated with Clarion International Association and the Office of International Programs to host the annual International Women's Day luncheon. Students and employees gathered for food and conversation.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

To celebrate Women's History Month in March, the PCSW members profiled women whose contributions changed lives. The profiles were shared via email with the university community twice a week during that month. They also held the first Women in History Door Decorating Contest. Clarion faculty and staff were invited to decorate their doors and offices, and PCSW representatives judged them.

The winning door (above) was created by Karen Sheesman, Rachel Davis, Cassandra Colligan, Amber Borland and McKenzie Reck.



THE ILLUSIONISTS

The PCSW showed documentary “The Illusionists” in the Suites on Main North Main Theater. The film explores how we are constantly reminded, from New York to Tokyo, that we have only one body and how we are coerced to enhance it.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON LGBT CONCERNS

Co-Chair Corey Negley
Co-Chair Robert Levy

Members:

Scott Courtney, Melissa Brydon, Ellen Foster, Shawn Hoke, Jana Ashley, Mark Lepore, William Naugle, Elizabeth Pelesko, Ronald Radaker, Kurt Regester, Todd Spaulding, Jessica Thomas and Peggy Apple

Activities



SAFE ZONE TRAINING

In the spring semester, the Presidential Commission on LGBT+ Concerns offered two Safe Zone trainings to faculty and staff, resulting in the addition of 26 new Safe Zone spaces, for a total of 59. Safe Zone trainings teach about LGBTQ+ identities, gender and sexuality, and examine prejudice, assumptions and privilege. “Safe Zone” or “Safe Zone Trained” placards indicate that the person displaying the sticker has gone through training and are open to talking about and being supportive of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning) individuals and identities. More Safe Zone trainings are planned for 2019-2020 academic year.

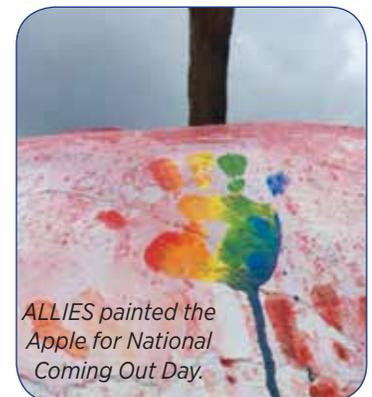
- **LAVENDER GRADUATION**
- April 28 marked the commission’s 3rd Annual Lavender Graduation ceremony for 14 spring 2019 and winter 2018 graduates. Lavender Graduation honors LGBTQ+ students and acknowledges their accomplishments and contributions. It was created by Ronni Sanlo, a Jewish lesbian keynote speaker in LGBTQ+ communities.



- The keynote speaker for the Clarion “University ceremony was Joanne M. Carroll, executive director of Trans Advocacy Pennsylvania, an organi-

zation committed to transgender informational-related research, public advocacy for transgender and LGBTQ+ identified persons, providing education to businesses, organizations, hospitals, schools and churches on gender and sexuality, and direct institutional support of other related transgender or LGBTQ+ non-profit organizations. The students’ families, friends and their CU family attended in support of these graduates and their accomplishments.

Members of ALLIES often join the Commission on LGBT+ Concerns for meetings and events.



ALLIES painted the Apple for National Coming Out Day.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON RACIAL EQUITY

Co-Chair Vasudeva Aravind
Co-Chair Rich Lane

Members:

Rachel Newbury, Joseph Croskey, Hamid Conteh, Leah Chambers, Amy Shannonhouse, Phillip Frese, Jeffrey Allen, Laurie Pierce, Jane Walsh, Sharon Montgomery, Hope Lineman, Isaac Leonard, Ronald Radaker, Chunfei Li, Stephen Gendler, Helen Baker, Shintrika Weibel, Kaersten Colvin-woodruff, Urania Pack, Jeffrey Tienes, Cahndice Matthews, Ewing Moussa, Haley Holzwarth, Jim McGee and David Custer

Activities

The Presidential Commission on Racial Equity met monthly to discuss racial equity concerns and devise policies and strategies to promote an inclusive environment at Clarion University.

The commission sponsored a raffle basket at a November University Activities Board. Commission members attended and presented a DVD of the movie “Hidden Figures” to raffle winners. This movie tells the story of African-American female mathematicians who worked for NASA during the space race.

The commission obtained a professional tablecloth with Clarion University logo. This is a useful tool to highlight Clarion University’s presence at major events and help in student recruitment at conferences and job fairs.

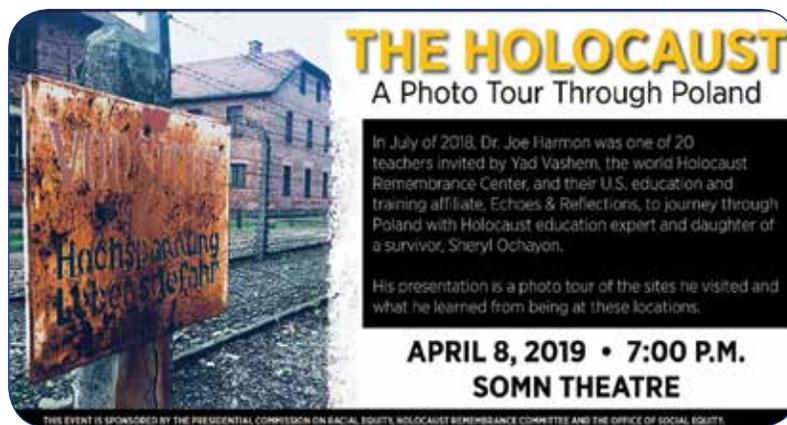
As part of Holocaust Remembrance activities, the commission invited Redbank Valley Schools teacher and Clarion alumnus Dr. Joseph Harmon to talk about World War II concentration camps. The next day, with rare footage and stunning dramatization, the Holocaust documentary “Who Will Write Our History?” was shown.

The commission hosted 16 minority alumni who attended Clarion University between 1963 and 1968. The alumni were pleased to know about the role of the commission in helping to promote racial equity.

The commission attended the AACU conference, “Diversity and Equity Infusion.” Members recruited students to Clarion and networked with other faculty to highlight the ways Clarion promotes racial equity on campus. They

attended a session that showcased ways one university in the California State System implemented implicit bias training using a critical race theory perspective for faculty. What they found (and research has shown) is that mandatory trainings are not

effective. The university applied for a grant that paid faculty a stipend to take part in training, which has since transformed into a summer institute. Commission members presented a poster, “Institutionalizing Consciousness Raising as a Strategy to Address

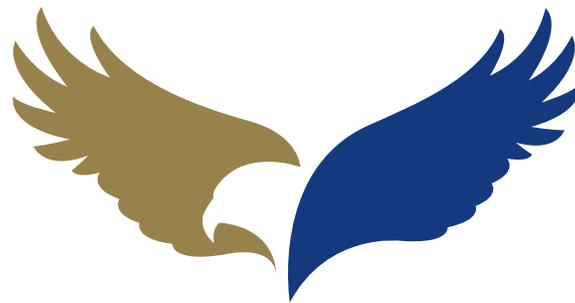


Structural Racism and Implicit Bias on Campus.” In this poster, the members shared their experience and outcomes on three initiatives:

- An online race equity training course offered last summer by Drs. Sharon Montgomery and Jane Walsh
- The Building Bridges program run by Rogers Laugand
- The “This is Our Neighborhood” newsletter

The commission authored a CU professional development grant to conduct a one-day workshop at on racial equity and inclusion. The workshop will be repeated during the 2019-2020 academic year. A racial equity resource website was developed for CU students and employees. Members created “This Is Our Neighborhood” flyers to create awareness on common racial equity and discrimination issues. The commission is reviewing and revising departmental policies on racial equity.

The commission purchased DVDs of documentaries “White like Me,” “Reveal Moment,” and “Broken on All Sides.” They are available to anyone interested in screening the movies on campus.



CLARION UNIVERSITY

It is the policy of Clarion University of Pennsylvania that there shall be equal opportunity in all of its educational programs, services, and benefits, and there shall be no discrimination with regard to a student's or prospective student's gender, gender identity, race or color, ethnicity, national origin or ancestry, age, mental or physical disability, religion or creed, genetic information, affectional or sexual orientation, veteran status, or other classifications that are protected under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other pertinent state and federal laws and regulations. Direct inquiries to the Title IX Coordinator, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, 103 Carrier Administration Building, sfenske@clarion.edu or phone 814-393-2351, or the Director of Social Equity, 210 Carrier Administration Building 16214-1232; Email asalsgiver@clarion.edu or phone 814-393-2109. Inquiries may also be directed to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201.