



The
HEART
of **SOCIAL**
JUSTICE



Leading Equity, Diversity, and Justice Conference | February 15-16, 2024

HOLLINS
UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15: 7 PM

**GRANDIN THEATRE
GRANDIN VILLAGE,
ROANOKE**

SPECIAL MOVIE PRESENTATION: "HOPE OF ESCAPE"

A special screening of the film "Hope of Escape" will take place at the historic Grandin Theatre in Roanoke. Associate Professor and Chair of the Hollins Film Department Amy Gerber-Stroh wrote and directed the film, based on a true story that follows the incredible journey of an enslaved mother and daughter who must escape before they are sold and separated forever. Their only hope is to connect with their free relatives in the North and convince the most powerful abolitionists of their time to help them.

Gerber-Stroh has written and directed independent films for over 30 years. Her films have won honors at numerous national and international film festivals.

ATTENTION STUDENTS! *You can attend free, but you must register for your free ticket at the link available on My.Hollins and in the program PDF available there. If you're interested, a ride on the Hollins shuttle (space is limited) to the Grandin Theatre.*



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16: 9-10:15 AM

THEATRE

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE INTRODUCTION

President Mary Dana Hinton

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: EDUCATION, PRE-K THROUGH COLLEGE, AND AMERICA'S VALUES, VISION, AND MISSION

Lloyd Hackley, Ph.D.

Roanoke native, decorated U.S. Air Force veteran, and leader in the nation's charge for education access and equity.

Q&A



SESSION 1: 10:30-11:45 AM

(Please register for only one presentation during this time period.)

**DANA SCIENCE
BUILDING, BABCOCK
AUDITORIUM**

RADICAL TRANS INCLUSION AT A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED HATE:

Alison Sibol and Samantha Rosenthal

Participants will be taken on a journey through the legislative and policy landscape of trans rights. We will start with a broad national lens and then navigate through the local Virginia and Roanoke waters. Finally, we will examine the current state of Hollins' policies when it comes to trans students, staff, and faculty.

**HYBRID / DANA
SCIENCE BUILDING,
ROOM 102**

REMATRIATION PROJECT

Kara Long and Cana Itchuaqiyaq

The act of repatriation endeavors to return sacred relationships between Indigenous people and their sacred land. This alumnae-led session goes beyond a discussion of returning cultural artifacts to their rightful communities—it explores correcting power imbalances and more. Attendees will leave with an understanding of the Akqualek Trust founded in Kotzebue, Alaska. Their research partnership with the University Libraries serves as a model for efforts that further Indigenous data governance.

**WETHERILL VISUAL
ARTS CENTER,
MUSEUM STUDY
ROOM**

ART IS THE HEART OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Jenine Culligan and staff

This session will take place in the Eleanor D. Wilson Museum and the museum's new Works on Paper Study Room. Hollins students will deliver a gallery walkthrough of the exhibition titled *African American Quilts from the Collection of Carolyn Mazloomi*, and will discuss images of social justice from the museum's permanent collection.

**HYBRID / WETHERILL
VISUAL ARTS CENTER,
NIEDERER AUDITORIUM**

RECLAIMING RADICAL SELF-CARE: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR HOLISTIC AND TRANSFORMATIVE HEALING THROUGH JUSTICE

Shania Clinedinst and Sebastian Harlow

The workshop will provide an understanding of personal care through the lens of marginalized identities. Participants will reflect on their experience within acts of social justice and be equipped with the knowledge and tools to develop a self-care plan that addresses aspects of their social, essential, and coping selves.

**WETHERILL VISUAL
ARTS CENTER,
ROOM 119**

HOLLINS AGAINST PERIOD POVERTY

Lindsey Breitwieser and Intro to Gender and Women's Studies students

This student-led workshop will focus on the global issue of period poverty, which includes social stigma, inaccessibility, and the cost of menstrual supplies. This session will showcase the work done by gender and women's studies students and offer participants the opportunity to creatively engage in the initiative. There will also be opportunities to donate period products for our campus food pantry and to provide direct support for a period poverty initiative in Sierra Leone.

**WYNDHAM
ROBERTSON LIBRARY,
HOLLINS ROOM**

THE TRANSFORMATIONAL CIRCLE: BEING SPACES FOR TRUST AND RELATIONSHIPS

Mee Moua

Transformational circles are a structured and facilitated story-sharing process where participants are invited to share their heart stories and life experiences. Through this layered approach, participants learn to speak their truth, practice listening deeply to the truth of others, and experience the transformative power of discovering their common humanity, seeing themselves in each other, and embracing love and empathy as the cornerstones for trust and relationship with oneself and with others. Research shows that when we do this, the perceiving part of our brain will rewire itself so that we begin to see, hear, and understand each other as a familiar and not as a categorical

other. The goal is to learn and practice vulnerability, deep listening, self-reflection, and empathy as the cornerstones for trust and relationship, with oneself and with others. As a series, these “being” spaces are designed to take the participants into deeper and deeper relationships, allowing the group to process and to practice trust-centered ways of being with and for each other.

NOTE: *This workshop is for faculty and staff only. It will span sessions one and two and participants must attend both sessions. Space is limited to 24 participants.*



MID-DAY BREAK: 12-1:30 PM

MOODY STUDENT CENTER, BALLATOR GALLERY, 3RD FLOOR

LUNCH FOR PRESENTERS

MOODY STUDENT CENTER, INTERCULTURAL CENTER

COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

Open beginning at lunch and available through the closing reception.

Amy Shea, Laura Carden, Jenine Culligan, and Arne Johnson

One of the initial themes for this year’s Leading EDJ conference was the art and science of social justice, and thus was born the concept for this year’s collaborative community art project! A mobile is a type of kinetic structure built to demonstrate the concept of equilibrium. Throughout the afternoon, please join us to add your touch to our community project, which will represent the interplay between art and science in social justice. Four-inch circles constructed of matte board in the colors of the rainbow will be prepared ahead of time, ready for your quote, drawing, or whatever else you can incorporate within that space. Later this semester, the decorated circles will be attached to a golden ratio spiral wire structure, then hung in a campus location accessible to all.

MOODY STUDENT CENTER, GOODWIN

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SHOWCASE: STUDY ABROAD AND INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES

Join us for an exciting poster session showcasing the experiences of our students studying abroad and/or participating in internships. This session will provide a unique opportunity to learn about the skills and cultural competencies our students have gained through their experiences. Our students will present their experiences through engaging posters, sharing stories of their adventures, and the valuable lessons they learned along the way. You will have the chance to interact with our students, ask questions, and learn about the impact of these experiences on their personal and professional growth.



SESSION 2: 1:30-2:45 PM

(Please register for only one presentation during this time period.)

**WETHERILL VISUAL
ARTS CENTER,
NIEDERER AUDITORIUM**

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES AND STRESSORS FACED BY BIPOC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Phuong-Anh Ha, Malaika Amin, Asma Darwish, and other Hollins students

Following up on last year's panel, this session will summarize context and data regarding the mental health of the BIPOC and international student population at Hollins. It will be followed by a moderated discussion session for panelists to share their experiences and thoughts on how to improve things. Lastly, there will be a Q&A session for the audience to inquire more and offer suggestions on how we can make lasting improvements at Hollins.

**HYBRID / WETHERILL
VISUAL ARTS CENTER,
ROOM 119**

HOLLINS: LIVING HISTORY

China Moore and Suellen Da Costa Coelho

A presentation followed by discussion with theatre and international studies major China Moore and Assistant Professor of Theatre Suellen Da Costa Coelho. The presentation will entail the development process of Moore's senior thesis "Hollins: Living History," a historical walking tour about Hollins from the perspective of enslaved people. The project contains information about the enslaved population at Hollins, the Hollins community, and current campus population.

**DANA SCIENCE
BUILDING,
ROOM 102**

BRIDGING BORDERS, BUILDING PERSPECTIVES

Hollins faculty and students

Students and faculty will present insights into the transformative faculty-led study abroad program, "An Interdisciplinary View of Women's Reproductive Health in Kenya." This collaborative initiative between Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya, and Hollins offered a unique opportunity for students to gain a global health perspective with a specific focus on exploring reproductive health issues through an interdisciplinary lens. Participants will learn about the program's unique blend of academic exploration, cultural immersion, and experiential learning, with a specific emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) outcomes. The session will showcase how this transformative experience was made possible through the U.S. Department of State's IDEAS grant.

THEATRE

HOLLINS THEATRE CULTURAL SHOWCASE

Various students

The Hollins Theatre Cultural Showcase introduces various contemporary playwrights of color exploring themes of anti-racism, oppression, or identity. Hollins students will present biographical and artistic information about these playwrights and perform scenes from their work. This year the playwrights chosen are those whose work has a social justice focus, such as Suzan Lori Parks, Dominique Morisseau, Ming Peiffer, Jackie Sibblies Drury, and more.



SESSION 3: (3-4 PM)

(Please register for only one presentation during this time period.)

**HYBRID / WETHERILL
VISUAL ARTS CENTER,
ROOM 119**

EVERY POEM IS POLITICAL: FORM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Chanlee Luu

Jericho Brown, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, wrote that “Every poem is a love poem... Every poem is a political poem... Every poem challenges or supports the status quo... Hope is always accompanied by the imagination, the will to see what our physical environment seems to deem impossible. Only the creative mind can make use of hope. Only a creative people can wield it.” In this generative workshop, participants will read and discuss selected poems, such as Jericho Brown’s “Duplex,” Terrance Hayes’ “Golden Shovel,” and other invented forms by poets of color. Participants will then write their own poem using one of the forms learned. Participants will hopefully gain a new appreciation for poetic forms and their complexities.

**DANA SCIENCE
BUILDING, BABCOCK
AUDITORIUM**

BLACK CERTAINLY CRACKS: THE INSIDE-OUT EFFECTS OF WEATHERING

LaTonya Bolden

This session will serve as an introduction to Arline Geronimus', Ph.D. life's work, “weathering.” This session will define what weathering is; look closely at the systems of oppression; how it influences stress and changes the biology of individuals; how it makes individuals from marginalized groups more susceptible to illness of the mind and body; and finally examine what is required on individual and societal levels for justice and reconciliation. During this session LaTonya will share literature on “weathering” and similar theories, and narrate stories from her lived experiences and those stories shared with her from other marginalized people.

**WETHERILL VISUAL
ARTS CENTER,
NIEDERER AUDITORIUM**

RACIAL RECONCILIATION

*Katie Zawacki, *Points of Diversity**

Understanding racism as a uniquely American problem (America's original sin), is essential for any degree of reconciliation. This workshop will explore the social construct known as racism and how it escalates to life-threatening situations. Participants will have an opportunity to reflect on their own conditioning and implicit bias that sets the stage for racial discrimination. Participants will also explore how they can be anti-racist and move toward reconciliation.

CLOSING SESSION: 4:15-5 PM

**MOODY STUDENT
CENTER, BALLATOR
GALLERY**

RECEPTION / REFLECTION

Participants are invited to a reception at the conference’s close for a brief reflection exercise and final remarks.

Interested community members are invited to participate in the Community Art Project available in the Intercultural Center until the closing reception concludes at 5 p.m.