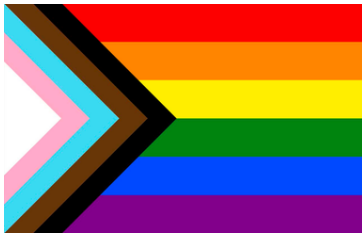




TULANE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT of PSYCHIATRY
& BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Psychiatry & EDI

EDI Newsletter | June 2023



ACCE Spotlight: LGBTQ+ Pride Month

The Psychiatry Department's Advocacy, Consumerism, and Community Engagement (ACCE) Action Group is highlighting Pride Month in June!

June is LGBTQ+ Pride month and Juneteenth, a holiday celebrated on June 19 to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the US. The holiday was first celebrated in Texas, where on that date in 1865, in the aftermath of the Civil War, enslaved people were declared free under the terms of the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation. This year June 19th is a recognized Tulane holiday. Check out last year's [June 2022 EDI Newsletter](#) for historical information on Pride Month and Juneteenth.

This month we want to focus on legislation and advocacy opportunities around LGBTQ+ rights. Many states are creating a hostile political landscape for LGBTQ+ youth across the United States. So far in 2023, over 500 anti-LGBTQ+ bills were considered in many states across the country – a record number. These laws range from censoring certain curricula and books and banning transgender student-athletes from participating in sports that match their gender identity to criminalizing doctors and families who support young people with gender-affirming medical care. A list and description of the current anti-LGBTQ+ bills currently being considered in Louisiana can be found [here](#).

However, as [The Trevor Project](#) points out there is still reason for optimism: nearly 90% of harmful bills considered in 2022 were defeated by LGBTQ+ advocates and allies. These wins are a result of targeted grassroots efforts of educating legislators about the real impacts and harm these policies cause. In response to this the Trevor Project has created a [guide for testifying](#) that can be useful for those wishing to make their voices heard.

Since 1956, the [ACLU of Louisiana](#) has worked to advance and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana. We are part of a nationwide network of affiliates that fights tirelessly in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. The ACLU also works to extend rights to segments of our population that have traditionally been denied their rights, including people of color; women; lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people; prisoners; and people with disabilities. LA ACLU has an informative [advocacy guide and explanation](#) of how a bill becomes a law.

NOLA Hype has assisted in the creation of a "cheat sheet" for contacting legislators. It is a helpful guide using information from the ACLU and can be adapted for any issue. You can access a copy [here](#).



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ACCE Spotlight: LGBTQ+ Pride Month

LOCAL ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



Louisiana Trans Advocates is a statewide organization whose mission is advancing the core human rights of self-determination and expression for all trans, nonbinary and gender nonconforming people in Louisiana



Forum for Equality is Louisiana's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) human rights organization dedicated to the establishment of a society free from discrimination and to the support of good government. Since 1989, Forum has been active in Louisiana by helping to pass civil rights advancements for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.



House of Tulip provides zero-barrier housing, case management, linkage to care, and community programming to trans and gender nonconforming people in need of a safe place to stay while growing the supply of affordable housing in New Orleans. One in 3 trans Louisianans report experiencing homelessness at some point in their lives.

Social Media Accounts to Follow

GLSEN - Working to create inclusive K-12 schools

GLAAD - Accelerating acceptance of LGBTQ+ identities

PFLAG - For LGBTQ+ people and those who love them

Center for Applied Transgender Studies

National Center for Transgender Equality



Ideas for social media engagement

Create posts that include statistics/facts, resource details/information, and encourage help-seeking and healing. Then, post your content with #pride, #translivesmatter and/or #loveislove

Accountability Tip



Working through Shame

Shame is a common response when we notice we have engaged in a microaggression. If left unaddressed, shame can lead to defensiveness or shutting down, which causes more harm. In order to stay engaged and initiate repair effectively, we need to first address our sense of shame. The most important thing to do when we notice a shame response is to have compassion with ourselves and work on regulating our nervous system before we attempt to repair or react.

Simple tips to reduce our sense of shame: 1. Notice it; 2. Take deep breaths; 3. Send loving kindness to ourselves; 4. Once you feel calmer, you can think about steps to repair.

THIS WEEK: Notice moments where you experience shame and instead of rushing to avoid it, allow yourself to be present with it and move through it slowly.



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Forensic Conference - Dr. Anne Obondo

The department was pleased to welcome Dr. Anne Obondo to this year's conference in April. Dr. Obondo is the Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Nairobi and presented on the topic of *forensic psychiatry in Kenya*. Dr. Obondo and Dr. DeLand have worked closely together, with Dr. DeLand and Dr. Johnson each traveling to Kenya over the past two years to lecture on forensic psychiatry. The relationship they have developed has led to important opportunities for meaningful collaboration and shared learning. We were able to show her a bit of Southern hospitality during the lunch break when she met informally with attendees. Additional photos from Dr. Obondo's visit can be found on the last page of this newsletter.



Committee Corner – Community Engagement and Outreach Subcommittee

The current members of the Community Engagement and Outreach are Kasia Plessy (chair), Akanksha Thakur, Sarah Hinshaw, Monica Stevens, and Tara Desko. The primary goal of the committee is to support departmental efforts toward recognizing and supporting outreach strategies that uplift the community we serve. In October 2022, the committee published a [report](#) to define community engagement, highlight frameworks of engagement within academic health centers, and provide recommendations for these efforts within Tulane. As the subcommittee did research into effective community engagement, we realized that success requires a systematic approach. Therefore, our hope is that this report can guide next steps at an institutional, school, departmental, and individual level as to further promote community engagement in a way that appropriately embraces the knowledge and input from our community. The committee is always looking for additional members! If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Kasia at kplessy@tulane.edu.



FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH
1:00–2:30 P.M.

Janell Thomas of My CoLab Partners will join our JEDI Discussion to share her findings from the qualitative and quantitative organizational assessments that were conducted as part of last year's EDI Retreat. Ms. Thomas will also share a customized equity roadmap designed to assist the department in identifying gaps in equity, inclusion and diversity that were identified. All faculty, staff and trainees are encouraged to attend and participate in these discussions and help us determine our future goals. Attending is as easy as a [click](#) of the mouse.

Do you have an interest in EDI and want to contribute your time and talents? Are you interested in joining a group of committed individuals working to advance EDI in the department? Our Diversity Committee and subcommittees are recruiting new members. Learn more about our various initiatives [here](#) or reach out to Angela Keyes (akeyes@tulane.edu) for more information.



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Equity Thursdays
June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2023; 12:30 p.m.
Richardson Building, Uptown Campus



EDI Film Club
June 5, 2023; 7:00 p.m.



JEDI CATS Office Hours
June 6 & 20, 2023; 5:00 p.m.
JEDI CATS hold open office hours for an hour. Feel free to join using [this link](#).



EDI Book Club
June 15, 2023; 7:00 p.m.



JEDI Discussion
June 16, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
Janell Thomas of My Colab Partners will present her findings from EDI retreat.



Black Women's Collective (BWC) Juneteenth Celebration
June 19, 2023; 11:00-3:00 p.m.
Annunciation Park, 800 Race Street; Click [here](#) to RSVP.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED AT TULANE?

Want to Learn, Build Community, and Take Action Supporting LGBTQ+ Communities? Want to Uplift Queer and Trans Thriving on Our Campus? Join the inaugural Tulane Stonewall Pride educational and nourishment on June 30th, which will be held in the Freeman School of Business Auditorium with breakout rooms. There will be two tracks with a luncheon afterwards:

- Developing LGBTQ+ Competency as Supervisors, Mentors, and Colleagues (facilitated by Rhi Reed and Jasper Privat from [TIDAL](#))
- Thriving as a Tulane LGBTQ+ Community Member (facilitated by Tochukwu Awachie from [Project AFFIRM](#))

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

The EDI Professional Development Program (EDI-PDP) has announced a number of electives for the Spring semester, including topics such as supporting LGBTQ+ staff, students and faculty; disability rights; supporting veterans at Tulane; and intercultural competency. A full list of offerings can be found on [the EDI webpage](#).

Consider joining one of the [Tulane Faculty & Staff Affinity Groups](#) as a space to connect and thrive together. All are welcome!



Did you know that all past departmental EDI newsletters have been added online? You can check out previous issues, as well as see past Book and Film Club picks, by [clicking this link](#).



We hope you'll join us for our club meetings, and for all our exciting events!

Angela

Angela W. Keyes, PhD
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Officer
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Tulane University School of Medicine



Film Club

Date and Time: June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Link: [Please click here](#) to join our Zoom meeting.



Our next Film Club meeting will be **June 5 at 7:00 p.m.** Directed by George Tillman Jr., this film tells the story of Starr Carter (played by Amandla Stenberg), a Black adolescent living in a poorly resourced neighborhood contending with violence from gangs. Her parents have enrolled her and her brother in a private school in another suburb attended mostly by affluent White teenagers. Starr straddles these two different worlds until they collide one night after a party when her childhood friend Khalil is killed by a White police officer and Starr is the only witness. Thrust into the position of having to choose between protecting herself and her family or speaking her truth, Khalil's truth, Starr grapples with issues around racial inequality and prejudice that are multi-layered and complex. Starr strives to find her way in navigating these realities and ultimately speaks in a unified voice, delivering a fierce and defiant message of empowerment with a raw urgency. Film Critic Maia Rose calls the film so compelling and powerful "it makes you want to change the world."

The Hate U Give is available for streaming on Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Google Play Movies, YouTube, and Vudu.

Book Club

Date and Time: June 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Link: [Please click here](#) to join our Zoom meeting.

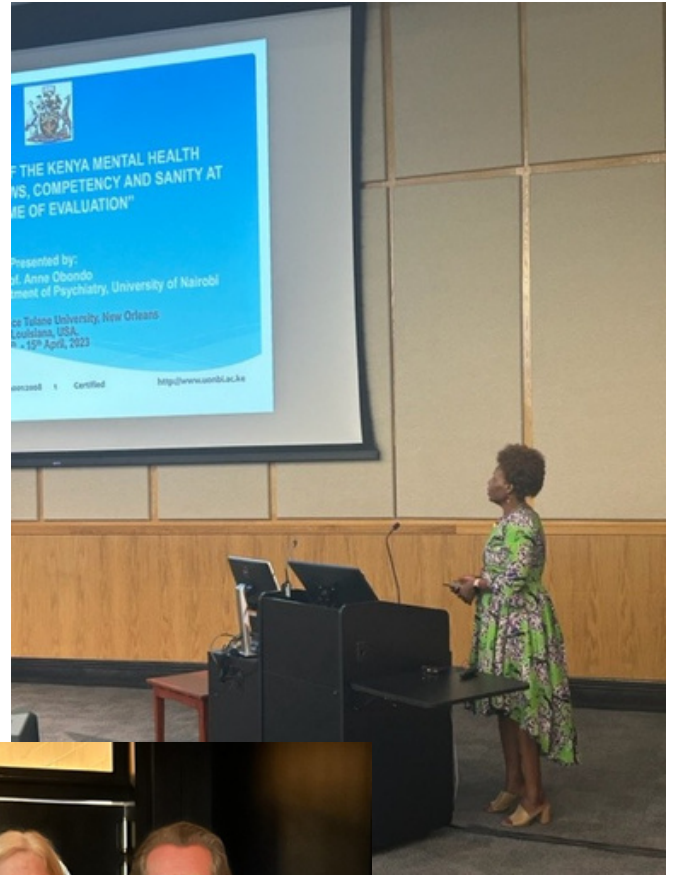
Book Club will read "**Biting the Hand**" by Julia Lee. When Julia was fifteen, her hometown went up in smoke during the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The daughter of Korean immigrant store owners in a predominantly Black neighborhood, Julia was taught to be grateful for the privilege afforded to her. However, the acquittal of four white police officers in the beating of Rodney King, following the murder of Latasha Harlins by a Korean shopkeeper, forced Julia to question her racial identity and complicity. She was neither Black nor white. So who was she? This question would follow Julia for years to come. It was only when she began a PhD in English that she found answers in the brilliant prose of writers like James Baldwin and Toni Morrison whose works gave Julia the vocabulary and permission to critically examine her own tortured position as an Asian American, setting off a powerful journey of racial reckoning, atonement, and self-discovery. With prose by turns scathing and heart-wrenching, Julia lays bare the complex disorientation and shame that stem from this country's imposed racial hierarchy. And she argues that Asian Americans must work toward lasting social change alongside Black and brown communities in order to combat the scarcity culture of white supremacy through abundance and joy. In this passionate, no-holds-barred memoir, Julia interrogates her own experiences of marginality and resistance, and ultimately asks what may be the biggest question of all—what can we do?



Current and active members of ACCE include Kankshi Thakur, Kristen Pearson, Maegen Vincent, Sherry Heller, Amy Mikolajewski, and Hien Le Sanchez. Please email Kankshi Thakur (athakur@tulane.edu) if you are interested in joining!



Forensic Symposium





EDI

JUNE 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Equity Thursday 12:30 p.m. 1	2	3
4	EDI Film Club 7:00 p.m. 5	JEDI CATS Office hours 5:00 p.m. 6	7	Equity Thursday 12:30 p.m. 8	9	10
11	12	13	14	Equity Thursday 12:30 p.m. EDI Book Club 7:00 p.m. 15	JEDI Discussion 1:00 p.m. 16	17
18	Juneteenth Holiday 19	JEDI CATS Office hours 5:00 p.m. 20	21	Equity Thursday 12:30 p.m. 22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	