Welcome to AARC’s Newsletter! This is the renewal of an older “Grapevine” in paper form. The Grapevine is back in business and better than ever! In each edition you’ll find upcoming events, other relevant information, such as opportunities for networking, engagements on Penn’s campus that are co-sponsored by AARC, and other affiliated resources. If you ever have anything of interest you would like to share, please feel free to contact us at aarc@upenn.edu

Quote of the Day: Sooner or later, all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

For any further information, refer to our website HERE

From the Director’s Office
Men of Color at Penn
Women of Color at Penn
Affiliate News
Recent AARC News
Work Study Corner

To connect further with AARC and stay informed about our upcoming events, please:
Follow us on our INSTAGRAM and TWITTER pages
Like our FACEBOOK pages
Request to be added to the Newsletter Mailing List:
@aarc.pobox.upenn.edu!
Dear family,

Thank you for a wonderful beginning to the new year and a great Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium on Social Change! I am inspired by the workshops, events and projects done during this time. As I walked through Houston Hall on the Day of Service, I thought of this poem by Benjamin Mays:

I have only just a minute,
Only sixty seconds in it.
Forced upon me, can’t refuse it.
Didn’t seek it, didn’t choose it.
But it’s up to me to use it.
I must suffer if I lose it.
Give account if I abuse it.
Just a tiny little minute,
but eternity is in it.

I am so thankful that we and many of you chose to spend our minutes that day in service to others. We made close to 400 socks or bags stuffed with toiletries for those in need; we recorded children’s books for literacy; we cleaned and painted neighborhood schools and community centers. Our keynote at the breakfast on Monday, Solomon Jones, reminded us, however, that while we could impact other’s lives with the day of service, if we want to make true change, it takes more than this one day. We need to commit to service throughout the year. He asked the question, what are you willing to risk to improve our beloved community? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Dr. Angela Davis and others we have heard over the past weeks have been risk takers! I am reminded of Dr. Kings message that “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

We must each answer the questions: Where are you going to stand in times of challenge? What are you going to do with your minutes? And, what are you willing to risk?

We must remain hopeful for a better tomorrow. Dr. King said, “Hope is a refusal to give up. He who hopes is never inflicted with the disease of “giveupitis”… There is power in hope if you recognize that it is a final refusal not to be stopped.” Because we are, as Dr. King said, “wrapped in a single garment of destiny” It is important that we refuse to be stopped. It is important that we continue to be hopeful. It is important that we use our minutes to continue fighting for justice, equality, and humanity until “Justice rolls down like a river and righteousness like an overflowing stream”!

A Luta Continua,
Valerie Allen
During the MLK Symposium (2020), sponsored by Penn’s African American Resource Center, the Men of Color hosted a lecture titled, “The Radical King: A Message For Our Time.” The discussion was facilitated by distinguished professor, Dr. Anthony Monteiro. Monteiro examined King’s historic speeches from the past in an attempt to connect his prophetic words to the future. Every year, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is celebrated as a student who practiced nonviolence who became the leader of the civil rights movement. Few people knew how truly radical he was—until now. The program took place at the Penn Dental School (Cheung Auditorium) on January 16th, 2020.

Men of Color hosts their monthly “Huddle” every 3rd Thursday of the month. Come join us!

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**Recent AARC News**

For our MLK Symposium, our interns helped to coordinate this From King to Kendrick event.

Pictured here from left to right: (front row) Ms. Alejandra Cabrales, Ms. Francoise Eberhardt, Ms. Selena Yip, Ms. Haley Pilgrim (back row) Dr. Wendell Pritchett, Mr. Joel Austin, Mr. Sharif El-Mekki, Mr. Chase Lamar Smith, Rev. Charles Howard

Click here for the link to the Darin Toliver’s interview with PHL 17 regarding Men of Color

Pictured here from left to right: Mr. Arnett Woodall, Dr. Maurice Henderson, and Mr. Darin Toliver

Click here for the link to Darin’s article in the Philadelphia Inquirer
Colleen Winn has emerged as the new leader of the Association of Black Women in Higher Education, a national organization founded in 1978. After spending many years working as a Staff Assistant in the University's African-American Resource Center, serving as Chairperson of the campus Women of Color organization and holding varied positions within ABWHE, Winn now welcomes the opportunity to serve as its President.

Honoring the theme “Respect the Root: Reclaiming our Strength and Diversity”, Coleen Winn was an ABWHE Award Recipient at the Association 2019 National Conference. Held at Catherine University in St. Paul Minnesota, this convening featured the Honorable Natalie Hudson, Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, Dr. Duchess Harris, Author and Chair of the American Studies Department at Macalester College and the Honorable Sharon Sayles Belton, former Mayor of Minneapolis and current Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Alliance for Thomson Reuters. ABWHE Conference attendees also presented distinguished awards to Dr. Cheryl Chatman, Executive Vice President and Dean of Diversity at Concordia University, Michelle D. Ray Dorman, Diversity Director and Dean at Swarthmore College and Dr. Valerie Dorsey Allen, President Emeritus and Director of the African-American Resource Center at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also serves as Lecturer for the School of Social Policy.

Ms. Winn is proud to guide the Association of Black Women in Higher Education toward new pathways as she prepares for the 2021 National Conference. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., she has worked in the educational field for over 30 years. Winn holds a Bachelors Degree in Social Rehabilitation from Sam Houston State University (Texas), a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Keller School of Management and serves on the Board of the Center for Aids Research. As a Mother, Grandmother and Mentor Coleen Winn is uniquely qualified to lead the Association of Black Women in Higher Education in a gainful direction. Ms. Winn can be contacted at 215-898-0104 or cowinn@upenn.edu

Photo (left): Dr. Valerie Dorsey Allen, Director of African-American Resource Center (center) Darin Toliver, Chair of Men of Men of Color at Penn, (right) Colleen Winn, Local President of ABWHE
Ahlam Goran is one of the three work study students at AARC. She is a freshman from Springfield, Pennsylvania studying political science and economics in the College. She is passionate about social justice and, more specifically, prison reform.

Isaiah Williams is another work study student at AARC. He is a freshman studying Mathematical Economics in the College and is from Carson, California. He is passionate about the environment.
Jonathan Hanson is the last of the three work study students at AARC. A Philadelphia native, he is a sophomore studying philosophy, political science, and economics in the College. He is passionate about learning about social change opportunities, especially in Philadelphia.

Keon Barney is a student volunteer and a common visitor to AARC. Hailing from Gulfport, Mississippi, he is a freshman studying entrepreneurship, consumer psychology, and international studies in the Huntsman Program. He is passionate about learning about helping high school students with financial literacy and getting into college.