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, 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 @aarc@upenn.edu

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY:
“We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right”
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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For any further information, refer to our website HERE

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope that you are well and safe. It is an understatement to say that this year has been full of stress, anxiety, grief, and change! It has been uncomfortable! We have been asked to make sacrifices. We have worried about the health of our colleagues and students. We have prayed for family members and friends. We have suffered losses. However, we are survivors! Our families have spent more time together. We have discovered that we can work from home! We have mastered Zoom and Blue Jeans meetings and we may have had to learn to teach our stay at home children! We have figured out how to avoid or get rid of the COVID19lbs! We are moving forward all while dealing with a climate of division, racism, and civil unrest!

One of the conversations I find myself having is what will history report about this time? There is a song from Hamilton that says, “History has its eye on you”. I believe that when our future progeny look back on this time they will not only see the tragedy of thousands of lives lost but also see a myriad of changes and developments that will be felt for years. There are more conversations being had about justice, white supremacy, equality, and anti-racism than I can remember in my lifetime. There has been an increase in protests for justice and equality. There has also been a demand for affordable and accessible healthcare. We are on the precipice of a crucial election. We have been forced to make decisions and to decide what actions to take. The outcome of these actions is yet to be seen but history will tell the story. As the lyrics to the song go,

Let me tell you what I wish I’d known
when I was young and dreamed of glory.
You have no control
who lives, who dies, who tells your story.
I know that we can win!
I know that greatness lies in you!
But remember from here on in
History has its eyes on you! (Hamilton, 2015)

As always, I wish you well. Take care of yourself, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Stay encouraged. Do something that makes you happy!

A luta Continua!

Valerie Dorsey Allen

Resources for information and support:
World Health Organization: who.int
Inside Higher Ed: insiderhighered.com
Diverse Issues in Higher Education COVID-19 related webinars: diverseeducation.com
Association of Black Psychologists (community resources and webinars): https://www.abpsi.org/
Events:

October 15, 2020 @ 1pm - Men of Color The Huddle

October 21, 2020 @ 12pm - Women of Color at Penn
Men of Color

The purpose of the Men of Color (MOC) Monthly Meeting (aka The Huddle) is to provide men support in relationship to our surviving and thriving at the University of Pennsylvania and affiliates as employees, faculty, artists, activists, community workers, and students. Monthly meetings are convened and opened to the public. Topics are presented within a relaxed atmosphere. Meetings represent a balance between discussion topics and open forum. MOC also discuss methods/strategies of dealing with racism, social-emotional indignities and best practices of addressing abuses of power within the university and community at large.

Meetings are facilitated by Darin Toliver, Associate Director, African-American Resource Center

Meeting Dates: Held every 3rd Thursday of the month
Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Zoom ID: 991 9214 8548

Women of Color at Penn

Life has been a virtual roller coaster since March but the things that have kept me sane and grounded are my family, friends, and circle of sisters! Women of Color at Penn (WOCAP) has been my Rx as it provides a well-established community of volunteers who come together to celebrate and promote causes that impact women. We create “safe” spaces where we connect, dialogue, support, empower, and discover a sense of belonging. This wonderful and eclectic community is enriched by our many voices and talents. Whether by the Noontime Network Luncheon series, the Queen’s Tea, the annual awards luncheon, or the Leadership Academy, WOCAP has been in the forefront of ongoing efforts to promote education, cultural diversity, leadership, mentorship, and positive changes on campus and in the community. The Women of Color Noontime Network Lunch Series is back and holding its place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September - May, 12:00-1:30pm. Yes, we are on Zoom which has increased our reach and our audience and has not diminished the quality of programming! Carve out a space on your calendar! We will post the zoom link when it is available. If you desire more information about WOCAP and/or the programs highlighted above, visit our webpage: https://aarc.upenn.edu/women-color. You can also find us on FB and Instagram.

Looking forward to meeting you for the first time or seeing old acquaintances!!