



Diversity On Campus

United We Stand

Monthly Newsletter
June 2020, Special Edition

We know that racism in all of its forms is never more unfair than when it leads to the needless loss of a life.

To become the country we know we can be, we must honestly address the issues that underlie these societal divisions

and make real, systemic change.

President Harrooz

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL IN
HONOR OF

GEORGE FLOYD

AND THE MANY OTHER BLACK LIVES
THAT WERE TAKEN UNJUSTLY

JUNE 11TH, 2020
6:00 PM - AFTER SUNSET
ANDREWS PARK AT THE
AMPHITHEATER

An impressive list of speakers including OU Human Relations Professor Emeritus George Henderson, faith leaders and the Norman PD attended the candlelight vigil hosted by the City of Norman.

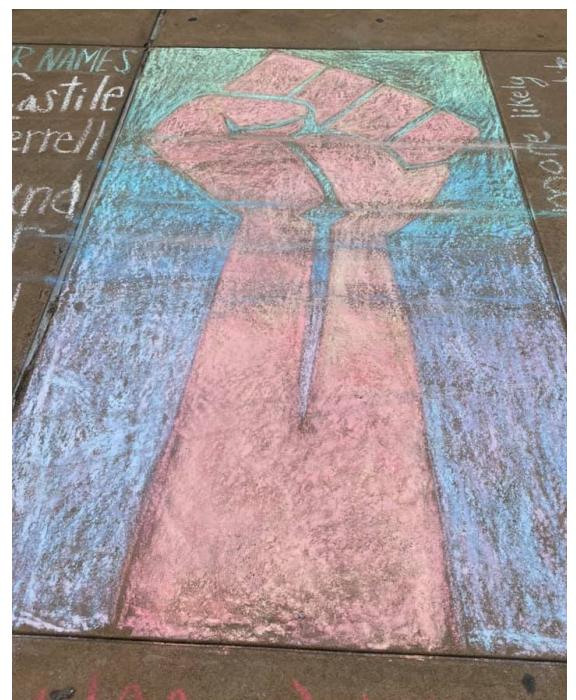
For Norman mayor Breea Clark, #BlackLivesMatter includes "an adjective, a noun, and a verb. It's NOT comparative (black lives matter more). It's NOT superlative (black lives matter most)." For her, "if you just have to pop up with something else, anything else, every time you hear this sentence, you need to ask yourself exactly which one of those three words makes you unable to agree. Then, do some work on you."



Marching in Norman

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis woke the nation to the realities of police brutality. After several protests occurred around the country, the OU Black Student Association organized a protest Saturday, June 6. The march began at Norman High School, continued on to Main Street and University Boulevard and ended in front of Evans Hall at OU.

Several hundred showed up to show support and marched in solidarity with OU BSA against racial injustice in our nation.



June 10th, 2020



A multi-identity, intersectional coalition of professionals and academics acknowledged their obligation to disrupt "business as usual." For them, social responsibility starts with their role in society. To claim that role, they promoted a day to rest, reflect or act. As they explained it, those in STEM who are white play a key role in perpetuating systemic racism. Self-education therefore, is the first step toward action. The coalition invited everyone, from university students to lab technicians and chairs of departments, to educate, act and heal to achieve social justice.

STEM and academia are not immune to anti-Black racism.

Let's press pause for one day. Let's give Black colleagues space to rest.

**For the rest of us,
it's time to step up.**

#ShutDownSTEM #ShutDownAcademia



The Rewards of Research on Social Change



Meta G. Carstarphen, Ph.D., Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Comm

For some academics, research involves social change. Carstarphen, a professor in the Gaylord College is one of them. Her research hinges on how mediated communication can create transformative, collaborative and diversified social change.

Recently, her work has been acknowledged by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, which awarded her the 2020 Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievements in Diversity Research and Education. A great accomplishment to be shared with the OU community.





Diversity Dialogue: How Change Breaks Records

With the recurrent racial violence episodes across the nation, the OU community needed to come together. The Office of DEI responded by inviting several panelists to soothe the toll that racialized violence is taking on people mentally, spiritually and physically. In a few days, more than 1,000 OU members registered, an unmatched record for any webinar at OU. For the panelists, change to achieve justice starts with honesty: an honest analysis of the past, an honest understanding of oneself, and an honest effort to be accountable.

Paving the Way to Justice and Equality

By Belinda Higgs Hyppolite, Ed.D.

Familiar words such as "The United States of America" don't ring true for all Americans. The African American community, among others, has systematically experienced acts of racism and violence that we must intentionally dismantle. The recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd are symbols of injustice and the painful reminder that not all lives are treated the same in the land of "liberty and justice for all."

Therefore, we need to join forces with law enforcement and policymakers to create strategies that address challenges such as implicit bias.



From top left: B. Higgs Hyppolite, VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; K. Foster, Norman Police Chief; J. D. Backer, Assistant to the Mayor of Norman; S. Orellana, Minister at Iglesia Pueblo de Dios; R. Butler-King, School of Social Work; H. Reeves, Public Health Office at OU Medicine; K. Hills, Department of African and African American Studies; President J. Harroz

Making Anti-Racism Normal



8 minutes and 46 seconds separated life to death for George Floyd. 8 minutes and 46 seconds was the time for people around the world to kneel down to express respect for Black people's lives. Joining the voices of many against injustice, the Health Sciences Center and the OU-Tulsa campus organized the "White Coats for Black Lives," a protest in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

On June 5, health professionals, staff, faculty and students gathered to claim that the time has come to stand up and implement change. College of Medicine student, Baffour Kyerematen, stated, "Being an anti-racist should not be a phenomenon; it should be the norm." For the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, achieving that new norm requires personal and institutional change that starts with awareness, education and advocacy.

Special thanks for the photos to Jeremy Pappas, Jacobi Campbell and Laura Cueto



Original design by Jeramy Pappas, OU-Tulsa Marketing

June 1, 2020, kicked off the 51st anniversary of the Pride dedicated to learning, acknowledging, supporting and spotlighting the strides of the LGBTQ+ Community. During Pride this year a momentous law unfolded. On June 15, 2020, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the LGBTQ+ Community as it makes it illegal for workers to be dismissed from a job because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

In addition to prohibiting discrimination because of sex, Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 will now prohibit discrimination against gay and transgender. For the LGBTQ+ community and its allies the Supreme Court rule is a watershed change.



Events

[Visit our website](#) and register to the DEI webinars and training sessions we scheduled in summer.

How to Contact Us

OU-NORMAN

Visit our webpage at
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