

Diversity Dialogues



The Diversity Dialogues are a series of conversations led by faculty, staff, facilitators, or a panel who have expertise in the topic. The purpose of these events is to provide a safe space for students and the Alma community to discuss critical topics in regard to race, culture, gender, stereotypes, multiple identities, diversity and multiculturalism in our community and the around the world. If you are interested in facilitating, serving on a panel or co-sponsoring a Diversity Dialogue, please let us know at diversity@alma.edu.



Photo by Jean Park, 17,
Harvard-Westlake School (North Hollywood).

September 10, 2014 - **What is Diversity?**

Facilitated by Denelle Brown

“The reality today is that we are all interdependent and have to co-exist on this small planet. Therefore, the only sensible and intelligent way of resolving differences and clashes of interests, whether between individuals or nations, is through dialogue.”

- The Dalai Lama

Alma College is intentionally committed to being a safe and inclusive environment for all students, staff, faculty, and friends. This opening event seeks to set the precedent for the monthly discussions by introducing the importance of talking about diversity and being open-minded in this transfer of knowledge and experiences. We are less concerned with opinions on right versus wrong and more interested in understanding perspectives.

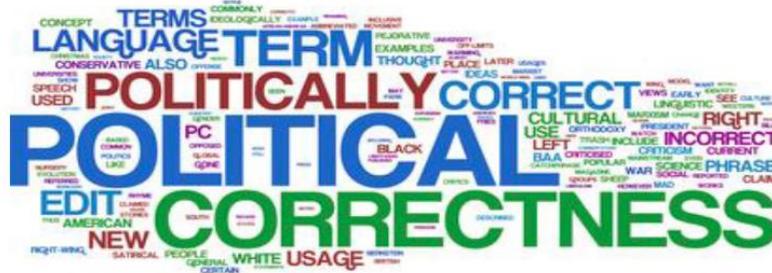


October 08, 2014 - [Rainbows and Religion](#)

Facilitated by Sandy Lopez-Isnardi & Dr. Barbara Burdick

“Understand that sexuality is as wide as the sea. Understand that your morality is not law. Understand that we are you...”
- Derek Jarman

The LGBT communities have frequently been the target of religious satire and humiliation as some religious extremists use scriptures and doctrines to support acts of hatred and intolerance. Rarely is there an opportunity in a safe space to engage in dialogue related to religion in the lives of those who are a part of the LGBT and ally communities... until now. Share your thoughts, beliefs, or concerns about the intersections of gender and sexuality with religion.



November 12, 2014 - [Say What?](#)

Facilitated by Dr. Britt Cartrite

“Being politically correct means saying what’s polite rather than what’s accurate. I like to be accurate.”
- Robert Kiyosaki

Political correctness is not only being aware of one’s usage of exclusionary and stereotypical language but also being respectful of the unknown and unique. It is everyone’s responsibility to be respectful of others, but what happens when you hear a joke from someone who “didn’t mean to offend anyone”? What happens when you call someone the incorrect ethnic or cultural name? What do you do if you’ve always referred to this group of people by this name and now someone has accused you of being racist? How do we fix a problem we didn’t create? We can start by acknowledging the problem and talking about it.



January 14, 2015 - [Money Matters \\$\\$](#)

Facilitated by Willard Korson

“We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own.”

- Cesar Chavez

Poverty does not come in a one size fits all category. It doesn't wear a certain brand of clothes. It doesn't listen to a particular genre of music. It doesn't live in a particular neighborhood. There must be an honest dialogue about poverty in America and why it's portrayed to be the face of a race. That time is now and we would love for you to share your thoughts.

“PRIVILEGE IS WHEN YOU THINK SOMETHING IS NOT A PROBLEM BECAUSE IT'S NOT A PROBLEM TO YOU PERSONALLY.”

February 11, 2015 - [Have we Overcome?](#)

Facilitated by Dr. Sheryle Dixon & Dr. Dale Sanders

“We who engage in nonviolent direct action are not the creators of tension. We merely bring to the surface hidden tension that is already alive.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Across the nation during Black History Month, people discuss the civil rights of people of color and the advances made for equality.

Discussions beg the question of the black community “Have we overcome?”

Sometimes affirmative action and the perception of quotas create tension between and within diverse groups from the workplace to the classroom and beyond. This discussion seeks to explore black identity, white privilege, and their correlation to the measurable success of people of color in America.

Who Runs the World? Girls!!

Stereotypes and Media Representation of Women

March 11, 2015 - **Who Runs the World? Girls!!**

Facilitated by Dr. Catherine Fobes

“Women are leaders everywhere you look — from the CEO who runs a Fortune 500 company to the housewife who raises her children and heads her household. Our country was built by strong women, and we will continue to break down walls and defy stereotypes.”

- Nancy Pelosi

Movies, magazines, television, and music reflect women in lights that dim the sparkle of their essence. The spectrum of what it means to be a woman is often concentrated in domestic capabilities, physical conformities, and sexual compliance. Here, we consider what these stereotypes mean for the future of women’s rights and the role of media in our contemporary society.

READY FOR THE WORLD

April 08, 2015 - Ready for the World

Alma College's mission is to prepare graduates who think critically, serve generously, lead purposefully, and live responsibly as stewards of the world they bequeath to future generations.

Alma College is proud to produce responsible, articulate, and compassionate citizens into the world. Today, we celebrate those who have made great strides on our campus and in our community to promote and model the awareness, involvement, and consciousness necessary to be ready for the world.