

All Diversity Dialogues will be held in the Thistle Room in Hamilton Commons from 11:30-1:30.

September 9, 2015

**Around the World in the Thistle Room:
International Student and Faculty Panel**

Facilitated by [Amanda Slenski](#)

“Intercultural dialogue is the best guarantee of a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.”

— Robert Alan

Around the World in the Thistle Room—Understanding Expectations. Hear from international students and faculty about their cultural expectations, experiences, and transition to Alma College—and what happens when things don't go as expected. Such intercultural dialogues address the need for the many forms of diversity and generate conversation to remove the cultural barrier and educate all individuals at Alma College and beyond.

October 14, 2015

Which team do I play for?

Participation in Athletic Events for Transgender Individuals

Facilitated by **Steven Rackley**

“It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.”

— E.E. Cummings

A growing conversation in the LGBTQ+ community is defining and defending the rights of Transgender individuals. One particular area of focus is defending a transgender athlete to participate in athletics at high school, college, and even at the Olympic level. Almost all athletes compete against the same gender with these competitions honing in on a combination of skills that are crucial to the success of an athlete. When gender stereotypes are still strongly associated with success in sports, how can a transgender athlete compete and maintain the integrity of themselves? Should an athlete have to give up their gender expression to participate?

November 11, 2015

Label Jars not People

Facilitated by **Dr. Thomas Batchelder**

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

Nearly 1 in 5 American Adults have a physical disability or limitation. 1 in 4 (or 61.4 million) American Adults will experience some form of mental health illness this year. Staggering statistics and yet stigma still surrounds those who have mental health illnesses or physical disabilities/limitations. It is our goal to take a closer look at these large communities, to better understand these communities to discover ways to empower individuals at Alma College to be successful students and community members. Posing the question “What is our own capacity and willingness to assist those who may fall within these spectrum?”

Understanding Cultural Appropriation

Facilitated by [Dr. Megan McCullen](#) and [Dr. Prathim-Maya Dora-Laskey](#)

“Tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue and respect for diversity are more essential than ever in a world where peoples are becoming more and more closely interconnected.”

—Kofi Annan, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

What gives an individual the “right” to embrace a certain culture? Do they need to have ancestral lineage, look the part, perhaps a person can be nurtured with a particular cultural upbringing, or can it be merely knowledge and genuine interest? In the melting pot of the United States, can any person identify as “transracial” and adapt to a culture through means of cosmetic black facing, modified hair styles, mannerisms and dress to acclimate. Or is the term “transracial” offensive and allows for those of privilege to usurp opportunities and take advantage of benefits and uniqueness granted to minority groups?

March 9, 2016

The Power of Photoshop

Facilitated by [Dr. Daniel Connolly](#)

“I wished I looked like Cindy Crawford.”

—Cindy Crawford

Technology, apps, programs and filters has forever changed how we take and look at photo images. With just a few edits images are enhanced, reduced, elongated, trimmed down, smoothed over, beefed up, highlighting hair, eyes, even skin tones—is this art? Or is this just another ploy manifested in society to objectify men and women—forever perpetuating stereotypical gender roles? Should there be regulations or disclaimers on photo-shopped images? Together we will discuss the power of Photoshop and the impact of our daily lives.