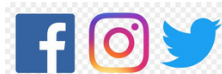


# OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER



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## Introduction to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion:

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) serves as a valuable resource to the university & students and is committed to building an inclusive campus environment through programming that fosters an appreciation and respect for the culture, history and traditions of all people.

Word of the Month Diversity :

(noun)

the condition of having or being composed of differing elements : VARIETY especially : the inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization

Source: Merriam -Webster Dictionary

Greetings and welcome to the new ODI Newsletter! My name is Ralph Cochran and I have the honor of being named the Director of Diversity & Inclusion for Capital University. We in ODI have worked to prepare a newsletter that will prove to be engaging, informational, and supportive. It is our hope to keep you up to date with our students, their organizations, and the campus community as it relates to diversity and inclusion. We also aim to link current students with alum and community members who have historically had relationships with the ODI/MAO as a means to broaden and extend our Cap Fam. This is a unique opportunity to foster relationship and truly build support for our students as they navigate the current state of this nation we are all living in. From zoom fatigue, to nearly a daily new hashtag due to injustice, we are committed to being intentional about the needs of our students and how they are being asked to show up in the world and perform. This newsletter is one step towards that commitment, and we hope you find it meaningful. Expect to browse the newsletter and discover what the organizations are currently up to, expect to see the faces of current students, expect to learn about alumni and how they've progressed post-graduation, and expect the digital growth of community during a socially distanced world. Engage with us, we welcome contributions and want this to be an enjoyable adventure for our readers. Email us submissions and engage with our social media. We appreciate you and your support as we begin a new chapter with Capital University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

# Homecoming Quotes from Alum

**Although we didn't get to unite for homecoming this year, our Alum still wanted to connect and send you encouragement. Check out these well wishes from our Cap Fam.**

- "College is not a competition. Learn yourself. Evolve. Create. Make mistakes, it's OKAY!"  
-Deborah R. Cooper-Pearson (2014)
- "No matter what obstacles may come your way, stay focused, stay positive and you will overcome them."  
-Theris Benn Jr. (2010)
- "Just remember that every NO should lead you to your next opportunity."  
-Antwan Booker BA (2007)
- "Continue to be the change you want to see in the world."  
-James Starks II (2008)
- "Blessings to all of you at Capital! Great times during Homecoming!"  
-Devin Trek Thomas (2007)
- "Stay the course and stay involved. Find ways to get involved on campus and build relationships. The personal and professional relationships you build now will serve as some of the most important relationships in your life."  
-Khiara Kimbrough, M. Ed (2014)
- "Whether you think you can, or think you can't-you're right-Henry Ford. Go after what you want, follow your passions and your dreams. That's how you live out your purpose."  
-Norman Strickland (2008)
- "Adapt and overcome"  
-Sean Moore (2010)
- "This is our time to align on our similarities rather than dwell on our differences. In 2020 and beyond, we are in this together."  
-Chris Bell (2009)
- "I know things are extremely out of the ordinary...but it's all molding you to be a better you. Keep up the hard work and know we are all rooting for you! The Cap fam is still strong because you are here."  
-Josh Chandler (2012)
- "Hope everyone is staying safe and making the best out of these times! Go Capital!"  
-Brittney Carter (2010)
- "Cap days were the best days and if I could, I'd do it all over again!"  
-Kandace Keel (2014)
- "I chose Capital because my favorite color is purple. I made an amazing choice."  
-Kayla "Queen Empress of Durkenshire" Doucet (2013)
- "Through Challenging times, remember failure turns into lessons which create paths to success. Don't be afraid to fail, you just might succeed."  
-Jzinae N. Jackson, Esq. (2014)
- "The ODI was a place of community and support during my years at Capital. #ProudAlum"  
-Waly (2014)
- "No matter what you go through in life, where you are, or how you got there, remember whose and who you are. Reach for the stars-the sky is never the limit."  
-Taja ReNee (2010)
- "Hey Cap Crew! Hope you are all staying safe and healthy. Focus on what you can control and make the most of your experience! Wishing you the best during these challenging times."  
-Brandi Mitchell (2010)
- "To my Cap Fam, continue to stay your course in these difficult times! I wish you all the best as you navigate through this school year!" -Elizabeth "Lizzy" Stanton Finnegan (2009)



## Student Spotlight: Mike Dunlap

*Class of 2022*

Mike is a second year student majoring in music production. He is also a football player and member of SOLA and SAAAC. He already uses his skills to produce music for a variety of artists in Columbus as well as artists nationwide. He is currently working on an EP that will be dropping soon.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: SAMANTHA MONTANEZ

*Cleveland, OH I Class of 2020*

While at Capital University, Sam was heavily involved within student organization life. She was a general member of Sister Network, Students for the Advancement of Afrikan-American Culture, and Soc-Crim Society. Sam was also an executive board member of Students of Latinx Affinity for 3 years (2x President and 1x Vice President), Student Life Chair and Junior Class Senator for Student Government and then served as the President of Student Government her senior year, and lastly she was the Ivy Leaf Reporter for her chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. Other campus involvements included campus jobs. She served as the Intern/Student Ambassador for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for 2 years, a Resident Assistant for the Office of Residential and Commuter Life for 3 years, and she was a Junior Intern for the Bonner Leader Program 1 year. She worked in admissions her first year as a tele-counselor and then interned in Adult and Graduate Admissions the summer going into her junior year. Outside of Sam's student org life and campus jobs, she served on various committees such as the MLK Jr. Day of Learning Committee, the Educational Excellence Committee (through her stake-holder position on the Board of Trustees as the SG President), the Homecoming Court Selection Committee (Fall 2018), and the Presidential Search Committee (Fall 2019-Spring 2020). Outside of applying for work in higher education and grad school, Sam is currently serving on the board of Young Latino Network as the Board Chair of Membership, which is a non-profit located in Cleveland. Additionally she still is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® and currently a member of Alpha Sigma Omega Chapter (a graduate chapter located in Columbus). Lastly, Sam serves as Co-chairmen of the Technology Committee. "My 4 years at Capital were some of the most impactful, inspiring, eye-opening, and hardest years of my young life. I am grateful for Capital and our community. It gave me memories that I will cherish until the end of time. I am grateful for the times I spent outside by the fountains, the time (a lot of my time) I spent in the ODI, the time I spent in the library, and simply for the time I spent on campus."

-Sam Montanez

"Dear students,  
I am sure you are overwhelmed, confused, tired, drained, and all emotions in between. We are living in such a weird time (as though you have not been told that before), but it truly is. However, despite the historical year we are living in, there is so much better to come. College, as of now, may seem never ending and it may seem so tedious, but it will be worth it. You must always keep moving forward; never back. Move towards your future, but of course do not forget to look at your past. I know that all sounds cliché, but it is all true. We learn best from our past decisions and mistakes, but we must not let them anchor us down. You must use them to help propel you further to your destination. You never know how right the people before you are until you end up where they are. So as someone who has completed her undergrad, take it from me when I say it will all be worth it, you will make it, and the world is waiting from you to come and make it better with your light. You will make it through. You are more than capable of doing all that you set your mind to, more than you even know. Remember to take breaks and be kind to yourself."



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**PIZZA AND THE PAPER  
DONUTS AND THE DIVINE**

**Rotating every other Friday at 2 pm**

## OCTOBER

**Celebration of Diversity Week  
28th Pride Panel  
29th AAA Parasite Watch and Discuss**

## NOVEMBER

**2nd SOLA Dia de Los Muertos Event  
9th AAA, SSA, Sister Network Henna Night  
11th AAA, GSA & ISO Diwali  
12th Pride & SOLA Discussion  
13th Shabbat Service  
14th GSA & ISO Meet your Muslim Neighbor event  
16th GSA: Couture Culture Corner  
17th SAAAC Watch & Discuss  
18th Uncensored Poetry Slam  
20th SAAAC: Pre Kwanzaa**

