



Fall 2024 Office of DEI Newsletter, Issue 5

Message from the Vice President for Student Affairs, Equity, and Belonging

The start of the school year means beginnings. Some of us return to the patterns of the academic years while new members of the EMU community join us and we learn how to weave together new and old patterns. The same is true for our EMU DEI priorities. The coming year will welcome creative weaving of foundational work across the University and new approaches to integration and implementation.

Leadership transitions in the DEI office mean losses from creative and dedicated innovators. Much of the continuing work in the DEI office is with gratitude to Dr. Jackie Font Guzmán and Andea Troyer. [Shared language for our DEI work](#), [sustainability priorities](#), our featured [Viewpoint minisode](#) highlighting our DEI story - these and others are tools that will ground our future.

The value of diversity, equity, and inclusion remains. Its centrality to an EMU education and our community matters. My role, as Vice President for Student Affairs, Equity, and Belonging seeks to integrate the aligned priorities of our comprehensive student development and experience with those of diversity, equity, and inclusion. While Student Life has always partnered closely with DEI, this integration allows for synergy and collaboration that is really exciting.

As I start in this new role alongside the creative leadership of Dawn Neil, our DEI Coordinator, we have two goals for this Fall:

1. Continue the programming and funding that nurtures campus education and advocacy across DEI values. This newsletter will feature many of the events we have planned through DEI and other campus partners.
2. Expand the existing priorities and capacity of DEI from a centralized office to a networked approach with the development of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging team. The primary roles of this team will include being a) collaborative advisors for campus DEIB needs, contributing to campus statements, dialogues, etc around issues or events, b) advocates and learners around diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging and encouraging campus education around DEIB, c) institutional resources for reports of harassment, bias, or equity-related grievances, advocating for and facilitating reporting for institutional response, d) strategic partners in institutional DEIB goals, contributing to ongoing projects like Inclusive Excellence grants and setting priorities for each year.

The strength of our DEI values is a priority in this season. When we consider social realities that can divide and exclude, the November elections and the continued global impacts of the Israel-Hamas conflict will present significant opportunities for us to learn and practice the inclusion and diversity that is at our center. Similar to our campus DEI transitions, may the foundation of meaning and hope inspire toward action and community.

In solidarity,

Shannon W. Dycus



Curious what DEI has been up to?



Please [click here](#) to see
what happened during
the Spring and Summer
for DEI!



UPCOMING

EVENTS

FALL EVENTS

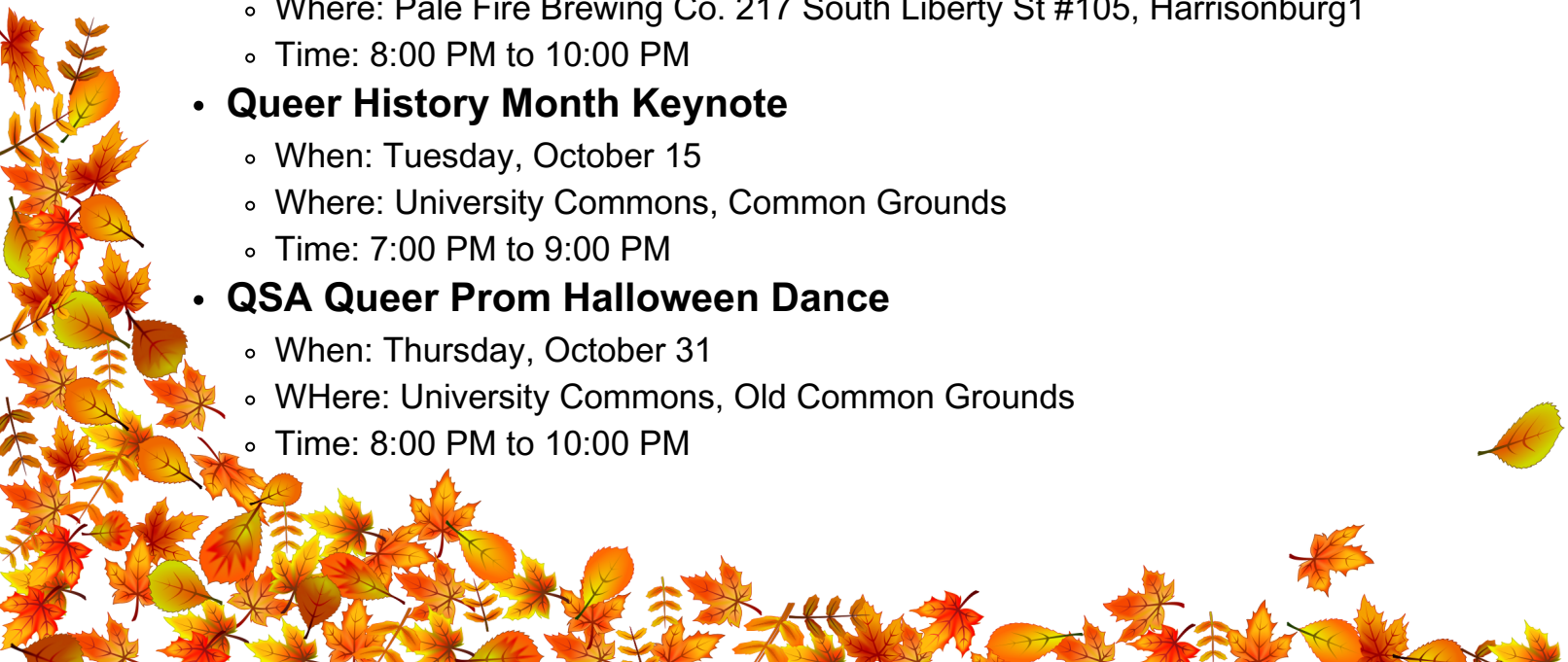
September Events

- **African American Festival**
 - When: Saturday, September 14
 - Where: Ralph Sampson Park, Harrisonburg
 - Time: 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- **Shenandoah Valley Pride Festival**
 - When: Saturday, September 21
 - Where: Court Square, Harrisonburg
 - Time: 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- **Verses & Vibes: Poetry by Jessica Care Moore & Brad Walrond**
 - When: Monday September 23
 - Where: University Commons, Common Grounds
 - Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- **International Festival**
 - When: Saturday, September 21
 - Where: Downtown, Harrisonburg
 - Time: 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM



October Events

- **QSA Chalk the Sidewalk**
 - When: Tuesday, October 1
 - Where: All over EMU campus
- **Alumni Poetry Slam**
 - When: Friday, October 11
 - Where: Pale Fire Brewing Co. 217 South Liberty St #105, Harrisonburg
 - Time: 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- **Queer History Month Keynote**
 - When: Tuesday, October 15
 - Where: University Commons, Common Grounds
 - Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- **QSA Queer Prom Halloween Dance**
 - When: Thursday, October 31
 - Where: University Commons, Old Common Grounds
 - Time: 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM



Coming to Campus!

Detroit's Poet Laureate **jessica Care moore** and Brad Walrond



jessica Care moore

CEO of Moore Black Press,
executive producer of Black
WOMEN Rock!, recording artist,
librettist, author, activist, and
founder of The Moore Art House.



Brad Walrond

Poet, author,
conceptual/performance
artist, and one of the foremost
writers and performers of the
1990's Black Arts Movement.

[jessica Care moore](#) and [Brad Walrond](#) will be performing on campus **Monday September 23, 2024 at 7pm at Common Grounds!**

Students, faculty, staff and community are welcome to attend their performance and book signing.

This will be a 1 point engage event.

Stick around to engage in conversation with jessica and Brad about their work.

Want a sneak peek of jessica's work check out her book "We Want Our Bodies Back" from the library or [Click Here!](#)

You can find Brad's newest release "Every Where Alien" by [Clicking Here!](#)

Thank you to the Writers Read, Student Life, CIE, and DEI



3rd Annual Queer History Month Keynote

Annabeth Roeschley, Executive
Director for Brethren Mennonite Council
for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and
Transgender Interests

Annabeth (AB) Roeschley (they/she) is a long-time activist and advisor for queer intersectional justice within and beyond Mennonite Church USA. Annabeth embodies this role as a queer abolitionist theologian, spiritual care curator, and politicized chaplain who dwells at the intersections of individual and collective healing. A graduate of Bluffton University, Annabeth holds a Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary with a concentration in LGBTQ+ Religious Studies.

Save the date:

When: October 15th

Time: 7:30 PM

Where: Common Grounds

**SCAN QR CODE
TO R.S.V.P.**





Apply Today

for 2024 Inclusive Excellence Grants!

Applications open Sep 9th!

**Are you ready to be
an Agent of Change?**

Scan the QR code to learn
more about how you can
make a difference on our
campus.

Applications Close October 31st!



What are you
waiting for?
Scan the code!



Contact Us:

540-432-4388

dei@emu.edu



BELONG TOGETHER

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

[Click here to Support DEI](#)

Join us on our transformative journey, where every donation, big or small, becomes a catalyst for a positive impact in shaping our future of belonging.



Visit DEI's [Resource](#) and [Communication](#) pages.

Share Your DEI Story

Would you like to share DEI stories with our EMU community? Do you have a DEI-oriented event, announcement, article or recognition you would like us to promote through our DEI communication channels? Contact dei@emu.edu.



Shannon W. Dycus, PhD

Vice President for Student Affairs, Equity and Belonging

Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

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