

CONNECTIONS

The Business of Relationships

Diversity and Inclusion

Newsletter





The spotlight of social unrest has not diminished and people of color and other marginalized communities continue to face difficult challenges in this country. As a result of systematic racism, we cannot escape the existential question of whether some lives are more valued than others.

Life is to be treasured and its safeguarding rest on the shoulders of everyone; more specifically though, on those granted the authority to protect and defend the lives and laws for everyone.

As educators, academicians and custodians of scholarly ideas, we should strive for social justice and hold dear the values of a civil society;

furthermore, we should be a part of the national ensemble asserting that all lives are valuable. On top of that, as a community we must question why are we still wrestling with incidents of violence and hatred and what responsibility do we have to help create an equitable and impartial world.

At RCSJ, diversity, inclusion and equity matter and it is a valued part of our ethos. RCSJ will continue to be a safe haven for all stakeholders and acts of racism, prejudice, hatred or microaggressions will not be tolerated.

Sincerely,

Ya Vanca Brooks, RCSJ Diversity Committee Chair, Gloucester Campus

Let Us Talk about Freedom.

What Does it Mean to have freedom?

Merriam-Webster on-line defines freedom “as the quality or state of being free such as: the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action or a political right.” While the Macmillan, the Collins and the Lexico on-line dictionaries all have similar definitions for the meaning of freedom: “The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.”

Interestingly enough, **July 4th** is upon us. This federal holiday honors America’s Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence is America’s revolutionary Charter of Freedom and the document upon which the nation’s founding principles were established.

Here is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence (US 1776) describing what Freedom is supposed to be:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”

(<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration>).

Two-hundred and forty-four years later, were those freedoms lost in translation? In contrast to other documents like the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence is not a legally binding document. The United States continues to struggle with the ideologies described in the Declaration of Independence ever since Congress accepted the document on July 4, 1776. Even though the narrative is still being written about America’s history of racism; there is no time like now for change. We can change America’s narrative and fulfill the Declaration

of Independence’s true meaning “that all people are created equal.”

4th of July Fun Facts

Q. Why is the name “John Hancock” synonymous with “your signature?”

A. Hancock’s bold signature on the Declaration of Independence dwarfed the signatures of the other signers. Folklore claims that Hancock wanted the king of England to see his defiant signature without having to wear his spectacles.

Q. When did America really declare independence?

A. Congress actually ruled in favor of independence on July 2, 1776. But it was two days later, on July 4, that Congress then accepted Jefferson’s document. As a result, John Adams thought July 2 should be Independence Day.

Q. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4?

A. Only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776—John Hancock, president of the Congress, and Charles Thompson, secretary of the Congress.

Q. What day did most people sign the Declaration of Independence?

A. August 2, 1776.

Q. When did Independence Day become a national holiday?

A. The Fourth of July was not declared a federal holiday until 1938!

(<https://www.almanac.com/content/independence-day-fourth-of-july>;
<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration/how-did-it-happen>)



Calendar of Observances – July 2020

- 1) World Population Day – 7/11/2020
(<https://www.wincalendar.com/World-Population-Day>)
- 2) Nelson Mandela International Day – 7/18/2020
(<https://www.wincalendar.com/Nelson-Mandela-Day>)
- 3) International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence – 7/19/2020
(<https://www.wincalendar.com/Day-for-Elimination-of-Sexual-Violence-in-Conflict>)
- 4) International Self Care Day – 7/24/2020
(<https://www.wincalendar.com/International-Self-Care-Day>)
- 5) Americans with Disabilities Act Passed – 7/26/1990
- 6) World Day Against Trafficking in Persons – 7/30/2020
(<https://www.wincalendar.com/World-Day-Against-Trafficking>)
- 7) International Friendship Day – 7/30/2020
(<https://www.wincalendar.com/International-Friendship-Day>)

Diversity and Inclusion Resource Center

- 50 Ways for College Students to Maximize Summer Break
<https://blog.campusgroups.com/campusgroups/2018/5/23/50-ways-for-college-students-to-maximize-summer-break>

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- The Declaration of Independence
July 4, 1776

ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL?

- **THE SLAVERY GRIEVANCE DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN 1776, BUT THE DOCUMENT DID CLAIM THAT, "ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL."**
- **ELEVEN YEARS LATER, IN 1787, THE FOUNDERS DRAFTED THE CONSTITUTION, AND THEY DID NOT ELIMINATE SLAVERY.**

Follow Us on Instagram @RCSJDiversity

<https://www.rcsj.edu/Diversity>

Send us your thoughts, comments, publications, planned events, announcements, and your campus wide Diversity initiatives by the end of the month.

CONNECTIONS will be circulated on the 1st week of every month. Please make all submissions to ybrooks@rcsj.edu

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RCSJ Has Talent

Professor Lavett Ballard describes how she was selected to create a special cover for Time magazine and shares her journey from community college student to internationally recognized emerging artist. Here is the link to the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HPOwVMAE2o>



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ROWAN COLLEGE OF SOUTH JERSEY -
GLOUCESTER CAMPUS
INVITES YOU TO STUDY DIVERSITY THROUGH:

ASL 102 American Sign Language II
ENG 103 Survey of World Literature
ENG 203 Literature by Women
ENG 213 Non-Western Literature
ENG 215 Immigrant Voices in American
Literature

ENG 240 Introduction to Children's Literature
ENG 241 Survey of African American Literature
GEO 102 Cultural Geography
HIS 107 African American History
PHI 110 Religions of the World
SOC 101 Principles of Sociology
SOC 102 Sociology of the Family
SOC 104 Social Problems
SPA 202 Intermediate Spanish II

To learn more, contact
your academic advisor by going to rcsj.edu/advisement,
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INVITES YOU TO STUDY DIVERSITY THROUGH:

AN 102 Cultural Anthropology
AN 103 Cultural Diversity in the U.S.
EN 208 Images of Women in Literature
EN 225 Introduction to Latino Literature
FR 201 Intermediate French I
FR 202 Intermediate French II
GE 101 World Regional Geography
GE 102 Cultural Geography
GE 110 Cultural Geography of North America
HI 103 World History & Culture I
HI 104 World History & Culture II
HI 113 Latin American History
HI 116 The Holocaust
HI 208 African American History
LS 201 Intermediate Spanish I
LS 202 Intermediate Spanish II
MU 115 History of Jazz and Popular Music
RL 102 World Religions
RL 103 Intro to Asian Religions
SO 207 Social Minorities & Intergroup Relations

To learn more, schedule an appointment through Starfish. If you do not have an advisor, please call, 856-691-8600 ext 1336, or email advisement@cc.rcsj.edu.

**Scholarly Resources and Academic Tools to Begin Positive and Informed
Dialogue on the Black Lives Matter Movement**

Article Title	Hyperlink Address
The Public's Dilemma: Race and Political Evaluations of Police Killings	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2018.1528162
Racialized Differences in Perceptions of and Emotional Responses to Police Killings of Unarmed African Americans	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2020.1757805
Intersectionality at the Grassroots	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2019.1629318
Emotions and Racial Differences, Moving Forward	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2020.1773282
Intersectional Stereotyping in Policing: An Analysis of Traffic Stop Outcomes	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2020.1748064
Racial Gaslighting	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2017.1403934
Why Participate? An Intersectional Analysis of LGBTQ People of Color Activism in Canada	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2019.1674671
Black Americans and the "crime narrative": Comments on the use of News Frames and their impacts on Public Opinion Formation	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2018.1553198
American Political Development in the Era of Black Lives Matter	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2017.1420546
(Re)Defining the black body in the era of Black Lives Matter: the politics of blackness, old and new	https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2017.1420549

The above articles are free to access until August 31, 2020.

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