

**The Honors College Diversity Council**  
**Report of Activities 2020-2021**

Members of the Honors College Diversity Council

- Katherine Ackley
- Victoria Alonso
- Dean Craig Carson
- Dean Susan Dinan
- Ms. Ada Gonzalez
- Professor Martin Haas
- Emily Hakimi
- Professor Hanna Kim
- Professor Maya Muratov
- Amma Opam
- Dean Nicole Rudolph
- Sabeen Siddiqui
- Bhargawi Vutukuri

The Honors College Diversity Council began meet in fall 2020. All Diversity Councils were issued two charges. First, to examine their spaces for artifacts that might undermine efforts to make all students, faculty, and staff feel welcomed and valued in the community. Second, to write a statement about diversity for the website.

In 2020-2021 the Diversity Council examined its space and found no troubling artifacts. Obviously, this is an on-going project to make sure nothing is left or posted in the space that could make individuals feel unvalued.

The Honors College and its Diversity Council also worked on curricular changes and co-curricular support for Honors students during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Modern Condition is a required two-semester course for all first-year students. The course centers around challenging readings and is discussion based. Students spend the year learning to read, dissect, and analyze complicated writings and communicate about them clearly orally and in writing.

In 2021-2022, we have re-imagined the Modern Condition course and developed a lecture series that it integrated into the class. The series, entitled, Multidisciplinary Thinking: A New Approach to the History of Ideas features two lectures delivered by two faculty members each semester. In fall, 2021 Professor Jacqueline Olvera addressed texts central to her research on “how the label “illegal” devalues the quality of a person, attaches itself to a body, and contaminates entire groups,” with “a focus on the experience of Mexicans.” Professor Kirsten Ziomek addressed texts contributing to her research on “the experiences of the colonial soldiers and forced laborers who fought for or were coerced into helping the Japanese military during World War II. “ In spring 2021, Professor Kim will speak to the Modern Condition students on the topic of “What is Culture and What is Religion?” Her research focuses on the transnational Hindu community. Professor Kim is an ethnographer who engages with the scholarship of historians, philosophers, anthropologists, political scientists, and religious studies scholars. The goal of the lectures is to ground parts of the class in the disciplinary research of Adelphi faculty members and expand the range of topics and ideas investigated in the course.

Along with changing the course structure, the Honors College is also offering more support to students in the class. Two undergraduate mentors have been hired to help students develop their skills and prepare for papers and exams. As the Honors College admits a broader range of students from high schools that are well resourced and poorly resourced, we want all students to know there is help available from faculty members during office hours and from student mentors.

In fall 2021, the Diversity Council met to craft a diversity statement for the Honors College website. This project took the entire semester and all members of the council contributed to a statement that embraces the mission of the Honors College and explains its commitment to diversity. The statement follows:

*Sapere aude*, dare to know, is our motto.

Daring to know means celebrating the intellectual bravery in a diverse community of highly curious and motivated students and professors. The Honors College prides itself on its efforts to create an environment in which these students will feel recognized and supported in their endeavors to take the academic risks that lead to excellence. Our vibrant community generates a culture of intellectual curiosity among its members and prepares students to become confident and vocal contributors to the futures they create. In the Honors College, we believe that true knowledge and personal growth comes through bold conversations and collaborations between individuals from a diverse range of identities, histories, and experiences. We have re-imagined our admissions process, curriculum, and co-curricular extracurricular offerings to invite a more intimate and responsive academic environment. As the home of those who dare to know, the Honors College is committed to providing an educational experience that matches our students’ courage and curiosities.

In spring 2022, the Honors College Diversity Council is working on engaging in collaborations around social justice issues. The Honors College collaborated with the Psychology Club and brought a group of students to see "Dear Evan Hansen" and the performance was followed by a conversation about representations of mental illness the following week. The College also collaborated with the Gender and Sexuality Alliance and brought a group of students to see "Take Me Out" about a mixed-race baseball player who publicly comes out as gay. At the end of the semester we will be part of a Rx Racial Healing Circle guided by Professor Marsha Darling of Adelphi's Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation campus center and Jermaine Pearson, Associate Chaplain at Brown University.