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Annual Intellectual Theme

2014

Walls and Bridges, courses and events

Illinois Wesleyan University

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To: Faculty and Staff
Re: Annual theme Walls and Bridges

As part of our ongoing commitment to foster a strong intellectual campus environment, we are continuing the use of an annual intellectual theme in our campus programming. The goal is to identify a campus-wide theme that serves to frame programming for the summer reading, convocations, May term programming, and any other potential collaborative efforts across campus during an academic year.

This year, the theme is *Walls and Bridges*. This theme was initially selected by the International Studies faculty as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. In a spirit of collaboration and mutual support, the faculty involved with the course clusters led by Rebecca Gearhart and Mark Criley also embraced this theme. This *Walls and Bridges* theme reflects faculty-led interest that we hope will permeate the campus community in 2014-15 and serve as a model for future intellectual themes.

Fall events currently scheduled that support the *Walls and Bridges* theme include:

September 3	President's Convocation — Brando Skyhorse: <i>Madonnas of Echo Park</i>
September 7	Human Rights Workshop (CHRSJ)
September 11	3D: Valerie Kaur — Groundswell Movement, social media /activism (Chaplain/CHRSJ)
October 2	3D: Cesar Chavez film (OMSA/International Film Series)
October 5-7	Speaker series: Walls and Bridges: Past, Present and Future (IS)
October 23	3D: Dispelling Myths – Your Costume, My Culture (Residential Life)
November 6	Mellon Speaker: Kristina Kahrl – Becoming a Woman in a Man's World
November 18	HEALE training/trans* awareness (Nursing)
November 20	Trans* Day of Remembrance (PRIDE)
December TBD	Course Cluster presentations/closure event

For a full description of the theme's purpose, please go to www.iwu.edu/wallsandbridges. We invite all students, faculty and staff to explore the concepts and realities of walls and bridges this year. Any programs that your department, class, or student organization may be sponsoring that may fall into this theme are encouraged. We are happy to include additional programs in the list of activities and grant access to the developed logo for your publicity. Please contact Student Affairs, 556-3111 with event details for inclusion.

Walls and Bridges

The world continues to be marked by the construction and demolition of both walls and bridges, physical, economic, ideological, and political. Walls and bridges serve to both separate and unite; however, the reasons for building walls and bridges is complex – informed by history, power, and ideas.

Today's global interest appears to be replacing walls with bridges, but the reasons for the construction of these bridges need to be unpacked and better understood. The problems associated with the exercise of power in the construction of both walls and bridges continue to exist, as the interests of people and states continue to shift. Are bridges two-way avenues of liberation and mutual support, or are they the openings by which domination is expanded by the powerful? Are walls fortresses of control, or the fortifications of defense?

The theme of "Walls and Bridges" calls upon us to examine relationships of power and people, in the past, in the present, and in the future. The theme calls upon us to examine walls and bridges both literal (the 25th anniversary of the 1989 demolition of the Berlin Wall, the Israel/Palestine experiences of the present and more) and figurative (the contrasting experiences of internet walls constructed in Turkey or China compared to the impact of social media in mobilizing social justice action). The theme allows us to explore a multitude of subjects, ranging from trading blocs to flows of capital; from border controls to border crossing; from diversity to homogenization, as people express themselves through culture, the arts, literature, and other media.

We invite all students, faculty, and staff to explore the concepts and realities of walls and bridges this year. Any program that your department, class, or student organization wishes to sponsor that may fall into this theme is encouraged. We are happy to include additional programs in the list of activities. Please contact Student Affairs, 556-3111 with event details for inclusion.



[IWU-Faculty] Walls and Bridges

1 message

Patti Henderson <phenders@iwu.edu>
To: faculty@lists.iwu.edu, adjunct@iwu.edu

Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 1:06 PM

To: All Faculty

From: Karla Carney-Hall and Jonathan Green

Re: Walls and Bridges

As you work on your course materials for the spring semester, we would like to promote the following events connected to our annual theme *Walls and Bridges* that may be of interest to you and a potential complement to your courses.

Sponsors are listed. If you would like more detailed information about an event, please contact them directly. If you are requiring or offering participation incentives, please let the sponsor know so that we can ensure that the venue is big enough to support the audience.

Thank you for supporting this year's intellectual theme. Please remember to submit theme ideas for 2016-17 to dstudent@iwu.edu by 15 January 2015.

January 15	Esther Podemski, international film producer, <i>The Peasant and the Priest</i> (International Film Series/International Studies)
January 19	MLK Teach-In: Voting Rights and Social Justice: The 50 th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
January 20	Civil Rights and Race: Vernon Burton (Political Science)
January 22	3D: Dispelling myths: Gender stereotypes (ORL)
January 29	3D: Work Walls: Career Barriers related to Diversity (ODI)
February 5	Athens Boys Choir (Diversity and Inclusion/Pride/Mellon funded)
February 12	3D: Black in America (ODI)
February 13	Civil Rights and Race: Pinderhughes (Political Science, ODI, Student Affairs)
February 29	3D: Self-censorship (Library)
February 25	Founder's Day: Anita Lobel (and several events featuring her Feb. 23 & 24) (President's office)
February 25	<i>Dictations</i> performance (ODI, Student Activities)
February 26	3D: Women's panel (FEM)
February 27-28	IWU Women's Summit (Alumni office)
February 28	Human Rights Undergraduate Research conference (CHRSJ)
March 3	Civil Rights and Race: Victoria Hattam (Political Science)
March 8-14	Alternative Spring Break: Kentucky/Appalachian Service Project (Chaplain's office)
March 19	#Hereatiwu (ODI)
March 19	Civil Rights and Race: James Glazer (Political Science)

March 25	No Exit, 7pm (Chaplain)
March 26	3D: Jon Sayles Film Festival (tentative – funding pending)

Please help us to encourage student participation.

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