

ALUMNAE NEWS



2020

#FontbonneForever

2021

“There is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

-Amanda Gorman

We are mid-term and are returning from our winter break. This year has been a time of reflection and continued growth at Fontbonne. Who have we been? Who are we? Who do we hope to be? The Mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph has been the guiding light to answer these three questions and continually asks us to examine our past, our present, and our future. “...all inclusive love, unity, reconciliation, peace and justice” is our dictate. Certain social events in the course of the last year, have called us to examine who we have been. As a result, we have taken steps to live the mission of “all inclusive love” more completely.

In May of 2020, it became clear that a long-planned outreach needed to be made and the Office of Alumnae Relations formed the **Women of Color Alliance**. Three graduates; **Aaliyah Channer '14**, **Alexis Grafakos '07**, and **Princesca Pierre '12** volunteered their time, knowledge, and energy to put together a program. Our hope is to present this program to students, faculty, and parents, in order to examine the causes of racism and other ways groups are marginalized and to foster a Fontbonne community that can continue to live the mission of all-inclusive love, unity, and reconciliation, justice and peace.

**The Fontbonne Hall Women of Color Alliance
(FHWOA)**



AIM

- to celebrate, empower, and advocate for women of color at Fontbonne Hall
- serve both current students and alumnae of color

MISSION

- provide opportunities for education in diversity and inclusion
- provide a voice for students and alumnae of color
- offer programs to the FH community on diversity to eliminate systemic racism
- mentor current students of color
- establish a Center of Diversity and Inclusion on campus
- bring awareness of cultural diversity and provide dialogue to foster appreciation of that diversity
- establish avenues for scholarships to attract students of color who otherwise would not attend Fontbonne

Through the FHWOCA, the hope of the Fontbonne community is to continue to live the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of “all-inclusive love, unity, reconciliation, justice and peace” and to provide an environment rich in the fulfillment of that mission for all our graduates as well as our current students.

Please look for a follow-up to this segment of this newsletter from Aaliyah Channer the week of February 22nd.

For more information or to become involved in the FHWOCA, please contact the Alumnae Office.

[EMAIL GLORIA MUSTO](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI)

In addition to efforts for the alumnae, the administration has been dedicated to the examination of intrinsic bias with the faculty and student body.

Below is a statement by the co-chairs of the newly formed

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee:

“Fontbonne Hall has a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and continually strives to create a safe environment where differences are appreciated and understood as a



**DIVERSITY, EQUITY
& INCLUSION**

source of strength. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee was formed for this reason.

The DEI Committee will:

- Provide recommendations to the administration on issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion;
- Continuously assess the campus climate among faculty, staff, students, and alumnae and work with administration to directly address these issues; and
- Participate in available professional development opportunities.

The Committee has hit the ground running. Surveys were administered to the student community, as well as the faculty and staff to gauge the current climate as it relates to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The results of these surveys will be analyzed and used to fuel academic changes and policy updates. In addition to surveying our population, faculty and staff have been involved in professional development workshops on racial sensitivity and implicit bias.

We welcome input from our alumnae population and encourage you to join the Women of Color Alliance through which you can help us ensure that Fontbonne remains a safe and welcoming environment for all.”

Karissa & Sam

To get in touch with the committee, please contact one or both co-chairs below.

KARISSA MILES

SAM SCHEIDT

READ FIRST DEI NEWSLETTER



Congratulations to **Andrea Provvio '15** who is the Learning Institution Organizer for “Plant Powered Metro New York”.

She is sending this to all of you:

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO GET HEALTHY WITH PLANTS AND OVERCOME HEALTH DISPARITIES

There’s a growing wave of people whose health has been transformed by eating predominantly whole plant foods -- including prominent voices like Venus Williams, John Salley, Mýa, and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. And there’s plenty of evidence to back this up: studies consistently show that eating plant foods like whole grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables can both prevent diseases and treat them -- and for many people even reverse conditions such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, kidney diseases and heart diseases. Our virtual sessions will introduce you to the science, skills, art, and joy of plant-powered eating!

The 21-Day Plant Powered Jumpstart is currently enrolling community leaders who live or work in Brooklyn and identify as Black. The program is offered free of charge thanks to sponsorship from the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President and other funders, and it is expected to be part of a study conducted by SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University's interprofessional team.

For further details please review the full program overview on the Plant Powered Metro New York website by clicking [HERE](#).

February is the month for which we celebrate LOVE, Presidents Washington and Lincoln, and the rich history and contribution of the black community in the United States to our American culture. What better time to share what we are working on to carry out our mission?

Maxim of the Month

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"Get caught up in Love's Design and revel in it!"

...until next time!



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