10:00 a.m. Sessions

"Disrupting Space, Text, and Voice through Performance of Difference"
Heidi Rose, Faculty, Communication
10:00 a.m., Gather just outside the Cinema (Lower Level Connelly)
Performance has great potential to effect change in our world. These performances will begin to demonstrate a few ways that performance may disrupt various assumptions and move audiences to new ways of seeing and understanding difference. Created by students in Dr. Heidi Rose's Theories of Performance Studies class, these performances will address the place of Villanova specifically to disrupt space; disrupt texts; and give voice to some here who don't speak, some whose voices aren't heard, and some who are never here. Facilitated discussion will be part of the session.

"Education as a Tool of Liberation"
Jaira J. Harrington, Faculty, Global Interdisciplinary Studies; Valeria Alvarado, Student, History
10:00 a.m., St. David's Room (Lower Level Connelly)
In alignment with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of freedom for all, Paulo Freire argues that education is the site of liberation for marginalized people. When educators center the traditionally marginalized, Freire views education as a venue for the uplift of oppressed people. The session will be a collaborative exercise between two educators, Dr. Jaira J. Harrington and Ms. Valeria Alvarado. Reflecting on our own experiences in education that inspired us to be educators, we will teach students about the theories of Freire and invite them to reflect on their own experience with education.

"An Analysis and Conversation on Black Separatism"
Clifton Porter, Student, Communication and Africana Studies
10:00 a.m., Radnor Room (Lower Level Connelly)
Black Separatism as an ideology has taken many forms throughout history whether it be through Marcus Garvey's back to Africa movement, or the Black Panther's Afrocentric urban well-being programs. This is an analysis of a new form of black separatism focusing on financial and social freedom, and independence to recognize true democracy; true democracy is the recognition of one's own power in the goings on of their community. This is a world building project, in which the goal is to analyze the merits and shortcomings of a society in which Black Separatism has evolved, and who would be included.

"Civil Conversations around Faith"
Shivam Gosai, Graduate Student, Education and Counseling
10:00 a.m., Devon Room (Upper Level Connelly)
In order to keep MLK's "dream" alive, we must learn to share and listen across all kinds of lines of difference. This session gives us the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue around differences surrounding religion/spirituality. Whether we consider ourselves active members of a faith community, spiritual seekers, or secularists, talking about issues of faith, meaning and value is an opportunity we don’t often get in the midst of a time that would rather have us turn away from each other.

"Once On This Island, The Color Purple, and Falsettos: A Look at the Representation of Minorities on Stage"
Travis Milliman, Graduate Student, Theatre
10:00 a.m., Bryn Mawr Room (Upper Level Connelly)
Musical Theatre has been a safe haven for minority communities since the beginning of Broadway musical theatre as we know it to be. This would lead one to believe that representation of minority groups on the Broadway stage surpasses other entertainment mediums. This presentation will challenge this belief and dissect characters of American musical theatre to look at how stereotypes impact and limit the characters we see on stage.
11:30 a.m. Sessions

“Sharing Our History: Carving Out Our Future”
Celina Alexander, Staff, Office of Intercultural Affairs; Ariella Bradley, Staff, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
11:30 a.m., Cinema (Lower Level Connelly)
OIA (Celina Alexander) and ODI (Ariella Bradley) will be working on a project to gather the history surrounding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts on campus. This session will provide an interactive activity where participants can learn about the history, add to it from their institutional knowledge and develop action steps for where they would like to see DEI efforts grow and change. It will provide a chance to reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

“Students, Workers, and Revolutionary Power”
John Schultz, Faculty, Philosophy
11:30 a.m., St. David’s Room (Lower Level Connelly)
Late in life, Dr. King placed great emphasis on the importance of organized labor as a key to radically transforming the world. This panel asks: what role can students play in that vision today? During and since Dr. King’s time, students and workers have often combined in struggles for social justice. This panel looks to the past moments of solidarity between the campus and the workplace. We showcase current-day examples of student/worker power, like the local Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM, USAS Local 75) at VU. And we explore new possibilities for student/worker power.

“How Long Would It Take for Him to be Booed off the Stage?: Examining the Role of Heterosexual White Men in Movements towards Racial and Gender Equality”
Meagan Murray, Student, Sociology
11:30 a.m., Radnor Room (Lower Level Connelly)
These are the findings and analysis of a month-long research project conducted with seven college aged heterosexual white men in Cape Town, South Africa. It examines their perspectives on movements towards racial and gender equality on campus. My examination of their personal studies of privilege and narratives of white male victimization attempts to determine how heterosexual white men can engage in movements towards equality without colonizing the space.

“Are We Against Racism?”
Art Pucaro, Faculty, Office for Mission and Ministry
11:30 a.m., Devon Room (Upper Level Connelly)
Using the See-Judge-Act methodology, we will briefly consider some experiences of racism, review what the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops recently stated in their November 2018 pastoral letter against racism, and seek to surface ideas for activities going forward.

“Race, Class, Gender, and College Athletics”
Rick Eckstein, Faculty, Philosophy
11:30 a.m., Bryn Mawr Room (Upper Level Connelly)
Contrary to popular lore, college sports does not serve as a systematic upward mobility conduit for members of disenfranchised and disempowered demographic groups. Instead, intercollegiate athletics, fueled by an increasingly corporatized higher education system, has spawned “pay to play youth sports pipelines” that increasingly exclude individuals and families from marginalized communities. Except in rare (although culturally popularized) cases, intercollegiate athletics is really an affirmative action program for light-skinned, upper middle class, suburbanites who identify as male.
"Fabricated Freedom"
CJ Miller, Graduate Student, Theater
1:00 p.m., Cinema (Lower Level Connelly)
From Muhammad Ali, Jim Brown, and Jackie Robinson to Serena Williams, LeBron James and Colin Kaepernick, sports has been a platform which many African-Americans have used to spark and advance social change. But why is sports the primary platform for black voices? And why are those voices often demanded to be silenced?
By examining history honestly and truthfully, I will lead a discussion of how Dr. King's message of freedom is still being met with resistance as freedom for African-American athletes is still being held hostage by a country that sees them as nothing more than entertainment.

"Talking Race-Talking Gender?: Women in Dialogue with Other Women"
Terry Nance, Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI); Teresa Boyer, McNulty Institute; Sheryl Bowen, Communication & ODI; Ariella Bradley, ODI; Elizabeth Keech, Nursing; Victoria Nelson, ’20; Emily Pfender, G’19
1:00 p.m., St. David's Room (Lower Level Connelly)
Dialogue is a process of sharing thoughts, feelings and ideas with another person. The basis of good dialogue is honesty and trust. It seems the national discourse in our country seems marked by distrust, negativity, and rudeness. As a result, groups have been set against each other on the basis of both race and gender. Even within groups, distrust seems evident. Given this distrustful climate we will examine the ways in which our current social climate has constructed divides among women and through discussion examine ways in which these divides can be traversed. Following a brief round table discussion of women from different age groups, racial groups and professional groups, we will invite the audience to join the conversation.

"United Students Against Sweatshops: The Movement of Student Worker Power"
Yvonne Nguyen, Student, Peace and Justice
1:00 p.m., Radnor Room (Lower Level Connelly)
Cognizant of the link between race and class, MLK co-organized the Poor People's Campaign as an extension of the civil rights movement. The campaign was a multiracial effort aimed to empower workers and eradicate economic injustice, and, although the campaign was not successful, modern day labor movements have risen with the understanding of the intersection between race and class. This class will specifically focus on the powerful organizing efforts of students from United Students Against Sweatshops, the nation's largest student-worker labor solidarity organization, as they fight (and win) campaigns alongside workers: international garment workers, campus workers, adjunct faculty, and student workers.

"Music and the Struggles Against Slavery, Jim Crow Laws, the New Jim Crow (Mass Incarceration), and Police Brutality"
Bruce Pollack-Johnson, Faculty, Mathematics & Statistics
1:00 p.m., Devon Room (Upper Level Connelly)
We will explore the interactions between music and struggles to end (and escape from) slavery, Jim Crow segregation (The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s), "The New Jim Crow" (how mass incarceration and the criminal justice system oppress people of color disproportionately), and police brutality (especially against people of color), including the Black Lives Matter movement and responses to events in Ferguson, Missouri and elsewhere. We will include discussion of how music can be incorporated strategically into activism to multiply its effectiveness.

"Public Health and Urban Space in Philadelphia's Black Burial Grounds"
Jubilee Marshall, Student, History
1:00 p.m., Bryn Mawr Room (Upper Level Connelly)
This session will examine how the control of urban space and the control of black bodies went hand in hand in post-Revolutionary Philadelphia. Efforts by whites to regulate the black population were rooted in efforts to control the latter's bodies and land; black strategies of resistances were also firmly entrenched in these legal, spatial, and bodily concerns. The intersection of these histories reveals how black burial grounds emerged as a theater for white control and black resistance in the city, and how they continue to impact and reflect conflicts of racial power today.
"Basketball and Mission: Practical Steps for Ensuring Student-Athlete Equity"
Eric Kindler, Graduate Student, Theology & Religious Studies
2:30 p.m., Cinema (Lower Level Connelly)
Two men's basketball championships in three years have brought unprecedented exposure to the Villanova community. As the university seeks to capitalize on this success, it is necessary to reflect upon the impact of collegiate athletics and the current issues surrounding injustice for its athletes. Drawing upon the history of the NCAA and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, this lecture will offer practical means for how the governing bodies of collegiate athletics can offer a more equitable framework of sport that is reflective of the mission of the Catholic university.

"Lessons from Emergent Strategy for Law and Organizing"
Caitlin Barry, Faculty, Law; Glenn Bracey, Faculty, Sociology
2:30 p.m., St. David's Room (Lower Level Connelly)
Adrienne Maree Brown's book Emergent Strategy presents a new vision for how we can build dynamic social movements in the current historical context. What lessons can we draw from her work on the role of law in contributing to social change that build on the legacy of the civil rights movement? We invite students who are considering careers in law and community organizing to join us for a conversation about how the law can contribute to or hinder a movement for a better future.

"To the Land Flowing Milk and Honey: Denouncing Sexual Exploitation in Mexico through Literature and Film"
Tomás Hidalgo Nava, Faculty, Romance Languages & Literature
2:30 p.m., Radnor Room (Lower Level Connelly)
Human trafficking and sexual exploitation of women are the second most lucrative clandestine business in the world. In Mexico, this inhumane practice has become prevalent, in many cases with the connivance of authorities. I will present a comparative analysis of Mexican writer Jorge Volpi's "Las elegidas" and filmmaker David Pablos's adaptation of this verse novel, works that offer a counter-discourse that denounces this crime, raises awareness, and counteracts the invisibility of the victims. It aligns with Dr. King's assertion that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

"The Entanglement of Palestinian and Black Liberation"
Victoria Nelson, Student, Political Science; MK Smith, Student, Arab and Islamic Studies
2:30 p.m., Devon Room (Upper Level Connelly)
Victoria Nelson ('20) and MK Smith ('19) will explore the similarities and interconnectivity of social justice movements aimed at liberating Black lives, and those designed to liberate Palestinian Lives. Nelson, a seasoned activist with the Black Lives Matter movement, and Smith, a passionate activist for Palestinian rights, discovered many similarities between the two. The movements' similar repertoires of contention, as well as their almost identical goals, are a perfect point of access for Villanovans to gain an understanding for the necessity of intersectionality in social justice work.

"'Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence' - as Relevant Today as Ever."
Paul Sheldon, Faculty, Psychological and Brain Sciences
2:30 p.m., Bryn Mawr Room (Upper Level Connelly)
King's 1967 speech at Riverside Church, "Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence," challenges us through his linkage of "the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism." Delivered exactly one year before his death, this speech is as timely today as it was then. As we consider what he said at Riverside, it may help us understand why at the time of his assassination King was the most hated man in America. Have we whitewashed the real King in our public praise of him?