The American Indian Resource Center (AIRC) will be hosting several events in celebration of American Indian Heritage Month in November. The AIRC has partnered with UEN and the Division of Indian Affairs to kick off the first annual Utah American Indian Film Festival, featuring screenings of “Trudell,” “Looking Toward Home” and a film on “Aboriginal Architecture.” These film screenings will take place the first week of November, and are free and open to the public.

The AIRC will also resume hosting their monthly Lunch & Lecture and Snack & Substance series. On November 15th, Colin Ben from Westminster will host the Snack & Substance on the McNairs Scholars Program, the Udall Scholarship, and the Udall Native American Congressional Internship Program.

On November 21st, Professor Donna Deyhle will host a Lunch & Lecture on the real story of Thanksgiving. The AIRC and Inter Tribal Student Association (ITSA) is hosting an American Indian High School Conference on November 17th, providing workshops on financial aid and scholarships, strategies for academic success, and more.

For more information on any of these events please go to the AIRC’s website or call Matthew Makomenaw at (801) 581-7392.

**It’s hard to hate someone whose story you know:**

**Stories of growth and change**

This column features stories by Student Affairs professionals and students who are willing to share an experience (event, book, speaker, etc) which promoted growth, a change in perspective, an awareness of another, or when some knowledge that was previously missing slipped into place.

**ko au!**

**Kajsa Maria Berlin-Kaufusi**

This is a big deal—diversity. The subject of navigating differences, learning to see people as individuals, and appreciating those differences will build a stronger society around us.

I love the diversity around me, and take joy in discovering the diversity that exists in those around me. From first appearances, I am a tall, athletic, blonde “white girl”—the ultimate opposite of what most people think of when they think of a “diverse” person.

My name is Kajsa Maria Berlin-Kaufusi. Quite the combination, right? When my parents named me, they were advised NOT to spell my name the traditional Swedish way, but they just felt that Kajsa with a “j” was who...
I was. Today my name is very much a part of my identity. But my Swedish first name often confuses people when they see it in conjunction with my new last name, “Kaufusi”. Those from the Salt Lake Valley may be familiar with the last name of “Kaufusi” and its connection to the legendary football rivalry between the U of U and BYU football teams. My husband is Heilame Monty Kaufusi—he is “afa kasi”, or Tongan with a Tongan father and a “palangi” (white) mother. He enjoys the challenge of navigating both sides of his heritage.

This summer, while visiting Tonga with his family, I learned that when you call out to people, they respond with “Ko au?” In Tongan, “Ko au” literally means, “I am here”. I have been pondering that phrase in the Tongan language and how it associates with my thoughts on diversity. Often, as I interact with people, I so badly want them to see past my being “white” and understand that there is a lot more to me than skin color, especially when I am interacting with diverse circles of people. It is crucial that we strive to get to know individuals and understand that their diversity is far beyond what we can easily conclude by a first glance.

When someone looks at me, I want to say, “Ko au!”—I am here! Me, all of me—my Scandinavian background, my Tongan relatives whom I love like they were always my own family, my future children who will be of Tongan heritage, and my nephew who is ALSO Tongan. This blend of cultures in my life has been a rich blessing and—to be honest—at times a challenge, as I navigate my PISA High School Conference
Tuesday, Nov 8, 9:00am-1:00pm
CA&P Lecture Series: Problems in Organized Complexity
Wednesday, Nov 9, 5:30-7:00pm
Learn how the UACDC is developing models for urbanism.
Veteran’s Day Celebration: Student Honors Gala & Movie Night
Thursday, Nov 10, 4:30-9:30pm
Movies and celebration in the Union Theater/ Student Lounge
Ambassador Joao Vale de Almeida, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the U.S.
Monday, Nov 14, 10:45-11:45am
Listen to the U. S. representative of the European Commission
AIRC High School Conference
Thurs, Nov 17, 8:00am-2:00pm
MEChA Activism Week
Mid-November
Details will be forthcoming on www.diversity.utah.edu
Natural History Museum Grand Opening Gala
Thursday, Nov 17, 7:00-10:00pm
Join us for the gala opening of the new Museum at the Rio Tinto Center. $45 per person.
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student affairs diversity council

Debra Daniels, Co-chair, Women’s Resource Center
Kari Ellingson, Co-chair, Student Affairs, Student Development
Maria Baldwin, Educational Opportunity Programs
Kajsa Berlin-Kaufusi, Office of International Education
Michael Bard, Registrar’s Office
Arlyn Bradshaw, Dean of Students Office
Holly M. Coleman, Office of Student Recruitment
Karen Cone-Uemura, Counseling Center
Branden Dalley, Union
Sabine Klahr, International Center
Adrienne Howell, Educational Opportunity Programs
Scott Jensen, Housing & Residential Education
Suzanne Jones, Registrar’s Office
Carol MacNicholl, Center for Disability Services
Cathy Martínez, LGBT Center
Susan Miller, Campus Recreation
Nicole Miranda, Office of Student Recruitment
Sana Muller, ASUU
Cynthia Powell, Student Health Center
Erica Rojas, Financial Aid & Scholarships
Nick Rothacher, Bennion Center
Claudia Snow, Network Support
Nancy Trevino, Admissions Office
Jim White, Career Services

ko au, con’t

identity and the future identity of my family. My sister boldly went before me, living in France for four years with her husband who is incredibly diverse himself, being Tongan and speaking English, Tongan, French and Spanish fluently. Their identity as a mixed race couple, combined with the rich cultural experiences they share in their marriage, has shown me the richness that comes with being diverse and regarding with enthusiasm the diversity of others.

Just as my personal experiences with diversity have greatly enriched my life and my day-to-day interactions with my associations, I firmly believe that all people can be enriched, educated and refined through interactions with diverse people, and by striving to identify their own diversity, whether it be ethnicity, religious affiliation, age, sexual orientation, etc. I look forward to the day when we can all see each other clearly and acknowledge the presence of the other with the statement of “ko au!”-“I am here!”

not an object for your consumption

Angie Makomenaw
Wednesday, Nov 16
12:00 - 1:30 pm, Parlor A, Union

Please join the Student Affairs Diversity Council (SADC) for our monthly Diversity Seminars. In November we will be hearing from Angie Makomenaw.

According to U.S. Justice Department figures, more than 1 in 3 Native women will be raped in her lifetime, and they are 2 1/2 times more likely to be sexually assaulted or raped than non-Native women. Join Angie Makomenaw, Violence Against Women Coordinator from the University of Utah Women’s Resource Center, on an exploration through print media to understand how advertising further perpetuates the rape culture in the United States.