Welcome to 2021: Happy New Year!
The psychology DEI committee would like to welcome you all back and hope you had a restful holiday break! January is a month of new beginnings, goals, and visions for the future to come. In this issue, we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose leadership and relentless advocacy for social justice and equity paved new possibilities for equality and humanitarian rights that continue to persevere today. To remember the life of Dr. King and his legacy for promoting equality and humanitarian rights back then and today, we dedicate this issue to sharing some of his story and accomplishments. For more information about Dr. King’s life and legacy, please see HERE.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

Early Life & Education
- Born January 15th, 1929 and raised in deeply segregated Atlanta, GA
- 1948 – earned his bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Morehouse College, an all-male historically black college
- 1955 – earned his doctorate degree in Systematic Theology from Boston University (“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”)

Civil Rights & Activism
- Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 – Dr. King led the campaign boycotting public buses for over 382 days following acts of racial segregation against Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks.
- August 28th, 1963 – Dr. King helped organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, an event involving over 250k and where he gave his speech, “I Have a Dream”, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.’

- 1964 – Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize for leading non-violent resistance to racial prejudice in the U.S.

Death and Legacy
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 – guaranteed fairness to all Americans, irrespective of race, religion, or national affiliation
- The Voting Rights Act of 1965 – granted African Americans equal voting rights as all other American citizens
- The Fair Housing Act of 1968 – abolished discrimination in the rental or sale of houses
- April 4th, 1968 - Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee

Through monumental action, influential decisions, and calls for humanitarian rights, Dr. King maintained a vision for a more diverse and equal America that continues to be beacon of hope for combating inequality today.
Hindsight is “2020”

Resources for navigating the new year:

1) 20 Lessons of 2020
2) 2020: The Words We Lived By
3) Grief and Loss: Understanding the Process
4) Getting People to Care About Economic Inequality

DEI Student & Faculty Spotlights

We are pleased to spotlight our very own Brandon Tran and Dr. Kalina Michalska in this 2021 New Year’s edition of the DEI Newsletter!

Brandon, a 5th year doctoral candidate in the social-personality area advised by Dr. Kate Sweeney, has many notable contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout his time in the program. For example, he helped organize the program focused on mentoring and fostering supportive environments for scholars of color at the annual department conference in September. Brandon’s involvement and contributions to the External Communications working group has also helped create the first ever department DEI Newsletter.

His research highlights inequities in doctor-patient interactions and health communication. To learn more, please visit http://katesweeney.com

Dr. Michalska promotes DEI through her contributions to the Center for Health Disparities. Dr. Michalska and her research team, the Kids Interaction and NeuroDevelopment (KIND) Lab, have explored how children develop reactions to aggression, fear, and anxiety, as well as the neural correlates of empathy to better understand children’s motivation to either approach or avoid others in distress. To learn more or get involved in the KIND Lab, visit http://nerkindlab.com.

Recommended Readings and Resources:

- Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech recording and full transcript
- World House Podcast
  - a podcast inspired by MLK and his vision of a just and peaceful world, hosted by Dr. Clayborne Carson & Dr. Mira Foster
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford
  - King Resources Overview
  - The “King Encyclopedia”
  - The King Papers Collection (e.g., MLK birth certificate, arrest records for Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks)

Local Food Banks (Riverside/Inland Empire)

- https://www.riversidecitymission.org/meatticket
- http://riversidefoodrescue.com
- https://www.feedingamericae.org/volunteer