

EDI FRIDAYS

LEARNING ABOUT EACH OTHER — ONE FRIDAY AT A TIME



EQUITY / DIVERSITY / INCLUSION

Friday, Dec 1, 2023

Learning about each other...one Friday at a time

DEFINITIONS

BIPOC

Black, Indigenous, People of Color

According to Google Trends, the use of the acronym began to spike in May 2020, coinciding with the growing Black Lives Matter movement in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery.

The BIPOC Project uses the term to "highlight the unique relationship to Whiteness that Indigenous and Black (African Americans) people have, which shapes the experiences of and relationship to white supremacy for all people of color within a U.S. context."

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“BIPOC connects Native Americans more firmly to the cause — to the continued threats of racism in our

society. I think that on some level that connection hasn't always been cemented. It is important to help draw a significant connection."

—David Dent, associate professor of Journalism, NYU

[Biography](#)



Faculty/Staff Spotlight



Dayle Towarnicky

she/her

Lecturer of Speech – Theater

[Biography](#)

Website

Hobbies | cooking!!!, deep dives into random Wikipedia articles, trying to read for fun and not just work

“I center EDI principles in my work because voice and speech are inherently political. An interesting thing about language is that there is no “linguistically correct” way to speak any particular language.

Yet, people have many ideas about how a person should or shouldn’t speak based on historical context around politics, economics, social dimensions, and culture.”

“Preferences and biases about voice, speech, accent, and language are political and influence experiences related to equity, diversity, and inclusion.”

“We all use voice, speech, accent, and language to evaluate others — and that evaluation can be positive, negative, and anywhere in-between. But it is deeply linked to experiences of identity and community.”

“Equity work is valuable to me in a lot of ways. I think a lot about equity and access, based on my own life-experiences. I deeply value community and collective action. I think EDI work really addresses and balances the needs of both individuals and communities while working for greater justice.”

Student Spotlight



ADAM RAY WILSON

He/him

Hometown: Blanchard, OK

2nd year DMA: Wind Conducting

Undergraduate: University of Oklahoma

Hobbies: many sports, nerdy fandoms, boxing, pop culture

“Fighting for equity is important to me so that we all see the importance of each other's experiences. An important part of a great performance from an ensemble is the interplay between the individual sound colors. Our society functions at its best when we celebrate the inclusion of all people from all experiences.”

“Without providing EDI resources to the areas where they are needed, we not only deny potential brilliance, but prevent others from accessing life-changing material.”

“To me, it’s always important to be my authentic self, both in my professional and personal life. I want to show others that attaining high degrees of education does not prevent them from staying true to their roots.”

Artist Spotlight



GERALD CASEL

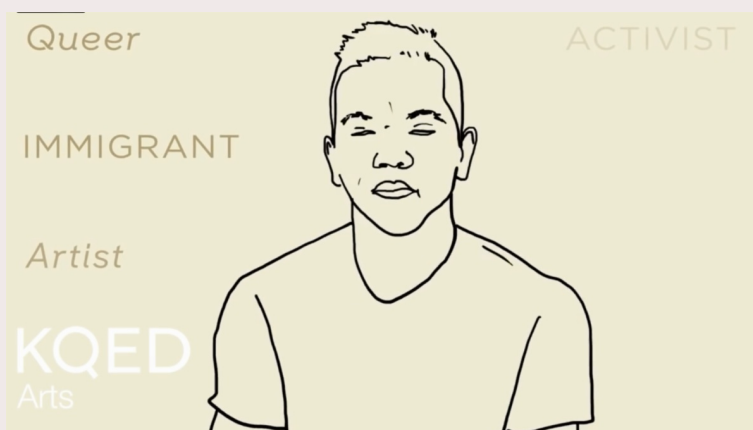
He/him

Professor - Dance
Chair, Dance Department

[Biography](#)

[Website](#)

“I see the transformative power of dance and the opportunity for continued improvement to our communities by bringing people together to move and to express the diversity of cultures through vibrant expression in movement.”



The New York Times

How does your artistry focus on EDI principles?

I am committed to increasing visibility, representation, and access to those in the Dance and performance worlds who have been historically excluded from the canon, the curriculum, the digital archives, and history in general.

I lift and affirm QTBIPOC artists, immigrants, and those who've had to refuse the dominant and often invisible forces -- capitalism, heteropatriarchy, whiteness, ableism -- so we can reimagine and create worlds that make space for absolute belonging for all people.



What are some of the works that you are proud of?

Sure, I am proud of Not About Race Dance. A dance that I created during the pandemic, which received a National Dance Project grant and was performed at CounterPulse (San Francisco, CA), UC Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, CA), La MaMa (New York, NY), and Bates Dance Festival (Lewiston, ME). The piece is a collective choreographic response to the unacknowledged racial politics in U.S. postmodern dance.



Wow! It sounds amazing.

Yes. *Not About Race Dance* deals with an unspoken-ness — it addresses the unwillingness to address. Both within and without the work, we point out silence. Onstage, we explore body-based tropes and aesthetics. Offstage, we're aware of the vacuum in critical response available for work like this.

And this work was recognized, right?

Yes. It received an Isadora Duncan Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography or Direction.

Is there anything else about your work that you'd like to add?

I am the founder of *Dancing Around Race*, an ongoing community engaged-participatory program that interrogates systemic racial inequities.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MFA Visual Arts – first-year exhibition

November 27 to December 14, 2023 – Mason Gross Galleries

[More info](#)



EVENTS

FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS

Douglass Yule Log Ceremony!

Voorhees Chapel

Friday December 1, 2023 | 7:30pm

Saturday December 2, 2023 | 2:00pm & 7:30pm

[More info](#)

Dance Plus – Fall

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center

Sunday December 3, 2023 | 4:45pm

[More info](#)

Christmas in Carol and Song

Kirkpatrick Chapel

Saturday December 9 | *6:00pm & 9:00pm*

Sunday December 10, 2023 | *5:00pm & 7:30pm*

[More info](#)