

WVPH Quarterly Issues and Programs List

April - June, 2019

All programs locally produced.

Issue: What do faculty and staff see as major issues within the university's administration?

Addressing faculty union organizing efforts, as well as how students and community members can get involved and support these initiatives. In addition, we will explore how students can stand in solidarity to fight against exploitation and defend their rights.

Core of the Matter 4/1/19: Interview with Rutgers AAUP-AFT - 11:00 AM (1 hour)

James Boyle speaks with three representatives from the Rutgers chapter of American Association of University Professors and American Federation of Teachers (AAUP-AFT): Physics professor Troy Shinbrot, journalism and media studies professor Teresa Politano, and graduate assistant Soili Smith. The three discussed different structural issues that are affecting many faculty members, including the university's use of part-time lecturers, lack of diversity among faculty, lack of access to healthcare and benefits, and the funding of athletics at the expense of academics. They informed students and community members how they can get involved and support those working to resolve these issues.

Core of the Matter 4/22/2019: Interview with USAS and End Assault at Rutgers - 11:00 AM (1 hour)

James Boyle speaks with Tate Potts and Olivia Wischmeyer of Rutgers United Students Against Sweatshops and End Assault at Rutgers. Potts and Wischmeyer discussed the work that USAS is doing on-campus, including their work around the Fight for \$15 Movement. They addressed the backlash the organization has faced from administration, and the impact that this kind of response has had on the larger activism and social justice community at Rutgers. Potts and Wischmeyer also described the origins of End Assault at Rutgers, as well as the demands of the coalition.

Issue: How is our area affected by food insecurity and what can be done to alleviate it?

The USDA defines food insecurity as "a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life". According to Feeding America, 11.8% of households in Middlesex County were food insecure in 2016, including about 26,000 children. Food insecurity is addressed in a variety of ways including public assistance, food collections like Rutgers Against Hunger, food banks and soup kitchens.

Core of the Matter 4/8/19: Franklin Food Bank - 11:00 AM (1 hour)

Franklin Food Bank board member Lisa Frey and volunteer Mark Fortin explain how food banks operate, what services the Franklin Food Bank provides to the community and how the food bank's operations are funded.

Issue: How can marginalized communities organize and fight back against oppression?

Addressing issues that affect all different social groups, especially those that have been historically silenced in the mainstream public discourse.

Core of the Matter 4/15/2019: Understanding the Palestinian Issue at Rutgers - 11:00 AM (1 hour)

James Boyle and Thevuni Athalage speak with two representatives from the Rutgers chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine. The activists discussed how they remain anonymous in their work on-campus, as alumni of the organization have been both physically and verbally assaulted in the past. The conversation underscored what is a contentious issue on-campus that has global implications.

Core of the Matter 6/20/2019: The Legacy of Middlesex County - 7:00 PM (1 hour)

James Boyle and John Robinson discuss a recent panel discussion with Rutgers Gloria Steinem Chair Naomi Klein and indigenous scholar, writer, and artist Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. Klein and Simpson discussed land based knowledge, climate change, colonialism, and media. Simpson talked about her experiences as an indigenous women in Canada and trying to find Lenape scholars when she came to New Jersey. Boyle and Robinson discuss the lasting impacts of colonialism, and the conversation highlights how modern Lenape people in Middlesex County and New Jersey today are struggling with the scars of settler colonialism, and economic, political, and social systems that are fundamentally incompatible with the ways in which they live their lives.

Core of the Matter 6/22/2019: Empowering Voices - 12:00 PM (2 hours)

James Boyle interviews New Brunswick Today founder and editor Charlie Kratovil about a range of issues affecting the New Brunswick community. Kratovil discussed issues with parking, development, gentrification, police, and fights over the minimum wage. The two discussed how local people can better work towards a more participatory and equitable democracy for New Brunswick and all of New Jersey.

Core of the Matter 6/25/2019: The Poor People's Campaign in New Brunswick - 9:15 PM (1 hour)

James Boyle sits down with the founder and leader of SHILO (Supporting the Homeless and Innovatively Loving Others), a local grassroots homeless organization in New Brunswick. Herres discussed his recent trip to Washington D.C. for the Poor People's Campaign National Congress. Herres discussed the ways in which he wants to take what he learned at the congress into New Brunswick, particularly in order to address discrimination. Herres said he has plans for a homeless health services event, a community forum for poor people in the community, as well as a march to advocate for the needs of residents who face social and economic challenges.

Issue: How can we include more people in the political process?

Trying to understand why people feel alienated from politics and how the university can better engage with communities that have been historically ignored by people in power.

Core of the Matter 6/11/2019: Interview with Professor Lisa Miller - 8:00 PM (1 hour)

Thevuni Athalage speaks with Rutgers Political Science professor Lisa Miller about her experience in politics and how the university can better empower students to get into politics. Miller touched upon the importance of engaging with voters beyond election cycles and conducting regular outreach efforts in order to better understand the needs and desires of community members. She highlighted that students with degrees that are seen as outside of the political sphere actually play important roles in campaigns and shaping public policy.

Issue: How do different groups in the community and on campus confront issues of sexual assault?

The New Brunswick basement scene recently dealt with a wave of sexual assault/harassment allegations against members of prominent bands and show houses. This also correlated with the rise of activist group End Assault at Rutgers, which is organizing around on-campus issues of sexual violence.

Core of the Matter 6/16/2019: Confronting Abuse - 3:15 PM (1 hour)

James Boyle sits down with 10 members of a new coalition of show-goers, musicians, and show house members in the New Brunswick basement scene for a wide-ranging conversation about issues of assault within the community. They discussed the power dynamics that contribute to assault and how the decentralized nature of the scene may produce a lack of accountability for abusers. In addition, the group discussed different ways to move forward in the wake of the recent allegations.