E.O Smith High School Presents A Second Semester Speaker Series

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Thursday, February 18, 7-8 pm: Nana Amos

Nana Amos has over two decades of experience in human rights programming and higher education. She began her career as a program assistant with University Events, later serving as a Program Coordinator. She was then promoted to manage the UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights-based at the University of Connecticut. Here, Ms. Amos served as the primary administrator of the UConn ANC Partnership, managing programs in Oral History, Archives, and Comparative Human Rights, and also the UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights Program. In this capacity she helped to establish the first Student Ambassadors program in human rights, was one of the original founders of CHROME (the Coalition of Human Rights Organization in New England, later the Connecticut Human Rights Partnership). For the past 5 years, she has worked as the human rights program manager at the University’s Dodd Impact. Ms. Amos also serves as one of two University representatives to the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She currently serves as President of AAUW Connecticut.

Thursday, March 11, 7-8 pm: João Dall’ Stella

João Dall’Stega is a Brazilian writer and director based in Los Angeles. His AFI thesis film "Dia De Las Carpas" won the DGA Student Grand Prize for Latino Directors and has been featured in prestigious showcases and festivals such as CAA Moebius, SAG-AFTRA Foundation, and Oscar-qualifying film festivals. His short film “Stalls” has also played in more than 50 LGBTQ+ Festivals worldwide. As a member of the Latin and gay community, he started making movies to create his own world where he celebrates them through his stories.

Born in the town of Curitiba in Brazil, João holds a BFA in Business Administration from FGV-EAESP and an MFA in Directing from the American Film Institute. His latest screenplay “Steam” is going to be part of the NALIP Media Market 2020. Access to “Dia De Las Carpas” will be available a week prior to this webinar.
Thursday, April 15, 7-8 pm: endawns Spears
https://aics47thannualmeeting2019.sched.com/speaker/endawnis

endawns Spears (Diné/ Ojibwe/ Chickasaw/ Choctaw) is impassioned about the diverse and complex intersections of Native American narratives and systems and places of knowledge. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from the University of Denver and has worked for the Heard Museum, Museum of Northern Arizona, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, was a Peabody Essex Museum Native American Arts and Culture Fellow, and currently serves on the board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. In 2020, endawns was the Co-Director of the Upstander Academy, a Boston based intensive professional development for classroom and public history educators focused on innovating equitable and accurate curricular frameworks to better teach about genocide and the power of upstanding. She is the Director of Outreach and Programming and founding member of the Akomawt Educational Initiative, an indigenous education and interpretive consultancy for museums, K-12 schools, and colleges/universities. Originally from Camp Verde, Arizona, she lives in Rhode Island with her husband and their four children Nizhoni, Sowaniu, Giizhig, and Tishominko.

Thursday, April 29, 7-8 pm: Arshay Cooper

Arshay Cooper (Manley Crew Captain – Film Protagonist, A MOST BEAUTIFUL THING): Arshay Cooper grew up on the West Side of Chicago. In 1997, he joined (and later became captain of) the first African American high school rowing team. After dedicating two years of his life to AmeriCorps and then attending Le Cordon Bleu, Cooper returned to his true passion: working with young people. He coached rowing at the Chicago Urban Youth Rowing Club and worked as the youth program guidance counselor for the Victory Outreach's Midwest/Gulf Coast region. Cooper has also started several rowing programs across the country for youth from under-resourced neighborhoods so that these young people can also experience the profound change that can happen on the water. Cooper’s memoir A Most Beautiful Thing was republished on June 30, 2020 by Flatiron Books. Access to the movie will be available a week prior to this webinar. Funding for this specific event came from: UCONN Early College Experience, The Connecticut Writing Project at Storrs, The UCONN Dodd Center, and EO Smith High School's Human Rights Club. We thank these groups for their generosity.