LEADERSHIP WEEK

FUTURE LEADERS: FINDING A PASSION, ADAPTING TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND CAUSING LASTING CHANGE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH
Student Union Pegasus Ballroom
6:30 p.m.

JANE ELLIOT
American former third-grade school teacher known for her “Blue eyes–Brown eyes” exercise.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH
Student Union Key West Ballroom
2:00 p.m.

KAITLYN CHANA
Founder of Reel Stories. Real People, Inc.,

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
Student Union Pegasus Ballroom
2:00 p.m.

RICHARD LAPCHICK
National Expert on Sport and Social Issues, human rights activist and pioneer for racial equality.
Chosen as one of Peter Jennings’ ABC-TV’s “Person of the Week,” Jane is the adaptor of the “Blue Eyes, Brown Eyes” discrimination experiment. The sensitizing exercise, in which participants are labeled inferior or superior based on the color of their eyes, began in a third-grade classroom in all-white, all-Christian Riceville, Iowa, immediately after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It has been repeated with dramatic results with children and adults throughout the country. Those who have been through this exercise have said it is an emotionally significant and life-changing experience. This groundbreaking exercise is the pinnacle of all other diversity programming in the country today.

Several television documentaries have covered her work, among them ABC’s “The Eye of the Storm,” which won the Peabody Award; “A Class Divided,” which dealt with the long-term impact of the exercise and Ms. Elliott’s work with adults and was broadcast nationally on PBS’s Frontline series; “The Eye of the Beholder,” which also dealt with adults and their reactions to discrimination and was produced by Florida Public Television. Both the latter films received an Emmy Award and most recently, the award-winning film “The Angry Eye.”

“The Angry Eye” is a dynamic and provocative documentary, showcasing Jane Elliott’s world famous Blue-Eyed/Brown-Eyed exercise in discrimination. The tables are turned on white American College students as they are forced to experience the same kind of racist treatment African Americans and other minorities have been receiving for years. In the documentary, students’ reactions are intercut with Elliott’s observations. The film is disturbing; both for the participants and for the viewers, who are made to confront their own prejudices. Jane Elliott is a recipient of the National Mental Health Association Award for Excellence in Education. She has been a guest lecturer at numerous colleges and universities and has been a guest on a wide variety of television shows including The Today Show, Tonight with Johnny Carson, Donahue, and the Oprah Winfrey show. She is hailed as the leader in diversity training - a veteran presenter who has addressed groups ranging from colleges and universities, to civil service organizations, elementary schools, corporations and businesses.
Since Kaitlyn Chana was knee high she wanted to be a storyteller; she is a journalist that strives for purpose, brings truth, and helps others. Her passion for storytelling was cultivated after spending time with children with life-threatening illnesses in hospitals through her previous nonprofit organization, Love Letters: Random Cards of Kindness, Inc. As a teenager, she traveled the country speaking about volunteerism as a Congressional Gold Medalist, a 2010 Winter Olympic Torchbearer, and as a spokesperson for the clothing store, Aeropostale. Upon college graduation, she planted her boots in Maine where she reported for two years for an NBC station; Kaitlyn researched, shot, wrote, edited, and anchored her daily stories. She traded in her snow boots for rain boots after taking a position at Action News Jax in December 2015. She asks people to tell their story on a daily basis, which, in turn, compelled her to share her story with you. Kaitlyn is a survivor of three different eating disorders: anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorders. For about ten years her weight talked when she couldn’t verbally say how she was feeling. She uses her pain in an effort to educate people about this mental illness. Kaitlyn founded Reel Stories. Real People., Inc., in hopes to share the positive work being done by others through storytelling. She lives by the motto, “It only takes one person to move a mountain and then others will follow,” and she hopes that quote inspires others to do the unimaginable. When Kaitlyn’s not volunteering or working, she enjoys snow skiing, working out, and spending time with family.
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2:00 p.m.

RICHARD LAPCHICK

Human rights activist, pioneer for racial equality, internationally recognized expert on sports and social issues, scholar and author Richard E. Lapchick is often described as “the racial conscience of sport.” He brought his commitment to equality and his belief that sport can be an effective instrument of positive social change to University of Central Florida where he accepted an endowed chair in August 2001 to launch the DeVos Sports Business Management Program. In 2015 it was named the number 2 program in the world by SportsBusiness International. Lapchick is a prolific writer. He is working on his 17th book. Lapchick is a regular columnist for ESPN.com and The Sports Business Journal. Lapchick has received nine honorary degrees and was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame of the Commonwealth Nations in the category of Humanitarian along with Arthur Ashe and Nelson Mandela. Lapchick was one of 200 guests personally invited by Nelson Mandela to his inauguration after leading the American sports boycott of South Africa from 1975 until the end of Apartheid.