

February 26, 2025 in Germantown at BE 160 from 1-2 PM

“They Not Like Us: Unseen Struggles: Confronting the Suicide Crisis Among Black Youth and Men in Higher Ed”

In recent years, suicide rates have surged across age groups, with Black youth and men experiencing some of the highest increases. This alarming public health crisis, highlighted by recent studies, shows Black men facing nearly an 80% rise in suicide attempts. This talk will explore the complex social and historical factors impacting Black men’s mental health, focusing on how systemic failures intersect with gender expectations, social pressures, stigma, and the marginalization of sexual identity. From the legacy of the Tuskegee Study and the War on Drugs to the ongoing impacts of police brutality, Black men find themselves entangled in a web of historical and social burdens further complicated by a medical system that has too often neglected their needs.

This session is designed for students, faculty, advisors, mental health professionals and community members who want to deepen their understanding of this crisis. We’ll dive into national and local support resources, analyze current trends, and strategize ways to offer meaningful support within academic settings. Join us as we break down the stigmas and discuss actionable ways to foster a supportive environment for Black men and other minorities facing mental health challenges in our community.

April 1st, 2025, Technical Center (TC/RV) 136 from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m

Mahasweta Devi: A Life of Creativity and Activism a discussion on the Indian writer Mahasweta Devi. The discussion will be moderated by Professor Shweta Sen. Students and faculty can also attend the program via Zoom (ID: 939 8128 5330).

Mahasweta Devi (1926-2016) was one of India’s most prominent and prolific literary figures writing from the mid-twentieth through the early twenty-first centuries. She won numerous awards, including the Jnanpith Award, the highest literary award in India, and the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the highest honor for “selfless service” in Asia. As the New York Times reported in 2016, Mahasweta (Devi is an honorific) “cast off the trappings of the middle class she was born into and chose to live simply, often roaming the country with her subjects as she did research. In more than 100 novels and short stories, she wrote of India’s tribal communities and Maoist rebels, prostitutes and nomads, beggars and laborers.” Hers is a fascinating life—one of creativity and social activism in equal measure. In this discussion, Professor Sen will speak about Mahasweta Devi, her life and works, and then open the floor for an interactive discussion of her short story “Giribala.” Attendees can get a copy of the short story by emailing Professor Sen at shweta.sen@montgomerycollege.edu.

April 9, 25 from 12 - 1:30, Cafritz building, CF 101 TPSS

One Love Escalation Workshop

To bring awareness to Sexual Assault, the Student Wellness Center, Women and Gender Studies program, and TPSS Student Life are offering a 90-minute interactive session primarily focused on a film titled "Escalation," which aims to educate young people about the subtle warning signs of relationship abuse by showcasing a seemingly healthy couple whose relationship gradually escalates into unhealthy behaviors, prompting discussion about recognizing and addressing these signs in their own lives and communities; the discussion afterward is facilitated by trained leaders from the One Love Foundation.