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ITT Fall 2014 achievements
What’s new with ITT?

1) New Member Welcome - This semester we welcomed a host of new ITT members. Please congratulate our newest members:
   - Orlando Newton
   - Corbin Eakes
   - Diadra Smith
   - Jacob Miller
   - Ashley Martin
   - Mitchell Everist
   - Mason Wilkinson

2) Web Series: What’s Wrong With This Picture? - The second episode of our web series is in the editing room. This episode addresses undergraduate issues with prescription drug abuse on KU’s campus. The story was written by our Haskell University partner, Deron Sun Eagle and further developed by ITT. The episode will be available on our website in November.

3) Recruiting Actors for Change - In September, ITT went into Acting 106 and Acting 206 classrooms to announce upcoming auditions and conduct improv workshops with KU acting students. Thanks to the graduate students for accommodating us. We would love to come back again!

4) Fighting Sexual Harassment - KU ITT write five new scripts on sexual harassment. The collaboration between ITT and KU Title IX campaign on preventing sexual harassment has gained more attention in Lawrence. Management Analyst for the City of Lawrence, R. Scott Wagner, heard about ITT’s work and invited us to submit a proposal to write and produce a diversity video for Lawrence public television. Stay tuned for more information.

5) (Featured Story) KU’s ITT and Alternative Breaks - ITT was invited by Alternative Breaks to perform for student volunteers in the program. This was ITT’s biggest audience yet with over 100 in attendance.

6) Mentoring the Future - ITT members Thomas Tong and Bianca Jimenez mentored Stephen DeForest from Free State High School for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Free State High School student visited a theatre history class, took a tour of Murphy Hall and had Q&A sessions with Thomas and Bianca.

Thomas Tong, Bianca Jimenez and Free State student Spencer DeForest smile for the camera.

Changing the world one performance at a time.
ITT “Difficult Discussions”
Workshops: Fall 2014 Event

December 4th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR CLOSE-UP?: Tackling Diversity in the Make-Up and Hair Chair

This interactive theater workshop will use undergraduate and graduate students’ suggestions to create improvised scenarios that enable GTA’s to troubleshoot some of the most challenging issues that arise in teaching undergraduate students about race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality and disability.

This workshop will help facilitate positive strategies for undergraduate and graduate students to learn about the diversity of skin tones, hair textures, and cultural differences that many make-up and hair artists encounter in theater, film and television production while serving performers of different racial, ethnic and national backgrounds. We hope to foster a safe and enriching teaching and learning environment that can help us develop positive dialogues and experiences for students, faculty and staff at KU.

KU's ITT performs for Alternative Breaks

KU ITT members were invited to perform for Alternative Spring breaks, a student organization at KU dedicated to doing service projects across the nation during Winter and Spring breaks. The entire ITT team created improvised scenarios built from audience suggestions that allowed the volunteers to think through complex issues about diversity that could occur on their service missions.

Over 100 students participated in the event. Vice Provost of Diversity and Equity, Dr. Nate Thomas, stopped by to cheer on the ITT team.

If you would like ITT to help facilitate dialogues in your classrooms, staff meetings and or faculty events, please contact Program coordinators Rana Esfandiary or Gina Sandi-Diaz,
Interactive Theatre Troupe KU ITT

1530 Naismith Drive, Room 317
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
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For more information about ITT contact:

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Freestyling Change: Improvising Solutions for Social Justice

ITT members will begin a monthly salon entitled “Freestyling Change: Improvising Solutions for Social Justice.” We will invite students, faculty and staff to talk about a moment in their lives where they realized that they wanted to be a catalyst for change in their communities.

Inspired by “TED Talks,” students, faculty or staff will speak for a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 18. ITT director Dr. Nicole Hodges Persley and GTAs/Community Artists Gina Sandi-Diaz and Rana Esfandiary will facilitate a community dialogue to help understand how improvisation can be used to create potential solutions that can address social issues about diversity and inclusion that impact our daily lives.

Interested in giving a talk? Contact Rana Esfandiary rana244@ku.edu