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2016 African American Student Leadership Experience—A Student’s Perspective

“Dare To Be, Dare To Act, Dare To Lead: Your Destiny is Calling!” This was the phrase that had been embedded in my mind by the African American Student Leadership Experience, or AASLE. I cannot begin to put into words how this experience made me feel, but I can tell you what I walked away with and how the experience has impacted the way I envision my future. Out of this experience I learned two keys of success; Self-worth and networking. I learned that before you can begin the process of becoming the person that you are meant to be, you have to first love yourself and be the best version of you possible. Similarly, I learned that after you determine your worth, you cannot accomplish anything without people who share the same goals and aspirations as you do. Iron sharpens iron, and we must surround ourselves with positivity and influencers who will challenge us to be great. Dr. George Fraser, our first keynote speaker of the experience, informed us it was okay to “Bless and Release” people whom you care about, if blessing and releasing them means that you’ll become a better person. I listened to five keynote speakers and many workshops hearing stories about failure and success, how they were one and the same, and before I am ever going to succeed I must learn to fail forward. Through it all, I learned that I would have to dare myself every day to take chances and potentially fail and then turn around and dare myself, after that failure, to get right back up and give every day my best effort. Every morning since, I have committed to the calling— “I’ve Dared to Be, Dared to Act, and Dared to Lead” —myself into whatever might come my way. After all, my destiny is calling.

- Jasmine Turner, Class of 2017



Former Miss Virginia is Women’s History Month Keynote Speaker



Nancy Redd is currently a host on “HuffPost Live,” *The Huffington Post’s* Webby Award-winning streaming network. Two weeks after graduating from Harvard University with an honors degree in women’s studies, Ms. Redd earned the title of Miss Virginia, going on to become swimsuit winner and top 10 at Miss America. This experience would become the impetus for her two non-fiction award-winning books, *Body Drama* and *Diet Drama*. Ms. Redd is a *New York Times* & *USA Today* bestselling author, an NAACP Image Award nominee, a recipient of the prestigious Mom’s Choice Award, and the winner of a National Parenting Publications Award for tweens and teens. Ms. Redd has been featured on *E! True Hollywood Stories*, *NPR*, *PBS*, *Inside Edition*, *CBS’ The Early Show*, *The Insider*, *Discovery Channel*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *Forbes magazine*, *ABC’s Good Morning America*, *CosmoGirl*, *J14*, and more. Ms. Redd will give her keynote address to the UMW community on Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m., in Lee Hall, room 411.

JFMC Human Rights Film Series Presents: Private Violence

Co-sponsored with UMW's Office of Title IX, *Private Violence* explores a simple, but deeply disturbing fact of American life: the most dangerous place for a woman in America is her own home. Every day in the US, at least four women are murdered by abusive (and often, ex) partners. The knee-jerk response is to ask: "why doesn't she just leave?" *Private Violence* shatters this logic. Through the eyes of two survivors – Deanna Walters, a mother who seeks justice for the crimes committed against her at the hands of her estranged husband, and Kit Gruelle, an advocate who seeks justice for all women – the film bears witness to the complicated and complex realities of intimate partner violence. Viewing of the film will be Monday, March 21, at 6 p.m. in the Hurley Convergence Center, Digital Auditorium.



2016 Social Justice and Leadership Retreat

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion and James Farmer Multicultural Center are excited to present the 2016 Social Justice and Leadership Retreat. This experience, on March 19th, will allow student leaders to engage in in-depth dialogue pertaining to social justice and equality. Additionally, students will develop a better understanding of their role in limiting the perpetuation of unjust and inequitable practices, in turn becoming more comfortable collaborating across cultural barriers. The experience hopes to develop new leaders with an interest in social justice and diversity. Specifically, the Social Justice and Leadership Retreat will focus on issues around power, privilege, assumptions, and bias which will translate into developing action plans to build a more inclusive campus environment through allyship. Joan Iva Fawcett, who serves as the Director of Student Government Advising & Leadership Programs and Associate Director of the L.E.A.D Center at the University of California, Berkeley, will also join UMW as the Retreat's large group facilitator.

Upcoming Spring 2016 Events

- Gospelfest!: February 6, 3 p.m. — Dodd Auditorium, George Washington Hall
- 25th Anniversary Black History Month Celebration Step Show: February 20, 7 p.m. — Dodd Auditorium, George Washington Hall
- JFMC Human Rights Film Series: *The Homestretch*: February 23, 6:00 p.m. — Lee Hall, room 412
- *The Vagina Monologues*: Friday and Saturday, March 25 and 26, 6:30 p.m. — Hurley Convergence Center, Digital Auditorium
- Islamic Cultural Celebration Banquet Keynote Speaker: Dr. Zainab Alwani: March 31, 6 p.m. — Faculty/Staff Dining Room, Seacobeck Hall



Black History Month Keynote Speaker, Attorney Rasheed Cromwell: February 10, 7 p.m. - Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center

James Farmer Multicultural
Center



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