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## 2015-16 Cultural Awareness Series Highlights



**Latino Identities Month Keynote: Joe Hernandez-Kolski, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015**

**Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) Keynote: Chris Doucette, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015**

**Asian Cultural Celebration Keynote: Hope Chinese School Mom Dance Team, Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015**

**Taste of Asia: Friday, Oct. 30, 2015**

**Jewish Cultural Celebration Keynote: Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015**

**Native American Keynote: Dr. Kevin Gover, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015**

**Kwanzaa: Thursday, Dec. 3, 2015**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote: Donzaleigh Abernathy, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2016**

**Black History Month Keynote: Rasheed Cromwell, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016**

**25th Annual Step Show: Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016**

**Women's History Month Keynote: Nancy Reed, Monday, March 14, 2016**

**Islamic Cultural Celebration Keynote: Dr. Zainab Alwani, Thursday, March 31, 2016**

**26th Annual Multicultural Fair: Saturday, April 9, 2016**

**Passover Seder: Tuesday, April 19, 2016**

This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the Cultural Awareness Series. The James Farmer Multicultural Center is celebrating the series this year with a diverse line-up of speakers who address a wide spectrum of cultural, social, economic and political issues and performers who represent a wide variety of cultural traditions and expressions. The Cultural Awareness Series strives to promote an understanding of and appreciation for diversity in race, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, age and culture. All events are free, unless otherwise stated and open to UMW students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members. Join the JFMC and the UMW campus community as we celebrate culture through the arts. For additional information about the 2015-16 CAS line-up, go to the JFMC website at <http://students.umw.edu/multicultural/ca/>.



## James Farmer Multicultural Center Moving to New University Center



The James Farmer Multicultural Center will be moving to UMW's new University Center in fall 2015. Construction began in September 2013 and the new building is scheduled to open in mid- to late- August 2015. The University Center is a four-story facility that will serve as a "one-stop shop" for students. The first floor will house meeting rooms and a ballroom. The second floor will contain the Career and Development Center, gathering and lounging areas for students, the Meditation Space and retail eateries Qdoba and Jamba Juice. The third floor will house Student Affairs offices that work closely with student organizations. The offices include the Center for Honor, Leadership and Service, Student Involvement, Student Activities and Engagement (SAE) and our office, the James Farmer Multicultural Center. The entire fourth floor will house the new student dining facility. The dining area will feature nine serving stations and will provide students with a wide variety of cuisine options, including vegan/vegetarian stations and a station for individuals with multiple food allergies.

Being housed in a building that is referred to as the "students' living room" and on the same floor as other student involvement offices will allow for more collaboration amongst the offices and provide students with a more seamless engagement experience. The new office space will also provide a larger gathering space for students who enjoy studying or simply hanging out in the Multicultural Center.

The Multicultural Center will be in a new space, but the sense of community and "home away from home" feel that has been established will remain the same. Please visit the new office in the University Center, third floor, room 319 the next time you visit UMW.

# 2015-16 Citizenship Award for Diversity Leadership Recipient: Zaire Sprowal



Each year the President's Community Advisory Committee on Diversity presents a Mary Washington student with the Citizenship Award for Diversity Leadership. This award is given to a rising senior enrolled in the University, who possesses strong characteristics of leadership and demonstrates a personal commitment advocating for diversity and inclusion across campus. Once the recipient is chosen he or she serves as an ambassador for diversity, a peer mentor to underrepresented students, and a voice for underrepresented populations to the faculty and staff.

Zaire Sprowal is a senior attending the University of Mary Washington from Richmond, Virginia. A physics major who plans to pursue a doctoral degree as a nuclear physicist, Zaire also strives to be an active participant in organizations and initiatives focusing on civic engagement, multicultural education and social justice activism. He is also currently the vice president of the Framar International Living Community and serves as the chair of the Student Government Association's Diversity and Unity Coordinating Committee, both for the 2015 -16 year. He also served as the secretary of the Student Government Association's Executive Cabinet and has held a voting position on that organization's finance committee since 2014. As a student Zaire also participated in sports and was a member of the UMW varsity crew team from 2012 to 2014.

Zaire has demonstrated his leadership philosophy by serving as an active participant and panel member for diversity forums and dialogues such as the Black Lives Matter vigil, the Victims of Violence Memorial event as well as taking part in a listening circle focusing on the negative impact that social media forums can have on UMW's campus community. In addition, he has participated in PRISM's (People for the Rights of Individuals of Sexual Minorities) annual Day of Silence event.

Zaire appreciates being the recipient of the 2015 -16 Citizenship Award for Diversity Leadership and views the award as an opportunity to continue using the leadership and civic engagement skills he has developed during his tenure at UMW to precipitate positive change throughout the UMW campus community.

## Upcoming Fall 2015 Events

- Cross-Cultural BBQ, August 27, 4-6 p.m., Ball Circle (rain location: Lee Hall, the Underground)
- Latino Identities Month Kick Off Celebration, September 15, 4-6 p.m., Ball Circle (rain location: Lee Hall, the Underground)
- JFMC Human Rights Film Series: *The Hand that Feeds*, September 17, Lee Hall, room 412
- GSMA Kick Off Celebration, October 14, 4-6 p.m., Ball Circle (rain location: Lee Hall, the Underground)
- Taste of Asia, October 30, 7 p.m., Chandler Ballroom, University Center
- Kwanzaa, December 3, 6 p.m., Faculty/Staff Dining Room, Seacobeck Hall



Cross-Cultural BBQ, Thursday, August 27, 2015

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