

August 1, 2013

Volume 2, Issue 1

Inaugural Year for RISE Peer-Mentoring Program a Success !



The RISE (Resources Inspiring Student Excellence) Peer Mentoring Program had a successful launch at the beginning of Fall 2012 with 20 current students as mentors (UMW sophomores-seniors) and 28 first-year students as mentees. Within the mentee group, 26 were freshmen and two were transfer students.

Workshops and activities were sponsored throughout the year for the students' academic, cultural and social development. They focused on topics such as time management, study skills, effective writing skills, class schedule building, academic engagement outside of the classroom, (e.g., highlighting internships and study abroad opportunities), and the importance of mentors and networking. In addition, there were several cultural and social activities. They included trips to Washington, D.C. and bowling outings in Fredericksburg. The participants also attended many of the cultural

and traditional programs and events on campus.

During the end-of-year informal recognition program in late April, the attendees shared how the RISE program and their mentor or mentee affected their lives and experiences throughout the year. Based on the testimonials from the RISE mentors and mentees, it was evident that positive relationships were developed among the RISE participants. Overall, the mentors, diligently and consistently, provided their mentees with personal, social, and academic support throughout the year. The mentees' feedback indicated they were satisfied with their participation in the RISE Program. They stated that the program made them feel more connected and more confident in their ability to succeed at UMW. They also felt that the RISE Program was helpful to their academic and personal adjustment to the campus community.

The inaugural year of the RISE Peer Mentoring Program effectively met the objectives for the program. The second year of the program will build on the success of the first year. The program will continue to help first-year students connect and engage with the UMW community, have positive academic, social, and personal growth, and have a successful first year in college. The RISE Program will continue to provide a positive leadership development opportunity for the mentors.

2013-2014 Cultural Awareness Series Highlights

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Cultural Awareness Series! The James Farmer Multicultural Center is celebrating the 20th annual CAS with a year of remarkable and engaging performers and speakers educating about culture through the arts, increasing awareness and knowledge of diversity issues that impact individuals as well as the community as a whole. Our CAS strives to promote an understanding and appreciation for diversity in race, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, age, and culture. All events are free, unless otherwise stated, and open to faculty/staff, students, alumni, and community members. Please come and join us as we celebrate culture through the arts.

For more information on the speakers and performers please visit our website at www.students.umw.edu/multicultural

Latino Identities Month keynote – Christine Chavez

Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) keynote - Invincible

Asian Cultural Celebration keynote – Taikoza—Japanese Drum and Bamboo Flute

Taste of Asia – November 1, 2013

Jewish Cultural Celebration keynote – Alexandria Kleztet

Native American Cultural Celebration keynote – Dr. Mario Garza

Kwanzaa Celebration - December 5, 2013

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration keynote – Ernest Green

Black History Month keynote – Angela Rye

Step Show Competition – February 22, 2014

Women's History Month keynote – Regina Barr

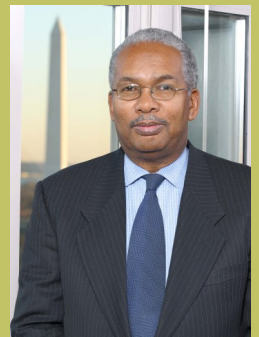
Islamic Cultural Banquet keynote – Salma Elkadi Abugideiri

24th Annual Multicultural Fair - April 12, 2014

Passover - April 15, 2014



Taikoza



Ernest Green

2013-2014 Citizenship Award for Diversity Leadership Recipient: Kevin Lopez

Kevin Lopez is a senior at the University of Mary Washington (UMW). Born in Lima Peru, his family moved to the U.S. when he was very young. In the States, he grew up in Centreville, Virginia. Kevin is majoring in Sociology and strives to make a difference in the lives of others by helping and serving people from all different backgrounds. After graduation, he plans to continue his studies in



graduate school studying Criminology or Criminal Justice. Through enhancing the awareness of structural and social injustices in society, his studies at UMW have opened his eyes to how he can help other people. One of Kevin's goals in life is to help lead others in the right direction as others have guided him.

During his UMW career, Kevin has taken advantage of several wonderful service opportunities. He is active as a Big Brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program (BBBS) in the local community, served as a counselor with UMW's Student Transition Program (STP) for two summers, recently joined as a volunteer at the Falmouth Fire and Rescue Station, and worked as an employee for three years with Sodexo Dining Services. Kevin credits these experiences and the personal interactions with strengthening his leadership skills and helping him to develop a greater sense of responsibility and integrity.

JFMC Alumni Database

The James Farmer Multicultural Center has worked closely with students and student organizations throughout the years to not only celebrate and honor many cultural traditions, but also provide support networks and resources for underrepresented students. Due to the relationship students develop with the Multicultural Center, it is vital to receive feedback and continued support from current students and alumni.

In order to maintain communication with alumni, the James Farmer Multicultural Center has established a JFMC Alumni Database. The database contains biographic and contact information of Mary Washington alumni who were either involved in student organizations that worked closely with the Multicultural Center or were closely involved in programs or initiatives sponsored by the center.

Alumni who are on the database will receive regular updates about the programs and initiatives sponsored by the Multicultural Center. They will also receive invitations to engage with current UMW students and provide feedback about Multicultural Center and UMW initiatives.

If you would like to be added to the JFMC Alumni Database, please email your name, phone number, email address, mailing address and graduation year to umwjfmc@gmail.com.



2013 Senior Recognition Program Honorees

James Farmer Multicultural Center
1301 College Avenue, Lee Hall 211

Telephone: 540-654-1044

Fax: 540-654-1782



<http://students.umw.edu/multicultural/>

