



# James Farmer Multicultural Center

## Alumni Newsletter | May 2018

### FORMER UMW HR HEAD APPOINTED NEW CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER

As the spring semester began, Dr. Sabrina Johnson, former associate vice president for human resources, found herself appointed as the new vice president for equity and access and chief diversity officer. Dr. Johnson has been at UMW for two decades, serving the campus in various leadership roles, several of which were directly related to advancing diversity and inclusion work and awareness at the institution, such as serving as co-chair last year of the President's Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion.



Dr. Johnson's vision is "being in pursuit of inclusive excellence where all students, faculty and staff enjoy full access to opportunities for success and where we actively and intentionally appreciate and engage diversity in our recruitment of new members to our community, in our interactions with each other, in the curriculum, in our work, and in the larger communities that we serve." She is inspired by "the hearts and minds of students who have chosen to participate in and assume leadership for creating the world they desire. They 'show up' often with hard questions, but also with the willingness to learn and act to bring about change."

Since accepting her new role, Johnson has begun the tasks of understanding specific activities centered on access, equity, diversity and inclusion. She also has sought opportunities to observe and understand the good work already being done to identify and respond to such issues. Her goal is to bring this work into focus in a way that allows us to understand where we want to go and why, and to monitor our progress toward moving the University forward.

The most fulfilling part of this job for Dr. Johnson is "knowing with no uncertainty that the work I have been privileged to do is critically important to our mission and to the daily life, learning and working experiences of our students, faculty and staff and also knowing that if done well, a larger good has been served."

### JFMC CO-SPONSORS POLITICAL & CIVIC AWARENESS WORKSHOP WITH LOCAL ALMUNAE SORORITY CHAPTER



On Saturday, April 21, 2018, the JFMC hosted and co-sponsored a Political and Civic Awareness Workshop and Luncheon with the Fredericksburg Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. This workshop was open to the campus and local community and centered on the theme, "Get Election Ready." The objectives of the workshop were to have the attendees gain a greater understanding of the issues, learn strategies to effectively advocate and lobby for specific issues, understand different approaches to engage your local, state, and national representatives, and determine how to identify and utilize one's political strengths.

The workshop featured different sessions and panel discussions throughout the day. The panelists included distinguished leaders in the community, such as: Delegate Sam Rasoul, 11th District; Delegate Jennifer Carroll-Foy, 2nd District; Councilor Chuck Frye, Jr., Fredericksburg Ward 4; Joshua Cole, Chief of Staff 21st District; Nicole D. Porter, Director of Advocacy with the Sentencing Project; and Sandra Antoine, Restoration of Rights Specialist, Secretary of the Commonwealth Office. The panelists spoke on why they decided to run for office, the importance of having more diverse voices and representation in government offices at all levels, current issues regarding mass incarceration and disenfranchisement of citizens, and the status of restoration of voting rights.

The guest speaker was Laura Coates. Currently, she is a featured legal analyst on CNN and a Professorial Lecturer of Law at the George Washington University Law School. She has served as former Asst. US Attorney for the District of Columbia and a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, specializing in the enforcement of voting rights. She spoke on "Being the Change You Want to See." Throughout her message, she challenged the audience on "WHO are you?" She encouraged everyone to consider running for office if they were not satisfied with the candidates on the ballot.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Reunion Weekend - June 1-3, 2018

Cross-Cultural BBQ - Thursday, August 30, 2018

# SENIOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

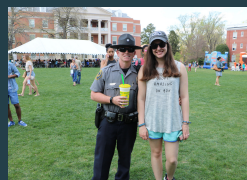


For the graduating seniors, the end of this year marks the first step into a new and exciting life beyond UMW. At our annual Senior Recognition Program and Dinner, we honored those graduating students who have made significant contributions in the areas of multiculturalism, diversity, inclusion and social justice during their tenure. These graduates have demonstrated leadership and commitment by showcasing aspects of cultural differences, as well as engaging the campus community in meaningful education and dialogue through a variety of programs, activities, and projects. We applaud this cohort of leaders for their efforts to ensure that no culture is forgotten and that everyone is enriched by being exposed to diverse perspectives. As engaged students, they have added their own unique voices, capitalized on their own experiences, and have truly embraced the essence of the principles and values Mary Washington has articulated and promoted. The work of the James Farmer Multicultural Center has been greatly enhanced by the contributions of these students. We thank them and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

### The James Farmer Multicultural Center honors graduating seniors

Zoya Ahmed  
Mariam Ansari  
Jasmine Anderson  
Emma Cahoon  
Elaina Finklestein  
Benjamin Henderson  
Sarah Jones

Ekta Kapoor  
Purity Muthaa  
Ahad Shahid  
Glenn Taylor  
Arfa Vasim  
Hannah Weirs



## 28TH ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL FAIR SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

On Saturday, April 14, the campus of the University of Mary Washington came alive with music, dancing, and food. There was a thrum of activity as campus flooded with world music, colorful outfits in cultural tradition, and the smells of delicious food. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors purchased crafts from over 40 craft vendors, learned from 14 local non-profit organizations, listened to music from over 30 performance groups, and tasted food from 11 food trucks. The Multicultural Fair is the spirited end to a year full of educational, cultural, and lively programming from the James Farmer Multicultural Center.

For more information, visit [students.umw.edu/multicultural/](http://students.umw.edu/multicultural/)