



James Farmer Multicultural Center

Alumni Newsletter | November 2017

MLK Celebration Keynote Speaker: April Ryan

Sponsored by the Office of the President



Pictured: MLK Keynote Speaker April Ryan

April Ryan is the White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks and is a 23-year journalism veteran. She's interviewed former presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; former Vice President Al Gore; former Sens. John Kerry and Hillary Clinton; and South African President Thabo Mbeki.

Ryan has covered visits by former President Bush and first lady Laura Bush to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina; traveled with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to Haiti; and, accompanied presidential trips to African countries. Top newspapers and national television newscasts have picked up her breaking news stories and interviews. Ryan can be seen almost daily on CNN as a political analyst.

Ryan is an esteemed member of the National Press Club and is currently the only black female reporter covering urban issues from the White House. She has been named one of the Outstanding Young Women in America and an American Swiss Foundation Young Leader. She's a Baltimore native and graduate of Morgan State University. This program will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Chandler Ballroom, University Center.

Welcoming the New Assistant Director: Mr. Chris Williams!



We are excited to announce the new addition to the James Farmer Multicultural Center staff, Christopher Williams. Mr. Williams is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications. He comes to UMW from Germanna Community College, where he was a Student Success Coach and chair of the Black History Month committee. As chair of the Black History Month committee, he was responsible for multicultural and social justice programming.

During his time at Germanna, he coordinated campus-wide programs that brought in civil rights icons and activists, such as: Julian Bond, Diane Nash, and Joe Madison. He also was responsible for bringing hip hop artist and activist, David Banner, to their campus. In addition, Mr. Williams organized various town hall meetings for the Fredericksburg and campus community that focused on topics related to: Trayvon Martin, Voting Rights, and Ferguson, MO.

Mr. Williams shared that his motivation each day is to be better than the day before – to wake up with the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. When asked about what he hopes to contribute to UMW, Mr. Williams responded, "Being a former James Farmer Scholar, I take Dr. Farmer's legacy very seriously. So, having the opportunity to work toward and enhance social justice, diversity, and inclusion experiences for all students here at UMW is gratifying. I hope my efforts through the JFMC will serve as an example and inspire others to follow Dr. Farmer's incredible legacy."

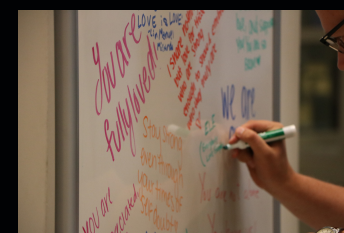
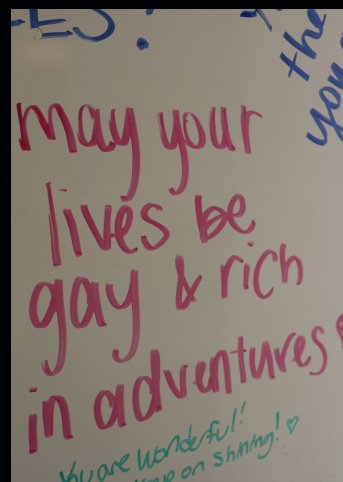
His personal philosophy is reflected in one of his favorite quotes: "Kindness in words create confidence; kindness in thinking creates profoundness; kindness in giving creates love." – Lao Tzu.



UMW Safe Zone Encourages Students, "Love Who You Are"

In partnership with UMW PRISM, the UMW Safe Zone Program launched the "Love Who You Are" campaign in March 2017. Since then, Dr. Laura Wilson, professor in the department of Psychological Sciences and Director of the Safe Zone program, has been working diligently to ensure that students, faculty, and staff feel safe and welcomed here on campus. Through the efforts of Dr. Wilson and the UMW Safe Zone committee, over 500 students, faculty, and staff came to the Coming Out Day event and wrote messages of positivity and support to LGBTQ+ Eagles. The event was a great success that continued to promote the idea that members of our community can really feel safe and free to Love Who They Are as part of the UMW community.

To celebrate National Coming Out Day on October 10, members of the UMW community were encouraged to write positive messages to LGBTQ+ faculty, staff, and students.



Since the creation of the Safe Zone Ally Training for students, the Safe Zone program has added 98 students to the roster of trained allies at UMW! The Safe Zone program currently boasts a list over 191 trained faculty, staff, and community allies, as well.

If you would like to learn more about the UMW Safe Zone Program or find out how to get involved, visit the website: bit.ly/UMWsafezone



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 2 | 7 p.m.

**Asian Cultural
Celebration Keynote:
Mana Polynesia**

Chandler Ballroom, UC

Nov. 9 | 7 p.m.

**Jewish Cultural
Celebration Keynote:
Machaya Klezmer Band**

The Underground, Lee Hall

Nov. 16 | 7 p.m.

**Native American
Cultural Celebration
Keynote Performance:
Rose Powhatan,
Native American
Storyteller**

Chandler Ballroom, UC

Nov. 30 | 6 p.m.

Kwanzaa Celebration

Chandler Ballroom, UC

Jan. 24 | 7 p.m.

**Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration Keynote:
April Ryan**

Chandler Ballroom, UC