



# James Farmer Multicultural Center

## Alumni Newsletter | November 2018

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov. 8 | 7 p.m.**  
**Jewish Cultural**  
**Celebration Keynote:**  
**Dr. Mark Naison**  
 Room 411, Lee Hall

**Nov. 9 | 5 p.m.**  
**Shabbat Dinner**  
 Chandler Ballroom C, UC

**Nov. 15 | 7 p.m.**  
**Native American**  
**Cultural Celebration**  
**Keynote Performance:**  
**Uptown Boyz**  
 Chandler Ballroom, UC

**Nov. 29 | 6 p.m.**  
**Kwanzaa Celebration**  
 Chandler Ballroom, UC

**Jan. 23 | 7 p.m.**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**Celebration Keynote:**  
**Dr. Bernard Lafayette Jr.**  
 Chandler Ballroom, UC

**Feb. 2 | 3 p.m.**  
**GospelFest**  
 Dodd Auditorium, GW Hall

University of Mary Washington

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote Speaker:

**DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.**

Wed., Jan. 23 • 7 p.m. • Chandler Ballroom, University Center  
 Sponsored by the Office of the President

Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr. has devoted his life to carrying out the orders Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave to him in 1968, “Institutionalize and internationalize nonviolence.” A longtime civil rights activist and organizer, minister, educator, and lecturer, he is an authority on Dr. King’s strategy of nonviolent social change. In 1960, he was a co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Nashville Movement lunch counter sit-ins; in 1961 he was a leader of the Freedom Rides along with Dr. James Farmer.



In 1962, he directed the Alabama voter registration project in Selma. Dr. King appointed Dr. LaFayette national program administrator for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and national coordinator of the Poor People’s Campaign. Dr. LaFayette has written many publications; among them is *In Peace and Freedom: My Journey in Selma*, which he wrote with Kathryn Lee Johnson. Rep. John Lewis wrote in his foreword to the book, “A powerful history of struggle, commitment, and hope. No one, but no one, who lived through the creation and development of the movement for voting rights in Selma is better prepared to tell this story than Bernard LaFayette himself.” This book was honored with the prestigious Lillian Smith Book Award in May 2014.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE FALL BREAK TRIP SPARKS CONVERSATION ON RACE, SLAVERY, AND INJUSTICE

The first-ever Social Justice Fall Break trip took place from Saturday, October 13 – Tuesday, October 16. A group of 19 students and three staff members traveled from Fredericksburg, VA to Montgomery and Selma, AL to visit the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (a.k.a. the Lynching Memorial), Equal Justice Initiative office, Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church and the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The trip was made possible thanks to the leadership, support, and contributions of the African Student Association, Black Student Association, Latino Student Association, the Office of the President, the Office of Student Involvement, the James Farmer Multicultural Center and one anonymous donor.

In Montgomery, Alabama, The Legacy Museum and The National Memorial for Peace and Justice are the results of tireless research by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)--a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing justice to defendants unfairly incarcerated in Alabama. The Legacy Museum highlights issues of slavery and mass incarceration through archives and interactive photographic and videographic exhibits and is built on the site of a former warehouse that was a hub for slave trafficking. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice is home to a striking visual display of over 800 steel monoliths--a poignant manifestation of the counties that were the sites of over 4,000 documented racial terror lynchings between 1877 and 1950 in the United States. The Edmund Pettus Bridge became a significant and historic site when, on Sunday, March 7, 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King and civil rights demonstrators were brutalized by Alabama police while marching for voting rights.



**“When asked ‘What is one word to describe what you hope to get out of this experience? I replied, ‘A revelation’...’ In simpler words, I believe that I left the UMW Bell Tower with broad beliefs and came back from Alabama with a new sense of self and purpose.”**

**-Student Participant**

The purpose of the trip was to create an opportunity for UMW students to gain a broader understanding of American history outside of the classroom and realize that the struggle for social justice has been happening long before the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Additionally, this trip was going to be a space for attendees to visit legendary sites that were pivotal to advancing the cause of equality and dignity for every American citizen and share their experiences with their fellow students at the Social Justice & Leadership Summit next March.

All of the students shared that they were enlightened and more informed on the truth about American history and social justice issues, especially regarding the evolution from slavery to the current day mass incarceration system, than they were before the trip. One student commented while reflecting on the experience, "The opportunity to go on the Social Justice Fall Break trip to Alabama was an incredible and awe-inspiring experience. I have always been passionate about understanding so much of my history, culture, and heritage. I strive to understand my purpose and realize all the potential that I have to empower people...I feel even more empowered to fight for social justices and educate the University of Mary Washington community."

We are grateful to have had this opportunity this year. We are deeply appreciative to all who were key in making this possible. These students were amazing and the journey memorable. It is our hope that a trip of this nature will become an annual opportunity for students to travel and learn more about the different aspects of history and social justices that affect our society, which in turn would inspire and motivate them to become more active, positive agents of social change.

*True peace is not merely the absence of tension, it is the presence of justice.*

**- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**