



Friday, May 1, 2015

Volume 3 Issue 4

Celebration and Success for the 25th Annual Multicultural Fair



This year marked the 25th anniversary for the Multicultural Fair. The day was beautiful in every way—perfect weather, great entertainment, delicious food, and tremendous fun. Over 6,000 visitors enjoyed performances on four different stages and shopped for clothes, jewelry, and other wares from over 60 vendors.

In honor of this special milestone for the Multicultural Fair, the first coordinators of this magnificent event in 1990 were invited to return for recognition of the roles they played in establishing one of the most significant traditions for the campus and local community. They were: Dean Cedric Rucker, then Associate Dean of Student Activities (coordinated the performers and all entertainment arrangements); Ms. Brenda King, then Director of International Programs (responsible for the presence of 15 Embassy representatives and coined the motto, “Differences Enrich Us All”); and Forrest Parker, then Acting Assistant Vice President of Multicultural Affairs (coordinated the vendors and publicity).

The Fair continues to exemplify UMW’s commitment to multicultural awareness, and the appreciation of differences by enhancing cultural understanding and creating opportunities for global engagement. The impact for the campus and local community is significant and reflective of the mission of the JFMC and the University.



Senior Recognition Program - Class of 2015

The Senior Recognition Program is an annual awards ceremony created to recognize seniors at the University of Mary Washington and their accomplishments in the promotion of diversity and social justice. Members from the faculty, staff and student body, as well as family and friends of the honorees, attended this distinguished program.

A few of the students shared reflections of their experiences at UMW. Lilian Perez gave a moving description of finding a sense of peace and acceptance with her identity on campus and becoming an activist for those who have yet to find security in their cultural identity. Miriam McCloud reflected on how her interactions and rapport with a professor provided invaluable guidance and an enhanced sense of self-confidence with her heritage, which motivated her to become more involved in cultural activities. Also, a heartfelt account was offered from Marjahn Goodman regarding her experiences in multiculturalism at the University, included finding her passion for Arabic culture and maximizing opportunities to enhance diversity awareness and encourage involvement and activism on campus.



The 2015 senior honorees are: Carmelia Edoh Dalmeida, Nicole Dobson, Marjahn Goodman, Jihaan (Gigi) Hachim, EJ Hummel, Ornella Irakoze, Kat Johnson, Maria Joranko, Miriam (Mimi) McCloud, Paige McKinsey, Michelle Moody, Kelli Musick, Lillian Perez, Alexandra Swords, Filagot Taye, Megan Traylor, Brooke Turner, Chiniera Wiggins, Cara Wimberley, and Justin Yi.

RISE Peer Mentoring Program: a Year in Review

This year marked the third year of the successful RISE Peer Mentoring Program. Along with various academic-related workshops to assist the mentors and mentees in succeeding at UMW, this year offered exciting and enriching cultural and social trips.

The participants traveled to Washington, D.C., for a trip the Newseum, where they also explored the surrounding sights. The group also went to Richmond, V.A., to visit several cultural sites, including a trip to the Historic Tredegar Iron Works and Civil War History Center, Maymont Historic Home and Gardens, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

There were several social and group bonding activities during the year, including game nights and movie outings.

We look forward to graduating the first class of RISE Peer Mentees in 2016!



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)
- GSMA Kick Off Celebration, October 14, 4-6 p.m., Ball Circle (rain location: Lee Hall, the Underground)
- Kwanzaa, December 3
- Stepshow, February 20, 2016, George Washington Hall, Dodd Auditorium

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students.umw.edu/multicultural



26th Multicultural Fair

Saturday, April 9, 2016

10 AM- 5 PM

UMW Fredericksburg Campus

