



James Farmer Multicultural Center

Alumni Newsletter | August 2019

2019 – 2020 CITIZENSHIP AWARD FOR DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP RECIPIENT: NEHEMIA ABEL



Nehemia Abel is a rising senior majoring in Marketing, who plans to get a master's degree in business administration after concluding his undergraduate studies. Since his freshman year, Nehemia often attended and participated in events hosted by the James Farmer Multicultural Center (JFMC). He found the events to be enriching and valuable because they gave him an enhanced understanding and appreciation of different cultures. Nehemia used the knowledge from those experiences to connect and build relationships with a diverse range of students on campus. Participating in events like Colors of Africa and Kwanzaa has encouraged him to join clubs such as the African Student Union and Brothers of a New Direction, where he has been an active member and held leadership positions. One of Nehemia's passion is serving underrepresented individuals. He has embraced this in his role as vice president of Ubumwe, a community organization that he co-founded with his older brother. Through this organization, he assists Burundian youths that are pursuing higher education and careers by creating a networking platform that they can use to connect with community leaders. Outside of Ubumwe, Nehemia is a resident assistant to upperclass living communities, where he provides leadership, support and guidance to resources on campus. Additionally, he partners with Habitat for Humanity and Micah Ecumenical Ministries to serve the homeless population throughout the greater Fredericksburg area.

Nehemia also served as a member of the College of Business (COB) Student Advisory Board. In this position, he represented the voice of students to faculty. He used the skills from the COB to assist clients at the UMW Center for Economic Development (CED). As the client relations assistant at the CED, Nehemia was a part of the student team that established a business pitch competition known as Eagle Innovation. As an active CED member, he was able to combine his business experiences with his leadership skills to continue raising the profile of differences that affect both the campus and Fredericksburg community.

In his final year, Nehemia looks forward to further unifying and empowering the UMW student body to be ever-inclusive with the goal of learning to celebrate differences rather than creating boundaries. As his favorite poem by Maya Angelou goes "we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."

DR. JAMES L. FARMER, JR.: UMW CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1920-2020

Dr. James L. Farmer, Jr. was born on January 12, 1920 in Marshall, Texas. He is best known for his contributions during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s: the founding of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the coordination of the Freedom Rides movement to desegregate interstate bus travel. He was a professor at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia until the late 1990s and received the President Medal of Freedom in 1998 before passing away in 1999 due to complications from diabetes. This year will mark what would have been his 100th birthday. Join the University of Mary Washington campus community as we celebrate his lasting legacy of civil rights, social justice, and equality.



"Courage, after all, is not being unafraid, but doing what needs to be done in spite of fear."

Source: James L. Farmer, Jr., *Lay Bare the Heart* (Fort Worth: TCU Press, 1985), 3.

CROSS-CULTURAL BBQ

Thursday, August 29
4 PM | Ball Circle

LATINO IDENTITIES MONTH KICKOFF

Monday, September 16
4 PM | Ball Circle

A CALL TO CIVIC ACTION: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thursday, Sept. 19 | 6 PM
Chandler Ballroom C,
University Center



26th Annual Cultural Awareness Series



FALL 2019

2019-2020

SEPT	Latino Identities Month Keynote Speaker: Dilcia Molina Sanchez Monday, Sept. 25 7 p.m. Chandler Ballroom A/B, University Center
OCT	Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies Cultural Celebration Keynote Speaker: Ted Lewis Wednesday, Oct. 23 7 p.m. Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center Asian Cultural Celebration Keynote Performer: Prem Raja Mahat Sunday, Oct. 27 4 p.m. Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center
NOV	Taste of Asia Saturday, Nov. 2 4 p.m. Chandler Ballroom, University Center Jewish Cultural Celebration Keynote Speaker: Rabbi Michael Knopf Wednesday, Nov. 6 7 p.m. Chandler Ballroom A/B, University Center Native American Cultural Keynote Speaker: Mark Tayac Thursday, Nov. 14 7 p.m. Chandler Ballroom A/B, University Center
DEC	Kwanzaa Tuesday, Dec. 3 6 p.m. Chandler Ballroom, University Center

SPRING 2020

JAN	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Keynote Speaker: Reverend Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr. <i>Sponsored by the Office of the President</i> Wednesday, January 22 7 p.m. Chandler Ballroom, University Center	
FEB	Black History Month Keynote Speaker: Etan Thomas Wednesday, Feb. 12 7 p.m. Chandler Ballroom C, University Center Step Show Competition Saturday, Feb. 22 7 p.m. Dodd Auditorium, George Washington Hall	
MAR	Women's History Month Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mecca Jamilah Sullivan Monday, March 23 7 p.m. Chandler Ballroom C, University Center	
APR	30th Annual Multicultural Fair Saturday, April 4 – rain or shine 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. UMW Fredericksburg Campus Islamic Cultural Celebration Banquet Keynote Speaker: Ayesha Noor Thursday, April 9 7 p.m. Chandler Ballroom C, University Center Passover Tuesday, April 14 6 p.m. Chandler Ballroom C, University Center	

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