



James Farmer Multicultural Center

Alumni Newsletter | November 2019

SOCIAL JUSTICE FALL BREAK TRIP FREEDOM RIDES REVISITED

The second Social Justice Fall Break trip took place from Saturday, October 12 to Tuesday, October 15. The James Farmer Multicultural Center co-sponsored a social justice trip with the offices of the President and the Vice President for Equity and Access to travel the same route of the 1961 Freedom Riders from Fredericksburg (which was the first stop after they left Washington D.C.) to Birmingham, AL. This trip served to honor and lift up Dr. Farmer's legacy as we celebrate what would have been his 100th birthday this coming January 12th. Dr. Farmer coordinated this trip in 1961 to protest the non-enforcement of the desegregated interstate bus travel. This journey included stops at several of the same places the Freedom Riders stopped, whether it was to speak with other civil rights activists or student leaders at Bennett College in NC, meet and strategize for next steps in the trip in GA, or just to have a safe place to sleep for the night. Along the way, we visited the International Civil Rights Center in Greensboro, NC and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, AL. Other visits included The King Center for Nonviolent Social Change and the Atlanta University Center in Atlanta, GA.

A group of 45 students, five staff/faculty/administrators members, and 20 community members, traveled from Fredericksburg, VA to Birmingham, AL to give individuals an opportunity to witness and learn more about the sites, history, and experiences of the Freedom Rides, and other significant landmarks and trailblazers of the Civil Rights movement, from a first-hand perspective. The trip was made possible thanks to the leadership, support, and contributions of the Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Office of the Vice President for Equity and Access/CDO, the Office of Alumni Relations, the Office of the Provost, the James Farmer Multicultural Center and anonymous donors.

When we returned from the trip, the students submitted journals providing an overview of their experiences and how they have been impacted. One student shared, "My eyes are now wide open to the injustice and the still gaping wound our nation is recovering from after years of abuse toward people of color. This trip has created a sizeable impact on my life. I have gained so much knowledge that has lit a fire in my soul, a fire that I want to spread on this campus and in the community."



Nov. 6 | 7 p.m.

Jewish Cultural Celebration

Keynote Speaker:

Rabbi Michael Knopf

Chandler Ballroom A/B, UC

Nov. 8 | 5 p.m.

Shabbat Dinner

Chandler Ballroom C, UC

Nov. 14 | 7 p.m.

**Native American
Cultural Celebration**

Keynote Speaker:

Mark Tayac

Chandler Ballroom A/B, UC

Dec. 3 | 6 p.m.

Kwanzaa Celebration

Chandler Ballroom, UC

Jan. 22 | 7 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Celebration Keynote:

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis

Chandler Ballroom, UC

Feb. 1 | 3 p.m.

GospelFest

Dodd Auditorium, GW Hall

UMW GIVING DAY
MARCH 19, 2020



For the second year, the James Farmer Multicultural Center will be participating in UMW's annual Giving Day! Because of you, we were able to raise over \$2,000 in gifts last year. **Come Together** to help us continue our mission to bring awareness and activism to UMW this year: **Giving Day, March 19, 2020!**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Celebration Keynote Speaker**

REV. DR. BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR.

Sponsored by the Office of the President

Wednesday, January 22 | 7 p.m.
Chandler Ballroom, University Center

Reverend Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., entrepreneur, global business leader, educator, chemist, civil rights leader, NAACP Life Member, syndicated columnist, theologian, and author is currently the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA): The Black Press of America. Dr. Chavis serves on the Board of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO). Dr. Chavis is also the former President and Co-Founder of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN), the world's largest coalition of hip-hop artists and recording industry executives.



JAMES FARMER MULTICULTURAL CENTER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS



The JFMC hosted an Open House on Monday, September 23 to celebrate 30 years of the Multicultural Center. Those in attendance could see images from the photography archives housed in the James Farmer Multicultural Center from events like the Multicultural Fair, Taste of Asia, and Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations from 1994 and after. Guests could also view a slideshow of images from the UMW Archives including student organization group photos and of our own Dean Cedric Rucker strolling through the Multicultural Fair in 1990.

Be on the lookout for future programming to commemorate the *Farmer Legacy 2020: A Centennial Celebration and Commitment to Action*, the 30th Anniversary of the Multicultural Center, and the 30th Annual Multicultural Fair!

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