

JAMES FARMER MULTICULTURAL CENTER

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Cultural Awareness Series Welcomes Disability Awareness Month Celebration

Celebrating Disability Awareness Month is not new at UMW, but this is the first year it officially joined the Cultural Awareness Series. This celebration was the collaborative work of the Best Buddies, Diversability, Students Educating and Empowering for Diversity, and Talk to the Hands student clubs, along with the Office of Disability Resources and the James Farmer Multicultural Center. The kick-off event featured a trivia game where participants tested their knowledge about disability culture and accessibility. There were film showings, an induction ceremony of Delta Alpha Pi – an honor society for students with disabilities who have excelled academically - and a keynote event featuring Matthew Doyle, who joined Special Olympics in 2005. Doyle, also a member of UMW Best Buddies, spoke to the campus community about his life's journey as a person with Down Syndrome. He got involved with Special Olympics because of a few family friends and found Best Buddies through his teammates. With Special Olympics, Doyle has become a Global Messenger and spoken to thousands spreading the Special Olympic message of respect, hope, unity, and inclusion. Through both of those organizations, he got the opportunity to speak to the Miss Teen USA 2017 pageant and meet the Vice President of Best Buddies International. He discussed how things have not and continue to not be easy for him, but he is empowered by the organizations he is committed to and is proud of the confident person he has become.

Co-author – Lu Sheikhnureldin
Secretary, Best Buddies
Social Media Chair, Best Buddies, and Talk to The Hands

SPRING 2021 EVENTS

January 24-30, 2021

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

**Wednesday, January 27
6 p.m. | Zoom**

2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Aaron Dobyne

February 2021

Black History Month Celebration

**Wednesday, February 10
6 pm | Zoom**

2021 Black History Month Keynote Speaker: Judge Kerwin A. Miller, Sr.

March 2021

Women's History Month Celebration

**Monday, March 22
6 pm | Zoom**

Women's History Month Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mecca Jamilah Sullivan

April 5 – April 9, 2021

Islamic Cultural Celebration

**Thursday, April 8
7 pm | TBD**

Islamic Cultural Celebration Banquet: Ms. Ayesha Noor

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Passover Seder

For information about upcoming events and programs at the James Farmer Multicultural Center, visit our website at students.umw.edu/multicultural or follow us on social media!



2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Aaron Dobyne

Wednesday, January 27 | 6 p.m. | [Register here for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Keynote Speaker](#)



The Rev. Dr. Aaron L. Dobyne, Sr. began his service as Shiloh's tenth pastor on June 1, 2014. A native of Alabama, Pastor Dobyne is a fourth generation preacher. He attended high school in Selma and earned a B.S. degree in psychology at the University of Alabama. He received his Master of Divinity degree from the Virginia Union University School of Theology and his Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. He is passionate about black history, womanist theology, and the "Beloved Community." He has received his Ph.D. in humanities, with a concentration in Martin Luther King, Jr., studies.

As of this year, Pastor Dobyne has been a senior pastor for thirty-four years. During those years, he has served churches in Virginia, Alabama, and Louisiana. In addition to pastoring, Pastor Dobyne serves on The Community Foundation of the Rappahannock River Region. He is a member of the 2017 class of Leadership Fredericksburg. He is a founding member of Epsilon Rho chapter of Sigma Pi Phi "The Boule," a member of the Omicron Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, and a 32nd degree Mason of the James O. Bampfield Consistory #56.

2021 Black History Month Keynote Speaker: Judge Kerwin A. Miller, Sr.

Wednesday, February 10 | 6 pm | [Register here for the Black History Month Keynote Speaker](#)



Judge Kerwin A. Miller, Sr. is a native of the Bronx, New York. While growing up there as a young teenager, he read an article about how unlikely it was for an African American male to graduate high school. He took the article as an insult and a challenge. His academic journey led him to attend Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia. During his time there, he was a member of the basketball team. In 1995, he graduated from Mary Washington College with a degree in Business Administration. Shortly thereafter, he enrolled in Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, California. In 1999, he obtained his juris doctorate and established his law office a year later. In 2001, he began working as a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Bureau in Baltimore city. Since then, he has served in numerous positions, including being a public defender in Baltimore city and county, an assistant state's attorney in Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office and the Cecil County State's Attorney's Office, as well as the deputy state's attorney in the Cecil County State's Attorney's office. In 2015, he became an administrative law judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings for the state of Maryland. Four years later, he was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan to serve as an Associate Judge in District 9, Harford County in Maryland. Currently, he resides in Maryland with his wife and two children.

Upcoming Events:



Kwanzaa

Tuesday, December 1 | 6 p.m. | [Register here to attend Kwanzaa](#)
Co-sponsored by the Black Student Association