

JAMES FARMER MULTICULTURAL CENTER

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3 | February 2023

2023 Black History Month Major Speaker

WISDOM O. COLE

Wednesday, February 8 | 7 p.m.

Chandler Ballroom C, Cedric Rucker University Center



Wisdom O. Cole is the National Director of the NAACP Youth & College Division. In this role, he serves more than 700 youth councils, high school chapters, and college chapters actively involved in the fight for civil rights. Wisdom brings extensive experience in civil rights advocacy training institute, electoral action training, grassroots organizing, issues toolkits, and webinars at the local, state, and national level. He has managed national

campaign efforts focused on building Black political power through youth leadership development, advocacy, and direct action organizing for the past 3 years with the NAACP, formerly as the National Campaigns & Training Manager.

In his time at the NAACP, he has worked on campaigns around the cancelation of student debt, removing police from schools, as well as increasing voter access for young Black people. He has been featured on NPR, VICE, NBC Washington News, Brookings Institute, and The Economist as an advocate for Black youth voter turnout through issue-based campaign organizing. In 2020 he was named one of Complex Life's 32 young activists who are changing the world.

Wisdom was previously a field and state conference organizer for the Afrikan Black Coalition (ABC), the largest Black collegiate organization in California. In 2014, he collaboratively organized the Afrikan Black Coalition conference that featured keynote speakers such as Marc Lamont Hill, Angela Davis, Bobby Seale, and Attallah Shabazz. For this effort, he received the Chancellor's Achievement Award for Diversity in recognition for outstanding contributions to furthering diversity, inclusion, and excellence at UC Santa Cruz.

Wisdom grew up in California where he earned a B. A. in Chemistry, with a minor in STEM Education, from UC Santa Cruz as well as a M. A. in Teaching from the University of San Francisco. (Credit: NAACP)



2022-2023 Human Rights Film Series

As part of our ongoing commitment to social justice and honoring the legacy of Dr. James Farmer, the James Farmer Multicultural Center proudly presents the Human Rights Film Series. This year, the Human Rights Film Series will focus on the uncomfortable truths of our United States history. Join us as we discuss human rights through the lens of stories that are often avoided or omitted from our history books altogether.

Hawaii: The Stolen Paradise

Wednesday, March 8 | 5 pm

Chandler Ballroom A/B, Cedric Rucker University Center

Alumni Events:



Save the Date:
Giving Day

Tuesday, April 4
givingday.umw.edu/

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 Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!



2023 Women's History Month Celebration Major Speaker

Dr. Gayatri Sethi, PhD



Gayatri Sethi (PhD) is an educator, writer, and independent consultant. She teaches and writes about Social Justice, Global Studies, and Comparative Education. Born in Tanzania and raised in Botswana, she is of Punjabi descent, multilingual, and polycultural. She reflects on these lifelong experiences of identity, immigration, and belonging in her debut non-fiction book titled *Unbelonging*.

She is also the co-founder of the Desi KidLit community, an initiative to build solidarity among South Asian diaspora writers for young people. When she is not reading or recommending reads on Instagram as @desibookaunty, she is envisioning traveling and gathering in community safely again.

Join us for our major speaker, Dr. Gayatri Sethi, on Wednesday, March 15 at 7 pm in Chandler Ballroom C, Cedric Rucker University Center.

33rd Annual Multicultural Fair

Saturday, April 1 | 10 am – 5 pm



The Multicultural Fair generally attracts 5,000 to 6,000 people each year, and exemplifies the University of Mary Washington's commitment to enhancing multicultural awareness. Typically held in early April, the Fair provides an entire day devoted to multicultural entertainment, children's activities, international and American food, and ethnic craft vendors. Each year the Multicultural Student Affairs and James Farmer Multicultural Center work closely with UMW student organizations, faculty and staff in planning festivities. The University also partners with the greater Fredericksburg community, which plays an integral role in successfully implementing the fair.

2022-2023 Cultural Awareness Series

Upcoming Events

2023 Black History Month Major Speaker:
Wisdom Cole
Wednesday, February 8 | 7 p.m. | Chandler Ballroom C, Cedric Rucker University Center

2023 Women's History Month Major Speaker:
Dr. Gayatri Sethi, PhD
Wednesday, March 15 | 7 pm | Chandler Ballroom C, Cedric Rucker University Center

33rd Annual Multicultural Fair
Saturday, April 1 | 10 am – 5 pm

Islamic Cultural Celebration Banquet Speaker:
Sumayya Tobah
Thursday, April 6 | 7 p.m. | Chandler Ballroom, Cedric Rucker University Center

Passover Seder
Monday, April 10 | 6 p.m. | Chandler Ballroom C, Cedric Rucker University Center

Visit umw.edu/multicultural to view all upcoming events in the 2022-2023 Cultural Awareness Series.