

JAMES FARMER MULTICULTURAL CENTER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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JFMC CELEBRATES 33RD ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL FAIR



Photo credit: Bex Colley



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Photo credit: Roger Tobias Conner



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Thank you to everyone who has kept the Multicultural Fair going strong!

See the article ***Popular Multicultural Fair Brightened Rainy Weekend*** for more information about the 33rd Annual Multicultural Fair at UMW!

[View the full-text article *Popular Multicultural Fair Brightened Rainy Weekend*](#)



UMW Hosts ASPIRE Week Celebration

During the second week of April this semester, the campus community participated in an historic celebration of the institution's community values known as ASPIRE. The acronym stands for Accountability, Scholarship, Personal and institutional integrity, Inclusive excellence, Respect and civility, and Engagement. This week-long celebration was conceptualized and spearheaded by Jaylyn Long, SGA vice president. Jaylyn stated it was important for her to host this celebration to "make sure students knew and appreciated our community values." As a young Black woman, she was especially grateful for this opportunity to lead this effort, alongside Dr. Shavonne Shorter and others, as well as having the support of the administration and so many campus partners in this endeavor. Jaylyn especially acknowledged the support of the SGA and how much "they went above and beyond to make sure their VP had a great event for the students." The celebration was a huge success and Jaylyn hopes to "make it bigger...and do more to include our greater Fredericksburg community."

You may read more about this celebration [from the article 'ASPIRE Week Takes Flight With Events Celebrating Eagle Values'](#).

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!



Annual Senior Recognition Program

For the graduating seniors, the end of this year marks the first step into a new and exciting life beyond UMW. At our annual Senior Recognition Program and Dinner, we honored those graduating students who have made significant contributions in the areas of multiculturalism, diversity, inclusion and social justice during their tenure. These graduates have demonstrated leadership and commitment by showcasing aspects of cultural differences, as well as engaging the campus community in meaningful education and dialogue through a variety of programs, activities, and projects.

We applaud this cohort of leaders for their efforts to ensure that no culture is forgotten and that everyone is enriched by being exposed to diverse perspectives. As engaged students, they have added their own unique voices, capitalized on their own experiences, and have truly embraced the essence of the principles and values Mary Washington has articulated and promoted. The work of the James Farmer Multicultural Center has been greatly enhanced by the contributions of these students.

We thank them and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



A group of over 20 students, faculty, and staff pose together following the 2023 Senior Recognition Program.

Gadsoni Abel
Yokabit Ayele
Armon Barnes
Talyn Derflinger
Eyerusalm Getachew
Gwendolyn Harrison*
Aliza Haskal*
Maya Jenkins
Shauna Kaplan
Orianne Mbuyi Musinga Kazadi
Foziya Mohammed



Zahraa Mohammed*
Sha'Lelia Moore
William Moore
Shreya Murali
Jordan Providence
Kate Ramirez
Darius Reed*
Cameron Washington
Jalen White
Sara Zhou

*Completed degree requirements December 2022

Alumni Affinity Groups & Upcoming Events

The UMW Alumni Association has been hard at work cultivating connections among alumni. Alumni Affinity groups, a special interest group designed to connect alumni based on identity, student organization involvement, interests, or professional association. Current groups associated with the JFMC include the **Black Alumni Affinity Group**, **Jewish Alumni Affinity Group (Shalom Eagles)**, **LGBTQ Alumni Affinity Group**, and **Multicultural Alumni Affinity Group**.

Visit alumni.umw.edu/affinitygroups to find out more today!

Reunion Weekend Affinity Group Breakfast
Saturday, June 3 | 9:00 - 10:30 AM | Lee Hall, 4th Floor



Calling all members of the Black, Jewish, LGBTQ, and Multicultural Affinity Groups! Join us for a special breakfast with brief remarks from Dr. Shavonne Shorter, associate provost for equity and inclusion/ the chief diversity officer, and an associate professor of Department of Communication and Digital Studies.