

**James Farmer Multicultural Center**

**Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report**

**Kwanzaa Celebration – December 5**

- Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration that takes place in the United States. It is observed from December 26 thru January 1. This year, the James Farmer Multicultural Center along with the Black Student Association, held Kwanzaa on December 5, 2011. The purpose of Kwanzaa is to educate and entertain the members of the University of Mary Washington community about the culture of Kwanzaa. During the Kwanzaa event, attendees are informed about Kwanzaa's seven principles, libations, and Zawadi (gift giving). Kwanzaa allows for an opportunity to focus on the importance of family and community.

Like previous years, Kwanzaa is geared to all members of the UMW community. This year we had a good attendance by students, faculty, and administration as well as community members within Fredericksburg. Each year the faculty, staff, and administration are invited to serve as an Elder in the program in order to foster a more diverse community and emphasize the importance of Kwanzaa's culture. Their presence is an essential part of the program because it symbolizes the significance of Kwanzaa. The Voices of Praise singing group and the Praise Dance Club both performed during the program.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Week Celebration – January 17 – 21**

- In collaboration with the Office of the President, Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Community Service, and the MLK Planning Committee, the JFMC assisted in coordinating a series of programs to celebrate Dr. King. The campus and local community were invited to journey and reflect during this celebration on how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has affected your life, your community, and your future. Programs during this week included: MLK Keynote Speaker featuring Dr. Marc Lamont Hill; Film and Discussion sponsored by Fredericksburg Alumnae Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the MLK Campus-Wide Day of Service - a day-long coordination of community service projects and activities. Due to inclement weather that day, the number of scheduled projects was significantly reduced, which limited the opportunities for students to participate.

## Black History Month Celebration – February 2012

- The successful implementation of the 2012 Black History Month Celebration involved the collaboration of the Planning Committee, the JFMC, BSA, and several other departments and student organizations on campus. In addition, a few of the programs involved local community organizations and agencies, such as the American Red Cross.

The theme for the month is “My Black is Beautiful: Footprints, Reflections, and Paths.” Each program was designed to reflect the theme in one aspect or another. The goal of the Black History Month Celebration was to honor, celebrate, and educate everyone about the contributions of African Americans to American history and culture. The month-long celebration included a social justice lunch discussion, film and discussion programs, social and entertaining events representative of the Black cultures, as well as two meals in Seacobeck Dining Hall highlighting cuisines of various Black cultures. A significant and exciting highlight of the month-long celebration is the James Farmer Visiting Professor Lecturer and Black History Month Keynote speaker, Dr. Angela Davis.

- Academic Collaborations
  - Co-sponsored with the Diversity Leadership Council on the Black History Month Kick-off Celebration, “Ewabo Caribbean Steel Drum Band,” on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 in Great Hall, Woodard Campus Center.
  - Co-sponsored with Dr. Matthew Johnson a film and discussion program featuring Mr. Andre Robert Lee. The film was a documentary entitled, *Prep School Negro*. This program took place on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in Combs Hall, Room 139.
  - Joint venture with Dr. Doug Gately and the Music Department on “A Night of Jazz: Performance and Discussion,” on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. in the Underground.
  - Co-sponsored with the James Farmer Visiting Professor Committee and the AT&T Student Leadership Colloquium on the James Farmer Visiting Professor Lecturer and Black History Month Keynote Speaker, Dr. Angela Davis, on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Dodd Auditorium.