

**James Farmer Multicultural Center**

**Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report**

Women's History Month Celebration – March 2015

- The WHM Planning Committee coordinated numerous events under the theme, “Raising Our Voices: Equal Power, Equal Pay, Equal Rights.” This year, Women's History Month acknowledged that the Women's Rights Movement has been making strides and breaking down obstacles to equality for well over a century. Even so, challenges remain in achieving equality. The Women's History Month Planning Committee and the James Farmer Multicultural Center celebrated women and their contributions to society.

Islamic Cultural Celebration – March 30 – April 3

- The Islamic Student Association (ISA) took the leadership in planning and coordinating this celebration for the campus community. The kick-off event was held on Ball Circle and included a cultural display, music, Henna designs, and Mediterranean food. Other events for the celebration included hosting an abstract and contemporary artist, a panel discussion, and the Islamic Cultural banquet. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Ms. Noor Tagouri, a first-generation Libyan-American journalist, who has gained coveted spots for CBS radio and a local news reporter in the D.C. metro area. Her presentation was enlightening and outstanding. She was well-received by the audience.

Passover – April 7

- The Jewish Student Association took the leadership in planning and coordinating this event for the campus community. Passover is the Jewish celebration that honors the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. The eight-day celebration takes place in early spring and has many rituals that involve food and the unification of family. The Jewish Student Association and the JFMC hosted the fifth annual Passover feast in Seacobeck Hall. Over 60 people attended this event. Several community members and faculty/staff members were in attendance. Members of JSA read the history of Passover as well as demonstrated the ancient Hebrew prayers and texts.

Multicultural Fair – April 11

- The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Fair drew a large crowd of over 5,000 individuals to the campus. With perfect weather conditions for the day, the Fair was very successful. In recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair, the first coordinators were invited to attend this milestone event. There were an impressive number of vendors and volunteers participating in this event. The Multicultural Fair Committee was very detailed and thorough in the planning and implementing processes. The JFMC gratefully

acknowledges the many departments and individuals who contributed their time, efforts, input, etc. to make this event possible and successful.

#### Academic Collaborations

- Program support with Dr. Kristin Marsh, associate professor of Political Science and International Affairs, on “Women’s Undergraduate Research Forum” on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lee Hall, Room 411. It was sponsored by the WGST Program.
- Program support with the Theatre Department for the performance, “Leading Ladies: Celebrating Women in Theater,” on Friday, March 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in DuPont Hall, Room 115.
- Co-sponsored program with Dr. Richard Finkelstein, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, on the keynote presentation featuring Dr. Anita Taylor, professor emerita of communication at George Mason University, on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Lee Hall, Room 411.
- Program support with Dr. Maria Laura Bocaz, assistant professor in the Modern Languages and Literatures department and Dr. Connie Smith, senior lecturer in the English, Linguistics, and Communication department, on “Twentieth-Century Latin American Women Poets: A Bilingual Reading,” on Thursday, March 19, 2015 in Combs Hall, Room 139.
- Program support with Dr. Allyson Poska, director of Women’s and Gender Studies Program and professor in History and American Studies, on “‘Stinks and Bangs’: Hobby Science in Gendered Spaces,” on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Monroe Hall, Room 116.
- Program support with Dr. William Crawley, adjunct instructor in the History and American Studies department and director of the Great Lives Series on, “Shirley Temple,” featuring author, John Kasson. The program took place on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in George Washington Hall, Dodd Auditorium.
- Program support with Dr. Mehdi Aminrazavi, professor in the Classics, Philosophy and Religion department on a film and discussion program, “Allah Made Me Funny” on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in Monroe Hall, Room 346.
- Joint venture with Dr. Anand Rao, associate professor in the English, Linguistics, and Communication department and director of the Speaking Intensive Program and the Speaking Center, on a social media strategy project with his COMM 370F class for the Multicultural Fair, from February – April 11, 2015.