

November 10, 2014

## **James Farmer Multicultural Center**

### **Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report**

#### Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) Cultural Celebration – October 15 - 24

- The student organization, People for the Rights of Individuals of Sexual Minorities (PRISM) took the leadership in planning and coordinating the events for the campus community. The theme for this celebration was “Back to School: Queer Edition.” The kick-off celebration took place on October 15, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Due to inclement weather, it was held in the Underground. During this event, information was provided regarding GSMA programs, the PRISM club, and games were available for attendees. Other activities included educational presentations, a film screening, and a prom dance as the concluding event. The keynote program featured Mara Keisling, a transgender-identified woman and parent who also is the founding executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. Her presentation was well-received by the audience.

#### Asian Cultural Celebration – October 26 – November 1

- This celebration provided an experience of Asian culture that exposed individuals to various art forms such as dancing, storytelling, music, acting, fashion and more. The keynote performance was Onoe Ryu Japanese Dance Enterprises. The members of Onoe Ryu showcased a mesmerizing style of Japanese classical dance full of amazing imagery and graceful movements. In addition, they provided an overview of the history and tradition of the dance and their colorful silk kimonos. The entire evening was enlightening, engaging, and entertaining.

#### Taste of Asia – November 1

- The Asian Student Association and the JFMC co-sponsored this event that was open to the campus and local communities. There were over 400 individuals who attended the program. The audience was treated to a festive atmosphere featuring a fashion show, musical and dance performances by faculty, students and an invited group, the Laughing Dragon Kung Fu School (Charlottesville, VA).

#### Jewish Cultural Celebration – November 4 - 15

- This was the fourth annual Jewish Cultural Celebration co-sponsored by the Jewish Student Association and the JFMC. The kick-off celebration was successful with over 100 individuals attending the event in Seacobeck Hall. There are several other programs throughout this two-week celebration including a film and discussion event, a Shabbat

dinner, and a program featuring a Holocaust survivor, etc. The keynote speaker for this celebration is Dr. Vanessa Ochs, a professor in the University of Virginia's Department of Religious Studies and Jewish Studies Program. This presentation will conclude the celebration.

#### Academic Collaborations

- Joint venture with Dr. Will Mackintosh, assistant professor in the History and American Studies department, on a presentation entitled, "History in the Making," on Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in Lee Hall, Room 412.
- Co-sponsored program with Dr. Steve Rabson, adjunct instructor in the Classics, Philosophy and Religion department and the UMW Leidecker Center for Asian Studies, "Cultural Keystones: The Foundations of Modern Music and Its Place in Contemporary Korean and Japanese Culture," on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in Lee Hall, Room 411.
- Joint venture with Ms. Li Li, adjunct instructor and language coordinator with the Modern Languages and Literatures department, on a presentation entitled, "Mask and Costume Art in the Peking Opera," on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 at 5:00 pm in Combs Hall, Room 211.
- Joint venture with Dr. Wei Chen, assistant professor in the College of Business, and Ms. Hope Tang, adjunct instructor and language coordinator with the Modern Languages and Literatures department, with performances for the Taste of Asia program on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the Anderson Center.
- Joint venture with Dr. Porter Blakemore, associate professor in the History and American Studies department, on a presentation and lecture entitled, "Kristallnacht Commemoration featuring a Holocaust Survivor," on Monday, November 10, 2014 at 6:00 pm in Lee Hall, Room 411.