

**James Farmer Multicultural Center**

**Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report**

**Cross-Cultural BBQ – August 31, 2017**

- The student organization, Students Educating and Empowering for Diversity (SEED) took the leadership in planning and coordinating this event for the campus community. There were 14 student organizations that participated by hosting a table and providing information about their purpose and activities, as well as a food dish that was representative of their culture or group. In addition, four student groups and one community group performed throughout the program. Hundreds of people attended this event. Individuals were able to learn more about the cultural groups on campus, activities they engage in, and sample a flavor of their respective cuisine.

**Latino Identities Month Celebration – September 15 – October 15**

- Latino Identities Month (LIM) Celebration had a successful kick-off event on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in Ball Circle. Members of the Latino Student Association (LSA) did a great job in planning and implementing this event for the campus community. There were many individuals who attended (including faculty, staff, and administrators) and several who participated in various aspects of the program. There were music, food, and cultural information provided for everyone. A guest performer showcased various Latino dance styles for the audience.
- Other LIM programs have been equally implemented with enthusiasm and thoroughness. The celebration will conclude with the Feria: Dinner Theater in Chandler Ballroom, University Center, on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. The main performance will feature Semilla Cultural, a non-profit group dedicated to cultivating Puerto Rican culture and traditions in Virginia. Most of these events were free and open to the campus and surrounding communities.

**Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) Cultural Celebration 2017 – October 23 – 27**

- 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 “Fall In Love.” The kick-off celebration took place on October 23, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. on Ball Circle. During this event, information was provided regarding GSMA programs and the PRISM club. Other activities included educational presentations, a film screening, and a Prom dance as the concluding event. The keynote program featured Faisal Alam, a queer-identified Muslim activist of Pakistani descent. At 19, while trying to reconcile his sexuality with his faith, Alam organized a gathering of LGBT Muslims that led to the founding of AI-

Fatiha, an organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and questioning Muslims and their allies.

#### Asian Cultural Celebration – October 29 – November 2

- The celebration began with the popular annual event, Taste of Asia, which highlighted different aspects of Asian culture presented through a fashion show, dance performances, and an array of ethnic foods. The theme was “Creating Harmony by Uniting Asian Traditions.” There were scheduled presentations including a Fan Dance program led by a UMW faculty member, as well as karaoke and movie night events. The celebration ended with the keynote performance featuring Mana Polynesia. They are a group that teaches the culture, history, and traditions of the South Pacific through traditional and contemporary dances from Hawaii, Tonga, Tahiti, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, and the other islands.

#### Jewish Cultural Celebration – November 7 - 11

- This was the seventh annual Jewish Cultural Celebration co-sponsored by the Jewish Student Association and the JFMC. The kick-off celebration featured a cultural dinner with Jewish cuisine served at the Top of the UC. Other programs throughout this celebration including a movie and discussion, a panel discussion event led by a local rabbi on Jewish traditions and experiences, and a Shabbat dinner.

#### Academic Collaborations

- Program support with Dr. Marcelo Fajardo-Cardenas for the “Spain and Latin America in Films and Literature” series on Wednesdays, Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4, and Oct. 11 at 5 p.m. in Combs Hall, Room 237.
- Program support with Drs. Maria Bocaz and Gary Richards for “Thursday Poems” on Thursday, September 21, 2017, at 5 p.m. in Combs Hall, Room 139.
- Program support with Dr. Elizabeth Lewis for the “Santiago de Compostela – From Antiquity to the Middle Ages” on Thursday, September 26, at 5 p.m. in Combs Hall, Room 139.
- Program support with Dr. Doug Gately on a performance entitled “UMW Jazz Ensemble’s Latin Jazz Night,” on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center.
- Program support with Dr. Laura Wilson for a lecture on “Mental Health Awareness Panel” on Thursday, October 25, 2017 at 4 p.m. in Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center.
- Program support with Ms. Hope Tang for a presentation of the Fan Dance on Monday, October 30, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center.