

James Farmer Multicultural Center

Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report

Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) Cultural Celebration – October 16 - 25

- 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. This year marked the first time we used the new term, Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) throughout. The adoption of this new term was to reflect more inclusivity than the previous acronym - GLBTTQQAAP. The theme for this celebration was “Express Yourself: Exploring the Diversity of Identities in the GSMA Community.” PRISM is the largest student organization with the JFMC. The kick-off celebration took place on October 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. in Ball Circle. Over 150 hundred individuals attended and participated in the various activities that took place. Other activities included panel discussions, film festival, a keynote performance featuring *Invincible*, a nationally touring hip/hop, socially-conscious rapper, and concluded with a prom on Friday, October 25th.

Asian Cultural Celebration – October 28 – 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 Taikoza, a Japanese Drum & Bamboo Flute group. The members of Taikoza electrified and thrilled the audience with their high quality deliverance of outstanding talents and skills. 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 community groups, and a variety of ethnic food. Special performances were given by two invited groups, the Laughing Dragon Kung Fu School (Charlottesville, VA) and the Beijing Opera, Ltd. (Washington, DC).

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, presentation on religion and nationality, etc. The keynote performance for this celebration is Alexandria Kleztet, the mid-Atlantic's premier klezmer band. Klezmer is Jewish folk music from Eastern Europe that draws upon jazz, classical, world beat, rock, and other musical genres to create a unique and entertaining sound. This performance will conclude the celebration.

Academic Collaborations

- Joint venture with Dr. Debra Schleef, Chair of Sociology and Anthropology and professor, on a presentation on "Assimilation and Acculturation – Identity Problems of Latinos in the United States," on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in Lee Hall, Room 412.
- Joint venture with Dr. Gary Richards, Chair of ELC department and associate professor, and Dr. Will Mackintosh, assistant professor in History and American Studies on a panel discussion titled, "Expressions and Identities," on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Lee Hall, Room 411.
- Co-sponsored program with Dr. Steve Rabson, Brown University professor emeritus of East Asian studies, UMW Leidecker Center for Asian Studies "The Music of Japan and Korea: From Classical to Pop, " on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in Lee Hall, Room 412.