

James Farmer Multicultural Center

Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report

Islamic Cultural Celebration – April 1 - 5

- 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 Salaam Bhatti, a public benefits attorney at the Virginia Poverty Law Center in Richmond, VA. His presentation was enlightening and outstanding. He was well-received by the audience.

Multicultural Fair – April 13

- The 29th Annual Multicultural Fair drew thousands of individuals to the campus. Even though the majority of the activities and performances for the Fair were moved indoors due to the weather that morning, the overall attendance and participation of our campus community and visitors was impressive. It was an exciting and fun-filled day that featured many different performances on four stages; showcased the talents, wares, and information from our craft and nonprofit vendors; and offered a delicious variety of cultural cuisines for everyone. There was high energy and enthusiasm throughout the Fair. The crowds at many of the performances were packed, there were elaborate artistic designs on the faces of children, students, and adults, alike, from the face painter, and activities were very creative and engaging in the children's area. The whole atmosphere for the Fair was festive and electrifying! The JFMC gratefully acknowledges the many departments and individuals who contributed their time, efforts, input, etc. to make this event possible and successful.

Passover – April 23

- 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 annual Passover feast in Chandler Ballroom C. Approximately 80 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.

Academic Collaborations

- Program support with Drs. Mehdi Aminrazavi and Mary Beth Mathews, professors in the Classics, Philosophy and Religion department on a panel program entitled, “Interfaith Harmony Discussion” on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Lee Hall, Room 411.