

BECOME AN OMSA VOLUNTEER

The OMSA Volunteer Team is designed to provide students with experiential learning opportunities related to program planning and evaluation, networking, cultural awareness and appreciation. Over the course of the year, we seek to develop strong interpersonal relationships through teamwork, communication, cooperation and initiative.

Although many of our volunteer opportunities were on-campus, one community-based program located in the east end of Richmond, headed by VCU alumna, Ayanna McMullen, has served as a special niche for the OMSA Volunteer Team over the 2008-2009 school year.

Charity Family Life (CFL) is a non-profit organization that provides youth and family programs in Richmond, Virginia. They are committed to seeing change within the community—one family at a time.

Looking to learn more about the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs? Want to become a member of our volunteer team and grow as a servant-leader? Check us out on the Web: www.omsa.vcu.edu/services/volunteer.php.

STAFF INFORMATION

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OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL STUDENT AFFAIRS

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Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

OMSA *UPDATE*

Cultural Connection

Mabuhay

Yin dee

Chào mung

Bienvenida

Goroganga ka pula

Welcome

Sushri akal

Marhaban

Aloha mai

SPRING RECAP 09'

Intercultural Festival

The cultural wave arrived on Sunday, April 5, 2009! Over 1,000 students and community members attended this all day festival in Monroe Park. Performances were given by several VCU student organizations as well as local artist. The festival offered many activities for the family and various cuisines from local restaurants.

2nd Annual Student Leadership Conference

On April 18, OMSA put on its annual conference for student organization members, including executive and general members. This conference helps members organize and ease the transition of leadership within their organization. This year over 50 student leaders were in attendance! Next year's conference is slated for Saturday, April 19, 2009.

Presidential Awards for Community Multicultural Enrichment (PACME)

The PACME awards were created to recognize and encourage such contributions that include promoting civility, building community and cross-cultural initiatives.

This year's winners were: Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, School of Medicine; Dr. Helen Aspaas, Douglas L. Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs; Ms. Randi Buerlein, School of Social Work; Ms. Milagritos Flinn, School of Nursing; Ms. Chenfang Hao, School of Education.

Black History Month Celebration

OMSA kicked off its 2009 'Sounds of Black History' celebration with many great events throughout the month of February. In partnership with other offices OMSA was able to bring well known author Dr. Michael Eric Dyson to campus with well over 300 students, faculty and staff in attendance. As a part of our cultural excursions series our office also took students on a Black History tour of Richmond.



FALL INITIATIVES

Welcome Week

At the beginning of each academic year OMSA introduces the new student population to its cultural programs and events during this university wide celebration. Our office will again host a LGBT panel discussion, Salsa on the Plaza and introduce students to our Multicultural Village. The village will give students a chance to mix and mingle with various ethnic, racial and sexual orientations.

Mosaic Week

To introduce students to OMSA's full services and programs our office presents Mosaic week. During this time we invite students to attend the offices Open House, Brown Bag Luncheons and a Cultural Resource Fair. This year, OMSA will be holding "Safe Zone" training for VCU Students and will also hold a large student organizational meeting for the cultural groups that we advise.

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)

This year the OMSA office has team up with the University of Richmond to bring you 'Nuestra Comunidad' (Our Community)! Together both Universities will be recognizing the contributions of Hispanic Americans and celebrating the rich diversity of the Latin Culture. We invite students to join us for films, cultural excursions, discussion groups and community service opportunities

Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transgendered Month

For the first time OMSA will hold a month-long annual observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It is observed during October in the United States, to include National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

Go to www.omsa.vcu.edu for more information on all programs.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT :: Elmer Campos, Admissions Counselor for Outreach & Access, VCU Undergraduate Admissions

As an Undergraduate Admissions counselor I am responsible for recruitment of new students providing information about the university to prospective students, guidance counselors, parents and other constituencies. Representing the university at special events and evaluating applicant credentials for admissions, counseling prospective students on their admissibility. I also coordinate and implement recruitment strategies aimed at increasing the Latino/Hispanic student body at the university.

To be more affective in reaching out to first generation Latino students, I have been working closely with the Latino student organizations on-campus and they have been an important factor in the success of programming.

In the fall 2008, along with La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc., Latino Student Association, and Sigma Lambda Upsilon, Señoritas Latinas Unidas, Sorority Inc. we hosted the event Primeros Pasos or "First Steps." Primeros Pasos is a one day program to motivate and encourage first generation college bound high school students to attend college and to showcase all VCU has to offer. It was a full day of activities for students and bilingual information sessions for parents. During the day students and parents learned about the university, admissions, financial aid and scholarships. After the event, students visiting

were able to attend "Movimientos" a cultural show in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, hosted by La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. The final event gave prospective students a glimpse at college life and an opportunity to interact with other students and organizations. Due to the success of the event, we are currently working on hosting it again.

My future outreach goals are to continue to develop and improve events such as Primeros Pasos and work closely with student organizations, departments in improving current programs, developing programs that will assist, motivate and increase the attendance of first generation students to institutions of higher learning like VCU. In addition, I would like to seek partnerships with community organizations to serve future students of color, developing mentorship opportunities with current VCU students and prospective students.

Students who would like to volunteer or work with the admissions office can get involved with the Student Ambassadors organization. The organization assists the admissions office with recruitment through daily campus tours and participating in special events.

PRESIDENT' S SPOTLIGHT :: Sophie Yuth, President, Filipino Americans Coming Together (FACT)



Filipino Americans Coming Together (FACT@VCU) started in 1995 at VCU. What began as simple meetings and potluck dinners grew to become a great, cultural student organization. FACT's mission is to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia and Richmond by advocating on behalf of the Filipino American community through social, political, cultural and educational actions. The true beauty of FACT is its eagerness to include any and all persons who are interested in the Filipino culture and to learn from others. FACT is proud of being a very diverse organization, which boasts people of all different races, religions, genders, sexualities who have come together as a family at VCU. I am more than honored to serve as their president this upcoming 2009-2010 year. I may be the new president, but in reality I am merely a figurehead who works for the interest of our members and the community. This is their organization.

One of our primary goals for the upcoming year is to network with other VCU student cultural organizations through joint events and collaborations. We are always looking for new opportunities to

branch out! In the fall typical events include monthly potlucks and various community service and social activities. During October, one of our biggest events, Barrio Fiesta, serves as a mini-festival to celebrate Filipino History Month. FACT@VCU is a registered member of the Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue Inc. (FIND, Inc.) that consists of other organizations throughout the East Coast, ranging all the way from Boston to Virginia Beach, who network and share ideas in promoting Filipino-American culture and heritage. This fall, VCU has been chosen to host a dialogue for FIND which entails a weekend of workshops and speakers working to promote Critical Filipino American Studies and a sense of agency to all delegates of all backgrounds and from all over the East Coast. Everyone of all colors is highly encouraged to attend! The new executive council, board, and I look forward to making this year an outstanding one with FACT and especially with OMSA. See you in August!