Dear VCU Students,

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs welcomes you back to Virginia Commonwealth University! Our office has planned some exciting programs for this semester and we hope that you will participate.

We are happy to offer resources and programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students. We will also provide programs for women. These new efforts continue to expand our program to understand other groups. Other new initiatives will focus on a Diversity Film Series, a Mentoring Program and an extension to the MCV campus. For those who have an interest in our office, we house an International News Center and Multicultural Scholarship Information. Our Multicultural Resource Reading Area consists of books and other materials that are cross-listed with the University library. Other programs target multicultural student organizations that we advise and serve. These programs consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

- Men and Women of Color Support Groups
- Cultural Café
- Cultural Explorations
- Cultural Excursion Series
- Multicultural Speakers Series
- Multicultural Book Club
- Brown Bag Discussions
- Awards Ceremonies

One way to get involved is to come by the office and join our Volunteer Program. Through this program you will gain valuable experience with multicultural program development and implementation, marketing and networking strategies. In addition to the Volunteer Program, you can also join the Intercultural Festival Planning Committee. The Intercultural Festival (ICF) is a student facilitated program that has become a university tradition. This program has developed into a week of multicultural activities that culminates into the festival and parade. The festival consists of a day-long program that involving over 40 different student cultural groups and attracts the VCU and Richmond community, as well as people throughout the country. There are an array of cultural activities, including performances, displays and exhibits. Other exciting activities for visitors of all ages include cultural dance training, arts and crafts from around the world, games and face painting.

Have a successful and positive semester. We hope to see you at our office or programs!

Good Luck,

Napoleon L. Peoples, PhD
Director, Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

OMSA is pleased to introduce the following new services to the office this year:

**LGBT & Women’s Resources** — Students are able to peruse the office’s limited, but growing collection of LGBT books, movies and magazines. The office will also have information on local and national organizations. The office is safe, inclusive and welcoming to diverse students.

**Cultural Excursion Series** — Through trips to museums, plays and/or cultural events students are offered an opportunity to socialize with each other while learning about other cultures through direct involvement. Interpersonal discussions while traveling will broaden their experience with cross-cultural exposure.

**Expansion to the MCV Campus** — OMSA hopes to expand our programs and services to undergraduate, graduate and professional students on the MCV Campus. Offering programs in the residence halls and at other sites.

**Diversity Film Series** is designed to offer films that reflect the full spectrum of issues related multiculturalism, i.e. race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc. The purpose of this series is to allow for creative discussions about diversity from past and current socio-political values in America and throughout the world.

Through the series, participants will gain a broader understanding of their worldview and a clearer focus on issues that affect our society. This series will be hosted in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs on the Monroe Park campus and in selected residence halls at the MCV campus.

Our new **Mentoring Program** is designed to match first year freshmen and transfer students of color with VCU staff, faculty and alumni. The goal is to better serve the academic, professional and cultural needs of the student, by creating positive relationships with VCU professionals. Please visit the web site for details to participate!

Also through a collaborative project with the School of Business entitled **Dollars and Sense: Understanding Basic Personal Finance**, we will offer seminars designed to allow students an opportunity to dialogue with professionals about entering the job market, credit card debt, mortgages, financing automobiles, purchasing health, disability and life insurance, investing and other basic personal finance topics.

Please check out our schedule of events and services at [www.omsa.vcu.edu](http://www.omsa.vcu.edu).
multicultural Speaker Series

The Multicultural Speaker Series was a success bringing speakers such as Kamini Pahuja, Owner & Vice President, Alloy Polymers, Inc.; David Baugh, Criminal Defense Attorney-At-Law; Sharon Dabney-Woolridge, President and CEO of Klean Kare Team, Inc; and Tanya Gonzalez, Manager of the City of Richmond’s new Hispanic Liaison Office to VCU. The series focused on how to become successful in a multicultural world. Successful multicultural community leaders discussed their rise to responsible leadership positions, the issues they faced, the lessons learned, and the skills they developed to become a success.

multicultural Conference

OMSA offered a Multicultural Conference that focused on several multicultural issues in contemporary society. In a collaborative project with the University Career Center, the first annual conference was held on Monday, March 27, 2006 and the theme was “Diversity in the Workplace: A Challenge for the Students of Color.”

Topics and discussions during the conference included “Diversity in the Workplace: What does it mean “Gaining a Level Playing Field in Business and the Workplace,” and “Know Your Strengths Today — Become a CEO Tomorrow.” The keynote speaker for the conference was Judge Roger L. Gregory, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; and the program included presenters such as Spencer Byne, Director of Talent Acquisition for Clear Channel Radio; Ms. Liu-Jen Chu, Executive Vice President and Owner of A & L Eastern Laboratories, as well as the VCU Career Center’s Associate Director Alicia Aroche. It was quite successful for a first event, and we are excited about plans for next year’s second annual Multicultural Conference!

intercultural Festival

The Intercultural Festival (ICF) was successful with attendance of over 2,500 participants and more than 30 vendors and performers. Now an official VCU tradition, the VCU Intercultural Festival celebrated cultural diversity through an all day outdoor festival showcasing more than over 30 VCU cultural student organizations. The event attracted not only the VCU and Richmond community, but people from all over the country.

The festival offered an array of activities, such as unique performances, cultural displays and exhibits, VCU art student showcases, various cuisines from local restaurants, a fashion show and a parade. Several other exciting opportunities included dance lessons, arts and crafts from around the world, games, face painting and chances to win grand prizes.

Also during this time, we presented the Multicultural Academic Achievement Awards Reception, with awards presented to more than 400 students. We also had the opportunity to partner with VCU Business Services and Aramark to award a student the first VCU Dining Service Multicultural Scholarship.

black History Month

OMSA coordinated the annual calendar of events for the month-long celebration of African-American accomplishments. The series of university activities offered by students, faculty and staff included workshops, lectures, and performances, and marked the 15th annual celebration!

During Black History Month we sponsored or co-sponsored several prominent events and speakers including:


Also speaking during Black History Month was Nikki Giovanni, a literary phenomenon, and award-winning author of twelve works of fiction and nonfiction. Giovanni conducts workshops on a variety of topics including African-American literature, Black women’s writing, literary institution building and cultural activism. She is also a veteran teacher, who has been faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University and George Mason University and has led writing workshops in many venues in the United States and abroad.

In addition to other thought provoking discussion on groups and seminars, the second annual Soul Food Café was a huge success showcasing the significance of soul food with good food, music and poetry. Great kudos to the student organizations that were instrumental in creating such a successful event!

upcoming Events

MOSAIC WEEK (SEPT. 5–8)

Held annually during the first week of September, Mosaic week offers incoming multicultural students an opportunity to meet faculty, staff and others in the university. Students also learn about multicultural organizations, OMSA and other University services that may be helpful to them. We welcome you to attend the various events held that week, especially the Open House event stop by the office learn to more about our services and meet organization reps!

MOSAIC WEEK EVENT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</td>
<td>OMSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Black Student Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>6 p.m. – 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Commonwealth Ballrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Latino Extravaganza</td>
<td>4 p.m. – 6 p.m.</td>
<td>OMSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Asian Student Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>6 p.m. – 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Richmond Salons I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>LGBTQ Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>OMSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Spirit Fest</td>
<td>5 p.m. – 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Commons Plaza</td>
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OMSA OPEN HOUSE
Be sure to stop by the office during the OMSA Open House on Tuesday, September 5 to learn more about OMSA services and the following ethnic and racially diverse student organizations that we are responsible for advising:
• African Student Union
• Black Caucus
• Caribbean Student Union
• Chinese Student Association
• Ethiopian Student Union
• Filipino Americans Coming Together
• Intercultural Festival Planning Board
• NAACP at VCU
• Latino Student Association
• Vietnamese Student Association

ongoing Events

BROWN BAG DISCUSSIONS
(Meets in the OMSA office, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.)
A bimonthly forum takes place to provide stimulating discussions around topics related to ethnic and cultural diversity. This forum, designed as an educational discussion group, provides an opportunity for students to casually interact through social discourse.

DOLLARS AND SENSE
(Meets in the University Student Commons, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.)
This program will consist of seminar-type programs designed to offer students an opportunity to dialogue with professionals about entering the job market, credit card debt, mortgages, financing automobiles, purchasing health, disability and life insurance, investing and other life skills necessary for life.

MULTICULTURAL BOOK CLUB
(Meets in the OMSA office, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.)
Students will have the opportunity to increase their knowledge of cultural and social issues through reading and discussing books in a relaxed interactive forum. The club will meet every Tuesday at 12 p.m., beginning September 27. Space is limited, please sign up at omsa@vcu.edu or call 828-6672.

DISCUSSION GROUPS
(All meetings held in the University Student Commons – Room 215.)
Discussion Groups for women and men of color will be offered beginning in September. The groups are designed to discuss current issues related to them. The groups are designed to discuss current issues related to them. The focus will be on exploring racial, social, cultural issues and educational and career goals.
The Women of Color Discussion Group will be held every Wednesday at 5 p.m., beginning September 20. The Men of Color Discussion Group will be held every Thursday at 5 p.m., beginning September 21.

MULTICULTURAL SPEAKER SERIES
(Meets in Richmond Salons III & IV, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.)
This series offers students an opportunity to learn how to become successful in a multicultural world. Successful multicultural community leaders will be asked to discuss their rise to responsible leadership positions, the issues they faced, the lessons learned and the skills they developed to become a success.
Staff Information

Napoleon L. Peoples, PhD
Director

Beverly A. Walker, MEd
Assistant Director

Ijuanzee I. Isom, BS
Multicultural Program Specialist

OMSA-Advised Organizations

African Student Union
Black Caucus
Black and Latino Student Alliance
Carribean Student Association
Chinese Student Association
Ethiopian Student Union
Filipino Americans Coming Together
Intercultural Festival Planning Board
NAACP at VCU
Latino Student Association
Vietnamese Student Association

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs // Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services

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