

VOICES

Office of Diversity and Community Initiatives



January/February, 2012

Welcome to the January/February issue of VOICES. I hope your semester is off to a great start! In this issue we highlight the inaugural IDEA grant projects and the Lemon Project. If you have information that you would like to share, please email diversity@wm.edu. Have a great month!

*One Tribe. One Family,
Chon Glover*

Lectures on Islam

Asma Afsaruddin, Chair and Professor of the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures at Indiana University, Bloomington, will deliver two lectures in February:

Reviving the Caliphate: Debating Just Governance in Islam will take place on **Monday, February 20th** at 7 p.m. in Millington Hall 150.

Competing Visions of the Shari'a: The Real Clash in the Islamic World will take place on **Tuesday, February 21st** at 12:40 p.m. in William & Mary Law School, Room 133.

Both lectures are open to the general public. Admission is free.



Dr. Sue Rankin to visit William and Mary

On Thursday, February 16, Dr. Susan (Sue) Rankin will give a lecture entitled: "Building Inclusive Communities: The State of Higher Education for LGBT People." Dr. Rankin is a Senior Research Associate in the Center for the Study of Higher Education and Associate Professor of Education in the College Student Affairs Program at Pennsylvania State University. She has presented and published widely on the impact of sexism, racism and heterosexism in the academy and in intercollegiate athletics. Dr. Rankin's current research focuses on the assessment of institutional climate and providing program planners and policy makers with recommended strategies to improve the campus climate for under-served communities. Dr. Rankin has collaborated with over 90 institutions/organizations in implementing assessments and developing action plans. In her advocacy work, Dr. Rankin is a founding member of the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals and the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition. Dr. Rankin is the recipient of the ACPA 2008 Voice of Inclusion Medallion. The award recognizes individuals who embody the student affairs values of social justice. The program will begin at 7:00 pm in Tidewater Rooms of the Sadler Center. Dr. Rankin's lecture is made possible by contributions from the Office of the Provost, the Office of Student Affairs, the Center for Student Diversity, the Charles Center, and EqualityWM.

AMP Hosts Dan Savage

Dan Savage, creator of the "It Gets Better Project" spoke to a packed Commonwealth Auditorium on Wednesday, February 1st. After the lecture he signed books and shared in photos. See photo to the right of Matt Pohl, Assistant Dean of Admission with Dan Savage. According to the website, the "It Gets Better Project" was created to show young LGBT people the levels of happiness, potential, and positivity their lives will reach -- if they can just get through their teen years." William and Mary's video can be found at www.wm.edu/safezone.



Athletic Department Receives NCAA Diversity Inclusion Grant



For the second consecutive year, the William and Mary Athletic Department received a grant from the NCAA Office of Inclusion. On January 30-31, 81 staff members and 40 student-athletes participated in a workshop entitled, "Sexual Orientation Issues in Collegiate

Athletics" led by Dr. Jenny Lind Withycombe. According to the NCAA Office of Inclusion website, "as a core value, the NCAA believes in and is committed to diversity, inclusion and gender equity among its student-athletes, coaches and administrators. Diversity and inclusion improve the learning environment for all student-athletes and enhance excellence within the Association."

Inaugural IDEA Grants Awarded

Innovative Diversity Efforts Awards (IDEA) Grants

The Office of Diversity and Community Initiatives implemented the IDEA Grant program in the Fall. Three projects have been awarded for the Spring. Congratulations to the projects leaders!

The **Safe Zone Program** is designed to create a network of committed participants who are invested in the program goals. A key to successfully achieving the program goals is to both motivate and equip volunteers to become active allies. The grant will provide pins to volunteers as a visible supporter and resource person to anyone who has questions related to sexual orientation and gender identity, and provide workshop materials for training campus community members. Project Leaders: Margie Cook and Kim Green

The **Virtual Conversation Partner Programs**: Improving International Students' Intercultural Communicative Competence. The grant will be used to pilot the Virtual Conversation Partner program as a pre-arrival service to incoming international students. The program will improve incoming international students' intercultural communicative competence via a cost-effective program; create more intercultural experiences for American students on campus who have not studied abroad or travelled overseas, and support the College's internalization goals. Project Leader: Jingzhu Zhang

Multicultural Science Education: The grant will support workshops for incoming students interested in STEM disciplines at William and Mary. In addition, a video highlighting William and Mary alumni currently working in STEM careers will be produced. Project Leader: Jerome Carter

Black Law Student Association Wins Award



Congratulations to the **William and Mary Black Law Student Association** on their selection for the 4th consecutive year as the "Chapter of the Year" at the Mid-Atlantic Black Law Student Association conference. The mission of BLSA is to further the academic, social, and professional needs and goals of the black law students. BLSA members work together to foster a successful learning environment--focusing on building the skills and confidence of its members. BLSA members also participate in social activities and community service projects. Congratulations to the officers and members of BLSA! Keep up the great work!

Tidewater Gospel Festival



In celebration of Black History Month, the Center for Student Diversity and the Department of Music will present the annual Tidewater Gospel Festival on Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 5:00 pm in the Sadler Center. The event is free and open to the public. The featured choirs will be William and Mary's very own Ebony Expressions Gospel Choir, B.A.S.I.C. Gospel Choir (Longwood University), Ebony Impact Gospel Choir (Old Dominion University), His Chosen Sounds (Hampton University), and Black Awakening Choir (Virginia Commonwealth University). For more information please call 757-221.2300.

Lemon Project Highlights

The Education of African Americans in Virginia, a fall 2011 Lemon Project Class, visited the Robert Russa Moton Museum in Farmville, VA last November. The former African American high school, now museum, "is committed to the preservation and positive interpretation of the history of civil rights in education, specifically as it relates to Prince Edward County and the role its citizens played in America's struggle to move from a segregated to an integrated society." The museum tells the story of the 1951 student-led strike for a better school for black children and the closing of the Prince Edward County schools from 1959-1964 in order to avoid desegregation. The students toured the facility and later met with Douglas Vaughn at the First Baptist Church of Farmville, the site of the first mass meeting following the student walk out. Mr. Vaughn was one of the many school-age students to be locked out of the Prince Edward County schools. The second trip was to a meeting of the James City County/Bruton Heights School Alumni Association Meeting. This was another opportunity for the students to hear first-hand from African Americans who were educated in Virginia during the Jim Crow Era. Pictures below from class activities.



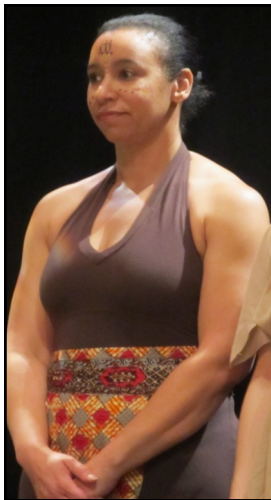
Lemon Project Class visit to Moton Museum



Lemon Project Class visit to First Baptist Church of Farmville, VA



Lemon Project Class meets with James City County/Bruton Heights School Alumni Association



Professor Leah Glenn

The Lemon Project and the Department of Theatre, Speech, and Dance presented a *Celebration of Dance* on February 5th at Kimball Theatre. The program was coordinated and choreographed by Professor Leah Glenn. According to Glenn, "the work is a celebration of the similarities between Native American and African dance and music." The performances included students, faculty, and community members. A special feature of the program were the Youghtanund Drummers and Singers. Comprised of Mid Atlantic Native People, the members are cultural educators that provide unique and authentic Native American song and dance presentations and interactive activities. Pictures below showcase the wonderful and successful event!



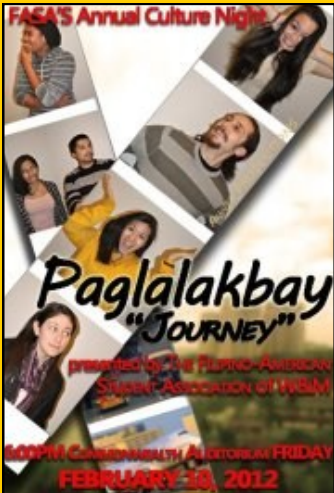
Youghtanund Drummers



Dancers

The 2nd Annual Lemon Project Spring Symposium will take place on Saturday, March 17th from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Bruton Heights School. This year's theme is: "The Journey Continues: Learning From Difference." This is a free event, but please register at: www.wm.edu/lemonproject.

Cultural Student Organization Spotlight - FASA



FASA is a student led organization that works to promote awareness of the Filipino-American culture to all members of The College of William and Mary and its community. FASA also provides social and educational activities for all interested individuals; to promote identity and unity among the Filipino-American students of The College of William and Mary. Their annual program Filipino Culture Night will be held on **Friday, February 10 at 6:00 pm in Commonwealth Auditorium**. This year's culture night is bolder than ever, with a lively show featuring a hilarious cast and spectacular dance numbers. Following the show is the much-anticipated Filipino feast along with a silent auction with delicious treats and knickknacks. Tickets are \$6 in advance, and \$10 at the door (meal is included in the price of the ticket).

Religion and Culture—Did you know?

Chinese Lunar New Year

The Chinese New Year is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. It is also known as “Spring Festival,” the literal translation of the Chinese name as it marks the end of the winter season. The festival begins on the first day of the first month which varies each year, depending on the Chinese calendar and ends with the Lantern Festival on the 15th day. On Chinese New Year's Eve, families gather for an annual reunion dinner known as *Chúxī* or “Eve of the Passing Year.” Because the Chinese calendar is lunisolar, the Chinese New Year is often referred to as the “Lunar New Year.” The origin of Chinese New Year dates back centuries.



Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by Black Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of African Americans in U.S. history. The event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the idea of noted historian Carter G. Woodson. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history. Each year, Black History Month has a specific theme. The 2012 theme celebrates the ways in which black women have shaped the United States and its history.

