

# OMSA Newsletter

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs • University of Wisconsin-Parkside

*“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”*

*- Benjamin Franklin*

## Equity and Diversity: Plan 2008

October 6, 2006 was an unforgettable day when a diverse group of faculty, staff, and students from UW-Parkside got to meet and speak with each other for a great purpose. This event's major theme was to focus on keeping and maintaining a diverse population here at UW-Parkside.

This event was initiated by the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED). OED is important to UW-Parkside in that it holds a tremendous responsibility to develop and create policies and procedures pertaining to issues of diversity, multiculturalism, equity, and affirmative action.

Co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA), this event was open to people of color at UW-Parkside who were interested in speaking about ways to improve the success of the overall retention and graduation rate of the diverse college student body.

The first half of this event was devoted to discussing issues concerning the staff and faculty. For instance, one of the issues was getting more students of color to enter classes that are normally less interesting because of diversity rate in those classes.

When noon came around, students and staff were able to have a luncheon and mingle together. Everyone had the chance to introduce themselves to each other and meet someone new.

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## Good and Evil of MACHISMO



On October 11, 2006, six panelists were invited to attend a speak out, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, on a controversial topic for Hispanic Heritage Month. These panel members were James Kinchen, Leonardo Zaibert, Theron Snell, Nydia Adames-Petty, Consuelo Clemens, Mary Louise Edwards, and Brandon Clark (facilitator). All of these panel members share a variety of experiences towards the attitude of machismo.

Machismo is used to describe the many ways our society views the roles of men in the workplace, home, and politics based on principles that have been exercised through many generations of different cultures.

During the speak out, the

panelists gave their personal views and definitions of the word machismo.

One panelist, Consuelo Clemens, began the panel discussion by saying, "Latinos value its culture. As a Patriarchal society, it can maintain the control of men over women." Another panelist, Nydia Adames-Petty, mentioned how she never saw machismo as a negative thing while growing up in Puerto Rico. As a social worker, Petty also realized that machismo is evident in different cultures.

When asked to explore a variety of other subjects and issues dealing with machismo, the phrase "Strong and wrong beats weak and right" was stated by Clemens. James Kinchen, who agreed with Clemens, believes that inside the political discourse, politicians have to maintain a sense of masculinity, especially dealing with the war in Iraq.

Some panelists questioned what it means to have machismo. Is it for show? What does it mean in every culture? Are men trying to be protective? What images do parents as individuals have for each other?"

The speak out was a well attended event. It helped to open the minds of everyone who attended and listened to the experiences of the panel speakers.

## Equity and Diversity: Plan 2008 Cont.

The luncheon was served family style. There was a raffle for all attendees and many prizes were given out.

After the luncheon, a discussion was led by Damian Evans, OMSA's Director. During the second half of the event, everyone was allowed to speak on what it takes for them as a person of color to be successful in college and in life.

Many words of wisdom were given from faculty and staff to

encourage and acknowledge the issues of having a diverse population and what barriers it creates.

This was a rare event where students had the opportunity to mingle and learn from faculty and staff of color in ways they would not have otherwise.

Eugene Fujimoto, Assistant to the Chancellor for Equity & Diversity would like to add, "The event was important to begin to break the isolation that faculty, staff and

students of color can feel at a predominantly white institution. The opportunity to develop a sense of community is vital to the campus as a whole. Further, there is a wealth of untapped knowledge and energy among faculty, staff and students of color that can contribute to making UW Parkside not just a multicolored place, but a truly multicultural one."

The Equity Scorecard Project:  
<http://www.uwp.edu/departments/academic.affairs/esp.cfm>

# AMSLC

## 2006

@ UW-Milwaukee

### What is AMSLC?

Pipkins: AMSLC stands for American Multicultural Student Leadership Conference. There were many motivational speakers, presenters, workshops, and other forms of entertainment.

### How did you hear about AMSLC?

I was in summer school, where I spent most of my time in OMSA. Damian approached me and told me about it. I read more about it and decided to go.

### What things did you do during AMSLC?

I mostly attended presentations and workshops that dealt with multicultural leadership and alliances. During the conference, there was a young lady who did a

presentation about divorced Hmong women in the U.S. who are oppressed. Jackie Guerrero, who starred in the movie *Selena* and was the campaign writer for Bill Clinton, was one of AMSLC's motivational speakers. There were many brilliant projects presented by students from other UW-system schools, especially from UW-Whitewater. The projects presented there were remarkable.

### What did you enjoy the most about AMSLC this year?

I liked the Mango Tribe the most. They were like Spoken Word. Mango Tribe did a lot of story telling, poetry, and dances to go along with their stories. The stories Mango Tribe did were deep and unwritten. The presenters were of the younger generation.



**Martel Pipkins**

Sophomore

Major: Sociology

Minor: Ethnic Studies

### Pipkins' UWP Activities:

ARU Mentor

SSS Mentor/ Tutor

PAO Member-at-Large

### Would you recommend students to go to AMSLC next year and why?

I would definitely recommend it. It is one the best things. Now I have plans to do something about what I learned. There is no reason why anyone should not go. I am excited to go to the one next year at UW-Whitewater.



What is that crazy little bulletin board by the corner of the computer lab in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, which has a bunch of colorful brochures on it? Don't be afraid to take a look at it and browse around. There might be more information than you know!

Those colorful brochures are a variety of study abroad opportunities.

## Want to Study Abroad?

Examples of study abroad programs would be China, Australia, Cordon, and Japan offered by UW-Platteville. UW-Milwaukee is offering France, Costa Rica, and Ireland. Here at UW-Parkside, students may find study abroad programs for Mexico, Scotland, and Germany. There are many more to choose from.

The brochures contain stories from students who have done the study abroad programs in the past. There is contact information for just about every study abroad program if anyone would like to know more about them. Students can also contact Dr. Consuelo Clemens at the

Center for International Studies with the extension x2701.

What would make study abroad programs unique and beneficial would be the opportunity to travel, explore, and learn from a completely different culture in a foreign country. Study abroad programs also are credited opportunities counted towards a major or graduation.

Hurry up and take a good look at those brochures in OMSA. Some study abroad programs have deadlines as early as next month!



Connect

Empower

Develop

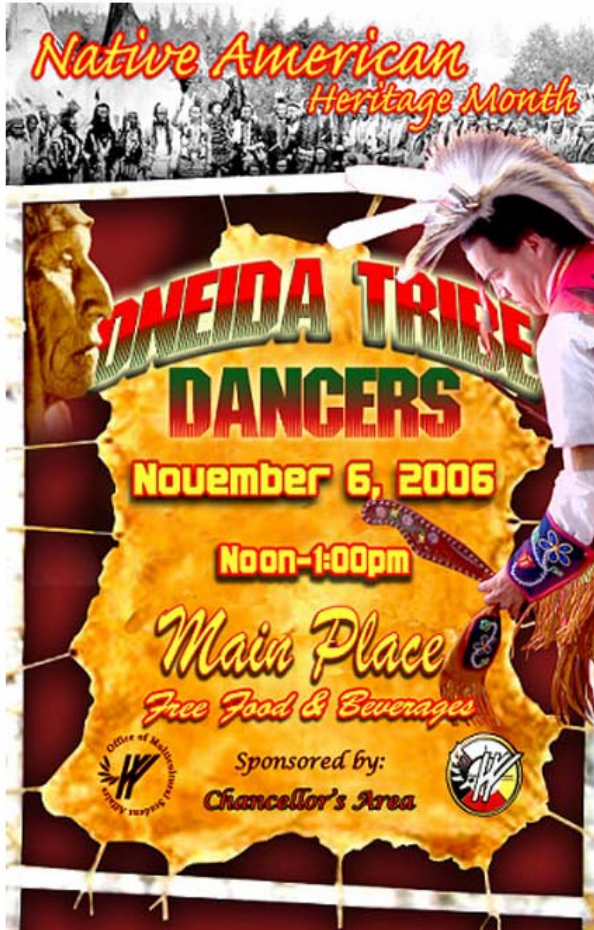
Succeed!

# OMSA's Mission Statement

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs is committed to:



- ✿ **Connecting** students, staff, faculty and alumni to the university community
- ✿ **Empowering** targeted student populations (African Americans, Latinos/Latinas, Native Americans, and Southeast Asians) with the necessary skills and liberties to explore academic, social, and cultural opportunities to enhance their educational growth and professional advancement
- ✿ **Developing** students through challenging experiences that will contribute to academic success and competence in a global society
- ✿ The **SUCCESS** of the UWP campus community including students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the neighboring communities



## Mark *your* calendars!

### Upcoming OMSA Events

- November 6 - Native American Kick-Off
- 9 - Rainbow Alliance Amendment Protest
- 31 - OMSA Speak Out - Native Issues
- December 6 - Winter Cultural Celebrations
- January 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrations
- February 7 - Black History Month Kick-Off
- March 30 - Multicultural Professional Day
- April 4 - Asian Heritage Month Kick-Off
- 18 - OMSA Speak Out - Asian Issues
- 20 - TCB Banquet
- May 4 - Unity Picnic