

OMSA NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2007

OFFICE OF MULICULTURAL STUDENT AFFAIRS

OMSA SUMMER PROGRAMS

Over the summer OMSA offers two programs, Summer Scholars and Fresh Start, to help prepare some of UW-Parkside's incoming freshmen for their college careers.

Summer Scholars is a five day program developed to assist students in their transition to campus life all while living in the residence halls. The students participate in workshops where they learn about academic survival, leadership opportunities and social life. In the Fresh Start program the students return to campus two days before the start of school to get a refresher course of what they learned in Summer Scholars. In addition, they also learned new things such as how and when to select your major. Together these programs help students to build relationships with each other as well as with faculty and staff.



I recently spoke to two students, Suleim Pancheco and Ashton Wilson, two freshmen who participated in both programs. Ashton's initial reaction to participating in the program was to see what it was like to stay in the residence halls. She quickly found that it was more than that. When asked what they learned from the program both ladies were quick to respond that they learned alot about OMSA. Aside from that. "I learned what to do and what not to do. I also learned how to get good grades and about the different organizations" Suleim responded. Ashton said "[What I learned] will be carried throughout my college career." These programs offer a valuable experience to educate the freshmen that there are people and services waiting for them. Even if you don't need help, they are a resource for you. Through these young ladies it appears that summer Scholars and Fresh Start did a great job. Good Luck!

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15th through October 15th is Hispanic Heritage Month. On September 17th Latinos Unidos, OMSA and the Chancellors area began the celebration with a kick-off. The event began with a ribbon cutting in Main Place. Dr. Stephen McLaughlin gave a University welcome. Damian Evans gave a welcome on behalf of OMSA and Maria Becerra, Latinos

Unidos President, gave a welcome on behalf of LU in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. "The main purpose of this event was to show students on campus some of the entertainment and food of our culture" said Maria. Latin dancers were seen in Main Place while Java Coast offered Latino desserts that were being served by members of Latinos Unidos. Maria stated

that "[She] would like other students to know that Latinos Unidos is an organization that is open to everyone." A variety of students showed their support and interest at the Kick-off. Attending events hosted by other organizations is a good way to learn about the culture.

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NATIONAL HISPANIC READ-IN



Latinos Unidos and The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs sponsored the 4th annual National Hispanic Read-in. The event took place at noon in Main Place on September 26th. Latinos Unidos hosted this event along with the International Reading Association. Students got to share words from Latino or Hispanic American authors with other students. Students were asked to sign up to be included in the

National Hispanic Read-in chain. If you participated a book bag was given as a parting gift and thank you in celebration of the event. The audience included a variety of students, faculty and staff. Once again proving to be a successful event.

JENA 6 MARCH

On Thursday September 20th the Black Student Union hosted a march to join in the nation-wide support of the Jena 6. On December 4, 2006 six African-American males assaulted a white male at Jena High School in Jena, Louisiana. This assault stemmed from a black student sitting under the "white tree" and the very next day nooses were hung from the tree. A few other racially charged incidents or "hate crimes" were reported with no justice being served. Needless to say these six students took matters into their own hands and are now being charged with attempted second degree murder.



That Thursday students were encouraged to wear black to support the Jena 6. Black Student Union held two marches that afternoon that began on the Molinaro bridge and went to the administrative offices. The march was an opportunity to show support to the African-American community while educating the campus on the matter. Shavon Flowers, a member of BSU and participant "If I could have went to Jena I would have" she commented. "Marching shows I support the 6 young men and feel they are being treated unfairly." Many other students and participants shared her same insight on the subject. What is going on with these young men is sad but states that our country is far from ending racism. We have to start somewhere to end it and UW- Parkside is a good place to begin that start.



Always Reaching Upward (ARU)

The Always Reaching Upward mentorship program held an annual social on September 26th. The purpose of the social was a meet and greet between the mentors and the mentees. The social opened with Damian Evans welcoming all the students. Curtis Jackson, BSU President and Lead Mentor, introduced the keynote speaker Dr. Kinchen, whom he cited as being one of his mentors. Dr. Kinchen opened by sharing a definition of a mentor. "A mentor offers wise council advice and guidance. While enjoying a small meal the students listened attentively as Dr. Kinchen

directed comments at not just the mentees but also towards the mentors. "Mentoring is not joining yourself at the hip" he explained "It is being a listening ear and having the ability to offer guidance. He spoke about how he has been mentored since the age of 8. He also gave a description of every mentor that he has had in stages of his life. Dr. Kinchen mentioned that he is who he is because of his mentors. "How far you get and what you learn is dependent upon the mentee not the mentor." He closed with the Home depot slogan, which can be applied

to so many things, "You can do it, We can help." Afterward, the students played a game which would match them to either their mentor or mentee. Once they located each other they then exchanged contact information and set up meetings. This was a fun way to end the program.

"It takes a village to raise a family is not false. Everybody has a village and we need it. A village is a nessecary part of our lives if we are to reach our potential."

Dr. Kinchen



OMSA SPOTLIGHTS

Miss Latina Racine

Name: Maria Becerra

Year: Senior

Major: Communication & Spanish

Organizations:

Latinos Unidos-President

Sister & President of Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority Inc.



Miss Michoacán & Miss Mexicana Fiesta 2nd Runner-Up

Name: Mirella Perez

Year: Senior

Major: Communication: conflict resolution
& Spanish

Organizations: Latinos Unidos

Zeta Sigma Chi– Assistant new member-
ship



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

October:

Hispanic Speak Out: Breaking Stereotypes Oct. 10th @ noon in Main Place

American Multicultural Student Leadership Conference Oct. 26th-28th

November:

Native American Heritage Month

Kick-off Nov.7th in Main Place

Native American Speak Out Nov. 14th Main Place