



# OMA News

A Publication of the Office of Multicultural Affairs

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Happy New Year! There is something invigorating about starting a new year and a new semester. If you are one to make resolutions for the new year, I hope that you can put 'add more diversity and multiculturalism to my classroom.' This also applies to student organizations, clubs, etc. that you may advise.

Some ways to do that may be: bring a speaker to your class or student group; steer students, faculty and staff to materials (video and in print) to help educate themselves and others; encourage students to attend diversity programming on campus; incorporate conceptual understanding behavioral interactions and honest interracial dialogue to the curriculum.

Intercultural dialogue works towards acknowledging our own cultures, and embracing differences in the cultures of our peers. We need to create a safe environment for our students to discuss the sameness and differences of our cultures. We need to continue the dialogue about issues of race and diversity. Students must feel comfortable to have these conversations, but also know that acceptance will take time.

In order to prepare our students for the changing demographics in the United States, we as a college and a community should involve students in multicultural affairs the day they arrive on campus. Each of our students needs to understand and appreciate individuality and uniqueness in order to succeed in the workplace and within their community.

It is my observance and belief that members of the Wayne State College community are ahead of many other communities in diversity education. Thanks to each of you for your part in increasing multicultural awareness and knowledge.

Clarissa Kaiser

Director, Wayne State College Multicultural Affairs

## Mark Your Calendar for Multicultural Events

Events celebrating diversity will be held throughout the spring semester. Featured months include: Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration (January), Black History Month (February), Women's History Month (March), and Diversity Month (April).

### January

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Tuesday, January 17, 6:00 p.m., Frey Conference Suite

### February - Black History Month

#### Galen, Master Flutist & Lecturer, Flute Juice Productions

Monday, February 13

12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Notes at Noon

Cat's Corner/Lower Food Court

7:00 - 9:00 p.m., "Express Yourself" - Jazz Poetry Slam, Frey Conference Suite

### March - Women's History Month

#### Kandra Hahn presents "It All Started When They Taught Us to Read: Women in America"

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 p.m., Frey Conf. Suite

Funding provided by the Nebraska Humanities Council.

### April - Diversity Month

Please watch your e-mail for updates on calendar items through **Campus at a Glance** and **The Bulletin**. For more information about these events, please call the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 375-7749.

### 2005 - 2006 Brown Bag Series:

Brown Bag presentations offered on Wednesdays will begin at 12:00 noon. Those scheduled for Tuesday or Thursday will begin at 12:30 p.m.

### January

Thursday, January 26, 12:30 p.m., Niobrara Room

#### Dr. Werner Kitzler, University of South Dakota "Germany"

### February

Wednesday, February 8, 12:00 p.m., Niobrara Room

#### Joe Smith, WSC alumnus

#### "Leadership: What is it and Why you NEED It?"

### March

Tuesday, March 14, 12:30 p.m., Niobrara Room

#### YaMika O'Neal, WSC graduate student Women & Leadership

### April

Wednesday, April 5, 12:00 p.m., Niobrara Room

#### Dr. Meena Dalal India

## Highlights from Fall 2005

- "The Art & Practice of Hispano Storytelling" by Ricardo Garcia
- "In the Middle of Everywhere" by Mary Pipher
- "Social Entrepreneurship" by Seville Lee (1999 alumnus)
- Multicultural Center Open House



- "From Mexico to Nebraska" by Ms. Jan Wahl, pictured at left

- "When Boots Meet Moccasins" by Garan Coons (2004 alumnus) and John Beranek, pictured at right

Fall highlights continued on the back...



continued...Highlights from Fall 2005

- "Romania: From Two Perspectives" by Sandra Braasch and Kenn Hallgren



- "Meet Eleanor Roosevelt, Advocate for Universal Human Rights" by Ms. Elena Dodd, at right

**Resource Corner:**

The Wayne State College Conn Library has added a valuable resource to its collection. "The Color of Fear 1" is an internationally-acclaimed film about eight men of various ethnicities engaging in an intimate and honest dialogue about race and the effects of racism on their lives and families. In 1995 Oprah Winfrey aired a one-hour special on Lee Mun Wah and "The Color of Fear" cast, which was viewed by over 15 million people around the world. Also in the stacks is the "Color of Fear 1" film guide. The guide was created by Lee Mun Wah and other diversity trainers to facilitate meaningful and insightful dialogues about "The Color of Fear 1". The guide is separated into scenes which focus on specific cultural concepts. It includes corresponding sets of questions and exercises on CD, which can easily be printed for use with groups.

**About the Office of Multicultural Affairs**

Wayne State College recognizes diversity to be at the core of its aspirations, values and beliefs. The Office of Multicultural Affairs provides an environment for our students, faculty and staff to gather and celebrate diversity.

It is the mission of the OMA to promote a variety of cultures in and around campus and the communities it serves.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs not only serves under-represented groups but also invites everyone to participate in activities of the office. There are specific events that engage discussions on issues relating to academia, career development, educational support services, social interaction, mentoring and study groups.

**How Can You Get Your Students Involved in Multicultural Projects on Campus?**

Send them to the Multicultural Center!

- 1) Volunteers are needed to help with events and activities,
- 2) Volunteers are needed for cultural visits to area elementary, middle, junior high, alternative or high schools,
- 3) OMA can provide information about the many multicultural organizations at WSC,
- 4) OMA can guide students to resources for diversity projects.

**WSC Multicultural Student Organizations**

- **Africans Linking in Friendship Everywhere:** ALIFE was formed by WSC students born in Africa as a forum to celebrate and embrace common cultures.
- **International Club:** The International Club at WSC is open to both international students and domestic students interested in international education. Its purpose is to promote the interaction between international students and the general student body.
- **Latinos Uniting.** The mission of Latinos Uniting is to promote education and diversity while creating awareness and support for Latin culture.
- **Minorities in Accordance Coming Together.** The MACT mission is to work effectively with the campus and broader community to establish respect for diversity.
- **Native American Student Alliance.** NASA was organized to bring Native American students at WSC together.
- **PRIDE.** PRIDE is a WSC student organization dedicated to exploring and understanding issues which affect the gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender community.

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