



The Mosaic: Center for Culture and Diversity NEWSLETTER

MAY & SUMMER 2018

The Mosaic is a part of Campus Life | The Commons: 2B23 | 410-455-2686 | mosaic@umbc.edu

2017-18 Theme RESILIENCE

Staff

Lisa Gray
Associate Director

Carlos Turcios
Coordinator

Our Centers (Summer Hours)

The Mosaic
Commons: 2B23
M-F: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

The Interfaith Center
Student Development
and Success Center
(on Center Rd.)
S-Sa: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Queer Student Lounge
University Center: 210-D
Closed

Follow us on social media!



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UMBC

/groups/theMosaic

*closed May 26-Jun 3 & Jul 4,

YEAR IN REVIEW: LOOKING BACK ON "RESILIENCE"

Resilience is defined as "the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress." (American Psychological Association, 2017) Campus Life's Mosaic is reframing this definition from a reactive noun to a proactive verb. Through intersectional programs and initiatives, we aim to build culturally affirming tools that cultivate strategies, relationship building, thoughts and positive social actions to be supportive of ALL the various identities in our Retriever student, staff, and faculty communities. - Campus Life's Mosaic Staff.

When Carlos Turcios, then Program Associate, and I first sat down last summer to talk about what our theme would be for this academic year, the U.S. presidential election sent shock waves through our campus, like it did many other college and university communities. Those waves felt like a tsunami for those of us working in university cultural and diversity centers and departments. There were many students, staff and faculty from a variety of backgrounds who needed to be reminded that they deserved respect, equal access to education, and a supportive community. They needed to know that their individual and collective experiences and backgrounds were valuable and integral to UMBC achieving inclusive excellence. After considering all of this and some focused brainstorming, we came up with "Resilience."

The APA's commonly accepted definition of resilience wasn't sufficient for us. We needed a way to inspire our community - particularly our students - to reflect, move forward, learn, and come together to work towards positive social change. Therefore, we did our best to foster experiences that transformed resilience into strategic actions that can build up, amplify and celebrate the invisible and visible diversity within our community so that we can move closer to achieving social justice-based, inclusive excellence.

These experiences took various forms. From our amazing fall program lineup that featured our first PAWTalk with Angy Rivera created by Carlos and our Critical Social Justice Week staff and faculty panel event, "Rising in Times of International Tragedies: The Impact of Oppressive Symbols" to our spring semester that featured our DACA and TPS Info session that amplified the voices of our undocumented students. we created new opportunities for our community to engage in awareness-raising and advocacy in our "Art of Drag" PAWTalk with UMBC alum Justin "Vivica C. Coxx" Clapp Through our *How to be a Better Ally* and *What's the (T)ea?* series, we created brave, topically-focused spaces for students to challenge and stretch themselves beyond their comfort zones. Through our *Mundo Lingo* series we supported our international students while creating opportunities for them to have fun and socialize with our U.S. born students. Lastly, our population focused events like "So, What is Good English?," the "History of Black Baltimore," and "Are Hawaiians Asian?" led by our amazing interns helped our community learn about the intersections of race, language, national origin, and socioeconomic class in new ways.

In looking back over the year, I think we came close to making this new definition of Resilience a reality for many students, staff, faculty and visitors. I hope you agree UMBC!

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH:

PAWTALKS: JUSTIN “VIVICA C. COXX” CLAPP AND THE ART OF DRAG

UMBC students, alumni, staff, and faculty were captivated by the gorgeous and talented queens of Durham, North Carolina’s House of Coxx during our last PAWTalk of the Spring 2018 Semester, “The Art of Drag.” Guests enjoyed the lavish “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” theme and an evening brunch in the Commons, Skylight Room for this two-hour event, which paired drag performances with a presentation and discussion on inclusivity and accessibility in drag.

Durham’s Drag Diva Vivica C. Coxx opened the event, later joined by queens Stormie Daie and Naomi Dixx, with a series of high-energy music numbers that kept the crowd engaged and amused. Glitter and fabulous looks weren’t all the House of Coxx had to offer, though; following the performance, the event moved into a presentation and Q&A on Vivica’s drag history. Through this form of entertainment, she works to promote topics such as diversity, inclusion, individuality, social justice, and consent, ensuring that performers and audience members alike feel welcomed and safe. Vivica noted that UMBC’s Residential Life was one of the key points of her life that taught her how to create a queer culture that promotes both inclusivity and consent. She also spoke on tearing down stereotypes of drag culture and who can and cannot perform, demonstrating that drag can be done regardless of gender identity, gender, sexual orientation, or gender expression. To her, it matters most that someone wants to be part of a family, promotes intersectional consciousness, and provide quality entertainment.

The Mosaic is glad to have hosted this event and hopes to have opened the UMBC community’s eyes to the power beyond just entertainment that can be found in the art of drag. After this successful event, we have some hidden surprises on what’s in store for the fall. We hope to continue to see the campus community come out for our PAWTalks next semester!

CAMPUS LIFE IS STILL HIRING!

We are excited to announce that we still have several student intern positions open in our office and the rest of Campus Life for the 2018-2019 academic year. We are looking for excited, proactive, and hard-working students to work with some of the various areas in our office. Visit our website at campuslife.umbc.edu or email us!

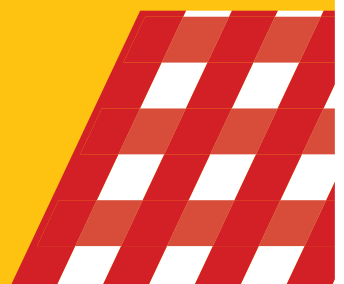
MOSAIC EVENTS

Are Hawaiians Asian?

Tuesday, May 1 at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Commons: 329

Come out for an informative and fun presentation about Hawaii’s past. We will cover a brief history of Hawaii, the impacts of American colonizers, and the cultural suppression of Native Hawaiian culture. You may win a small giveaway by participating throughout! For any questions please contact Laura Huang at lhuang4@umbc.edu.



Lost in Translation: The Impact of African Colonialism

Thursday, May 3 at 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Commons: 329

A seminar challenging the perception of African cultures as a "Homogenous African Identity." This event will highlight the historical impact of colonization on specific African nations/tribes and how those effects are causing the extinction of various African dialects. We will explore the effects on Black African identity, specifically how Igbo and other African languages are being Lost in Translation.

Lavender Celebration

Monday, May 7 at 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Commons: Skylight Room

Please join us for Campus Life's 5th Annual Lavender Celebration. This ceremony is in recognition of LGBTQ+ students and in recognition to all the allied staff, faculty, alumni, and programs that work to support them. Graduating seniors and graduate students who RSVP will be recognized and receive lavender honor cords. Award categories will encompass student, staff, faculty, and programmatic efforts, and will include recognition for LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as allies to the community.

If you would like to nominate anyone for any of our several awards, please go to tinyurl.com/lavendernominations2018.

Family and friends of those nominated and/or graduating are encouraged to attend. Dinner will be provided. If you have any further questions, please contact Carlos Turcios at carlos6@umbc.edu or (410) 455-1825.

An RSVP is *required* to attend this event and to receive your Lavender cord (tinyurl.com/lavenderrsvp2018). Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided.

What's the (T)ea?: Having Difficult Conversations Between Elections

Thursday, May 10 at 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Commons: 329

"What's the T? - means "What's up? What's going on?" This is a monthly co-facilitated discussion series geared to exploring social issues affecting our society and various communities. This session will explore on how to gain the skills to have difficult and productive conversations surrounding our local, state, and national issues with SGA's Between Elections.

Relaxation Station: Massages and Chill

Wednesday May 16 at 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Commons: 329 and the Mosaic (2B23)

Need to relieve some stress before finals? Come enjoy snacks and hang out with the Mosaic Staff. Take a break from studying and visit us for yoga, meditation, five minute massages from the UHS, and make your own slime!

SafeZone Development Workshop: Faculty and Staff

Friday, June 22 at 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Commons: 331

Wondering where our SafeZone workshop went? Were you SafeZone trained through our previous program? Our SafeZone workshop has been completely revamped into a full-day training compiled of four detailed sections and various modules filled with several interactive exercises. We welcome all faculty and staff for this full-day training! You must RSVP by Friday, June 15 by noon at <https://goo.gl/VsjzJ6>.



DYLAN'S CORNER



Sylvia Anokam, Karina Aquiahuatl Villagran, Sylvia Anokam, Reese Beyers, Reese Burke, Nick Creary, Gerardo Herrera-Cortes, Laura Huang, Becca Mann, Najla Nadeem, Idania Ramos

Yes, I did just include all of our Mosaic student staff that worked with us throughout this previous year. Why? Because honestly they have all done such a stellar job with supporting our center. They became part of our Mosaic Family (trademarked!) and have done really amazing things over the past year. Although I will **DEERLY** miss those who are not coming back, I know they will continue to be the wonderful social justice warriors they are today. I know Carlos is already crying in a corner missing them :(!

Can't wait to see who's to come next year! 'Til then, see you in the fall.

WHO AND WHAT IS DYLAN'S CORNER?

Dylan, the Genderqueer Diversity Deer

Unofficial Mosaic Mascot

Dylan, the Genderqueer Diversity Deer, is a spiritual, genderqueer, middle-class, "woke," multi-ethnic, deer of color. They spotlight one our the Mosaic's staff members or other campus partners to our center. We will celebrate that individual and recognize them for their accomplishments in each newsletter.

Dylan currently resides in the Mosaic, and they encourage visits by whomever supports the mission of Campus Life and exemplifies the values of the Mosaic.

