

The Mosaic: Center for Culture and Diversity NEWSLETTER

March 2019

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

2018-19 Theme LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH: OUR 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Staff

Lisa Gray
Associate Director

Carlos Turcios
Coordinator

Erin Waddles
Coordinator

Our Centers

The Mosaic
Commons: 2B23
M-Th: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
F: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Interfaith Center
Student Development
and Success Center
(on Center Rd.)
S-Sa: 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Queer Student Lounge
University Center: 210-D
M-F: 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

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February marked the 15th anniversary of Campus Life's Mosaic, Interfaith Center and Queer Student Lounge—and though the weather tried to stop our celebration, it (mostly) didn't work! While we had to reschedule our Exposition for March 5, we still held our panel event and evening celebration.



At our panel event, titled "Past Meets Present," we invited folks from the early days of the Mosaic as well as current staff members to speak about where the Mosaic once was and where it is now. It was a great opportunity for us to reflect on and appreciate how much work has been done and to refocus on work that still needs to be done.

At our evening celebration event, we were honored to host Dr. Freeman Hrabowski and Dr. Nancy Young, as well as our own Lisa Gray, to speak on the role that the Mosaic has played over the years, and the importance of the Center in a time of political and social turmoil. As a way to remember the work that has been done these past 15 years, and to honor those who have helped the Mosaic along on its journey, we asked all of our guests to contribute to a commemorative mosaic. Once completed, it will be hung on the second floor of the Commons. In the words of Dr. Young, "The Mosaic is not a center. It is the people in it."

Other February highlights: QueenEarth's PAWTalk, our "What's the (T)ea: Black, Queer & Here" event!



UPCOMING MOSAIC EVENTS

Looking Back: The Mosaic's 15th Exposition

Check Out the Cool Archives Stretching Over the Past 15 Years

Tuesday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

University Center: 310

Please note that this event was rescheduled from its original date due to inclement weather. This expo showcases some of the work from our early days to what we have in store for 2019. This open space will feature posters, articles, pictures, and videos from various programs, initiatives, and resources co-created by Campus Life's Mosaic and our partners over the years. Together, we will see some of the faces of who has and currently make all this work possible. View our gallery of items or stay to watch a collection of our previous PAWTalks and the 15th Celebration from February 12, 2019.

How to Be a Better Ally: Women, Religion, and Leadership

Exploring the Intersection of Gender and Religion

Wednesday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Commons: 329

This session will cover women within various religions, highlighting those who have been particularly influential. This event will also explore their role within their communities, both religiously and secularly. Lastly, this event will provide insight on how to be respectful and supportive of women within religious and spiritual communities.

Mundo Lingo: Henna Heartthrob

Henna, Gender, and the Misuse of Indian Culture

Wednesday, March 13 at 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

The Commons: Lower Flat Tuesdays

This session will explore the history and cultural significance of henna (mehendi) and how it is used in modern day South Asia. We will discuss how it can be appreciated while avoiding the problematic issues of cultural appropriation. Refreshments will be provided, as well as an opportunity for some basic henna designs.

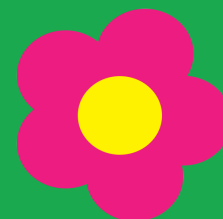
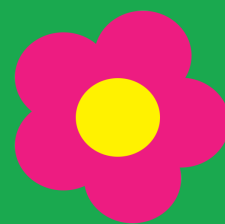
Pawsitive Bodies + Minds: What Does it Mean to Be Intersex?

A Biological and Social Perspective on Intersex Identity

Monday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Commons: 331

Join us to explore what it means to be intersex by exploring the different types of intersex phenotypes that exist, and the related health topics associated with Intersex. We will look at cellular reproduction and gene expression to detail intersex. The second half will focus on the social construction of the sexual binary that impact the lived experiences of intersex individuals.





Pawsitive Bodies + Minds: Exploring Food Insecurity and Homelessness

A Deeper Look at Food Access and Homelessness in America

Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Commons: Skylight Room

This session focuses on the stigma around homelessness and people with food insecurity as well as some common misconceptions with this population. The discussion will be followed by a meet and greet session with Lauren Kataja, Program Coordinator for the Retriever Essentials Program. Participants will be able to ask questions and explore the experience around this topic.

Pawsitive Bodies + Minds: Diabetes in Native Americans Post-Colonization

A Historical Look at the Rates of Diabetes in Native Communities

Wednesday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Commons: Skylight Room

This session will explore the health disparities within the Native American communities today. Among them is Diabetes, an illness that grew in prevalence as colonization expanded across Native lands in the U.S. We'll discover the connections between the land taken from Native Americans and the higher prevalence of diabetes in the community.

Pawsitive Bodies + Minds: Self Love Day

Come Through and Learn Why You Should Love Yourself

Thursday, March 28 at 11 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The Commons: 2B23

Need a break from school and work? Stop by Campus Life's Mosaic to make your own slime, indulge in a 5-minute acupuncture session, play some board games, enjoy some snacks, and write yourself some "spicy" lovenotes! Tips will be available on how to continue your self-care throughout the semester. Materials will be provided—just bring yourself!

SafeZone Training: Undergrad & Grad Students

LGBTQ+ Development Workshop

Friday, March 29 at 8:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The Commons: 331

An RSVP is required for participation. This workshop is designed to help students, staff, and faculty to create a more welcoming, affirmative atmosphere for LGBTQ+ members of the UMBC community. The program includes a variety of activities for community members at all levels of knowledge and comfort with LGBTQ+ culture and concerns, from basic terminology, core concepts, LGBTQ+ intersections, to skills-based sessions on pronoun usage and allyship development. Once completed, participants have the opportunity to join UMBC's formal network of SafeZone Ally List. To register or get more information, check out Campus Life's Mosaic's calendar of events on myUMBC and fill out our Google Form: <https://tinyurl.com/umbcsafezone1819>.

DYLAN'S CORNER: MEET MOSAIC'S NEWEST STAFF!



Mehr Lamba (she/her/hers), *Mosaic Intern for Middle Eastern, South-Asian, and International Student Engagement*

Mehr joined the Mosaic in Winter 2019, majoring in Social Work and minoring in Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies, and is slated to graduate in Spring 2019. She has lived in both America and India for long periods of time. She is a proud Slytherin, loves pitbulls and has a small obsession with planners.

Sofia Encarnación (she/her/hers), *Mosaic Intern for LGBTQ+ Student Engagement and Allyship Development*

Sofia joined the Mosaic in Winter 2019 and is currently the youngest student on our staff. She is working toward her Bachelor's of Arts in Economics with a minor in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies at UMBC, and anticipates graduating in 2021. She loves advocacy, spending time with her family & friends, and trying new foods.



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 of 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.



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