



The Mosaic: Center for Culture and Diversity NEWSLETTER

April 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: PAWSITIVE BODIES & MINDS WEEK

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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For the last week of March, the Mosaic held four events as part of its Second Annual Pawsitive Bodies and Minds (PBM) Week. These are highlights from two of the events that took place during this intersectional health week.

On Monday, March 25, 2019, our office held the kick-off event "What Does It Mean to Be Intersex?" At this event, we looked at intersex identities through both biological and social lenses. We explored the basics of cell division and the separation of chromosomes. We expanded on these concepts in further detail. This was followed by detailing the various historic and current ways that the intersex identity has been pathologized in modern medicine and the way medical professionals approach intersex people. After providing the biological explanation for intersex identity, we explored the discrimination and public treatment of intersex individuals as well as the social consequences of living in a world where the gender and sexual binary is accepted as the norm.

On Tuesday, we held "Exploring the Connection Between Food Insecurity and Homelessness." Our second PBM event explored the prevalence of food insecurity in the country, specifically on college campuses and at UMBC. We debunked myths around the food insecurity crisis and shared real-life examples of how this impacts the everyday lives of students who are food insecure. This was done by inviting a UMBC student who has experienced food insecurity and homelessness to share her story and the impact the UMBC community has had on her. Retriever Essentials information and an example of what a donation bag looks like were provided to show first-hand what resources are available to campus community members. Our campus dietitian Nicole Arcilla also brought healthy snacks for participants to eat and shared tips on how to eat healthy on a budget by using simple and affordable ingredients.

Other March highlights: our 15th Anniversary Exposition, "Mundo Lingo: Henna Heartthrob" event, and the undergraduate and graduate student SafeZone workshop.

APRIL MOSAIC EVENTS

What's the (T)ea: What's the Meaning of a Quinceañera?

Gendered Birthday Milestones in Latin America

Thursday, April 3 at 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The Commons: 329

This session will discuss the traditional coming-of-age ceremony in Latin America for girls turning 15 years old. By exploring the history behind this tradition, we'll uncover the tradition's cultural significance, its sexist origins and its forms in today's society will also be a part of our discussion.

How to Be a Better Ally: Economically Disadvantaged People

Exploring Socioeconomic Challenges in America

Tuesday, April 8 at 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Commons: 329

This session will explore how poorness is viewed in the United States and the common misconceptions about economically disadvantaged people. Topics will include adoption, economic racism, shelters, charities and the experiences of people of color within lower socioeconomic statuses.

Eating Shawarma and Samosas

Building Community with Baltimore's Refugee/Immigrant Foodways

Tuesday, April 9 at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A.O.K. Library: Gallery

The Mera Kitchen Collective is a community-driven, food-based cooperative focused on empowerment of refugee and immigrant women. Members of the Baltimore-based collective will talk about their work with refugee and immigrant chefs. Aishah Alfadhlah will discuss the organization's foundations and explore the importance of storytelling and foodways for new refugee and immigrant communities. Following the talk, Chef Iman Alshehab will feature Syrian appetizers and a cooking demonstration. *(Sponsored by the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; the Public Humanities Minor; the Orser Center in the UMBC Department of American Studies; the Dresher Center for the Humanities; Campus Life's Mosaic.)*

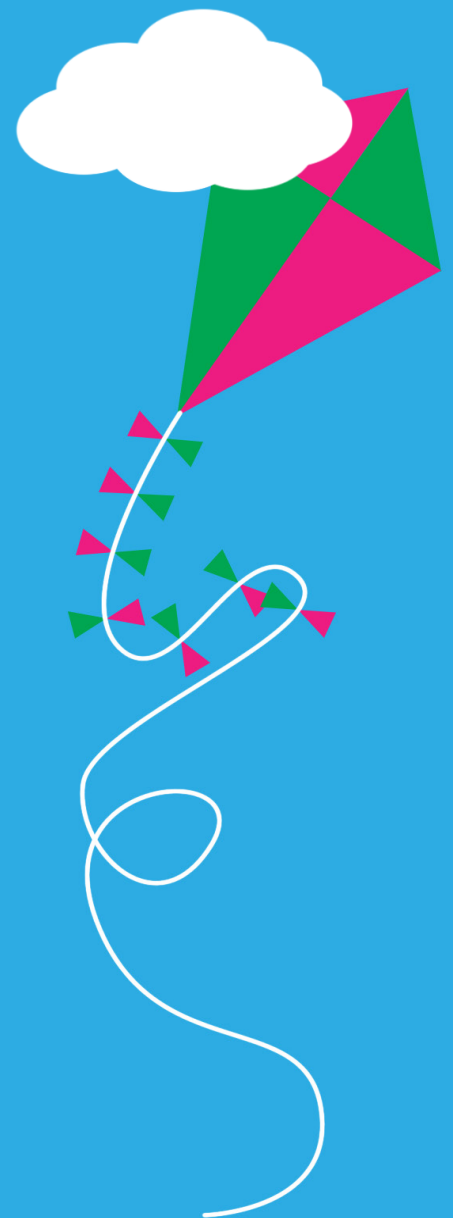
What's the (T)ea: Does Racism Exist in East Asia?

Addressing "Race" in China, Japan and Korea

Monday, April 22 at 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

The Commons: 329

This session will be an analysis of how the three countries of China (and Hong Kong), Korea, and Japan look at race in their respective countries. We will be looking at how each country treats minorities and look at minority rights, at how the economy supports or does not support foreign imports, and at national anthems to see how the government views race.





PREVIEW

6th Annual Lavender Celebration

Monday, May 13 at 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
The Commons: Skylight Room

Are you a grad student or undergrad senior graduating in Spring or Fall 2019? Campus Life's Mosaic invites you this annual ceremony where we will recognize LGBTQ+ students and the allied staff, faculty, alumni, and programs that work to support them. Award categories will encompass student, staff, faculty, programmatic efforts, and will include recognition for LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as allies to the community. Graduating students who RSVP will be recognized and receive lavender honor cords.

Stay tuned for the links to RSVP and nominate people for awards, which will be shared soon on our *myUMBC* and Facebook pages, and in next month's newsletter.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SafeZone Training: Faculty and Staff

LGBTQ+ Development Workshop

Friday, June 28 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



Lilly Keplinger

*Mosaic Intern for Cultural Humility and Allyship Development
(above)*

Karina Aquiahuatl Villagran

*Mosaic Intern for Hispanic, Latinx, and Indigenous Student Engagement
(below)*



It is with excitement that I share that Lilly and Karina will be presenting with us at the 2019 National Conference for Race and Ethnicity (NCORE) this May in Portland, Oregon! Lilly and Karina have been great student leaders at the Mosaic, and I continue to be **head over hooves** for their work. This will be a great time for all of us to shine and show what our Center is made of. I am proud of what they have done and where they are going in their next chapter of their lives. Karina will be working full time at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore City. Lilly, on the other hand, will be working on her Masters in Education for the College Student Affairs at Rutgers University starting this fall. This makes me so happy to see how our students are changing the world!

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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