



Directors' Welcome

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Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

On behalf of the Offices of Multicultural programs and Services (MPAS), I invite you to personnel (personally) peruse the newly revamped MPAS Newsletter.

In 1983, this office was first known as the Office of Minority Student Services. This year marks our 25th year of service to the FIU Community. Over the years we have found that success breeds success. Our former students have distinguished themselves by becoming lawyers, physicians, educators; motivational speakers and indigenous leaders in any and all of their chosen professions.

As you review the content of this issue and future issues of the MPAS Newsletter, kindly take note of the activities and events offered.

Have a great year!

Bob Coatie, Senior Director
Multicultural Programs &
Services
University Park Campus



MPAS Signature Events

MLK Commemorative Celebration Breakfast

The MLK Commemorative Celebration Breakfast is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services and is a premier event for the University. Additional sponsors for the event include the Office of the President, University Advancement, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Student Government Association, Office of Campus Life, FIU Publications, FIU Bookstore and ARAMARK Food Services. The MLK Breakfast is approaching its 18th anniversary year and has showcased local, national and international speakers. Each keynote speaker addresses that year's theme and recognizes the MLK scholarship recipients.

Learn more about MPAS's Signature Events on Page 2

Dear Students:

I would like to wish you a warm welcome and encourage you to utilize the many services provided by the Office of Multicultural Program & Services at BBC. Our staff is dedicated and committed to serving you through various services including(;) the free tutoring program, workshops, peer mentoring, advising and cultural programs. Please visit the website frequently for updates and information on programs or events .

You are invited to stop by the office(,) and meet our staff and get acquainted with our services. Best wishes in the pursuit of your degree, and if we can assist you in any way, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Dorret Sawyers, Director
Multicultural Programs
& Services



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MPAS Signature Events

All MPAS events (services) at Florida International University is free and available to all (FIU) students, faculty and staff members both at the Biscayne Bay and University Park Campuses.

MLK Commemorative Celebration Breakfast

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Through video, song and dance, attendees can celebrate and reflect on the profound impact that the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's life has had on so many people. The breakfast is typically held the Friday preceding the observed MLK Holiday and attracts a capacity crowd of over 500 people, including top university officials, and local dignitaries. During the breakfast, recipients of the MLK Essay Scholarship, MLK Peace and Service Awards are acknowledged.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK Youth Forum/Peace Walk

The MLK Youth Forum/Peace Walk is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services. Additional sponsors include the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Office of the Vice-Provost, Student Government Association, and the Wolfe University Center. This event is held on the Biscayne Bay Campus during the week-long celebration. Focusing on the youth in Dade and Broward counties, the program usually attracts 200-300 middle and high school students. Students are

enlightened by a nationally recognized keynote speaker and entertained through various artistic forms such as poetry, song and dance. Students also have the opportunity to reflect on MLK's legacy as well as participate in a Q&A session with the speaker. Following the Youth Forum, attendees participate in a 10-15 minute peace walk that symbolizes the need for peace and unity among people everywhere.

MLK Commemorative Celebration Breakfast- (Dinner)

This event is sponsored by Residential Life, FIU Black Student Union and the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services. The dinner/discussion is generally held either the week of the MLK Commemorative Celebration Breakfast or during the week of the MLK Holiday depending on when classes begin for FIU students for the spring semester. The dinner is preceded by a discussion centered around what type of an impact college students can have on younger students as well as discussions on making a political impact that would improve and empower local neighborhoods, the state and the nation.

SAVE THE DATE !
January 21, 2009
MLK Youth Forum & Peace Walk
 Biscayne Bay Campus
 Wolfe Center Ballrooms
 9 am



scholarships awarding global excellence

Florida International University
 Multicultural Programs and Services

SAGE Fundraising Reception

Scholarships Awarding Global Excellence (SAGE) is a fundraising program sponsored by Multicultural Programs & Services in collaboration with International Student & Scholar Services, Biscayne Bay Campus. SAGE was created to award scholarships to international and transfers students to assist them with the cost of tuition and other educational expenses. Four deserving students each received a scholarship in the amount of \$500 - \$1000. Among the criteria for selection for this scholarship are(;) that students must have a 3.3 GPA, enroll (full-time enrollment at FIU) and be actively involved(ment) in at least one student organization at Florida International University. Faculty, staff, students, vendors and friends from the community are treated with an evening of delectable food, live music and the program highlight, a silent auction. Everyone feels rewarded when they come to this festive event that takes place in the month of March or April.

SAVE THE DATE!

April 10, 2009

SAGE Fundraising
 Auction

Biscayne Bay Campus

Wolfe University
 Center Ballrooms

6pm

SAVE THE DATE ! U.S. Presidential Election is November 4th !

L.G.B.T Events (Both Campus)

October

- 21 S2B: Meeting
BBC-WUC-159 / 1 pm
30 Sex & Candy Workshop
UP-GC-216 / 12:30 pm

November

- 03 S2B: Meeting
BBC-WUC-159 / 1 pm
05 S2B: Turns Two
BBC- Panther Sq. / 1 pm
12 S2B: Movie Night
BBC-Bay Vista Housing / 8pm
14 LGBT: Overcoming Resistance
UP-GC-314 / 12:30 pm
18 S2B: Meeting
BBC-WUC-259 / 1 pm
20 S2B: Potluck Dinner
BBC-WUC-159 / 6:30pm
24 Thanksgiving Luncheon
UP-GC-314 / 1pm

December

- 01 World AIDS Day
UP-GC Pit / 12:30 pm
BBC-Panther Sq. / 11 am

S2B = Stonewall BBC

MPAS Receives Funding for LGBT Programming

The Office of Multicultural Programs and Services (MPAS) recently received \$3000 for LGBT programming at the Biscayne Bay Campus. This project was supported by a grant from the LGBT Community Project's Fund at Dade Community Foundation, Greater Miami's permanent endowment made possible by generous donors since 1967. The Foundation provides non-profit organizations funding support and technical assistance for programs which benefit the community. For its many donors, the Foundation provides an effective vehicle for charitable giving and grant-making expertise about quality programs across a broad spectrum of community issues and needs.

The primary objective of this grant is to support programming and outreach efforts focused on bringing awareness and education on LGBT issues and concerns to the FIU community. Subsequently, MPAS will be working with the Stonewall 2B organization at the Biscayne Bay Campus to provide funding assistance for LGBT-related programs and events. Some of the programs that this grant will support include Coming out Day of Celebration, Diversity Week-Pride Day and National Day of Silence.

Submitted by : Dorret Sawyers, Director

Contact Information

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Armante Labady
WUC 253 / (305) 919-5817

L.G.B.T MPAS (University Park)
Nadia Williams
GC 216 / (305) 348-2436

For Stonewall UP & BBC please email: lgbt@fiu.edu

Student Spotlight: Porchia Lazier

Graduating from Miami Central Senior High School and entering Florida International University as a freshman was a major transition for me that at times seemed overwhelming. But fortunately, I have had the Multicultural Program and Services office to help me succeed and guide me through my first year of college. Being a MPAS scholar has benefited me in many ways and enhanced my experience as a student. Here I have met a variety of new people who are uplifting, encouraging, helpful, compassionate, and innovative. I have participated in activities such as their workshops that have not only helped me to develop my academic skills but improve myself as a person.

As a 2007 MLK Essay contest winner and one of the Golden Drum scholarship recipients, the MPAS office also played a tremendous role in funding my education. I have had the opportunity to take advantage of the numerous services that they provide such as their computer labs, tutoring, peer advisors, and just being able to form friendships with people who actually care about



MPAS Scholar, 2007 MLK Essay Winner, Golden Drum Scholarship Recipient

my education and are trying to (achieve) conquer the same goals that I am. I am truly grateful that I have had the opportunity to be a part of an organization that aims to inspire students and help(s) them succeed in their endeavors. The staff is welcoming, has a close relationship with the students and is always there to assist any student. The Multicultural Program and Services Office has become my second home here at FIU and I strongly feel that other students should take advantage of what MPAS has to offer.

Calendar

Fall 2008

Thursday, October 16, Valuing Each Other Series (VEO),
Who's Got Your Vote, UP-GC-216, 1 pm

Wednesday, October 22, STARS, Graduate School Symposium, UP-GC-314, 11am

Wednesday, November 5, STARS, Finishing Up Strong, UP
-GC-216, 12 noon

Wednesday, November 19, MPAS Thanksgiving Luncheon,
UP-GC-216, 2 pm

Friday, November 21, (VEO), The Election's Aftermath,
UP-GC-216, 2pm

Tuesday, October 21, (VEO) , Is America Ready for a
Black President?, BBC-WUC-255, 1 pm

Thursday, October 30, STARS, Graduate School
Symposium, BBC-WUC-155, 3 pm

Wednesday, November 12, (VEO), Dating Violence,
BBC-WUC-255, 1 pm

(White indicates Biscayne Bay Campus Events)

Biscayne Bay Campus



Dorret Sawyers, Director

Janice Spann-Givens, Associate Director
Sonya Robinson, Senior Secretary
Armante Labady, Graduate Assistant
Michelle Garel, Graduate Assistant
Patricia Desir, Office Assistant
Alicia McTaggart*, Office Assistant
Simone Morgan, Tutorial Coordinator
Jessica Reyes*, Tutor
Arnold Joasil*, Tutor
(*Pictures not shown)

University Park Campus



Robert Coatie, Senior Director

Jeffrey McNamee, Associate Director
Barbara Douglas, Office Manager
Eva M. Vergara, Senior Secretary
Nadia Williams, Graduate Assistant
Jennifer Constantine*, Graduate Assistant
(*Pictures not shown)

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Multicultural Programs & Services (MPAS)

Biscayne Bay Campus, WUC 253, 3000 N.E. 151st., North Miami, FL, 33181

University Park, GC 216, 11200 SW 8th St., Miami, FL, 33199

Sponsored by the MPAS Biscayne Bay Campus & University Park. Designed by Michelle Garel