Welcome to the May issue of VOICES. As the academic year comes to a close there are various programs and activities taking place. This issue highlights diversity initiatives and celebrations around campus.

One Tribe. One Family, Chon

Diversity in Higher Education
Stay informed with diversity-related issues in higher education by visiting the following websites. Several have monthly electronic newsletter that provide important information.

- Hispanic Outlook
- Inside Higher Education
- Women in Academia Report
- Diverse Issues in Higher Education
- Anti-Defamation League
- Campus Pride
- AAC&U Diversity Web Digest
- AHEAD: Higher Education and Disability

EqualityWM invites you to our end-of-the-year get-together on Tuesday May 8th at 5:00pm at the Corner Pocket in New Town. Stop by to spend time with old friends and make new friends.

Celebrating Achievement—
We are W&M!

On May 13th, the Class of 2012 will graduate and begin the next chapter in their lives. What will they do with the quality education received at the College of William and Mary? The possibilities are endless. The focus of this month’s newsletter is celebrating the accomplishments and work of our faculty staff, students and alumni. Included in the newsletter are profiles of William and Mary alumni who have used what they learned both in and out of the classroom to pursue an individual goal or dream. Please take the time to read these exciting stories of success. This is just a small sample of the wonderful stories of success and achievement with more to come! A special thank you to She’ Hall, Class of 2005, for creating the layout and design for the profiles. William and Mary is truly a place of possibilities. Best wishes to our alumni for continued success in your endeavors! One Tribe. One Family.

Office of Diversity and Community Initiatives
Year in Review

The Office of Diversity and Community Initiatives had a productive year. The following are a few highlights from this academic year:

- Worked individually with academic deans to develop diversity action plans;
- Supported and funded programming for Affinity Groups (Women’s Network, EqualityWM, and the Forum);
- Created IDEA grant program and funded three projects—Safe Zone Program, Virtual Conversation Partner Program, and Multicultural Science Education workshops;
- Partnered with the Hulon Willis Alumni Association to honor and celebrate Lynn Briley, Karen Ely, and Janet Brown, the first residential African American students, on the occasion of their 40th Class Reunion during Homecoming weekend;
- Completed the National Campus Pride Index Assessment;
- Created VOICES-a monthly electronic newsletter to inform the campus and community of diversity initiatives at the College;
- Hosted 4 webinars as professional development for supporting and advocating for LGBTQ members of our community; and
- Worked with Facilities Management to add single occupancy restrooms on old and new campus (locations posted on ODCI website).

Thanks to everyone who has supported the efforts of the ODCI!
The NAACP Image Awards were held on Sunday, April 15, 2012. Listed below are all of the award winners. Congratulations to all!

**Issue Awareness**

Young Democrats

**Original Effort (Individual)**

Anna Dausman

**Original Effort (Group)**

Campus Kitchens mentor project

**Academic Department**

Computer Science Department

**Perseverance**

Linda Wallace-Cody, Community Action Agency

**Inspiration**

Mary Grech, Lafayette High School

**Generosity**

Brian Thompson

**Courage**

YWJC Chapter of the NAACP

**Staff**

Dr. Vernon Hurte, Director, Center for Student Diversity

**Faculty**

Professor Greg Cappelli, Biology Department

**Achievement of the Year**

Trayvon Martin Vigil – Ashley Helprin and Ashley Ward

**Image Award**

Ashley Helprin

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**Student Diversity Awards**

The Center for Student Diversity presented two awards to students on Wednesday April 11th at the College's Annual Student Awards program. The Multicultural Leadership Award is presented to a student who by their leadership and involvement has helped to build bridges to form a stronger multicultural community. The 2011-12 recipient is Ryann Tanap. The Dr. Carroll FS Hardy Trailblazer Award is named for the former Associate Vice President for Student Affairs who is credited with implementing the vision for the College's early diversity initiatives. The 2011-12 recipient is Jasmine Curry.

The Office of Diversity and Community Initiatives presented the Ernestine Jackson award for Cross-Cultural Understanding. The award is named for long-time dining services employee, Ernestine Jackson, who loved students and brought a smile to all she met with her passion and courageous spirit. The 2011-12 recipient is Jonathan Grimes for his leadership, campus involvement, personality, and his spirit in building cross-cultural relations that enhance community at William and Mary.

*Congratulations to all winners!*
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) was established in 2011, replacing the long-standing East Asian Studies and Middle East Studies majors. It is a multidisciplinary program that aims to enrich the understanding of a broadly conceived “Asia” in relation to other parts of the world. Representing the languages and cultures practiced by over half of the world’s population, the AMES program includes the study of history, politics, religion, and literature; fine, media and performing arts; expressive and ritual culture; and the major languages of the region. Its curriculum consists of concentrations in East Asian Studies and Middle Eastern Studies as well as four minor programs of study including East Asian Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and new minors in South Asian Studies and Comparative and Diaspora Studies.

Through interdisciplinary coursework and hands-on advising, AMES inspires students to cultivate specialized knowledge on a vital region within Asia while exposing them to various cross-regional practices that have shaped larger collective experiences. Furthermore, by bringing together our resources on campus and beyond, the AMES program aims to challenge and stimulate students by introducing alternative worldviews. It complements William & Mary’s traditional intellectual and curricular strengths on Euro-American matters by cultivating an “Asian” (hence non-Western) understanding of the wider world.

AMES brings together a large group of faculty and students eager to expand W&M’s intellectual horizons and pedagogical possibilities beyond the often narrowly-focused area studies curricula. Our goal as AMES faculty is to enrich the educational experience at William and Mary and to reinforce our collective efforts to “internationalize” our campus. AMES sponsors a wide range of events on campus, from lectures to dance and theater productions. Learn more about AMES at www.wm.edu/as/globalstudies/ames/index.php.

On Tuesday, April 17, 2012, faculty members from the College of William & Mary and Beijing Normal University came together at the Reves Center for International Studies to engage in scholarly debate on Confucian classics. The Faculty Forum on Confucian Classics was the first event of the newly opened William & Mary Confucius Institute (WMCI), and was the culminating event of the College’s Chinese Cultural Semester. A total of nine scholars from W&M and BNU participated in three-hour-long panels to examine the Confucian classics of traditional China, their cross-cultural influence in Japan, and the use of classical Chinese philosophy in today’s modern era. “Scholars coming from China have their perspectives and here we have our perspectives, so this was an opportunity for the College and the community to engage in cross-cultural communication, dialogue and understanding at a much deeper level,” said WMCI Director Yanfang Tang. For more information about the William & Mary Confucius Institute, please visit their website at http://www.wm.edu/sites/confuciusinstitute/index.php.

With ongoing support provided by their Dean, faculty and staff in the School of Education read and discussed the fifth in a series of books about diversity issues in education in March. James Ryan’s Five Miles Away, A World Apart: One City, Two Schools, and the Story of Educational Opportunity in Modern America examines the history of inner city and suburban public school desegregation in Richmond, Virginia. By reviewing court rulings made in the 1970s, Ryan illustrates the limited scope of desegregation in Richmond and surrounding counties, which helped to form the current sociopolitical context for vast inequities between urban and suburban public schools in the city. According to the author, the U.S. Supreme Court, in accordance with the wishes of the Nixon administration, permitted suburban schools to lock nonresidents out of their school systems. As a result, city schools, whose student populations were becoming increasingly poor and Black, simply received more funding, while suburban schools’ independence became reified. Ryan also explains why current educational reform policies—most notably school choice and the No Child Left Behind Act—lack the capacity to bridge the historical gaps between urban and suburban schools, which are inextricably linked to race and class.

This text also serves as required reading for School of Education students who are learning to be teachers in Dr. Jamel Donnor’s Social, Philosophical, Cultural, and Historical Foundations of Education course, which helps to prepare them to participate in an increasingly diverse and complex society. Dr. Donnor also led the recent book discussion for faculty and staff. Topics addressed included race, class, and inequality in education. Other diversity-related books that were read and discussed during past “book club” meetings in the School of Education included: Howard, We Can't Teach What We Don't Know: White Teachers, Multiracial Schools; Rodriguez, Hunger of Memory: The Education of Richard Rodriguez; Wagner, The Global Achievement Gap; Ravitch, The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education.
**Cinco De Mayo**

Cinco de Mayo which means fifth of May in Spanish is a celebration held on May 5. It is celebrated nationwide in the United States and regionally in Mexico. The date is observed in the United States as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride, and to commemorate the cause of freedom and democracy during the first years of the American Civil War. In the state of Puebla, the date is observed to commemorate the Mexican army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín. Contrary to widespread popular belief, Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's Independence Day—the most important national patriotic holiday in Mexico—which is actually celebrated on September 16.