



OMSA NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK EDITION

Director's Corner

Greetings Gamecocks!

I invite you to take advantage of the services available in the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA), which offers a myriad of cultural support services, diversity education initiatives, and multicultural programming. We focus on the development of all students at the University of South Carolina. Our goal is to help promote an environment that appreciates and embraces our human differences.

The 2006-2007 OMSA calendar will include diverse learning opportunities such as monthly Diversity Dialogues on multicultural *hot* topics, co-sponsored events with other campus departments, multicultural heritage celebrations, and a chance to attend a diversity retreat and the exceptional Civil Rights Tour. I encourage you to participate in these programs or to get involved in one of the many OMSA Multicultural Student Organizations.

- Association of African American Students (AAAS)
- Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian & Straight Alliance (BGLSA)
- Brothers of Nubian Descent (BOND)
- Chosen Gospel Ensemble
- EMPOWER
- Minority Assistance Peer Program (MAPP)
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- SAVVY
- Students Associated for Latin America (SALA)



Please read more about these organizations and what OMSA has to offer you in this newsletter.

Thank you for choosing USC! The OMSA staff anticipates meeting you.

Dr. Rodrick Moore, Director

USC Welcomes Class of 2010!

Dear Fellow Gamecock,

I am so excited that you decided to attend the University of South Carolina this year! Let me be the first to welcome you to USC. I am sure the upcoming year will be the beginning of a successful academic career.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to get involved on campus. There are many great opportunities waiting for you in Student Government and Student Organizations.

By participating in Student Government, you have the opportunity to shape the policies that affect the student body at USC. You can apply to serve on the Freshman Council and be a voice for your fellow classmates or sit on one of several University Committees and steer the future of the university as a whole. With nearly three hundred registered student organizations, you are certain to find one that interests you. If you see that a particular area is not represented, you

can always start a new group!

I hope you are excited about this new challenge, though understandably anxious. Please know that you can contact me with any problems or questions you have. If I do not have the answer, I will certainly try to find it for you. I look forward to serving you in the coming year. Go Cocks!

Tommy Preston, Jr.
USC Student Body President

Inside this issue:

MAPP/AAAS Minority Welcome	2
EMPOWER Seeks New Members	2
African American Male Institute	2
Event Calendar	3
Hispanic Heritage Month	3
Diversity Dialogue Series	3
Student Highlight	4
Campus Climate & Office Info	4

Special points of interest:

- ♦ *USC's first African American students enrolled in 1873*
- ♦ *Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15—October 15*
- ♦ *There are nine multicultural student organizations under OMSA*
- ♦ *Learn more about Diversity Dialogues starting September 20*

AAAS & M.A.P.P. Kick-Off a New Academic Year

A big day is coming for Association of African American Students (AAAS) members and the Minority Assistance Peer Program (M.A.P.P.) participants. Members of both groups have worked diligently since this past spring term to provide the best possible care for potential, new and returning members.

Starting Monday, August 21, M.A.P.P. counselors will participate in an all-day retreat to prepare for their incoming mentees. They will continue training through midday on Tuesday, August 22 when new MAPPees (first year M.A.P.P. participants) will arrive for the kick-off event at 2:00 pm in the Russell House Theater. At 4:00 pm, all incoming minority students are encouraged to attend the 2006 Minority Student Welcome also in the Russell House Theater. AAAS will then provide the official Gamecock Welcome with a tasty, not-to-be-missed cookout.



*Pictured left: 2005 MAPP Counselors and MAPPees
Pictured right: 2005 AAAS Cook-out*

We hope you will join us for the BIG day and for many of our future events. Stay up-to-date on offerings from AAAS and M.A.P.P. by visiting OMSA online at www.sa.sc.edu/omsa and in Russell House University Union West Wing, Suite 115 as often as possible. You can also find several other ways to get involved in this issue of the OMSA Newsletter.

EMPOWER Seeks New Members

Do you want to be an agent for change? Do you enjoy learning about other cultures and ethnicities? Are you consistently correcting your friends and family about their use of stereotypes and racial slang?

If so, you may be interested in joining EMPOWER, an organization that serves to raise campus and community awareness of racism, sexism, and cultural intolerance. EMPOWER participants encourage students, faculty, and staff to challenge stereotypes, promote cross-cultural awareness



and understanding, and address diversity issues on campus and in the surrounding community through the vehicle of education and interactive dialogue.

If you are interested, please contact Antwon McDonald, EMPOWER President, at mcdonaam@mailbox.sc.edu or drop by the first meeting on August 24 from 5pm – 6pm in RHUU 309 (Golden Key Room).

<http://web.sa.sc.edu/empower/>

New Initiative: African American Male Institute

Dr. Rodrick Moore has organized an initiative within OMSA to empower and motivate African American males to take on leadership roles and a more active role in their education. The African American Male Institute (AAMI) will provide an environment for participants to develop a sense of community amongst one another and within the University of South Carolina community. Participants will be exposed to a program that will increase both personal and professional success by promoting academic excellence through mentorships, workshops, seminars and focus groups.

Members of the AAMI will work toward mastering the following four target areas:

- Personal/Professional Development
- Proactive Leadership
- Accountability/Self-discipline
- Intellectual Development

Visit the AAMI website at <http://www.sa.sc.edu/omsa/aami/> for more information and to find out what you should do to be one of the first 25 founding partici-

Upcoming Events

- August 22 - MAPP Kick-off @ 2pm – 4pm in Russell House Theater
- August 22 - Minority Student Welcome - Greek Information Tables @ 3pm – 5pm in Russell House 2nd floor Lobby
- August 22 - Minority Student Welcome @ 4pm – 5pm in Russell House Theater
- August 22 - AAAS Cookout @ 5pm – 8pm on Russell House Patio
- August 24 - EMPOWER Weekly Meeting @ 5pm – 6pm in RHUU 309 (Golden Key Room)
- August 24 - NAACP Social @ 6pm – 8pm in RHUU 322 (Senate Chamber 1)
- August 26 - Night Out with BIG LESA@7:30pm
- August 28 - BGLSA Meeting, "What is BGLSA and the fabulous people in it. Get to know each other and lots of icebreaker activities." @ 8pm
- August 29 - AAAS Meeting @ 5pm - 7:30pm in RHUU Theater
- August 29 - BOND Weekly Meeting @ 5pm – 6pm in RHUU 303
- August 30 - 1st MAPP Meeting @ 6pm in Russell House Ballroom C
- August 30 - SAVVY Meeting @ 7pm – 8pm in RHUU 205

September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <i>Closed for Labor Day</i>	5 BOND, 5-6pm RH 303	6 MAPP Counselor Meeting, 6pm RH 305	7 EMPOWER, 5-6pm in RH 309 AAAS E-board 6pm in RH 201	8	9
10	11 BGLSA 8pm	12 AAAS 5-7pm RH Theater BOND, 5-6pm RH 303	13 MAPP, 6pm in RH Theater SAVVY, 7pm in RH 205	14 EMPOWER, 5-6pm in RH 309 AAAS E-board 6pm in RH 201	15	16
17	18 BGLSA 8pm	19 BOND, 5-6pm in RH 303	20 DDS, 2pm RH 203 SAVVY, 7pm in RH 205	21 EMPOWER, 5-6pm in RH 309 AAAS E-board 6pm in RH 201	22 BOND Social, 5:30-7:30pm RH 322/326	23
24	25 BGLSA 8pm	26 AAAS 5-7pm RH Theater BOND, 5-6pm RH 303	27 MAPP, Social, 6pm in RH Theater SAVVY, 7pm in RH 205	28 EMPOWER, 5-6pm in RH 309 AAAS E-board 6pm in RH 201	29	30

Visit <http://www.sa.sc.edu/omsa/eventscelebrations.htm> for upcoming events.

Honrando Nuestras Raices Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15—October 15

Honrando Nuestras Raices—Honoring Our Roots!

Come celebrate with OMSA and Students Associated for Latin America (SALA) September 15 through October 15 for Hispanic Heritage Month. The opening date of this cultural heritage month marks the independence of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. September 16 marks Mexico's independence and September 18 for Chile.

In order to honor our Hispanic roots, the South Carolina Hispanic Leadership Council (SCHLC) will kick off the month with its 4th annual Hispanic Heritage Month

Luncheon at the Capital City Club from 11:30am-2:00pm. Please visit <http://www.schlc.org/> for more information on the luncheon and how you can get involved with SCHLC.

"Being Latin@" will be OMSA's first Diversity Dialogue for the year. See the article below for more details. SALA will also host a number of events so students may both celebrate and educate each other on Hispanic heritage. A couple of these events will be the SALA Mexican Fiesta on the evening of September 14 and the SALA SALSA Night at 8pm on September 20. Check OMSA's website for all upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month events.

Diversity Dialogue Series

The diversity dialogue series program will educate the campus community on issues related to diversity and multiculturalism on a predominately white campus. This educational program will occur once a month in the Russell House Union. The program will create critical dialogue among the campus community on various issues.

Wednesday, September 20 (2pm) - "Being Latin@" with Dr. Elaine Lacy, Edgar Medina, Dr. DeAnne Messias, and Ivan Segura

Thursday, October 12 (7pm) - "Living with Diversity: Personal Identity Development" with Sean McGreevey

Tuesday, November 14 (3pm) - "AIDS/HIV/STDs: It could happen to you" with Peer Health Educators

Wednesday, December 6 (4pm) - "Developing a Positive Campus Culture" roundtable with Student Leaders

Student Highlight

As the summer comes to a halt making way for the bustling fall semester, one student is still working hard to be sure many of those coming to campus for the first time this fall will be welcomed with open arms. Lindsey Jefferson, a rising senior in Media Broadcasting, served as the OMSA Summer Intern, which is part of her duties as the 06-07 Minority Assistance Peer Program (M.A.P.P.) Team Leader.

Lindsey, along with other members of the M.A.P.P. Executive Board, has planned every detail of the upcoming MAPP Kick-Off event and the Minority Student Welcome to take place August 22. OMSA would like to thank Lindsey for her hard work and dedication to make USC a welcoming and sensitive environment for our many minority students who make up over 25% of the student body.

We honor Lindsey with our first ever "Student Highlight" in the OMSA Newsletter. Thanks for a job well done, Lindsey!

"Leadership is action,
not position."
- Donald H. McGannon,
former CEO of
Westinghouse Broadcasting

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

"Celebrating our Differences...Exploring our Commonalities"

In order to produce positive effects on multicultural student retention and success, the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs offers a myriad of Cultural Support Services, Diversity Education Initiatives, and Multicultural Programming. These programs, services, and initiatives focus on the development of all students at the University of South Carolina. The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs' goal is to help promote an accepting environment, and to assist in fostering an appreciation for each of our unique human differences.

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Campus Climate

This space is where you can find out more about current multicultural trends and issues on campus. We want your input so let us know what you think about the USC campus climate by sending your comments and questions to omsa@gwm.sc.edu with the subject, OMSA Newsletter. A team of knowledgeable individuals will address your submission in the upcoming issue or through future diversity training and programs.

Brief History Lesson:

The University of South Carolina has come a long way since admitting the first African-American student in 1873 only to close its doors and then re-open again as an all-white institution. It was not until 1963 that USC once again

allowed African-Americans to enroll due to a federal court order making it the university of all people in South Carolina. Today USC's minority population is more than 25% of the entire student body. According to a 2004 issue of the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, USC is recognized as a leader among all public flagship institutions of higher education in matriculating minority students with the highest national African-American student enrollment at 14.7 percent during the 2004 enrollment period. The journal also ranks USC as eighth in the nation for African-American faculty membership at a state flagship university with a total of 4.3 percent.

To find out more about your university's history, visit <http://president.sc.edu/history.html>

Our University seal quotes the Latin poet Ovid, "Emollit Mores Nec Sinit Esse Feros," which is translated, "Learning humanizes character and does not permit it to be cruel."



We hope USC is everything you hoped it to be, but we realize life may not always be a picnic so let us know what you think about the campus climate.