

Our goal within the university is to create an atmosphere that cultivates a sense of community while also embracing each student's individuality. Students at Carnegie Mellon represent all fifty states and over forty-five nations. Needless to say, Carnegie Mellon students embody a wide array of backgrounds and cultures.

An integral part of Carnegie Mellon experiences is the strength that we exemplify through the diversity of our students' experiences. Our goal is to acknowledge and respect the attributes each student brings to the university because of his/her specific background, culture and individual interests. We encourage the array of student experiences to serve as a backdrop upon which to build a campus community. For more information on multicultural initiatives, visit www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/multicultural. Here are some examples of events focusing on diversity this year:

Asian Heritage Month

Asian Heritage Month is celebrated on campus during November and is a collaborative effort between student organizations and the Student Affairs office. The month normally features a host of cultural food festivals, dinner dialogues and performance events. This year a feature event will be the Asian Student Leadership Conference.

Black History Month

The month of February focuses on a celebration of Black History. A planning committee works together to generate an exciting and provocative schedule of events. Traditional programs include a Black Caucus Networking Reception, discussion series, keynote lectures, gallery shows, performances and workshops.

Community Collage

The Community Collage is a presentation of students' experiences, personal reflections and performance to present the diversity of the Carnegie Mellon community. The program introduces audience members to the diversity within our community, creates a shared experience, provides a foundation for dialogue, cross-cultural and cross-community interaction, encourages intellectual discussion about multicultural issues and makes a statement of respect and appreciation for cultural differences within our community. The program is presented as part of first year Orientation and in an abridged form for the university's commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Crossing Cultures-Common Ground

Crossing Cultures-Common Ground is an interactive programming framework designed to encourage community members to gain greater understanding of multiculturalism in the context of the campus and global communities. Crossing Cultures-Common Ground events seek to create forums for attendees to discover and establish common ground with one another and to challenge and redefine understanding of diverse perspectives and actions. It is comprised of foundation building workshops as well as intense engagement experiences offered by student organizations and university departments. Featured events normally happen the last Friday of each month at 12 noon.

Diversity Town Meetings

One or two town meetings discussing issues of diversity are held each semester with rotating topics. Student organizations often co-sponsor the town meetings.

Gandhi's Birthday

The campus community will celebrate the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2009, with a program in the University Center. Other collaborative programs with student organizations will occur during the weeks leading up to and following this meaningful occasion.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Celebrate and learn about Hispanic heritage on campus from September 15 - October 15, 2009. A full calendar of events will be posted around campus and online. Some of the highlights for the month include a Hispanic Networking Reception --"Conexiones de la Comunidad", Noche Latina—late night event, a discussion series,

dancing and craft workshops, music performances, lectures, films and much more. This celebration is organized in collaboration with the CMARC office and various student & community organizations.

International Festival

Entering its 19th year, the International Festival is a vehicle for fostering cultural awareness and celebrating values, traditions and beliefs. The theme of the International Festival is "What's happening to diplomacy" and will occur October 8-10, 2009. The University Center will be transformed into a world of exploration with lectures, discussions and performances. This year we are introducing a new program for the International Festival. Our Grant and Recognition Ceremony is designed to acknowledge students, faculty and student groups that have contributed to international work on campus and to enable student groups who wish to do more. Student organizations can apply for an International Festival grant, Cross-Cultural grant, CMU-Q/CMU-P Initiative grant and Student Organization Recognition Award. We hope that all members of the community will join us in exploring a cultural cross-section of world issues. For a complete schedule, visit www.cmu.edu/internationalfestival.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The campus community remembers Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 18, 2010. The day's events will include a State on Diversity at Carnegie Mellon by President Jared Cohon, readings of creative works and presentations of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Writing Awards, the Community Collage, a Candlelight Procession and a keynote address. For more information and a complete schedule, please visit www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/first-year/mlk.

Multicultural Resource Lending Library

The Multicultural Resource Lending Library can be found in the Student Development office located in Morewood Gardens. Students, faculty and staff may check out a book for 30 days at a time, free of charge. The library is constantly expanding and we greatly welcome suggestions and donations.

Multicultural Presidents Council

Presidents of multicultural student organizations meet monthly to expand dialogue between multicultural organizations, organize collaborative initiatives, learn about resources and discuss needs and interests.

Multicultural Student Organization Fair

Attend the annual student organization fair highlighting multicultural groups on campus. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about diversity opportunities on campus and how to get involved. The fair will take place on Thursday, September 10, 2009, from 5-6 p.m. in Wean and Kirr Commons of the University Center.

Native American Heritage

Celebrate and learn about Native American Heritage on campus during the fall semester. In past years this initiative featured an Annual Art Exhibition & Education Project in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Boards's Native American Heritage Committee. This year we will host a series of workshops and musical performances in collaboration with campus Spiritual & Meaning Making initiatives.

Speak Your Mind: Diversity Discussion and Dinner

The Speak Your Mind series encourages community members to discuss important issues of diversity in a comfortable and non-threatening atmosphere. The discussions are facilitated by an expert on the subject who begins the meeting with an informative introduction of the issue and then leads the discussion with directed questions and an open forum. Dinner is served at each discussion. The dinner and discussions are free of charge. Examples of past discussions topics include: Islam and the African American Community, Immigration Laws and Their Effects on the Carnegie Mellon Community, Body Image and the Media, The Environment and China: Road to Progress or Ruin, Marriage in America, and From Hip-Hop & Techno to Salsa, Rock or Jazz: The Cultural Remix.