Director’s Message

The 2008-2009 academic year was one of the busiest yet for the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). Our theme for the year was “New Directions.” With our full staff plus new/reestablished programs we are definitely moving in a new direction.

The regular challenge of mixing academics with co-curricular activities was elevated to another level with the excitement surrounding the 2008 presidential election/inauguration. The election season was a kick-off for a very eventful year. Building on the energy surrounding the election activities we were able to ride the wave of enthusiasm and chart a new course for OMA.

This year we had some wonderful partnerships with the English Department, History Department and various other campus departments and groups. We hope to expand on these collaborations focusing on our motto of Diversity Means All of Us.

We are looking forward to the 2009 Building on Diversity (BonD) pre-orientation program to welcome the Class of 2013. Plans for programs and events for the upcoming 2009-2010 academic year are already being developed, so the groundwork has been laid for another great year.

In 2010 we will celebrate OMA’s Tenth year anniversary at RC, therefore we want to make this year as Diverse/Inclusive as possible to set the standards for the years to come.

Thank you for the work you do and the spirit of Roanoke that promotes and sustains diversity as a core value. We look forward to an exciting year and encourage you to join us as we continue to strive towards our theme for 2009-2010, Inclusive Excellence; providing intellectually stimulating and culturally enriched programs.

If our office can be of service to you in any way please feel free to contact us at 540-375-2099 or send us an email at oma@roanoke.edu.

Garren Awards

Kenneth R. Garren Awards is a memorable occasion that celebrates OMA’s commitment to promoting diversity. This invaluable duty and service to Roanoke College creates milestones of excellence within the academia and multicultural world allowing diverse circles and surroundings to be enriched to a higher degree. The awards stem from Kenneth R. Garren’s leadership and dedication to the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Students, faculty, and staff members as well as on campus organizations and departments were recognized for their exemplary steps towards encouraging


Outstanding Freshmen Awards:
Allyson Green, Marquise Guzman, Papa Fall & Travis Andrews

Outstanding Upper-Classmen Awards:
Harvey Porter & Lea Lupkin

Outstanding Department Award:
The English Department

Outstanding Organization Award:
International Club

Outstanding Staff Award:
William Greer

Outstanding Faculty Award:
Stella Xu

OMA Expeditionary Award:
Natasha King

Commitment to OMA:
Erica Daniel & Ivania Teran
Sash Ceremony

Each year, the Sash Ceremony is perhaps one of the most memorable and pivotal parts of the year for seniors besides graduation. It marks the upcoming completion of their college careers and is a chance for seniors to reflect on their experiences, diversity at RC.

Paul Millard posing with Mrs. Lowery and Mrs. Campbell after receiving his sash.

Sash Ceremony Recipients.

This year's ceremony was just as memorable and was made even more special because of the guest speaker's message to the Class of 2009. A crucial lesson that can be learned from Dr. Zalonya Allen's speech is that even when we think we cannot achieve a specific goal, if we put ourselves out there and take the necessary steps, we can do much more than we set out to do.

Maggie Rhodes and Natasha King elated after receiving their sashes.

Graduates looking on as they take in the various commencement speeches.

The Senior Class President Erica Daniel presented the Senior Class Endowment Scholarship as the Senior Class Gift for the Class of 2009. Approximately $4,000 dollars were raised which will aid a rising senior who is in financial need. Daniel also gave some inspirational words of advice to the graduates as she encouraged them to live by the words of Robert H. Schuller, “What would you do if you knew you could not fail?”

William T. Coleman addresses the graduates of 2009.
Lea Lupkin is an enthusiastic activist who is determined to contribute to Environmental Policy issues. It is evident through her involvement in certain organizations that Lupkin is a truly compassionate person with a heart for helping others and fighting for issues that have greater societal implications. While on campus, Lupkin was involved in and eventually became president of Hillel. She also dedicated her time to other organizations including Earthbound, Habitat for Humanity and the Student Government Association. Lupkin was a tutor for refugee students and studied abroad in Dakar, Senegal. She aspires to attain her Masters in Environmental Policy and work in campaigns to help solve environmental problems such as climate change. There is no doubt that Lupkin’s motivation will take her far in her quest to be a part of environmental change.

Ivania Teran, the Vice President of the Senior Class, is well known for her pleasant persona and her zest for exploring other countries and different cultures. Ivania has traveled and studied in many places such as Norwich, England, May Term in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and a community service trip in Ometepe, Nicaragua. During her years at RC, she was involved in the Hispanic Organization for Leadership and Achievement (H.O.L.A) and served as vice president and historian to increase Latino culture and awareness. She was also an active participant in Alpha Phi Omega and the Student Government Association. She currently just completed the Wake Forest Summer Management Program while finalizing her post-graduation plans.

Erica Daniel, the Senior Class President, is an outspoken, driven person with a passion for improving global health and experiencing different cultures. She truly embodies what it means to travel and become completely immersed in her new surroundings and culture. Erica has traveled to Brazil and Ghana where she has returned knowing quite a bit of the dialects. She was a part of many organizations including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Alpha Phi Omega and the RC Academic Integrity Council. Erica has been accepted into the prestigious Global Public Health Graduate program at The George Washington University Medical Center where she will begin a new journey this fall.

Many of the graduates of 2009 have left an indelible impression among their peers, the college, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. Among the seniors were two class officers and devoted student coordinators in OMA.
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Campus News

RC Track Team Places at NCAA Outdoor Championship

Track and Field JaLeesa Osborne, Jazamine Stallings and Candace Lewis, along with their fellow teammates had great success in the track meet at the NCAA Div. III Outdoor Track and Field Championships. The meet took place in Marietta, Ohio at Marietta College. This was the fifth consecutive year that Roanoke College had progressed to the NCAA’s. The girls and their teammate Robin Yokes participated in the 4x100 relay team and moved on to the finals in fifth place with a time of 47.26. Roanoke finished eighth in the finals and earned All-American honors. Among their various wins, there were individual accomplishments such as Osborne’s second All-American honor after leaping her best time of 5.5 meters and finishing sixth. The track team’s success is a testament to the hard work and dedication put in by each devoted teammate as well as their coaches who push them to exceed their goals.

A weekend to Remember with Nema Williams and Rooney the Mascot

Alumni weekend was a fun-filled time with lunch and dinner on the quad, picnics and various performances. This reunion was a weekend to remember because of the unveiling of Rooney the mascot. Later in the evening, OMA, BSA, and Empower sponsored the Nema Williams Comedy Show, who kept the audience laughing during RC After Dark. Also, the Tau Omega chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated held their reunion on Saturday afternoon where sisters and friends were involved in a fitness workout and a community service project. The Jazz Affair set the mood for pure relaxation while the poetry readings provided mental stimulation just in time to finish the night.

Hillel Rededicates Sacred Cedar Trees

Four years ago on September 31, 2005, two cedars of Lebanon were planted in front of the chapel by Hillel. In the beginning of the Rededication ceremony, Lea Lupkin informed the attendants that “These trees have been regarded as sacred trees, playing roles in the Epic of Gilgamesh, the Torah, and the Bible. Trees play a central role in Judaism, which is why Hillel chose to uphold this honor by planting the two cedars on our campus three years ago.” The trees were rededicated in the spring in order to also remind the college campus and the members of Hillel how important they are to Judaism.
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Highlights and Excursions

**Fall Break Trip - Chicago 2008**

Fall Break in Chicago was a week of pure fun and exploration. From watching the Broadway show *Wicked* at the Ford Center for Performing Arts, to taking a bus tour and even attending the Jerry Springer Show. There was no limit to the amount of activities that students could partake in. Among the many activities available; the students visited the Museum of Contemporary Art, Shedd Aquarium, Adler Planetarium, Lincoln Park Zoo, the Chicago Bulls game, the Ebony Jet studio tour and a wide assortment of other events.

**Spring Break Trip– New Orleans 2009**

Spring Break in New Orleans was quite an enjoyable trip. The students were conveniently located in a hotel in the French Quarter which allowed them to be immersed in the bustle of the New Orleans culture. New Orleans provided some interesting museums and tours such as the Zulu museum, World War II museum, the Wax museum and the Haunted History Tours.

Perhaps one of the most enjoyable parts of experiencing the New Orleans culture was the amount of delectable dishes at several restaurants where students could experience the taste of gumbo, jambalaya, red beans and rice and other New Orleans specialties. From the entertaining street vendors and palm readers to an enjoyable lunch at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. and a Hornets game, where Lil' Wayne was spotted; there was a bevy of activities available to the students.

**Highlights of 2008/2009**

This academic year was truly eventful with an assortment of different cultural events, shows, and lectures. An interesting play put on by Dr. Amanda Kemp titled “Show Me the Franklins,” showcased the fact that President Roosevelt was an abolitionist even though he owned slaves.

Other cultural events included the Chinese New Year celebration that featured authentic Chinese cuisine and entertainment such as a dragon dance. One of the most monumental events of this year was the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. Jabari Asim was invited to reflect on what Obama means for the future of America and to honor Martin Luther King for all of the changes that he fought for. Asim summed the night up with an anonymous quotation: “Rosa sat so Martin could walk, Martin walked so Obama could run, Obama ran so our children can fly!”
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Upcoming Events

- Bond Pre-Orientation Program (Aug.17-21)
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September)
- Unity Week (November)
- Martin Luther King Speaker – Jim Lucas (Jan. 17)
- Alumni Weekend Heritage Ball (April)
- OMA Tenth Year Anniversary (Alumni Week-end)

Who’s Who In Chalmers?

Meet the students living in the Multicultural Residence Hall:

- Tameka Scott
- Ryan Redd
- Cathie Anthony
- Chevonda White
- Dumar Daniel
- Harvey Porter
- Kristen Fry

- Andrew Harris
- Marquise Guzman
- Candace Lewis
- Sergio Teran
- Marcial Sandoval
- Michelle Halbach

Student Spotlight

Jamesetta Karnwie is a French and International Relations student who has always had a penchant for traveling and international relations. The Liberia native's father was killed at a time when their country was ravaged by war. This led to the exile of her family in 1990 where they fled to the Ivory Coast for safety. Being the highly driven and motivated person that she is, Karnwie took her circumstances and used them to propel her to make a difference in the lives of others through her career. She is looking forward to finishing up her senior year and wishes to pursue her Masters in International Relations. Karnwie hopes to one day work for the United Nations or an organization which will allow her to work towards sustainable development for third world countries.