

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Celebration

2024 MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES CENTER GRADUATION CELEBRATION

THE SIXTEENTH OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR



Multicultural Student
Services Center

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MSSC GRADUATION CELEBRATION

MAY 16, 2024 | 10:00 A.M. | LISNER AUDITORIUM

MSSC HISTORY

The Multicultural Student Services Center (MSSC) was originally founded in 1969 as the Educational Opportunities Program, following the call from the Black People's Union at George Washington University for increased support for historically underserved students. With a continued focus on race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, faith, and spirituality, the MSSC provides access and support resources to students and enhances the GW experience by promoting cultural competency, inclusion, and social justice. Its mission is to prepare students for success in an increasingly diverse and global society.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STOLE

The multicolored stoles presented to graduating seniors bear the initials of both the center and the university, representing the meaningful and lasting connection between the students and the Multicultural Student Services Center. The stoles also serve as a symbol of the students' academic achievement and their continued commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in their future endeavors.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LAVENDER CORD

Dr. Ronni Sanlo started Lavender Graduation in 1995 at the University of Michigan to celebrate the accomplishments of LGBTQIA+ students and those who ally and to provide them with a supportive space during graduation. The tradition has since spread to other colleges and universities across the US, and the lavender cords presented during the ceremony symbolize the ongoing struggle for acceptance, equality, and justice within the LGBTQIA+ community.



Mitchell Foster
Interim Director

To the 2024 Graduates,

I would like to extend my utmost and warmest congratulations to you all, the Class of 2024!

It has been a tough year to say the least; however, you stepped up to the demands of your time here at GW and now you are at the finish line of your undergraduate or graduate career. How exciting and maybe for some, terrifying at the same time. As you embark on a new beginning, don't forget about how far you've already come. At times, it is easy not to give ourselves credit for everything that we've done but it is so important not to lose sight of what you have made happen and brought to existence in your relatively short time on-campus. If there is a time to be proud of yourself, that time is now!

As the interim director of the Multicultural Student Services Center, I have seen how much time, energy, and work you have put in to create and be in community with other students at our space. As much as the MSSC is a space that has provided you with support and respite from the challenges of college life, the MSSC is a bright, vibrant and valuable place because you were there and because you chose to spend your time with us. To that I am both inspired by and grateful for. It is my hope that when you think of your college experience memories of the MSSC prove to be long-lasting and sustaining.

We celebrate you today and we want to highlight all your achievements as we center the community we all co-created at the MSSC this past academic year. Walk through this threshold of a new beginning with joy and faith that all things are possible and your journey will be a beautiful one. Raise high!



Dominique Hollingsworth

Dominique Hollingsworth, a graduating senior from North Carolina, is pursuing a degree in International Affairs with a concentration in Conflict Resolution. His time at GW has been marked by his involvement in the only Queer men's fraternity on campus, Delta Lambda Phi where he currently serves as Communications Chair and VP of Brotherhood. He has also been deeply involved with the Multicultural Student Services Center, first as student staff and now as a regularly involved community member. His time at the MSSC has taught him the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in education and the meaning of community. Outside of campus, Dominique has interned at the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention (LIGP) and the National Education Association (NEA). Interning at LIGP has allowed Dominique to put his passion for human rights and international affairs to practice. Interning at NEA has allowed him a similar opportunity to indulge in his passions where he has learned about advocating for the protection of public education, an important foundational pillar within a healthy democracy. Upon graduation, Dominique will continue interning at NEA while he takes a gap year before exploring graduate school opportunities.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPEAKER



Uwaila Stewart

Uwaila Stewart is a graduate of The George Washington University's Milken School of Public Health with a Master of Public Health in Maternal and Child Health. Uwaila received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health-Population Health at Central Washington University. She spent much of her undergraduate program doing specific research on disparities in maternal and child health and reproductive health outcomes among Black and African American women across the US and has continued to research this area throughout her graduate program. Uwaila is the Graduate Student Program Assistant for GW's Office for Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement. Through this role, she has created inaugural programs such as GradConnect and Viva Voce: Faculty Series centered around creating intentional spaces for graduate students to explore topics related to code-switching, imposter syndrome, and the importance of community, while also connecting students with faculty members who are doing research that highlights and impacts marginalized communities. Uwaila hopes to use the skills she has attained from both of her degrees and her work on campus to continue creating impactful programs that address the health disparities faced by Black women and advocating for the rights of Black mothers and birthing people to have a safe pregnancy, delivery, and comprehensive post-partum care. She hopes to use her doula skills to support Black women and women of color and establish spaces where mothers can have safe and joyous birthing experiences. Uwaila is originally from New Jersey and is proudly Nigerian. In her free time, she enjoys reading, traveling, and exploring new places in D.C. with her family and friends.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AWARD RECIPIENTS

Undergraduate Student

Asiyah Ball

Graduate Student

Axana Solton

Faculty / Staff

Theodore Quan

EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Mu Delta Chapter of Alpha
Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

2024 GRADUATES

Samia Abdallah
Meshat Abebe
Coralis Acevedo-Vargas
Chelsea Acheampong
Aaraf Adam
Ava Ahner
Omayma Yousuf Hussein Al Belushi
Arwa Alhuthlul
Turki Alrashidi
Raha Amirian
Nicholas Anastacio
Alexxa Michelle Aponte-Vargas
Mirna Argueta Guevara
Heaven Ayele
Marshall Bailey
Asiyah Ball
Dasia Bandy
Yemisrach Bedane
Kevin Bernabe
Alejandra Boyd
Madeleine Brown
Jontae Lamont Burton
Ebrar Buyukguclu
Rinella Casseus
Ivy Chan
Dominika Marie Cheatham
Dr. Yeyin Chen

Jill Luan Chien
Lila Chiles
Hasina Chimeka-Tisdale
Diana Chotoo
Heidi Chuc Garcia
Carmen Cintron Alemany
Elysia Colon
Carson Consiglio
Khari Crooms
Melissa Davies-Cole
Lynnette De Gabriel
Kalaya De Leon
Yanisha Dorvily Lormil
Blessed Ebiasah
Orooluwa Emmanuel
Leslie Espinoza
Aleena Fayaz
Daniela Ferrel
Peyton Elizabeth Fillman
Elgun Ganizade
Ashley Gonzales
Diego Gonzalez Portillo
Amya Gordon
Kaffe Grimes
Sana Hafiz
Annabel Hazrati
Salma Heram

Maryell Hernandez
Estefania Hernandez Aguirre
Dominique Hollingsworth
Hayley Hom
Daniella Ifebajo
Candace Jackson
Nicole Jenkins
Madison Jennings
Bill Kadarusman
Pragathi Kallampunathil
Katy Kane
Nadia Kebe
Kendall Kennedy
Mohammad Khan
Amanda Kikonyogo
Fatima Konte
Suravi Kumar
Diana Nyamwiza Kyabega
Tyler Andrew Lackey
Abigail Lam
Kayla Laws
Ang Li
Weigeng Li
Ying Lien Liu
Jelina Liu
Bradford Logan
Norelys Lucena Ramirez

Tuyen Mac
Micaela Maclin
Karla Madera Tejada
Arielle Maignan
Lilian Martinez Orellana
Sadhana Matheswaran
Rio Matsumoto
Tiffany-Chrissy Mbeng
William Mcclendon
Meklit Mecuria
Esha Mehta
Makeda Melkie
Serenity Mendez
Gillian Mendoza
Maryam Miri
Bailey Moore
Neema Mugofwa
Christine Mundiya
Gabriela Oliveros-Acosta
Chukwuamaka Onyewadume
Esperanza Marikita Ortega-Tapia
Alicia Osamor
Khushi Anand Palan

Priscilla Pang
Anmol Patel
Chandraman Patil
Simran Patwalia
Ralph Paul
Glorina Pendie
Jorge Perez Jordan
Jehan Pitt
Perna Polepally
Olivia Poole
Abasiono Rendon
Alexandra Resendez
Charlene Richards
Jaida Rogers
Aleyda Ruiz
Rosaline Ruiz
Ankita Sahay
Apache Sanders
Daniel Sandoval
Adriana Marcela Sandoval
Castiblanco
Brenda Santiago-Ramos
Ewenet Seleshi

Mahnoor Shakeel
Cindy Shin
Sahas Srinivasan
Osazewaila Stewart
Blyss Swan
Arjumand Syed
Brianna Alexis Taylor
Abha Thapar
Trinity Lynn Tull
Carille Walcott
Siyu Wang
Meng Wang
Keheirra Wedderburn
Selamawit Weimer
Trinitee Wells
Lauryn Wheeler
Jai Wilkins
Audrey Wilson
Alura Winfrey
Nidalia Wolfe
Yan Xu
Angel Zhu



SHARE YOUR DAY

#GWCommencement

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT SERVICES CENTER

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