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Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington to speak Inspire! Student Leadership Forum

The Inspire! Student Leadership Forum will present guest speaker Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington, on March 1 at the Student Activities Center – Magnolia Ballroom. The Inspire! Networking Reception will be from 5 – 5:30 p.m. The Keynote will be from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Washington’s keynote topic: Leadership and Diversity in the 21st Century.

Washington will also present a series of workshops while visiting Georgia College on March 1 and 2. On March 1, Washington will facilitate a faculty/staff workshop entitled “Creating and Sustaining Social Justice Institutional Change” from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Museum Education Room. On March 2, he will facilitate a faculty/staff workshop entitled “Supervision Across Difference: Avoiding the Pitfalls” from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Museum Education Room.

Washington serves as the president and founder of the Washington Consulting Group (WCG), a Multicultural Organizational Development Firm out of Baltimore, Maryland. In October of 2015, WCG was named by the Economist as one of the Top 10 Global Diversity Consultants in the world, and one of two selected from the U.S. Washington has served as an educator, administrator and consultant in higher education for over 32 years. Washington serves as the president and a founder of the Social Justice Training Institute. He also serves as the chair of the board for Many Voices, A Black Church Movement for LGBT persons. He is on the faculty of Camp Pride and a board member of Campus Pride and Beyond Diversity. He serves as a trustee for the American College Personnel Association and as a lead faculty member with Leadershape and Lead365.

He earned his B.S. degree from Slippery Rock State College, and a double Masters of Science degrees from Indiana University/Bloomington. He holds a Ph.D. in College Student Development from the University of Maryland College Park. Washington also holds a Masters of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity.

He is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Co-Pastor of Unity Fellowship church of Baltimore and shares his life with his partner the Rev. Sam Offer and is the proud grandfather of seven and great uncle to five.

Known as “The Engagement Specialist”, he sees himself as an instrument of change. He works every day to help people find the best in themselves and others. He lives by the words of one of his favorite songs:

If I can help somebody as I pass along,  
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song,  
If I can show somebody that he, she, or zi has traveled wrong,  
Then my Living Shall Not BE in Vain

For additional information about Inspire! Student Leadership Forum, go to http://www.gcsu.edu/inspire.

To register for the faculty/staff workshops, go to http://tinyurl.com/JamieWashington

Flagg Legacy Social Justice Lecture

The annual Flagg Legacy Social Justice Lecture will be March 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Museum Education Room. The guest lecturer will be Tina McElroy Ansa.

Tina McElroy Ansa, a native of Macon, Georgia, is a novelist, publisher, filmmaker, teacher and journalist. Ms. Ansa was inspired by her grandfather’s and strangers’ stories downtown in her father’s juke joint, which have inspired Mulberry, Georgia, the mythical world of her four novels, “Baby of the Family,” “Ugly Ways,” “The Hand I Fan With” and “You Know Better.”

In 2002, Ms. Ansa was inducted into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent at the Gwendolyn Brooks Center of Chicago State University. In 2005, Ms. Ansa was awarded the Stanley W. Lindberg Award for her body and work and for contributions to the literary arts community of Georgia. She was a Writer-in-Residence at her alma mater, Spelman College, in Atlanta in the Fall of 1990 where she also taught creative writing. In addition, Ms. Ansa has presented her work at the Smithsonian’s African-American Center’s Author’s Series.

This event is free and open to the public. To register for the event, please call 478-445-4233 or go to www.gcsu.edu/oie/transformative-talks.
Women in Technology present screening of ‘Code: Debugging the Gender Gap’

Women in Technology (WIT), an RSO in the Department of Information Systems and Computer Science, will show a film screening of the movie “CODE: Debugging the Gender Gap” on March 2 in the Museum Education Room at 6 p.m. Filmmaker Robin Hauser Reynolds explores the reasons for the gender and minority hiring gap among software engineers. CODE raises the question: what would society gain from having more women and minorities code? Free pizza will be served.

PRIDE Alliance at the Creating Change Conference

In January, four executive members of the Pride Alliance of GC, Zack Izen, Molly Pendleton, Emily Kearney-Williams and Heather Waldron attended the 28th National Conference for LGBT Equality: Creating Change with LGBT Program Coordinator Grace Nichols. The group attended the Racial Justice Institute on the first day and a variety of Day Long Institutes on the second day, which included: Harm Reduction Exploration of Alcohol and Drugs in the LGBTQ Community, Bi+: Self-care and Intersecting Identities, AAPI: Building a Queer Asian American/South Asian Movement and Strategies for Engaging White People in Racial Justice. Students challenged themselves to attend as many sessions as possible during the five-day conference while taking breaks every now and then to tour the city of Chicago. Pride Alliance’s Public Relations Coordinator and creative writing major Heather Waldron shared some reflections from the experience:

What did you learn?
I think most of what I learned actually came from the attendees who were challenging the conference, rather than the workshop sessions I attended. A few sessions were informative, but I was disappointed by the Racial Justice Institute especially… and it ended up being the people of color, especially black attendees who, by criticizing the conference, challenged my own ideas, my own comfort and privilege, and really got me thinking about how to make community “safe spaces” welcoming for everyone.

What information or skills can you bring back to campus?
Not to speak for everyone, but I think as students, it can sometimes be difficult to actually visualize ourselves starting initiatives for the causes we care about on campus… [In regards to administration] Are they going to be supportive, are they going to offer resources, are they going to push back? You don’t know. I’m going to be cheesy here, but I think the biggest “skill” I gained from Creating Change ended up being more of an awareness; that I have the ability to be influential, that I can create resources and that being a vessel for tangible change is more doable than it seemed.

Favorite parts of the conference:
I think the overarching thing that was so magical for me was just being so entrenched in the community. If somebody had told me, as a terrified, closeted high schooler, that in just a few years I’d get to spend an entire week in a hotel with 4,000 other LGBTQ+ people, I wouldn’t have believed it. I think that sense of being alone, of being an outsider, is so prevalent in our community, especially among queer youth… So to experience so much belonging, and to share space with so many people who’ve experienced similar pains and similar joys, was such a privilege.
Universities today are wrestling with issues that test the boundaries of faculty and student activism, free speech and academic freedom. These include calls to boycott Israeli universities by faculty claiming to exercise their academic freedom, even as they violate that of their Israeli counterparts, commencement speakers who have been canceled after faculty and students threatened to disrupt graduation ceremonies, claiming some misconstrued right to interrupt speech they find objectionable and demands that teachers provide warnings in advance of assigned material containing anything that might trigger difficult emotional responses for students. Therefore, how can we balance the right to free speech with the need to maintain norms of civil discourse on campus?

A panel will discuss this issue and provide insight as to how we can encourage greater civility and civil discourse while also embracing freedom of expression, academic freedom and related principles.

Panelists:
• Altimease Lowe, Student Government Association Secretary
• Dr. Amy Burt, Associate Professor of Rhetoric
• Qiana Wilson, Director of Legal Affairs
• Dr. Andy Lewter, Dean of Students

This event is a part of the Georgia College 3Rs Initiative. For more information, contact the Office of Inclusive Excellence at 478-445-4233 or oie@gcsu.edu.

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EEO training for faculty and staff

Last semester, the Office of Inclusive Excellence (OIE) hosted an EEO training for Managers and Supervisors. This semester, OIE will host EEO Training for Employees on Mar. 16 from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. in MSU Donahoo Lounge. The training will provide an overview of laws, examples of employment discrimination, prevention strategies, employee rights and responsibilities, and effective EEO practices for fostering a respectful and fair workplace. Space is limited; so, register as soon as possible. Event registration for the training can be accessed at http://tinyurl.com/jqkxjej.

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Upcoming March events

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<td>Black History Program</td>
<td>Charity Woods, Reproductive Justice Org.</td>
<td>“Makers Volume One”</td>
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<td>Russell Auditorium 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Arts and Sciences 270</td>
<td>MSU Donahoo Lounge 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>The Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Triangle Fire” MSU Donahoo Lounge 1 p.m.</td>
<td>“Not for Ourselves Alone” Arts and Sciences 275 6 p.m.</td>
<td>Every Friday The Women’s Center 11 a.m.</td>
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