Welcome to the first Office of Multicultural Programs quarterly newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the existing initiatives, programs, and events that promote or are conducive to diversity and inclusion throughout our college. We also hope that our newsletter will keep faculty and staff, students, administrators, and alumni informed about diversity related activities and events across campus and in the Greater Lafayette area.

The Office of Multicultural Programs opened in October of 2005 and has a staff of four, the director, Program Manager, Secretary, and graduate assistant. Our Vision is to position the College of Agriculture as a center of excellence that is nationally recognized as a model for higher education for its practices, policies, and attitudes in the area of domestic diversity. Our mission is to assist the College in reaching strategic goals to become more inclusive and diverse by facilitating processes, programs, and policies that promote social justice and enhance cultural competence for students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni.

“OMP….a place where appreciating and promoting cultural diversity is our goal!”

Destination Purdue…..

Saturday, February 27, 2010 was a big day for incoming Purdue Students. The college of Agriculture welcomed eight student visitors to Destination Purdue and one to Explore Purdue events for the day. After meeting with Dr. Dominguez, in the Academic Session the students and parents ask questions of our five member student panel. They were Jasmine Coe, Alyssa Haithcox, Kelsey Heron, Jasmina Collins, and Destani Langford. They were very helpful and informative, while answering the many questions fielded from the prospective students and their families.

Following the Academic Session, all of the students and families were invited to the North Ballroom in the Union for a delicious luncheon. G. Christine Taylor, Vice Provost for Diversity and Chief Diversity Officer gave a delightful Keynote Address. Then everyone was entertained by the wonderful “Black Voices of Inspiration.”

Tours of the Purdue campus were given following the luncheon, which included the academic campus, University Residences, the Black Cultural Center, the Latino Cultural Center, and the Native American Education Cultural Center.

We welcome all of the new students coming to the College of Agricultural. Our doors are always open!
The Hoosier Agribusiness Science Academy (HASA)

HASA started with a small group of 10-15 students traveling throughout the academic year on educational field trips to a variety of agribusinesses in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. The HASA initiative is just one effort developed by Skillman to encourage Indiana students to get involved in one of Indiana’s cornerstone industries, agriculture. “Indiana has a long tradition of agriculture, which is a source of pride and an economic force in our state. My priority is to ensure agriculture thrives in our state, and offers new opportunities for the benefit of all Hoosiers. HASA is one way we are doing that,” said Skillman.

In the summer of 2008, the Office of Multicultural Programs (OMP) in CoA at Purdue, developed a two-week residential Agricultural Career Discovery Camp experience. The goal of this pre-college summer enrichment was to expose urban high school students to the field of agricultural sciences. OMP’s goal was in perfect alignment with the HASA program; therefore, it only made sense to form a partnership with Lt. Governor Skillman’s office. Hence, the two programs united in the summer of 2009 and starting in 2010 will be referred to as the Hoosier Agribusiness Science Academy (HASA).

The co-curricular activities are being developed by a small core group of CoA faculty with input from and in collaboration with middle school and high school principals and science teachers. These activities will be developed in accordance with the Indiana State Standards for science and agriculture to build on and enhance agricultural science related concepts. These concepts will be discussed and agreed upon by a team of CoA faculty, and principals, and science teachers from the six target high schools and their feeder middle schools.

In addition to this collaboration from the small core group, each department in CoA has designated a representative to meet each month to plan the Summer portion of the Academy. These meetings will finalize preparations for activities each department will utilize to engage each student during the Summer.

The summer institute will consist of three tiers: (1) a one-week residential middle school institute; (2) a two-week residential high school institute; and (3) the six to eight week internship. The three tiers are briefly described below. The summer experience will serve as a bridge between the science curriculum/co-curricular that students will be engaged in during the school year and hands-on labs, workshops, and presentations during the institute. In other words, students will have an opportunity to apply in the summer what they have learned throughout the academic year. Relevance and experiential education is extremely important in helping students to learn. The student becomes more actively involved in the learning process than in traditional, didactic education.

The Hoosier Ag Science Academy Summer Institute for rising 9th, 10th and 11th graders will be a two-week residential program with the intent to immerse participants in an exciting world of study, through a series of presentations, hands-on labs, lectures, workshops, and field trips by all 11 departments within the college of Agriculture designed to provide real-life college and agricultural science experiences.
Tier I

The Hoosier Ag Science Academy Summer Institute for rising 7th and 8th graders will be a one-week residential program with the intent to stimulate participants in an exciting world of study, through a series of presentations, hands-on labs, workshops, and campus/corporate field trips designed to provide college-life and agricultural science experiences.

Tier II

The Hoosier Ag Science Academy Summer Institute for rising 9th, 10th and 11th graders will be a two-week residential program with the intent to immerse participants in an exciting world of study, through a series of presentations, hands-on labs, lectures, workshops, and field trips by all 11 departments within the college of Agriculture designed to provide real-life college and agricultural science experiences.

Tier III

This year, we hope to add another dimension to the Summer Institute experience, an internship for high school students who have completed at least one Hoosier Ag Science Academy Summer Institute. We want to encourage faculty, corporations, agencies and Ag Extension to participate by providing a six to eight week internship to one or more of the high school students. Internships offer a win-win situation for both the organization and the student while providing the organization with talented students who offer new knowledge and skills to the workforce.

Many employers often use their internship programs as a testing ground for hiring future full-time employees after graduation. The benefit is that employers are able to see first-hand what the intern has to offer should they be hired on full-time. Hiring interns has proven to be a much more effective hiring tool than the regular normal interviewing process.

**MANRRS President says....**

As the MANRRS Purdue Chapter President for 2009-10 I have had the opportunity to build a solid professor-student relationship with the faculty in the College of Agriculture. I have also had ample opportunity to interact with my peers and other club leaders outside the classroom that has developed my networking skills. I have traveled to more than five states as a participant of the Regional Cluster Meeting and National Conferences planned by MANRRS annually. These activities have helped me to grow as a professional participating in workshops, company presentations and meeting company representatives for potential internships or jobs. Belonging to this organization has been a unique experience for me and has enhanced my life in ways I am only now beginning to realize. My membership experience in MANRRS has also provided me with a base to build upon future aspirations. I look forward to meeting you at a MANRRS meeting or conference.

Brendaly Rodriguez-Muñoz, President 2009-10
Purdue MANRRS Chapter Region V

“Belonging to this organization...has enhanced my life...”
The purpose of this project is to assist talented high school students from social and economic backgrounds that are underrepresented in many aspects of Agriculture today in earning baccalaureate degrees in preparation for possible graduate education programs. Purdue University College of Agriculture has designed five unique features for the Multicultural Scholars Program: 1) Candidates will be recruited in high minority populated areas including Indianapolis, Gary, Muncie, Fort Wayne, and Lafayette, and through ongoing partnerships with the Hooiser Agribusiness Science Academy. This includes five targeted Indiana High Schools. Recruitment activities will also include parental involvement. 2) Each student accepting the MSP scholarship will be required to attend Early Start, a program designed to ease in the transition from high school to college, while providing the Scholars time to meet new people and earn credits toward their major of study. 3) Professional growth and an experience is essential for all students. Scholars will be strongly encouraged to complete an internship with the Cooperative Extension Service, a study abroad experience, and a research project during their time at Purdue University. These three experiences will allow the student to explore the many facets of the Land-Grant system, and be better prepared for their post-graduation plans, such as entering the workforce or attending graduate school. 4) Each scholar will join the Purdue Chapter of MANRRS, the national organization for Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Related Sciences where they will be assigned peer mentors in agriculture and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of professional and service activities. 5) Evaluation is essential to success. The academic progress of each Scholar will be monitored throughout each semester. At the end of each semester, the Scholars will be required to complete a written evaluation to reflect on their progress, along with thoughts and concerns about the Multicultural Scholar Program.

This year, OMP is sponsoring, through the USDA Multicultural Scholars Program, a total of five scholars. The Scholars are majoring in Animal Science and Biochemistry. Two of the five will be graduating this May, Mr. Chiang-Wei (Willis) Chiang and Ms. Jasmine Coe.

Student Spotlight!

Ms. Jasmine Coe, a USDA Scholar is graduating this May. She has successfully worked on her degree in Animal Science/Pre-Vet. Ms. Coe has interviewed for Vet Schools across the country, and has finally settled on one school. She has been accepted to the Purdue Veterinary School of Medicine and will begin this Fall 2010. She has been an active member of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences, attending Regional as well as National Conferences. She has participated in providing mentorship for a first year student. Her dedication to her education and to encouraging new students to participate in MANRRS is commendable. Jasmine Coe is an example of what hard work can do for someone who is dedicated to their career goals.

Well done Jasmine! Congratulations on your graduation and on being accepted into the Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine!!
The Purdue University Black Graduate Association (BGA) is a non-profit student organization committed to the unification of its members through the facilitation of programs that strengthen the community of Black graduate and professional students across various disciplines.

The BGA 9th Annual Awards & Recognition Banquet will be held at the University Plaza Hotel, 3001 Northwestern Avenue, West Lafayette, Indiana on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. The evening’s agenda will consist of a pre-banquet social hour, dinner, a brief presentation of their accomplishments, keynote address, and a presentation of awards. The keynote address will be delivered by Purdue University Dean of Graduate School, Dr. Mark Smith. This year the Office of Multicultural Programs congratulating these three Agricultural students who are being honored:

Caleb Pearson
Jasma Collins
Jasmine Coe

Caleb is planning to pursue a degree in Law. Jasma is currently seeking employment at a Pharmaceutical Company. Jasmine has been accepted in the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine.

We wish them well in all of their endeavors.

Without change, we
Would not have butterflies.”
(author unknown)

The Purdue Black Caucus of Faculty and Staff will celebrate the academic achievements of African American undergraduate students by sponsoring an annual awards program and reception -

- Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 10:00 am in the North Ballroom of the Purdue Memorial Union Building.

The conference is accepting paper on several topics and they have decided to target: Communication in virtual communities. This topic fits nicely in our Community of Practice (CoP) so they thought this would be a great opportunity to talk about our Diversity Equity and Inclusion.

Please join the Office of Multicultural Programs congratulating these three Agricultural students who are being honored:

Jasmine Coe ~ Animal Science
Caleb Pearson ~ Ag Econ Major
Shalyse Tindell ~ Animal Science

Dr. Morris and Kesha Henry are preparing a paper to be submitted to the Fourth Global Communication Forum by the Global Communication Research Institute of Shanghai Jiaotong University in China. The conference will be held on September 29th & 30th, 2010 at Shanghai Jiaotong University, Minhang Campus, Shanghai, China. The conference is accepting paper on several topics and they have decided to target: Communication in virtual communities. This topic fits nicely in our Community of Practice (CoP) so they thought this would be a great opportunity to talk about our Diversity Equity and Inclusion across Higher Education, CoP at an international forum. We will keep you updated on this initiative.
MANRRS Receives Funding for National Conference

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences’ students are going to Disney World for their National Conference on March 24-28, 2010. This year MANRRS students received a gift of $5,000.00 from Dow AgroSciences from the Office of Mr. Tim Maniscalco to be used to defray costs of travel for students attending the 25th Annual Career Fair and Training Conference in Orlando, Florida. The Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion has also provided funding in the amount of $2,166.90 also for travel. Dr. Taylor, Vice Provost, has requested that two of our students, one undergraduate and one graduate prepare a report to present to the Minority and Multicultural Program Director’s (MMPD) meeting once they return. This year a total of four officers, President Brendaly Rodriguez, Vice President Jasma Collins, Secretary Elizabeth Hansen, and Treasurer Caleb Pearson will be included in the trip. In addition to the officers, seven undergraduates and six graduate students are also attending. Dr. Pam Morris and Dr. David Dominguez will also be in attendance.

Once again College Departments provided the funding for registration and in some cases a portion of the flight. The Office of Multicultural Programs is providing funding for the lodging. This year students will be able to go to one of the theme parks for free if they provide volunteer time to one of the agencies listed on the Disney webpage. These agencies are in the area and students will have the facility of volunteering by contacting those agencies directly.

For more information on MANRRS please come to a meeting. The meeting schedule for Spring 2010 is as follows; Continued on Page 3.

http://twitter.com/eXtensionDAHE
Come and visit us!

News:

Our CoP has gotten 3 years Certification by eXtension

Visit our website and see if you are interested in joining our Community of Practice (CoP)

Our CoP has submitted a proposal for the Military Families initiative. See the link for further information:
http://about.extension.org/wiki/Military_Families_-_Proposal_Summary

Coming soon/Look out! Our CoP will be launching its new name soon. This decision was made in order to broaden the focus and scope of our CoP

For more information:
http://www.extension.org/diversity

By Kesha Henry
henry4@purdue.edu
This year the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Science organization invited College of Ag Department heads to participate in presenting a brief introduction as well as what careers are available with a degree from their department. Department heads were also requested to share a little about themselves and what it took to arrive to that position. Those who have and will participate are Ken Foster, AGECON; Clint Chapple, BIOCHEM; Steve Yaninek, ENTM; Suzanne Nielson, FD SC; and for the last semester meeting our guest will be Dr. Jay Akridge, Dean, College of Agriculture. In addition to these department heads, two companies/agencies have also participated, USDA Forestry Services from the Superior National Forests in Minnesota, and Cargill.

**Our MANRRS Calendar:**

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<tr>
<td>March 11, 2010</td>
<td>6-7 pm</td>
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<td>March 23, 2010</td>
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<td>April 8, 2010</td>
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<td>April 22, 2010</td>
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Every meeting we have had a guest speaker from one of the Departments within our College. On April 22, Dr. Jay Akridge will be our guest. We hope to see you come out. ~ David R. Dominguez, Ph.D., Multicultural Programs Manager

By: Nadia Amar Aboul Hosn

Ethnical minorities and first generation students with financial needs to get in college are scarce in the College of Agriculture and those who make it to graduation are even fewer. For this reason FEELS program was created.

FEELS, the Food, Environment, Engineering and Life Sciences Program is a grant of the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the College of Agriculture at Purdue. FEELS’ mission is to recruit, retain, and prepare high-achieving students from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers. FEELS achieves its goals offering a scholarship of up to $10,000 per student each year, academic, research and industrial mentors, seminars, study tables, social and cultural activities.

FEELS focuses on different themes every academic year. Freshman students focus on studying and communication skills and time management. Sophomores engage academic research and start the Leadership Development Certificate Program. Juniors learn about the industrial and the public sectors and seniors use their knowledge and skills to engage service learning projects.

So far, FEELS has two cohorts with a total of 17 students – 10 freshmen and 7 sophomores - majoring in 8 different disciplines in the College of Agriculture. For more information about FEELS program visit: [www.purdue.edu/feels](http://www.purdue.edu/feels)