

BSC

Birmingham-Southern College

Office of Multicultural Affairs | 2011-12

UNDERSTANDING, EXPLORING AND CELEBRATING IDENTITY

Holi Celebration,
2011

EXPLORE

IDENTITY

PURPOSE

CULTURAL AWARENESS
IN A GLOBAL AGE



Gaining an understanding of culture is especially important in our changing global community.

Cultural exchanges have accelerated in the past century at an incredible rate due to technological advances.

Our global interconnectedness has created opportunities and challenges for the future and will require students to have skills and understanding of the cultural dynamics of society and how they have a direct impact on their lives.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs provides intentional learning experiences that educate and support students in their own identity development and how that identity impacts their views about people and the world around them. All societies do not hold the same attitudes, ideas or beliefs on issues such as religion, justice, governance or morality, and may have different ways of perceiving the world. In most cases, the lack of cultural awareness on such key issues has led to many of the historical conflicts we see in our communities and in the world today.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs strives to make cultural awareness an integral part of the student learning experience as it helps create citizens who can work, live, function and thoughtfully participate in the global age. In addition, we work to affirm the diversity of the campus community in its many forms by embracing a broad definition of culture to include world views formed by race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, abilities, religion and sexual identity.

If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about the programs and services offered in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, please contact us at omc@bsc.edu or 205-226-4733

RESOURCES

IDENTITY

MULTICULTURAL ORIENTATION RECEPTION: Students gain an introduction of the many services, programs, and organizations affiliated with the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

PERSPECTIVES NEWSLETTER is a biannual newsletter designed to give the campus community informative up-to-date information about recent events, community news, and new initiatives and opportunities available to students, faculty, and staff. It also serves as an outlet for the campus community to voice their opinions and ideas on a variety of multicultural topics.

MULTICULTURAL LIBRARY: The multicultural library is a collection of books and DVDs that address issues of multiculturalism and diversity. All of these resources are available in the BSC library and may be reserved throughout the year.

THE LOFT, hidden atop Hanson Hall, with panoramic views of the academic quad and downtown Birmingham, is a new multicultural space at BSC. The room is equipped with a refrigerator, microwave, and a large-screen TV for all types of cozy gatherings, receptions, and presentations.

*BSC'S OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS SPONSORS
SEVERAL PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE GREATER
UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENT CULTURES AND
PERSPECTIVES*

FREE FOOD FOR THOUGHT SERIES - Free Food for Thought is designed to promote the use of dialogue on various diversity topics. With the variety of cultures, lifestyles, and personalities at BSC, learning from one another through discussion helps us understand the ideas and opinions of each other. In exchange for opinions, we provide a free meal during the discussion.

HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS currently include Hispanic Heritage Month (September-October), MLK Celebration (January), and Black History Month (February).

SOCIAL ISSUES - currently include LGBT History Month (October), Tunnel of Oppression (March), and Diversity Week (April).

IDENTITY

EDUCATION

REPRESE

A young woman with short dark hair, smiling, is wearing a light pink qipao with a colorful floral collar and a small butterfly brooch. She is holding a large bouquet of white flowers. The background is a large, dense tree with many small white flowers, possibly a Japanese flowering quince, in bloom. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Yuan Gong
2011-12 Southern
Diversity Delegate

NTATION

SOUTHERN DIVERSITY DELEGATE is a student who serves as the primary spokesperson for the Office of Multicultural Affairs on issues of diversity. This student works cooperatively with OMA to sponsor cultural programs, promote community building, and facilitate cross-cultural understanding. The Southern Diversity Delegate serves as the chair of the Multicultural Advisory Committee.

MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC), an arm of the SGA, is made up of representatives from key campus multicultural organizations. MAC meets on a regular basis to discuss potential issues that could impact the student body, collaborates on programming, and works to determine effective multicultural programming for the BSC community.

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

<i>Ethnic Group</i>	<i>Percentage 2011-2012</i>
White, Non-Hispanic	84.93%
Black, Non-Hispanic	8.46%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.94%
Amer. Indian or Alaskan Native	0.74%
Hispanic	0.74%
Multi-Racial	0.74%
No Response	1.10%
Other	0.37%



multicultural organizations at BSC

- *MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION (MSA)* works to encourage and enable Muslims with basic knowledge and competence in Islam to contribute individually and collectively toward meeting human needs in conformity with Islamic doctrines and belief.
- *LOVE ASIA* works to provide a communication and activities platform for anyone who is interested in Asia.
- *BLACK STUDENT UNION (BSU)* is committed to serving both the immediate campus and the greater community by facilitating dialogue, promoting education of African-American culture, and encouraging cross-cultural fellowship.
- *GLOBAL GATHERERS* are globally minded staff, faculty, students, and friends that meet once a month to celebrate culture and international holidays. Each global gathering meeting is hosted by a returning study abroad student and/or international student. Global Gatherers meets once a month on the **first Thursday at 5 pm in The Loft**.
- *ONE-A-CHORD GOSPEL CHOIR* seeks to empower the campus, community and world through praise and worship. The gospel choir meets twice weekly and is open to anyone who is interested in singing.



ONE-A-CHORD



UNIQUENESS



“Diversity is not about
how we differ.
Diversity is about
embracing one another’s
uniqueness.”

*Speaker, author
Ola Joseph*

- *MULTI-CULTURAL AWARENESS ORGANIZATION (MCAO)* works to heighten cultural awareness at Birmingham-Southern by organizing and promoting a variety of cultural activities that provide opportunities to learn about other parts of the globe.
- *INTERFAITH ALLIANCE* encourages interfaith dialogue and cooperation on campus. It also works to increase awareness of diverse faith traditions from around the world. The Alliance program is open to students from diverse backgrounds who are both firm in their own faith convictions and interested in learning about other religions and promoting interfaith discussion at BSC. Agnostics or those without an organized religious practice are also encouraged to attend. Members do not need to be religion experts, but should show initiative in building an interfaith community on campus, enthusiasm for working with people of different faiths, and willingness to question and be questioned.

- *ALLIES GAY+STRAIGHT STUDENT ALLIANCE* provides programs and services to address the needs of gay and lesbian students. It also works to heighten the awareness and understanding of issues pertinent to members of the LGBT community.
- *FOREIGN LANGUAGES CLUB* works to promote the exploration of modern foreign languages among members of the campus community.
- *MIDDLE EASTERN CENTRAL ASIAN ALLIANCE (MECAA)* provides a conduit for the expression of Middle Eastern and Central Asian cultures, identities, perspectives, arts, issues, and persons in the Birmingham-Southern community. Through education and dialogue around Middle Eastern and Central Asian culture, MECAA works toward tolerance and understanding among people of different perspectives.



“We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.”

*Former U.S. President
Jimmy Carter*





For more information, contact:

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www.bsc.edu/campus/student-affairs/multicultural