

MCC raises diversity awareness

By Danielle Marshall
staff writer

"United we stand, divided we fall." On-campus diversity provides an atmosphere where all races are comfortable with accepting each other. Behrend has the Multi-Cultural Council to provide us with the opportunity to interact and mingle with cultures different than ours.

There are a total of nine organizations that make up MCC, which is supported by the Student Government Association (SGA). The nine organizations are as follows: the Association of Black Collegians (ABC), Asian Student Organization (ASO), Human Relations Programming Council (HRPC), Jewish Student Organization (JSO), The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS), Returning Adult Student Organization (RASO), Trigon, and Women Today.

There are only six active organizations, due to an unexpected decrease in members of HRPC, JSO, and RASO. So, how are these traditionally underrepresented groups promoted with appreciation and awareness?

The Association of Black Collegians (ABC) is an organization which strives to promote ethnic awareness and unity among colored and non-colored students. Their annual activities include the Gala, Unity Picnic,

Kwanzaa Dinner, Kuumba Night, social events and forums.

Asian Student Organization (ASO) is an organization whose main purpose is to support Asian students, which can be from many nationalities, on campus. It provides education to any students who desire to learn about Asian cultures. They also make students aware of the existence of Asian students on campus. They recently had a dinner and speaker at the Logan House that turned out to be very successful. Their annual activities include gatherings, along with other social events.

National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is an organization that is known throughout the country. The purpose is to provide a supportive environment for students and bring success in fields of science and engineering. Their annual events include the Fall and Spring Regional conferences, the National Conferences, a Fashion Show, and a host of other social gatherings.

Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) is a support group for Latin American students on campus. The OLAS' organization is known for the annual "Friday Fiesta" dance, which usually takes place once a semester. Along with Friday Fiesta, their annual events include social meetings and speakers.

Trigon is a support group for gay, lesbian, and bisexual students, staff, and faculty. This organization's purpose is to make homosexuality and

bisexuality more acceptable and educate the Behrend College about their issues. Last year, they had a "Safer Sex Cabaret," which was held in the Reed Lecture Hall. They are planning for another cabaret next semester. Their annual activities include Ally Day, National Coming Out Day, and speaker events.

Women Today is an organization that focuses mainly on women's concerns. Research is found and organized for the purpose of looking at a deeper dimension in examining women's concerns of today. They usually have activities like poetry readings and speakers.

These groups assist in coordinating events, like The Martin Luther King Jr. Campus-Wide Celebration, Friday Fiesta, and Hispanic and Black History Awareness months. This year, President Jennifer Fontecchio said she hopes to educate the campus more so than what it has previously had in the past.

She is now planning and getting ready for Cultural Week scheduled for the week of November 16th. This week is a special time for each organization to exhibit a certain type of food, or book or movie excerpt from their particular culture. Fontecchio also states, "We have strong leadership this year. We have fresh new ideas. I'd really like to run with it and give people the opportunity to see that multi-culturalism is for everyone."



Jennifer Fontecchio, president of MCC

photo by Jason Blake

Police And Safety REPORT:

10/8/98 Complainant reported a sick groundhog following students. Upon arrival, officer followed animal up the hill and into a hole.

10/8/98 Complainant called to report that a student reported a vehicle being on fire in the Nick Lot. Upon arrival, officer found no flames, but a truck that had the paint burned off the hood.

10/10/98 Upon returning to station discovered a vehicle in the lot with a male inside. Upon checking found the male to be intoxicated.

10/10/98 Sorting clothes - Officer let her in.

10/11/98 Reported that someone was stealing firewood.

10/11/98 Complainant reported that while walking her dog in the gorge, another dog got aggressive toward her dog which was not on a leash, and the owner was far behind. Officer explained what could be done.

10/11/98 Complainant reported that the side window of the Blue Van was busted out while driving through Wesleyville. The police department was informed.



Who has the best pizza in the area and why?

"Little Anthony's. They have greasy pizza with crispy crust."

-Brandon Menc, 01 Math



"The little shop by the lake owned by the old Italian man and woman. I get free food because I went out with their daughter."

-Mike Hopwood, 07 Communication



"Pizza Hut."

-Maria Colvin, 05, MIS



"Lucky's. It's huge and cheap."

-Dan Plonski, 07, History



"Papa John's. It's a good place."

-Mackenzie Baird, 03, Political Science



Question of the Week

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