

# In The Mix



ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
VOL 1 ISSUE 2, APRIL 2024



## From the Desk of the Executive Director

Greetings from the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)!

We are excited to share with you our second quarterly newsletter which highlights the efforts of OMA through programming, engagements, and initiatives. The Office of Multicultural Affairs was established to promote access and equity across the University, to welcome and celebrate the experiences of all students regardless of background, through intentional programming, and to improve campus climate that builds a more welcoming and inclusive community.

The OMA staff continues to work diligently towards creating a campus culture of inclusivity and belonging for our diverse student population through programs, engagements, and initiatives. To

include our students in our efforts, we accompanied student representatives to the Organized Radical Collegiate Activism (ORCA) Conference held in February at the University of Alabama Birmingham where students learned how activists are tackling social justice across Alabama, and how they can do the same for passionate issues.

I am most proud of the launch of our United Against Hate (UAH) Initiative in partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama, and our Department of Public Safety. Over 200 students joined us for a two-day symposium on March 5th and 6th. The symposium featured a panel discussion with representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Attorney's Office, District Attorney's Office, and Department of Justice. The discussion covered important topics such as how to identify, report, and prevent hate crimes, as well as how to build trust between law enforcement and communities. Students also participated in group exercises that challenged their thoughts and actions on reporting hate crimes. We were honored to receive notification that the news of our symposium reached Washington D.C. Kudos were received via email directly from Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke acknowledging the coordination of such an amazing program. AAMU is the first HBCU in the state to host such an event. We appreciate the continued support of the AAMU campus community as we strive to infuse diversity into the AAMU campus culture and establish a reputation of inclusive excellence. No unit or department can achieve this alone; fostering inclusion, belonging, and participation requires consistent and intentional efforts from all of us.

Thank you,

Pamela H. Little



*Congratulations Spring  
2024 Graduates!*



The Office of Multicultural Affairs is located in Room 108  
of McCalep-Macintosh Building.





**United Against Hate Symposium:** The **United Against Hate Symposium** was a two-day symposium that fostered a discussion on how to identify hate crimes and how to combat hate in our communities. On Day 1, students were presented information on the seven protected classes. Additionally, there was a panel discussion with partners from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Alabama A&M University Campus Police Department. Day 2 provided an opportunity for students to delve deeper into the seven protected classes. During the workshop, students were encouraged to ask questions and provide their perspectives on how we can work together to unite our community to combat and prevent violence. The symposium engaged over 200 students.



**Lunar New Year Celebration:** The Office of Multicultural Affair and the Global Initiative Program collaborated to present the **Lunar (Chinese) New Year Celebration** on February 12th. Lunar New Year is the most important holiday in China and places with large Chinese populations. Every Lunar New Year corresponds with an animal from the Chinese zodiac, which consists of a dozen animals based on a 12-year cycle. Lunar New Year 2024 is the **Year of the Dragon**, the fifth sign in the Chinese zodiac calendar. Dragon people are said to be confident, independent, charismatic, ambitious, adventurous and fearless. Students created Chinese art, enjoyed a cultural display, and food samples.



**International Women's Day Celebration**

**International Women's Day** was celebrated on March 8th as attendees represented in their shades of purple. The event was modeled after a cocktail hour and celebrated the achievements of women and reinforced a commitment to women equality. Dr. Sadguna Anasuri, Associate Professor



of Human Development and Family Studies, offered words of expression on the importance of celebrating and supporting women under the national theme "Inspire Inclusion." A

highlight of the celebration included a toast to all women. Our sincere appreciation to the Office of Alumni Affairs for partnering with us on this celebration.



### Bulldog Parent University

The Bulldog Parent University is in full swing and is gaining regional and national recognition. OMA Executive Director, Dr. Pamela Little, and Assistant Director, Ms. Atari Steele attended the NASPA-AL 2024 Drive-In Conference held January 29th at The University of Alabama where they presented on our Bulldog Parent University. Dr. Little and Ms. Steele will also travel to Anaheim, CA in June to present on the Bulldog Parent University at the NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education.

### Ice Ice Baby

The "January Snow-Magedon" was a first-time experience for many of our international students. When asked their thoughts on the snow, one student replied, "My experience with the snow was interesting. It made everywhere look white and nice. It made the trees and houses look special while the snow was falling."



### Transfer Student Association :

Transfer students gathered on March 25th to enjoy a fun-filled night of games and refreshments, while building a community of support. Games included Spades, UNO, Culture Tags, and Table Tennis. The game night was designed to help transfer students enjoy their time at AAMU and to meet new transfer students and make connections.



### Organized Radical Collegiate Activism Conference:

The OMA staff and five student leaders attended the Organized

Radical Collegiate Activism Conference hosted by the University of Alabama-Birmingham on Feb 9th. This unique student-led conference addressed the challenges and advantages of doing social justice advocacy work on college campuses. Students engaged with their peers from across the state.



### F1rst Bulldogs:

Support for our F1rst Bulldogs continues with our F1rst Gen Fridays. First Gen Fridays is a monthly event series where we bring first-gen students together for free food and resources to help build a sense of community and a network of support. First-gen faculty and staff join in to meet with our first-gen students to tell their stories and to pass on any words of wisdom. A huge thank you is extended to all of the first generation faculty and staff members who support and serve as advocates for our first generation bulldogs.



**Student Emergency Funds:** The Student Emergency Fund program will assist all Alabama A&M University students by providing quick-response funds to enrolled students in good academic standing who are facing a short-term financial emergency. The goal of the Student Emergency Fund is to help retain students. Although the funds cannot be utilized to satisfy a university bill (e.g. tuition, fees, fines), the funds may be used for other personal expenses (e.g. transportation, personal health, emergency groceries, basic needs, etc). Alumni and campus community members are encouraged to support this effort.

To contribute to the Student Emergency Fund, please [CLICK HERE](#) and select **Student Emergency Fund**. All donations are tax deductible.



### Pink Friday:

OMA hosted its first outLOUD Pink Friday Mixer for AAMU's LGBTQ+ students and allies on Friday, April 5th. The event was open to all students and offered food, group games, and music. Students had the opportunity to mix and mingle with new friends and make lasting connections. Attendees also learned about and obtained campus-wide resources available to LGBTQ+ students.



## CONTACT US



**Atari Steele**

Assistant Director

Ralph Lee 113

Phone: 256.372.5418

Email: [atari.steele@aamu.edu](mailto:atari.steele@aamu.edu)



**Dr. Pamela Little**

Executive Director

Ralph Lee 113

Phone: 256.372.5418

Email: [pamela.little@aamu.edu](mailto:pamela.little@aamu.edu)



**Jennifer Scruggs**

Administrative Assistant

Ralph Lee 113

Phone: 256.372.5418

Email: [jennifer.scruggs@aamu.edu](mailto:jennifer.scruggs@aamu.edu)



## OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

108 McCalep-McIntosh Building

Normal, AL 35762

(256) 372-5418

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

## FOLLOW US



OMAatAAMU



aamu\_oma



[oma@aamu.edu](mailto:oma@aamu.edu)

