Multicultural Student Life contributes to an inclusive learning environment by enhancing institutional efforts in retaining and graduating students prepared for a diverse global society. We promote the academic success, equality, and leadership development of students through programs and services that holistically address cultural, educational, and civic growth.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Our Mission

Multicultural Student Life will be a nationally recognized department that innovatively promotes diversity and inclusion to empower all university students in order to impact societal equality throughout the state of Tennessee and across the world.

Our Vision Statement

E -- equality and social justice
M -- motivation
P -- progressive partnering
O -- opportunities and dialogue
W -- welcoming student-focused environment
E -- ethical leadership
R -- respect and civility
M -- mentorship and student success
E -- excellence in academics
N -- new and innovative practices
T -- transformative education

Our Values
STUDENT

Asian American Association
Black Cultural Programming Committee
Brothers United for Excellence
Diversity Educators
Latin American Student Organization
Multicultural Mentoring Program
ORGANIZATIONS

- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- Native American Student Association
- Sophisticated Queens Unafraid and Driven
- Strange Fruit Dance Company
AAA Executive members established the first Asian-interest fraternal organizations in Tennessee.

Events hosted by MSL:
- 81 events
- 112 people attended the BCPC Homecoming Comedy Show
- 717 people

Diversity education facilitations campus-wide:
- 5

Students represented MSL out of state at various leadership conferences & summits:
- 13

Students were awarded the Carl Cowan Scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year:
- 5
Two new Asian-interest, non-exclusive fraternal organizations were established under the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life this academic year, becoming the first Asian-interest organizations in the state of Tennessee. Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. (DPhiL) had their colony chapter date on March 21, 2020. Nationally founded on February 25, 1981, the women of DPhiL aim to, "advocate Asian awareness, empower women leaders...and forge everlasting sisterhood through diverse shared experiences."

Lambda Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Inc., LPhiE, became an associate chapter on April 12, 2020. The men of LPhiE pride themselves on being "Leaders Among Men".

If you are interested in joining, please go to www.gogreek.utk.edu
The Office of Multicultural Student Life offers a variety of support services based upon student interest:

- Peer-to-Peer Tutoring
- Book Loan Program
- Finals Prep
- Peer-to-Peer First-Year Mentoring
- First Years Studies Courses (FYS 101)
- MMP Living & Learning Community
- Leadership Development
- Diversity Education

1,200 + Tutoring Appointments Were Made During the 2019-2020 Academic Year

Students Participated in our MMP Connect Living Learning Community

MMP Student Mentors

First-Year Student Mentees

100+ Course Offerings for Tutoring

To access academic resources please visit https://multicultural.utk.edu/services/
LASO
The Latin American Student Organization hosts weekly meetings, surrounded by community and education. From presentations, cultural outings, and potlucks, LASO creates a familia for our Latinx students at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. LASO welcomes all VOLS into their community to learn about the identities of Latinx students.

Vol-Avenida
learning to bachata

Cultural Outing

AAA
The Asian American Association has weekly meetings full of fun activities and educational events. This year AAA presented the "Not Your Model Minority" campaign and had members take photos with quotes from people that debunked the model minority myth. #NotYourModelMinority

"Not Your Model Minority"

NAACP
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People won the Charles R. Burchett Extraordinary Contributions to Campus Life Award, which honors a student organizations for their continuous contributions to campus.

"This year NAACP really got a hold on what we embody as an organization, all of our events were purposeful and always came back to our mission that we hold true."

-Deja Hughes

"How to Stay Afloat When the Boat Isn't Woke"

15th Annual Black Issues Conference

AAA Rice Bowl
Throughout Homecoming Week, MMP hosted the Mr. & Miss Freshman Pageant, crowning Devon Thompson and Lauren Carson.

BCPC and MSL hosted the 20th annual Southeastern Stompfest. Stompfest was featured on ESPN and this year's places are as follows:

1st Place: Tennessee State University Zeta Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
2nd Place: University of Kentucky Mu Epsilon Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
3rd Place: University of Tennessee Zeta Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

For 225 years, Volunteers have been lighting the way for others, across Tennessee and throughout the world. September 10, 2019 marked the 225th anniversary of the University of Tennessee.
Dr. Carolyn Richardson Hodges joined the University of Tennessee in 1982 as an Assistant Professor of German, and after thirty-seven years retired as Professor of German Emerita and Vice-Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Emerita in July 2019. She was Associate Dean for Faculty Personnel before becoming the University’s first African American Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, where she served from 2007 to 2016. While at the University, she chaired and served as a member of numerous masters and doctoral dissertation committees. In addition, she won awards for advising and mentoring students and for her teaching and scholarship. She has written a number of articles and books, including the most recent book, Truth Without Tears: African American Women Deans Share Lessons in Leadership (Harvard Education Press, 2018), which she co-authored with Olga M. Welch.
Each year the Office of Multicultural Student Life, in partnership with the Diversity Educators hosts the Diversity Dialogue Symposium and selects a theme that is relevant to current global, national, or local conversations surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. This year's Diversity Dialogue Symposium, “Meet Me at the Polls: Seeking Out Your Political Identity in a Divided Climate” allowed students, staff, and faculty to come together for a day of learning and dialogue.

“I think the Symposium is a great way for the community, Knoxville and UT, to come together over topics that are relevant and meaningful. For some people, it’s a chance to hear more about issues they're interested in, and for others, it’s an opportunity to learn more about something they might not have known before. The sessions are meant to be interactive and engaging, so the speakers and DE members are able to bring participants together to open up that necessary dialogue. And I think when you're considering that this is a campus environment, those moments where people can sit down to have dialogue and share their knowledge and lived experiences become more important than ever.”
- Annie Tieu, Vice Chair of Diversity Educators 2019-2020

The 15th Annual Black Issues Conference was held on Saturday, February 1, 2020. The conference was themed: "Breaking the Cycle of A People Divided.” April Ryan, White House Correspondent & CNN Political Analyst was the Charlie Lemmons keynote speaker for the event.

“During the 2020 Black Issues Conference, I learned about the resilience and impact of the Black woman. I was so thankful to have heard from the keynote and both of the session presenters, all bold Black women. The space created made me feel brave to ask questions, network, and to be truly present in every moment. My takeaway from the conference was to be confident in my current self and to be an advocate for my future self.”
- Carmen Danley
This February, the Office of Multicultural Student Life partnered with the Black History Month Planning Committee to provide programming for Black History Month. The Silent March, Melanin Mondays, and the Celebration of Black Excellence were some of our favorite events.

"Nah" - Rosa Parks
"Persist" - Ruby Bridges
"We Out" - Harriet Tubman
In 1977, the Intercollegiate Liaison Committee was founded at Yale University as the nation’s first intercollegiate Asian American student conference. As of 2018, after 41 conferences and 40 consecutive years of uninterrupted growth, ECAASU remains the oldest and largest Asian American student conference in the nation.

As for my experience at ECAASU, it was definitely an eye-opening experience since I had the opportunity to learn about Asian American history and socio-political issues that I wouldn’t have been able to learn anywhere else. I also had the chance to be in the same room of several people who share the same interest from different colleges in the US. We also had a fun time exploring the city of Pittsburgh and trying out several local restaurants.”

-Juvi Mallari

The mission of the Clemson University Men of Color National Summit is to close the opportunity gap for African American and Hispanic males, from cradle to career. Bringing together approximately 2,000 high school and college students, business professionals, educators, government officials and community leaders from around the country, the summit will emphasize the importance of education, best practices and choices, to increase high school and college graduation rates. The national conference leads to the awareness of the changing U.S. demographics by enhancing the experience of men of color through involvement and engagement, preparing them for a global mindset.
Logan Settles (in denim jacket), 2019-2020 Chair of Diversity Educators, and Syd Shelby (in gray cardigan), 2019-2020 Marketing Chair of Diversity Educators, attended the 2019 Social Justice Training Institute for the Students. This conference was held over a 4 day period at the University of Cincinnati. Since December of 1998, the Social Justice Training Institute has been providing an opportunity for individuals committed to issues of inclusion to develop their skills in the areas of dialogue and connectedness. Over 500 professional colleagues have participated in this experience to date.

“This experience helped to transform my leadership into what it is today. The space provided at the Student Social Justice Training Institute pushed me to grow and fully commit myself to social justice work. I met incredible and amazing individuals and I am very grateful that I was able to attend.”  
- Logan Settles

“The Student Social Justice Training Institute was first and foremost and a life changing experience. I had the opportunity to talk to diverse students from all over the country about social justice and advocacy. We got to spend time learning about our own identities and strengths as well as the work of other students. I loved hearing what other folks had in place on their campus and in their communities while sharing on my experiences at UT and with MSL. On top of all of this, I found a network of resources as well as life long friends ready and willing to help each other in our future advocacy work.”  
- Syd Shelby
The Multicultural Graduation Celebration & Senior Send-Off

#VolForLife

150 of MSL’s graduating seniors received a special graduation box mailed to their home address to celebrate their accomplishments!
Congrats Class of 2020!
Congrats to our Director, Dr. T!

The Multicultural Graduation Celebration & Senior Send-Off

#VolForLife

“Your life is your story and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential.”

- Kerry Washington

Tanisha L. Jenkins, PhD
In spring semester 2020, we transitioned to a virtual format to continue supporting and engaging our students. MSL offered online programming; trivia and bingo, a bi-weekly podcast, transitioned tutoring online, and celebrated our graduating students.

19 online tutoring appointments occurred throughout the spring semester.
“MSL has been a really accepting and supportive home away from home. If I ever need anything I know I can go to literally anyone in the office and ask them. I really love it there.”

— ANDREA FAGGIOLI, LASO PRESIDENT

“Through MSL, I was able to transform what would have been a subpar college experience into moments I will never forget. In the office of Multicultural Student Life, I found a home, a place where I feel safe and secure. If you ask me, there is no place on campus like THIS office. For that, I am grateful.”

— KAYLA MATLOCK, MSL STUDENT ASSISTANT & MMP MENTOR

“Throughout my experiences at UT, MSL assisted in the growth of my network through community outreach and engagement as well as granted me the ability to engage in areas around campus that are less frequently traveled by People of Color. Furthermore, I was given various opportunities to increase my knowledge of how diversity and inclusion grants you access into different realms of cultural backgrounds, knowledge, & avenues of business.”

— TONIO MCKINLEY, BUE

“Through my time with MMP and Diversity Educators, I have met many incredible people and had the opportunity to engage in dialogue across campus about things that are important to me, especially relating to social justice and diversity & inclusivity. MSL has given me hope for change in our campus community through all of its members, the organizations they foster, and the programs they hold. It is by far my favorite place on campus and I always know I have a second home in their office!”

— BEN CHUMNEY, MMP MENTOR & DIVERSITY EDUCATOR
For More Information:

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