EPS welcomes new staff members

Yakaira Ramos, Ronald Mazique and Melanie Lahti join the creative team in the Office of Ethnic Programs and Services.

This year, the Office of Ethnic Programs and Services welcomes three new staff members. Program Coordinators, Yakaira Ramos and Ronald Mazique, and Graduate Assistant, Melanie Lahti, bring diverse academic and professional interests to the office, and they look forward to sharing their talents and expertise with the EPS family.

Ramos, a former Darwin T. Turner Scholar, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Cincinnati. A native of Puerto Rico, Ramos continuously utilizes her fluency in the Spanish language to educate and advocate for undergraduate students of color. Next year, she plans to pursue a Master of Business Administration degree in International Business at the University of Cincinnati.

Originally from Chicago, Mazique relocated to Atlanta where he received his Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from Clark Atlanta University in 2005. He recently graduated from the University Of Cincinnati College of Law and formerly worked as the Graduate Assistant in the Office of University Judicial Affairs.
Lahti is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in clarinet performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, studying with Richie Hawley, Principal Clarinet of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Hailing from Massachusetts, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Yale University in 2006. After graduating, she worked at Orion Consultants in Manhattan and studied clarinet with Mark Nuccio, Associate Principal Clarinet of the New York Philharmonic.

All three will work in collaboration with Dr. Eric Abercrumbie and Brandi Hutchins to implement programming that will enhance the experience of the student of color population on campus and raise cultural awareness among the entire University community.

**EPS celebrates new school year with Welcome Events**

*New and Returning Students ring in the new school year at the annual Hispanic, Asian and Black Student Welcomes, and the Turner Scholar Welcome.*

The Office of Ethnic Programs and Services hosted a series of Welcome Events during the first week of Autumn Quarter to introduce students to the wealth of cultural opportunities available at the University of Cincinnati. The student-body played a major role in organizing these events and succeeded in welcoming new students with open arms.

The Hispanic Student Welcome took place on Thursday, September 25 at the Max Kade German Culture Research Center. The event was hosted in Spanish and English by new staff member, Yakaira Ramos. New and returning students heard a special welcome presentation by Dean of Students, Dean Frank Bowen. All in attendance enjoyed a festive taco buffet catered by the University.

On Friday, September 26, the Office of Ethnic Programs and Services presented the Asian Student Welcome at Tangeman University Center. New staff member, Ronald Mazique, commenced the event and introduced the Dean of Students, Dean Frank Bowen. Dean Bowen opened the event with an official University welcome, and the Asian American Association led a series of activities to familiarize new students with the mission of their organization. The University catered another enjoyable meal, and the event concluded in a lively dance party with a DJ.
Akwaaba, the University’s Black Student Welcome, took place on Sunday, September 28 at Tangeman University Center Great Hall. Students, Justin Williams and Andreea Moore, emceed the event, which included an address by Dr. Mitchel Livingston, Vice President for Student Affairs and Services, and performances and presentations by a myriad of student organizations. Several Greek organizations then participated in an impassioned strolling competition, with Alpha Phi Alpha coming out on top. Dr. Abercrumbie and the staff of the African American Culture and Research Center worked the crowd with great fervor throughout the welcome.

On Monday, September 29, EPS welcomed new and returning Darwin T. Turner Scholars at the Tangeman University Center Great Hall. New staff members formally introduced themselves to students, and all in attendance shared a meal inspired by the cuisine of various cultures.

Thanks to all who attended and helped plan these Welcome Events!

**Upcoming EPS Events**

*The Office of Ethnic Programs and Services celebrates Hispanic Heritage with a series of programs in October and November.*

On Wednesday, October 29 EPS will host a Forum on the topic of “The Latino Vote in the 2008 Presidential Election,” moderated by EPS staff member, Yakaira Ramos, with a diverse panel including UC Professors, graduate and professional students. The forum will explore the potential of anti-immigration rhetoric to unite an ethnically and politically diverse demographic of Latino voters, taking into account the complexity of the Latino voting contingent as a non-monolithic entity. The new citizenship test that went into effect on October 1 will also be discussed, as well as the potential impact of “The Bradley Effect,” and other issues affecting Latino Voters in this election. All are welcome to attend this discussion from 6:00-8:00pm on the 6th floor of Steger Student Life Center. Refreshments will be served.

On Thursday, October 30 Ethnic Programs and Services invites you to take a break from your daily grind and join the office for “Tacos on Thursday” from 12:00-1:30pm in the EPS Office.

EPS honors the Mexican tradition of celebrating *Dia de los Muertos* on Friday, October 31. Stop by the office for light refreshments and a festive atmosphere. Feel free to arrive in costume!

On Friday, November 14 EPS invites you to attend a FREE Latin Dance Workshop from 7:00-9:00pm in the Tangeman University Center Great Hall. Michael Beck, of Midwest Latino, will teach the basics of Salsa and Merengue at 7:00pm, followed by an open dance floor until 9pm. The event will feature live music by CCM Latin Jazz Ensemble Mambo Diablo. Refreshments will be served.
Turner Tidbits (October, 2008)

Turner Scholars “Walk as One” for Social Justice
The EPS family joined the Greater Cincinnati community to support BRIDGES Walk for a Just Community.

Turner Scholars and EPS Staff turned out in force to promote inclusion, equity and justice at the 10th annual BRIDGES Walk for a Just Community. On Saturday, October 18 EPS bussed students and staff from the African American Cultural and Research Center to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Downtown Cincinnati. Participants walked or ran the 3.1 mile route that took them through Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky and ended back at the Freedom Center.

BRIDGES Walk for a Just Community is both a fundraiser and an awareness raiser providing financial support for local human relations programs. The mission statement of BRIDGES directly supports that of the Darwin T. Turner Scholars Program, “empowering people and organizations to ‘Be the Change’ by promoting inclusion, understanding and respect among all people.

Through the efforts of the Turner Scholars, the Office of Ethnic Programs and Services was able to make a monetary contribution to the BRIDGES program, to support the efforts of local activists promoting diversity in our community. Both BRIDGES and the Turner Scholar program empower their members to make institutional change for a more inclusive and just community. BRIDGES is always seeking volunteers to help serve their mission. If you are interested in getting involved, please call (513) 381-4660.
Turner Fall Social

The Turner Fall Social will take place November 20, 2008 from 6-8 pm in the Alumni Center.

SAVE THE DATE

TURNER FALL SOCIAL

NOVEMBER 20, 2008

ALUMNI CENTER

TIME: 6:00-8:00PM

ALL TURNER SCHOLARS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE