Campus Involvement
By: Kapsa Bengyella, Mentor

The students of Mercer University are bound to so much more than just a rigorous academic experience. Mercer has a multitude of outlets: organizations, affiliations, and activities in which one can explore his/herself at this institution. Campus involvement is very beneficial to student life. It is a great way to meet your fellow peers on campus, meet people of similar interests, and have a sense of belonging on campus. Getting involved on campus is not particularly a difficult task. Clubs, Greek affiliated organizations, honors societies, and student employment sectors are often stationed in the lobby of the CSC informing students of their niche and welcoming new members. Being involved in campus is a great idea. As some say, you never know who could help further develop you in this world. Campus involvement is a great way to network, stay intertwined with those that have an impact on campus and interact with faculty that oversee organizations, etc.
Freshman Senator Elections
By: William Leonard, Mentor

It was yet another successful electoral season for Freshman Senator at Mercer University. Like many years in the past, at least one of the current mentees was elected as a freshman senator. During this highly competitive election, candidates did an amazing job of campaigning by creating Snapchat filters, engaging their classmates in discussion, and marketing themselves to the fullest extent. Minority Affairs would like to formally congratulate Jadon Murad for being elected as a Freshman Senator. Jadon is a young man from the North Metro Atlanta Area who intends to double major in International Business and French with a minor in Finance or Economics. As a result of his victory, we invited Jadon to provide a detailed account of his campaign strategy and what inspired him to run for senator.

Q: What inspired you to run for the Freshman Senator Position?

A: “One of my long term goals is to have a large scale positive impact and I saw the potential for me to have a large impact on campus through SGA. I also like representing people because I’m very good at mediating ideas and ensuring that people’s voices are heard in the most effective manner.”

Q: What was the most difficult part of the election? And what was your campaign strategy?

A: The most difficult part of the election was probably just having so many other people running for senate. It was kind of discouraging sometimes because there were so many people with really good, appealing campaigns. I also tried to use it for motivation too because if I really wanted to win, I’d have to go one step higher. My strategy was really to make sure my message came off as genuine and sincere. I didn’t want to act like people’s friend’s in order for them to vote for me, I wanted to get to know these people because if I were to win they’d be my constituents and I want them to feel like they can approach me at any time with any idea. Being really approachable and not seeing people just as voters but actually people really helped. It’s worked in the long term because I’ve had people just randomly come up to me with ideas. Running for SGA also helped me establish good relationships with people I might have never talked to otherwise. It gave me a lot of confidence to just go up and talk to people and get to know them.

Taste the World
By: Kaylen Long & Alize’ Mitchell, Mentors

Imagine going on a worldwide tour, do you think it’s possible to do it in one day? In partnership with International Bears
Association (IBA), Mercer’s Office of Minority Affairs makes such an assertion come true. They host an amazing event that allows all Mercer students to get a little taste of the world. This enriching event celebrates diverse cultures and their differences through several various organizations on campus. The occasion takes place during the spring semester at the heart of Mercer’s campus, Cruz Plaza, grasping a very eager and curious crowd.

Taste the World is an event that is filled with ethnic music, food and performance giving the Mercer student body insight to various cultures and traditions. Countless Multicultural organizations orchestrate booths that represent their organization, ranging from cultural groups such as NPHC sororities and fraternities, social and purpose based groups such as Organization of Black Students or Point Plank, or even ethnic groups such as African Student Association, Latin American Student Association and Mercer Asia. Each organization gives a small sample or a little insight to their culture, tradition or purpose. The event allows students to temporarily dive into another culture through their food and knowledge that is given at the program. Through the Office of Minority Affairs’ Taste the World Program, Mercer students can do the unthinkable and travel the world in one day.

**Diversity Week**

*By: Christian Ingram, Mentor*

When you hear the word diversity, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Do you think of race? Maybe religion? Truth be told, race and religion are only two of the various aspects of diversity. In addition to race and religion, diversity has other aspects such as age, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status just to name a few. Whether it is your neighborhood, your high school alma mater, or even here at Mercer University, you have been most likely been introduced to various aspects of diversity. Given that there are various aspects of diversity in the world, we should appreciate the uniqueness that comes with each aspect of diversity. The importance of these aspects lies within the fact that they collectively shape and develop who we are as individuals. By interacting with a person who is of a different race, practices a different religion, or shares a different political view, you are provided with an opportunity to become better-rounded and enhance your understanding of the world around you. Ironically, even though diversity acknowledges our differences, it also explains just how similar we as people actually are. To raise
awareness and appreciation for these similarities and differences, the Mercer University office of Minority Affairs created Diversity Week. Our very first Diversity Week took occurred during the spring semester of 2016.

Diversity Week, which is now scheduled to occur in the middle of March, dedicates time and attention to the value of diversity by hosting an event that emphasizes different aspects of diversity each day for that week. In our second year of hosting Diversity Week, Taste the World collectively emphasized cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity by offering sample-sized servings of various foods from around the globe. The African Student Association (ASA), the Caribbean Student Association (CSA), and the Latin American Student Association (LASO) performed cultural dances. Organizations from National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) such as Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. performed strolls. In addition to that, members of Mercer’s poetry club, Point B.L.A.N.K., shared intriguing poems and moving spoken word on various topics such as institutionalized oppression and empowerment. Another event that occurred during Diversity Week 2017 was the playing of a game known as Stratified Monopoly. It is very similar to regular Monopoly. However, the players are assigned to certain socioeconomic classes and must play the game with the specified rules and restrictions that come with being in that particular class. This event raised awareness to diversity as it relates to class and social position. Regarding racial, ethnic, and sexual diversity, we hosted an activity entitled Diversity Incidents. During this event, participants were given various scenes to act out that included racism, prejudice, and intolerance. This event enabled both actors and observers to understand and empathize with those who are treated unfairly because of their race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. We shed light on religious diversity by hosting a student-led interfaith panel. We had representatives of Protestantism, Catholicism, Agnosticism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Each of these students shared their personal experiences and views on their religious beliefs and how it has shaped their identity as an individual. For the second consecutive year, Diversity Week was successful, both entertaining and educationally enriching. We are hosting it again in March 2018. We hope to see you there! Go BEARS!
10 Strategies for Better Time Management

By: Sa’Haara Bryant & Elijah Hawkins, Mentors

Freshman Year can be challenging at times, especially when it comes to managing your time between classes, studying, and various extracurricular activities. To avoid stress and wearing yourself out, here are a few guidelines for managing your time here at Mercer.

1. KNOW HOW YOU SPEND YOUR TIME Keep a time log of the activities you are doing for a week or two. Identify your most time-consuming tasks and determine whether or not they are helping or hindering you accomplish your tasks.

2. SET PRIORITIES Make a “to-do” list. Be sure to prioritize your list by what is important and urgent, and ranking them by priority.

3. USE A PLANNING TOOL Invest in a planner you can write down all your activities in. Being able to write down homework assignments, meeting times and deadlines can free up your brain and keep you from having to remember everything all at once.

4. GET ORGANIZED Organize your desk area by which classes you have each day. Set aside all your books and materials for your MWF classes in one area, then do the same for your TR classes. This allows you to know where all your classroom needs are without having to search everywhere in your room each time looking for them.

5. SCHEDULE YOUR TIME APPROPRIATELY Plan out your most challenging and time-consuming activities first so that you’ll have the energy to complete them. This allows you to also plan out fun time for yourself without
having to stress about completing your work.

6. **DELEGATE: GET HELP FROM OTHERS** Identify tasks that others can help you with and then ask them to assist you or explain it to you. Work can get done faster if there are multiple people involved.

7. **STOP PROCRASTINATING** Break down your tasks into smaller parts that require less time so you don’t have so much to do at once. Also, build in a reward system for yourself as you complete each small task to motivate yourself.

8. **MANAGE EXTERNAL TIME WASTERS** If you’re bad at talking to people for too long, avoid studying in large groups to stay focused on your work. Stay away from television and music if you get easily distracted to eliminate wasting time.

9. **AVOID MULTITASKING** You can lose time from switching from one task to another, which results in loss of productivity. Routine multitasking can often result in difficulty concentrating and maintaining focus when it’s needed.

10. **STAY HEALTHY** To be able to manage your time effectively, you need to take care of yourself first. Schedule time throughout your day to relax, go to the gym, or take a nap. This can help you rejuvenate both mentally and physically and allow you to be more productive in your work.

**Minority Mentor Upcoming Events**

The Minority Mentor Program host a variety of events including social, academic, and sporting events during the academic year. We hope that we all can work together to foster growth, prosperity and success. Below is tentative schedule of this year’s remaining upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you at our events this year!

1. Study Skills Workshop, December 5
2. Dream Speak, January 11
3. Black History Trivia, February 1
4. Diversity Week, March late March
5. Pool Party, April date TBA

We appreciate your participation and feedback. Thank you!