Campus Involvement
Kalon Hightower, Mentor

Mercer consists of a student body that is diverse and capable of balancing a rigorous education along with involvement in numerous clubs and organizations. Campus involvement is highly recommended because it allows individuals to meet others with similar interests, to broaden their horizons by trying new things, and to develop vital leadership and organizational skills. Students will be able to create long lasting friendships by joining organizations of their interest. There are a number of campus clubs that promote cultural awareness, health, fitness, service, philanthropy, academic excellence, and more. Students should consider joining major related clubs because it allows them to create and strengthen networking opportunities and increase knowledge within their major. Also, major related clubs allow you to discover your career goals and determine the path to reach your goals; in turn this may help you find valuable study partners. The most important thing about getting involved is that it fosters community building. This community building will create a safe and welcoming environment for all Mercer’s students. By getting involved on campus you will make new connections and develop better relations. Having good friends during your college years is very beneficial because it shapes one’s personality and provides positive support.

Freshman Senator Elections
Kennedy Washington, Mentor

It was another great election season for freshman senator at Mercer University. We had several people from the minority mentor program that participated in the previous election. Filled with flyers, candy and campaigning, we got to see a lot of good showmanship and charisma. We would like to commend the following people for participating in the election and giving it your best shot; Marissa James, Ariel Daniels, Eduardo Rubio, and Stephen Lasrado. A couple of the candidates gave a response on their experience of the freshman senator elections and why they decided to run for the position. In the following interview we will be hearing from Stephen Lasrado, and Marissa James.

The 1st interview was with Marissa James. She is a 19 year old from Lawrenceville, Georgia.
She is former cheerleader from Archer high school and she plans to major in Marketing and a minor in international business.

**Interview 1**

**Washington:** Can you tell me about your experience running for freshman senator?

**James:** It was super intense. There was a lot of female competition for the position, but in the end all the boys won.

**Washington:** Why did you originally run for freshman senator?

**James:** Because I did student government in high school, and being on campus already, there were changes that I wanted to make.

**Washington:** Even though you did not win, what did you learn from this experience?

**James:** Just how intense people can get when they are fighting for their ideas. I also met a lot of cool people when running. I’m happy they some of them won because they had some great ideas.

The 2nd interview was with Stephen Lasrado.

Born in India and raised in Suwanee, Georgia, Stephen is well involved on campus and you will always see him around.

**Washington:** So tell me about your experience running for freshman senator?

**Lasrado:** So my experience for running for freshman senator was just walking around and finding people who are freshman, and even upperclassmen. Telling them hey my name was Stephen I’m running for freshman senator. And sometimes when I would go to my friend’s dorm, I stay at Legacy, but when I go to Plunkett, Dowell, or Roberts and introduce myself. I would ask “What would you like to see change on campus”. Basically that and go and give people chocolate.

**Washington:** Why did you originally run for freshman senator?

**Lasrado:** I didn’t have any clear reason. I just knew it might look good on a resume, but I also wanted to get more involved on campus. I figured this would be one of my first opportunities to do actually get involved on campus. I am involved in SNNAMAPs, CURE club, Spanish club, Mercer med. I really can’t remember them all; I am apart of five or six different club.

**Taste The World**

Kapsa Bengyella & Alize Mitchell, Mentors

Taste the world is a neat, cultured event that was coordinated by The Office of Minority Affairs and International Bears Association. It took place second semester of the school year at the end of March on Cruz Plaza. The event included the celebration of differences amongst cultures represented by several organizations on campus. This event exemplified quite a bit of the diversity on Mercer’s campus showing the different backgrounds and cultures.

Taste the World gave students the opportunity to be immersed into various cultures through performances, music, and food. Different multicultural organizations setup booths around Cruz Plaza, allowing students to move freely between them. Some of the performances included the Latin Student Association (LASO) preforming several dances from Latin American countries such as the Salsa and the Meringue, the NPHC sororities and fraternities performed steps and strolls, the ASA dance team expressing a piece of their African culture, and Point Blank performing spoken word pieces on topics ranging from cultural appropriation.
to current social movements. Some food options included jerk chicken prepared by the African and Caribbean Student Association and spring rolls with two different dipping sauces by Mercer Asia

10 Strategies for Better Time Management
Sa’Haara Bryant, Mentor

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 these tasks 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 the items 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 help you out 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 about 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 MULTI-TASKING
   You can lose time from switching from one task to another, which results in loss of productivity. Routine multi-tasking 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.

Diversity Week
Christian Ingram, Mentor

When you think of the word diversity, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Do you think of race? Maybe religion? Truth be told, these 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 introduced to various aspects of diversity. Given that there are various aspects of diversity in the world, we should appreciate the importance of all aspects 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, different religion, or shares a different political view, you are become more well-rounded and have an enhanced understanding of the world around you. Ironically, even though diversity acknowledges our differences, it also explains just how similar we as people actually are. In order to raise awareness and appreciation for these similarities and differences, the Mercer University Office of Minority Affairs has decided to create Diversity Week!

Diversity Week, which occurs in the middle of March, dedicates time and attention to the value of diversity by hosting an event that emphasizes one particular aspect of diversity each day for that week. Last year, Taste the World emphasized cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity by offering sample-sized servings of various foods from around the globe. In addition to that, organizations such as the African Student Association, Mercer Masala, and the Latin American Student Association performed cultural dances such as the salsa and the merengue. Dr. Hensel, from Mercer’s Biology department, presented an interesting and insightful presentation on sexuality and gender. She shed light on the scientific aspects of gender and sexual development that are rarely talked about or considered. With regards to religious diversity, Dr.’s Bryan Whitfield and Janell Johnson from our Religion Department, along with Mercer’s football chaplain Justin Brown, and Min. LaTrayvius Smith from Kingdom Life Inc. served on a panel to answer questions about their own experiences and attitudes towards religious diversity. Since last year’s event was a huge success, we are having Diversity Week again in March 2017. We hope to see you there! Go BEARS!
Minority Mentor Upcoming Events
Michaela Everett, Lead Student Mentor
The Minority Mentor Program hosts various educational and social events during the Fall and Spring semesters. Here’s a tentative list of every event we have planned for the year:

1. October 21: Manhunt
2. November 9: Registration Workshop
3. December 1: Study Skills Workshop
4. January 19: DreamSpeak
5. February 16: Black History Charades
6. March 27-31: Diversity Week
7. April 6: Pool Party
8. April 18: Stress and Anxiety Workshop

See your mentor for details on time and location.

GO VOTE!
Taylor Jessamy, Advisor
Tuesday November 8th is Election Day. Now that you’ve made an informed decision, it’s time to vote. Some of you have already submitted an absentee ballot or completed early voting. For those of you who haven’t, we look forward to seeing you at the polls!