

Diversity endeavors within the School of Information Sciences for 2014-2015

EVENTS:

September 5th 2014 - Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration – Themed Social Hour for the School of Information Sciences community. Chinese moon cakes were shared and a history of the fall festival and the meaning of the sharing of moon cakes was provided to students. Approximately 100 students, faculty, and staff attended.

October 3rd, 2014 - Legacy Laureate and Distinguished Alumni Award Winner Debra King networks with and mentors students – A senior executive with Exxon-Mobil, Ms. King shared her personal story with an audience of faculty, staff, and students, recounting how she addressed work/life balance, dedication and passion to her career, and her strategies for professional advancement. Approximately 30 students, faculty, and staff attended.

October 31st, 2014 – Diwalloween celebration - Themed Social Hour for the School of Information Sciences community. A Halloween celebration was combined with Diwali, the Indian Festival of Lights. All students were given the chance to create Rangoli, Indian Folk Art using natural materials of different colors, such as lentils, rice, etc. Approximately 80 students, faculty, and staff attended.

November 12th, 2014 – Presentation to faculty and staff by Iruaku Brodie-Mends from the University Counseling Center – Ms. Mends offered guidance to faculty and staff on assisting and delineating between students in need of counseling and students with disabilities. 8 faculty and staff attended.

April 3rd, 2015 - The iSchool Experience: A Panel Luncheon on Careers, Curricula, & Community

Arranged and sponsored by the School of Information Sciences' Diversity Student Organization, a panel of faculty and administrators was gathered - Dean Ronald Larsen, LIS faculty member Amelia Acker, Information Science program chair Peter Brusilovsky, professor of practice Leona Mitchell, and Telecommunications professor Kostantinos Pelechrinis. Students generated a list of questions related to community, inclusion, and faculty engagement with student mentoring, and the panelists addressed these questions for two hours. Approximately 50 students, faculty, and staff attended.

April 17th, 2015 - Colloquium by Dr. Lynette Kvasny (Penn State University): "[Applying a Chaos Theory Approach to Understanding the Career Pathways of African American Men in Information Technology](#)"

Description : Reports by the College Board, the National Science Foundation, and the National Center for Educational Statistics use statistical methods to analyze national datasets, and have highlighted the educational and career challenges facing young African American men. The grim discourse that flows from this body of work may unwittingly contribute to America's low expectations for African American men and tells us little about those men who do succeed.

Attended by approximately 50 students, faculty, and staff.

June 15th 2015 – July 10th, 2015 – iSchool Inclusion Institute (I3)

A cohort-based program in its fifth year, where 27 diverse undergraduates from across the

country are invited to attend a program split over two consecutive summer (four weeks the first summer and two weeks the second summer) to learn about the information sciences and design (first summer), conduct (during the full year), and present (second summer) an information sciences research project. This is to prepare and encourage diverse students to pursue and complete graduate studies in the information sciences. This year's institute comprises over 60 workshops, presentations, social events, and activities. This year's public events pertaining to diversity embedded in this program are outlined below:

June 16th, 2015 - Dr. Fay Cobb Payton, Associate Professor, North Carolina State University, Poole College of Management – Opening inspirational welcome to I3 cohort.

June 17th, 2015 - Digital Mosaic, the Information Needs of Diverse Peoples – presented by Alexia Hudson Ward, Associate Librarian at Penn State Abington. Attendance TBD.

July 9th, 2015 – Dr. Nicki Washington, Associate Professor, Howard University, Systems and Computer Science – Closing remarks to I3 cohort.

RECRUITMENT:

Attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 28th Annual Conference October 4-6, 2014 in Denver, Colorado. Shabana Reza and one Master's student attended.

Attended the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women In Computing Conference October 8-11, 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona. Shabana Reza, Rosta Farzan, and 3 doctoral students attended.

Attended the National Society of Black Engineering 41st Annual Convention March 25-29, 2015 in Anaheim California. Shabana Reza and one Master's student attended.