

# UNISON

Diversity Committee for Communities of Interest

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Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs  
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## Director's Message

*DCCOI is very excited about 2008 and the numerous events and programs scheduled. In addition to the current services, we are in the process of creating new services and programs. Some of the new programs include hosting another diversity forum, a cultural competency workshop, and the second parade of cultures in conjunction with UNCP's Taste of iWorld, formally A Taste of Culture.*

*DCCOI believes that diversity should be seen as a tool that impacts every aspect of one's life. The committee strives to promote and sustain a cohesive and inclusive environment among the University and a local community that truly values and embraces diversity, groups, cultures, differences and perspectives within the framework of the academic environment. We would like to remind each of you that we are available to assist you in your diversity efforts.*

*Finally, DCCOI is always looking for*

*interested individuals who want to be "change agents" and proponents of diversity. We welcome new members to the committee, which meets on the last Wednesday of every month, 3:30 p.m. in the Multicultural Center of Old Main.*



Robert L. Canida II

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## African American Read-In

Black History Month celebrations kicked off on February 4, 2008 when UNCP participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual National African American Read-In. The Center for Leadership and Service, Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs, and the Friends of the Library collaborated to make the event a success.

The National Annual African Read-In started at 10 a.m., with reading to a group of students from Shining Stars Preschool.

In the afternoon, a book discussion took place in the faculty lounge. Dr. Bill Cosby and Dr. Alvin Poussaint's recent publication was up for discussion.

The events concluded that evening with an oral reading of African American literature with individuals from the campus and community.

Miss North Carolina, Jessica Jacobs, was in attendance along with newly crowned Miss UNCP, Jamee Hunt.

The National African American Read-In is active in 49 states, the West Indies and in some African countries.

The Read-In has also been endorsed by the International Reading Association.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Visit the OMMA Website for upcoming events  
[www.uncp.edu/oma](http://www.uncp.edu/oma)



## MLK Celebration

Is the dream, just a dream or can it become a reality?

On January 17, Dr. Mark Vickers presented “True Leaders Don’t Hate.” The event consisted of a documentary presentation and interactive exercises and discussions.

True Leaders Don’t Hate is part of a “Journey to a Hate Free Millennium” transformational program.

True Leaders Don’t Hate also prepared the UNCP community for the Annual

Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Annual Tribute included a candlelight vigil, program, prayer, song and guest speaker Dr. Mark Vickers.

Students, faculty and staff took part in the candlelight vigil on the University Center Lawn to

show remembrance

of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who changed the world with

his words and dedication to have equality among races.

*“Now, I say to you today my friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: - ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’”*

*- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## National Mentor Month

Have there been people in your past who have taken the time out to support our encourage you? Those people have helped you become the person that you are today. Those people are not just limited to family members, they are your teachers, coaches, neighbors, and bosses; those people were mentors to you.

There is not one successful person that has made it through life without a mentor. Did you know that January is National Mentor Month?

The Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs offer a Peer Mentoring program that is open to all UNCP students. OMMA is in the business of ensuring that every UNCP minority student is equipped and linked to the appropriate resources and services that the University and community have to offer.

The purpose of the program is to assist students academically and socially during their first year while making the transition from high school to college smoother.

The program is free and informal. Mentors will contact students several times during their first semester at UNCP to assist them with any transition issues they are facing.

The Director will arrange the initial meeting between the Mentee and Mentor. Training sessions and future meetings will be held throughout the academic year. For more information, stop by the OMMA office for an application.



***“Follow-up is personal. It must be done by someONE; not by someTHING. For it to be effective, we must set the pace. We can’t permanently sell something we don’t make time to get into our lives.”***

*- Dawson Trotman*

## COP Visits Kipp Prep Academy

Last semester members from the COP (Council of Presidents) traveled to KIPP Preparatory College in Gaston, North Carolina. The purpose of the trip was to encourage the high school students to seek higher education.

“We were not there to sell UNCP. We were there to advocate higher learning. Education is an asset that can not be measured. A tool that can be used to secure a person’s legacy,” National Council of Negro Women President Carine Francois said.

In the past, other colleges and universities sent a recruiter or an admissions counselor. UNCP was among the first universities to actually bring students to their campus. KIPP students were given the opportunity to ask the COP members questions about their college experience.

“I told the students that they were very lucky to have this opportunity to have us come and speak. If I would have known half of the things that I know now, I could have done things differently,” Francois said.

The KIPP students set the tone and started asking questions almost immediately. NAACP President, Joshua Batchelor asked the students to close their eyes and picture them at the university that they wanted to attend, and say the first thing that came to mind. One student said the first

thing that came to her mind was fear.

“I asked why fear? She said fear of not being accepted and fear of failure,” Francois said.

Fear and failure were not the only things that were discussed. COP members also talked about their organizations and how they balance their academics with a social life. Batchelor represented the NAACP, Jamel Porter represented the 10% Society, Naly Yang represented Asia Student Association, and Rakesha Johnson and Carine Francois represented NCNW.

The trip was organized by Robert Canida, Director of the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs. Canida also oversees the Council of Presidents.



*The COP consists of all the presidents of the organizations that Canida advises.*

## COP Spreads Holiday Cheer

After a semester full of activities and service projects, the Council of Presidents showed no sign of slowing down. In fact, the member organizations and presidents had a few service projects in the works for the holiday season.

“This is the season where people feel the most vulnerable and alone. It is our job to make those who do not feel completely comfortable during the holiday season and make them feel that they are not alone,” National Council of Negro Women president Carine Francois said.

The COP held their annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the Odum Home residents.

COP organizations participating in the Thanksgiving dinner were National Council of Negro Women, National Advancement

Association of Colored People, and the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs.

“I think it’s good that we’re doing the dinner and that it’s become a tradition. It’s also great that they anticipate us coming to spend time with them,” Francois said.

The dinner was held November 16 in the Central Dining Hall on the Odum Home campus.



## Silent Racism

Racism is a very sensitive topic and many argue whether it exists or not. What about silent racism? Dr. Barbara Trepagnier spoke to the UNCP staff, faculty and students about silent racism on February 11.

*Silent Racism* addresses the research that Trepagnier conducted that proves that all individuals harbor some racist thoughts and feelings.

Trepagnier described silent racism as the stereotypes that are negative in our head about minorities. The theory of silent racism not only applies to African Americans or other ethnic minorities.

During her presentation Trepagnier also discussed institutional racism and the racism continuum and what could be done to implement change.

Trepagnier lives in Houston, Texas and

teachers at Texas State University-San Marcos. She earned degrees from the University of Houston and the University of California in Santa Barbara. Her book, *Silent Racism*, is available at the UNCP Bookstore.



## Life and Diversity after Graduation

*This is David Simons, graduating class of 2007; I hope all is well with you all (ya'll). I was emailing to update you and the group on a little of what has happened since I graduated from UNC Pembroke. After graduation, I took a month off to find a place to live, and settled in. I share an apartment on what is considered the new side of town with my friend in Raleigh, (Wakefield) North Carolina. I'm working for a marketing agency that doubles as fitness center in Raleigh, called Lifestyle Family Fitness. I could not be happier with my position and new career. I feel as if I have made somewhat of a smooth transition between college student and full-time professional. Raleigh is treating me well! So much of what I do is working with people. I cannot stress enough how valuable my experience was at UNC Pembroke along with being a member of the Diversity Committee. Learning how to work well with others and having a better understanding of how society*

*works is the cornerstone of a successful career and a happier lifestyle. I often attend programs and functions put on by the City of Raleigh that celebrate diversity and other cultures, most of these festivals are held in downtown Raleigh, and are a celebration of Raleigh's diversity. I look forward to my eventual return to the campus. I hear the campus continues to grow! I wish you all well and look forward to our correspondence.*

*Thank you again for all your time and support Good Luck with your future endeavors and your constant success in diversity awareness.*

*David Simons  
DSimons@lff.com*



## Faculty Diversity Directory

The Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs has designed a tool to help both current and prospective students and faculty learn more about the diverse learning environment of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

The Faculty Diversity Directory will highlight the diversity of our talented faculty on

campus and serve as a direct source of pertinent contact information. It is the hope of our office that the directory serves as a resource for both the recruitment and retention efforts of students and faculty, and helps to identify possible mentoring opportunities.

Interested faculty who self-identify with their

respective communities (African American, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, International, etc.) are encouraged to provide contact information to participate in the directory. Listed below are some of the UNCP faculty and staff who are willing to assist. For the complete list, visit the OMMA website.

### University and Community Relations

Dr. Collie Coleman  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Outreach  
collie.coleman@uncp.edu

### American Indian Studies

Dr. Mary Ann Jacobs  
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mary.jacobs@uncp.edu

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If you have pictures, events and/or public service announcements that affect the target audience of UNISON, please send them to us.

## Diversity Committee for Communities of Interests

The Diversity Committee for Communities of Interests (DCCOI) will be an integral part of the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs and will take a leadership role in providing programs, services, and resources that support the office's and university's mission. Serving as a catalyst, DCCOI will develop policies, practices, and programs that represent and enhance the University's diverse student populations. In collaboration with other university offices and community entities, the DCCOI will seek to improve the overall educational, social, and cultural experiences of UNCP's underrepresented groups. The ultimate purpose of the committee will be to ensure that students are informed and encouraged to take advantage of the University's and community's academic, cultural, social, and economic resources, thus providing an atmosphere of life long learning.

## Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs

The Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs of UNC Pembroke strives to provide programs and services that support the academic mission of the University by enhancing the educational, personal, cultural and social development of diverse and ethnic minority student populations. As an agent of change, the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs seeks to value cultural diversity in order to promote an empowered society.

