



# CMC News

**May/June 2014**

*President*

Monica Regan

*Executive Director*

Eugene Dumas

*Treasurer*

Nodee McNeal

Board of Directors

Glen Barwegen

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Cynthia Pryor

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The Center for  
Multicultural Communities

202 S. Halsted  
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## *Message from the Director*

As we come to the end of fiscal 2013-2014, we are reminded by events that our work is not yet finished. Progress is being made; there's no doubt about it. But, much more needs to be done. We are now in the 21st century, but many Americans still have problems with differences. Some still feel some individuals of certain people groups are superior to others as Charles Darwin wrote in his book "The Descent of Man". Nothing could be further from the truth. There are no inferior or superior people. There is just one race, the human race and all humans are of equal worth.

It is true that some humans are multitalented whereas others are less talented. This, however, does not speak to their worth. All humans count, regardless of group affiliation. We feel compelled to continue to encourage and persuade people to be respectful of differences regardless of what is falsely called "race". Every person should be respected regardless of his people group, political, or social status. Because simply put, we are all human beings. The political party, religion, or special affiliation one belongs to is not justification for ridicule, marginalization, discrimination or racism. America is a pluralistic society. Therefore, nothing should deter cultural and racial harmony.

In our 2013-2014 fiscal year, we conducted seminars for senior citizens, the advantaged generation, young adults, and children—all with the goal of motivating understanding and respect for individual differences, cultural and racial harmony and the ending of racism. Testimony of some attendees indicated partial success.

The persons who wrote and thanked us for our work, as reprinted below, have validated our conclusion.

~ *Eugene Dumas*

## **Letters of appreciation**

This letter is in support of The Center for Multicultural Communities at Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

I have invited Mr. Dumas to my classroom for two semesters. The discipline of Sociology, Sociology 101 Introduction and Sociology

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210 Marriage and Families. Mr. Dumas is an excellent communicator. He engaged the classes in discussions related to the social institutions and how society must operate with all members. Structure is very important. Our students always rise to the occasion. We must continue to utilize the interactive method with our students. Mr. Dumas and staff provide a necessary service for our student population.

Sincerely,  
James R. Moore, Ed.D.  
Professor

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Thank you so much for participating in our Diversity Day session. I know the students got a lot out of your presentation. We had 33 students in attendance ranging from 7th-12th grade. As our students venture off to diverse high schools and colleges, I know that your presentation will resonate with them. We may try to have this as an annual event from now on.

Harrison Woods  
Middle School Director  
METROsquash

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The Suburban Cook County Senior Companion Program wishes to thank you for your presentations and your assistance in helping us provide services to the multi-cultural, frail elderly resident of Suburban Cook County. You have helped us identify, understand and develop a better approach in our service delivery. We look forward toward your future presentations. Again, thank you!

Commodore Edmond  
Director, Suburban Cook County SCP

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May 15, 2014  
Attention Director:

I have enclosed a copy of our newest charity insert which was recently sent to almost 800 businesses. This report is published twice, annually in order to increase visibility of charities to businesses in greater Chicago and northern Illinois. Please note that your organization is listed as an organization that meets all 20 charity standards. Congratulations on the wonderful work that you do!

Sincerely,  
Nina Castle  
Better Business Bureau

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## Some Recent Activities

We conducted two recent seminars that tackled the subject of “Navigating a Multicultural Society in the 21st Century”.

In the first of two seminars at Prairie State College the attendees were college students and area residents. The response was positive based on evaluations that followed the presentation. As one student said: “This seminar opened my eyes and will open doors for me in the future. The class allowed everyone see that differences are not the problem but something you should learn about to make your life better.”

At the second seminar on this topic, a faculty member and students met. This forum was an exciting activity, and a plethora of ideas were expressed. Positive comments were made even to others who did not attend the activity. A non-attending psychology professor said, “I was told about the wonderful seminar CMC presented for Dr. Moore’s sociology class.”

## Final meeting for fiscal 2013-2014

You are invited to attend our final meeting at Flossmoor Community Church on June 5, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. The address is 2218 Hutchison Road. Refreshments will be served.

## Question for your response

Culture can be described in 3 ways today, according to Dr. Ravi Zacharius. Which of these words best described ours culture?

- 1.Theonomous – according to moral imperative.
- 2.Heteronomous – you’re told what to do from an exterior source.
- 3.Autonomous – each person determines for himself what is correct.

## Coming up

CMC will conduct seven workshops for the Human Relations Department of the State of Illinois. Dates for 2014 are July 23, Aug. 20, Oct. 16, Nov. 11, and Dec. 3, and the final date will be January 28, 2015.

## Quote of the Month

“To overcome problems with others who may communicate or act a little differently from the way we do we need to allocate more time getting to know others. By building relationships, we will foster an environment in which creating shared meaning is more likely.”

— Dr. Steve L. Robbins

*What if? Short Stories to Spark Diversity Dialogue*

## An Open Invitation

Come and join us as we work to enhance cultural competence and promote racial harmony. You may do so with a tax deductible contribution or become a member by taking a workshop.