Asian New Year Festival
Thursday, February 3, 6-9 p.m.
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Join us for a spectacular festival showcasing the traditional Asian New Year celebration. The program highlights the richness and diversity of Asia by featuring samples of Asian cuisines and traditional performances from different Asian ethnic groups including a dragon dance, Chinese martial arts, national dance and cultural fashion show.

A Walk To Remember - Stories From Our Past
Hmong American Student Association, GVSU
Monday, February 7, 1-2 p.m.
2263 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Members of the Hmong American Student Association share captivating life-changing stories of their family’s ancestry and origin. Their stories reveal the struggles assimilating to the American life while preserving the values of their own ancient culture and how their journeys in the new homeland have shaped their lives.

Philippines Folk Dance Performance
Minnie Morey, artistic director of the Pacific Island Dancers of Grand Rapids
Tuesday, February 8, 3-4 p.m.
2215/2216 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

There are more than 7,000 islands in the Philippines, each with its unique tradition and culture. The Philippine folk dances represent some of the islands’ traditions and styles, which are also influenced by other cultures such as the Spanish, Chinese, Malaysian and Indonesian. To the Filipinos, folk dances illustrate the fiesta spirit and love of life. They express a joy in work, love for music, and pleasure in the simplicities of life.

Instructed by Minnie Morey, the Pacific Island dancers perform a variety of traditional dances from the rural provinces of the Philippines. Minnie Morey is a Filipino descendant and was raised in the traditional Filipino family. She is the artistic director of the Pacific Island Dancers of Grand Rapids and currently teaches Philippine folk dances as well as Polyynesian dances.

All events are free and open to the public. People requesting special accommodations may contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177. Community guests need to obtain a parking permit at the Public Safety Services. For event information, contact Connie Dang, dangc@gvsu.edu.

http://www.gvsu.edu/oma/
American is a diverse group enriched with unique migration patterns, histories, and experiences of Asian Americans in the United States. Empirical and demographic data demonstrates that Asian Americans are not a monolithic group that can be stereotyped as a hard-working, problem-free and successful group. The narrative of the model minority has been persistent and insidious. The socio-cultural expectations of Asian Americans are shaped by the persistence of the model minority narrative, which frames them as a model group whose success is attributed to their individual努力 and hard work rather than structural factors.

ExplorAsia seeks to highlight the complexity of this diverse group by creating a space for APIA students to educate our campus community on their native country through presentation and stories. A map of Asia will be on display for students to highlight their family’s ethnicity and trace their roots.

“East of Main Street” HBO Documentary Video and Roundtable Dialogue

Facilitators: Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Event Planning Committee

Wednesday, February 16, 3-4 pm
2204 Kirkhof, Allendale Campus

In 2010, HBO filmed a collection of stories from the APIA’s diaspora in celebration of Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month. Fourteen unique stories highlight the journeys and experiences of newly immigrated, first and second generation East Asian, South Asian, and Southeast Asian. The documentary movie explores the intersections of politics, cultural identity, ethnic diversity, sexual orientation, and bi-racial relationship. It also depicts the lives of Asian newcomers as well as those who have settled in America for many generations. Clips from the video will be shown and followed by an interactive dialogue.

Unveiling the Truth: The Muslim Women

Tahera Ahmad, First Muslim female Chaplain at Northwestern University

Thursday, February 17, 3-5 pm
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Ever wonder about women in Islam? Their rights? The headcovering (hijab)? And Muslim women in the post-modern era? Join our speaker Tahera Ahmad to learn more about the Muslim women. Tahera received a graduate certification in Arabic and traditional Islamic sciences from various institutions in the U.S. and abroad. During her graduate studies in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary, she served as the Muslim Chaplain/Advisor at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. Currently Tahera serves as an associate University Chaplain at Northwestern University.

R.I.C.E. Conference, Realizing and Addressing Issues in our Culture and Education

Saturday, March 26, 8-5 p.m.
Loosemore Auditorium, Building E, Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus

RICE Conference offers three relevant tracks: culture, education and health to educate and raise awareness on Asian issues that matter to our community. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served. The conference is free and open to the public. Register on-line at http://www2.gvsu.edu/~asu/rice.htm.