



# 2014 Asian American & Pacific Islander HERITAGE CELEBRATION

**Five Reasons We Should Learn About China**  
**Yi Zhao, associate professor of political science**  
**Tuesday, January 28, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**  
**Russel H. Kirkhof Center, Room 1240**  
**Allendale Campus**  
**LIB 100 & LIB 201 Approved**

China is emerging as a world power. It is the most populous nation with the second largest economy in the world; China is the United States' second largest trading partner. This list is not complete, however, Zhao will share his thoughts and experiences, and offer even more compelling explanations about why we should learn about China.

**Year of the Horse -What Does It Mean For Us?**  
**Hung Nguyen, vice chair, Fairfax County**  
**Consumer Protection Commission**  
**Thursday, January 30, 3-4 p.m.**  
**Russel H. Kirkhof Center, Room 2266**  
**Allendale Campus**  
**LIB 100 & LIB 201 Approved**

Asian is one of the fastest growing demographic groups in the United States. According to the 2010 Census, the Asian population grew faster than any other race group in the U.S. between 2000 and 2010. "Inclusion" and diversity in education, business and government are catch phrases for a call to action but are there any real impacts? What leadership or policy roles do underrepresented communities play? Who are the underrepresented communities?

Recently, Nguyen was the first Vietnamese American to be in a General Election for the Commonwealth of Virginia's House of Delegates, which is considered the oldest continuous legislative body in the New World. Reflecting the American Dream and his experience, he will share his perspective as a business and community leader and what it means to be an American of Asian descent.

**Asian New Year Festival**  
**Hosted by the Asian Student Union**  
**Thursday, January 30, 6-9 p.m.**  
**Russel H. Kirkhof Center, Grand River Room**  
**Allendale Campus**

Join us for a spectacular festival that showcases the traditional Asian New Year celebration. The program highlights the richness and diversity of Asia and features Asian cuisine and traditional performances from Asian ethnic groups, including a dragon dance, Chinese martial arts, national dance and cultural fashion show.

Events are free and open to the public. For information on parking or for individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616)331-2177 or email us at [oma@gvsu.edu](mailto:oma@gvsu.edu).



**Beyond Math Geeks and China Dolls: Overcoming Stereotypes About Asian Americans to Find Success in the Real World**  
**Yul Kwon**  
**Tuesday, February 4, 4-5:50 p.m.**  
**Cook Dewitt Center, Allendale Campus**  
**LIB 100 & LIB 201 Approved**

Yul Kwon won the CBS reality show "Survivor: Cook Islands" during the 2006 controversial, racially segregated season. On his way to victory, Kwon skillfully led a multiethnic team, earned a reputation as one of the show's most strategic and honest players, and smashed media stereotypes about Asian American men. During his presentation, Kwon will raise awareness around harmful stereotypes and offer ways to overcome preconceived biases.

Kwon has hosted PBS's "America Revealed," a four-part documentary that takes a unique look at what makes America tick. He is a special correspondent for CNN.

**Chinese Cultural Performance**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 4-5 p.m.**  
**Cook Dewitt Center, Allendale Campus**  
**LIB 100 & LIB 201 Approved**

Enjoy a beautiful performance featuring talented people from the West Michigan Chinese American community. Five pieces will be performed:

**Dai Dance "There Is A Beautiful Place":** A peacock dance typically performed by the Dai people who live in the southern part of Yunnan province.  
Performers: Rachel Cheng, Yu Lin, Yan Yu and Ping Zhao.

**PiPa solo:** PiPa is a pear-shaped, four-string wooden instrument with 12-26 frets. The Chinese instrument dates back 2,000 years.

**"Mo Li Hua"** means the jasmine flower. The song was composed in the 18th century and performed at the 2004 and 2008 Summer Olympics and 2010 Shanghai Expo Opening Ceremonies.

**"Zi Zhu Diao"** means purple bamboo melody. This music dates back 2,000 years. It is typically performed in Shanghai dialect, the major version of the Wu dialect of the Chinese language.  
Soloist: Yi Wang

**Taichi "42 Form":** This form was formalized and standardized in 1988 by Taiji masters and the state sports administration of China. Form 42 is characterized by its elegant, soft unhurried movements of hands, legs and body.  
Taiji Master: Guangyu Gus Zhang

**Xinjiang Dance "Why Are The Flowers So Red?":** The Uighurs and one of China's largest ethnic groups, with about 10 million people living in the Xinjiang Autonomous region. They are famous for singing and dancing.

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## **Hafu Documentary**

**Megumi Nishikura and Lara Perez Takagi are co-director, videographer and co-producer**  
**Facilitator: Jeremy Robinson, associate professor, East Asian Studies and Japanese**  
**Thursday, February 13, 6-7:45 p.m.**  
**Russel H. Kirkhof Center, Room 2215/2216**  
**Allendale Campus**  
**LIB 100 & LIB 201 Approved**

With an increasing movement of people between places in this transnational age, there is a mounting number of multi-race people in Japan. "Hafu" is an unfolding journey of multi-racial Japanese and their multicultural experiences in modern day Japan. The film follows the lives of five "Hafus" as they explore what it means to be multiracial and multicultural in a nation that once proudly proclaimed itself as the mono-ethnic nation.

## **LISTEN**

**Carissa Woodwyk, MA, LPC, LMFT**  
**Specialties: Marriage and Family, Adoption, Relinquishment and Identity Issues**  
**Tuesday, February 18, 6-7:30 p.m.**  
**Russel H. Kirkhof Center, Rooms 2215/2216**  
**LIB 100 & LIB 201 Approved**

Our stories hold so much. They're filled with people and places and experiences that have deeply shaped us. For an adopted person the story begins very early, and with loss. In order to know where our story is headed, we must take the time to revisit where we've come from, even the hurtful, lonely and shameful places. Then we will know where new life needs to be breathed in, where redemption can emerge. The hope is that as we write truth into our story, we can experience healing and connection with others.

## **Bread-Loving Japan:**

**Changes Across the 20th Century**  
**Jason Herlands, assistant professor of Japanese, Modern Languages and Literatures**  
**Monday, February 24, 1-2 p.m.**  
**Russel H. Kirkhof Center, Pere Marquette Room**  
**Allendale Campus**  
**LIB 100 & LIB 201 Approved**

Japan is thought of, not inaccurately, as a rice consuming country. Indeed, the term for meal, "gohan," also means "cooked rice." Many Japanese claim that foods consumed without a staple bowl of rice serve only as mere snacks. With the introduction of the school lunch program in 1954, bread began to proliferate as an alternate staple to rice, not as a luxurious, foreign-inflected food. Since then, agricultural agencies and cultural commentators have demonstrated profound anxiety about shifts away from rice consumption.

This presentation will examine those anxieties by discussing U.S. involvement in financing the spread of wheat products in Japan and considering the cultural ramifications of that history.

## **R.I.C.E CONFERENCE: Realizing and Addressing Issues in our Culture and Education**

**Saturday, March 22, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.**

**Richard M. DeVos Center, Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, Building E, Pew Grand Rapids Campus**

"Linking Generations: Incorporating the Past, Present and Future" is the theme for this year's conference. The conference offers three relevant components: culture, education and health. University professors, community leaders, and students will present the workshops. The conference is free and open to the public. Please contact Celina Yang at [yangce@mail.gvsu.edu](mailto:yangce@mail.gvsu.edu) to reserve your seat since breakfast and lunch will be provided. Business formal attire is recommended.

**Sponsors: Area Studies, Asian Student Union, Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Chinese Language Culture Club, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, East Asian Studies, Inclusion and Equity Division, Geography and Planning, Japanese Culture Association, Liberal Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures, Political Science, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and WGVU TV & Radio.**

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