

Grand Valley State University
2013 Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration

Asian New Year Festival

Thursday, January 31, 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.

Vietnamerica: A Family's Journey

Gia Bao (GB) Tran, author and artist
Wednesday, February 6, 6-7 p.m.
Cook-Dewit Center, Allendale Campus

GB Tran is a young Vietnamese American author and artist who grew up distant from his family's history. Born and raised in South Carolina as a son of immigrants, he knew that his parents had fled Vietnam during the fall of Saigon. When his grandparents died, GB visited Vietnam for the first time and began to learn the tragic history of his family, and of the homeland they left behind. In Tran's memoir, theme, narrative, and art work together to create a deeply compelling graphic novel. Tran meditates on war, loss, and memory, but the overriding theme is the complexity, hardship, and reward of family life, a theme that finds full life in the author's multi-layered narrative. Intricate structuring creates suspense and mystery, but its more important function is to highlight the way in which family history is constructed: layered, repetitive, nonlinear, contradictory, collaborative, and ultimately productive of both family and self-identity.

“Internationalizing” Families, “Internationalizing” Communities, and the Children Navigating these Uncharted Waters

Christen M. Pearson, Ph.D., associate professor, English Linguistics & TESOL at GVSU
Monday, February 11, 3-4 p.m.
2215/2216 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Over the past 12 years, on average, over eighteen thousands children per year have arrived to U.S. shores for adoption into American families. A sizeable number of adoptees arrive at older ages, between three and fifteen years, at a time when the first language is already in place and English is the second language. What are the experiences of these children in learning functional English? How do they fare when learning the academic English needed in their community schools? What variables – medical, social, psychological - appear to have the greatest impact on the ease or difficulty in learning both functional and academic English? And what is the impact of first language attrition when it occurs before the second language is fully learned? A final question that needs to be asked, in an era of goals and visions of internationalization across many

contexts, is whether we are truly internationalizing or whether we are continuing to covertly push for assimilation. This talk will address these questions from the perspective of a researcher who is also an adoptive parent of special needs children from Korea.

Asian Representation in the Media

Christine Vo, GVSU undergraduate student, vice president, Multicultural Greek Council, planning chair, GVSU Chapter of Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.
Tuesday, February 12, noon-1 p.m.
2263 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Although the entertainment industry has continued to evolve, the image of Asians in mainstream media has persistently remained restrictive. Limited and unbalanced portrayals of Asians have traditionally been the norm in the entertainment industry despite good intentions of producers and filmmakers. Many times, these stereotypical images have been catalyzed by those with a limited understanding of Asians themselves. This discussion focuses on restrictive media portrayals of Eastern and South Eastern Asians in America and avenues that are left to be fulfilled.

Covering: The Hidden Assault on our Civil Rights

Kenji Yoshino, Chief Justice Earl Warren Professor of Constitutional Law at the NYU School of Law
Wednesday, February 13, 6-7 p.m.
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

In a culture where racial minorities are pressed to "act white", women are told to "play like men", and gays are dissuaded from engaging in public displays of affection, it is difficult to believe that we are as "diverse" as we want to think. Drawing on his experience as a gay Asian American, Kenji Yoshino examines the prejudices embedded in both American life and in Civil Rights legislation - prejudices that hinder our ability to be our authentic selves. Key to his talk is the phenomenon of "covering," where people downplay stigmatized traits in order to blend into the mainstream. Moving past conventional discussions of identity politics, Yoshino explains the dangers of a society that claims to support racial, gender, orientation, religious, and physical differences but still routinely denies equal treatment of these people when they refuse to downplay their differences. With a hopeful vision of the future, Yoshino, one of our best legal minds, proves how the ubiquity of "covering" provides an opportunity to redefine civil rights and lift this legislation into a higher, more universal register.

Exploring Taiwan and Korea's Physical and Cultural Environments

Kin M. Ma, assistant professor, Geography/Planning
Thursday, February 21, 4-5 p.m.
2215/2216 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Dr. Ma will share insights regarding Asia and his recent Summer 2012 travel experiences to Taiwan and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea. Come along for the journey and listen to commentary from a North Korean defector, learn about Taiwan's

mountainous areas, and South Korea's sub-tropical Jeju Island, and also explore the capital cities of Taipei and Seoul.

Asian Women in Higher Education

Connie Dang, director, Office of Multicultural Affairs and
Shaily Menon, associate dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Wednesday, February 27, noon-1 p.m.
1201 Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus

Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are well represented in U.S. institutions of higher education as students and faculty. The growth of AAPI women in higher education over the past several decades has been remarkable. However, AAPI women are disproportionately underrepresented at senior administrative ranks. We will discuss factors that might account for this discrepancy, for example, lack of role models, cultural values, and impacts of stereotypes and perceptions. Then, explore creative ways to help build an inclusive leadership team.

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

Saturday, March 31, 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 impact our community. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served. The conference is free and open to the public. Workshop information and on-line registration are available at <http://www2.gvsu.edu/~asu/rice.htm>.