Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May was selected as the month to observe Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage in honor of the first Japanese immigrant who arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843 and the contributions of the many Chinese immigrants who laid the tracks for the transcontinental railroad completed on May 10, 1869. The month-long observance originated with a ten-day commemoration introduced by Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Y. Mineta in June 1977. Horton and Mineta introduced a congressional bill in the House that was followed by the Senate bill introduced that July by Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga. Both bills passed and on October 5, 1978 President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the first 10 days of May to honor the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush then lengthened the observance to the whole month of May.

Click here to view the Presidential proclamation of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

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National Origin

National origin is defined as "characteristic of or peculiar to the people of a nation; of or related to ancestral beginnings, physical, cultural, or linguistic characteristics or a particular national group."

National origin discrimination involves subjecting someone to unequal treatment because they are from a particular country or part of the world; they appear to be of a certain ethnic background (even if they are not); their connection with an ethnic organization or group, or if they are married to (or associated with) a person of a certain national origin.

ECU prohibits harassment and discrimination on the basis of national origin under the Notice of Nondiscrimination. To view the policy, click here. For assistance with an issue related to a protected class, feel free to contact us at (252) 328-6804.
The annual culture fest was held at the Mendenhall Student Center Brickyard on April 13, 2015. According to Mariza James, assistant director of Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, 17 cultural organizations participated in this year’s program.

“Each year we have Culture Fest to raise cultural awareness about different cultures around the world, showcase traditional cultural performances and connect students with cultural organizations as a means of creating community,” said James.

Culture fest was sponsored by the Campus Living Diversity Leadership Team, Office of International Affairs, Student Activities Board, Student Government Association and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

TJ Dudley organizes a program to educate the ECU community about transgender and gender nonconforming

As a component of his internship, TJ Dudley, public health studies major and graduating senior, organized the round table luncheon “Through the Eyes of a Gender Transcender” on April 16, 2015.

Dr. Melinda Kane, associate professor in the Department of Sociology, facilitated the discussion about the experiences of transgender and gender nonconforming students. Dudley wanted attendees to leave the program with more knowledge about how to address a transgender person or about some of the issues transgender people experience.

“I personally believe that hearing stories directly from transgender individuals and having a dialogue about those experiences, in a safe place, is a great way for people to learn about and understand transgender and gender nonconforming individuals and the issues that we face,” said Dudley.

Dr. Melissa Haithcox-Dennis, director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, and Mr. Mark Rasdorf, assistant director of Student Involvement and Leadership, supported Dudley with the program. More than 30 individuals attended this program.

12th annual Holocaust Awareness Day consisted of four campus-wide programs

On April 21, 2015, the 12th annual Holocaust Awareness Day was commemorated with four programs from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The day began with “The Reading of the Names” in the Student Memorial Garden, followed by a dinner and discussion “Around the World in One Shabbat” and a screening of “Paper Clips: A Documentary” was screened in Wright Auditorium and the day of remembrance ended with a candlelight vigil at the Cupola.

This event was co-sponsored by Student Involvement and Leadership, ECU Hillel, Congregation Bayt Shalom in Greenville, Student Government Association, Department of Sociology, It’s C.U.L.T.U.R.E.., Student Activities Board, Department of Foreign Languages and the Office for Equity and Diversity.
Student veterans have unique resources available to them at East Carolina University. One resource is the Office of Student Veterans Services (SVS) where they can receive the personal connection that may be very critical in their higher education experience. Hank Bowen currently serves as the acting assistant director for SVS to provide the student veterans with the resources and support that they need.

Bowen said that his office provides a key element that student veterans cannot receive elsewhere, “connection with the university from people who understand their military background.”

“New students have things that they go through and a lot of that the veteran students would go through as well, (including) adjusting to classes and how to be a college student. Some of our veteran students might be having transition issues from military world to civilian world,” said Bowen.

Programs that SVS offers, such as the Green Zone training, which is available to ECU employees aid in making the campus environment friendlier for the veterans in the ECU community. Beginning this fall, the Green Zone training will be offered to students as well.

The program will be provided to assist students mostly with understanding some of the experiences of a student veteran and help them understand how to interact and express their appreciation without saying the wrong thing or asking an inappropriate question.

“We want to encourage people to ask more open-ended questions to let (the veteran) tell what they want to tell and not bring up anything they don’t want to cover,” said Bowen.

In addition to providing more resources to the community to increase awareness about a veteran’s transition into a community of higher education, SVS will be strengthening the resources available for the veterans to use to aid in their transition. According to Bowen, this summer the COAD and summer orientation for veterans will be modified.

Bowen said the COAD sections will be aimed more specifically to the population of veterans. “We’re working on a new way of doing that this fall and looking at some other schools that have done that successfully.” Bowen added that they are going to recruit for the new COAD sections during the new orientation sessions.

“We’re asking them to come to one of two specific orientation dates. During that time when other first-year students are in small group meetings and meeting with their orientation assistants, the veterans will be in a small group and going into depth (about) information they need,” said Bowen.

The in-depth sessions will provide the veterans with more than a large-scale look at benefits and resources. They will learn how to get their paperwork done and how to access any needed online accounts. SVS is also working toward developing a mentoring program between student veterans, veteran ECU employees and alumni.
In 2002, May 21st was declared by the United Nations General Assembly as World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The effort of this annual celebration was launched with the campaign “Do One Thing for Diversity and Inclusion” by UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

Information and Photo Source: United Nations

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In the News...

7 Things Not to Say to Asian Americans
This article provides information about comments and microaggressions that could offend Asian-American colleagues. Click here to read the article.

Minority Coaches Organize New Group
African-American college coaches have come together to form the National Association for Coaching Equity and Development (NAFCED) to provide minority football as well as men's and women's basketball coaches with hiring and professional development opportunities. To read the article in its entirety, click here.

Bowdoin College President Opened Doors for Minorities
Dr. Barry Mills was able to attend Bowdoin College because of the financial assistance that was provided. Currently as the president of his alma mater, he aims to “increase access and affordability to Bowdoin for low-income families and students of color.” Click here to read the article.

Fayneese Miller Making History at Hamline University
Fayneese Miller will be the first African-American to serve as president of Hamline University. Click here to read more about Miller.

Helping Minority Ph.D.'s in STEM: Something's Working
Recent research shows that the completion rate for minorities completing Ph.D. programs has increased. However, it still remains that African-American, Latino, Native American, or Alaska Native STEM Ph.D. candidates are behind Caucasian STEM Ph.D. candidates. Click here to read more about the details of what is working.

2015 Lavender Launch

The LGBT Resource Office is hosting the annual Lavender Launch on May 7, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms. The Lavender Launch is a commencement ceremony to honor the LGBT and Ally graduates.

Equity and Diversity Activity

Do you know all of the countries in Asia and the Pacific Islands?

The continent of Asia consists of these countries.

1. Afghanistan  25. Malaysia  39. South Korea
3. Azerbaijan  27. Mongolia  41. Syria
4. Bahrain  28. Myanmar (Burma)  42. Taiwan
5. Bangladesh  29. Nepal  43. Tajikistan
7. Brunei  31. Oman  45. Turkey
8. Cambodia  32. Pakistan  46. Turkmenistan
9. China  33. Palestine  47. United Arab Emirates
10. Cyprus  34. Philippines  48. Uzbekistan
11. East Timor  35. Qatar  49. Vietnam
12. Georgia  36. Russia  50. Yemen
13. India  37. Saudi Arabia
14. Indonesia  38. Singapore
15. Iran
16. Iraq
17. Israel
18. Japan
19. Jordan
20. Kazakhstan
21. Kuwait
22. Kyrgyzstan
23. Laos
24. Lebanon

Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
Faculty: 157
Students: 808
## Interfaith Calendar

### May

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### Faith

- Baha’i
- Wicca/Pagan
- Jewish
- Interfaith
- Islam
- Orthodox Christian
- Buddha
- Christian
- Buddhist
- Jewish
- Baha’i
- Orthodox Christian
- Christian

### Date

- April 21st - May 12th
- May 1st
- May 7th
- May 7th
- May 16th
- May 14th
- May 21st
- May 24th
- May 25th
- May 24th – 25th
- May 29th
- May 31st
- May 31st

### Holiday

- Ridvan
- Beltane
- Lag B’Omer
- USA National Day of Prayer
- Lailat al Miraj
- Ascension of Jesus
- Declaration of the B’ab
- Pentecost
- Buddha’ Birthday
- Shavout
- Ascension of Baha’u’llah
- Pentecost
- Trinity Sunday

**Bold Italic font signifies the holiday begins at sunset the night before.**