



Upcoming Events & Updates!

Asian Cultural Engagement Center

Message from Dr. Nina Ha, Director of the ACEC

Greetings!

While the ACEC celebrated APIDA Heritage Month in April, recognition for Asian Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month Actually begins in May. The ACEC will be circulating its Monthly May newsletter after its Achievement Ceremony, on May 11th, but we would like to

share all the events and opportunities until then.
Good luck with the end of the semester!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Nina

Eid Al-Fitr

Eid al-Fitr, also known as Eid Al-Sagheer (lesser or smaller Eid) began on May 2nd, 2022. Eid is the literal translation of the word “festival,” and Eid al-Fitr means the festival of breaking the fast. This festival is a joyous occasion that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan, a month during which Muslims around the world fast from sunrise to sunset. Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam, making Eid al-Fitr a significant holiday.

The Eid celebrations usually last for three days. Muslims start their Eid by wearing new clothes, praying “Salaat al-Eid,” visiting the graves of passed family members, and the whole family finally gathering and rejoicing with food, drinks, and gifts. People start greeting “Eid-Mubarak” to each other on Eid, which refers to having a blessing Eid and year.

Eid al-Fitr doesn’t begin until the new moon appears in the sky, which means Eid al-Fitr starts at different times and even different days depending on the location. The Islamic calendar is based on lunar cycles, as opposed to the Gregorian calendar, which is based on the solar cycle. Therefore, Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr are on different days each year. Usually, Ramadan starts 10 days earlier each year — marking its relation to the Gregorian calendar.

For more information, please go to these links:

<https://theconversation.com/what-is-eid-al-fitr-and-how-do-muslims-celebrate-it-6-questions-answered-118146>

<https://www.vanderbilt.edu/diversity/ramadan-and-eid-al-fitr-a-staff-perspective/>

<https://studentlife.mit.edu/orsel/interfaith-understanding/about-ramadan-2022>

In Memory of Dr. Adil Godrej



Dear Members of the APIDA Community,

It is with great sadness that I learned about Dr. Adil Godrej's passing. Dr. Godrej was an active member of the APIDA community. In fact, he reached out to me a number of times, particularly during my first year at Virginia Tech, especially at the start of the pandemic! He was such a generous colleague who was quite passionate about serving as well as advocating for the APIDA community. Moreover, Dr. Godrej was actively engaged in numerous APIDA Caucus virtual gatherings, and his presence will be missed.

To learn more about Dr. Godrej and his impact to the Virginia Tech community, please visit the following links:

<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/04/Godrej.html>

<https://www.piercefh.com/obituaries/Adil-Godrej/#!/TributeWall>

May 2022 Achievement Ceremonies

To register for any CCC Achievement Ceremony:

<https://ccc.vt.edu/calendar/ceremonies.html#dac>

To register for the APIDA Achievement

Ceremony: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6MQMloPH3zPaAm-OSFqqrAT9aevku5TcR1fWG66vn-H6aQ/viewform>

The APIDA Achievement Ceremony will be held on May 11, 2022, in Owens Dining

Ballroom.

The ceremony is from 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM followed by a reception.

Everyone is invited!

For any graduating student, whether undergraduate, graduate or professional student, please fill out this form in order to be featured in the video montage that will be shown during the

ceremony: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeJ19MWvuaniS1LHNsKRbAB9OwISX1gri5vmLy96K4iCZLQxA/viewform>

APIDA Living Learning Community Survey

Here's the link to the Survey:

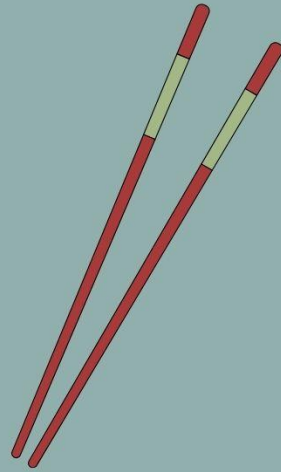
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLCTVcuZeB0aqo1LKLuzlhssMkp4ZfUwaahGAJY2T-MimD_g/viewform

ACEC Upcoming Events



ASIAN
CULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT
CENTER
At Virginia Tech

THE ACEC PRESENTS Ramen for Reading Day



Join us at the Asian Cultural Engagement Center (Squires Student Center Room 140) to pick up a Free Cup of Ramen and learn more about the ACEC! Toppings and ramen bowls are first come first serve!

Hot water is supplied by ABP (Au Bon Pain).

May 5, 2022 | 11 AM-2PM EST



FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND/OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT DR. NINA HA AT
NHA@VT.EDU.



APIDA ACHIEVEMENT CEREMONY

Class of 2022



May 11, 2022 | Owens Dining Ballroom
Ceremony followed by Reception | 12:30 PM - 3 PM EST



To register for any CCC Achievement Ceremony: <https://bit.ly/3OCkA70>

To register for the APIDA Achievement Ceremony: <https://bit.ly/36ymEfe>

For any graduating students, whether undergraduate, graduate, or professional, please fill out this form in order to be featured in the video montage that will be shown during the Ceremony: <https://bit.ly/3Kv2LDX>

Everyone is invited!



Register here!



For questions and/or accommodations, please contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu

APIDA Caucus Upcoming Events



THE APIDA CAUCUS AT VT

VIRTUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022 @7 PM EST

Please register to attend this virtual event.

ABOUT US

The APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) Caucus serves as an advocacy and support group for faculty, staff, and graduate students at Virginia Tech and Blacksburg/NRV community members who self-identify as APIDA, or allies who are interested in participating in conversations relevant to the APIDA community.

We also serve the APIDA community at other Virginia Tech campuses (Washington, D.C. area, etc). The Caucus acts as a liaison to the university administration and is committed to supporting the needs of all APIDA individuals. Our events are open to faculty, staff, graduate & undergraduate students, and community members.



REGISTER:
bit.ly/3uDmeNS

To be added to our new email listserv (apidacaucus-g@vt.edu) and to get more information or for accommodations, please contact Dr. Theo Lim at tclim@vt.edu or Dr. Vincent Wang at vmwang@vt.edu. Want to get involved? Find us on Twitter @VTAPIDACaucus!

Events and Opportunities



STUDENT AFFAIRS
COOK COUNSELING CENTER
VIRGINIA TECH.

Weekly Newsletter: 04/27/22-05/04/22

**Global Connect Support Group
(5-6PM)**

May. 5

- Tailored for International students, [click here](#).
- To sign up click here.

**First-Generation Support Group
Last Wednesday of Each Month (4-5PM)**

First Meeting on February 23rd

- Tailored for first-generation students, [click here](#).
- To sign up click here.

**Beyond Boundaries Disability Support Group
BI-Weekly Thursdays (5-6PM)**

Starting February 17th

- Open to all students who are disabled or have disabilities.
- To sign up [click here](#).

Our Voice

Thursdays (5:30-6:30PM)

Last meeting April 28th

- Meetings at the Intercultural Engagement Center (Squires)
- A support group for students of color.

Liaison Office Hours

- Click [here](#) for staffs' liaison office hours
- This is a time to meet with staff for brief NON-URGENT consultations.
- El-Centro drop-in hour Wednesdays from 12-1 PM, with Erica Coates
- Come in person or via zoom: <https://virginiatech-hipaa.zoom.us/j/4926334126>

Kahoot Trivia Night at El Centro

April 27th at 6 PM (Squires 309)

- Winner will receive either an echo dot or Amazon Firestick
- Light refreshments will be provided.
- Sign up [here](#).

Finals Extravaganza

May 4th (10 AM- 2 PM)

- Join us on the drill field
- We will have snacks, the therapy dogs, and an opportunity to win either an echo dot or Amazon Firestick.

**Additional Online
Resources:**

- [Cook Counseling Center Virtual Coping Schedule and Resources](#)
- [Brain Hacks for Adjusting Back](#)
- [Self-Help Resources](#)
- [Workshops, Support Groups, and Virtual Coping](#)

**Additional VT
Resources:**

- [Hokie Wellness On-Demand Resources](#)
- [Developing Resiliency Workshop Series](#)
- [FEELS Peer Support Group](#)
- [Hokie Wellness Recovery Community](#)
- [Healthy Hokie Workshops](#)

**Meet Our Therapy
Dogs!**

- Mondays with Josie, 2nd floor Newman Library at 4 PM
- Tuesdays with Derek, McComas Hall Entrance at 4 PM
- Wednesdays with Wagner, Squires Student Center at 2 PM

*Crisis Support is always available for students with immediate distress and needs that cannot wait safely until an appointment. Crisis consultations are at our Oak Lane office during business hours or at 540-231-6557 at any time.

Cook Counseling PALs and Campus Partners Present

FINALS EXTRAVAGANZA

SPRING 2022

MONDAY - MAY 2

10:00 am - 12:00 pm Kickoff with PALs
Catch our PALs riding around campus on a golf cart and handing out goodie bags for finals!

TUESDAY - MAY 3

10:00 AM Mindfulness Meditation
Check out Dr. Richey on our Youtube channel as he leads viewers in brief mindfulness exercise. The link will be shared at 10!

6:00pm- 7:00pm Virtual Kahoot Trivia Night w/ PALs
Everyone's favorite trivia game is back! Join the PALs for virtual Kahoot and the chance to win an Amazon firestick or Echo dot.



WEDNESDAY - MAY 4

10:00am- 2:00pm Finals Extravaganza on the Drillfield
Take a break with our PALs, Cook Counseling, and other campus sponsors for snacks, games, therapy dogs, and a chance to win an Amazon firestick or Echo Dot!

4:00pm- 6:00pm Well Being Wednesday in McComas Hall
Join Rap Sports, Hokie Wellness, and the Student Success Center for this weeks Well Being Wednesday tabling discussion on intellectual well being.

6:30pm-7:30pm FEELS Peer Support Circle in Newman Multipurpose Room
FEELS Peer Support Groups are mental health support spaces by students for students. This group is a space to connect with fellow Hokies who are navigating their mental health concerns and exploring how to maintain their emotional well-being.

THURSDAY - MAY 5

Study at Squires
We're making Squires your destination study location for Finals Week. With added seating, free goodies, and evening snacks, you'll have everything you need to power through your exams.

1:00pm- 5:00pm Take a Note, Leave a Note
Squires - Info Booth A
Share notes of encouragement with your fellow Hokies as we enter into Finals Week!

FRIDAY - MAY 6

Study at Squires
We're making Squires your destination study location for Finals Week. With added seating, free goodies, and evening snacks, you'll have everything you need to power through your exams.

2:30pm- 5:30pm Affirmations with Hokie Wellness
Squires - First Floor Atrium
Come learn about the positive effects of Affirmations and make some of your own!

SUNDAY - MAY 8

Study at Squires
We're making Squires your destination study location for Finals Week. With added seating, free goodies, and evening snacks, you'll have everything you need to power through your exams.

6:00pm- 9:00pm Take a Note, Leave a Note
Squires - Breakzone
Take a break from studying and enjoy 50% off in the Breakzone.

MONDAY - MAY 9

Study at Squires
We're making Squires your destination study location for Finals Week. With added seating, free goodies, and evening snacks, you'll have everything you need to power through your exams.

2:00pm-3:30pm Pawsitive Reinforcement with the Therapy Dogs
Squires - Second Floor Atrium
You've worked hard this week! Come spend time with the Virginia Tech Therapy Dogs and regain some momentum as you wrap up Finals!





THE CENTER FOR HUMANITIES FACULTY RESEARCH ASSOCIATE COLLOQUIA SERIES PRESENTS:

KOEUN CHOI

Act, Dance, Sing, and Learn with Social Robots: Child-Robot Musical Theater for Informal STEAM Education

With innovations in artificial intelligence and machine learning, interactive social robots are increasingly entering into our everyday lives, even for children. Can we use social robots to promote children's interest in important yet challenging topics? The Virginia Tech Cognitive Developmental Science (CoDeS) Lab designed a child-robot musical theater afterschool program, connecting interactive robots and theater arts to spark children's interest and curiosity in STEAM and social robots. This program aims to help children learn the fundamentals of social robots while exercising creativity and having fun in an informal learning environment. Along with this program, the CoDeS Lab conducted a research study on how children think about the program, robots, and STEAM. Dr. Koeun Choi will present the findings from this transdisciplinary collaborative project and discuss implications for children's learning with interactive technology and future directions.

Koeun Choi is an assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at Virginia Tech. She directs the Cognitive Developmental Science (CoDeS) Lab, where she and her research team study the role of technology in young children's cognitive development to better understand and support learning in early childhood. Choi's research examines how technology (such as TV, touchscreens, and social robots) impacts children's attention and learning and the extent to which its impact is influenced by family processes and social contexts.

There will be a brief Q & A session with viewers following the presentation. The livestream can be viewed and will be archived on the [Center for Humanities YouTube channel](#).



Monday, May 2nd at 2pm

[Register HERE](#)

The Virginia Tech Center for Humanities presents a series of talks by faculty research associates who will discuss their work. This talk is free and open to the public and we invite anyone to attend. If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact the Center for Humanities at 540.231.1981 or email humanities@vt.edu at least 10 business days prior to the event.



The Virginia Tech Center for Humanities presents a series of talks by faculty research associates who will discuss their work. Please join us online on Monday, May 2nd at 2 pm EST for a conversation with Koeun Choi: "Act, Dance, Sing, and Learn with Social Robots: Child-Robot Musical Theater for Informal STEAM Education."

With innovations in artificial intelligence and machine learning, interactive social robots are increasingly entering our everyday lives, even for children. Can we use social robots to promote children's interest in important yet challenging topics? The Virginia Tech Cognitive Developmental Science (CoDeS) Lab designed a child-robot musical theater afterschool program, connecting interactive robots and theater arts to spark children's interest and curiosity in STEAM and social robots. This program aims to help children learn the fundamentals of social robots while exercising creativity and having fun in an informal learning environment. Along with this program, the CoDeS Lab conducted a research study on how

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[Register Here:](#)

https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NJokiKl2TOKcFpgsy5-vPg

Memory, experience, and imagination in the works of Lao and Hmong American authors

This event provides a unique forum for Lao and Hmong American authors to discuss their work and intellectual endeavors. The writers, Kao Kalia Yang, Bryan Thao Worra, and Thavisouk Phrasavath will reflect on their work before joining a larger conversation with the audience. The program presents a critical but engaging exploration of the role of memory, experience, and imagination in each author's writings against the backdrop of the Vietnam War and its aftermath, global migration, refugees, the diaspora, and life in America. The talk will locate Lao and Hmong Americans as part of the larger American story, featuring voices not often highlighted at the Library of Congress.

May 2, 2022 06:30 PM in [Eastern Time \(US and Canada\)](#)

Link for registration:

https://loc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/5816473673134/WN_9FzHOYrIQeqfyRL_GC_FdQ

The Cook Counseling Center PALs Present:

**Win An Amazon Fire Stick
or Echo Dot!**

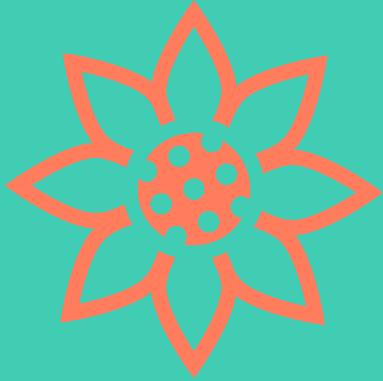
Kahoot!

Trivia Night

6PM May 3rd, Virtual

RSVP with the QR code or Link Below!





TAKE A
BREAK AT

FINALS

EXTRAVAGANZA

SNACKS, GAMES,
THERAPY DOGS,
AND
**A CHANCE
TO WIN AN**
AMAZON ECHO DOT
or AMAZON FIRESTICK



WEDNESDAY
MAY
4TH
10AM TO 2PM

*Virginia Tech
Drillfield*

VT | **STUDENT AFFAIRS**
VIRGINIA TECH.

COOK COUNSELING CENTER/HOKIE WELLNESS/SCHIFFERT HEALTH CENTER/ THE
WOMEN'S CENTER/ RECREATIONAL SPORTS/SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES/ ACTIVE MINDS AT VIRGINIA TECH/STUDENT NUTRITION AND
DIETETICS ASSOCIATION/ CRANWELL INTERNATIONAL CENTER



VIRGINIA ASIAN ADVISORY BOARD

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SERIES
HOSTED BY THE VAAB'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE
CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AROUND
ISSUES AND PRIORITIES RELATED TO VIRGINIA'S AAPI COMMUNITIES

PUBLIC SAFETY FORUM



FRIDAY, MAY 6TH
4-5 PM

Topics:

- Reporting and documentation of anti-AAPI hate crimes and other incidents involving AAPIs
- Incidents involving AAPI businesses, places of worship, community centers, and other establishments
- Relationship between law enforcement and AAPI communities
- Public safety-related "best practices" for AAPIs

Featuring:

Thomas Okuda Fitzpatrick (Moderator) - VAAB Member & CEO of HOME
 Officer Phon Hoonsan - Richmond Police, AAPI Liaison
 Officer Joshua Bridges - Henrico County Police, Intercultural Liaison
 Keon Turner - Virginia State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting unit manager



VIRTUAL EVENT
 Meeting Link: meet.google.com/fkq-rpfw-zdm
 Dial-in: (417) 719-7448, PIN: 518 164 430#

Please join us for the first public forum hosted by the VAAB's Civic Engagement Committee on Friday, May 6 from 4-5 PM.

Our focus this time will be public safety and related issues impacting Virginia's AAPI communities, such as the rise in anti-AAPI hate crimes and other incidents involving AAPI businesses and places of worship.

The panel will be moderated by VAAB member Thomas Okuda Fitzpatrick, and panelists include:

Officer Phon Hoonsan

Richmond Police, AAPI Liaison
Officer Joshua Bridges
Henrico County Police, Intercultural Liaison
Keon Turner
Virginia State Police, Uniform Crime Reporting unit manager

To attend, please use the following virtual meeting link or dial-in number:

meet.google.com/fkq-rpfw-zdm

(417) 719-7448, PIN: 518 164 430#

Class of
2022

YOU'RE INVITED!

FIRST TOGETHER.

A FIRST-GENERATION GRADUATION CEREMONY & RECEPTION

MAY 12TH, 2022

3PM-430PM

CID LOBBY & PERFORMANCE ROOM

185 KENT STREET
BLACKSBURG, VA 24061

ATTIRE IS BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL.
NO ACADEMIC REGALIA WILL BE WORN DURING THIS EVENT.

 STUDENT AFFAIRS
DEAN OF STUDENTS
VIRGINIA TECH

 **FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENT SUPPORT**

RECEPTION WILL BEGIN PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY.

I am excited to share that this year will have our first in-person celebration. First-Together is a graduate ceremony and reception to celebrate the achievements of our first-generation undergraduates, masters, and Ph.D. candidates. You have been someone who has been significantly involved and supportive of our first-generation students' success and I wanted to extend a formal

invite if you have not already registered. The event is Thursday, May 12, 3 - 4:30 pm in Creativity and Innovative District (CID) Residence Hall.

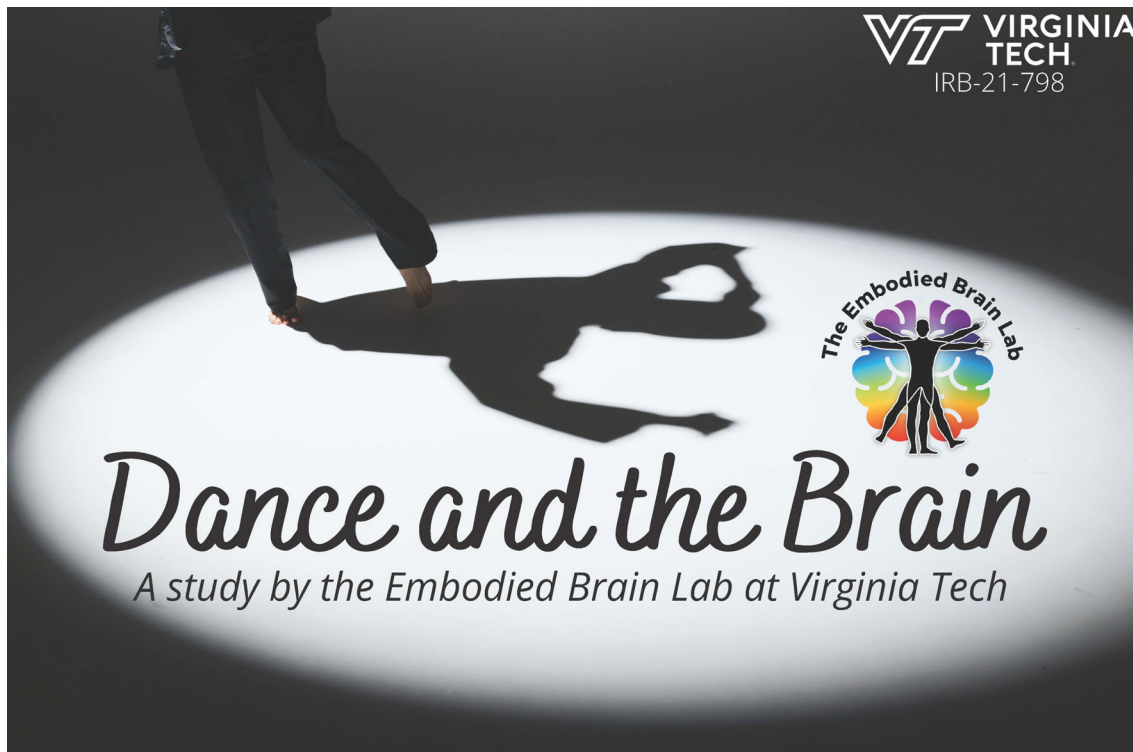
- The Reception will take place from 3-3:25 pm in the atrium.
- The Ceremony will promptly begin at 3:30 in the performance hall.

The attire is business casual and we will NOT be wearing our regalia. Please click here to [REGISTER](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdelqg1Z3REK98DW1LMH_J0xgf_d2Cs5MHAgO-C7t-llAI2Jw/viewform): https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdelqg1Z3REK98DW1LMH_J0xgf_d2Cs5MHAgO-C7t-llAI2Jw/viewform

I appreciate your continued support for our students and programming and look forward to our continued partnership.

Thank you!

Tamara



VT VIRGINIA TECH
IRB-21-798

The Embodied Brain Lab

Dance and the Brain

A study by the Embodied Brain Lab at Virginia Tech

- Help us learn more about the **effects of dance on the brain** by participating in a 4-week study (2 x week for 1.5 hours/session) where you will be randomized into a **group dance** or **dance movie watching** experience.
- You will **answer a series of questions** and have your **brain activity recorded** before and after the intervention.
- Adults aged 18-45 with English proficiency and physical activity readiness are eligible. You will receive up to \$165 for your participation.
- This study was designed with neurodiversity in mind.

Email for more information: embodiedbrainlab@gmail.com

Past Issues



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ACEC VT

140 Squires Student Ctr

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA 24061-1000

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