The “Global Village”

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Making the WORLD a better place: One Productive and Healthy “Inter-Cultural,” “Inter-Racial,” and “Inter-Group” Encounter at a time—(John O. Bell-Ogunu, Sr.)

Welcome to the Division of Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Intercultural Affairs (GLODIIA). We invite and strongly encourage you to explore our inaugural Newsletter—The “GLOBAL VILLAGE.” The primary purpose of this medium is three-fold: first, to inform our readers about GLODIIA’s outstanding programs and services in support of Lamar University’s overarching goal of recruiting, retaining, educating, and graduating holistically prepared “global citizens,” who can function productively, effectively, and successfully in today’s global village of interconnected cultures and interdependent economies; second, to encourage members of our campus community to become active participants in, and contributors to the promotion and advancement of Global Diversity, Inclusive Excellence, International Education, and healthy Inter-Cultural Relations at Lamar University; and lastly, to recognize and celebrate the immeasurable contributions by members of our campus community to the holistic preparation of our students for life, through the work of GLODIIA and other divisions at Lamar.

GLODIIA and its Departments are very committed to advancing INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE in all its forms through high-quality, diverse, inclusive, and customer-satisfaction oriented programs. We also invite you to learn more about GLODIIA by visiting its Webpage (https://www.lamar.edu/diversity/index.html), as well as its main Office, which is located across from the John and Mary Gray Library on the main campus of Lamar University.

On behalf of the entire GLODIIA staff, THANK YOU for your continued support for Global Diversity, Inclusive Excellence, International Education, and Inter-Cultural Affairs at Lamar University!

Best wishes,
John O. Bello-Ogunu, Sr., Ph.D.
Vice President for Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Intercultural Affairs

Highlights from this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>About GLODIIA</th>
<th>GLODIIA Departments</th>
<th>Featured Article</th>
<th>What’s Happening Inside GLODIIA</th>
<th>GLODIIA Leadership</th>
<th>Upcoming Events</th>
<th>Cultural Competency Corner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 2</td>
<td>Page 2-3</td>
<td>Page 4</td>
<td>Page 4-7</td>
<td>Page 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GLODIIA MOTTO: * Achieving Inclusive Institutional Excellence Through Diversity, Access, Equity, Inclusion, & Social Justice
ABOUT GLODIIA

The Division of Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Intercultural Affairs consists of eight departments:

- Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence
- Office of International Student Programs and Services
- Office of Veterans Affairs
- Disability Resource Center
- Lamar University McNair Scholars Program
- Lamar University Men of Excellence Program
- Lamar University UNIDAD Scholars Program
- Lamar University Pathway Program

Each department has its own specialized area of focus. GLODIIA departments work collaboratively with the other divisions on campus to make sure all student students, faculty, and staff are able to pursue their respective goals within a campus community that is welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and safe. Working collectively as a team, GLODIIA departments are committed to serving as a positive catalyst for facilitating the success of all Lamar University students, one student at a time.

GLODIIA DEPARTMENTS

Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence

Mission Statement:
Our mission is to provide university-wide leadership in developing, implementing, and advancing initiatives that promote global diversity and inclusive excellence, by fostering a welcoming and conducive campus community. This community will recognize the immeasurable benefits of diversity and inclusion, while celebrating the rich and diverse multicultural backgrounds of students, faculty and staff at Lamar University.

Office of International Student Programs & Services

Mission Statement:
The primary mission of the Office of International Student Programs and Services is to help students and scholars maintain their visa status while studying at Lamar University. Our objective is to assist international students and scholars with cultural adjustment and other issues they may face as new students to Lamar University and while living in the United States. We also facilitate the integration of our students and scholars into Lamar University community programs and events that are offered by the office each semester. We encourage students and scholars to take advantage of the many social, cultural, and educational programs and events to meet other international and domestic students, faculty, and staff.

Disability Resource Center

Mission Statement:
The DRC serves as a disability resource for students and the University community to bring educational awareness to disability issues in hopes of creating positive experiences for anyone wanting to attend Lamar. Our office recognizes that students with disabilities face additional challenges in transitioning to the University. The DRC offers a host of accommodations, academic adjustments and assistive technology to help students gain access to information in a way that is meaningful and unique to each person.
Office of Veterans Affairs

Mission Statement:
The Veterans Affairs (VA) Office assists all students attending Lamar University using education benefits under the Department of Veterans Affairs Educational Assistance Programs and the Texas Hazlewood Exemption Act and in the pursuit of a Bachelor, Master, or Doctoral Degree. Our goal is to provide the pertinent information required to all our VA students attending Lamar University.

Lamar University McNair Scholars Program

Mission Statement:
The mission of the McNair Scholars Program is to provide promising undergraduates with the knowledge necessary to achieve and successfully obtain a terminal degree. This is done through enhancement workshops, advanced research, a mentoring program, and a supportive atmosphere.

Lamar University Men of Excellence Program

Mission Statement:
The mission of Men of Excellence is to facilitate the successful matriculation, retention, and timely graduation of Black/African-American male students at Lamar University from historically underserved, underrepresented, and socio-economically disadvantaged groups in the U.S. This will be achieved through the provisions of comprehensive “student success” programs and services, including, but are not limited to mentoring, success-centered academic advising, leadership development, collegiate professional development, career exploration, internship opportunities, integrated and appropriate socio-culture enrichment activities, health & wellbeing, diversity and global awareness, financial literacy, goal development and attainment, as well as other essential student and life success skills.

Lamar University UNIDAD Scholars Program

Mission Statement:
The mission of the UNIDAD Scholars Program is to facilitate successful matriculation, retention, and timely graduation of Latinx (Hispanic American) students at Lamar University. This will be achieved through the provisions of comprehensive “student success” programs and services, including, but are not limited to mentoring, success-centered academic advising, leadership development, collegiate professional development, career exploration, internship opportunities, integrated and appropriate socio-culture enrichment activities, health & wellbeing, diversity and global awareness, financial literacy, goal development and attainment, as well as other essential student and life success skills.

Lamar University Pathway Program

Mission Statement:
The Lamar University Pathway Program strives to provide exemplary language instruction and student services to individuals whose native language is not English. The Pathway Program provides intermediate to advanced English proficiency courses for individuals who plan to enter an undergraduate or graduate program at Lamar University. These courses focus on developing listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills needed to be successful at the university level. The Pathway Program also provides support in the transition to college life at Lamar.
FEATURED ARTICLE

World Peace Through Religious Unity
Mustapha Jourdini, Ed.D., OISPS Director

Peace (salam) and Unity (wahdaniya) are two of the attributes of God!

Judeo-Christian and Islamic prophetic traditions teach us that God is One, Sovereign, Merciful, Forgiving, and a Loving Creator. If that is the case, one would wonder why is it that there is so much chaos and hatred of the “other”? Why is our world becoming more divided and less peaceful? If the majority of monotheistic and non-monotheistic religions invariably agree on the above attributes of God, it becomes clear that human beings themselves—not religions—are the very source of the division, oppression, and suffering around the globe.

Humans instinctively seek to dominate others to feel a sense of a deceptive superiority: a superiority that should only belong to the Sovereign. Humans have mistakenly grown to think that their existence and prosperity depend, not so much on their own hard work and on the divine attributes of a “Sustainer” they so willingly accept, but rather on a constant fight of a perceived or real enemy! Thus, human beings consciously or unconsciously turned themselves into false gods, usurping other fellow human beings of their freedom to choose, believe, and even to exist—often in the name of God.

Monotheistic traditions emphasize, among other things, the equality, brotherhood and sisterhood of all men and women. Jews, Christians, and Muslims often find in their holy scriptures references to the Ten Commandments. Furthermore, the Bible teaches us to "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3), and the Qur’an teaches us, "Say O People of the Scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you – that we will not worship except God and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords beside God”(3:64). We also learn from the Torah to “Seek peace, and pursue it” (Leviticus Rabah 9:9).

While I cannot claim to be an expert on world religions, a good place to start learning about peace and unity are authentic revelations from holy scriptures. What do we really know—not what we are told--about Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, Buddha, and Vishnu who symbolize peace and succeeded to unite large masses for centuries?

To achieve world peace, we must recognize that when dealing with people who are different from ourselves, setbacks in human relationships are inevitable. Therefore, love alone is not enough to bridge these differences. True peace and unity begin when members of world religions genuinely seek to understand, respect, and accept their differences for what they really are and not attempt to impose their ways of thinking, believing, and living on others. The latter supremacist attitude is not different from the so-called “mission civilisatrice” colonials used to invade, kill, and pillage natural and cultural resources of less powerful countries.

World unity is a gift from God that is to be achieved through mutual understanding and respect, compassion, justice for all, and mutual appreciation. World peace and unity will ultimately be achieved when we accord sovereignty to God alone and not attempt to dominate over other fellow human beings.

WHAT’S HAPPENING INSIDE GLODIIA

Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence

Employee Resource Group

The Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence, in partnership with the Department of Human Resources, will launch its first Employee Resource Group (ERG) for multigenerational professionals. The Multigenerational Professionals is an employee resource group for all Lamar University's employees that will focus on the professional development of its members, provide development opportunities to enhance employee engagement, productivity, and retention. This group will be an important part of Lamar Universities diversity and inclusion strategies and it will be a great forum for recognizing and supporting the unique interests and needs of Lamar University's workforce.

For more information on visit https://www.lamar.edu/diversity-inclusion/employee-resource-groups/index.html or contact Imelda Wicks at (409) 880-8216 or cwicks@lamar.edu

Global Ambassadors Program

The Office of International Student Programs & Services (OISPS) is launching a Global Ambassadors Program. The Global Ambassadors Program will consist of international and domestic students interested in serving both students and scholars through diverse social, cultural, educational, and recreational events and programs held on and off campus. The Global Ambassadors Program is designed to assist new international students and scholars to adjust to the educational system and life in the U.S. and at Lamar University. Through their active engagement, domestic students will, in turn, learn about other cultures, practice other languages, and make life-long international friends. Global Ambassadors will play a vital role in developing social, cultural, and educational programs.

To become a volunteer Global Ambassador, please contact the Director of OISPS, Dr. Mustapha Jourdini, at mjourdini@lamar.edu for more information and to schedule an interview.
Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is one of the most diverse and unique departments on the Lamar University campus. The DRC provides access, specialized services and support while serving close to 600 students with disabilities. An outstanding variety of programs, services, activities, and events are offered by the DRC to help create an inclusive environment for the university community. From classroom accommodations and awareness campaigns to web environment accessibility, individual student support and community outreach, DRC services and activities touch all areas of the campus and beyond.

As a department with many moving parts, the DRC uses the concept of Universal Design, which is creating environments for everyone, as a guiding principal for all events and activities. Based on this principal and others, the DRC views the environment as the challenge rather than the disability. The DRC works to provide an equivalent experience for students with disabilities by providing individualized accommodations based on the unique needs of each person and changing the environment to meet those needs. Through discussions about Universal Design and collaborations with colleges, departments and faculty, students are able to have equal access and experiences.

The empowerment of students with disabilities is supported through the promotion of independence, advocacy, and education. Workshops are available to faculty, staff and students throughout each semester on various disability topics including providing classroom accommodations and developing an inclusive learning environment. Students, faculty and staff are also often mentored or coached individually by DRC staff with the goals of awareness, education and empowerment.

Lamar University Pathway Program

The Lamar University Pathway Program is a vital program in the Division of Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Intercultural Affairs. The Pathway Program, formerly the Bridge Program, provides English language instruction to non-native English speakers and offers them an opportunity to study English in the university setting to improve their emerging language skills in their written and spoken communication. The Lamar University Pathway (Bridge) Program provides the university’s co-enrolled international students with TOEFL, IELTS, or TSI holds with English language skills training and practice in academic listening, speaking, reading, and writing. International students who have been required to improve their English language skills as a condition of their admission to the university are enrolled in the Pathway courses. Without the Pathway Program to provide language proficiency support, a number of international students would not be able to be admitted to Lamar University. The university gains more global diversity by admitting these students.

The mission of the Pathway Program is to provide exemplary English language instruction and student services to individuals who believe that better English language skills will benefit them in their social, professional, and academic pursuits.

The vision of the Pathway Program is to increase student communicative confidence in their academic and social communities and enhance the connection of non-native English speakers to their professional, academic, and social communities through practical language skills training. Additionally, the program seeks to create a pathway for international exchange between academic and professional organizations through increased English language skills.

The Pathway Programs offer face-to-face courses and distance learning courses. Face-to-face language courses meet three hours each week for a total of eight weeks. Distance learning courses use technology to attend classes and meet three hours each week for eight weeks. These English language courses focus on essential language skills and content fundamental to all college and university courses to empower learners to excel in post-secondary education by giving students access to training, practice, and feedback ensuring their skills and confidence growth.

The Lamar University Pathway Program is located in the Montagne Center. The main office complex is on the first floor in 106-A. We invite you as part of the entire Lamar University community to attend our Open House that is scheduled here in our office in 106-A on February 12, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please contact us if you need more information or have any questions. You can reach us by phone at 409-880-8012. You may also visit our website at www.lamar.edu/pathway or email us at pathway@lamar.edu. We look forward to serving you.

Alex Monceaux, Ed.D.
Director, Lamar University Pathway Program
Office of International Student Programs and Services (OISPS)

The mission of the Office of International Student Programs and Services (OISPS) is to help students and scholars maintain their visa status while studying at Lamar University. Our objective is to assist international students and scholars with cultural adjustment and other issues they may face as new students to Lamar University and living in the United States. We also encourage students and scholars to take advantage of the many social, cultural, and educational programs and events to meet other international and domestic students, faculty, and staff.

OISPS proudly supports and promotes global diversity, inclusion, and international education. Consistent with its mission and goals, OISPS provides immigration services to over 450 current international students and scholars, and 957 alumni representing 65 countries from five continents. Boasting a culturally sensitive, multilingual team, OISPS can professionally respond to the needs of speakers of Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Mandarin, and Spanish languages.

Additionally, OISPS supports the university’s educational mission “to student success by engaging and empowering students with the knowledge and knowledge to thrive in their personal lives and chosen fields of endeavor.” Not only does OISPS provide immigration services to F-1 students and J-1 scholars, but it also encourages students to take advantage of the many university support services to help with their cultural integration, academic challenges, and personal issues. The biweekly Coffee Hour with OISPS program director features colleagues from STARS Tutoring Services, Writing Center, and Counseling to engage with international students and scholars in a friendly and comfortable environment. Also, university stakeholders are invited to workshops about “The Benefits of Study Abroad,” and “Effective Ways to Help International Students Succeed.”

Furthermore, OISPS offers a variety of events and programs to promote global diversity, inclusion, and intercultural understanding. During the 2018 International Education Week, OISPS had an “Open House” to highlight offered services and explore opportunities for collaboration with other university support services. OISPS also organized an interfaith panel on “Knowledge Across Religions,” which featured speakers from Jewish, Protestant Christian, Catholic Christian, Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist traditions. Finally, in collaboration with the offices of the Dean of the College of Engineering, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Vice President for Finance and Operations, OISPS offered an inaugural Thanksgiving Feast to 125 international students, scholars, and Lamar faculty and staff. The event was very much welcomed and appreciated by international students and scholars as they learned about the significance of this national holiday while enjoying an authentic delicious meal.

We welcome Lamar University colleagues and external partners interested in collaborating on projects and initiatives supportive of global diversity, inclusion, and international education. To learn more about our services and the possibilities for a partnership, we can be reached at international@lamar.edu or by phone at 409-880-7635.

Lamar University McNair Scholars Program

The McNair Scholars Program is a federal TRIO program designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are either first-generation college students with financial need, or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education and have demonstrated strong academic potential. Fifty-three percent of the past year’s McNair participants are first-generation and low-income students and sixty-nine percent were considered underrepresented in graduate study.

The mission of the Lamar University McNair Scholars Program is to provide promising undergraduates with the knowledge necessary to achieve and successfully obtain a terminal degree. Our program accomplishes this through weekly enhancement seminars, advanced research, a mentoring program, tutoring, academic counseling, and a supportive atmosphere. Our aim is to significantly increase the level of student participation by providing programs and services that successfully engage and retain students in our program through graduation.

The McNair program supports the educational mission of Lamar University by working with a diverse student population and engaging and empowering students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in their personal lives and chosen fields of endeavor. McNair participants are provided many opportunities to explore other universities, travel to national conferences to present their research, attend academic and cultural enrichment activities, and participate in other research experiences for undergraduates. Each year, students who are selected to participate in the program and complete a summer research experience have an opportunity to present their research at the Annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium. The Research Symposium provides an opportunity to showcase the culmination of a year’s worth of commitment and dedication from the Scholars as well as the Lamar faculty and staff that have devoted their time and skills to collaborating with the Scholars on their research.

The Lamar University McNair Scholars program served a total of 32 students during the 2017-2018 program year. Nine students completed their Summer Research project activities. Fifteen students graduated and received Bachelor’s degrees. Three former McNair participants earned Ph.D.’s, and one earned an Ed.D.

For additional information, interested students, faculty, or staff are encouraged to visit our website at https://www.lamar.edu/mcnair/about-mcnair.html, or attend one of our Fall or Spring Open House events in the Communication Building, Room 106.
As we see it:
Student Perspectives on Global Diversity and Inclusion at LU

Several students were asked questions about freedom of speech and campus civility on college and university campuses in America. These responses proved to be a mix of yes and no when asked if freedom of speech should be limited on college and university campuses in America.

“The Constitution gives freedom of speech with the first amendment, there should be no limit on free speech anywhere because everyone has a right to an opinion.”
-Mario Cisneros, Construction Management Major

“Freedom of speech should be utilized on campuses because it’s the younger generation who are making changes.”
-Remingtyn Russell, Biology Major

“There should be limits in order to protect historical events. Someone should be able to express what they think unless it’s derogatory towards others.”
-Robert Baker, Economics Major

“Everyone should have the right to freedom of speech and civility if it is morally correct. You should be able to say what you want if it is within the criteria of being morally correct and not offensive towards others.”
-Hannah Adbullah, Chemistry Major

Veterans Affairs

Lamar University Affairs Department has the honor of meeting our Veterans and their dependents and assisting them as they begin their journey forward and reaching a degree that will support them and give them the future that they desire. As a new student just out of the military, and beginning a new life style, they will have many decisions to make and a different life style from what they are used to. We are here to share which benefits may be available to them and help them get started.

Veterans’ benefits are based on the branch of military that they were in and how long they were in service and the benefits that were offered at that time. We make sure that they understand what is available and let them make their decision as to what works best for them. The different benefits are: Montgomery GI Bill, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Reservists Benefits, Disability Benefits, and State Benefits. If Veterans do not plan to use all their benefits, they may pass some of their benefits on to their family. Some of these benefits, must be passed on while the Veteran is on Active Duty. Some of the benefits may be shared after the Vet is out of service. Our department helps both Veterans and their dependents get started and then continues to assist them making sure that the classes that they are taking are classes needed for the degree they are working toward.

Veterans found a new community when they entered service and will find a new community here on campus. The opportunity to meet and make new friends is great. Our office will soon be moving to a larger space. We plan to have a Veterans’ area where they can come study together or individually, visit, make new friends. We also have a Veterans’ group giving them the opportunity to get together with other Vets and have a good time.

Veterans are honored with a Veterans Week around Veterans Day every year. During this week we try to have a celebration on Veterans Day, a Veterans’ fund raiser and a Veterans luncheon sometime during the week.
The Importance of Academic Programs Specifically Catered to Latinx Students
Melissa Torres, Student/Student Worker

Indisputably, college is a difficult experience to navigate no matter what your ethnic background is. But for Latinx students, it can be a horrifying experience. While we are the fastest growing population in the U.S., Latinx students have the worst retention rates at universities compared to their Black, White, and Asian counterparts. When we take a moment to really examine this, we realize that the ultimate root of the problem is that first-year Latinx students have a hard time coping and adjusting to a college campus environment in ways that their peers do not. There is a huge cultural disconnect, and any Latino can tell you that culture is a huge part of our identity.

The first college-related experience many students have is with recruiters and admissions counselors that visit their high school. Family, a huge part of Latinx culture, plays a significant role in the decisions made regarding college. Therefore, there is a great need for bilingual marketing tools and family-oriented admission materials for Latinx families. A lot of these students are first generation children of non-English speaking immigrants. Most Latinx students do not autonomously make the decision as to which college to attend—it is a family discussion. Parents often want to know what the school has to offer to ensure that their child is making the best investment in themselves as possible, that their child is safe, and that their child’s education is a quality one. Most admission materials are catered to the student, and often times are only in English with words that are hard enough to understand when English is the primary language.

Once the student is in, the next big question is “how are we going to afford this?” Studies have shown that there is a great need for additional financial assistance to Latinx students in order to increase retention rates. There needs to be a discussion of financial literacy and help with filling out FAFSA or TAFSA, as not all Latinx students qualify for Federal Aid due to their residency status.

Now the student has made it to the campus itself, and the culture shock sets in. And the student questions whether or not they truly deserve to be at that school: “Will I fit in? Where are the students that look like me?” There is a struggle to find community, comunidad. College is about balancing academia, social life, extracurricular organizations, partaking in leadership roles, and ultimately obtaining a degree to send you off into the world.

The hardest part of it all is trying to be well rounded and not losing yourself in the process. If a student is on scholarship, they might be extremely invested in their classes, and they might have a 4.0 GPA—but there is more to success than just grades. If the student is not on a scholarship and has to work to pay their way through school, their grades might slip, and all the work they’re putting in will not be reflective of their true potential.

Studies have shown time and time again that one of the greatest keys to educational success is networking - a difficult thing to navigate as a first generation Latinx student on a predominantly white campus. While other students might have an easier time finding familiar faces, or be fortunate enough to be legacy students and/or have an affiliation with Greek life, Latinx students are 9 times out of 10 building from square one. There is an enormous disparity of self-identifying Latinx faculty and staff on college campuses. Latinx students have a hard time relating to those who do not have the same shared life experiences, and an even harder time confiding and building relationships with faculty who do not understand where they are coming from. It is important for the student to feel welcomed, invited, and understood. Students need advocates and mentors who look like them and understand them.

This is exactly what we are trying to do with the Unidad Scholars Program. Lamar University is not a Hispanic Serving Institution—yet. But we are working to change that. The LU Unidad Scholars Program provides comprehensive, high quality, and academically-centered support services while simultaneously developing and promoting professionalism, leadership, service, and academic excellence. We are trying to increase our Latinx retention rate and receive greater funding and resources for our Latinx students. We have created a dedicated, safe space for Latinx students with our Unidad office and community. We are working on creating peer mentoring programs as well as appointing faculty and staff of color as mentors to our students. Through collaboration with a variety of offices across campus, we are working to help our program members learn to balance college life, market themselves, network, and above all else, make their college experience an enjoyable one.

Not only does our program push students to get great grades, but also to attend on-campus academic lectures, get involved with organizations and attend org-sponsored events. We also require our members to give back to their community through community service and outreach. We work with Career and Testing on campus to provide our members with valuable information and skills through workshops on resume building, and interviewing skills. We hold meetings that allow members to come together and talk about how school is going, ask questions, and just be comfortable in their identities while sharing a space with similar individuals. Our students are learning to navigate the college experience in a balanced, healthy, and inclusive way.

Student input:
Darion G.
The most important part of the group is the fact it’s a place for everyone to fit in especially for freshman and those people who have yet to find a group on campus along with it being something they can enjoy and grow in.

Aurora M.
I agree. Also, that it is a program that we know will provide a support system: provide resources, advice, and will help students become involved on campus if they haven’t already.

Jessica Torres
It’s like a safe space. It’s filled with a group of people who can related to similar situations, and working towards success. It’s such an uplifting and positive environment. It’s not everyone competing against each other, it’s everyone helping each other grow and build.

Christianna Stahl
I must agree with Jessica we should be able to have a safe place and not be so competitive with another, we are here only for a short time why not make the best of what is left?
Spotlight on Global Diversity and Intercultural Affairs

International Education Week

International Education Week was celebrated at Lamar University from November 12, 2018, to November 14, 2018. International Education Week promotes the benefits of cultural and academic exchange programs around the world. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Education promotes international education programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future international leaders to the U.S.

The 2018 International Education Week events on campus included the following:

- International Student Programs and Services Open House
- Benefits of Studying Abroad
- Effective Ways to Help International Students Succeed
- Interfaith Panel-Knowledge Across Religions

Celebrating Hispanic Excellence

Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated at Lamar University from September 15, 2018, to October 15, 2018. During this month the University community recognized the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrated their rich heritage and culture. On September 14, 2018, the Office of Global Diversity and Inclusive Excellence held the Celebrating Hispanic Excellence Reception to recognize and celebrate the academic achievements of our Hispanic students.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Service Scholarship

Deadline: February 22, 2019
Apply at www.lamar.edu/myscholarships

Inspirational Women Award

Deadline: March 22, 2019
Complete nomination at www.lamar.edu/inspirationalwomanaward

Any individual who needs to request a disability accommodation for any program or event should contact the Lamar University Disability Resource Center in the Communication Building Room 105, email drc@lamar.edu, call (409) 880-8347, or visit the website at lamar.edu/drc at least a week prior to the start of the program.
Events/Awards - Spring 2019

Chinese New Year Celebration
Hosted by OGDIE

Sunday, February 10, 2019
5:00-8:00 PM
The Event Center

InterFaith Panel – Women in Holy Scriptures
Hosted by OISPS

Thursday, March 21, 2019
4:00-6:00 PM
Landes Auditorium

1st Annual Beep Baseball Game
Hosted by DRC

March 2019
Time and Location: TBA

Inaugural Forum: African American and Hispanic Male Collegiate Success Initiatives
Hosted by Men of Excellence Program

Tentative date: Thursday, March 28, 2019
Time and Location: TBA

Annual Student Recognition Dinner
Hosted by Men of Excellence and UNIDAD Scholars Program

Thursday, May 2, 2019
Time and Location: TBA

Inspirational Women Award Formal Reception
Hosted by OGDIE

Friday, March 28, 2019
11:30 AM
Location: TBA

InterFaith Panel – Women in Holy Scriptures
Hosted by OISPS

Friday, March 28, 2019
11:30 AM
Location: TBA

7th Annual International Cultural Festival
Hosted by OISPS

Saturday, April 13, 2019
2:00 PM
Student Setzer Center

Black History Month - Celebrating Academic Excellence Reception
Hosted by OGDIE

Friday, February 22, 2019
7:00-10:00 PM
MCM Elegante Hotel

Check out the NEW GLODIIA WEBSITE!
https://www.lamar.edu/diversity/index.html

Any individual who needs to request a disability accommodation for any program or event should contact the Lamar University Disability Resource Center in the Communication Building Room 105, email drc@lamar.edu, call (409) 880-8347, or visit the website at lamar.edu/drc at least a week prior to the start of the program.
**Cultural Competency Corner**

**Did You Know?**

**In 1823,** *Alexander Lucius Twilight* became the first known African American to graduate from a college in the United States. He received a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont.

**In 1840,** *Catherine Brewer* became the first woman to earn a bachelor's degree, graduating from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia.

**In 1892,** the first Ellis Island Immigration Station was officially opened in New York Harbor. By 1924, more than 25 million passengers and crew had entered the United States through the "Gateway to America." The Immigration Act of 1924 restricted immigration, marking the end of mass immigration to the United States.

**In 1928,** Mexican-born Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo became the first Hispanic American to serve in the U.S. Senate.

**In 1954,** racial segregation in public schools was unanimously ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka,* as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment clause guaranteeing equal protection under the law.

**In 1990,** the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed. The Americans with Disabilities Act is the nation's first comprehensive civil rights law addressing the needs of people with disabilities, prohibiting discrimination in employment, public services, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

---

**Help Us Make A Better “Global Village”**

We are committed to promoting excellence in Diversity and Inclusion. If you would like to be featured in our newsletter or wish to leave feedback, please email *glodiia@lamar.edu.*

**Donate to GLODIIA!**

Events presented by the Division of Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Intercultural Affairs are made possible by various funding sources. If you wish to support GLODIIA’s efforts, please email *Jbelloogunu@lamar.edu.*

---

**Contact Us**

Division of Global Diversity  
Inclusion, & Intercultural Affairs  
P.O. Box 10137  
Beaumont, TX 77710  
GLODIIA Annex Building  

Phone: 409-880-7195  
Fax: 409-880-7131  
Email: *glodiia@lamar.edu*  
Website: *www.lamar.edu/diversity*

**GLODIIA Motto:** *Achieving Inclusive Institutional Excellence Through Diversity, Access, Equity, Inclusion, & Social Justice*