

## May 2023 Newsletter

Cultivating a campus community championed by the pillars of diversity, equity, and inclusion

## CLIMATE AND CULTURE

## May Affinity Highlights

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion celebrates the rich tapestry of human experiences at Emory University. This month, May 2023, we recognize National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Jewish-American Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, and Speech and Hearing Awareness Month. In collaboration with campus partners, we have curated resources that highlight, educate, and encourage a sense of community.

## Congratulations Class of 2023!



Dear Emory Family and Friends,

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! We are so proud of all that you have accomplished during your time at Emory. You have made us proud by your academic achievements, your leadership, and your commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We are also grateful to our faculty and staff for their dedication to our students. Your commitment to excellence has made our university a special place to learn and grow.

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Thank you for making our university a better place!

Sincerely,  
The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

## National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

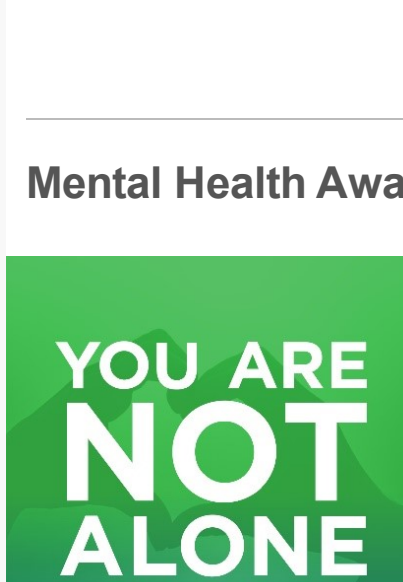
Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2023  
Emory University Libraries

As we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPIH) Month, it immediately reminded us of the Oscar-winning movie of the year, "Everything Everywhere All at Once." This movie vividly and philosophically depicts the human experience of love, kindness, and possibilities through the lens of an Asian American family. This sci-fi comedy opens up the existence of a multiverse that connects various possible lives to the present realities. It won seven Oscar awards, including Best Picture, Best Lead Actress (Michelle Yeoh), Best Supporting Actor (Ke Huy Quan) and Best Director. Michelle Yeoh made history by becoming the first Asian actress to win the best lead actress Oscar.

Each year, our collections steadily grow, reflecting the increasing number of literary books about and by Asian Americans. Since AAPIH Month last year, we've acquired quite a few literary books about and by Asian Americans. The popular ones include the following titles.

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## Jewish-American Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month May 2023  
Emory University Libraries

May is Jewish American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the contributions those of Jewish heritage have made to the United States since they first arrived in New Amsterdam in 1654.

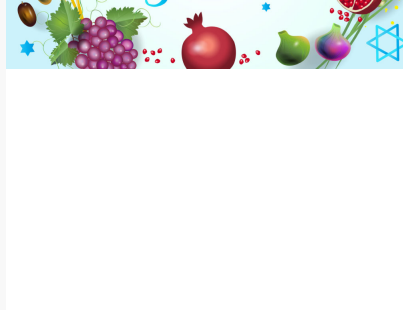
Jewish American Heritage Month had its origins in 1980 when Congress passed [Pub. L. 96-222](#) and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the first Friday of Jewish American Heritage Month. The first such proclamation was issued by President Jimmy Carter in April or May as Jewish Heritage Week.

On April 20, 2006, President George W. Bush declared that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month, and in 2009, President Barack Obama passed similar legislation to those who preceded him.

To celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month, we recommend the following curated list of resources, both at Emory and beyond.

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## Speech and Hearing Awareness Month



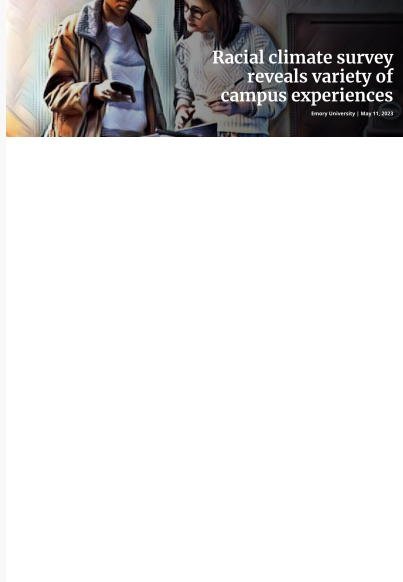
## May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

CDC observes Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM), founded in 1927 by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). Each May, this annual event provides an opportunity to raise awareness about hearing and speech problems, and to encourage people to think about their own hearing and get their hearing checked.

Early identification and intervention for hearing loss is important. Many people live with unidentified hearing loss, often failing to realize that they are missing certain sounds and words. Checking one's hearing is the first step toward addressing the issue.

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## Mental Health Awareness Month



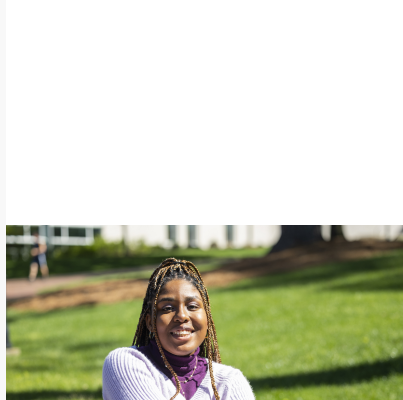
## Resources For Mental Health Awareness Month

The month of May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month. Consider these data from the [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#):

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, but less than half get treatment.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10–34 and the 10th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.
- 4% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosed mental illness.
- 41% of Veteran's Health Administration patients have a diagnosed mental illness or substance use disorder.

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## Select Major Religious Observances for May 2023



## Office of Religious and Spiritual Life

- Shavuot (Judaism)

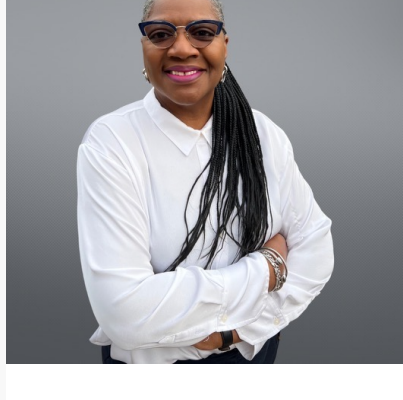
Eve May 25 through May 27, 2023 after nightfall

Shavuot, the "Feast of Weeks," is celebrated seven weeks after Passover (Pesach). Since the counting of this period begins on the second evening of Passover, Shavuot takes place exactly 50 days after the (first) seder. Hence, following the Greek word for "fifty," Shavuot is also referred to sometimes as *Pentecost*. Although its origins are to be found in an ancient grain harvest festival, Shavuot has long been identified with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Members of the Emory University community observe many diverse religious holidays. Below are the dates of select major Hindu, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim holidays that will occur over the academic year. OSRL provides this list in order to help prevent scheduling conflicts that could impact large populations in the campus community. There are many more religious traditions and holidays observed than are listed here. According to policy, students should work with their faculty members as early as possible to arrange reasonable accommodations for their particular religious observances. Academic deans, OSRL, and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are also available for consultation.

[FULL CALENDAR](#)

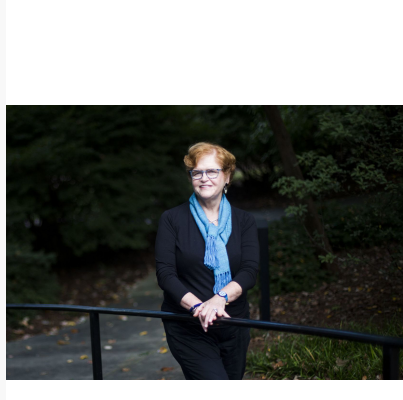
## Noteworthy News



## Racial Climate Survey Reveals Variety of Campus Experiences

At Emory, and around the world, the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding racial reckoning in 2020 activated students, faculty, staff and alumni to examine systems, on and off campus, that allow some people to be treated differently from others. When the campus community came back together, the need to further understand people's perspectives was clear. To best gauge student, faculty and staff experiences of race relations — before, during and after the pandemic — Emory chose to participate in the [National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climates](#) (NACCC) Survey.

The NACCC Survey was developed by the University of Southern California (USC) Race and Equity Center. With the [Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) (DEI) leading the way, Emory joined the more than 160 private and public colleges and universities that have already participated.

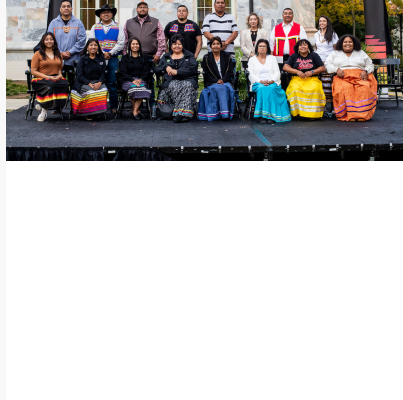
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## Discovering Epidemiology and Combating Health Inequities Through a Leap of Faith

McKenzi Thompson was drawn to Rollins School of Public Health by a deep sense of purpose and direction. During her undergraduate junior year, Thompson experienced the loss of her grandmother and father while also navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I relied on my faith to keep me anchored through all of these challenges," Thompson says. "While I was praying, God told me, 'Emory is your next step.' I exclusively applied to Rollins and hoped for the best."

Once she was here and more immersed in the school's goals and values, she realized they aligned perfectly with her own — a match made in heaven.

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## Building Connection in the Face of Global Disruption Provides theme for Emory College Class of 2023

Jewel Okoronkwo can pinpoint the exact date she made her first college friend: April 2, 2019. It was Admitted Students' Day for the Emory College of Arts and Sciences Class of 2023. Between then and the first day of class on Aug. 28 of that year, she built an ever-expanding network that would prove to be an anchor when late-night campus walks became online study sessions, and everything from classes to movie nights went virtual.

Existing friendships deepened during that global disruption. And when everyone cautiously came back onto campus her junior year, Okoronkwo found even more people wanting to connect. She will remind fellow Class of 2023 members not to mindset as the class orator during the Emory College diploma ceremony on May 8.

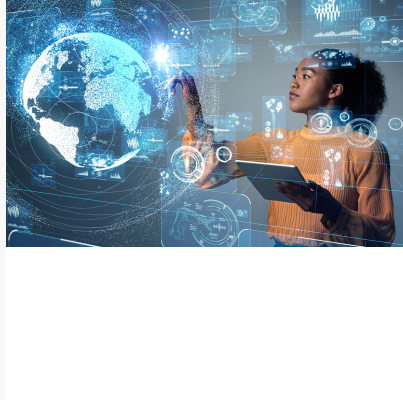
"It can be hard sometimes to be vulnerable, to truly let out your feelings," says Okoronkwo, a neuroscience and behavioral biology from Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, near the Tennessee border.

"COVID made it more urgent to see that is how you grow close to people," she adds. "We couldn't have our college experience as a physical place, so it became about friendship."

A selection committee of students, faculty and administrators chose Okoronkwo to speak at the Emory College diploma ceremony after a highly selective process that reviews student leadership, speaking ability and contributions to Emory.

The committee selected four finalists from that pool to audition by delivering their speeches and answering interview questions. Okoronkwo's emphasis on friendships and the ways everyone can bring their whole selves with them to work, teach, learn and create," says Bellamkonda.

"I thank Enku Gelaye, senior vice president and dean of Campus Life, and Vice Provost Carol Henderson for making TRHT a shared vision and hope that from the start, we were bringing her understanding through TRHT," he adds.

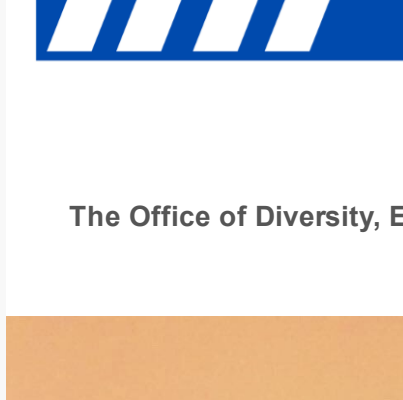
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## Deborah Lipstadt named to Time's 100 Most Influential People list

Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, the U.S. special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism, has been named to Time magazine's [100 Most Influential People of 2023](#).

An Emory faculty member for three decades, Lipstadt is on a leave of absence from her role as Doro Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies in the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies and the Department of Religion.

Beyond the classroom, Lipstadt may be best known for making history on her own right when she was sued for libel in 1993 by David Irving, a Holocaust denier from Britain. In the wake of the groundbreaking 1995 book "Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory." The case, which was filed in England, ended with a verdict in April 2000 in favor of Lipstadt, proving her accusations against Irving were true.

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## New Center for Native and Indigenous Studies set to launch in Fall 2023

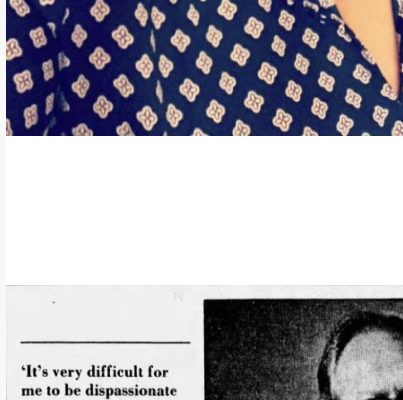
Emory College of Arts and Sciences is set to launch a new Native American and Indigenous Studies this fall to advance and inspire research, scholarship, teaching and learning rooted in and related to Indigenous studies.

Earlier this year, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded Emory to develop and the [College of the Muscogee Nation](#) (CMN) in Oklahoma a \$2.4 million grant to develop collaborative and independent programs advancing Native and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) and the preservation of the Mvskoke language in a unique partnership between the two schools.

The new NAIS center will put into action the goals associated with the Mellon Foundation grant to build a strong partnership with CMN and support Emory's evolving relationship with the Muscogee Nation, which includes the university's [land acknowledgment](#) that it was founded on Muscogee land.

Malinda Maynor Lowery, Cahoon Family Professor of American History and a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, will lead the center with support from Emory's James Weldon Johnson Center for the Study of Race and Difference.

"The launch of the Center for Native and Indigenous Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences will further our partnership with the College of the Muscogee Nation," says Lowery. "Emory has an incredible opportunity to learn from CMN's degree program in a Native American studies and develop a new approach for scholarship, teaching and collaboration that centers Indigenous knowledge and values. This approach will advance cutting-edge scholarship and pedagogy in ways that will also promote an education that heals the trauma of dispossession and forced assimilation."

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## Four Emory faculty named to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Four Emory University faculty members have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honorary societies and a leading center for independent policy research. A total of 13 Emory faculty have been elected to the academy in the past three years.

Elected this year are:

- Rosemarie Garland-Thomson**, professor emerita of English and Bioethics
- Jacqueline Irvine**, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Urban Education Emerita
- Susan Margulies**, assistant director of the National Science Foundation leading the Directorate of Engineering, and professor and former chair of the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Emory and Georgia Tech
- Walter Mellon**, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Art History

"Emory faculty continually expand their influence and innovation across the arts, humanities and sciences," says Ravi Bellamkonda, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Emory. "We celebrate and promote faculty eminence daily, but seeing these individuals receive these well-earned national honors is particularly gratifying."

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## Jack Stewart Boozar, Ph.D. (1918-1989)

Jack Stewart Boozar (1918-1989), Emory University professor of religion, was born in Sylacauga, Alabama, in 1918. Boozar was a graduate of Emory University, receiving a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1940 and a bachelor's of divinity in 1942. After graduating from Emory, Boozar became the pastor of a Methodist church in Hampton, New Hampshire, before leaving in 1944 to serve as a chaplain for the United States Army during World War II. He resumed his pastoral duties in New Hampshire from 1948-1950. Boozar received his Ph.D. from Boston University in 1952.

Boozar joined the Emory faculty in 1950. He served as chair of the Department of Religion (1957-1968 and 1981-1983); chair of the Department of Theological Studies (1972-1975); Emory University Chaplain (1965); and the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Religion (appointed in 1984). Boozar was the first professor at Emory to be awarded the Emory Williams Award for Teaching in 1972.

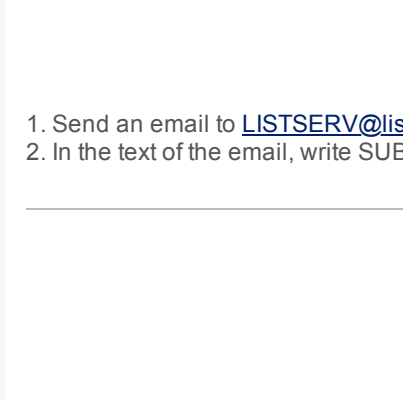
During his tenure at Emory, Jack Boozar was involved with establishing the Jay and Leslie Cohen Chair of Judaic Studies, the David Goldwasser Lectureship in Religion and the Arts, and the University Worship program. Boozar's research primarily focused on the works of Rudolf Otto, Paul Tillich, and the Holocaust. His publications include *Rudolf Otto: Aufsätze zur Ethik* (1981) and *The Edge of Ministry...The Chaplain Story: Chaplain Ministry of the United Methodist Church, 1945-1980* (1984).

Boozar was also a community activist in Atlanta, including being a founding member and president of CAUTION (Citizens Against Unnecessary Throughfares in Older Neighborhoods), Inc. The organization opposed the building of the proposed Presidential Parkway through several Atlanta neighborhoods. Jack Stewart Boozar married Ruth Cummins Tate in 1942, and they had three children, Jack, William, and Brenda Boozar (renowned opera singer).

The papers of Jack Stewart Boozar are housed here at Emory University and are part of the Carter Jack Stewart Boozar Papers Collection at the Stuart A. Rose Library. Click the link below to schedule an appointment with the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library to view the collection.

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## ODEI Learning Corner



## The Legacy of Asian American Activism at Emory (2021)

In the 60 years since desegregation, Asian American student activist groups often work quietly, without the amplification and coverage that their white activist counterparts receive.

Officially desegregating in September of 1962, Emory began admitting students of color amid a highly contentious Vietnam War. Despite granting these students entry into the student body, the University failed to understand how to actually include these students of color within its community. The Vietnam War intersected important issues on race and class disparity and acted as a catalyst for social movements, such as the Asian American Movement from the late 1960s to 1970s and the Civil Rights Movement. The term Asian American was established in this time period, "according to activists and academics — it was a radical label of self-determination that indicated a political agenda of equality, anti-racism and anti-imperialism. Asian American was an identity that was chosen, not one that was given."

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2. In the text of the email, write [SUBSCRIBE ODEI](#) [your first name] [your last name]; for example: [SUBSCRIBE ODEI](#) John Smith

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