

# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



## APRIL IS:

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1 - Sexual Assault Awareness Month

2 - Celebrate Diversity Month

3 - Autism Acceptance Month

4 - National Arab American Heritage Month

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## FIGHTING ANTI-ASIAN HATE

### #STOPAAPIHATE

Since the start of COVID-19, the rate of hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has dramatically increased. In the past year, over 3,800 anti-Asian hate incidents have been reported. 68% of these attacks have been reported by women, showing the intersectional relationship between race and gender.

The Panhellenic Association at the University of Kansas stands in solidarity with the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and is committed to doing our part to fight racism. Our full statement regarding the recent violence against the AAPI community can be found [here](#).



# HOW TO HELP COMBAT ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

## DONATE AND SUPPORT

- National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
- Asian American Advocacy Fund
- [gofundme.com/aapi](https://gofundme.com/aapi)

## EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- Watch [this](#) YouTube documentary series
- Share and repost informative social media posts
- Read [these](#) personal reflections on racism and the pandemic

## BE AN ACTIVE BYSTANDER

- Call out micro-aggressions and racist comments
- Report incidents of racism, harassment, or assault
- Speak out against everyday discrimination

## SOCIAL MEDIA RESOURCES

### ACCOUNTS TO FOLLOW

@stopaapihate  
@dearasianyouth  
@advancingjustice\_la  
@stopdiscriminasian

### HASHTAGS TO USE

#StopAsianHate  
#StandForAsians  
#RacismIsAVirus

### REPORTING

[www.stopaapihate.org](http://www.stopaapihate.org)

**CHECK IN ON  
YOUR AAPI  
FRIENDS AND  
FAMILY**

# SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH (SAAM)

April is annually recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a campaign to raise public awareness and educate individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. We encourage you to participate and use this time as an opportunity to learn, promote change, and support survivors.

### APRIL 2021: WE CAN BUILD CAMPAIGN

This April's theme is "We Can Build Safe Online Spaces." It is important to remember that sexual assault, abuse, and harassment can occur anywhere, even outside of a physical environment. With our society turning more and more to social media, we need to learn how to get digital consent, report inappropriate or harmful content, and participate in healthy, respectful online behaviors.

To learn more about building safe online spaces, go to the [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#) website.

## *KU'S CARE COORDINATOR* *(Campus Assistance, Resource, and Education)*

For free and confidential sexual violence survivor support, contact the KU CARE coordinator. Merrill Evans, LSCSW, can provide academic and emotional support, reporting options, and post-assault medical care resources.  
care@ku.edu ▪ (785) 864-9255

Evans also oversees the CARE sisters program. CARE sisters are trained sorority women who advocate for the end of rape culture and gender-based violence. They are able to provide resources, support, and confidentiality. To contact, reach out to your chapter's CARE sister(s) or email caresisters@ku.edu

GO TO [SAPEC.KU.EDU/RESOURCES](https://sapec.ku.edu/resources) TO FIND A COMPLETE LIST OF ON CAMPUS, LOCAL, AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

## AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Formally known as Autism Awareness Month, Autism Acceptance Month is focused on educating communities on autism, promoting acceptance, igniting change, and creating a more inclusive world. Additionally, World Autism Acceptance Day is observed on April 2nd. While awareness and acceptance were once the main goal of these dates, there is now a push to transition to embracement and celebration.

## CELEBRATE DIVERSITY MONTH

Started in 2004, April is also known as Celebrate Diversity Month, a time to recognize and honor the differences among us.

### HOW YOU CAN CELEBRATE DIVERSITY THIS MONTH:

- Read an [article](#)
- Watch a [documentary](#)
- Try a new recipe
- Check social media using the hashtag #diversitymonth
- Visit the [Google Arts and Culture](#) site

## NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Written by Mary Horttor, Alpha Delta Pi

Along with other observances this month, April is also National Arab Heritage Month. This month we celebrate all the accomplishments, cultures, and people of Arab heritage. Firstly, we have to understand who is considered Arab. "Arab Americans have ancestry in one of the world's 22 Arab nations, which are located from northern Africa through western Asia. The people of these nations are ethnically, politically, and religiously diverse but share a common cultural and linguistic heritage" (INSIGHT Staff). It is important that we understand those of Arab heritage are a large group of people with many diverse backgrounds. Hence, this month helps to celebrate the many people of Arab heritage who have helped benefit the United States in various ways: "medicine, law, education, business, technology, government, and culture" (arabamerica). Also, it is a time to acknowledge the hardships those with Arab heritage still face in America, and the need to fight those prejudices (City Council). Thus, this month, do some of your own research into the amazing accomplishments of those with Arab heritage and support Arab owned businesses.

<https://www.insightintodiversity.com/national-arab-american-heritage-month/>

<https://www.arabamerica.com/commemorating-national-arab-american-heritage-month-2020/>

<https://www.boston.gov/news/april-national-arab-american-heritage-month>

# IMPORTANT DATES

## 1: HOLY THURSDAY

Christian, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ

## 2: GOOD FRIDAY

Christian, commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ

## 2: AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Raises awareness to challenges people with autism face while also encouraging further research, treatment, and acceptance for those with autistic spectrum disorders

## 4: EASTER

Christian, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ

## 7-8: YOM HASHOAH

Holocaust Remembrance Day, national day of commemoration in Israel

## 12: RAMADAN BEGINS

Muslim, start of month of fasting, prayer, and reflection, commemoration of Muhammad's first revelation

## 13: VAISAKHI

Hindu and Sikh, marks the beginning of the Hindu solar new year

## 19: RIDVAN BEGINS

Bahá'í, holiest festival marking Bahá'u'lláh's declaration that he was a Manifestation of God

## 21: RAMA NAVAMI

Hindu, celebrates the birth of the Hindu God Lord Rama

## 22: EARTH DAY

Brings awareness to climate change and global warming, focuses on the need for conservation and protection of our environment

## 23: SAINT GEORGE'S DAY

Feast day of St. George, national day in England

## 23: DAY OF SILENCE

Annual day of action that brings awareness to the silencing of the LGBTQ+ community

## 24: LAZARUS SATURDAY

Orthodox, celebrates the raising of Lazarus of Bethany

## 24: ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY

Also known as Genocide Memorial Day, honors the victims of the Armenian Genocide

## 25: MAHAVIR JAYNATI

Jainism, one of their most important holidays, celebrates the birth of Mahavir

## 29-30: LAG BAOMER

Jewish, celebrates and mourns Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai



[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL CALENDAR!](#)

## THIS MONTH ON CAMPUS

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Center (SAPEC) will be holding multiple events throughout April to discuss sexual assault awareness. A complete list of these events can be found on their [website](#).

The [Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity](#) (SGD) is celebrating the month of GAYpril. This year, the Center will be hosting seven events. These events include two Queer Coffee Hours, a Big Gay Brunch, Lavender Graduation, a drive-in movie, and a drive-in drag showcase.

From April 5th through the 10th, the Center for Community Outreach (CCO) will be hosting [Into the Streets Week](#). This year, the focus is on the education, advocacy, and destigmatization of mental health issues.

During April, Watkins Health Services will be providing free HIV testing on Wednesdays. Cheek swab tests are non-invasive and provide results in 20 minutes. Email [jemckee@ku.edu](mailto:jemckee@ku.edu) to schedule your appointment!

## NPC UPDATES

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021 STATEMENT

MAR. 8: NPC Chairman Issues Statement in Recognition of International Women's Day

"Over the decades, sorority women have continued to support other women, amplify their voices and advocate for a more inclusive world, whether that was fighting for a woman's right to vote, arguing in the courts against gender discrimination, or holding elected office where they can enact legislation to improve the lives of women."

To read the full statement, click [HERE](#)

### EVALUATING CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND IDENTIFYING BEST PRACTICES WITHIN THE PANHELLENIC COMMUNITY

FEB. 25: "Research Aims to Identify Tools for Strengthening Cultural Competency Among Sorority Women Nationwide"

The NPC is partnering with the Timothy J. Piazza Center for Fraternity and Sorority Research and Reform to evaluate cultural competency and diversity, equity, and inclusion within sorority chapters. NPC will be using the findings to foster a more inclusive community, improve existing programs, and develop new initiatives.

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the studies.

## CHAPTER UPDATES

### ALPHA CHI OMEGA

"Two weeks ago during chapter, I did a defining your identities workshop that used a social identity wheel to have the girls in our chapter speak on who they are in the world and how they identify themselves. I also recently helped our recruitment team put together a presentation for a recruitment workshop to show what Alpha Chi Omega is doing to be more inclusive during the recruitment and also had a very important conversation about race and how it relates to recruitment. This week at chapter, I spoke on how AXO condemns the attacks that happened within the AAPI community and shared mental health resources for our AAPI sisters." -Melisa Martin del Campo, VP of DEI

### ALPHA DELTA PI

"Alpha Delta Pi has continued to host weekly DEI Committee meetings, where discussions are led about relevant topics. We have been using our social media to provide our members and followers with educational resources, and continue to work to support minority-owned businesses! In March, we had a D&I workshop based around what it means to be a minority in a sorority, and how to have meaningful and productive conversations with our sisters." -Sarah Gress, Director of Inclusion

### CHI OMEGA

"This month, we have focused our efforts on educating our members on various subjects related to Diversity & Inclusion such as microaggressions, intersectionality, and the emotional tax of institutional inequities. We are also getting ready to vote on proposed bylaw changes that would make our chapter more inclusive to people from all walks of life. We are looking forward to various planned sisterhood DEI events such as book clubs, movie nights, and the continuation of our monthly Sisterhood Chats." -Katherine Ewing, DEI Chair

### DELTA DELTA DELTA

"In Tri Delta, we are about to start up our Diversity & Inclusion community meetings via zoom again! My co-chair and I have also implemented speaking every week at chapter about current issues applying to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, most recently the violence against the AAPI community. We are also working with our community service chair to plan some events for minority communities in the KC area next semester." -Grace Hoge, D&I Co-Chair

### GAMMA PHI BETA

"Gamma Phi Beta had our first BEDI chapter. We put members into breakout rooms where we had discussions about diversity and inclusion. It was a great way to get members to have some tough yet very important conversations." -Macy Talkington, President

## CHAPTER UPDATES

### KAPPA DELTA

"Over Winter Break, our DEI committee had the opportunity to meet with Kappa Delta Nationals DEI Committee Chair, Michelle Robinson McNulty (Beta Mu-Bowling Green State; initiated 2006). It was a very beneficial opportunity where we gained so much information, advice, and understanding to make our chapter more inclusive and a safe place for all individuals. Our chapter has been working to promote DEI through changes in our bylaws, workshops, presentations, and resources for our members to use and share with others!" -Kamryn Villa, DEI Chair

### KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

"This month, Kappa Kappa Gamma established a diversity and inclusion committee to brainstorm ways to make our chapter more inclusive. So far this month, our chapter has hosted a KU Care Sister to promote awareness and resources on our campus. Our committee has suggested a book club, supporting small, local businesses and other ways we can educate our chapter!" - Maeve McKinney, DEI Officer

### SIGMA KAPPA

"This month, Sigma Kappa has been reviewing our Code of Conduct and creating potential revisions that would make our chapter more financially and religiously inclusive. Our DEIA chair created educational resources on Women's History Month for members to utilize and learn about the immense role that women had in the U.S. and global history and in shaping our country's future. Additionally, we have been working on informing our chapter on DEIA events hosted by KU to encourage engagement with other KU organizations and discussion on important DEIA topics." -Sonia Kandalkar, DEIA Chair

## PHA UPDATE

The Panhellenic Diversity and Inclusion committee has started semester meetings via Zoom! Topics to be discussed this month include how to support our LGBTQ+ sisters, the history of racism and classism in PHA, and toxic femininity.

#### MEET OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

HAILEY BURGESS, MALLORY FOLSOM, MARNI FRISCHER, REGAN GODDERZ, MARY HORTTOR, ELLA KEATHLEY, FAITH KELLY, GRACE KIM, PADDISON LOWE, CAROLINE SHARP, SHELBY SPENCER, AND KAMRYN VILLA



# CAMPUS RESOURCES

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### **KU's CARE (Campus Assistance Resource and Education) Coordinator**

Provides free and confidential services to all students impacted by gender based violence (rape, sexual assault, stalking and harassment), therapeutic support, advocacy, supportive measures, emotional support while filing reports, accessing medical care.

(785) 864-9255

[care@ku.edu](mailto:care@ku.edu)

[studenthealth.ku.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.ku.edu/sexual-assault)

### **The Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Center**

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Center promotes social change and the elimination of sexual violence through prevention education, inclusive programming, and campus wide collaboration.

(785) 864-5879

[sapec.ku.edu](http://sapec.ku.edu)

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

### **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)**

Provides mental health services (therapy, psychiatry) to KU students.

(785) 864-2277

[caps.ku.edu](http://caps.ku.edu)

### **Kansas Suicide Prevention Headquarters**

Concerned about yourself or a loved one who is experiencing a mental health concern, emotional distress or thinking about suicide.

(785) 841-2345

[ksphq.org](http://ksphq.org)

## HAZING

### **Student Conduct and Community Standards**

Addresses incidents of non-academic misconduct on campus and educates students about the Code of Student Right and Responsibilities. Students may contact SCCS to report harm or violations of university policy. SCCS works with student organizations to develop hazing prevention strategies within the KU community. The office seeks to foster a holistic learning environment through education focused on community.

(785) 864-4060

[studentconduct.ku.edu](http://studentconduct.ku.edu)

## OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

The Office of Diversity & Equity leads and facilitates the development of institutional policies and protocols intended to create a more representative, equitable, and inclusive KU.

(785) 864-4904

[diversity@ku.edu](mailto:diversity@ku.edu)

[diversity.ku.edu](http://diversity.ku.edu)

### **Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity**

Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity (ETCWGE) at the University of Kansas seeks to support the personal, educational, and professional success of students through challenging patriarchal norms which impede full access to the university. Utilizing an intersectional feminist framework, we engage our community in expansive conversations around gender identity, raise awareness around inequity, and empower students to advocate for themselves and others at the University of Kansas and beyond.

(785) 864-3552

[emilytaylorcenter.ku.edu](http://emilytaylorcenter.ku.edu)

### **Center for Sexuality & Gender Diversity**

(785) 864-4256

[sgd@ku.edu](mailto:sgd@ku.edu)

## CONTACT INFO:

### **Anne Gill**

PANHELLENIC DIRECTOR OF  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

she/her/hers

[kuphadiversity@gmail.com](mailto:kuphadiversity@gmail.com)

Office Hours: **T/TH 11:30-1p**

Meeting ID:

**552 172 3611**