

Student Highlight

Name: Javier Melendez
Major: Psychology
Minor: Communication
Classification: Senior
Hometown: Del Rio



What makes ASU special?

“The San Angelo community makes ASU special to me because it feels like my hometown.”

What does it mean to be multicultural?

“Being multicultural means everything because it not only involves race and ethnicities, but also religion, family, friends, etc.”

Month in Review

During the month of February, the Multicultural Center hosted a series of events that celebrated Black History Month. Our monthly noon celebration on Feb. 10 featured Paul Cook, who recounted the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, and talented ASU student Michael Connor, who delighted attendants with inspiring gospel songs. The panel discussion captivated the audience as one of the panelists, former ASU coach and athletic director Phil George, recounted the struggles that ASU’s first African-American football player, Ben Kelly, had to overcome as the campus embraced desegregation. On Feb. 22, the Multicultural Center helped host “From Negritude to the N’

Word: Perspectives on Black Identity.” This eye-opening lecture was presented by our very own Dr. Randolph Peters, assistant professor of French in the Modern Languages Department.



March Calendar



ASU F.I.R.S.T.
First-generation high school students from Regions XIV, XV and XVIII will tour ASU and attend presentations.



Women’s History Month Celebration
UC Lobby, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.



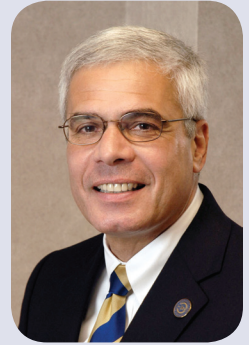
Multicultural Advisory Council (MAC) Week
A week of promoting diversity led by ASU students.



Multicultural Movie Series
UC 110/111, 6-7 p.m.
A panel discussion will follow the short documentary.

A Note From... Dr. Rallo

I am delighted to introduce you to the first issue of the Multicultural Center newsletter at Angelo State University. As a first generation Italian-American from New York City, I have been shaped by the values of diversity.



ASU President

Whether we look at the global dimensions of diversity or closer to home with our significant and growing Hispanic population, an understanding of others and their cultures is an essential attribute of being an informed citizen.

At ASU one of my priorities has been to recognize and provide the resources needed to embrace multiculturalism. The new Multicultural Center with its welcoming space, professional staff and diverse programs is the centerpiece of these efforts. The fact that we were named a Hispanic Serving Institution has allowed us to seek and obtain significant federal funding designed to insure the success of all of our students. This is an exciting time to be at ASU, and our emphasis on multicultural initiatives is one of our most important activities over the coming months and years.

Weekly Events

Tuesday and Thursday

El Cafecito
FREE
Coffee at the Multicultural Center
UC 114
9 a.m.-noon

Zumba Workout
FREE
UC Spine
8-9 p.m.

Latin & Advance Latin Dance
FREE
UC Spine
9-10 p.m.

Special Highlights

Angelo State offers a variety of courses in the different disciplines that address diversity and multicultural issues. In this issue we highlight Dr. Alaric Williams, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, who joined the ASU faculty in June of 2008. Born and raised in Stamps, Ark., Williams holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction/higher education supervision, a master's degree in counseling and a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Texas A&M-Commerce. He teaches Social and Cultural Influences in Learning, where some of the topics covered include



racism/discrimination, prejudices, testing biases and linguistic diversity.

“The best part about teaching this course is the reaction I get from the students,” Williams said. “Many students will tell me at the end of the semester that it’s the best course they’ve taken. Some have said that it opened their eyes to things they had never thought or realized. It’s a course that discusses topics that are usually uncomfortable in a public setting. It causes some to change their perspectives.”

This course has been taught at ASU for three years, and each semester the class enrolls approximately 26 students.

Did You Know?



International Women’s Day (IWD) was organized in 1911 by German socialist Klara Zetkin, who was inspired by an American commemoration of working women.

International Women’s Day is now an official holiday in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. In addition, events are held all over the world.

Lending Library at the Multicultural Center

The Multicultural Center has a number of books, movies, magazines and games available for check-out. This month we recommend:

Women’s Rights

Despite the progress of the international women’s movement in exposing and correcting human rights abuses against females, in many countries women are still fighting to attain the most basic

of civil liberties. This program contextualizes that struggle by comparing women’s rights in the U.S. with the status of women in China, Afghanistan and Kenya. (26 minutes)



Multicultural Center

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Multicultural Center
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