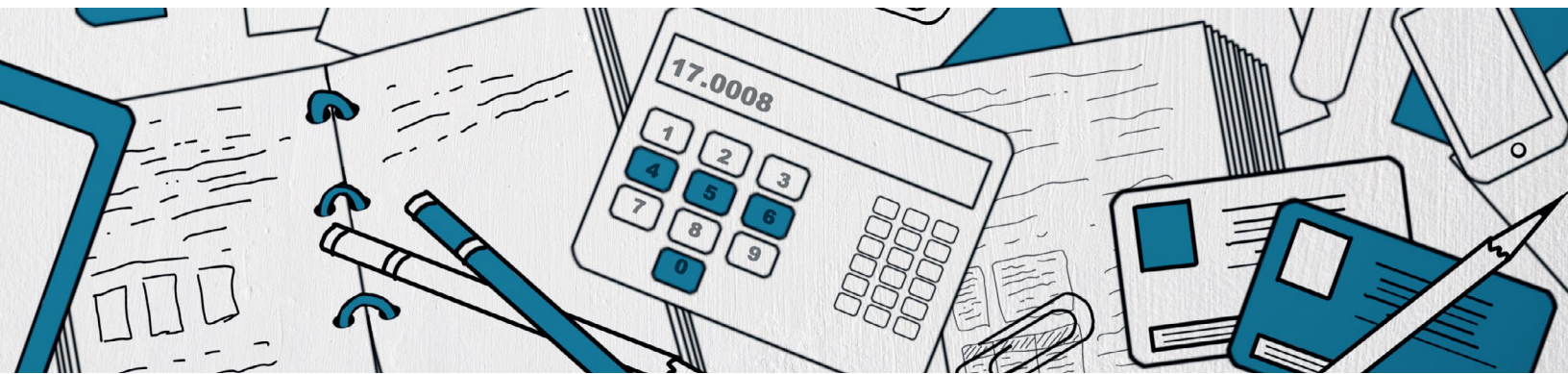


2022 SUMMER



Photo Credit: Aurola Liu

VCU IESC **International Student** **E-Newsletter**



Dear students,

It's the time of year where we celebrate the tremendous work of our graduates, all that they have accomplished in their program and – even more exciting – all that they will accomplish as they move forward with their careers. This includes the more than 1,600 international students that we welcome each year from around the globe to VCU and the School of Education, many of whom will be graduating this spring.

As you know, the VCU School of Education is ranked 16th Best Public Graduate School of Education according to the latest U.S. News & World Report survey. Our faculty are internationally recognized for their teaching, research and service. All of you can be very proud of your academic accomplishments, the quality of the professional education you receive at the VCU School of Education, and the long-term value of your degree.

For those of you who are graduating this spring, we could not be more excited to see where life takes each and every one of you! I encourage you to stay in touch, and get involved with the VCU Alumni Association and the School of Education Alumni Council.

International students continue to be an important part of our school. We appreciate your contribution to the diverse culture of our community. Thank you for choosing VCU, and many good wishes for the future. Go Rams!



Andrew Daire, Ph.D.
The Dean of the School of Education

Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19

Required for all air passengers two years of age or older boarding a flight from a foreign country to the United State

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>



- If you plan to travel internationally, you will need to get a COVID-19 viral test (regardless of vaccination status or citizenship) no more than 1 day before you travel by air into the United States. You must show your negative result to the airline before you board your flight.
- If you recently recovered from COVID-19, you may instead travel with documentation of recovery from COVID-19 (i.e., your positive COVID-19 viral test result on a sample taken no more than 90 days before the flight's departure from a foreign country and a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel).
- All air passengers 2 years or older with a flight departing to the US from a foreign country at or after 12:01am EST (5:01am GMT) on December 6, 2021, are required show a negative COVID-19 viral test result taken no more than 1 day before travel, or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days, before they board their flight.

Information for support

Info resources: <https://global.vcu.edu/newsroom/2021/ukraine/>
In light of the recent unsettling events in Ukraine, the VCU's Global Education Office and Division of Student Affairs are reaching out to our students and scholars with personal, geographic or cultural ties to the region.

We want to express our concern for you and these recent events. As this situation unfolds, we are available to support you with a variety of resources. We invite you to share this information with anyone you believe will have an interest.

Resources immediately available to you include:

Global Education Office
Please contact Dr. Jill Blondin at (804) 828-8471 or jblondin@vcu.edu
Division of Student Affairs
Please contact the Dean of Students office at vcudean@vcu.edu
or
(804) 828-8940 if you are on Monroe Park Campus or
(804) 828-0525 if you are on MCV Campus



University Counseling Services

VCU Medical Center
Campus
VMI Building
1000 East Marshall
St., Rm 412
(804) 828-3964
uccounseling@vcu.edu
edu

Monroe Park Campus
University Student
Commons
907 Floyd Ave., Suite
238
(804) 828-6200
uccounseling@vcu.edu
edu

EVENTS

WHEN	WHAT	LINK	WHERE	COST	TELL ME MORE
May 13-15	Lebanese Food Festival	http://www.lebanesefood-festival.com/	"St. Anthony Maronite Church 4611 Sadler Road Glen Allen	Free	Lebanese music, dancing and food
May 15	Ballet Studio Four: Echoing the past	https://richmondballet.com/event/studio-four/2022-05-10/	Richmond Ballet	From \$15	Echoing the past
May 15	Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in concert	https://www.richmondssymphony.com/event/star-wars-the-empire-strikes-back/	Altria Theater	From \$40	Star Wars music at its best
May 21	24th Asian American Celebration	https://www.facebook.com/AASOCV/	Greater Richmond Convention Center	Free	Learn about and celebrate Asian American communities
May 21	Beethoven's Ninth!	https://www.richmondssymphony.com/event/beethovens-ninth/	Dominion Energy Center	From \$20	Symphony No. 9 "Choral"
May 26	Fidos after 5 Music	https://www.lewisginter.org/visit/events/fidos-after-5/	Lewis Winter Botanical Garden	From \$8	A cover band featuring music from U2, the Bangles, the Cranberries, and more
May 28	Urban Jazz Coalition	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urban-jazz-coalition-tickets-291425881657	The Tin Pan 8982 Quioccasin Road	From \$40	One of the hottest live performance ensembles on the contemporary jazz scene
May-June	Butterflies LIVE!	https://www.lewisginter.org/event/butterflies-live/	Lewis Winter Botanical Garden	Free	Experience the wonderful world of butterflies!
June 2 - 26	2022 Shakespeare Festival	https://www.agecrofthall.org/richmond-shakespeare-festival	4305 Sulgrave Road, Richmond	Free	The merry wives of Windsor
June 5	Grandstaff Burlesque Brunch	https://www.facebook.com/BookSellersRVA/	GrandStaff & Stein 2113 E Main St, Richmond	Free	Brunch, cocktails and performances
June 5	Taste of India	https://cciva.org/taste-of-india	6641 Iron Bridge Pkwy, Chester	From \$25	Celebrate India culture, color and couture
June 11	Ashland Strawberry Faire	https://ashlandstrawberryfaire.com/	114 College Avenue, Ashland	Free admission	Straberry festival
June 18	Juneteenth Celebration	https://henrico.us/calendar/juneteenth2022/	Dorey Park	Free	Juneteenth celebrates enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation
July 16	WING A DING DING FESTIVAL	https://wingadingdingfest.com/city-events/richmond-wing-a-ding-ding-festival-2/	Richmond Raceway Complex	From \$15	Over 30 kinds of wings and fried chicken

ACADEMIC POSTER

The Impact of the Pandemic and Protests on Identity and Purpose: A Narrative Inquiry with an International Chinese Student

Jiang, Y., Pandey, T., Olsoe, B., Gibson, D. M., & Xu, Y.

Background

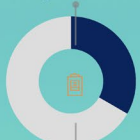
We investigated the lived experiences of Chinese international students and scholars in a previous study and found four emerging themes: *safety concerns, the salience of the English language, intersectionality of policies and complex decision making, and unexpected support and benefits* (Xu et al., 2021).

Through their stories and struggles, an implicit issue arose - racism, especially how it shapes Chinese international students' experience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Method

1. Semi-structured focus group interview from previous study
2. Semi structured follow-up interview focused on experience with racism
3. Open interview
4. Data analysis: Narrative inquiry

Analysis



Reading ONE

The research team identified the initial thematic content and the overall gestalt of the narrative by listening to the audio recording as we read the transcript, annotating the transcripts with our initial ideas, and writing an analysis memo that included initial



Reading TWO

The team identified multiple voices and discourses that included medical student, international student, immigrant, friend, individual with privilege, advocate, daughter, model minority, Chinese, person of color, woman, citizen, future self, worker, child, not unique, unique, partner, and group representative.



Reading THREE

The research team's goal was to identify thematic patterns of content within the narrative. This part of the analysis required each team member to take the annotated elements from the previous readings and identify the larger units of meaning in the text (Josselson & Hammack, 2021).



Emma, a 26-year-old female, identified as a third year medical student and an international student in the United States since fall 2017. Although she identifies ethnically as Chinese, her family immigrated to Canada when she was young.

INTERACTIONS WITH RACISM

I've had patients when I go to see them, say, or ask me specifically, and not the other doctors or students...like where are you from, do you have COVID...um...things like that, which are...seems shocking but it wasn't to me anymore and I think it especially hits home for me because I was actually born in Wuhan.

PRIVILEGE

I know that that must be really hard because, you know, when you consider people who experienced racism, financial instability, and all those intersections, like, I don't, I'm fortunate that I don't experience poverty or things other than just being Asian. Like I'm heterosexual and I'm financially okay. And healthy, able bodied, like all those things that are very fortunate for me and give me a lot of privilege.

Findings

PERSONAL AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

I was just that. I was 17. I had normal kid interests, but, I guess it was very standard in terms of like what an Asian is expected to do. Like I did piano, competitions, math, like that is so standard. And it's all stuff that I enjoy. But I wonder if, because we're all sort of shaped to do this similar type of thing... it's like a joke among Asians that, if you don't play piano, you play violin, but it's going to be one or the other and that make us all the same. Like, should we encourage something unique? Um, but that's sort of like our culture, I guess. I don't know.

ADVOCACY

I definitely plan to leverage my position as a physician, which is a fairly well-respected and trusted profession. And I would definitely take that very seriously. I feel like it, I would advocate for mentees who wanted to enter medicine. I'm the first physician in my family and so, because I didn't grow up seeing anyone in that position, I didn't have any guidance or mentorship on how to even pursue this journey and I had to feel everything out on my own. So, I feel like I would want to provide mentorship for people who look like me, who are immigrants trying to gain education in society. I definitely support that.

Yingying, Jiang, PhD Candidate (International student from China), Research, Assessment & Evaluation
Pandey, Toshna, Ph.D. Postdoctoral Research Associate (Former international student from India)
Ben Olsoe, Program Coordinator, International Educational Studies Center
Donna M. Gibson, Ph.D. Chair, Department of Counseling and Special Education
Yaoying, Xu, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Counseling & Special Education

INGREDIENTS

⅓ cabbage or two good handfuls
finely sliced

1 spring onion white part thinly
sliced (reserve the green part for
garnish)

1 free range egg

½ teaspoon soy sauce

½ cup flour

½ cup water

Oil for frying

To serve, your choice of:

BBQ sauce

Kewpie mayonnaise

Sriracha

Kecap manis

Spring onion greens finely sliced

Crispy shallots

Nori finely sliced/shredded



RECIPE - OKONOMIYAKI

INSTRUCTIONS

Put cabbage, spring onion, egg, soy
sauce, flour and water in a bowl and
mix well to combine.

Heat a frypan over a low to medi-
um heat and add a splash of oil for
frying.

Tip the okonomiyaki mixture into

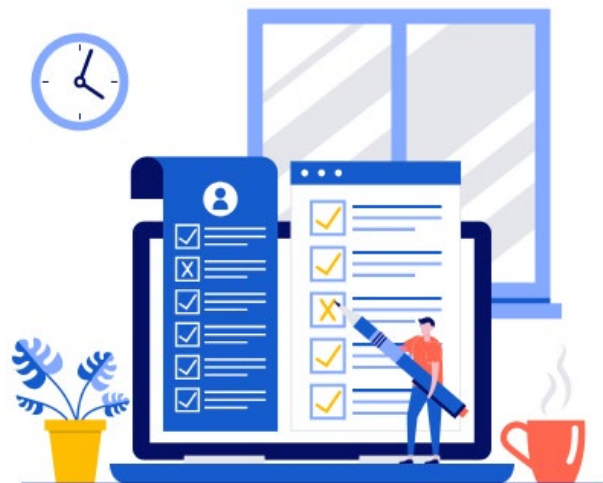
the pan and use a spatula to form
it into a round pancake about 2cm
thick. Take your time cooking it - it's
thick and you don't want raw mix-
ture in the middle. When golden
brown on the bottom, carefully flip
and cook the other side until gold-
en too. It's not essential, but I find it
helpful to put a lid on the frypan for

some of the cooking time to help it
cook through.

Remove from the pan and serve im-
mediately, or keep warm in a low
oven while you cook more pancakes.
Top with your choice of condiments,
slice into wedges and enjoy!

HOW TO SURVIVE THE FINAL EXAM WEEK?

1. Get enough sleep time
2. Define a time to study
3. Organize your space
4. Start early, do not wait until last day to study
5. Check your notes and clarify topics.
6. Make flashcards and flowcharts. Hand write a summary of main ideas and topics.
7. Take a 5 minute-break after every 30 minutes of study (pomodoro technique)
8. Ask your teacher, tutor or friends if you want to clarify any topic .



STUDENT ARTWORK

Baotran Vo (Sunny)

Vietnam
Class of 2022
Kinetic Imaging Major
Printmaking Minor

1. What is your inspiration behind this artwork?

Honestly, I didn't know much about my GrandUncle until I came to the USA. During the time I lived with him, I got to know more about him. He is not only a family member, but also a person who helps me grow up day by day, realizing the value of life. The picture is a thanks from the bottom of my heart for him.

2. Does your identity and cultural background influence your work? In what ways?

Yes, it does. Vietnamese culture always affects all my

works.

I am interested in finding relationships among places interwoven with my memories, current experiences, and future dreams. Having lived in both Vietnam and the US, I am fortunate to deeply experience the cultural mix between the two countries, as well as their diverse landscapes and unique histories. Therefore, Vietnamese languages, human and cultures are often given into my works.

3. What is your favorite part about being an artist?

First, being an artist, I can follow my passion about animation, and painting. Also, it helps me have a chance to convey interesting stories as well as the experiences I learned from the world to everyone.



The Man From The Moon

Year: 2020

Size: 18in. x 24in.

Medium: oil painting canvas

Description: A portrait for my Uncle

"Thanks for teaching me How to be kind to others How to stay calm before the storm And how to understand that to be is not to be, not to be is to be".



A Ruin

Oil Painting Credits:

Jan van Kessel, Insects on a stone. 1660-70

Interior of the Church of San Benedetto, Subiaco 1837

Tending the turkeys 1900

Yu-Yun Lin (Chelsea)

Taiwan

Class of 2022

Craft and Materials Major

1. What is your inspiration behind this artwork?

The composite oil painting is one of the assignments I completed in Photoshop class. Since the composition requirement calls for no less than five different cut-out images, I spent some time online looking for a flexible background image for editing. I then started thinking about how to enrich it with elements from other paintings based on my chosen background image, Jan Van

Kessel's Insects on a Stone. Therefore, I would say all the paintings I used are my inspiration.

2. Does your identity and cultural background influence your work?

Yes, my art reflects the feeling of my experiences. It's both conscious and unconscious.

3. What is your favorite part about being an artist?

What I like best about being an artist is seeing how creativity drives people to create diverse works within the limitations of our equipment, techniques, and requirements.



For letters to the editor, ideas on news articles, questions, and comments, you can also reach us at:

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