

Dive-In Committee Updates

February 2021

Resources We're Learning from This Month

"Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi is the 2021 selection for the One Book, One Community initiative hosted by Williamsburg Regional Library and W&M Libraries. The book is a reworked version of Ibrahīm Kendi's "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America."

Printed and online copies of the [book](#) are available at W&M [Libraries](#) and more information about One Book, One Community 2021 can be found at this link: <https://libraries.wm.edu/one-book>.

Committee Updates

Several Dive-In Committee members have committed to participate in URGE (Unlearning Racism in the Geoscience) pilot program funded and supported by the National Science Foundation and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. VIMS staff, students, and faculty members are organized into "podlets" that will participate in "eight two-week units that incorporate readings, interviews, and discussions focused on learning about and implementing efficient anti-racist strategies" (URGE [website](#)). We'd like to extend a big 'thank you' to Chris Hein and Emily Hein for sharing this opportunity with VIMS community and organizing all of the VIMS and W&M participants for this national level DEI initiative.

- More information about URGE visit: <https://urgeoscience.org/>
- For peer viewed resources used in the URGE curriculum related to diversity, equity, and inclusion visit <https://urgeoscience.org/resources/>.

Subcommittee Updates

The Training subcommittee met with VIMS Graduate Student Association (GSA) executive committee members to develop new training opportunities for the Spring 2021 semester. Stay tuned for upcoming training opportunity announcements via email.

The Policy subcommittee reviewed and provided feedback on the draft 3-Year Faculty Hiring Pilot to the Faculty Assembly's Hiring Plan Pilot subcommittee. The subcommittee has also submitted the final version of the (VIMS) staff hiring recommendations to Dean/Director Wells for review and consideration. The intent of the staff hiring recommendations is to improve upon VIMS's staff hiring process with the ultimate goal of increasing and supporting diversity and inclusion at VIMS.

National African American/Black History Month

The national celebration of Black history, culture, and achievements in the US takes place annually during the month of February. There are numerous ways to learn more about African American culture, history, and contributions to the United States.

While Black History Month is synonymous with prominent figures such as [Martin Luther King Jr.](#), [Harriet Tubman](#), [Rosa Parks](#), [Oprah](#), and [Barack Obama](#), there are countless other African Americans who've made a profound impact in history like [Ernest Everett Just](#) who was a teacher and researcher at Howard University and later conducted research at Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory in Massachusetts.

Explore biographies, videos and articles that celebrate their historic achievements by visiting <https://www.biography.com/tag/black-history>.

Brief facts about African American/Black History Month:

- Virginia native, Carter G. Woodson, founded the first Negro History Week in 1926.
- It was timed in February to coincide with Abraham Lincoln's and Fredrick Douglass's birthdays.
- It wasn't until 1976 that President Ford extended the observation to a full month to honor the contributions of Black Americans (NAAMHC [website](#)).

Upcoming Events

Join the Mariners' Museum and Park during the month of February in celebrating Black History Month through "virtual programs recognizing the rich history and culture of Blacks, Africans, and African Americans who helped to shape the world!" – Mariner's Museum [website](#)

To view a full list of this month's virtual program offerings and RSVP, visit the museum's Black History events website: <https://marinersmuseum.org/blackhistory/>.

2021 Lunar New Year: An Online Celebration

Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 pm

From the Reves Center for International Studies, William & Mary

Celebrate the upcoming Year of the Ox! William & Mary Confucius Institute and Sister Cities of Newport News have invited guest speaker Xin Ma from CNU to present a lecture on the traditions and trends surrounding Chinese New Year. The Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, is an annual holiday that falls on different days each year according to the cycle of the lunar calendar (W&M, Confucius Institute [website](#)).

To join the celebration, use Zoom ID 966 7058 9313 and the passcode 930646.

One Book, One Community 2021 – Signature Event

Virtual author visit with Jason Reynolds

Monday, February 22, 7:00 pm via [YouTube](#)

The One Book, One Community 2021 initiative will culminate with a virtual talk from co-author Jason Reynolds on Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WilliamMaryLibraries>.

Jason Reynolds is a New York Times bestselling author of poetry and fiction for young adults. In addition to his Newbery, Printz, and Edgar Awards, he was named as the Library of Congress' national ambassador for young people's literature in January 2020. Dr. Ibram X. Kendri thought him the perfect person to "remix" his book, *Stamped From the Beginning*, to reach a wider audience. After years of coaxing, Reynolds finally agreed, creating an "impressive and much-needed" book that draws a line from the first European slave traders to today's Black Lives Matter movement. Registration is not required. View the talk at [youtube.com/c/WilliamMaryLibraries](https://www.youtube.com/c/WilliamMaryLibraries).