

Celebrating Filipino American History Month

Source: <https://hr.uw.edu/cfd/2022/10/01/filipino-american-history-month/>



October is Filipino American History Month. Filipino Americans are the second-largest Asian American ethnic group in the nation.

In 2009, U.S. Congress recognized October as Filipino American History Month in the United States. Various states, counties, and cities in the U.S. have established proclamations and resolutions declaring observance of Filipino American History Month.

Filipinos were the first documented Asian people to arrive in the United States.

October 18, 1587 marks the first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the continental U.S., in Morro Bay, California – a state that continues to be home to a large subpopulation of Filipino Americans.

In fact, Southern California has historically had the largest concentration of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the U.S. – with a storied and complicated history of marginalization in the state's economic, political and cultural realms.

October is also the birth month of Filipino American labor leader Larry Itliong. Itliong partnered with Cesar Chavez to create the United Farm Workers (UFW) of America labor union.

Celebrating Filipino legacies

For the 2022 theme, the Filipino American National History Society (FANHS) has chosen “past, present, future” with an emphasis on celebrating Filipino legacies. 2022 marks:

60th anniversary of the first Tagalog course taught at the University of Hawai'i

50 years of Filipino American Studies in U.S. colleges

40 years of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS)

30 years of Filipino American History Month

Historically, caregiving and nursing have been an accessible point of entry into the U.S workforce for Filipino immigrants. The history of Filipino nurses in the U.S. dates to the establishment of American-style nursing schools in the Philippines during U.S. occupation in the early 1900s. After WWII and again in the 1960s there was an influx of foreign-born nurses, including many Filipinos, to fill nursing shortages across the country.



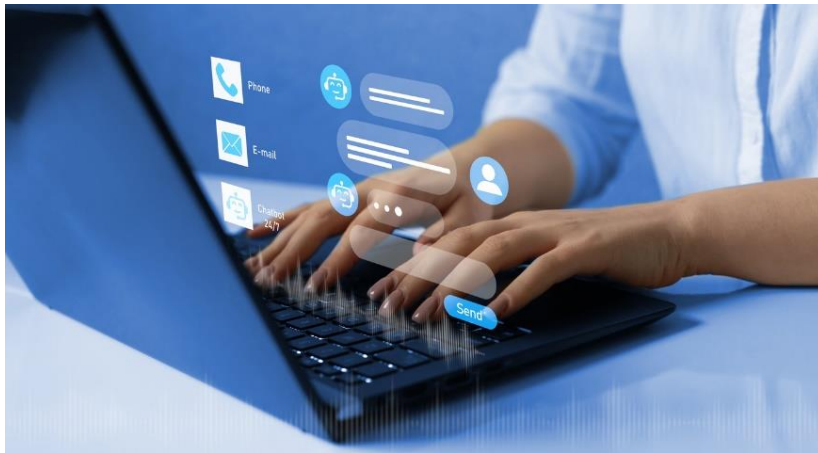
October 2023 Calendar

*Filipino American History Month
LGBTQ+ History Month*

- 2 - National Child Health Day (US)
- 5 – World Teachers' Day (International)
- 5 – Hoshana Rabbah (Judaism)
- 6 - World Cerebral Palsy Day (International)
- 6-12 - National Physician Assistant Week (US)
- 10 - World Mental Health Day
- 12 - World Sight Day (International)
- 13 - Pchum Ben (Buddhism)
- 15 - Mysore Dasara (Hinduism)
- 17 – World Trauma Day (International)
- 20 – World Osteoporosis Day (International)
- 26– World Polio Day (International)
- 31 – Reformation Day (Christianity)
- 31 – Halloween (International)

Digitalization: Saving Minority Languages from Extinction

Source: <https://www.mcislanguages.com/digitalization-saving-minority-languages-from-extinction/>



We live online. Though not physical, online experience takes a substantial part of our existence. In this digital age, we read news, make international purchases, consume media, complete daily work tasks and receive the latest updates of our bank accounts, all through the glowing little screen in front of us.

Little did we think about these questions: In what language do we explore the digital landscape? Do the other languages we speak have an online presence that mirrors their real-world significance?

The answer to the first question is usually English and in Canada, French. Regrettably, the answer to the second question is frequently a resounding “no.”

As of 2023, over 55 per cent of the internet content is written in English. This percentage is in stark contrast to the fact that only 4.7% of the global population are native English speakers. English's online dominance exceeds its real-world prevalence by over 11 times, conferring upon it unparalleled authority in numerous international domains, including politics, medicine, science, art, humanities, law, and entertainment. Speakers of other languages, vastly underrepresented, have to view the digital world through the lens of English language and culture and bear to be defined and judged by English logic and values.

The dominance of English language in digital space gives rise to several critical issues. The most immediate consequence is that critical information in other languages becomes hard to find. During COVID-19, we have seen misinformation and disinformation spreading at an unstoppable speed among private and group chats online because of the scarcity of undistorted information in minority languages from official sources. The lack of presence in online content in minority languages such as academic papers, shopping websites and advertisements also reinforces the stereotype that content written in these languages is of lesser importance and is less credible.

The most devastating impact, however, is that this disproportional representation accelerates the distinction of languages spoken by smaller populations. When public discussions on less serious topics such as hobbies, entertainment, fashion, beauty, travelling and lifestyle are dominated in English, people adapt to the status quo rather than thinking of challenging it. More content in these fields will be created in English, and lesser-spoken languages are further forced back into private conversations until they fully retreat to the domestic realm. Language needs to evolve to keep up with new concepts, trends, and technologies in the fast-changing world. When they are relegated to the domestic realm, language death becomes a real threat.

Recognizing the urgency of promoting lesser-spoken languages in the digital sphere, efforts have been made over the past decade. In 2020, the European Parliament announced that “lesser-used languages” including smaller state languages as well as regional and minority languages (RMLs) in Europe are “under serious threat of extinction” due to the lack of online presence. Countries that directly face this emergency made their move one step ahead of this document. Since 2017, Icelandic, among “Europe’s least (digitally) supported languages,” started fighting its way out of the bin next to the extinct Latin and Ancient Greek. In 2021, Iceland introduced apps and devices that could function in its own native language. In 2023, the goal of supporting Icelandic in digital spaces was officially written into its parliamentary resolution. The battle is long but progressing.

Countries that use writing systems other than the Latin alphabet have one extra step to go to make the shift online smoothly. Kazakhstan, for example, has a history of language reformation since the last century, and have been planning to Latinize its alphabet since 2017. Aside from political reasons, the efficiency of digital information distribution was the final straw. In 2023, the Kazakh

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Ministry of Science and Higher Education developed a draft to “establish modern approaches” in promoting the use of Kazakh language in public life, including government, media, and business.

While speakers of English and other dominant languages of the internet enjoy the effortless convenience of information exchange regardless of time and space, minority language speakers are celebrating and savoring each individual moment when their mother tongue makes a small progress in obtaining long-craved online presence. Whether it’s being supported by Google, Steam, Nintendo, Amazon or any other international distribution platform, these moments are cherished. To keep lesser-spoken languages circulating and alive, localization of international platforms is often the first step that brings these minorities back into the global conversation. The virtual space is advancing, and the ambition of “not leaving one single language behind” ought to become the creed of all who work in and for the language industry.

New Staff Profile: Erica Valencia Baez



Erica is the newest Spanish interpreter joining our UC Davis Health Medical Interpreting team. Erica was born in Michoacan, Mexico, and relocated to the United States at the age of thirteen. Erica recalls her first year in the US as being particularly challenging due to her lack of English proficiency. The confusion and disorientation she felt when people spoke to her in English is still vivid in her memory. This experience has fueled her passion for interpretation, as she understands firsthand the barriers that arise when effective communication is not possible.

Erica has dedicated seventeen years of her life to the medical field. For the first ten years, she served as a Spanish-speaking representative at a medical call center, assisting patients with booking appointments, sending messages to their primary care physicians, transferring patients to registered nurses, and providing facility information. During this time, she was also part of a specialized queue where registered nurses and medical doctors would call for over-the-phone interpretation assistance.

Despite moving into a management role and not interpreting for the past seven years, Erica has trained and prepared staff for interpretation assessments. She has also monitored calls for accuracy with interpretations and patient safety as the lead of the interpretation program at Kaiser Permanente. Her next goal is to obtain National Certification as a healthcare Interpreter in the upcoming year.

In her free time, Erica enjoys spending quality time with her family, gardening, and camping. She finds fulfillment in her work and believes that she makes a significant difference in the Spanish-speaking community. Erica is grateful for the opportunity to work for UC Davis Health and be part of an amazing department that takes pride in the services they provide to underserved patient population.

Welcome aboard, Erica! We are glad to have you as a part of our Medical Interpreting team!