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## Thoughts on diversity during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



Dr. Nguyen addresses audience questions following the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month presentation while committee chair Canh Ly looks on.

ALC hosted its keynote program for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month on May 18. Dr. Charles Cuong Nguyen was the esteemed guest speaker and offered a presentation titled "Leadership in a Diverse Academia."

As the Dean of the School of Engineering since 2001 and professor for 28 years at the Catholic University of America, Nguyen has had decades of experience working and teaching in a diverse academic environment.

During his presentation, Nguyen discussed the great diversity present in our universities and workplaces. He also expressed his desire for society to ease its growing sensitivity to the issue of diversity, despite its obvious importance and global relevance.

Nguyen noted his belief that society expends too much of its time and energy ensuring that spoken words and behaviors are politically correct and do not offend any of the unique groups that make up the increasingly diverse population of the U.S. Instead, he emphasized simply living a life of integrity and making decisions that are deemed acceptable based on the ethics and values of the human race as a whole, rather than focusing so intently on protecting one particular race, ethnicity, gender, religion, etc. from feeling discriminated against.

Nguyen said that he lives by principles rooted in respect and equality for all people. He suggested living as if color blind and avoiding politics in academic and workplace environments, especially when in a position of leadership.

Nguyen said that he was honored to be a part of one of ARL's celebratory events in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage

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Month.

"ARL is made up of intelligent minds and has provided the Soldier with extraordinary capabilities for so many years," he said. "It was great to be in such good company."

