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Asiantation

Welcome to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Community

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ILLINOIS

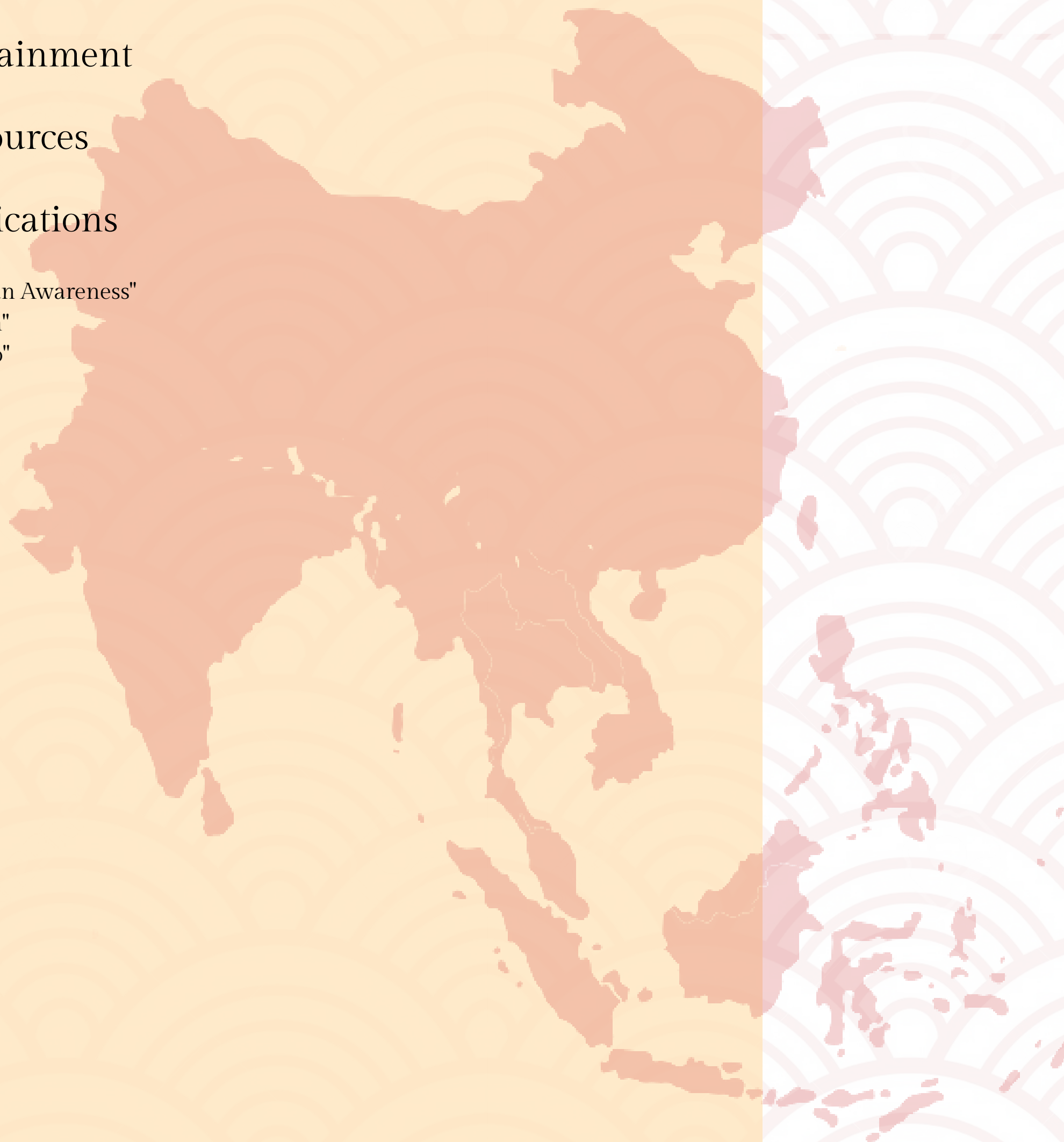
Asian American Cultural Center

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Asiantation

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“Asiantation Not Orientation”

Why is it called Asiantation instead of Orientation? The title did not come out of nowhere - this poem describes it best.

ASIAN

is not
Oriental.
Head bowed, submissive, industrious
hard working, studious
quiet

ASIAN

is not being Oriental,
Lotus blossom, exotic passion flower
inscrutable

ASIAN

is not talking
Oriental.
ahh so, ching chong chinaman
no tickee, no washee

ORIENTAL

is a white man's word.
Oriental is jap, flip, chink, gook
it's "how 'bout a backrub mama-san"
it's "you people could teach them
niggers and mexicans a thing or two
you're good people
none of that hollerin' and protesting"

ORIENTAL

is a fad: yin-yang, kung fu
"say one of them funny words for me"
Oriental is downcast eyes, china doll
"they all look alike"
Oriental is sneaky
Oriental is a white man's word.

WE

are not Oriental.
we have heard the word all our lives
we have learned to be Oriental
we have learned to live it, speak it,
play the role,
and to survive in a white world
become the role.
The time has come to look at who gave
the name

Anonymous

This poem has appeared in every Asiantation Resource
Booklet since its origination.

Welcome to Asiantation

A note from the author

Welcome to Asiantation! My name is Felicia, and I am an intern at the Asian American Cultural Center. I started this project because I wanted to revive this booklet as a useful resource for students at UIUC as well as document the current state of the APIDA community on campus. This resource booklet contains RSOs, campus resources, and excerpts about the Asian-American experience. Compiling this piece has been such an eye-opening experience as I've learned so much about all that this university offers for its students. UIUC has one of the largest and most flourishing APIDA communities in the country - Asians make up the largest minority group on this campus. It comes to no surprise that our culture and influence has sustained such deep roots in the UIUC way of life.

I am currently writing this introduction in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering this year was the Asian American Cultural Center's 15th year anniversary, this was most definitely not what we expected it to look like. But life is always full of unexpected challenges. Unfortunately, even with all the progress we have made as a community, this global crisis has brought out the ugliness of racism, xenophobia, and fear. Yet I am still amazed at the strength and unity we have demonstrated - that even though we come from diverse backgrounds and cultures even amongst ourselves, we refuse to let intolerance get the best of us. It is a difficult time for many of us, but there is still much to be proud of.

Whether you are a new student, a graduating senior, faculty, or staff - I hope you enjoy this resource booklet. You may be discovering a new RSO to join, a cool place on campus, or you may find out something new about the Asian-American experience. These documents are not only for the purpose of use, but to capture the diverse and immense scope of the APIDA community here and now at the University of Illinois. Sometimes even I forget how expansive and inspiring it is. Whether you are learning something or finding something new to appreciate, I hope you get what you're looking for - it is all truly spectacular. I wish you all the best of luck.

Felicia Jia
Class of 2021

Asiantation

What is *Asiantation*?

Asiantation is a student-run orientation unlike other university-run orientation programs. It also appears to be the first orientation of its kind in the U.S. that is directed specifically towards Asian American and Asian international students. The first Asiantation program took place in 1994 and came about because of the initiative and diligence of the Asian Pacific American Coalition and the cooperation of the Illini Union Board and the Office of the Dean of Students.

Asiantation consists of this resource handbook and a “welcoming event” featuring speakers, entertainment from the campus community and off-campus Asian/Asian-American community. Asiantation is presented annually at the beginning of every academic year, with the help of the Asian American Cultural Center, the Asian Pacific American Coalition, the Asian American Student Housing Organization, and many student organizations.

What is considered *Asian American*?

Asian Americans are the largest racial minority group on campus. Asian Americans are an extremely diverse group made up of many different ethnic groups. Asians are persons “having origins in any of the original peoples of East Asia, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent.”

East

Asian

generally includes Chinese, Korean, Japanese

Southeast

Asian

generally includes Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, and Vietnamese

South Asian

generally includes Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan

Pacific

Islander

generally includes Native Hawaiian, Guamanian, and Samoan

AACC - Affiliated

Registered Student Organizations

alpha Kappa Delta Phi International Sorority, Inc. (aKDPhi)

aKDPhi is the largest and only international Asian-interest sorority whose mission is to promote its five pillars of sisterhood, leadership, service, scholarship, and Asian-Awareness. The Upsilon Chapter at UIUC is dedicated to developing Asian-American women into leaders, making a positive impact on the community, and building relationships across campus and beyond.

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Breast Cancer Awareness philanthropy, socials, performances in cultural shows

uiucakdphi.org | facebook.com/uiucakdphi | @uiucakdphi | uiuc.kdphi.president@gmail.com



Alpha Phi Gamma Sorority (APhiG)

APhiG is an Asian-interest sorority whose purpose is to bring together all women of different nationalities through the bonds of friendship and sisterhood while promoting scholarship and academic excellence, personal development, and leadership.

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Domestic Violence Awareness philanthropy, socials, performances in cultural shows

alphaphigamma.org | facebook.com/aphig.uiuc | @aphig_uiuc | president.aphiguiuc@gmail.com



Asha for Education

Asha UIUC is a volunteer driven, non-profit, and active registered student organization at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dedicated undergraduate, graduate, and local community members strive to make a difference to the society. We believe that education is one of the primary factors in shaping a child's future and by extension, future of the entire country.

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Holi, Sambar fundraiser

uiuc.ashanet.org | facebook.com/asha.uiuc | @ashaiuc | uiuc@ashanet.org



Registered Student Organizations

Asian American Association (AAA)

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AAA is one of the largest Asian social organizations on campus and strives to bring value to their members through helping them develop strong relationships in the community and build their Asian-American identity.

AAA Family Reveal, Fashion Show, winter & spring formals, AAA x PSA Charity Banquet, socials, weekly AAA sports

aauiuc.weebly.com | facebook.com/AsianAmericanAssociationUIUC | @aaa_uiuc



Asian American Student Housing Organization (AASHO)

AASHO strives to promote the exploration of Asian culture, and to strengthen the Asian American community within campus. We host free events to all students.

Asiantation, Asian House of Pancakes, Lunar New Year

facebook.com/AASHOatUIUC | @aasho.uiuc | aasho.uiuc@gmail.com

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Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC)

From its inception to the present, APAC has sought to reflect the diversity of the APIDA campus population, both on an organizational level and on an individual level. Through education and empowerment, APAC continues to pursue the building of trust and collaboration within the APIDA community on campus to bring needed institutional and social change.

Asiantation, Biweekly Coalition Meetings, I Am Asian Month, Unseen Unheard Conference

uiucapac.org | facebook.com/uiucapac | @apacuiuc | director@apacuiuc.org



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Bangladeshi Students Association (BSA)

To promote Bangladeshi culture, traditions, and heritage to UIUC people as well as to the International community.

Bangladeshi Festival

bsaiuc.wordpress.com | facebook.com/bsaiuc

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Registered Student Organizations

Chi Sigma Tau National Fraternity, Inc (CST)

CST is an Asian interest fraternity who strives for lifelong brotherhood, develop leadership skills, institute a mentor program for the younger members, promote Asian awareness by bringing a voice to the Asian American community on campus, and work to expand our unique style of brotherhood to other campuses.

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Alzheimer's Association philanthropy, socials, performances in cultural shows

cstuiuc.org | facebook.com/uiuc.chisigs | @cst_uiuc | uiuc.cst.president@gmail.com



Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)

The Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) is the official organization for overseas Chinese students and scholars at UIUC. With around 300 enthusiastic members, CSSA is dedicated to promote intellectual, social, and cultural activities among Chinese students and scholars as well as the U of I community. At the same time, we devote ourselves to facilitate the relationship and communication between Chinese community and the U of I family. Home to the international Chinese students and scholars, we strive to engage our own community with the local culture. While the university provides rich atmosphere and opportunities conducive to research and learning, CSSA offers the warmth, inspiration, and excitement that you need and desire.

Moon Gala, If You Are the One dating show, Voice of Champaign, Lantern Festival Celebration, April Conference, mentor-mentee program, Glimmer Project volunteering

cssa.uiuc.edu | facebook.com/cssa.uiuc | @uiuc_cssa | uiucssa.contact@gmail.com

Chinese Theatre Group (CTG)

Chinese Theatre Group is the first and only theatre society for the huge community speaking Mandarin at the University of Illinois. Our mission is to promote theatre arts and Chinese culture to a wider range of audiences. We welcome anyone who is enthusiastic about theatre and provide them with a platform to exchange understandings about the stage plays. Club members would participate in a variety of activities and performances each semester to spread the Chinese culture.

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One major production, weekly play reading, theatre-related seminars

@uiucctg | uiucctg@outlook.com



Registered Student Organizations

Delta Kappa Delta Sorority, Inc (DKD)

DKD is a multicultural service sorority with South-Asian roots that aims to raise awareness and prevention for child abuse with its service focus being the education of children. Their aim is to foster an excellent foundation for our Sisters to experience personal growth whose pillars are Sisterhood, Service, Culture, and Indomitable Spirit.

Child abuse awareness and prevention philanthropy, socials

facebook.com/dkduiuc | @dkduiuc | dkd.epsilon@gmail.com



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Delta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc (DPO)

DPO is a national South Asian interest sorority with 46 affiliated chapters/colonies and more than 2000+ sisters nationwide with the common goal of uniting young South Asian women in the community.

Children's education and literacy philanthropy, socials

dpouiuc.wixsite.com/uiucdpo | facebook.com/deltaphiomegauriuc
@uiuc_dpo | dpo.uiuc@gmail.com

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Gah Rak Mah Dang Korean Drum Team (GRMD)

GRMD (Gah Rahk Mah Dahng) is a performance group at UIUC for the style of traditional Korean percussion called Samulnori. The goal of this group is to spread Korean culture through our percussion music.

Performances at cultural festivals, elementary schools, homeless shelters, Mom's and Dad's Weekend, AAA Fashion Show, Korean Culture Week

www.youtube.com/user/GRMDuiuc | facebook.com/grmd.cu | cu.grmd@gmail.com



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Indian Christian Fellowship (ICF)

Seeing Indian students join all ethnicities in worshipping Jesus Christ in spirit and truth and in working together to expand God's Kingdom. It is our mission to glorify God through fellowship, discipleship, and worship.

facebook.com/ifcatuiuc | ifc.uiuc@gmail.com

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Registered Student Organizations

Iranian Cultural Association (ICA)

The purpose of the Iranian Cultural Association is to raise awareness of Iranian/Persian culture within the University of Illinois community. ICA is non-profit, and independent from any political or religious affiliation. The goal of this Association is to create a suitable ground for the expansion and promotion of Iranian/Persian culture. Additionally, we want to introduce the culture to the next generation of Iranians and other nationalities living in this area by organizing meetings, conducting traditional Iranian ceremonies, and other cultural activities.

icaiuc.org | facebook.com/ica.uiuc | [@iranian.cultural.association](https://twitter.com/iranian.cultural.association) | ica.uiuc@gmail.com



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Indian Graduate Students Association (IGSA)

The Indian Graduate Students Association (IGSA) is a not-for-profit, private association of like-minded students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, registered with the RSO Office at the U of I. We deal with Indian grad students on campus, right from when they land in the US to making them feel at home.

Diwali on the Quad, Bollywood Night, Discover India, New Student Services
indiangrads.web.illinois.edu | facebook.com/igsaiuc | [@igsaiuc](https://twitter.com/igsaiuc) | igsaiuc1@gmail.com

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Indian Students Association (ISA)

The Indian Student Association at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign aims to increase South Asian cultural awareness, promote service and serve as a social tie for the campus community. ISA is not just for Indian or Indian-American students; it is open to all students who are interested in South Asian culture. We welcome all to join ISA in our cultural shows, philanthropy initiatives, and various social events.

India Night, Diwali Night, Gandhi Week, Garba Raas Banghra, Welcome Week

facebook.com/isainninois | [@illinois_isa](https://twitter.com/illinois_isa) | vpcisainninois@gmail.com



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Registered Student Organizations



Indonesian Students Club (PERMIAS)

ISC (Indonesian Students Club) or also known as PERMIAS is a student-run organization established to unify Indonesian people in Champaign-Urbana. The internal mission of ISC is to increase kinship amongst Indonesian students by providing a campus experience that is welcoming and fun yet able to prepare them to meet post-university expectations. ISC is gearing towards raising the presence in the campus so that our club can act as a gateway for many invaluable on campus opportunities and events. Externally, ISC is the representative for creating a platform on campus community to introduce Indonesian culture that often symbolizes 'Beauty in Diversity'. Through ISC, we hope that Indonesian will gain a greater cultural recognition especially in Champaign-Urbana area.

Welcome party, Midwest Cup, Pasar Malam, Graduation Banquet, Indonesian Cultural Night, socials

iscatuiuc.wixsite.com/cuisc | facebook.com/isc.uiuc | [@permiasuiuc](https://twitter.com/permiasuiuc)
permias.uiuc@gmail.com

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Japanese Conversation Table (JCT)

JCT is a club at UIUC that provides opportunities for learners of Japanese and native speakers to interact and practice Japanese. The Japanese Conversation Table (JCT) provides a space for Japanese learners and native speakers to interact in a casual, friendly setting. It is also a place for career networking related to Japan.

facebook.com/IllinoisJCT | [@uiucjct](https://twitter.com/uiucjct) | uiucjct@gmail.com



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Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc (KPL)

KPL is an Asian interest sorority that strives to strengthen sisterhood by providing service and promoting cultural diversity to its members and community, thus securing the bond of kinship for posterity while aiming for academic excellence, keeping in mind the importance of education and learning as the key to strength, awareness, and fulfillment.

Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) philanthropy, Mr. Asian, socials, performances in cultural shows

uiuckpl.org | facebook.com/uiuckappas | [@uiuckappas](https://twitter.com/uiuckappas) | uiuc.kpl.president@gmail.com

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AACC - Affiliated
Registered Student Organizations

Kappa Pi Beta Fraternity, Inc (KPiB)

Kappa Pi Beta Fraternity is a premier Asian American-founded service and social fraternity dedicated to the needs of the community alongside a commitment of higher learning, the promotion of the traditional Asian values of respect and discipline, and the overall essence of unity among all people of different backgrounds.

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Type II Diabetes philanthropy, socials, performances in cultural shows

uiuc.kappapibeta.org | facebook.com/kappapibetauiuc | @kpib_gammachapter
kpib.president.uiuc@gmail.com



Korean American Student Association (KASA)

KASA strives to be a strong, proud, and dedicated unified student organization of excellent leaders, constantly striving to serve, improve and educate UIUC and the surrounding community about Korean American heritage.

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Basketball tournament, open voters registration drive, movie night, game night, socials

facebook.com/kasauic | @kasauic | kasauic1@gmail.com

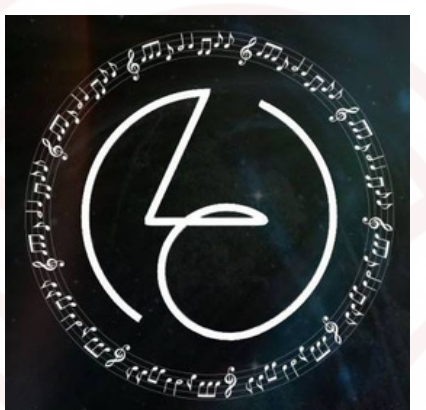


Les Claviers

Les Claviers is for UIUC students who are passionate about music. Les Claviers consists of four teams: Performing team, Media team, Sound team, and Internal team. Regardless of genre, anyone can join to practice and perform music. Sharing and recommending music is strongly encouraged. We're neither professional nor music majors, but we strive to share good music through our performances. Our primary language is Korean. However, we welcome students of all ethnic/cultural backgrounds.

Weekly cafe performances, main concerts

facebook.com/amourclaviers | uileclav@gmail.com



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Registered Student Organizations

Malaysian Students Association (MaSA)

Our first mission is to foster a sense of fellowship among Malaysians, by creating a "home away from home" support system. We also focus on promoting cultural awareness of Malaysia to UIUC students and staff through cultural events.



Warong Food Festival, Malaysian Cultural Night, MASA Broomball Tournament, MASA Basketball Tournament, MASA Biweekly Fundraisings, MASA Picnic, MASA Chinese New Year

facebook.com/masauic | @masauic | masa.uiuc@gmail.com

Minorities in Health Sciences

Minorities in Health Sciences is here to provide guidance and academic support to students pursuing a health-related field. We assist health major students by providing opportunities and activities that will enhance their qualifications and increase competitiveness in the application process for graduate and health schools. Whether you're any one of the numerous pre-health fields or pursuing a graduate education in the health field, we are here for you. Through volunteering opportunities, socials, workshops, guest speakers, student panels, and great leadership opportunities, we hope to create an environment where each of our members can feel welcome and achieve their academic and professional goals.

Fundraisers, professional development workshops, prehealth panels and speakers, community service and volunteer events

facebook.com/minoritiesinhealthsciences | @minoritiesinhealthsciences
minoritiesinhealthsciences@gmail.com

Mixed Student Union (MSU)

The Multi-Racial and Multi-Ethnic Student Union will provide a safe space for students of multiracial and multiethnic backgrounds to gather, have shared experiences, and inform others about this unique, and often overlooked, identity.

Dialogues, workshops, guest speakers, movie screenings, potluck celebrations
facebook.com/mixedstudentunion | @msu_uiuc | mixedstudentrso@gmail.com

Mongolian Cultural Organization (MCO)

The Mongolian Cultural Organization (MCO) at the University of Illinois seeks to preserve and promote Mongolian culture among its members and the Illinois community at large. MCO is a professional development network, outreach and volunteer organization.

Cultural events, socials with other MCO chapters, outreach, volunteering
facebook.com/mcouiuc | @mco.uiuc | mco.uiuc@gmail.com

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Registered Student Organizations

Muslim Student Association (MSA)

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) is a registered student organization at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. It is a social group for Muslim students on campus to become close to one another; a means by which Muslim students maintain and increase their faith in a college environment as well as an expression of their creativity and ideas; a tool by which people on campus can learn about Islam and its beauty. Above all, the MSA is the stepping stone by which students learn the techniques, develop the motivation, and acquire the passion to commit their lives for the sake of Allah and Allah alone.

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Beginning of the year dinner (BOYD), Ilm Retreats, Relief Trip, Unity Events, Islam Awareness Week, Mom and Dad's Day (MADD), Spring Camp, Ramadan Iftars and Events

msaiuc.org | facebook.com/msaiuc | @msaiuc



Nepali Student Association (NepSA)

To uplift the cultural, social, and educational lives of the students of Nepal, and to bring about better understanding of Nepal and promote peace and harmony among the myriad of cultures within the University and beyond.

publish.illinois.edu/nepalstudents | facebook.com/NeStAUIUC

Overseas China Education Foundation (OCEF)

OCEF (Overseas China Education Foundation) is dedicated to helping less-privileged children in rural areas of China to receive basic education. We aim to raise awareness of the lack of significant resources faced especially by those living in rural areas.

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Mooncake DIY, Winter Snack Sale, Dumpling Making and End-of-Year Charity Dinner

ocefuiuc.com | uiuc.ocef@gmail.com



Pakistani Graduate Students' Association (PGSA)

To create a forum for the Pakistani graduate students at UIUC, to promote greater understanding about Pakistan and its culture, as well as to lend a helping hand for community development in Urbana-Champaign.

Community Health Sundays, Tea Time, Pakistan Independence Day, Eid Celebrations, community socials

facebook.com/pgsa.uiuc

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Registered Student Organizations

Pakistani Student Association (PakSA)

To facilitate a culturally enriching environment amongst members by holding events that promote unity, charity, cultural awareness, and provide a supportive environment for both American-born and native Pakistani students at the University of Illinois.

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Cultural Night, Fashion Show, socials, cultural events

facebook.com/paksaiiuc | @paksaiiuc | paksaiiuc@gmail.com



Peruvian Student Association (PSA)

The Peruvian Student Association is an open platform to promote the richness of Peru's culture across UIUC campus. We want to bring the UIUC community to celebrate, learn and enjoy the different manifestations of Peruvian culture.

facebook.com/peruvianstudentsUIUC | @uiuc.peru | peruviansaiiuc@gmail.com



Philippine Student Association (PSA)

PSA is a group that fosters and supports relationships through the education and promotion of Filipino culture and Asian American awareness, as well as to encourage the development of academic and leadership skills of the membership and university community.

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Filipino Americans Coming Together (FACT) Conference, Barkada, Filipino Culture Night, AKA Reveal, Boba social, volleyball

psaiiuc.org | facebook.com/PSAUIUC | @psa_uiuc | president@psaiiuc.org



Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc (SYZ)

SYZ is a progressive, multicultural Greek Organization that provides a means to success and support for women, particularly women of color. We build on the unity of strong and independent leaders to affect change in our organization, our campuses, and our local communities.

Sexual assault prevention philanthropy, Step Out, socials, performances in cultural shows

uiucsigmapsizeta.wixsite.com/aecharter | facebook.com/uiucsigmas | @uiucsyz
uiuc.sigmapsizeta@gmail.com



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Registered Student Organizations

Sikh Student Association (SSA)

Satsriakal! Welcome to the Sikh Student Association at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. The purpose of this organization is not only to raise awareness about Sikhism, but also to be able to create long-lasting bonds with our Sikh and non-Sikh brothers and sisters.



Diwali, Gurpurab, Lohri and Langar

noopurwalia.wixsite.com | facebook.com/ssa.illinois | @uiuc_ssa | ssa.illinois@gmail.com

Singapore Students Association (SSA)

SSA strives to help Singaporeans adjust to life in the university and to promote interactions between SSA members, UIUC and local communities by organizing various events.

Makan Fest, Chicago Labour Day Trip

uiucssa.com | facebook.com/UIUCSSA | president@uiucssa.com

SKY at UIUC

We are a student led group at U of I. Our aim is to bring smiles to everyone creating a violence free community through stress elimination for each person. We do this by organizing various events and programs throughout the school year. These are guided by the philosophy that unless we have a stress-free mind and a violence-free society, we cannot achieve world peace. The Art of Living offers stress-elimination programs which include breathing techniques, meditation and yoga.



Free Weekly Yoga & Meditation sessions; Yoga, Empowerment, and Service Workshops; Practical Wisdom Series; Stress buster sessions on invitation; Introduction to Meditation on invitation; Yoga Remix Party; Potlucks and birthday dinners; fundraisers

aoluiuc.weebly.com | facebook.com/skyatuiuc | @skyatuiuc | skyatuiuc@gmail.com

Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPICMACAY)

Our organization is dedicated to bringing world class Indian Classical Music/Performing arts to the campus community. Indian Classical Music, both North Indian and South Indian, Vocal and Instrumental and Classical Arts and artists are invited to perform for the benefit of the students and community members of UIUC and Urbana Champaign.

Illini Utsav, Parampara (Indian classical dance workshops)
Professional concert

facebook.com/spicmacayillinois | @spicmacayillinois



Registered Student Organizations



Taiwanese American Students Club (TASC)

TASC's goal is to develop a family-like community that emphasizes openness to discussing topics such as Asian American identity, topics concerning Taiwan, multiculturalism, and relevant APIA issues.

Night Market, ICASP, Beef Noodle Soup Night

tascuiuc.org | facebook.com/TASCUIUC | @tascuiuc | tasc.uiuc@gmail.com

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Tzu Chi Collegiate Association (TCCA)

We are Tzu Chi Collegiate Association, or TCCA, a registered student organization at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We are a branch of Tzu Chi in Chicago. We are a non-profit organization that volunteers in the local communities, raises money for charity, and promotes vegetarianism. We also build families, friendships, and bonds that last long after college.

tzuchi.us | facebook.com/tcca.uiuc | tzuching.uiuc@gmail.com



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Thai Student Association (ThaiSA)

The mission of the Thai Student Association is to help promote unique Thai tradition and culture. We aim to be a central resource for members of the student body and people of the Urbana-Champaign community.

Thai Night, Thai Cup Intramural Soccer Tournament, Songkran Festival

facebook.com/ThaiSAUIUC | thaistudentuiuc@gmail.com

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Vietnamese Student Association (VSA)

VSA strives to establish a supportive environment for those of Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese descent to interact and engage in activities that preserve and appreciate the Vietnamese culture and heritage.

Vietnamese Culture Night, Pho Night

vsaiuc.org | facebook.com/vsaiuc | @vsaiuc | vsaiuc.president@gmail.com



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Other

Registered Student Organizations

Performing Arts Organizations

Chai Time Acapella
All-Boys South Asian Acapella Group

Fataaka
All-Girls South Asian Dance Group

Fizaa
Competitive Bollywood Fusion Dance Group

Ghungroo Dance Company
Competitive Bollywood Fusion Dance Group

Illini Awaaz
South Asian Acapella Group

Illini Bhangra
Competitive Bhangra Dance Group

Illini Ishaara
All-Girls Kathak Dance Group

Illini Raas
Competitive Raas Dance Group

ImagiNation Dance Crew
Hip Hop Dance Group

K-Project
K-Pop Dance Group

Mixed Motions
K-Pop Dance

TRUTH AND BEAUTY
K-Pop Dance Group

UIUC Dheem
All-Girls Bharatnatyam Dance Group

Zindaa
Bollywood Fusion Dance Group

Cultural Organizations

Japanese Intercultural Network (JIN)
Korean Student Association (KSA)
Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE)
Liberty in North Korea (LiNK)
Taiwanese Student Association (TSA)

Greek Organizations

Alpha Iota Omicron Fraternity, Inc (AIO)
South Asian Fraternity

Beta Chi Theta Fraternity, Inc (BCT)
South Asian Fraternity

Lambda Phi Epsilon International Fraternity, Inc (LPhiE)
Asian-Interest Fraternity

Sigma Beta Rho Fraternity, Inc (SigRho)
South Asian Fraternity

Martial Arts Clubs

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu
Goshin Jitsu
Judo
Jujutsu
Kendo Naginata
Shotokan Karate
Tae Kwon Do at UIUC
Illini Tae Kwon Do
Wushu Club

Asian American Cultural Center

Illinois has one of the largest and most vibrant Asian American university communities in the Midwest. It was recently listed as one of the best colleges for Asian American students. Our campus has a total close to 17,000 Asian American and Asian international students, which makes 37% of students at the UI are of Asian descent.

Asian Americans have a strong presence on campus and a long history of student activism since the late 1970s. Over the past two decades, we have developed many resources to address the needs and interests of Asian Americans and those interested in Asian American issues. Opened in fall 2005, the Asian American Cultural Center is the largest of its kind in the Midwest, and it provides the University of Illinois community with space to gather and share the diverse and rich cultures that are a part of the Asian American experience.

Promotes pan-Asian American identity and unity through educational, social, and cultural programs provided to students and members of the University and Champaign-Urbana communities;

Provides resources for Asian American students to explore their rich and diverse heritages and to empower them to be active and responsible participants and leaders within our increasingly pluralistic, diverse, and complex global society by assisting in their personal, intellectual, political, social, and academic development;

Increases awareness of the experiences of Asians in the United States and Asian American issues at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, with an attempt to incorporate these experiences and values into the cultural mosaic of this institution by improving intergroup relationships and providing opportunities for cross-cultural communication and collaboration;

Builds and contributes to a diverse and welcoming community within the university and creates opportunities for outreach to the surrounding community, especially Asian-American alumni, faculty and staff and individuals within the community who have an interest in issues relevant to Asian-American experiences;

Serves as a liaison for the university to communicate and dialogue about issues and assist with the implementation of initiatives and programs relevant to Asian-Americans.

Staff

David Chih, Director
Sang Lee, Assistant Director
Flordemia Conrad, Office Manager

Contact Us | Social Media

1210 West Nevada Street, Urbana, IL
217.333.9300
aacc@illinois.edu
oiir.illinois.edu/aacc

facebook.com/aaccillinois
Instagram @aaccillinois
Twitter @aaccillinois

Hours

Monday - Friday | 9am - 5pm
Closed on Weekends and US/Campus Holidays

Asian American Cultural Center

Programs & Services

Food for Thought

Food for Thought, part of the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relation's Lunch on Us series, is a weekly noontime discussion focused on topics relevant to the Asian American community. Food for Thought is a FREE program and is open to all. Lunch is available on a first come, first served basis. Food for Thought is every Tuesday from 12-1pm.

Stop Asian Hate

The goal of the Stop Asian Hate program is to spread awareness of the historical context of current anti-Asian hate we have seen during COVID-19. Through educational talks and workshops, we give campus and broader community members the tools to discuss the impact of anti-Asian hate on inclusion and belonging.

RSO Leadership Dinners

RSO Leadership Dinners are free monthly dinners provided for AACC-affiliated RSO leaders. The AACC brings in various faculty, staff, or community members to talk about various leadership-related topics. RSO Leadership Dinners are a great way for students to network with other student leaders.

Diwali, Lunar New Year, & Eid Celebrations

The AACC collaborates with the University Dining Halls to celebrate cultural holidays. During these celebrations, dining halls serve Asian food and the AACC collaborates with RSOs to organize a performance and activity tables.

South Asian American Leadership Conference

The South Asian American Leadership Conference (SAALC) is a new conference that was established in 2020. The SAALC is an all-day conference that takes place in February. During the day there are a variety of workshops, followed by a variety show in the evening.

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Heritage Month is an annual celebration of Asian culture celebrated on campus during the month of April. The APIDA community sponsors dozens of events throughout the month like lectures, performances, workshops, and cultural events. The AACC sponsors events such as Asiafest and the Asian American Leadership Awards.

Asian American Cultural Center

Programs & Services

Asian American Leadership Awards

The annual Asian American Leadership Awards (AALA) recognizes and rewards excellence among those who have dedicated countless hours to campus-wide activities. The winners exemplify a high level of leadership and dedication to the Asian American community in developing and implementing activities, programs, and services that promoted unity among Asian Americans and awareness of Asian American issues. Awards recognize student organizations, events/programs, undergraduate/graduate students, faculty, and alumni. Graduating seniors are also recognized at this ceremony.

Asiifest

Asiifest is an annual celebration during APA Heritage Month, during which the AACC hosts performances, food stands, and activity tables in collaboration with community members and campus organizations.

Asian American Cultural Center Advisory Committee

The AACC Advisory Committee is composed of various faculty, staff, undergraduate/graduate student leaders who meet on a monthly basis to discuss AACC events/programs, vote on AALA awards, and determine how to better address the needs of the APIDA community.

Asian American Cultural Center Internship Program

The Internship Program gives students an opportunity to undertake creative and challenging assignments that provide a greater understanding of Student Affairs and the Asian American community. The internship program is paired with a 2-credit hour course. Available positions include Programming, Office Support, Marketing & Communications, Health & Wellness, APA Alumni Leadership, and International Education. Volunteer internships are also available for students.

Resource Collection

The Resource Collection contains various media related to Asian American experiences, including books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, games, costumes, and other resources, which are all available for checkout. It also contains a vertical file for campus student organization archives.

Artist Showcase

The Artist Showcase is a venue for Asian American artists to display their artwork. Various exhibits are displayed throughout the year in the AACC Lounge.

Asian American Cultural Center

International Education

The University of Illinois has the largest international student community of any US public university, with over 10,000 international students (21% of the student population) from 115 countries. The Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations (OIIR) strives to improve campus climate by providing transformative learning experiences to the Illinois community that result in an appreciation for diversity and cross-cultural engagement. Programs and events are oriented primarily toward college students, but also serve faculty, staff, alumni, and community members.

International Education is housed in the Asian American Cultural Center and hosts various events and programs.

iCU (Now I See What You Mean) OIIR Intercultural Dialogue Series

iCU features individual stories by international students shared among international and domestic students. The goal of iCU is to provide opportunities for domestic and international students to engage in meaningful interaction.

InterConnect Dinner & Dialogue Series

Each semester, the Counseling Center, along with International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), the Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations- International Education, and Asian American Cultural Center hosts a series of workshops for international students to assist with getting acclimated to life as a student in the United States and how to thrive at their new university.

Global Engagement Lounge (GEL)

Global Engagement Lounge is a unique place where you can meet other international and domestic students, enjoy interactive activities and transform your Illinois experience.

Break Programs

Staying on campus during break? Join us for fun activities and get connected with other students and find your home away from home. Co-sponsored by OIIR - International Education and ISSS.

Global Leaders: Orange and Blue Engagement (GLOBE)

GLOBE connects Blue members with Orange members (new incoming students) and teams them up in small groups to participate in various activities and events throughout the semester. Membership required.

The Name Project

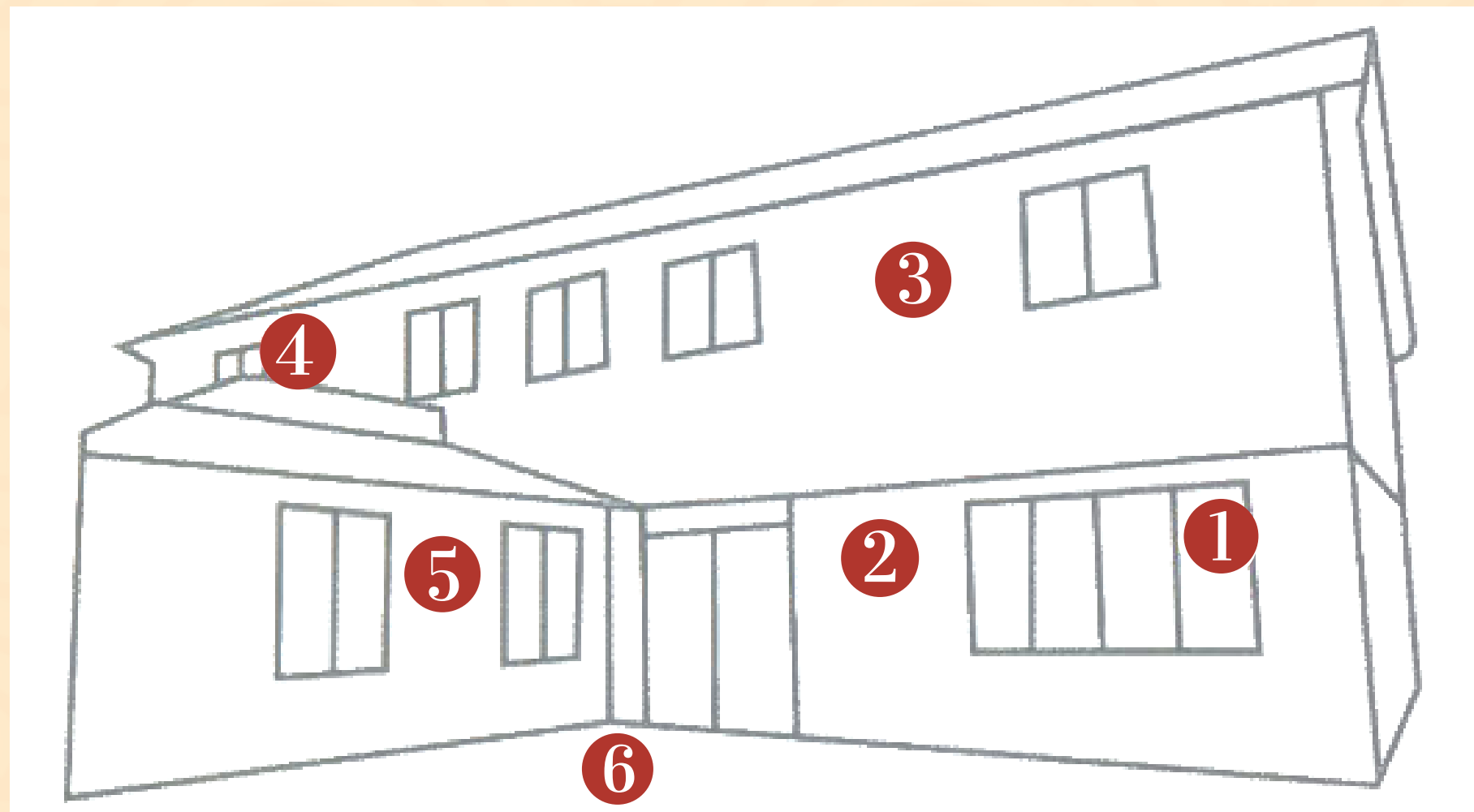
Interested in teaching others how to pronounce your name, and sharing stories of your name with speakers of other languages? The Name Project is a series of student videos available on the International Education website, aiming to help the community learn to pronounce different names around the world.

Contact Us

Dr. Yun Shi, Program Director
1210 West Nevada St, Urbana, IL | MC-149
217.300.0463
oiir.ie@illinois.edu

Asian American Cultural Center

Facility



- 1 The Lounge is an area to study, relax, or watch television. It is also used as a programming space for social events, speaker receptions, cultural demonstrations, and other special events.
- 2 The Kitchen is used as preparation space for food events, receptions, and fundraisers. It is fully equipped with appliances, cookware, and serving supplies. It opens to the lounge for buffet-style serving.
- 3 The Activities Room is used for small group meetings, special projects, and language classes. It also contains an extensive resource collection of books, magazines, games, music, and videos.
- 4 The Student Staff Office is a non-reservable office for student staff to study, work on projects, or have informal meetings.
- 5 The Conference Room is shared with Asian American Studies and is used for speaker presentations, meetings, and film showings.
- 6 The Basement is a reservable space that stores extra tables, chairs, and other equipment. The space is usually used for musical rehearsals and has a ping pong table open to the public.

Staff offices can be found on the second floor.

The AACC is connected to the Asian American Studies building on the street where all other cultural houses are located. Other cultural houses nearby include the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center (BNAACC), La Casa Cultural Latina, and the Native American House.

Asian American Studies

Faculty, staff, and students have collaborated to build a respected, scholarly Asian American Studies Program (AAS) at UIUC since 1997. Currently AAS is one of the ethnic studies programs under the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. AAS has established a presence on campus and raised awareness of Asian American issues through its various efforts:

- » Sponsored film series on Asian American experiences
- » Created a reading room with resources on Asian American issues open to students and the community
- » Built a program with faculty and courses offered in political science, English, anthropology, psychology, educational policy studies, history, human and community development, gender and women studies, speech communications, educational psychology, Latina/o studies, sociology, theater, cinema studies, religious studies, social work, film and media, dance, and music

Asian American Studies provides an interdisciplinary approach to the study of race, gender, sexuality, diversity, citizenship, and globalization.

Students will gain fundamental grounding in theory, issues, and methods in Asian American Studies. While our courses focus on the history and identity of Asian Americans, there is a large amount of overlap into the general study of US minority groups, helping AAS students build a multicultural understanding of the United States. This kind of knowledge lends itself to any career in which an understanding of diversity in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality is essential.

Fall 2022 Courses

AAS 100 | Intro Asian American Studies
AAS 200 | U.S. Race and Empire
AAS 201 | US Racial & Ethnic Politics
AAS 246 | Asian American Youth in Film
AAS 275 | The Politics of Fashion
AAS 281 | Constructing Race in America
AAS 297 | Asian Families in America
AAS 300 | Theories of Race, Gender, and Sexuality
AAS 310 | Race and Cultural Diversity
AAS 343 | Criminalization and Punishment
AAS 402 | Asian American Education
AAS 501 | Theory and Methods in AAS

Undergraduate Major

33 Hours Total

Required Courses (12 hours)

- AAS 100 Intro to Asian Am Studies
- AAS 200 U.S. Race and Empire
- AAS 215 U.S. Citizenship Comparatively
- AAS 300 Theories of Race, Gender, and Sexuality

Additional Coursework (15 hours)

Approved Electives (6 hours)

Undergraduate Minor

18 Hours Total

Required Courses (12 hours)

- AAS 100 Intro to Asian Am Studies
- AAS 200 U.S. Race and Empire
- AAS 215 U.S. Citizenship Comparatively
- AAS 300 Theories of Race, Gender, and Sexuality

Additional Coursework (6 hours)

Academic Departments

Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies

The Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies was established in 1964 as an academic program that focused on Asia. The Center promotes and supports academic endeavors across the University that focus on East Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania. It organizes academic conferences and seminars, administers overseas exchanges for faculty and students, and has an active outreach program that runs seminars and develops curriculum for K-12 educators. The Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS) is a program of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies that promotes the understanding of Asian cultures and peoples and to assist teachers at all levels, from elementary schools to colleges and universities, and other individuals and groups, in learning and teaching about Asia.

Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES, pronounced see-sayms), promotes teaching and scholarship on South Asia and the Middle East and fosters a greater public understanding of these globally influential regions. For over thirty years, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has recognized the importance of South Asian and Middle Eastern studies by supporting student and faculty projects related to the region. Through study abroad programs, language instruction, and faculty teaching and research, the campus offers students a variety of learning opportunities to engage with South Asian and Middle Eastern cultures, histories, and societies.

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

The Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures has courses in the languages, literatures, societies, and cultures of China, Japan, and Korea. The department offers a major and a minor as well as master and doctoral degrees. In addition, the department also provides numerous opportunities for language study in China, Japan, and Korea. Students can also participate in intensive-language training programs in China and Korea through the University of Illinois exchange program with institutions in those countries.

Study Abroad

The University offers numerous opportunities to Study Abroad programs. Students can choose to study at one of the 50 countries where programs are offered. There are currently six Asian countries that have study abroad programs: China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, India, Singapore and Thailand. Students can take advantage of these opportunities in the fall and spring semesters as well as the summer and winter break. To learn more about going abroad, students can visit the Study Abroad resource room or attend a First Steps meeting to learn how to research the different study abroad locations, classes, terms, scholarships, financial aid, and more. Students can also visit their website for more information or look for the study abroad fair that is held each fall.

University Library

The University Library on the Urbana-Champaign campus is the largest public university library in the world. Among the collection of more than 10 million volumes and 41 departments/units lie Asian American literature that covers history, politics, fiction, and poetry. In addition, the University also maintains a huge Asian collection that is kept in the Asian Library which is located inside the main library.

Arts & Entertainment

Allerton Park

515 Old Timber Rd, Monticello, IL

Located just outside Monticello, Illinois, Allerton Park is a place known for its unique blend of art, architecture, ecology, and agriculture. Many sculptures featured in the park and gardens are inspired by the arts of Asian cultures

Japan House

2000 S Lincoln Ave

Students and community members can experience the tranquility and the richness of Japanese culture at the beautiful Japan House which provides an important academic, cultural, and natural setting for promoting an appreciation of Japanese culture.

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

500 S Goodwin Ave

The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is one of the nation's premier educational and professional performing arts complexes with a mission to nurture excellence and innovation in the performing arts through presentation, education, research, and public engagement. Past performers include Yo-Yo Ma, Ravi Shankar, Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company, Lang Lang, and the National Acrobats of Taiwan.

Krannert Art Museum

500 E Peabody Dr

The Krannert Art Museum possesses a diverse collection of artifacts from various parts of Asia including the countries of China, India, Japan, and Thailand. The collection includes ancient pottery, religious sculptures, and 17th century paintings and screens.

Spurlock Museum

600 S Gregory St

Spurlock Museum has evolved to a collection of 45,000 pieces of artifacts from cultures around the world including a permanent gallery of Asian cultures that include artifacts from the Philippines, the Qing Dynasty, and the Edo and Meiji periods in Japan.

Campus Resources

University Housing

College is a great way to meet new people and build friendship with students from different backgrounds. University Housing offers a wide range of amenities and services to make your stay with us an enjoyable and memorable one.

Global Crossroads Living Learning Community

The Global Crossroads Living Learning Community is intended to challenge and motivate students whose interests, experiences, and aspirations have a strong international component. This global community provides students with opportunities to become interested in world events, improving understanding of global perspectives, practicing foreign language skills, or planning a future that includes international work or service.

Intersections Living Learning Community

The Intersections Living Learning Community brings together students, faculty, and staff who are committed to improving race relations through intergroup dialogue, scholarship, research, the arts, and social action. They are a community of scholars in a multiracial/multiethnic environment where students learn to talk about and across difference and sameness, increase their knowledge of their own and other groups, acquire the tools to analyze social inequality, and develop the skills to improve intergroup relations.

Multicultural Advocates (MAs)

Multicultural Advocates are students living in the residence halls who have specialized training on issues of identity such as gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, and socioeconomic status. MAs focus their time, talents, and enthusiasm on making our undergraduate halls safe and welcoming environments for all students. They provide programs and learning opportunities for students that deal primarily with issues of diversity, multiculturalism, and social justice. They serve as leaders and role models within the residence hall for confronting acts of intolerance or hate, encouraging dialogue among students, and working toward true multicultural communities.

McKinley Health Center

The McKinley Health Center strives to provide quality health care to the diverse population of UIUC and to provide education needed for students to make informed decisions about their health. McKinley offers a wide range of services including immunization, pharmacy, physical exams, nutrition counseling, and much more.

Special Population Health Issues

The Special Population Health Issues unit offers health information for specific groups including Asian Americans. In addition to the health information available online, the Health Center now has information handouts of 26 topics available in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

Health Resource Center

McKinley Health Center offers the Health Resource Center once a week at the Asian American Cultural Center which offers cold packs, wound care packs, condoms, and spermicide. All students are welcome to bring a student ID to obtain these products.

Campus Resources

The Counseling Center

The Counseling Center is designed to help students address many academic, relational and emotional concerns. The staff at the Counseling Center have diverse backgrounds and a wealth of experience working with students. Staff members of Asian-descent at the Counseling Center are available to discuss issues facing Asian and Asian American students. They have Cultural Diversity Outreach, which has specific, culturally tailored resources for Asian Americans, international, and first-generation students.

The Counseling Center offers one-on-one counseling, group, and couples' therapy, ready/study skills programs, educational workshops, and self-help brochures on a wide range of topics. The Counseling Center often presents workshops at the AACCC on specific topics such as interracial dating, gender, culture, Asian American identity, media stereotyping of Asian Americans, racism, sexism, and intergenerational issues.

The Career Center

The Career Center provides information regarding majors and careers. It has a staff of professional counselors as well as numerous support and student staff that can help you in many areas.

- Career and Major Explorations
- Experiential Education Information
- Job Search Resources
- Health Professions
- Graduate School Information
- Resume and Cover Letter Critiquing

International Students

The Career Center offers various professional programs for international students, including the Career Certificate, Global Careers Series, workshops, resources for work authorization, international friendly companies, job searches in the U.S. and abroad, and more.

University YMCA

The University YMCA develops campus and community leaders committed to social justice, environmental protection, interfaith cooperation, and global engagement by fostering dialogue, reflection and action.

New American Welcome Center

The New American Welcome Center at the University YMCA helps immigrants fully integrate into American society and prepares receiving communities around Champaign County to be welcoming and inclusive. By engaging local institutions and mobilizing community resources, we help make our community a place where newcomers and immigrants can thrive and flourish.

Various programs and resources include:

- Immigration Legal Assistance
- Free Legal Clinic
- Immigrants in Champaign County Report
- Free Citizenship Class
- Oasis Digital Resource Center
- Welcoming Week

Campus Resources

International Student and Scholar Services

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) is committed to providing culturally sensitive services of the highest quality. We strive to create an environment that is conducive to a successful educational, personal, and professional experience. We serve our international population and campus units through advising, immigration services, programming, advocacy, and outreach.

Some programs and resources include:

- Advising
- Regulatory Compliance
- Status Processing
- Educational, cultural, and social programs
- Print and online publications for campus life and Champaign-Urbana
- Intercultural Training Workshops
- Global Competence Training
- Financial Assistance

Office of Minority Student Affairs

OMSA's mission is to provide exceptional support services that enhance the academic achievement, personal development, and graduation rates of first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students at Illinois.

OMSA offers various resources like advising and tutoring, federal TRIO programs, workshops, and more to improve retention rates, graduation rates, learning outcomes, and student satisfaction.

Bias Assessment and Report Team (BART)

Bias-motivated incidents are actions or expressions that are motivated, at least in part, by prejudice against or hostility toward a person (or group) because of that person's (or group's) actual or perceived age, disability/ability status, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, national origin, race, religion/spirituality, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class, etc.

Housed within the Office for Student Conflict Resolution at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Bias Assessment and Response Team (BART):

- Collects reports of bias-motivated incidents that impact students
- Supports those impacted by bias
- Provides opportunities for educational conversation and dialogue; and
- Publishes data (without personally identifiable information) on reported incidents.

As many of the incidents reported to BART are not violations of the law or the Student Code, the team generally utilizes an informal educational approach in its response. BART refers reports of bias-motivated incidents that also violate university policy to the appropriate office for investigation.

You may report bias-motivated incidents that occurred within the university community or that involved members of our community by sending an email with a detailed description to biasreport@illinois.edu or by completing the form at go.illinois.edu/biasreport.

Community Resources

Religious Institutions

- Central Illinois Mosque & Islamic Center
 - 106 S Lincoln Ave |(217) 344-1555
- Champaign Chinese Christian Church
 - 1100 Broadmoor Dr |(716) 222-2091
- Hindu Temple Cultural Center
 - 2130 County Rd 1000 E |(217) 355-0770
- Illini Chinese Christian Fellowship
 - 806 W Michigan Ave
- Korean Church of Champaign-Urbana
 - 608 W Green St |(217) 367-4172
- Korean Jesus-Love United Methodist Church
 - 1203 W Green St |(217) 419-5133
- New Life Korean Church of Champaign
 - 2901 Watterson Ct |(215) 594-9210
- Prairie Zen Center
 - 515 S Prospect Ave
- River of Life Church
 - 600 E Pennsylvania Ave, Urbana |(309) 270-2466
- Sinai Temple
 - 3104 Windsor Rd |(217) 352-8140
- Sri Maha Saraswathi Hindu Temple Cultural Center
 - 2130 County Rd 1000 E
- Tu Viện Thiên Trường
 - 1512 N Mckinley Ave |(217) 552-1479

Groceries

- AM-KO Oriental Foods & Gifts
 - 101 E Springfield Ave |(217) 398-2922
- Annapoorna
 - 505 S Neil St #11 |(217) 355-5215
- Asian Supermarket
 - 1215 N Prospect Ave |(217) 356-3733
- Bombay Market
 - 726 W Bradley Ave |(217) 552-1516
- Far East
 - 105 S 5th St |(217) 352-7137
- Fresh International Market
 - 505 S Neil St |(217) 607-1665
- Green Onion Asian Market
 - 2020 S Neil St |(217) 359-5370
- J-6 Mart
 - 516 E John St
- Maligaya's Oriental Market
 - 1006 W Anthony Dr Suite B |(217) 352-2606

"Unlearn"

Gus Goger

B.A. History and Political Science | Class of 1997
Reprinted from Asiantation 1999

"The hottest places in Hell are reserved for those who in times of moral crises remain neutral." - Dante

With that quote in mind let us proceed to enter this institution of learning called the University of Illinois. The purpose of a University education is not to make tons of money, it is to learn how to become an effective member of democratic society. Too often we take the classes that are required, hang out with friends, go for a drink, get a diploma and get the hell out and become a member of the workforce. Too often we don't stop to try new experiences and to challenge our beliefs regarding everyday life. Change is the only constant, to resist it is to be devoured by it. I encourage each and every one of you to challenge yourself during the next 4-5 years. Do things that are uncomfortable, make friends of different ethnicities, be more social, have discussions about politics, abortion, drugs, religion, and whatever else suits you... don't avoid them because they are "uncomfortable," or because you don't want to cause a stir. TAKE A STAND FOR YOUR BELIEFS - do you even know what they are?

Learn to question your professor's beliefs, the beliefs or your friends, and most of all the beliefs you hold so dear to yourself, because if you don't question and know why you think and act the way you do, four years will have passed by and you will have been schooled in your major and not educated in one damn thing. Your life, your education, and your experiences are what you make of them ... choose them wisely.

"Asian American Awareness"

Valerie Garcia

B.S. Broadcast Journalism | Class of 2001
Reprinted from Asiantation 2000

Author Rudyard Kipling wrote "The Ballad of East and West" as if the two were complete opposites. In "Orientalism", Edward Said wrote about the Orient's contrasting image to the Wild Wild West. But as the new millennium unravels and America becomes more of a multicultural patchwork. These theories of "foreignness" are becoming as obsolete as the words themselves. The East finally meets the West - and it is a good get-together.

Along with the fact that ramen is devoured on every university campus and John Woo films are blockbuster hits at every box office, Asian Americans have made a great impact on U.S. culture through the infiltration of its own unique cultures. There is emphasis on the plural use of culture as Asian Americans are a group of subgroups from the Chinese to the Laotians. From Issei generation to fifth-generation. Yet, this assigned U.S. Census classification of "Asian American", has created a unified group of influence. In looking at Asian Americans' influence on society at large and the home we call "University of Illinois," we are able to see the melodious offspring of a multicultural America.

Despite the bitter racism Asian Americans experienced - when Chinese workers paved American railroads, when Japanese citizens were detained in internment camps, when Vincent Chin was beat to death - Asian Americans have risen from the xenophobic sentiments to a rank of influence on American culture. Visit the Vietnam Veterans memorial and see the signature work of Maya Lin. Everyone recognizes Hello Kitty, trademark of Japan. Throw out the frying pan and get a wok. Resort to Zen for some spiritual healing. Have you feng shui-ed your new home? Perhaps these are just icons of pop culture. Nevertheless, these trends signify an acceptance - almost adoration - of Asian culture.

Beyond the face value, commercial appeal of Asian culture, Asian Americans have excelled in areas of literature and politics. U.S. culture would not be the same without the inspiring works of Carlos Bulosan's "American Is In the Heart," Bharati Mukherjee's "A Wife's Story," or Maxine Hong "Kingston's Woman Warrior." These Asian American stories confront what it means to be "American": feelings of displacement, immigrant hope, and success. David Henry Hwang's Tony award winning, "M. Butterfly," reminds us that Asian American talents and issues are widely recognized even within the cultural elite. These works are not "token" masterpieces. They have come to represent the meaning of art in its most natural sense. Asian Americans have added to the cultural diversity that is so effervescent of U.S. culture.

Politically, Asian Americans, as a group, are gaining influence in higher decision-making. Early starts like Daniel K. Inouye, Spark Matsunaga, and Patsy Mink have provided great leadership for the Asian American community and the U.S. community at large. More and more Asian American students are studying political science and law hoping to contribute to American society. Asian Americans are no longer taking a back seat to politics. The submissive images of the past are fading with the times.

Closer to home, Asian American students have shaped the multicultural community at the University of Illinois. With Asian Americans composing more than thirteen percent of the student body, their role is as valuable today as will be in the next hundred years. Asian American students are no longer classified within the stereotypical majors of engineering, computer science, or medicine. Huge influence and impact has made within the arts and the humanities. The birth and rapid growth of the Asian American Studies program suggests that Asian American issues need to be discussed in academia. These issues are as "American" as the next. Asian Americans are becoming involved in campus activities ranging from athletics, the Greek system, and student government.

The Asian American experience is the American experience - belonging, struggling, and succeeding. Asian American influence is not the existence of Anime cartoons nor is it Bruce Lee mania. U.S. culture is blessed with the cultures and the stories that Asian Americans bring. This is the Asian American influence.

"Mental Health"

Shiwei Zhang

B.A. Psychology | Class of 2020

Last fall, U of I alum Kelly Uchima spoke on the topic of “turning struggle into strength on social media” through AACC’s Food for Thought to share her journey from a struggling college student to a body-positive mental health advocate. Kelly opened her presentation with an icebreaker that asked the participants to recall their age when they first learned about the concept of mental health. A few learned earlier on, some learned in high school, many did not until college. I remember a character with an eating disorder from a fiction I read when I was 12, it seemed like a made-up condition to me because no one ever talked about it in real life. Kelly’s icebreaker was successful in setting a tone of respect and vulnerability in the room, as people realize that our knowledge in mental health is very much impacted by our personal experience as well as our social environment. Nonetheless, mental health is a part of the reality that we don’t talk about enough in the APIDA community. Alongside the social stigma around mental illnesses and lack of culturally-adequate service providers, as a community, we also suffer from collective mental health illiteracy that prevents us from having conversations about it at home, with friends, or even to ourselves.

Mental health refers to our emotional and psychological well-being, which impacts our perception of the world, our decision-making process, and our overall ability to function and cope with adversity. However, many of us grew up in an environment where we lacked the vocabulary to communicate our emotional needs. Perhaps we never learned to talk about our feelings; perhaps we lived with people who never talked about their feelings. Also last fall, I attended Insider Scoop with Dr. Satsuki Ina, a Japanese-American psychologist and activist who survived the internment camp. Dr. Ina was 4 when her family was thrown into and separated in the camps, that experience shaped her life onward but was seldom talked about within her family due to the shame, humiliation, and pain it was associated with. I asked her about the trauma of not being able to talk about and reconcile with what had happened to the Japanese American community. Dr. Ina commented that the embracement of model minority myth in her community was a manifestation of their posttraumatic syndrome: people became overachievers in fields such as engineering, law, and medicine because of their need for a sense of security. As perpetual foreigners marked by physical appearances, they can only attain it through higher socio-economic status. But really, people wanted to be painters, actors, dancers, and poets.

For many of us immigrant children, that inter-generational gap can be felt in many ways when we attempt to communicate our mental health to our parents. Some of them lacked exposure to knowledge. Some of them never had the luxury to consider their own feelings. Some of them sacrificed everything they’ve had and any voice of complaint seems like discrediting their effort. In other worse scenarios, the “home” could be a site of violence and cycles of abuse where reality is distorted and denied. And that is why the psychoeducational programs and peer outreach on this campus is so important. Personally, I have noticed a recent trend in increased awareness around mental health among the APIDA community. Cultural RSOs have been increasingly engaged in organizing activities and events surrounding cultural awareness and mental health advocacy; student leaders actively collaborated to promote inclusivity and mental health awareness; faculty and staff are helping to spread information to psychoeducational materials and community resources. For some of us, the brave space created by individuals and groups in this community cannot be found anywhere else. Where we are given the opportunity to be inspired and inspire, to listen and speak up. For some of us, the stress from college that undermined our mental well-being could not seek support elsewhere, but as peers, we can relate and empathize, be a voice of compassion and validation because that’s exactly what we would’ve needed ourselves. Lastly, the workshops and counseling services provided on campus could be someone’s first interaction with the concept of mental health. Although the resources are limited, mere exposure could be planting a seed to remind us that mental health should be normalized like physical health. Having this knowledge helps us to cultivate a strong support system away from home, but also equipping us with the skills and strategies to cope with stress from and at home.

"Date a Filipino"

Tim Ramos

B.S. Chemical Engineering | Class of 2021

Date a Filipino

We are so thoughtful, so generous, so kind, and we make it so easy to love. You will swoon over our mahal kita's, maganda mo, girl so kilig.

Date a Filipino

because we will be a doctor, lawyer, engineer, or nurse so you know we have job security. But don't worry being smart is not the only language we can speak

For example, You'll fall in love with the way our lips dance through the lyrics of any OPM songs it'll feel like, it'll feel like you know the words too. Dancing is a dialect his hips have been speaking ever since he was born so don't be surprised if he knows a little more than just the Cha-cha slide.

The sound of our piano, voice, guitar, ukulele, violin, or whatever he plays will be more seductive than any love song so you'll never not be entertained. His mom will always comment on how skinny you look and so she'll place food in front of you so you'll never not be full.

Sometimes he may even write poetry. He'll cement you into beautiful metaphors in the basement of your long-term memory so you'll never not feel loved.

Date a Filipino

Because yes, as you can see we're short, but we are confident with our height. And although you may be slightly taller than us in heels, that just means we will never overlook you and I mean literally. And because we will only look at the way your eyes are parol lights that deserve to be seen all year long not just during Christmas.

Date a Filipino

We will take care of you because we are already attuned to the beat of your heart. The way we jump over bamboo sticks my unscathed ankles show we will never miss a beat. The strong sourness of his home-made sinigang isn't for everyone, but it is just a testament that when a Filipino man loves, he loves strong.

Date a Filipino

We will talk to you in Tagalog. Whether you understand us or not our native tongue washes over your ears and makes you believe you are our reason when listening to Lemonade by Jeremy Passion. We'll tell you, kahit kung ano man at nangyari sa atin nandito pa ren ako. Walang katapusan ang pagmamahal ko sa iyo.

We will explore your body. Not in a possessive kinda way, but in a way that our lips gravitate towards your inner thigh and make you scream a song you didn't even know you knew the words to. They say a majority of human interaction is non-verbal so, we let the rest of our body do our pillow talking for us. Now you know that singing or dancing isn't our greatest hidden talent.

Date a Filipino

Because when we kiss, the soft ocean touch of our lips will transport you to a place you've only ever dreamed about. But if you happen to be Filipina our lips will make you feel right at home.

For some reason, someone deemed Asians as not the "ideal man," but we are out there. Pick a Filipino man while supplies last before we're sold out. We are so thoughtful, so generous, so kind, and we make it so easy to love. You will swoon over our mahal kita's, maganda mo, girl so kilig. If you are the one, he will even tell you iniibig kita.

P.S. If a Filipino boy has ever broken your heart, he is a boy not a man there is a clear distinction. Also, we do not claim him he is not invited to the Kamayan.

"Voting: Why?"

Jocelyn Yin

B.S. Economics | Class of 2002
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Like most people. I get easily disgusted by "politics," and the system in which politicians who wheel-and-deal manage to take away my hard-earned dollars for taxes. It's understandable. However, many people, including Asian Americans and especially young Asian Americans, make the mistake of using this disenchantment as an excuse not to vote. Many people think that we live in a society where the rich rule the roost, the middle class is constantly sacrificed for the rich, and above all, a society where voting doesn't make a real difference. I disagree.

I tend to have more faith in the home I call America. Granted, it's true that it seems like Corporate America seems to call the shots through methods such as campaign contributions. However, the bottom line is, a vote is a vote. Come November, my vote carries the same weight as Bill Gates - even if Bill Gates earns more money than I do, to put it mildly. That's why voting makes a difference. For Asian Americans, voting is even more important. As the only minority group to underrepresent at the polls, Asian Americans are often an unheard voice for various reasons. The main reason that Asian Americans do not vote in numbers comparable to other minorities is because many Asian Americans are not citizens yet. Therefore, the burden is up to those who are eligible voters to register and get themselves to the voting booth on November 7. After all, the bottom line is, the power of the people can vote out anyone that they don't like.

Everyday, there are an increasing number of issues that face people of Asian descent and the only way to make an impact is to vote for those whom we believe can best address these issues and to make sure that these elected officials follow up on their word. Lastly, never hesitate to contact an elected official because after all, they make decisions that affect your life like how much tuition you pay, how much tax you pay, and in some cases, even how much money you earn as a college student.

Asians in Government

Federal Government

Vice President

Kamala Harris - California | Indian

House of Representatives

Bobby Scott - Virginia | Filipino

Doris Matsui - California | Japanese

Judy Chu - California | Chinese

Ami Bera - California | Indian

Grace Meng - New York | Taiwanese

Mark Takano - California | Japanese

Ted Lieu - California | Taiwanese

Tammy Duckworth - Illinois | Thai

Pramila Jayapal - Washington | Indian

Ro Khanna - California | Indian

Raja Krishnamoorthi - Illinois | Indian

Stephanie Murphy - Florida | Vietnamese

Andy Kim - New Jersey | Korean

Young Kim - California | Korean

Michelle Steel - California | Korean

Marilyn Strickland - Washington | Korean

Senate

Tammy Duckworth - Illinois | Thai, Chinese

Mazie Hirono - Hawaii | Japanese

State Government in Illinois

Theresa Mah | State Representative 2nd District
First Asian American in Illinois General Assembly

Josina Morita | Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

First Asian American non-judicial officeholder on the county level, first Asian American on MWRD

Not registered in CU? Find out who your representative is:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Not registered to vote?

<https://www.vote.org/register-to-vote/>



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Asian American Cultural Center

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