



AFSA Annual Newsletter (Winter 2020)

Welcome to the annual AFSA newsletter and report on Asian Faculty and Staff Association Activities

Mission

AFSA seeks to advance the scholastic and civic interests of its members by providing opportunities to:

- work collaboratively across disciplines to plan and conduct research;
- promote partnerships with community- based organizations for research and evaluation activities;
- serve as a consultant to the UWM community on academic, sociocultural, climate, and faculty/staff/student issues; encourage and reward the scholastic achievement and community participation of UWM Asian and Asian American students; and
- network and socialize.

Steering Committee

The AFSA Steering Committee, comprised of UWM Asian faculty and staff, meets periodically throughout the year to plan for events and activities.

The steering committee members are:

[Yuko Kojima-Wert](#), Foreign Languages & Literature, **Co-Chair**

[Natalie Chin](#), Registrar's Office, **Co-Chair**

[Swarnjit Arora](#), Emeritus

[Linda Huang](#), Emerita

[Genaro Armas](#), Marketing & Communications

[Janey Christoffersen](#), Registrar's Office

[Ivy Hu](#), School of Architecture & Urban Planning

[Susie Lamborn](#), Educational Psychology

[Dawn Lee-Vue](#), Division of Academic Affairs

[Karen Miyoshi](#), College of Health Sciences

[Gwat-Yong Lie](#), HBSSW

[Suyu Lin](#), Office of Assessment & Institutional Research

[Pachoua Lor](#), Southeast Asian American Student Center

[Jacqueline Nguyen](#), Educational Psychology

[Channy Rasavong](#), Pathway Advising

[Paru Shah](#), Political Science, College of Letters & Science

[Vipavee Thongpriwan](#), College of Nursing

[Hanh Quang Trinh](#), Health Informatics & Administration, College of Health Sciences

[Chia Youyee Vang](#), Associate Vice Chancellor, Global Inclusion & Engagement; History

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AFSA Fall 2019 Reception

The 16th Annual Fall reception was held in October, 2019. Always a delightful event with delicious food, it is a way to celebrate community, recognize student scholarship recipients, and raise funds for future scholarships through the silent auction.



"Hana wa saku" was a song written to honor the victims of the 2011 earthquake in Japan. It was performed at the fall reception by members of the Japanese Cultural Association.

Flowers Will Bloom

My heart goes out to you,
When the winter snows give way to spring.
My heart is longing now,
Longing for the town where happiness had
been.
Been a place of hope and of dreaming too,
Been a home where my heart always went
back to you,
But for now I only dream of the people who I
loved and knew.
Someone is singing, I can hear singing now,
Someone is weeping, I can feel their tears,
Someone is smiling, showing me why
And how to go on living for years and years.
Flowers will bloom, yes they will, yes they will,
For you who are here or yet to be born.
They'll bloom, yes they will
And they'll bloom again until,
There's no missing sorrow and no reason left to mourn.
Flowers will bloom, yes they will, yes they will
for you who are here or yet to be born.
They'll bloom, yes they will-and they'll bloom again
until you'll live and remember and love us forever more.



2020 Scholarship Recipients



Nouchee Thao, undergraduate student in Psychology

Recipient of the AFSA general scholarship



Mania Taher, Doctoral Student in Architecture

Recipient of the Swarnjit Arora Award

Each year, AFSA relies on donations to provide student scholarships. You can direct your gift to AFSA at <https://uwm.edu/give/>

Watch for announcements of the [2021 Scholarship Competition](#) soon! Students can apply through the [UWM Scholarship Portal](#).

Your silent auction purchases also allow supports the annual scholarships--thank you for your support!

AFSA Gives: Food Pantry

AFSA supports the mission of the UWM food pantry to ensure that the entire UWM community has access to nutritious food and key necessities in a welcoming and educational space. To support the pantry's desire to meet the needs of the UWM diverse student population, AFSA solicits donations at the fall reception, targeting foods especially desirable by members of the Asian student population.



Click [here](#) to learn more about the student-run Food Pantry and to view current donation requests.



Save the Date!

AFSA Spring virtual reception

February 25, 2021

Details forthcoming

Preview silent auction items [here](#); items will be added up to the reception date

Northwestern Mutual Partnership: Professional Engagement for Students

To support career exploration and readiness, AFSA and Northwestern Mutual have partnered to connect with UWM students through one-on-one career development sessions. These 45 minute sessions with a Northwestern Mutual professional provide students a platform to ask questions about corporate careers, the professional's work experience and insight, or get feedback on their resume.

The pilot Northwestern Mutual Professional Engagement Connection session launched on Thursday August 6, 2020 and 4 monthly sessions have been offered Fall 2020, with approximately 40 students participating. The feedback has been very positive and we hope to continue and grow this opportunity.

If you are an interested student, or know an interested student, please email Janey Christoffersen at christof@uwm.edu to receive the Handshake link.

Affirming Interracial Solidarity: AFSA statements on anti-Asian racism and Black Lives Matter



We at CAAL are devastated to hear of the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police. Today and every day we say that #BlackLivesMatter and stand with George Floyd's family and community to demand justice. We also know that our work to dismantle harmful systems and build just alternatives must include addressing anti-Blackness within our own communities. We must show up in solidarity for Black lives not only when lives are lost, but in every day recognition that our liberation is tied together.

AFSA supports the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) statement and recognizes the interconnectedness of our struggles against systemic oppression.

You may view CAAL's statement here: <https://caalmn.org/2020/05/29/api4georgefloyd/>

Statement of Solidarity Against Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia

(released May 29, 2020)

The Asian Faculty and Staff Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (AFSA), reaffirms our commitment to supporting and advocating for students, faculty, and staff of the Asian Diaspora as the coronavirus (COVID-19) global health pandemic impacts our community in unique ways.

Members of the Asian, Asian American, and Asian Pacific Islander community have experienced unique vulnerability as targets of racism and xenophobia as anxiety and fear over COVID-19 has spread over the past several months^[1]. Locally, this vulnerability also comes at a time when social support and community comforts have been weakened, whether due to the loss of contact with peers to adhere with the important act of social distancing or closure of community fixtures such as local Asian restaurants and business. In the Milwaukee area, some have been forced to close due to racist attacks on their staff. In the face of this vulnerability, AFSA resolutely stands in solidarity with UWM students, faculty, and staff against these acts. We support, and will advocate, for:

- A campus and local community that is free of anti-Asian violence and racism,

- Education and empowerment to rise above the rhetoric of anti-Asian sentiment that swirls around the local, national, and global conversations concerning the COVID-19 pandemic,
- An official statement of intolerance of anti-Asian racism and xenophobia from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (including intolerance for derogatory references such as the “Wuhan” or “Chinese” virus, etc.),
- Resources to support students, faculty, and staff members of the Asian and Asian American community directly impacted by racism incited by COVID-19, and
- Equitable treatment of all marginalized communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

In addition to rising anti-Asian sentiment, UWM students may face challenges around travel, leading some to remain separated from their families and loved ones overseas or unable to return to the U.S. to complete work related to their degree programs. We reaffirm our support for students impacted by these unique challenges and support the excellent work of various campus partners who provide resources for students in navigating these challenges, including the [Center for International Education](#).

We urge our students, colleagues, and community members at UWM to act with concern and compassion for those who have been directly and indirectly impacted by the COVID-19 virus. We stand in solidarity with those who are working to develop effective medical treatments and methods of curbing the rates of infection and with those working to support diverse communities.

To learn more about coronavirus-related racism and xenophobia, please see [this](#) resource compiled by Dr. Jason Oliver Chang. Resources for individuals experiencing acts of violence or harassment can be found at [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#); their website also contains information about [intervening as a bystander](#). Reports of incidents at UWM can be made through the [Equity/Diversity Services office](#).

[1] The national clearinghouse “Stop AAPI Hate” has collected 1700 incident reports over six weeks, [Asian Pacific Planning & Policy Council](#).

Upcoming Events & Kudos



***Dragon Boat Team:** Want to row to the beat of a drum? Join the team! If the event proceeds, we will issue a call for team members and a captain for the Milwaukee Dragon Boat festival, sponsored by the Milwaukee Chinese Community Center, OCA Wisconsin Chapter and the National Association of Asian American Professionals Milwaukee.*

Asian Faculty and Staff had numerous accomplishments this year. Here are a few:

- Congratulations to all who met milestone years of service, including AFSA Steering committee members Ivy Hu (10 years) and Channy Rasavong (20 years)
- Dr. Chia Vang: Named one of [Wisconsin's most influential Asian Americans](#)
- (need more here?)

Want to share your accomplishments? Send an email to AFSA co-chairs Yuko Kojima (kojima@uwm.edu) and Natalie Chin (chinn@uwm.edu).

Call for Contributions: "Telling Our Stories: History of Diversity at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1956-2020" (deadline: Dec 31, 2020)



Chancellor Mark Mone has commissioned a new book titled, Telling Our Stories: History of Diversity at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1956-2020. Each of the nine chapters will highlight faculty, staff, students and key contributions that diverse groups have made and continue to make at UWM.

We, Dr. Chia Youyee Vang and Linda Huang, will be the authors of this short chapter on Asian Americans. There is another chapter that will explore international scholar and student contributions. We understand that identity categories are fluid and people's status do change over time. We are hoping to be as inclusive as possible in our chapter by making sure we discuss contributions of various colleagues of Asian descent. This is why we are asking for your help since there are people in different parts of the university who we may not know. It is a short chapter so we will not be able to highlight everyone but we will do our best to ensure broad representation. If you could please take a few minutes to complete this survey by Thursday, December 31, 2020, we would greatly appreciate it.

Link to survey [here](#).

Contact Us

To learn more about AFSA, please visit our [website](#). To donate to the AFSA scholarship fund, click [here](#).

You may also email AFSA Co-Chairs Yuko Kojima (kojima@uwm.edu) and Natalie Chin (chinn@uwm.edu).

