

AMERICAN CULTURE



performance

We would like to begin this newsletter by recognizing the incredible resilience the American Culture community has shown throughout the past few years. It has been a powerful testament to see how students, staff, faculty, and community members in the Department of American Culture have persevered through uncertainty, grief, and change, caring for one another with unwavering empathy and solidarity along the way. We have witnessed how encouraging it is to be surrounded by amazing individuals who inspire, motivate, and care for this community, and we hope to celebrate the amazing work of our department and look forward with excitement and joy as we continue through this academic year.

Acknowledgments

Department of American Culture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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Dear alumni, students, faculty, staff, visitors and friends of the Department of American Culture,

What is American culture? And what does performance tell us about this country, its people, and its history? What do we learn about the United States and its territories and possessions when we center performance studies and the performing arts as a lens to understand their complexity in a hemispheric and transnational context, using the tools of multiple disciplines? And how does performance inform what we do inside and outside of our classrooms, whether it is through the performance of teaching, the performance of learning, or the performance of participating in democracy?

Performance studies as an academic discipline is somewhat recent, compared to older approaches in the humanities and social sciences. Bringing together the insights of theatre studies, anthropology, and ethnography, in some cases, or the skills and knowledges from communication studies and rhetoric, performance studies was constituted in the 1970s and 80s as a new disciplinary formation. At the same time, literary studies, music studies, and dance studies also provide tools for analysis, but so do political science, sociology, and religious studies, as when we analyze the performance of a politician or an activist or a charismatic leader. In women's and gender studies, performance has taken a central role, for example in the transformative analysis Judith Butler offers in her widely cited book *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, which was first published in 1990, bringing together philosophical considerations with a necessary critique of sexism, misogyny, and homophobia.

When I started my Ph.D. at Columbia University in the early 1990s, I considered myself to be, above all else, a literary scholar, even if back then I already had a great interest in film and theater, which made the emerging field of cultural studies particularly attractive to me. In my first book, *Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora*, I focused on Puerto Rican literary and film representations but concluded by discussing queer Nuyorican dance-theater performance in the Bronx. My more recent book, *Translocas: The Politics of Puerto Rican Drag and Trans Performance*, focuses on performance, whether it is in a nightclub, on television, in a documentary film, or on the streets of New York, as in the case of Stonewall veteran Sylvia Rivera. Part of writing this book entailed starting to perform in drag myself as Lola von Miramar.



Photo by Fausto Fernós (feastoffun.com)

WHAT IS AMERICAN
CULTURE?

LAWRENCE LA FOUNTAIN-STOKES

Teaching in the Department of American Culture at the University of Michigan has allowed me the flexibility and given me the space to pursue this type of research and to invite Puerto Rican artists such as Mickey Negrón to spend time in Ann Arbor interacting with students and teaching them about the art of drag.

I am not the only professor in our department to center performance. Think of Amy Stillman, a Grammy-award-winning ethnomusicologist who teaches and writes about hula. And Clare Croft, an expert on queer dance and American diplomacy, who routinely brings dancers to Ann Arbor and Detroit. And Bethany Hughes, who is illuminating the complexities of Native American performance and representation on and off Broadway. And Su'ad Abdul Khabeer, the author of *Muslim Cool: Race, Religion and Hip Hop in the United States*, explicating the intersections of race, religion, and music. And Charlotte Karem Albrecht, who in her book *Peddling* discusses Arab American representations in the musical *Oklahoma!* And Anna Watkins Fisher, whose book *The Play in the System: The Art of Parasitical Resistance* explores what artistic resistance looks like in the 21st century when disruption and dissent can be easily co-opted and commodified. And Ashley Lucas, a world-renowned expert on theater by incarcerated people. And Manan Desai, who has engaged the fascinating contradictions of Korla Pandit, a musician known as the “Godfather of Exotica.” And then we have our students, such as Ph.D. candidate Julianna Loera Wiggins, writing about Latina stand-up comedy in Chicago, or other students performing hula for family and friends!

This issue of the American Culture newsletter focusing on performance is full of extraordinary insights about who we are and what we do. I could not be prouder to be chair of this amazing department. I hope you enjoy reading our stories!



CHAIR OF AMERICAN CULTURE
PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN
CULTURE, ROMANCE LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURES, AND WOMEN'S
AND GENDER STUDIES

How does performance inform what we do inside and outside of our classrooms, whether it is through the performance of teaching, the performance of learning, or the performance of participating in democracy?



a day in the life:

*introducing the
American
Culture office*

BY
JOHN CHENEY-
LIPPOLD

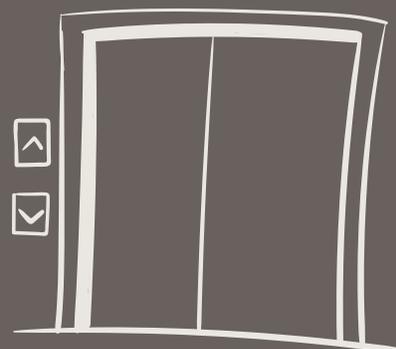
THE ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN TO THE THIRD FLOOR OF HAVEN HALL,

and I am greeted by a buzz of renewed vitality. And after the past two years of pandemic closures, remote work, and healthy caution, the American Culture Office at 3700 Haven looks a bit different. As Associate Chair of American Culture, I work closely with our staff in this office to ensure American Culture's curriculum and programs serve our students and faculty.

Upon entering 3700 Haven Hall, our former colleague JoAnne Beltran greets me with characteristic warmth. JoAnne was our Student Services Administrative Assistant and spent a little over a year in American Culture. She displayed a personal savvy for dealing with students and faculty alike, and was an invaluable partner in helping me understand and manage the many different students enrolled in our departments' eight majors and minors.

I am on my way to a meeting with Larry La Fountain-Stokes, our fairly new Chair. Larry is a 19-year veteran of American Culture and a proud puertorriqueño. My weekly meetings with him vary from dealing with faculty affairs, curricular needs, and celebrating faculty and staff awards. As our meeting concludes and his door opens, his characteristic laugh echoes throughout 3700 Haven.

Departing Larry's office, I encounter Giota Tachtara, busy behind her desk but perennially inviting. She offers me a piece of Greek chocolate which I eagerly accept. Giota is American Culture's new Events & Communications Coordinator, and she uses her talents and background as a journalist and editor to produce and distribute the event flyers, course advertisements, and email announcements that give American Culture its unique aesthetic and energy.

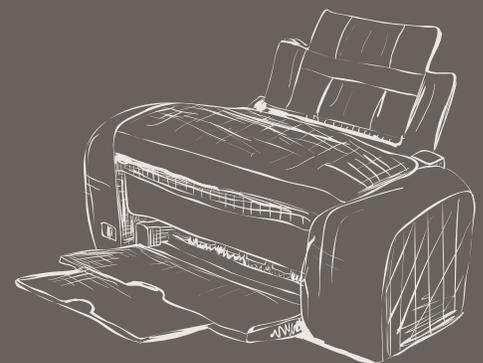
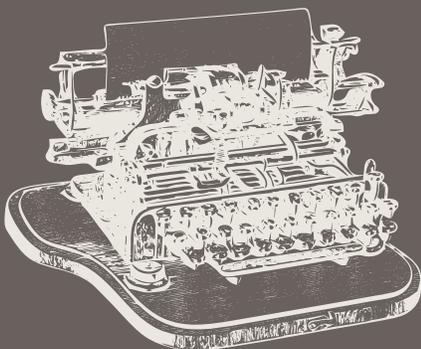


I walk down the hallway to quickly greet Mary Freiman, our stalwart departmental Executive Secretary. Mary has been with American Culture for decades, and is responsible for providing administrative support for the Chair and faculty. Her expertise is legendary, and I often find myself saving hours of research by spending a mere 30 seconds at her doorstep. I surreptitiously grab my day's second piece of chocolate from her desk as I leave.

Coincidentally passing me in the hallway of 3700 are our three, newly-arrived faculty hires. Sara Awartani's exciting work connects questions of racial justice, settler colonialism, and Palestinian-Puerto Rican solidarity movements. I briefly discuss a course she is set to teach this coming Winter semester, "Race, Solidarity, and the Carceral State," which I am eager to introduce into our AC curricular catalog.

Matthew Fletcher follows, an expert in Native American Studies legal structures. He is our department's first jointly appointed hire with the University of Michigan Law School. His books and essays on native legal, political, and ethical theory are pillars of the field, and we discuss the productive pedagogical and scholastic intersections that courses like "Tribal Law" will undoubtedly bring to our student population.

And Yarden Katz comes to AC from a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan Digital Studies Institute. His expertise on artificial intelligence, white supremacy, and science and technology studies spans a wonderful collection of potential course topics, from the politics of eugenics to theories of racial capitalism. He is also a trained philosopher, and quotes Kierkegaard to me as I continue my way down the hall.





My next meeting is with our brand new Academic Program Specialist, May Jean Dong. May Jean is a curriculum virtuosa and my associate in all things Associate Chair. As the former Academic Program Specialist in Asian Languages and Cultures and in Middle East Studies, she wields an adept mastery of university protocol. Our meeting deals with a variety of to-do list items, from scheduling the semester's courses to monitoring enrollments.

I exit May Jean's office and pass Katia Kitchen diligently working on her computer. Katia has been with American Culture for several years, and serves as the department's unwavering graduate coordinator. She is responsible for managing admissions, recruitment, and administration of American Culture's doctoral program, a demanding task that she effortlessly completes.

Not wanting to disturb Katia's workflow, I continue down the hallway to find Judy Gray leaving her office. Judy is our resident University of Michigan authority, and with Mary are collectively known as the "department's memory." As our Chief Administrator, she oversees non-academic departmental matters: supervising staff, managing budgets, and keeping us compliant with LSA policies and guidelines. She is on her way to another meeting, and I let her know about an email I will be sending her. She knowingly smiles and tells me "I'll look out for it" as she exits 3700.



AFTER AMAS: INTERVIEWS WITH ALUMS

Since its founding, Arab and Muslim American Studies (AMAS) has been committed to stimulating student minds and action. As we all adjust to a new normal, I think it is important for AMAS to continue to look forward, and the best way to do that is by looking back. So I invited the outgoing AMAS program assistant, Hiba Dagher ('22) to reconnect us to two AMAS alumni, Devin Bathish ('17) and Jenna Chami ('20) who are activating their AMAS studies for a better future for all. In this abridged interview, Bathish and Chami speak on their lives post-graduation, their experiences as students and their advice for the next AMAS generation.

-Su'ad Abdul Khabeer

To read the full interviews:





DEVIN BATHISH

HD: First off -- congratulations on being named for Arab America's 30 under 30 last year. Mabrook! I wanted to begin by asking what you've been up to since graduating from U of M, and what attracted you to the path you're currently embarking on right now?

DB: Thank you -- Allah Yebarek Fikeh! So, out of undergrad, in 2017, I accepted a position as the executive director of a community nonprofit in Flint, the Arab American Heritage Council, and I worked there for five years. I'm originally from Flint, and for us, the AAHC is kind of like a very small version of ACCESS in Dearborn. Growing up, it was kind of the only form of representation we had.

So when the position became open, I really took that as the opportunity to provide a new generation with the space just for them. There was so much talent in my community, in the youth especially, but none of it was showcased. So my main goal was to not only support the Arab community but also build up Arab youth in the area. And so that work was really awesome and that was a really fulfilling five years that I spent there.

HD: You were really active as an undergraduate, especially with student activism and with the AMAS program. Do you feel that the program helped to inform your approach when you were in that position?

DB: Absolutely. This served as a kind of dual purpose for me. There was the educational aspect, and the social justice aspect too. I had the AMAS minor, which I was very thankful for, I loved my classes, and I loved my professors -- a lot of them I still keep in touch with. So I was really lucky to have this rich understanding of Arab Americans, where we come from, and who we are; not just from my personal experiences, but from a rigorous academic background as well. This was vital -- since, AAHC does a lot of educational training, from kids as young as five years old to public health professionals with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services of Genesee County. There was no way I could have been giving those presentations without that training. There's no way I could have done that without that.

The second part of it is like, how do we approach the work that we do? How do you put out programs that are equitable? Are we highlighting all Arab voices, or are we just overly represented by Lebanese and Palestinian people? How can we get other people in the community? In Flint, we have a large Yemeni community and a large Sudanese community. So it was our mission not to only have equity in terms of Arab representation, but also in terms of the diversity of Arab representation. On the basis of race, gender, religion, and nationality -- we want to make sure that the work we do is faithful to the community that we're trying to represent.

HD: I know I'm talking to an icon of the Arab community at U of M and everything, but do you have any particularly memorable experiences that you had as a student?

DB: Yeah (laughs). I mean, it depends on which area. I'll never forget my senior year Arab Xpressions show when we sold out the Power Center, and it was, by far, one of the most fun nights of my life. There were a couple of others. One of them was definitely when the University of Michigan voted to divest. That was the semester after I had graduated. And that was, God, that was all the work that had ever been put in over 17 years, not just me and my 5 years, but so many others. There was no sweeter movement than that. Probably one of the coolest things I will ever experience.



JENNA CHAMI

HD: First off -- I just wanted to congratulate you on graduating from U of M with your MPH! I wanted to begin by asking what you've been up to since graduating from U of M, and what attracted you to the path you're currently embarking on right now?

JC: Thank you! So, right after graduating, I accepted a position at the newly formed Dearborn Department of Public Health as an executive fellow. So right now, since we're so new, a lot of what we're doing is building the department from the ground up with our director Ali Abazeed, who's really fantastic. I have a lot of different responsibilities across the board. A lot of what I do is helping run the internship program, so I do a lot of day-to-day oversight for the department and our fellows -- we have over twenty-five fellows!

We also do a lot of projects that deal with emergent Public Health needs -- for example, Dearborn was hit really hard by the baby formula shortage, and a lot of our residents weren't able to pay exorbitant prices to scalpers or ship formula from elsewhere. So our department was able to put on a baby formula drive, and help families get the formula they needed for their babies.

I'm from Livonia, but I was born in Dearborn, and a lot of my family still lives there, and so many of my fondest memories growing up take place in Dearborn. And a lot of my focus, both in my undergraduate program and then in my master's, was on the public health needs of Arab Americans. So it feels really special to do work that supports a place and a people so close to my heart.

HD: With all that in mind, What made you decide to choose AMAS as a minor? Was it more oriented towards your work in public health, or something else?

JC: It was very personal for me. It's one thing to grow up Arab American, but it's another entirely to study the culture where you come from. Because the gaps I had -- knowledge-wise -- weren't just from my studies, but it was also just from the way I was raised. This isn't any fault of anyone, but I was this little Lebanese Muslim girl in a very, very white community. The only sense of my culture was from my family and from my visits to Dearborn.

And those were really important to me, but they were supplementing a time in my life when I never really felt represented anywhere or by anyone. The characters who looked like me on TV and in movies were always terrorists, the women were either oppressed or hyper-sexualized. But that wasn't my reality.

So, when I learned that there was a program at U of M that was dedicated solely to studying Arabs and Muslims, I was really excited. And I'm very grateful that I decided to stick with it because it taught me so much about who I am. The program provided me with the ability to adequately represent myself and my culture, and for that, I'll always be very grateful.

HD: What was the most memorable or meaningful experience you had as a student?

JC: Oh, Doctor Matthew Stiffler's class. One hundred percent. That class is really where so much of this stuff, everything we were talking about just now, this is where it all started to become clear to me. He really provided a space for his students to come in as their authentic selves and fostered a sense of belonging and community for us. Even though we all came from different identities under the umbrella identity of Arab or ME/NA, we all came together to learn and grow together. Plus, Doctor Stiffler has such a dry sense of humor, it made the class really fun.

ONE PIECE OF ADVICE

D:

“One of the biggest pieces, I would say, is there is no better place to explore your identity than Michigan because of all the different resources available to you. But there's another piece, which is that no matter how much you think you know about your identity, there's always more to know from people that you haven't learned from yet. We can always keep learning. So, don't be afraid to find your place, but also to always be eager to keep learning from either the community, from the minor, from the wonderful professors, from the classes.”

-Devin Bathish

J:

“I was a transfer student, and I graduated undergrad and started grad school during COVID, so my experience with college wasn't super conventional. I would say, even when the situation changes, or you miss out on an opportunity you were hoping on, or things don't turn out exactly how you expect them to be, as long as you're staying true to yourself and you're following your life's passion, you'll be exactly where you need to be. Ultimately, you're your best advocate, and everything will turn out the way it needs to be, even if it might not seem like it at the time.”

-Jenna Chami

Image source: Mathew Schwartz, Unsplash.com



...and more!

United Asian American Organization

WANT
The Advocacy needs you for an appointed position
Affirmative Action
Economic Studies
White Crimes
University Issues
APA Heritage Programs
No Experience

VISION OF THE 1998 IASA BOARD

As your 1998-1999 IASA board, our goal is to create a sense of unity at every level. We believe that unity leads to a greater, stronger community. We need to begin by strengthening our Indian-American community at the University of Michigan from within.

each other as best as we can. We believe through the political, cultural, public internship, volunteer, alumni, Midwest-outreach and mentorship programs, IASA will have a stronger sense of unity and pride at every level.



This will help to build a stronger foundation in order to help us spread our unique perspective beyond our community to others on and beyond campus. We invite everyone to come to office hours or Sunday IASA meetings and discuss issues or projects that you would like to see implemented. It is your direct involvement, whether it be through the various committees or conversations, that allows the Indian American Student Association to flourish on campus.

addition, we would create a semi-monthly magazine that epitomizes the beliefs and priorities we have united our community and community. This year's board will convey to you the support we have our support many ventures you would like to pursue creating a strength from within, IASA is even stronger when we go out and represent the Indian American community in organizations, whether politically, culturally, socially. Finally, we would like to spread the University of Michigan, and unite the Indian communities at other schools. Remember...



FASA 2000

FILIPINO AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Mass Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 1999
6:30 pm Parker Room of the Union

Welcome Back Dance - Island Fusion
Friday, September 17, 1999
7 pm - 2 am Anderson Room of the Union

Michigan Hawaii Club
presents
Cultural Night
at O' Hawaii
Sept 25, 1999
at the
Cater House
(between Law and S. University)
5 P.M. Dinner
Live Entertainment
Ancient Hawaiian Storytelling

4,000 crowd IASA show

By Katie Piona
Daily Staff Reporter

A combination of beautiful melodies, colorful and energetic dances captivated the 4,000-person audience crowded Hill Auditorium on Saturday night for the 13th annual Indian American Student Association Cultural Show.

"At the Stroke of the Midnight Hour" celebrated the golden anniversary of independence and gave Indian American students, as well as members of the audience, an opportunity to honor freedom fighters who made independence a reality.

The event's five emcees presented skits depicting the lives of typical University students following the first movement that took place in India about 50 years ago. As the skits unfolded, the capacity crowd witnessed the aspects that make Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western India distinct from one another.

IASA Cultural Show Co-Coordinator Soha Shah said the show allowed students to showcase the variety of characteristics of Indian culture to the University community, friends and family.

"I think it's an opportunity for Indian Americans to express diversity in our own culture, as well as sharing it with the community at large," Shah said about the sold-out show.

Engineering sophomore Sarika Sangwan said she was bridged several generations because it allowed the participants to demonstrate that their Indian heritage is an integral part of their lives.

"It's amazing," Sangwan said. "Thirty years ago, our parents came over here from India. (They wouldn't have thought that) 30 years later, their kids would be doing something to honor and appreciate who we are and (show that) we haven't forgotten it even though we are in America."

The show's theme centered around a speech given by Mahatma Gandhi, India's first prime minister, titled "Hind Swaraj."

See SHOW, Page 2

SEPT. 17 MICHIGAN UNION
10 pm - 1:30 am
ANDERSON ROOMS
Featuring DJ TASTY
I.F. is a production of:
TASA AAA
FASA JSA
access policy @ 9:30
UMID Requested

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS



LETTERS:
Asian assimilation paints false picture
The words "Asian" and "American" are often used interchangeably. In a very real sense, the problems faced by Asian Americans are the same as those faced by all Americans. The first step in solving these problems is to recognize that we are all Americans. We should not be divided by race or ethnicity. We should stand together and fight for the rights of all people. We should not let our differences divide us. We should work together to create a better future for all of us.

Asian assimilation paints false picture
The words "Asian" and "American" are often used interchangeably. In a very real sense, the problems faced by Asian Americans are the same as those faced by all Americans. The first step in solving these problems is to recognize that we are all Americans. We should not be divided by race or ethnicity. We should stand together and fight for the rights of all people. We should not let our differences divide us. We should work together to create a better future for all of us.

Join us for our MASS MEETING!
Date: Thurs. Sept. 16
Time: 7:00 PM
Where: Room 2105B
Michigan Union
Taiwanese American Student Association



A dancer participates in the 13th annual Indian American Student Association cultural show.

ALOHA,

The Hui O' Hawai'i (Hawai'i Club) presents the first annual University of Michigan...

The Hawai'i Club was originally created by Hawai'i freshmen adjust academically to the environment of the Mid West. In addition, we would like to introduce our island heritage to the A...

The University of Michigan has become a multicultural diversity. As part of this diversity, we share Hawai'i's unique culture with the rest of the world. Tonight, in the "aloha spirit," we offer a special experience. The food, song and dance all combine to create a unique experience.

The Hui O' Hawai'i invites you to "kick back and relax), "cruize plenny" (to relax), "and den go grind" (after a short break from your studies), "Hawaiian Style."

Ma'u ke aloha ku'u home o Hawai'i
We love our sweet home Hawai'i.

Mahalo,
The Hui O' Hawai'i

ASIAN AMERICANS
Breaking down the stereotypes



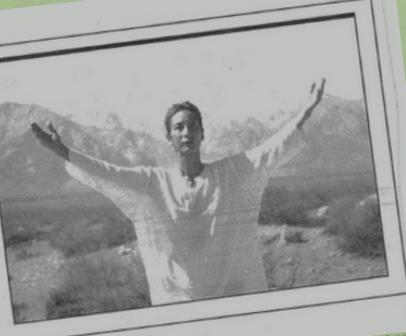
YURI KOCHIYAMA CLASS PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION

MICHIGAN UNION PRESENTS
GENERATION APA
SATURDAY 7 PM

1998 Graduation Party 亞裔學生
in honor of Asian American Graduates
sponsored by the Chinese American Society of Michigan (安城華裔中心) and APEX (Asian Pacific Education Exchange) of Michigan (休倫中學亞裔學社)
Date: June 13, 1998 (Saturday) 六月十三日 (星期六)
Time: 6:30 - 11:30 p.m. 六點半至十一點半
Place: Huron High School Cafeteria 休倫中學飯廳
6:30 - 7:30 Buffet (provided by parents, graduates, and friends)

Performance highlights national conference

Nobuko Miyamoto will give her multi-media theater performance "A Grain of Sand" Friday as part of the 11th national conference of the Association for Asian American Studies. Miyamoto describes her art as 'a song, dance and video imagery.' Her free public performance begins at 8 p.m. in Rackham Auditorium. See page 3 for details on conference activities.



RECOVERING AA&PI CAMPUS HISTORY

BY MANAN DESAI

For a year now, undergraduates Mira Simonton-Chao and Chelsea Padilla have spent their Fridays in an office tucked away on E. Liberty Street. Working through boxes brimming with decades-old newsletters and armed only with a small flat-bed scanner, the two have painstakingly digitized documents that tell the story of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA&PI) activism at the university. Their efforts have culminated in the “Activism, Organizing, and Leadership within UM Asian American + Pacific Islander Communities and Spaces” Digital Collection, hosted by the U-M Library and slated to go public this summer. As student leaders in the United Asian American Organization (UAAO), Mira and Chelsea have helped to recover print materials—from hand-drawn flyers to xeroxed zines—that reveal a larger ecosystem of student activism on campus. Mira explains, “the collection captures a lot of student advocacy, students organizing their own publications, doing their own work in their communities, and most importantly, being involved in community care.” One of the first of its kind, the collection aims to change the narrative of Asian American and Pacific Islander student activism on campus. As former NCID Associate Director Marie Ting puts it, “our histories...the histories of A/PIA faculty, staff, and students are rarely recognized and celebrated as much as they should be.” Mira and Chelsea—as well as the alumni that began the project in 2018, including Anna Dang, James Lee, and Nisa Khan—have helped to reshape this narrative.

National Day of Action in Defense of Affirmative Action

Speakout and March
Defend Affirmative Action!
No Resegregation of Higher Education!

A National Day of Action in Defense of Affirmative Action on October 27th has been called by the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, and Students for Access and Opportunity at the University of Texas.

The University of Michigan is a battleground. Dave Jaye's racist lawsuit attacking affirmative action at U of M has now been filed in federal court. What students at U of M do will have a decisive impact on the outcome of this historic moment. Now is the time to step forward and act. A movement must be built.

On Monday, October 27th, Jesse Jackson will lead a march in defense of affirmative action in Sacramento, California. This march is aimed at defeating the implementation of Proposition 209 and sending a message to the US Supreme Court that the attack on affirmative action that has been initiated in California will meet with strong resistance.

The only power capable of checking this onslaught is the mass forces that shook the segregationist social structure to its foundation in the 1950's and 60's.

The social inequality and discrimination that affirmative action measures were proposed to offset still exist today. Now, 43 years after the Supreme Court ruling that ordered the desegregation of education "with all deliberate speed", separate, unequal schools still dominate American public education. Inequality of resources is profound and getting worse. Black and Latino children and youth go to disproportionately poor and ghettoized schools. The actual measures carried out in the name of affirmative action have never been comprehensive or powerful enough to uproot the pervasive and historic racist and sexist discrimination and inequality that exist in our society.

If we approach the question of affirmative action from the standpoint of its historical substance—the fight for equality in American society—we have an enormous number of current and potential allies. We can mobilize those allies if we speak to the prevalent indignation that exists throughout the society. With this perspective we can win.

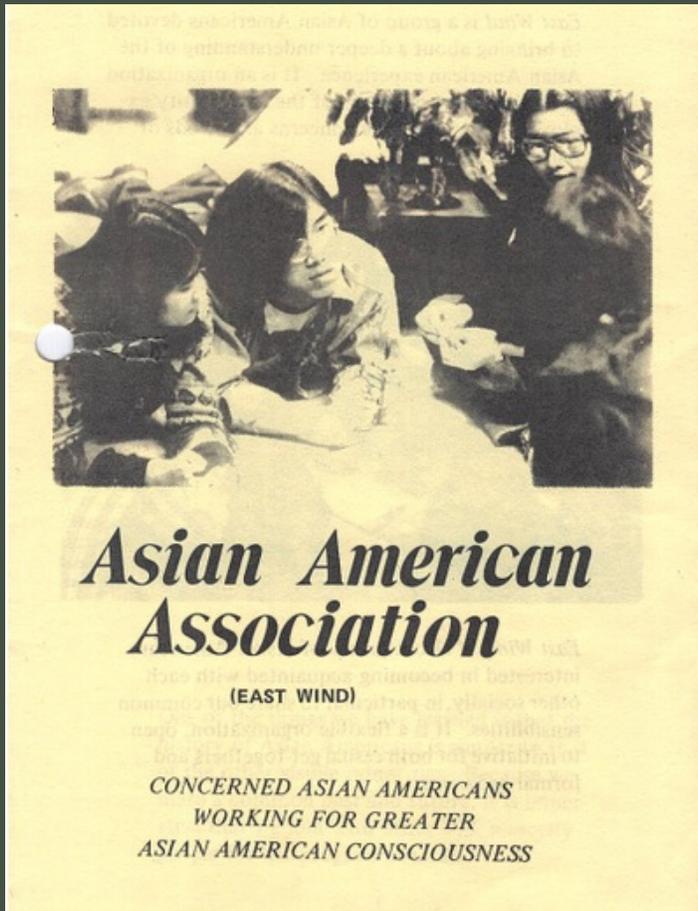
Monday, October 27th
Noon at the Diag

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
TEACH-IN:
October 27th, in the evening
(Time & Place
to be announced) -

BAMN MEETINGS ... are held every Monday, 7:30 PM
in the Michigan Union, Tap Room (in the basement)

Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action By Any Means Necessary (BAMN)
E-mail: bamn@umich.edu Website: <http://www.slip.net/~jackson/odsabamn> 10/21/97

Images from the collection



With funding from the Asian/Pacific Islander American (A/PIA) Studies program and support from librarians Anne Cong-Huyen, Helen Look, Matt Carruthers, and Jackson Huang, the “Activism, Organizing, and Leadership” Digital Collection will be a valuable new resource for students, educators, and researchers studying social movements. In the next phase of the project, Chelsea Padilla explains that UAAO will be exploring what pertinent documents are stored at the Bentley as well as beginning an outreach campaign to connect with alumni, in hopes of finding materials and stories that have yet been archived. This Fall semester, our students have also explored the collection in a new course on “Asian Americans in Michigan,” looking further back to the 1970s with the origins of radical student organizations like East Wind as well as early 20th c. groups like the Hindustan Club and Cosmopolitan Club, who grew out of an earlier period of restriction.

The UAAO digital collection efforts come amidst ongoing initiatives by A/PIA Studies faculty to recover and remember the histories of activism in our communities. As speakers and organizers of the Vincent Chin 40th Remembrance and Rededication Planning Committee, long-time lecturers Roland Hwang, Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, and Professor Ian Shin organized and participated in a four-day event at the Detroit Institute of Arts, exploring the impact and legacy of the Vincent Chin case in 1982. In her course “Asians in American Film & TV,” Professor Emily Lawsin hosted the legendary artist-activist Nobuko Miyamoto, who spoke of her long career as an actor, musician, and media activist. This past April, A/PIA Studies undergraduate Kayla Zhang co-presented original research on religion and anti-Asian racism with Professor Melissa Borja at the Association of Asian American Studies in Denver. The “Asian American Religions, Religious Freedom, and the State” conference last Fall (organized by Professor Melissa Borja and sponsored by the Donia Human Rights Center) further explored the relationship between religious liberty and discrimination as it impacts Asian Americans.

This past academic year, A/PIA Studies also continued to build its own intellectual community, with the additions of Professor Retika Adhikari, who joined the faculty after completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, and Professor Melissa Phruksachart in the Department of Film, Television, and Media, who officially joined the A/PIA Studies core faculty. We look forward to 22-23!



Chelsea Padilla

The purpose of archives is to document and preserve the history and heritage of a group. They help us maintain our collective memory, providing us with an understanding of who we are as individuals, but also on a larger scale — we begin to recognize our place along the timeline of history. However, physical archives often come with barriers. In order to access a physical archive, a researcher might have to set up an appointment, then travel whatever distance to that physical archive. Depending on the materials a researcher might want to access, that distance might

be thousands of miles across the continent, or even across oceans. Archive digitization helps take down these barriers. With a digital archive, academic researchers and the average person can look at historical materials without having to physically travel. Materials that might have been only accessible to a few have the potential to attract international audiences. More importantly, digital archives increase the scope of who can learn from historical materials.



the collection inspired UAAO's winter 2022 zine, **THE LIBERATION ARCHIVE**

Click this [link](#) or scan the QR code below to read the zine!



UAAO ZINE ED. 4

THE LIBERATION ARCHIVE

Asian-Americans' identities

S. Quad...

the gathering a critique of the institution is the simplest record.

I don't see you always have things.

CALENDAR

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

March 21: Governor AFN Cultural Showcase of Asian Pacific American Power Center, 8 p.m.
 March 22: Asian American Association 20th Anniversary Banquet, Detroit, Michigan League Ballroom, 10 p.m.
 March 22: Korean Cultural Parade for Christ, Follow the Yellow Brick Road, Agra Hill, 6:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 March 22: Korean Cultural Arts Festival, Michigan League Ballroom, 5 p.m.
 March 28: Celebrations of Color, Christ, Madras, Tractor House, 7 p.m.
 March 28: "Wealth of Lives, Struggle for Change," 6 p.m.
 March 30: Make Some Noise: An Indian American Youth Conference, MLJ, registration 9 a.m., April 2, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the UAAO of Detroit, 4025 Dennis Highway, Hazelton Hall, Law School, 4:30 p.m.

Month recognizes Asian Americans

By Katie Wang
 The month the University community will have an opportunity to celebrate the culture and achievements of Asian Pacific Americans. "Celebrating APA," a cultural theme scheduled for Saturday at the Power Center, will kick off a series of events that are part of the University-designated Asian Pacific American Heritage month.

"We want the community to know we are here and we are growing," said Maria Ting, a program coordinator for the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives. "We are the largest student of color population and we should be recognized as such."

Asian Pacific Americans comprise 10.8 percent of the student body population.

"APA heritage month is a chance to highlight contributions Asian Americans have made to this country," said Tim Tye, the Asian Pacific American coordinator for Minority Student Services.

Gail Nottman, director of the Asian Pacific Center, said the program will be significant in the context of an increasingly multicultural campus, and she hopes to see many political initiatives for other minorities.

"Too many politicians today talk about 'making our country for ourselves' — but who is 'our'?" she asked.

Nottman said that because the country is multicultural the "our" in this case encompasses many different cultures including the Asian Pacific American community.

"Many people do not recognize that our society is multicultural because it is so right in the history books," she said.

One of the events, a speech scheduled to be given by Dennis Haseah, director of the Office for Civil Rights in Washington, D.C., reflects the growing importance of both campus and nationwide Asian Pacific American activism.

"If we don't speak up against anti-immigration (legislation), hate crimes and other forms of racism as Asian Pacific Americans, then who would represent our voice?" asked LSA Junior Zephyr Han.

Han is the chair of the United Asian American Organization, the umbrella organization for Asian American campus groups.

Almost all of the scheduled events are sponsored by OAMI, MSO or other student organizations.

"The programs are a great example of students and administrators coming together and working together," Ting said. "I think our community is strong and unified."

INSIDE NEWS

Faculty continue three-year debate on grievance policies.

ARTS

Robert Redford and Michelle Pfeiffer shine in "Up Close and Personal."

SPORTS

Michigan's Tom Dolan qualifies for the U.S. Olympic team for the third time.

Michigan Daily 3/14/76



LATINA/O STUDIES

BY ASHLEY LUCAS

The Latina/o Studies Program had much to celebrate from the 2021-2022 school year and looks forward to much more in the year to come. Latina/o Studies offers a major and a minor for undergraduates as well as a graduate certificate program, and it also hosts speakers and events on campus and offers support to educational student initiatives. Our students and faculty come from a wide array of departments, research interests, and cultural backgrounds yet share a passion for the study of Latina/o/x communities in the United States.

Latina/o Studies hosted Chicana playwright Virginia Grise's visit to our campus in November 2021. Grise, an award-winning playwright whose work has been produced throughout the United States, visited Latina/o Studies classes and gave a public lecture entitled "Riding the Currents of the Wilding Wind: From Sharp Shooters to Earthmovers, Roaming Dogs, Helicopters in the Sky, Quarantines and Men That Fly." Throughout her visit, Grise engaged with faculty and students around issues concerning social justice, theatre making, and using the arts to connect to communities.

Pictured: Virginia Grise



ON CAMPUS AND BEYOND

In February 2022 Dr. Richard Pineda, Chair of the Department of Communication and Director of the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso, gave a virtual talk, sponsored by Latina/o Studies, entitled “Cucuys, Santos, and Bendiciones: The Rhetoric of Threat(s) in Voting Rights, Immigration, and Civil Society Along the US-Mexico Border.” A recording of his talk can be viewed on the American Culture Department’s YouTube Channel [here](#).

Latina/o Studies also co-sponsored a performance, procession, and discussion with drag performer Freddie Mercado in collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez. Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes from our Latina/o Studies faculty helped to coordinate the event in Puerto Rico and hosted the discussion with Mercado following the performance, which happened live in Mayagüez and was broadcast simultaneously online.



Scan the QR code to watch
Dr. Pineda's virtual talk!

Pictured: Richard Pineda



NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES:

in

conversation



WITH AMY STILLMAN AND
BETHANY HUGHES

This past June, current director of the Native American Studies Program, Professor Amy Stillman and Assistant Professor Bethany Hughes had a virtual conversation over zoom on the topic of indigenous performance. This abridged transcript reflects the question Amy asked Bethany.

*“What do you see as the
importance of performance
for indigenous people?”*

Bethany Hughes: I think, like some of the things you were talking about earlier, you know, meaningful practices, and the way that what you might call expressive culture, or the performing arts, or embodied practices or embodied creation, were a moment of blossoming in Hawaiian Renaissance, and I'm really interested in how performance, because it's fundamentally about people in space with other people, there's something about sharing space and doing something with your body that both makes meaning and holds meaning and passes on meaning and shares meaning and I think that performance does that in ways that other kinds of creative practices don't. And it's not accessed in the same way, too. And so I think about what it means to have a specific performance practice that is a space of meaning, and a holder of meaning, and a practice of meaning. And so, in my tribe, hymns are a big deal. It's an important part. And you can look at them and say this is a clearly Westernized, Protestant, Christian influence on Choctaw culture, and therefore—but it's also a space in which the language and the community and the gathering and the embodied practice of being together and sharing purpose and sharing voice and, you know, breathing together and hearts beating together and moving together. All of those things are deeply meaningful in what it means to be part of a community. I think that the community and communion among people in Indigenous communities around performance practices is special.

That's different from American culture writ large about what performance means. Majoring in theater and being in a play, I experience some sense of community and camaraderie with the cast members that then ends when the show is over. But the expectation is not that we've created something sustaining that assists our identity or community or reflects vibrancy or flourishing or grief, or all these kinds of things that performances can do. And so there's some way that performance is something that you consume in Western culture and American culture, and you pick your playlist and you pick the artist you want to hear, but only the tracks you want to hear, and so the consumerism and consumption of art, which then can be part of identity formation like 'Oh I'm the kind of person that likes classical music' versus 'I'm the kind of person that likes folk.' But it just doesn't do the same thing. What performance does in indigenous communities is different. And I think that's one reason why it's so important for indigenous communities to have performance practices. Whether they're authentic or traditional, that's a whole other conversation. But it seems really important for us to do things that are us. And the doing makes it us. And the doing makes it be, and all those kinds of things. That's, I think, the really exciting thing about performance and how it relates to indigenous communities that many scholars of theater, theater performance, aren't necessarily thinking on that level. 'What do I understand from this? Or how does this reflect the economic diversity of the region?' Or the ways to get at it. And indigenous performance lets us talk about other kinds of questions.

Amy Stillman: I love what you said about 'it's a place for meaning and a place for experiencing meaning.' I would add to that that performance for indigenous people... Well let me backup, I don't want to essentialize all indigenous people into the same boat. But, I see where performance is a mode for affirming relationships. Relationships with the people around us, relationships with the environment, relationships with the more than human communities around us, relationships with the universe. Performance is what grounds our humanity is how I see it. Then that relationality piece, I think, is definitely one dimension that takes it into the realm of this question: "is there, or will there be, or should there be an indigenous performance studies?" I think, definitely yes. I think there is something about performance for indigenous people by indigenous people that will market as distinct from performance writ large. Especially in this totally globalized, capitalized world of mass, industrial production, and atomistically individual choice that I think there is something happening among indigenous people that does speak to the notion of indigenous performance studies.

Bethany Hughes: My sort of personal, I don't know if it's a pet project, or just a dream, or wish in the way, [is] that many really important ideas in native studies as a field or indigenous studies have been drawn from native literary scholars or authors. And I think about how might scholars and artists of embodied performance practices, I'm thinking singing, and dancing, and, you know, theater, and storytelling, how might they be actually offering us

theories and understandings and ways of looking at and analyzing things that have not been tracked because they're not written down in a book and everyone can go and cite them. And so this is one of my goals is to keep watching indigenous theater and look for what it's saying and look at what it's interested in and how it tells the stories and what kinds of stories are being told, and the ways that the artists who are putting bodies in space and time together to tell meaningful stories. What's that actually offering us that may not be articulated or noticed if you're not sort of looking at the body of work? So, I don't know, this is my personal goal of 'what can indigenous performance teach us?' You know, for me, specifically theater, but I think of any embodied performance practice is in that too, right? And this is one reason I'm drawn to dance studies because nobody takes body seriously like dance studies does and I think that matters in the way that I think sometimes the Academy will say humans have bodies, but we're brains, and the way the Academy is set up to value intellectual wisdom and things like that. And I think about the way that indigenous performance practices so seamlessly meld body and brain and spirit and community and there's a holistic sense to indigenous performance that is really both beautiful and also weighty, right? It all of a sudden means performance has a kind of weight and value that, you know, mainstream American culture isn't really interested in having to take that kind of responsibility. When performance is about sustaining relationships, then you have obligations and, you know, things like that that come with it. So those are things I think about around indigenous performance.



In August 2022, Performing Indigenous Networks, a research project funded in part by the Center for World Performance Studies, held its first in-person research and planning sessions at the Clements Library. The Network seeks to understand Indigenous networks of cultural production.

Pictured from left to right: Bethany Hughes (Choctaw, U-M), Cristina Stanciu (Virginia Commonwealth University), Bradby Brown (Pamunkey, Pocahontas Reframed Film Festival), Kelly Wisecup (Northwestern University), Tomantha Sylvester (Sault Ste. Marie, Anishinaabe Theater Exchange), Colleen Medicine (Sault Ste. Marie, Anishinaabe Theater Exchange), Paul Erickson (Clements Library, U-M).

WELCOME TO AMERICAN CULTURE!

This year, we are lucky to have a handful of new faces join our American Culture community. Get to know them below!

New Staff in the Main Office:

May Jean Dong, Academic Program Specialist, joins us from the Departments of Asian Languages and Cultures and Middle East Studies, where she was the Curriculum Assistant for the last four years. There, she managed the teaching preferences and time schedule for over 95 faculty and tracked enrollments in over 500 class sections. May Jean brings a wealth of experience in curriculum and student services at the department level and will be transitioning to her office at 3725 Haven Hall throughout the coming weeks.

Ratie Coleman, Academic Program Specialist (APS) in Comparative Literature, will continue to support the job duties of the Academic Program Specialist (she worked/trained with former APS Elizabeth So before she left) until May Jean is able to move fully into the department.

Giota Tachtara, Events and Communications Coordinator in AC and Comp Lit. Giota joined AC mid-year, so many of you already know her. She studied Political Science in Athens, Greece, and Journalism in Los Angeles (UCLA). She has written, edited, and translated articles for women's magazines, websites, and newspapers, organized major events for Condé Nast and Hearst International, interviewed artists, designers, and a wide array of cultural workers. For the last ten years she has moved around between Ann Arbor, Princeton, Athens, and Istanbul with her partner and their two sons, leaving a trail of Lego bricks all the way back to Ann Arbor, where they finally settled about two years ago.

New Work Study Student Office Assistants:

Luke Jacobson begins his second year as an AC Office Assistant. He is a sophomore in LSA and hopes to study psychology. Luke grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and plays water polo for U-M's club team.

Yoon Kim begins her first year as an AC Office Assistant. She is a fourth-year student majoring in Public Policy with minors in Spanish and Community Action & Social Change. She is a second-generation Korean American from the Chicago suburbs and is interested in Asian American organizing on campus. Yoon enjoys cooking, sharing music, being in nature, and learning about modern/revolutionary Korean history.

Anastazija Pomelov begins her second year as an AC Office Assistant. She is a sophomore planning to study Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. Anastazija enjoys music, reading, and trying new coffee places.

New Graduate Students:

Caroline Hsu proposes to focus her doctoral research on the vexed site of “representation wins” for Asian Americans in popular media. She began this work in her award-winning thesis, *“Stranger Things: Nostalgia vs. Representation in ‘Kids on Bikes’ Media,”* which focused on the television show, *Stranger Things*, and Stephen King’s *It*, a thesis she wrote while completing her BA in English at Northwestern University.

Melisa Hussain hopes to focus her doctoral research on an examination of the local and federal surveillance of diverse American Muslim youth at the cusp of adulthood in public schools. This research interest partially arose from her own experience of being surveilled by the FBI/JTTF. Aside from academia, Melisa works as Operations and Policy Coordinator at A Continuous Charity Foundation in Dallas, Texas, an organization focused on supporting Muslim students in higher education with an interest-free loan. Hussain holds a BA in English from University of Massachusetts Lowell.

New Graduate Students:

Daniel Jin is formerly the Statehouse Reporter for *The Berkshire Eagle* in Pittsfield, MA. Drawing on his experience as a journalist in New England, Jin plans to focus his doctoral research on the Puerto Rican diaspora in that region. More broadly his research interests include U.S. Empire; post-WWII urban history and political economy; and race, ethnicity, and migration studies. He holds a BA in American Studies from Williams College.

Wesley Ruiz plans to draw on his experience as coordinator/curator at the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), where he curated BAAD's first series explicitly focused on transgender artists of color, in his doctoral research. In that work, he will focus on how transgender artists and performers navigate the uses and limits of representation and visibility in their work. Ruiz holds a BA in American Studies from Oberlin College.

New Fellows:

Sara Awartani is the 2022 LSA Collegiate Fellow in AC. Sarah received her Ph.D. in American Studies from George Washington University. Before joining Michigan, she was a Global American Studies postdoctoral fellow at Harvard's Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History and a Lecturer on Harvard's Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights. She is a proud alumna of the University of Florida, where she graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in History. As an interdisciplinary historian, her work intersects with our ethnic studies programs in Latina/o Studies and Arab and Muslim American Studies focusing on twentieth-century U.S. social movements, interracial solidarities, policing, and American global power radicalism.

Dmitri Brown is an assistant professor of American Culture and a 2022 – 2024 Michigan Society of Fellows fellow in AC. Dmitri comes to AC with a 2022 Ph.D. in History (with a Designated Emphasis in Native American Studies) from the University of California, Davis. His dissertation titled "Tewa Pueblos at the Dawn of Atomic Modernity," draws on family stories and rigorous historiographical research to propose a novel interpretation of Indigenous modernity in relation to the Manhattan Project at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

Student Visitors Sponsored by AC for the Fall 2022 Semester:

Nancy Awori is a U-M African Presidential Scholar, sponsored by AC with an affiliation to the African Studies Center at the U-M International Institute. She is visiting in the Fall 2022 semester. Nancy is a lecturer in the Department of Media and Communication at Multimedia University of Kenya. She has a B.A. in Television Production and is an M.A. candidate in women's and gender studies at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. At U-M, as an African Presidential Scholar, Nancy is researching the representation of sexual minorities in contemporary Kenyan films, specifically *Rafiki* (2018). Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes is her faculty host.

Juan Martínez Gil is a visiting graduate student from Jaume I University in Castello, Valencia, Spain, with an affiliation at the U-M International Institute, sponsored in the Fall 2022 semester by Professor Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, with whom Juan will work on the theoretical framework of his dissertation on Spanish Trans Representations (both autobiographical and fictional) during the 1960's to 1980's.

New AC Faculty:

Juan Cole is the Richard P. Mitchel Collegiate Professor of History and the Director of the Program in Arab and Muslim American Studies. He joins AC from the Department of History. His work seeks to put the relationship of the West and the Muslim world in historical context. Juan travels widely to various parts of the Muslim world. He has written, edited, or translated 19 books and authored over 100 articles and chapters. He has written about Egypt, Iran, Iraq, the Gulf, and South Asia and about both extremist groups and peace movements. Juan conducts his research in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and Turkish as well as several European languages. He has translated works of Lebanese American author Kahlil Gibran, appeared widely on media, including the PBS News Hour, ABC World News Tonight, Nightline, the Today Show, Anderson Cooper 360, Rachel Maddow, Chris Hayes' All In, CNN, the Colbert Report, Democracy Now! and many others! Juan teaches courses in History and Global Islamic Studies.

Matthew L.M. Fletcher is a professor of American Culture and the Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law. A graduate of the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (B.A. in English, 1994) and of the University of Michigan Law School (J.D., 1997), he comes to U-M from Michigan State University. Professor Fletcher sits as the Chief Justice of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. He also sits as an appellate judge for the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, the Colorado River Indian Tribes, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, and the Tulalip Tribes. He is a member of the Grand Traverse Band. With expertise in federal and tribal law, Anishinaabe legal and political philosophy, constitutional law and legal ethics, Matthew joins AC and the Program in Native American Studies.

New AC Faculty:

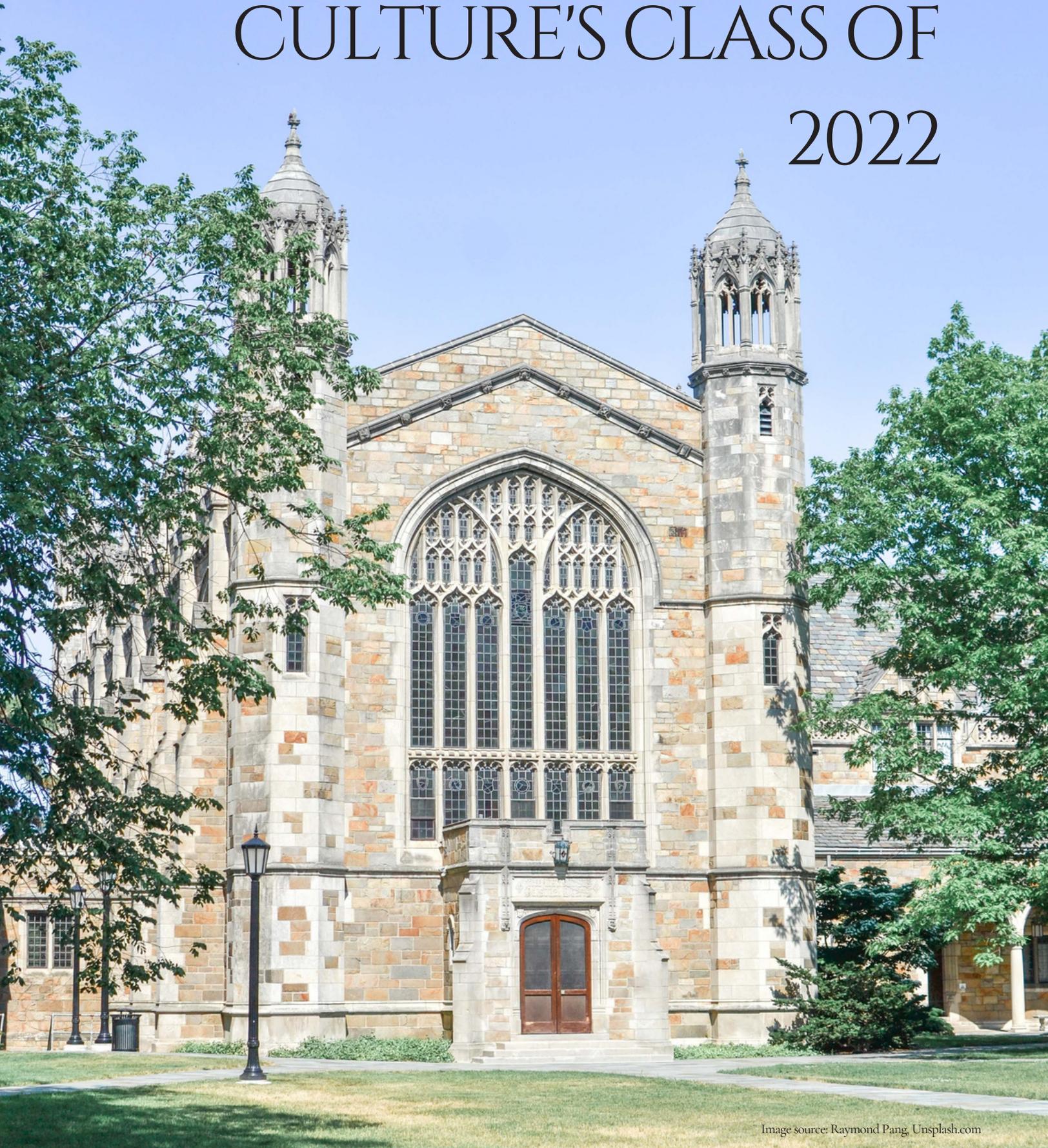
Doo Jae Park is a LEO Lecturer I in American Culture and Kinesiology. He comes to AC from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he was a Visiting Assistant Professor. His research interests include Asian moving bodies, racialization, identity politics, and cultural citizenship in contemporary sports and physical culture. He is teaching an AC First Year seminar in A/PIA studies “Asian American Popular Culture” in FA22.

Yarden Katz is an Assistant Professor jointly appointed in American Culture and DSI (Digital Studies Institute). He comes to AC following postdoctoral fellowships at the Harvard Medical School, at Harvard’s Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society and in DSI. Yarden received his Ph.D. in Brain and Cognitive Sciences from MIT and is the author of *Artificial Whiteness: Politics and Ideology in Artificial Intelligence*, about white supremacy and artificial intelligence, published in 2020. His current research broadly addresses the historical, cultural, and technological impacts of modern institutional and scientific racism from the nineteenth century to the present day. His second book project, under contract with the University of Massachusetts Press, investigates the connection between labor struggles and biomedical research, focusing on groups like Science for the People and the Jewish radical tradition. As a cognitive scientist and interdisciplinary scholar his work is in clear dialogue with AC faculty who work on eugenics, digital studies, social movements, African American studies, prison studies, and Jewish studies, with intellectual overlaps in the work of many AC faculty. He is teaching an AC First Year Seminar on Science, Technology, and Racial Capitalism in the FA22 semester.

New AC Faculty:

Cherry Meyer is an Assistant Professor, successfully moving this year from her 2-year LSA Collegiate Fellowship in AC to a joint tenure-track appointment in American Culture, Native American Studies, and Linguistics. Cherry received her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Chicago and trained in Spanish Language and Linguistics as an undergraduate at Wayne State University in Detroit. Her work lies within the state conducting fieldwork in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Her expertise in documenting and revitalizing the Ojibwe language (Anishinaabemowin), the language that dominated this land of Michigan until the nineteenth century, brings to the University a long-sought academic dimension to the teaching and research in the language, strengthening our commitment to the cultural sovereignty of indigenous people of the state. In addition to being a revitalization activist, Cherry is a thoroughgoing linguist who offers a dynamic link between formal scholarship and on-the-ground social justice efforts in Native North America. Cherry is teaching an AC-NAS First Year Seminar in Language and Gender in the FA22 semester.

AMERICAN CULTURE'S CLASS OF 2022



CLASS OF 2022



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MADYLIN EBERSTEIN
CADE MCNAMARA
EMILY OHL
KJ REESE
LIO RILEY
BENJAMIN VANSUMEREN
BRIANNA WRIGHT

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OLIVIA CHANG
HIBA DAGHER
HAMSA EZZI
JO-HEUN LEE
RIYA PATEL
NATALIE SUH
SUKI ZHAO

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American Culture Minors

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SARAH MANSOUR

AMY NOWACK

DHEER PATEL

DEREK RICHARDSON

HELEN SHEN

JULIA SESSIONS

CLAIRE SWEENEY

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DENNY HE

VICTORIA MINKA

SARAH MORGAN

NATALIE SUH

JACK WU

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MARWA KHAILIL

RAYYAN LATIF

MARIA MANSOUR

MAYA NASSIF

KAREEM TAYEB

CLASS OF 2022



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SANDRA PEREZ GONZALES
JULIANNA COLLADO
NATALIE MCGUIRE
STEPHANY ORTEGA
TANIA ZARAGOZA

Native American Studies Minors

BRIANNE ACKLEY
EMILY GOODRICH
CORNELIA REDD

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS



Each year, the American Culture Department awards the Joel Siegel Scholarship to several students with financial need who demonstrate the potential for excellence in any of our programs. We had another amazing group of deserving students apply this year.

Joel S. Siegel Scholarship Recipients

ADRIANNA FARMER

SYD LIO RILEY

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS



Each year, our department also presents two awards to undergraduates in any of our degree programs for excellence in writing. The prize is named the Richard Meisler Award, in memory of our dear colleague Richard Meisler, who served as an undergraduate advisor in our department for more than a decade and who was both playful and deeply respectful of the ideas and commitments of our undergraduate students.

Richard Meisler Writing Award Winners

GABRIEL CONSIGLIO

KJ REESE

THANK YOU

AMERICAN CULTURE
COMMUNITY FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT!

To support our department financially:



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