

ACEC August 2020 Newsletter

ASIAN CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH®

ACE Center's Statement of Purpose

The Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) is the division of the Cultural and Community Centers under the Virginia Tech Office for Inclusion and Diversity. The ACEC's mission is to advocate for the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) communities, including Virginia Tech faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and alumni. We also aim to educate the campus community on issues centered around or related to our communities. All members of the campus and the local community are welcome to the ACEC and can participate in the ACEC's events, programs, and activities.

Alumni Spotlight- Jaclyn Marmol (2014-2020)

Jaclyn Marmol is a Filipino-American Virginia Tech alumna from northern Virginia. Before graduating in spring 2020, she spent her time at the university building the Asian and American American community through her strong leadership efforts, advocacy, and management skills. Marmol was a part of numerous organizations and roles throughout her time at Virginia Tech. She was a part of the residential leadership community in the Peddrew-Yates dorm hall her freshman year. She also joined the Asian-interest sorority Alpha Kappa Delta Phi her freshman year, and joined the Asian American Student Union (AASU) shortly after. After becoming vice president-external for AASU from 2016 to 2017, she became president a year later, when her social justice and advocacy truly took root. She restructured the council meetings for greater efficiency, launched the internship program, and helped construct the space for the Asian Cultural Engagement Center.



"I did a lot of community searching during my time at Virginia Tech, and that's when I really opened my eyes to the issues that were happening, not just on campus, but on a national landscape as well," she said. "What were the ways I could help?"

Some of her past internships included working for the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) National Center, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), and Congressman Mark Takano (CA-41) through the APAICS program. She continues her advocacy role in her current role as a political assistant for End Citizens United, for whom she interned in fall of 2018. Marmol is currently working with them on political expenditure for the upcoming 2020 presidential election.

"Especially in divisive times like this right now, you can't do this alone," she said. "And even though you're not the one being oppressed at that moment, that doesn't exclude you from joining those conversations and doesn't exclude from needing to advocate for other people."

Organization Spotlight- AASU

Welcome to the first AASU constituent organization spotlight! For the first edition, we're going to feature the organization that helps unite many of the APIDA organizations on campus: the Asian American Student Union. Established in the late 90's, AASU at VT was chartered by the university to give representation to the APIDA student community. The establishment of AASU serves a dual purpose-- to act as the uniting umbrella organization amongst the APIDA organizations and to provide a representative voice to the general APIDA student community. AASU has a seat on the most influential governance groups at Virginia Tech. Groups like the Commission on Student Affairs and Student Budget Board include presidents of University Chartered Student Organizations, upper administration members, and faculty. AASU works tirelessly to ensure the APIDA population at VT gets the resources, opportunities, and support they need all with the help of the Asian Cultural Engagement Center. Want to find out how you can support AASU at VT or learn more? Contact Jessica Nguyen at jtn28825@vt.edu.

ACEC Faculty Fellow Spotlight- Dr. Vincent Wang



The 2020-2021 ACE Center Faculty Fellow is Dr. Vincent Wang, an esteemed researcher and associate professor of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics in the College of Engineering! In 2016, he was named the Kevin P. Granata faculty fellow, a departmental honor that recognizes excellence in teaching and research. He has mentored more than 50 students, from graduate students to high school trainees for summer projects. Alongside his co-chair position in the APIDA Caucus, Dr. Wang hopes to

broaden the interest and participation within the ACE center by advocating for effective mentorship of APIDA graduate students and increasing faculty involvement, particularly to help advise and support students, in collaboration with ACEC director, Dr. Nina Ha. This includes finding ways to support students in terms of career and personal development as well as emotional support and encouragement.

ACEC Events

CCC Get Together- August 27 at 6 pm

- Get Together With the Cultural and Community Centers
- Zoom link: <https://virginatech.zoom.us/j/9644518547>
- Meet the directors and affiliated student organizations. Learn about each center, its resources, and major programs.

Affinity Spaces Bonding- August 27 from 7-8 pm

- Spend some time hanging out in each center's virtual space! Join in on the fun — from trivia games to cooking demos!



GET TOGETHER WITH THE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

CCC Welcome Week Open House
THURSDAY AUG. 27, 6PM
Zoom link: <https://virginatech.zoom.us/j/9644518547>
Meeting ID: 964 4518 1847

Meet the directors and affiliated student organizations. Learn about each center, its resources, and major programs.

Affinity Spaces Bonding
THURSDAY AUG. 27, 7-8PM

American Indian and Indigenous Community Center https://virginatech.zoom.us/j/93652572999 Meeting ID: 936 5257 2999	Black Cultural Center https://virginatech.zoom.us/j/91017659983 Meeting ID: 910 1765 9983
Asian Cultural Engagement Center https://virginatech.zoom.us/j/96940502416 Meeting ID: 969 4050 2416	LGBTQ+ Resource Center https://virginatech.zoom.us/j/99843141614 Meeting ID: 998 4314 1614
El Centro https://virginatech.zoom.us/j/9300066264 Meeting ID: 930 0066 264	Meeting ID: 998 4314 1614

ACEC Virtual Open House-

September 1 at 6 pm

- An online information session for people interested in the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Community at Virginia Tech
- Featuring APIDA student leaders and the APIDA Caucus
- Zoom Link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/94117361891>

THE ASIAN CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER PRESENTS:

A VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

An online information session for people interested in the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Community at Virginia Tech

Featuring APIDA student leaders and the APIDA Caucus

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST AT 6PM

Zoom link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/94117361891>



Questions? Contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu



Ascend National Convention sign up

- What is it? The Ascend National Convention & Career Fair is the largest gathering of pan-Asian business leaders and professionals in North America. 3,000+ top industry leaders, senior executives and professionals, along with MBAs and undergraduate students representing 250+ corporations and universities.
- Convention sign-up page: <https://ascendconvention.hubilo.com/>
- Registering for the event as a non-member student will cost \$25. If you register to be a part of our student chapter, your membership is \$25, but you can attend the convention for free and you will also have all the benefits of being part of a student chapter! Consider joining our chapter before signing up for the convention.
- Join the student chapter: https://ascendleadership.org/general/register_member_type.ASP

The poster for the 2020 Ascend National Convention features a yellow background with blue and orange abstract shapes. It includes the Ascend logo (Est. 2011) and text describing the event as the largest gathering of pan-Asian business leaders and professionals in North America. It lists 3,000+ top industry leaders, senior executives, and professionals, along with MBAs and undergraduate students representing 250+ corporations and universities. It also provides information on membership costs and registration links.

2020 Ascend National Convention

WHAT IS IT?
THE ASCEND NATIONAL CONVENTION & CAREER FAIR IS THE LARGEST GATHERING OF PAN-ASIAN BUSINESS LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS IN NORTH AMERICA. 3,000+ TOP INDUSTRY LEADERS, SENIOR EXECUTIVES AND PROFESSIONALS, ALONG WITH MBAs AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS REPRESENTING 250+ CORPORATIONS AND UNIVERSITIES.

WHY SHOULD YOU SIGN UP AS A STUDENT MEMBER?
REGISTERING FOR THE EVENT AS A NON-MEMBER STUDENT WILL COST \$25. IF YOU REGISTER TO BE A PART OF OUR STUDENT CHAPTER, YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS \$25, BUT YOU CAN ATTEND THE CONVENTION FOR FREE AND YOU WILL ALSO HAVE ALL THE BENEFITS OF BEING PART OF A STUDENT CHAPTER! CONSIDERING JOINING OUR CHAPTER BEFORE SIGNING UP FOR THE CONVENTION!

CONVENTION SIGN UP PAGE
LINK TO SIGN UP: [HTTPS://ASCENDCONVENTION.HUBILO.COM/](https://ascendconvention.hubilo.com/)
SCROLL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE

JOIN OUR STUDENT CHAPTER
LINK TO JOIN:
[HTTPS://WWW.ASCENDLEADERSHIP.ORG/GENERAL/REGISTER_MEMBER_TYPE.ASP](https://www.ascendleadership.org/general/register_member_type.asp)
JOIN AS FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

AASU Constituent Events

- **September 6th, 2020:** Chinese American Society (CAS) first general body meeting at 7 pm
- **September 9th, 2020:** Korean American Student Association (KASA) first general body meeting at 7 pm
- **September 10th, 2020:** Japanese Cultural Association (JCA) first general body meeting at 7 pm
- **September 13th, 2020:** CAS Field Day 1 pm
- **September 19th, 2020:** JCA fourth round of elections
- **September 22nd, 2020:** Asian American Student Union (AASU) Pop Culture Series Workshop 5 pm
- **September 23rd, 2020:** KASA Second general body meeting 7 pm
- **September 24th, 2020:** Vietnamese Student Union (VSA) first general body meeting 6 pm
- **September 24th, 2020:** JCA second general body meeting at 7 pm
- **September 30th, 2020:** Start of KASA big/ little week
- **September 30th, 2020:** VSA second general body meeting at 6 pm

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Caucus

BLM Statement from the Caucus

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Caucus of Virginia Tech strongly condemns all forms of systemic racism, racial discrimination, racial injustice, and racist

violence. We grieve the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, and countless other victims of police brutality. These murders are, yet again, instances of this country's long history of devaluing, dehumanizing, harming, criminalizing, and oppressing Black lives, and come at a time when BIPOC communities are already disproportionately hurting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We support recent and ongoing uprisings in response to police brutality against the Black community, as well as recent policy reforms addressing policing and criminal justice in the United States.

We acknowledge that our APIDA community faces racial discrimination, xenophobic stigmas, and a recent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, focusing solely on our own pain and feeding into the "model minority myth" falsely pits the APIDA community against the Black community, distracting from the real goal of eradicating this country's racist foundations and institutions. Doing so would also fail to acknowledge multiracial individuals and experiences within the Black and APIDA communities. Ultimately, we recognize that we cannot be bystanders to racial injustice and must unite with, amplify the voices of, and fight for the Black community--as they have often done so for us in the past.

Recent months have also made clear that higher education is not exempt from systemic racism and that much more needs to be done in order to create equitable working, research, and learning environments. As faculty, staff, and graduate students at a public, land grant university, we acknowledge our responsibility to actively address issues of racial discrimination, settler colonialism, implicit bias, gatekeeping, cultural and racial insensitivity, underrepresentation, and inequities in higher education.

As a Caucus we are dedicating the next few months to reexamine our purpose, mission, and objectives. In addition to serving the interests and needs of our APIDA members, we are committed to advancing the issues of BIPOC, underrepresented, and underserved groups at Virginia Tech. We pledge to develop and execute concrete actions within our community, with other marginalized and underserved communities, and with the broader university communities, to dismantle systemic, intergenerational racism through our roles at Virginia Tech.

Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Caucus Co-Chairs

Theo Lim- Assistant Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning, School of Public and International Affairs
Contact: tclim@vt.edu

I grew up in NJ, where >30% of our high school class was Asian American, and oddly enough, never felt I had to identify as Asian American because of that. During my undergraduate years however, I became more engaged politically and served as Co-President of the Swarthmore Asian Organization. After undergrad, I was a Fulbright scholar to China, where I ended up staying for four years. My research focuses on helping communities achieve environmental sustainability through planning for the connections between land, water, infrastructure, and people, and I teach classes in urban analytics and sustainable infrastructure.



Hana Chan- third year graduate student, biomedical engineering and mechanics
Contact: hxc419@vt.edu

Hi everyone! I'm Hana, a PhD candidate in biomedical engineering - my research focuses on automotive safety and injury biomechanics. I'm Chinese (Cantonese) American, born and raised in Northern Virginia. I'm excited to help lead the caucus this year as we work to serve the APIDA community at Virginia Tech!



Vincent Wang- Associate Professor and Kevin P. Granata Faculty Fellow, Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics.
Contact: vmwang@vt.edu

I am a native of Blacksburg (a Hokie by birth!) and spent many years in New York City and Chicago (for education and work) prior to joining VT in 2015. I am honored to be ACEC's Faculty Fellow this academic year and look forward to working with many of you. My lab conducts research in orthopedic biomechanics, mechanobiology, and machine learning analysis of medical images.



Intro to ACEC Video



ACEC Programming Assistants Intro Video



Diversity Summit Video



Social Media

