



Asian Cultural Engagement Center March 2022 Newsletter

ACEC's Statement of Purpose

The Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) is a division of the Cultural and Community Centers under the Virginia Tech Office for Inclusion and Diversity (OID). The ACEC's mission is to advocate for the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) communities, including Virginia Tech faculty, staff, 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 local community are welcome in the ACEC and can participate in the ACEC's events, programs, and activities, whether in-person or virtually.

Interested in financially supporting the ACEC so that it can better serve the APIDA community? Please consider donating here: [ACEC Donation Page](#).

Follow us on social media!

Facebook: [VTACEC](#)

Instagram: [vtacec](#)

Twitter: [acec_vt](#)

YouTube: [ACEC VT](#)

Website: ccc.vt.edu/index/acec.html

APIDA Caucus

The APIDA Caucus serves as an advocacy and support group for faculty, staff, and graduate students at Virginia Tech and Blacksburg/NRV community members who self-identify as APIDA, or allies who are interested in participating in conversations relevant to the APIDA community. We also serve the APIDA community at other Virginia Tech campuses (Washington, D.C. area, etc). The Caucus acts as a liaison to the university administration and is committed to supporting the needs of all APIDA individuals. Our events are open to faculty, staff, graduate & undergraduate students, and community members.

To be added to our new email listserv (apidacaucus-g@vt.edu) and to get more information, please contact Rommelyn Coffren at rconde@vt.edu. Want to get involved? Find us on Twitter @VTAPIDACaucus

APIDA Faculty and Graduate Student Mentorship Program

The APIDA Caucus, in collaboration with the ACEC, recently started a mentorship program for APIDA faculty and APIDA graduate students. The program was spearheaded by Ph.D. student, Hana Chan, to provide mentors for APIDA graduate students who traditionally have difficulty finding mentors and role models in their respective fields and who also self-identify as APIDA. The purpose of the program is to create connections between graduate students and faculty within the APIDA community who share similar identities and experiences and to create safe and culturally sensitive environments for graduate students to seek guidance and support.

APID Alumni Society

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi Alumni Society (APIDAS) of Virginia Tech is an organization dedicated to fostering community for all Asian/Asian American and Pacific Islander alumni. In addition to building a community of alums, we strive to foster mentorships with current undergrad and grad students, provide networking opportunities, and give back to our alma mater from wherever we are. If you are interested in learning more about us or would like to join, please email apidasvt@gmail.com.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/apidasvt>

Instagram: [apidas_vt](#)

Asian American Student Union (AASU)

The mission of the Asian American Student Union is to serve the Asian/Pacific Islander/Desi American (APIDA) communities within Virginia Tech. It shall act as an umbrella organization over the branching undergraduate APIDA organizations. It shall strive to enhance and further the individual, cultural, and ethnic diversities that exist in the APIDA communities. It shall make efforts to address the problems, issues, and concerns of the APIDA communities to the administration and other fellow student organizations.

Follow us on social media!

Facebook: [VTAASU](#)

Instagram: [aasuvt](#)

GobblerConnect: gobblerconnect.vt.edu/organization/aasu

ACEC WELCOME

March is Women's History Month! Therefore, the ACEC will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring events highlighting all of the contributions that APIDA women, not to mention all women, have made. Moreover, we are truly excited to showcase the APIDA community in intersectional and collaborative ways. Please be on the lookout for all of our exciting programs and events.

Featured Spotlights

Undergraduate Spotlight



Caption by Samantha Shim, Photo by Samantha Shim

Samantha Shim is a junior studying Political Science with a concentration in Legal Studies and minoring in Chinese Studies. Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Shim always moved around and has lived in places such as Northern Virginia, Washington State, New York, and Germany. She currently resides in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Shim came to Virginia Tech in Fall 2019 after attending school in Upstate New York. One thing that drew her to the campus was the diverse community and how everyone was nice and inclusive. During her time at Virginia Tech, Shim has been involved in the Korean American Student Association (KASA), the Asian American Mental Health Alliance (AAMHA), and Phi Alpha Delta. In KASA, she previously held the position of historian and currently holds secretary. She also previously held the post of secretary for AAMHA.

As secretary for KASA, Shim feels that she should do her best to help others feel welcomed and belonged. Understanding what it's like to be left out, she strives to help and let new members know that they are always welcomed no matter where they come from or what their background is.

Shim's piece of advice for both incoming and current students is, "If you want to do it, do it! Trying new things can be very scary but sometimes taking that chance can possibly lead you to the best thing that ever happened to you! By taking these chances, you are able to learn more about yourself!"

Graduate Spotlight



Caption by Yinan Wang, Photo by Linda Hazelwood

Yinan Wang is a Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech. He spent the first 18 years of his life in his hometown Fu Yang, An Hui, a small city in China. After four years of undergraduate studies in a bigger city in China, he moved to Blacksburg to start his Master's followed by a doctoral program in January 2019.

Currently, Wang's research focuses on engineering-driven Machine Learning methodologies for intelligent manufacturing systems. His objective is to propose novel interpretable Machine Learning models by fusing data-driven models and physical models to improve system automation, conduct defect detection, root cause diagnosis and advance system intelligence. The other areas of foci include, (i) developing systematic engineering-driven surrogates to achieve accurate prediction,

real-time monitoring of complex systems, accurate detection of system faults, and quick diagnosis of root causes.

Wang is currently the President-elect for the VT- Informs Student Chapter and a student board member of IISE/QCRE. Additionally, Wang has contributed immensely since his time at VT. He has led several research projects and has been able to obtain approvals for six journal papers. He has also served as a teaching assistant and guest mentor for both undergraduate and graduate courses, senior design teams, and undergraduate student researchers.

As a member of the APIDA community, Wang claimed “I met many people with diverse backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles in the United States, and such experiences and interactions show the charming part of diversity. I have received a lot of kindness and help since I have been here.”

The most significant moments to him as an APIDA are when he is able to contribute and help his peers and fellow students. Wang described, “I have been working in the VT Informs Student Chapter for several years and hosted many events, such as organizing seminar series, student poster competitions, conducting new student orientations, and so on.”

His words for the members of the APIDA community are, “Embrace the changes, and always remember where you are from. Work hard, always try to improve yourself, and be a nice person in work and daily life.”

Faculty Spotlight





Capt
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by:
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Aki Ishida is Associate Professor of Architecture and the Interim Associate Director at VT School of Architecture + Design. She is also a Senior Fellow of the University's Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT), where she collaborates with engineers and artists. She received her M.S. in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University and Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Minnesota.

Professor Ishida grew up in Tokyo, Japan until the age of 11. Afterwards, she moved with her family to Saint Paul, Minnesota. Before starting work at Virginia Tech, she worked for 17 years in New York City, and then she moved to Blacksburg in January of 2012. She is currently part of the APIDA Caucus, but she hasn't been very active in APIDA communities and organizations, nevertheless, she has participated in events by NOMAS (National Organization of Minority Architects), but not as an advisor.

Professor Ishida's research is based on several interests, one of which is her work on glass transparency and about which her book Blurred Transparency highlights by combining her knowledge and interests in technical aspects of being a glass practitioner. She is also interested in how glass as a material has been perceived throughout history. She wrote multiple articles on non-permanence buildings, one of the buildings is Nakagin Capsule in Japan. Another topic of interest includes questions about sustainability and how to design and build environments for the future. She was interested in this

research because of her work with a glass artist, in which she worked on the design of a glass structure with the most advanced glass fabrication technologies and materials. Additionally, she has been interested in the intersection of art, architecture, and technology since her graduate school years. Lastly, she has been taking students to Japan for VT's Study Abroad program.

Professor Ishida described her work at VT as “a real cultural shift to an environment where I am a minority, a female architect, and also an Asian academic.” In comparison to when she was in New York City, where she claimed that she worked in three different offices and all of them had a significant number of APIDA people, she noticed a significant lack of representation by APIDA professors and APIDA people in general in Blacksburg. Nevertheless, Professor Ishida claims that she has had great teaching experiences and ongoing relationships with her students, especially those of APIDA descent. She also thinks that the connection between her and her APIDA students is because of her cultural background. She said, “I do feel a connection with students from Asia not only as an architect, but also as a human being with shared cultures and sensibilities, which have made my teaching very meaningful as well as research and study abroad programs.”

Being the only APIDA faculty member in the School of Architecture & Design for a long time, Professor Ishida claimed that just her presence, and her speaking about Japanese architecture, architects, taking students to Japan, and educating not only APIDA students but everybody, has made an impact.

“I think representation by Asian professors is important in order for Asian students to feel that their cultures matter.”

Professor. Ishida's perspective of and desire for international students of APID descent is: “I think for Asian students [to come to the U.S.] and [to] study architecture offers a great perspective on their own country, and I'll be more interested in seeing them going back [to their country of origin] and questioning their practices and the history that they learned, hoping they will gain a critical perspective about their home country by studying here.”

Alumni Spotlight



Capt
ion
by
Paul

Hwang, Photo by Sungjoo Park

Paul Hwang graduated from Virginia Tech in May of 2021 and was born in New Zealand, but spent most of his years growing up in Centerville, Virginia. He started his degree in Computer Science in the Fall of 2017 and faced many challenges because he initially joined as a Mathematics major. However, his passion for Computer Science meant that he switched his major and left his initial choice behind without regrets. Hwang has been working at Capital One as an Associate Software Engineer since August of 2021.

During his time at Virginia Tech, he was a member of the Cornerstone Christian Fellowship (CCF), whose membership comprised a majority of the APIDA community. Being a part of the community, Hwang felt that there were huge expectations he had to shoulder but was quickly able to find his footing as part of the CCF organization. In addition to his participation in CCF, Hwang played volleyball with people he met at the gym. He was always very comfortable playing volleyball with them. Hwang felt welcome because they all shared the same interest in their love for volleyball. Overall, he felt very comfortable during his time at Virginia Tech because of seeing all of the diversity and having a strong sense of inclusiveness.

Hwang started his career as an Intern for Capital One in the Summer of 2020,

about a year before he graduated. At Capital One, Hwang also feels like he was part of an inclusive community, feeling welcomed by all, especially at Capital One's Business Resource Groups (BRG's) called Origins, which are for APIDAs working for Capital One. They are a dedicated community that meets bi-monthly to connect through cultural programs and events and to help with communication and networking.

One advice Hwang would tell a first-year student at Virginia Tech is "Do not be pretentious." What that means is to be able to show love to those who hate you. What would be the purpose of doing that, it would just "feed the fire?" Try to be a better person by having the mindset that you and everyone else around you is human. Show love for others because it helps to propel you into being a better person.

Meet the Newest ACEC Programming Assistant!



Caption by Sean Lagangan, Photo by Sang Han

Hello! My name is Sean Lagangan (he/him). I am a junior transfer student majoring in Public Relations and minoring in International Business. I chose this major because I wanted to work in nonprofit organizations so that I can be able to be the voice for those who are in need. You can usually find me at Oasis Asian Market trying to decide on what to cook for dinner or rehearsing with VT a cappella group, Juxtapositions. I also like to play volleyball, League of Legends, and rewatch Disney shows and movies. I am excited to meet and work with everyone at the ACEC this semester.

What is Caste?

WHAT IS CASTE?

Sign up to attend an audio-recorded Saturday afternoon focus group (with chai and samosas). Attain an Interpersonal Communications Certificate to share with your future employers.



Photo credit: Sowсан Bazzal

SIGN UP!

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY IT IS STILL SPOKEN OF?

DOES CASTE HAVE HIDDEN POWER IN OUR INTERACTIONS?

DOES CASTE OPERATE IN THE U.S.?

Join Shah Shajahan and Dr. Bonnie Zare of Virginia Tech Sociology for an Understanding Privilege focus group & be a part of an approved VT Study (#21-656).



NOTE: Must be a South Asian American student between 18-24.

WHAT IS CASTE ?



PHOTO CREDIT: SOWSAN BAZZAL

DOES CASTE HAVE HIDDEN POWER IN OUR INTERACTIONS?
 HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY IT IS STILL SPOKEN OF?
 DOES CASTE OPERATE IN THE U.S.?

JOIN SHAH SHAJAHAN AND DR. BONNIE ZARE OF VIRGINIA TECH SOCIOLOGY FOR AN UNDERSTANDING PRIVILEGE FOCUS GROUP & BE A PART OF AN APPROVED VT STUDY (#21-656).

SIGN UP HERE!



SIGN UP TO ATTEND AN AUDIO-RECORDED SATURDAY AFTERNOON FOCUS GROUP. ATTAIN AN INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS CERTIFICATE TO SHARE WITH YOUR FUTURE EMPLOYERS, CHAI & SAMOSAS, AND A GIFT CARD.

NOTE: MUST BE A SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN OR SOUTH ASIAN STUDENT. LATER YOU WILL BE INVITED TO COMPLETE AN OPTIONAL CONFIDENTIAL 30 MINUTE INTERVIEW TO RECEIVE A GIFT CARD.

QUESTIONS? EMAIL: BONZARE@VT.EDU

Countering Assumptions about Indians in the U.S. by Dr. Bonnie Zare

“Indians in the U.S.? You mean the minority group who are among the most powerful and wealthy? You mean like Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet, or Shantanu Narayan, the head of Adobe?” This is the kind of image that circulates in mainstream media: bursting with brains and talent and ready to command the room. The current 4.2 million people of Indian origin makes it the second largest immigrant group in the U.S. Understandably, these successes are celebrated and circulate widely. Unfortunately, though, as this occurs, the varied and multi-layered experiences of other South Asian Americans get obscured.

For instance, few realize that there are many persons of Indian origin who take a risk to depart from their country owing to extreme hunger, persistent joblessness, and housing insecurity. This was brought to the fore on February 11 when the frozen bodies of Vaishaliben Patel and her husband and two children, aged 3 and 11, were found in Manitoba, Canada on their way to Minnesota. The Patels lived in a 3,500 person town in Gujarat and were making their way through Manitoba on foot. They would have been attempting to walk for hours in -35 degrees Fahrenheit, and they were found lying in a field 40 feet from the United States border. Five other Indian nationals were also found that day, having paid high sums to obtain a way to cross into the United States in hopes of eventually increasing economic mobility and the ability to form marital alliances both in the U.S. and back home for relatives to raise social capital. People in their small town in India spoke of the pressure to establish an upwardly mobile trajectory through emigrating specifically to the U.S., a place still spoken of as effortlessly abundant. The incident has brought a sharp reminder of how human smugglers prey upon families desperate for a chance to remake themselves abroad. As [BBC writers](#) Holly Honderich and Roxy Gagdekar sorrowfully concluded, while perhaps the Patel family thought the pathway was going to be as simple as the border they were crossing was unimpeded, “On the night of their crossing, that path was blurred by snow, and the long stretch of the prairies would have offered little in the form of navigation.... In their final moments, they may not have known where they were at all.”

It's not a secret that the most effective way to build social capital is to have some to begin with. Another dimension of Indian reality often obscured from view is how both class and caste background dramatically narrows who can migrate and therefore which members of the South Asian community have established themselves in the U.S. The [Carnegie Endowment Indian American Attitudes Survey](#) (2020) found that 8 in 10 Hindu Americans who identify with a caste category self-identify as upper or dominant caste. Traditional expectations about marriage choice sediment this trend, thereby easing the continuation of unconscious or conscious ideas about caste hierarchy: eight

out of ten Indian Americans indicate their spouse or partner is of Indian origin (affirmed by 85% of foreign-born respondents and 71% of U.S. born respondents). Although rarely openly discussed, being of Indian origin in the U.S. and belonging to a dominant caste sets a person up for advantageous treatment among community peers and authority figures, similar to U.S. citizens who have physical features linked to a white European identity receiving more job interviews in comparison to U.S. citizens who do not. Words like “merit,” “quality,” and “intelligence” are used to explain achievement without reference to the intergenerational benefits that accrue from very old attitudes associating background with automatic acceptance.

It is likely advances for caste equity unfold nationwide, as more and more people of Indian origin distinguish between accepting and embracing South Asian culture including Hinduism and accepting a feudal architecture that in certain ways was strengthened by exploitative practices under British rule. After two years of education and campaigning, a California group of intercaste and interfaith students, faculty, and staff have recently accomplished one of their goals. The 22-campus system of the well regarded California State University system now includes [caste background as a protected category](#) in their non-discrimination policy, joining others such as Harvard University, Colby College, and Brandeis University. No one should face discrimination based on one’s perceived birth status, whether while conducting a lab experiment as a Grad student or discussing the contribution of authors on an original publication. The Virginia Tech Sociology Department is also contributing to ongoing research in this area. Professor Bonnie Zare and Ph.D. student Muhammedshah Shajahan have been conducting a series of conversations about the complexity of caste. Students receive a \$15 gift card for participating, and the last one is coming up on Saturday, March 26 in the Asian Cultural Engagement Center from 1- 4 PM EST. Sign up [here](#).

For further questions, please email bonzare@vt.edu.

Did You Know ?

Notable APIDA Women Trivia

Did you know?

1. [Kalpana Chawla](#) was the first Indian-born woman in space. Her degrees revolved around aeronautical and aerospace engineering. Unfortunately, on February 3, 2003, when part of a space mission operated by NASA, the space shuttle Columbia sustained damage while reentering the

earth's atmosphere and exploded causing the death of everyone on board including Kalpana.

2. [Yuri Kochiyama](#) was a Japanese-American civil rights activist. In 1943, under President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, Kochiyama and her family were sent to a concentration camp in Jerome, Arkansas, for two years. Afterwards, she moved to New York with her husband and founded the Asian Americans for Action and sought to build a more political Asian American movement that would link itself to the struggle for Black liberation.
3. [Junko Tabei](#), a Japanese mountaineer, author, and teacher was the first woman to summit Mount Everest in 1975. Later, she also became the first woman to complete scaling the Seven Summits (the highest peak in every continent) in 1992. She was also an environmentalist, specifically studying the amount of litter left on the mountains.
4. [Maya Lin](#) is an architect, who completed her undergraduate degree at Yale. During her years as an undergraduate student, she garnered fame for winning the national design competition for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Lin went on to design numerous historical monuments, landscapes, and sculptures.
5. [Patsy Takemoto Mink](#) was a famous American politician. She was the first Asian American woman to be elected to the US House of Representatives. During her time in the US House of Representatives, she co-authored Title IX and helped pass the law. She was also the first Asian American to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Other notable APIDA women:

- **Anna May Wong**
 - <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/anna-may-wong>
- **Dr Margaret Chung**
 - <https://www.nps.gov/people/dr-margaret-mom-chung.htm>
- **List of APIDA female scientists**
 - <https://www.asianscientist.com/2018/03/features/female-scientists-slay-as100/>
- **Michelle Wu**
 - <https://www.boston.gov/departments/mayors-office/michelle-wu>
- **Senator Ghazala Hashmi (VA)**
 - <https://ghazalahashmi.com/>

Kristi Yamaguchi

<https://olympics.com/en/athletes/kristi-yamaguchi>

Ali Wong

o <https://www.aliwong.com/>

Interview

Biochemistry enhances experiential learning for students with investment in two state-of-the-art scientific instruments featuring Dr. Jim Tokuhisa

Click on this link to learn more!

<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/02/cals-bchm-experiential-learning.html>

AASU Events

A poster for a "Coffee House" event. The background is dark brown. At the top left, it lists "CAS X VSA X JCA X FASA X KASA" and "@ VT Presents". The title "Coffee House" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below the title, it says "Tuesday, March 1 | 6:30 pm" and "Commonwealth Ballroom". On the right side, there is a blue chalkboard with white text: "\$3 early bird (2/11 - 2/28)", "\$5 at the door (3/1)", "Members get 3 tickets", and "Any additional tickets can be purchased for \$1". Below the chalkboard is a white coffee cup on a saucer with steam rising from it. At the bottom left, there are five small logos: CAS, VSA, JCA, FASA, and KASA.

CAS X VSA X JCA X FASA X KASA
@ VT Presents

Coffee House

Tuesday, March 1 | 6:30 pm
Commonwealth Ballroom

\$3 early bird (2/11 - 2/28)
\$5 at the door (3/1)
Members get 3 tickets
Any additional tickets can be
purchased for \$1

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/fNYqmWVPvcfv4ApK8>

Venmo @CASVT and label it with your First and Last Name followed by
"Coffeehouse"

APIDA Caucus Events



THE APIDA CAUCUS AT VT

VIRTUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

11 AM - 12 PM EST

Please register to attend this virtual event.

ABOUT US

The APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) Caucus serves as an advocacy and support group for faculty, staff, and graduate students at Virginia Tech and Blacksburg/NRV community members who self-identify as APIDA, or allies who are interested in participating in conversations relevant to the APIDA community.

We also serve the APIDA community at other Virginia Tech campuses (Washington, D.C. area, etc). The Caucus acts as a liaison to the university administration and is committed to supporting the needs of all APIDA individuals. Our events are open to faculty, staff, graduate & undergraduate students, and community members.



Register:
rb.gy/p9ifbe

To be added to our new email listserv (apidacaucus-g@vt.edu) and to get more information or for accommodations, please contact Rommelyn Coffren at rconde@vt.edu.
Want to get involved? Find us on Twitter @VTAPIDACaucus!

Dear colleagues,

My name is Yang Zhang. I am a faculty member in the School of Public and International Affairs at Virginia Tech. My kidney condition has been declining rapidly and I am now in need of a transplant. We are hopeful for a living donation, in which a healthy person donates a kidney to a person needing a transplant.

Through this process, I have learned so much about the miracle of organ donation. Each year, more than 5500 kidney transplants in the U.S. come from living donors.



It has been a wild, emotional ride for my family. There were a lot of tears. My young kids, both are sixth graders in the Blacksburg Middle School, are scared that they might lose their dad soon. While the road ahead is uncertain, we have been blessed with tremendous amount of love and prayers from friends. I am feeling ok, somehow-even with only 10% kidney function.

So many people have asked how they can help. Please just share with your friends and keep us and the future donor in your prayers as we face the road ahead with faith and courage.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a living donor, please reach out to us at yang.zhang08@gmail.com and amywutamu@gmail.com.

Thank you.
Yang Zhang

Please register your information using this UVA medical center link:

<https://forms.uvahealth.com/donor/kidney.cfm>

ACEC Upcoming Events

ASIAN CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER
SAVE THE DATES!

Stay updated on our upcoming events this month

**MAR
14**

MONDAY | 12:30 PM EST
LET'S EMBRACE APIDA-NESS (VIRTUAL)

**MAR
15**

TUESDAY | 6:00 PM EST
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE COMMUNITY NIGHT
LOCATION: ACEC

**MAR
16**

WEDNESDAY | 11:00 AM EST
APIDA CAUCUS GENERAL BODY MEETING (VIRTUAL)

**MAR
17**

THURSDAY | 12-1:00 PM EST
LEARNING LUNCH (HYBRID)
LOCATION: ACEC & VIRTUALLY

**MAR
18**

FRIDAY | 4:00-5:30 PM EST
INSPIRASIAN SERIES - GRAD STUDENTS (HYBRID)
LOCATION: ACEC & VIRTUALLY

**MAR
21**

MONDAY | 5-6:00 PM EST
BE THE MATCH EVENT
LOCATION: SQUIRES ROOM 300

**MAR
22**

TUESDAY | 5:30-7:00 PM EST
INSPIRASIAN SERIES - FACULTY (HYBRID)
LOCATION: ACEC & VIRTUALLY

**MAR
23**

WEDNESDAY | 3:00-4:00 PM EST
APIDA MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP (HYBRID)
LOCATION: ACEC & VIRTUALLY

**MAR
24**

THURSDAY | 8:00 PM EST
NIGHTTIME GUIDED MEDITATION (VIRTUAL)

**MAR
29**

TUESDAY | 12-1:30 PM EST
**INTERCULTURAL AND INTER-GENERATIONAL CIRCLE
LUNCHEON (HYBRID)**
LOCATION: BRUSH MOUNTAIN B & VIRTUAL



Let's Embrace APIDA-ness

COMBAT ETHNOCENTRIC
BEAUTY NORMS THAT NEGATE
OUR UNIQUE BEAUTY

HANAKO BAKER, M.S., IS AT THE COOK COUNSELING CENTER FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 DURING THE LAST LEG OF HER DOCTORAL TRAINING. BAKER IS JAPANESE AMERICAN AND IS PASSIONATE ABOUT SERVING THE APIDA COMMUNITY AS A MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Register in advance

Link: <https://bit.ly/3BkLiec>

**March 14, 2022 |
12:30 PM - 2 PM EST**



WOMEN'S CENTER
AT VIRGINIA TECH



**FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND/OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT
DR. NINA HA AT NHA@VT.EDU**



ASIAN CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT
CENTER

College of Science Community Night

Join other APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) science students in the ACEC to eat and be in community!

*March 15th at 6 pm
140 Squires Student
Center*

RSVP HERE:
shorturl.at/mG367





ASIAN
CULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT
CENTER
At Virginia Tech

THE ACEC PRESENTS

THE LEARNING LUNCH SERIES



Aki Ishida
Associate Professor
Department of Architecture

AKI ISHIDA IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE AND THE INTERIM ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AT VIRGINIA TECH SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN. SHE IS ALSO A SENIOR FELLOW OF THE UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR CREATIVITY, ARTS, AND TECHNOLOGY (ICAT). ISHIDA'S WORK EXAMINES ARCHITECTURAL MATERIALS IN BROADER CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONTEXTS. SHE IS THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK BLURRED TRANSPARENCIES IN CONTEMPORARY GLASS ARCHITECTURE: MATERIAL, CULTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY (ROUTLEDGE, 2020). SHE IS A LICENSED ARCHITECT IN THE STATES OF NEW YORK, AND RECEIVED HER MS IN ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Register in advance!



<https://bit.ly/3tkTzeL>

March 17, 2022

12 PM - 1 PM EST (Hybrid)

ACEC | Squires Room 140

**Light Refreshments will be served
in accordance with Covid-19
health guidelines.**

For accommodations and/or questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.



ASIAN
CULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT
CENTER
at Virginia Tech



GRADUATE SCHOOL
VIRGINIA TECH

InspirASIAN Series – Graduate Student Panel

MARCH 18, 2022
4:00-5:30 PM EST

SQUIRES 140 AND ZOOM

Register using  <https://bit.ly/3tfjxeS>



Light Refreshments will be served in accordance with Covid-19 health guidelines.

SPEAKERS:



Emily Kim

PhD Candidate Department of
Psychology



Yinan Wang

PhD Candidate Grado Department of
Industrial and Systems Engineering



Sonal Sathe

PhD Candidate Department of Human
Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise



Chitra Meduri

PhD Candidate Department of
Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics



Doyee Byun

PhD Candidate Department of Physics

Join the
Asian Cultural Engagement Center

Health Disparity

Be The Match Presentation

Monday, March 21st @ 5pm
Squires 300

Registration Tabling Event
3pm - 5pm @ Student Center
Swab to see if you can be the match
for a searching patient in need!

**Join us as we discuss the health
disparities that exist for minority
patients searching for a perfectly
matched stem cell donor.**

STUDENT AFFAIRS
RECREATIONAL SPORTS
VIRGINIA TECH.



**BE THE
MATCH®**



**ASIAN
CULTURAL
ENGAGEMENT
CENTER**
At Virginia Tech



INSPIRASIAN SERIES: FACULTY PRESENTATION



Dr. Wei Zhang
Assistant Professor of Agriculture and Applied
Economics

"Economic Analysis of the Environmental
Sustainability of Agriculture"



Dr. Su Fang Ng
Professor of English

"Alexander the Great and Global Literature"



Dr. Yong Xu
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

"A Personal Introduction to Machine Learning and
Artificial Intelligence"



Dr. Young Cao
Associate Professor of Computer Science

"Study of cell cycle control mechanisms using
mathematical modeling and simulation"

Light Refreshments will be served in accordance with Covid-19 health guidelines

MARCH 22, 2022
5:30 PM - 7 PM EST
ACEC, SQUIRES, ROOM 140
AND VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM



REGISTER IN
ADVANCE:
[https://bit.ly/35e
RDMU](https://bit.ly/35eRDMU)

For accommodations and/or questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.



APIDA MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

**THEME: TAROT
CARD READING**



**MARCH 23, 2022
3 PM - 4 PM EST (HYBRID)
ACEC | SQUIRES ROOM 140**



**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE SERVED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH COVID-19 HEALTH
GUIDELINES.**

**REGISTER IN ADVANCE
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2P
9DJHPX](https://tinyurl.com/2p9djhpX)**

**FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND/OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT DR.
NINA HA AT NHA@UT.EDU.**

ACEC Presents: Nighttime Guided Meditation with Vivek Rajan

***Thursday March 24, 2022
at 8pm EST***



Vivek Rajan was trained and certified as a meditation teacher at the Art of Living Center in Washington D.C. in 2009 and has led these programs for hundreds of people nationally.



Scan Here:



For accommodations and/or questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.

Zoom link: <https://bit.ly/3sxUMjD>



WOMEN'S CENTER
AT VIRGINIA TECH.



Intercultural and Intergenerational Conversation: A Tribute to bell hooks and Lani Guinier



Join us to be a part of the discussion and
pay tribute to these exemplary scholars!

Date: March 29, 2022

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

**Hybrid/In-person Location: Brush
Mountain B, Squires Student Center**

Lunch will be provided for the first 35 people!



Registration Required:
<https://bit.ly/33Ow6K1>



For accommodations and/or questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.

THEME
"RAISING OUR VOICE/ALZANDO NUESTRA VOZ"

3RD LATINX SYMPOSIUM RSVP

JOIN US IN CONVERSATION AND SCHOLARSHIP, AND TO SHARE IN OUR EXPERIENCES AND STRATEGIES TO BEST BENEFIT OUR LATINX AND HISPANIC FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS!

Thursday, March 3rd, 2022, 5 PM - 7 PM
Friday, March 4th, 2022, 8 AM - 4 PM



<https://forms.gle/qB3jjQLDgiRpXkJd8>



Credit Scores

February 7 2-3 pm

Join us on zoom at this link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/91964634444> (Registration is required)

- How to pull your credit report
- What is a "credit score"?
- Tips on building your credit score



CCC X Financial Wellness

Financial Vehicles

LGBTQ+
Where to put your money in order to reach your goals
March 21 2-3 pm

Join us in person in the LGBTQ+ Resource Center or via zoom at this link (Registration is required if joining via zoom): <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/91964634444>

- Overview of banking options and investment options you can place your money into
- Pros and cons of each "vehicle" on if it is the best choice to meet your goal (i.e. bitcoin, Certificate of Deposit, Index Funds, etc.)



Financial Wellness

Student Loans and Debt Management

El Centro
April 25 2-3 pm

Join us in person in the El Centro, CCC or via zoom at this link (Registration is required if joining via zoom): <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/91964634444>

- How to make a loan payment, and what repayment plans you can pick from
- Strategies on managing debt (not just loans!)
- What is "consolidation" and is it something I should be doing?



Financial Wellness





CULTURAL AND OPPORTUNITY CENTERS
VIRGINIA TECH

Campus Partners Events

THE CENTER FOR HUMANITIES FACULTY RESEARCH ASSOCIATE COLLOQUIA SERIES PRESENTS:

BALBIR SINGH


Divine Adornment: A Theory of Opaque Aesthetics

By focusing on contemporary art and direct action projects, Balbir Singh studies the racialized and gendered concept of garb as one that is defined materially through coverage of the body for and by Third World peoples. Drawing on Anne Cheng's theory of the ornamental, Muslim feminisms, and work by artists and practitioners using innovative textile design, this talk analyzes the function of opacity in the making of longstanding and new aesthetic traditions.

This presentation is a brief crystallization of arguments from Singh's first book manuscript "Militant Bodies: Racial/Religious Opacity and Minoritarian Self-Defense" which takes an anti-colonial and materialist feminist approach to explore questions that center post-9/11 racial and religious hyper-policing of Muslim and Sikh bodies. Through a politics of religious dress, hair, and adornment, this project interrogates the related racial, gendered, and queer life of turbaned and hijabi bodies to analyze the twinned expansion of contemporary Islamophobia and surveillance culture.

Balbir K. Singh is an assistant professor of Cultural Theory in the Department of Religion and Culture and Core Faculty in ASPECT at Virginia Tech. Currently, she serves as Reviews Editor Designate for the College Art Association's Art Journal.

Please join us for this engaging presentation. The livestream can be viewed and will be archived on the [Center for Humanities YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1u8p3jKt8m8).



Thursday, March 3rd at 2pm

Register HERE

The Virginia Tech Center for Humanities presents a series of talks by faculty research associates who will discuss their work. This talk is free and open to the public and we invite anyone to attend. There will be a brief Q & A session with viewers following the presentation. If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact the Center for Humanities at 540.221.1583, or email humanities@vt.edu at least 10 business days prior to the event.



CENTER FOR HUMANITIES

REGISTER HERE

Opportunities

Student Success Center

WE ARE HIRING!

Tutors and Coaches 

DETAILS

- Work just 4 (or more!) hours per week
- Starting pay is \$11.00/hour
- Choose your own schedule
- Build professional skills and help peers

APPLY BY MARCH 1

studentsuccess.vt.edu



DAY OF MOURNING 2022

Co-sponsors Organized by
Center for Disability Concerns
& Accessibility Services

**REMEMBERING PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES
MURDERED BY CAREGIVERS**

**CANDLELIGHT
VIGIL**

TUESDAY MARCH 1

TIME: 7:00
LOCATION: [https://umich.zoom.us/
webinar/register/
WN_PRa6X3JTO4qZETZjITbA](https://umich.zoom.us/j/webinar/register/?WN_PRa6X3JTO4qZETZjITbA)

**"Mourn for the dead, and
fight like hell for the living."
— Mother Jones**

People with disabilities are twice as likely as non-disabled people to be victims of violent crime. Every year, the national media covers dozens of stories about murders of people with disabilities by family members or caregivers, and many more go unnoticed.

Too often, the coverage focuses on sympathy for the families, but not the people they had to live with or care for a person with a disability. The message to the public is that our lives—not our deaths—are the tragedy.

On March 1st, join the Autistic Self Advocacy Network in remembering people with disabilities who lost their lives at the hands of family members or caregivers. We will remember those we have lost and remind the world that their lives had value.

ASAN
AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK

For more info, please contact:
Disability Culture at UVM (DC@UVM)
disabilityculture@uvm.edu

SUMMER

The School of Neuroscience and College of Science at Virginia Tech are pleased to announce a new summer fellowship for a Virginia Tech undergraduate student from an under-represented group with the opportunity to participate in 10 weeks of independent STEM-related research. This fellowship, the **Dr. J. Michael Bowers Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship**, is in honor of the School of Neuroscience's first faculty recruit, Dr. Mike Bowers, and will provide a \$4000 stipend for the fellow.



Eligibility:

- Must be a rising sophomore or junior at Virginia Tech and in good standing with the university

- Must be from a group considered under-represented at Virginia Tech

- Must have already identified (and have a commitment from) a college of science laboratory and faculty member to host the fellow during the fellowship period

- Must be able to devote oneself to full-time research for 10 weeks in the summer

- Must be able to present discoveries and advances accomplished over the summer at the Virginia Tech Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium

Objectives:

- To provide independent research experience to an undergraduate from an under-represented group, something Dr. Bowers was extremely passionate about.

- To expose early career stage students to experiential learning in any STEM-related field to increase the likelihood of long-term careers in related fields.

- To develop and foster creative problem solving and science communication skills.

Application materials:

- The applicant must submit a brief cover letter that describes why they are interested in participating in independent research and how this opportunity may contribute to their career trajectory.

- An up-to-date resume

- An up-to-date unofficial transcript and GPA

- A letter of commitment from the College of Science faculty member that will host and mentor the fellow during the summer

Important dates:

- Applications are due **March 15th, 2022**
- Program runs from May 23 - July 29, 2022



Applications must be submitted electronically as a single PDF (with the files in order listed above) to Jonathan Hedrick (jhedrick@vt.edu)

Questions regarding the Dr. J. Michael Bowers Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship can be directed to Dr. Michael Fox (mfox@vt.edu) or Jonathan Hedrick (jhedrick@vt.edu)

Interested in Making a Difference?



THE IMPACT CHALLENGE

ORGANIZED BY NANO@VIRGINIA TECH



Register on GobblerConnect

Food and shirts will be provided and winners will earn ribbons and prizes!

March 17-19

Owen's Ballroom - Colonial Hall Squires

All majors and years are welcome! No experience needed!!!

HOKIE WELLNESS IS RECRUITING!

BECOME A FINANCIAL WELLNESS INTERN:

- + EDUCATE STUDENTS ON FINANCIAL TOPICS SUCH AS BUDGETING, CREDIT, AND STUDENT LOANS
- + COACH YOUR PEERS IN INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL CONSULTATIONS
- + DEVELOP YOUR PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS
- + ENHANCE OUR PROGRAM OFFERINGS IN UNIQUE AND CREATIVE WAYS

- NEED TO BE ABLE TO WORK THE FULL 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR
- INTERNS RECEIVE A STIPEND EACH SEMESTER
- APPLY WITH A RESUME AND COVER LETTER (DETAILS ON APPLICATION)
- HOURS COUNT TOWARDS CFP AND AFC CERTIFICATIONS
- OPEN TO ALL MAJORS AND CLASS YEARS! RISING SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.

SCAN ME





WE'RE HIRING

HAMKAE CENTER



HEALTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

details: hamkaecenter.org/22hsc

Hamkae Center is seeking a full-time Health Services Coordinator to lead their **health services program**, including signing community members up for health insurance.

See responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply: hamkaecenter.org/22hsc. Apply ASAP; we're hiring immediately!



WE'RE HIRING

HAMKAE CENTER



YOUTH LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR

PRIORITY DEADLINE 3/14

details: hamkaecenter.org/22ylc

Hamkae Center is seeking a Youth Leadership Coordinator (part-time) to run our summer **Youth Leadership program** and inspire Asian American youth in Virginia to get involved with our campaigns and help achieve justice for our communities year-round.

See responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply: hamkaecenter.org/22ylc. Apply ASAP; priority deadline is 3/14!

WE'RE HIRING!

SPRING CANVASSERS

details + how to apply: hamkaecenter.org/22sc

Hamkae Center is seeking **4** Spring Canvassers (part-time) to educate Virginia voters through text + phone-banking about the June 2022 primary elections. Every voter's voice counts; help our communities participate in democracy to choose the candidates that represent their interests the best!

See responsibilities, qualifications, and how to apply: hamkaecenter.org/22sc Apply ASAP; priority deadline is March 28!

2022 OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship

OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates has opened applications for our 2022 OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship, which will provide \$2,500 awards to four undergraduate students who identify as first-gen, Asian American or Pacific Islander (AAPI), and will be starting their senior year in the upcoming fall term. I'd like to ask if you can share this with your members and students.

For more information on eligibility and to apply, please visit this link:

<https://www.ocanational.org/gold-mountain-scholarship-for-rising-college-seniors>

The deadline to apply is Friday, April 1, 2022 at 11:59 PM PT.

AASF Academic Climate Survey

The [Asian American Scholar Forum \(AASF\)](#) has developed an academic climate survey:

Aiming to assess the pressing challenges and experiences of Asian American scholars regarding their research and educational environment, academic climate

and activities, grant activities, and sentiment and well-being. If you have any questions about this survey, email AASF at aasforum.org@gmail.com.

Link: <https://forms.gle/qpK3YN6ubj6trF2Z6>

Hokie Mentorship Connect Program Assistant

The position will work closely with the Assistant Director – Mentorship Program to provide onboarding assistance, assist in the implementation of innovative marketing ideas, and oversee on-campus related needs. Members of Career and Professional Development work together to provide excellent professional development programming and support for students.

Link: <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/519046/hokie-mentorship-connect-program-assistant>

White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Careers and Internships

WHIAANHPI offers full-time student volunteer internships year-round (spring, summer, and fall). Part-time applicants who can commit to at least 20 hours a week will be considered, although the Initiative prioritizes full-time applicants (32-40 hours a week). Internships will be based in Washington, DC, with the option to work remotely.

Link: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/whiaanhpi/careers-internships/index.html#internship>

18MR Communication Design Intern


18 Million Rising is looking for a Communication Design Intern to join our team! This is a 4-month internship program starting in April. Ideal candidates have experience in organizing or social justice work with a background in graphic design, communications, or digital arts. The Communication Design Intern will collaborate with the 18MR team to create graphics for social media content, campaign emails, website assets, and additional internal and external materials.

Link: <https://rb.gy/ffpkxh>



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