#### ACEC September 2020 Newsletter



#### **ACE Center's Statement of Purpose**

The Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) is in 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.

#### **Undergraduate Student Spotlight: Prince Wang**

Prince Wang is a sophomore majoring in International Relations and intends to double major in Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology Management (EIT), with minors in Chinese and Religion & Culture. His majors and minors are tools that will better help him understand people through culture, language, and religion. Wang is also interested in how new products can help people, and his entrepreneurship double major will help him make his ideas a reality. Although he was born in Nebraska, he grew up in the Hubei province of China, and in the future he intends to work in the international development field to bring greater opportunities to his city and to the world.

Moreover, Wang is the class president of the Class of 2023, the co-founder and current co-president of Model UN, a member of the Student Alumni Association (SAA), a



"I want every student to go into Virginia Tech and feel like they're included, and also feel like they are a valued member of this community," Wang said. "Something that is important for students is to be open-minded for any opportunity and come in with the mindset that you should try new things. Experiences at Tech can be very situational sometimes, and your first impressions can be dependent on such a specific thing — that initial impression, although important, is not representative of what opportunities and experiences you'll have in the future. There are so many other things you can find, so it's really important to persevere and push through to try and find new groups, look for new experiences, and



#### Organization Spotlight: alpha Kappa Delta Phi

alpha Kappa Delta Phi International Sorority, Inc. is an Asian-interest organization that aims to promote diversity, innovation, and collaboration by empowering confident and compassionate women through sisterhood and purpose-driven leadership. With over 55 chapters located in universities across the United States and Canada, we strive to empower women in our core values of sisterhood, scholarship, leadership, service, and Asian awareness both in the university and in our local community.







#### **Graduate Student Spotlight: Annie Patrick**

Annie Y. Patrick is a fifth-year graduate student in the Science, Technology, and Society (STS) Department working as a graduate research assistant on the "Revolutionizing Engineering Departments (RED)" grant within the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). Her research focuses upon bringing visibility to places of invisibility through the construction of critically constructed projects of STS engagement. One of Patrick's projects is creating a limited series podcast entitled, "Engineering Visibility." This podcast focuses on a variety of topics and concerns within the ECE Department, particularly examining issues of identity and belonging. Currently, Patrick is



interviewing undergraduate students, graduate students, alumni, and department stakeholders within the ECE Department to participate as guests and share their

experiences to the topics of women in engineering, inclusion and diversity, the non-traditional student, and graduate school.

Prior to coming to Virginia Tech, Patrick worked for several years within the healthcare industry as a registered nurse throughout the Southeast United States. Additionally, she received her Master's of Science in Network Technology with a concentration in digital communications and information security from East Carolina University.

Patrick will be participating on a graduate student panel hosted by Virginia Tech's Graduate School about the experiences of being APIDA. As a mixed-race Black and Korean female, raised in rural Mississippi, Patrick will address these intersectional identities on this panel on October 6th at 1 pm. Patrick said, "what compelled me to participate in this panel is to not only embrace my own intersectionality, but also to be a representative of this intersectionality, particularly as a mentor."

Additionally, Patrick conveyed, "One piece of advice I would give to biracial students is to be confident in who you are and don't let other people define you."

#### **Alumni Spotlight: Eric Lin**

Eric Lin is a Chinese-American Virginia Tech alumni who majored in Materials Engineering, and also picked up an interest in intercollegiate volleyball. Lin's father was a cofounder of the Central Virginia chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA National). While he was exposed to advocacy work early on, his interest in the APIDA community took root after graduation, when he worked at a Chinese couple-owned import company and was exposed to issues such as inequities and disparities between and within Asian communities.

Lin has tenaciously advocated for the APIDA community within his environment in organizations such as OCA National, the Asian American Society of Central Virginia, and the Virginia Asian Advisory Board (VAAB) to the Governor. While on the VAAB, he served as Chair and Vice-Chair and engaged in a broad range of policy work. While his term on the board has ended, serving under four



governors, he is still a part of five local, state, and national boards dedicated to advocating for the APIDA community as well as other marginalized groups facing systemic disparities and inequities, like the YMCA-Greater Richmond board, Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis board, and the Virginia Complete Count Commission for the 2020 Census. Currently, he is informing people on the importance of filling out the Federal Census, which can directly impact funding for APIDA and other marginalized communities.

"I would encourage folks who are interested in advocacy work that addresses systemic inequities, to do it," Lin said. "Where the real work is done, and where you can control policy change, is in public service career fields. We need to have people in these spaces, because if we don't, we are never going to have people speaking for us. We have good people who are doing it now, but we need to get more people into this pipeline to work in these spaces."

#### APIDA Faculty spotlight: Dr. Silas Cassinelli

Dr. Silas Moon Cassinelli is a Korean American Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Virginia Tech and also teaches courses in the Women's and Gender Studies program. He came to Virginia Tech in 2018 as a Presidential Pathways Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow. For

the APIDA Caucus, in a Communications role, he hopes to bring attention to BIPOC issues most important to the APIDA community, alongside other Caucus members. He is also a member of the LGBTQ+ Caucus at Virginia Tech.

Additionally, Dr. Cassinelli is a literary-trained scholar who teaches 20th and 21st century American Literature. His research focuses on contemporary Korean American narratives that talk about the Korean American experience in contemporary moments, while also historicizing the Korean diaspora.

While he still feels very new to the campus, he said faculty and students alike have been very welcoming. His advice to students is to make sure they keep asking for the things they want to see changed.



"Even if you're really grateful for being at this institution, or you're really enjoying yourself, or it's everything you wanted it to be, it's still okay to ask for things," Dr. Cassinelli said. "Colleges have a lot of resources, and if you don't ask, they might not be able to or think to provide. It's okay to be imaginative, and it's okay to ask for something that seems far out. You never know what kind of conversation it's going to produce."

#### **ACEC Events**

# Cook Counseling Virtual Drop in Sessions- September 8 at 1-2 pm

- Every Tuesday for the rest of the semster
- Meeting ID: 976 6430 5879



THE ACEC AND

Virtual Drop

**COOK COUNSELING:** 

STARTING SEPTEMBER 8TH AND EVERY TUESDAY THIS SEMESTER FROM 1PM-2PM



Claire Y. W. Shen, PhD
Office Number: 540-231-6557
Email: yawanglevt.edu
Zoom ID: 815 725 6157

Claire Y. W. Shen is a licensed clinical psychologist. She enjoys working with individuals from diverse backgrounds through individual, couples and group therapy. Her professional interests include mood and anxiety disorders, relationship difficulties, trauma, cross-cultural and diversity issues, spirituality, and personality disorders. Her therapeutic approach is collaborative and integrative and is infilenced by cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, interpersonal, psychodynamic and object relations theories. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, books/movies, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Claire Shen is a Senior Staff Psychologist at Virginia Tech's Cook Counseling Center. She will be hostling a weekly "Drop in Hour" for students and friends associated with the ACEC. You are welcome to stop by during the "Drop in Hour" to say HI to Claire or thave a brief consultation about Cook Counseling Center Services or mental health resources.

# National Council of Asian Pacific Americans- September 15

• APIAVote, AAPI Data, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice are releasing the results of the 2020 Asian American Voter Survey. Since 2012, this survey has been one of the only preelection national surveys that collect data on Asian American voters and dives deep into the habits and motivations of the voter bloc. The survey is nonpartisan and contains brand new data that won't be found anywhere else.

- The event will be hosted by the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans and available to stream online via Zoom.
- RSVP at: <a href="http://apia.vote/2020Survey">http://apia.vote/2020Survey</a>

#### 2020 ASIAN AMERICAN **VOTER SURVEY**

DATE: TUESDAY. SEPTEMBER 15TH TIME: 1 PM ET/10 AM PT

#### PRESENTED BY:







THE ACEC PRESENTS

#### THE **LEARNING** LUNCH **SERIES**

featuring special guest, Dr. S. Moon Cassinelli! Dr. Cassinelli is an assistant of English. He teaches classes in Asian American literatures, and gender and women's studies. His research focuses on the studies, and queer kinship.



**SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** REGISTER IN ADVANCE: HTTPS://RB.GY/BVACQV For questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha Email: nhaevt.edu Website: ccc.vt.edu Phone: (540) 231-8584

#### Dr. Silas Cassinelli Learning Lunch- September 17 from 12-1 pm

- Dr. Cassinelli is an assistant professor in the Department of **English**
- Register at <a href="https://rb.gy/bvacqv">https://rb.gy/bvacqv</a>

THE AMERICAN INDIAN AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY CENTER PRESENTS...

OUR LAND: BLACK AMERICANS AND AMERICAN INDIANS



#### DR. MALINDA MAYNOR LOWERY

Lumbee Scholar and Author Professor, Department of History, UNC Chapel Hill Director, Center for the Study of the American South

Thursday, Sept. 17th | 5:30pm (EST)

Register here:

https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_Ycg3\_BRi T50W7NNxfnKMHQ

Event contact: missy86@vt.edu



CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTERS

#### AllCC presents Our Land: Black Americans and American Indians-September 17 at 5:30 pm

- With Dr. Malinda Maynor Lowery
- Register here: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/ register/WN Ycg3 BRiT5OW7NNxf nKMHQ

#### **Nighttime Guided Meditation-September 24** at 8 pm

- With Vivek Rajan
- Zoom link: https://virginiatech.zoom.us



# AASU POP CULTURE WORKSHOP

#### **FEATURING DR. CASSINELLI**

Dr. S. Moon Cassinelli is an assistant professor in the Department of English. He teaches classes in Asian American studies, Ethnic American literatures, and gender and women's studies. His research focuses on the Korean diaspora, transitional adoption studies, and queer kinship.

**Register**: https://bit.ly/33fT5JK SEPT. 22 | 5:00 PM | ZOOM



#### Asian Popular Culture-September 22 at 5 pm

- With Dr. Cassinelli
- Register here: <u>https://bit.ly/33fT5JK</u>

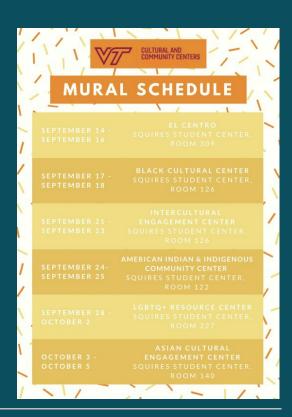


#### Job Search Resources & Interviewing-September 28 from 12:30-1:30 pm

 Zoom link: <a href="https://virginiatech.zoom.us/J/947217181">https://virginiatech.zoom.us/J/947217181</a>
 81

#### **Mural Schedule**





Film and Discussion of No Mas Bebes: A Collaboration between ACEC and El Centro - September 29 at 5 pm





# APIDAs and Sexual Assault in a Christian Context- October 1 at 5 pm

- Register here: https://rb.gy/uuzxwz
- If you have any questions reach out to Dr. Ha at <a href="mailto:nha@vt.edu">nha@vt.edu</a>

ACEC/AASU/CCF/VT'S WOMEN'S
CENTER/WOMEN'S CENTER OF NEW
RIVER VALLEY/COOK COUNSELING/TITLE
IX AT VT PRESENTS:

APIDAS AND SEXUAL
ASSAULT IN A
CHRISTIAN CONTEXT
Thursday, October 1st at 5PM

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://rb.gy/uuzxwz

After registering, you will receive a confirmation
email containing information about joining the
meeting.

Questions? Ask Dr. Ha at nha@vt.edu

Questions? Ask Dr. Ha at nha@vt.edu

#### Virginia Asian Advisory Board Annual Report

Link here: <a href="https://www.vaab.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/vaab/VAAB-Annual-Report-August-2020-FINAL-(1).pdf">https://www.vaab.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/vaab/VAAB-Annual-Report-August-2020-FINAL-(1).pdf</a>



Office of Governor Ralph S. Northan



Annual Report August 2020

Report prepared by members of the Virginia Asian Advisory Board

#### Prince William County COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Application

The NAKASEC Emergency COVID-19 fund is currently accepting applications from Prince William County residents who are experience financial hardship and loss of income as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. NAKASEC Virginia is prioritizing assistance to Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders who can demonstrate need and are not eligible for government assistance. Payments will be made directly to landlords for properties located within

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Tent transportation to healthcare services utilities

internet + phone service childcare prescription medication

NAKASEC.ORG/COVID19 AID-PWC

Prince William County, utility companies, pharmacies, and other third-party vendors.

Assistance will be for the following:

- Rent
- Utilities
- Childcare
- Prescription medication
- Transportation support to access health care services
- Telecommunications (internet, cell phone).

Assistance will be approved for a **single request per household**. Funds are limited and will be distributed on a **first come**, **first served basis for immediate need**, **according to availability and based on guidelines**. If approved, we will contact you and may require further documentation.

#### **Eligibility**

In order to qualify for assistance, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Reside and live in **Prince William County** (does NOT include City of Manassas or City of Manassas Park).
- Households must meet income guidelines (300% of federal poverty level; see below).
- Households must provide documentation showing the **loss of income or financial impact of COVID-19**.
- For rental assistance, households must have a current and valid lease in the applicant's name. All landlords must be able to provide a W-9 to NAKASEC Virginia.
- For utility assistance, bills must be in the applicant's name.

### Annual Household Income – 300% Federal Poverty Level by Household Size

- Household Size of 1: \$38,320
- Household Size of 2: \$51,720
- Household Size of 3: \$65,160
- Household Size of 4: \$78,600
- Household Size of 5: \$92,040
- Household Size of 6: \$105,480
- Household Size of 7: \$118,920
- Household Size of 8: \$132,360
- Household Size of 9: \$145,800
- Household Size of 10: \$159,240

If you live in Prince William County and meet the above criteria, please open and fill out the application below:

English | □□□ | Tiếng Việt

#### **About NAKASEC VA:**

NAKASEC VA develops holistic programs and campaigns that are guided by community members, meets immediate needs while building Asian American community power to make long-term systemic changes that address the root causes of these needs, and centers human connections. We believe that Asian Americans, low-income folks, working

class people, immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ individuals, and other targeted people must work together in order to have a more just and equitable Virginia for all.

#### Virginia Rent and **Mortgage Relief:**

Website:



#### VIRGINIA RENT AND MORTGAGE RELIEF

THE VIRGINIA RENT AND MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM (RMRP) IS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT AND ENSURE HOUSING STABILITY ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND HOUSEHOLD NEED, THE RMRP MAY PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS. THIS INCLUDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RENT OR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS PAST DUE BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2020 AND ONWARD. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS A ONE-TIME PAYMENT WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR RENEWAL BASED N AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING AND THE HOUSEHOLD'S NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY.

WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.DHCD.VIRGINIA.GOV/RMRP

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THOSE APPLYING

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#### **Recap of APIDA Caucus Launch Event: September 11, 2020**

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Caucus at Virginia Tech (formally the Asian and Asian American Caucus) held a launch event on Friday, September 11, 2020 from 2:30-4:30 pm EST. This was the first Caucus event of the academic year. The first hour of the event provided socializing and networking opportunities and the second hour focused on business items related to the Caucus. The three new Co-Chairs introduced themselves: Hana Chan (3rd year PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics), Theo Lim (Assistant Professor in Urban Affairs and Planning), and Vincent Wang (Associate Professor in Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics), along with two other members of the executive board: Rommelyn Coffren and Silas Moon Cassinelli. The executive board is still in formation and the Caucus is looking for interested members!

Some points of discussion from the meeting included APIDA-focused undergraduate curriculum development, building strong relationships with the other Caucuses at VT, and the needs of the APIDA community at VT.

For those who would like to join the APIDA Caucus listserv and/or get involved with the APIDA Caucus, contact one of the Co-Chairs (hxc419@vt.edu, tclim@vt.edu, vmwang@vt.edu) and follow us on Twitter (@VTAPIDACaucus)! The next Caucus meeting will be in October (date TBD); all those who identify as APIDA or do pertinent work related to APIDA issues are welcome to join!

#### **AASU Constituent Events**

#### **Japanese Cultural Association**

- 1st Online Dance Workshop 20 Sept. 3PM
- 2nd General Meeting 24 Sept. 7PM

#### **Korean American Student Association**

- 2nd General Meeting 23 Sept. 7PM
- Cascades 19 Sept
- Big/Little Week 30 Sept.-10 Oct

#### **Chinese American Society**

- Online thrift week 21-25
- 2nd General Body Meeting 21 Sept. 7PM

#### **Vietnamese Student Association**

- 1st General Body Meeting 17 Sept. 7PM
- 2nd General Body Meeting 30 Sept. 6PM

# A statement from the AASU Executive Board concerning COVID-19 within our APIDA community:

https://www.facebook.com/443334425719936/posts/3231486466904704/?extid=ANFnNw7iR3fW2wAG&d=n

#### **ACEC 5 Minute Video**



**CCC: Career Fair Preparation** 



**Social Media** 







