University of Michigan’s
ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER
Graduation Celebration Viewbook

Celebrating Yesterday, Empowering Tomorrow
Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Michigan was founded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs in 1817, when the Anishinaabeg - the Three Fires Confederacy of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi - along with their neighbors, the Seneca, Delaware, Shawnee, and Wyandot nations ceded portions of their land so that their children could be educated.

Through these words of acknowledgement, their ancestral, traditional, and contemporary ties to this land and the founding of the University are renewed and reaffirmed.

Celebrating Yesterday, Empowering Tomorrow

The theme of the 2021 Asian and Pacific Islander (A&PI) Graduation Celebration is Celebrating Yesterday, Empowering Tomorrow. While this year’s celebration could not happen in-person, we celebrate our graduates nonetheless, commending the strength and perseverance they have demonstrated in completing the final stretch of their studies during a global crisis. Through reflecting on the past, we look towards a brighter future and a stronger sense of community.

To celebrate yesterday and empower tomorrow, we reminisce about the memories created during our journey at the University of Michigan as well as the memories we have yet to make. The night sky illustrated on the front cover and the sunrise on the back cover signals the start of a new journey. As our graduates look back on their collective experiences, they proceed into the next chapter of their story. We congratulate the newest cohort of A&PI graduates of the University of Michigan on all of their accomplishments and wish them luck in the future!
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Wolverines, congratulations on your graduation!

Wolverines, you never cease to amaze. You spent the past year striving for academic excellence in the middle of a pandemic that put life as we know it into lockdown — and you still came out of it with your head held high and a shiny new degree from the University of Michigan. That takes courage. That takes commitment. That takes the kind of grit and self-love and respect that will serve you well for the rest of your lives.

To be a Michigan graduate is not just to join the community of over 500,000 Michigan alumni spread around the globe — 500,000 friends who are ready to help welcome you into your next chapter. It is also to embrace the idea that the knowledge and experiences you have earned here are a gift to be used. Your talents, dreams, and aspirations, along with the book-learning and real world practicums that you have seized all along here on campus, are not meant to be hoarded, but shared.

Go out and do great things with what you have learned. Do them well, with integrity and joy in the honest work of it. Carry with you the sense of self-assurance that even a pandemic could not stop you from chasing your dreams. You have overcome sleepless nights of studying for finals, the sweaty-palms feeling of just before a thesis defense, and so many other challenges, big and small. Whatever the next chapter of your story brings, I know you can handle it, and make us still here in Ann Arbor so very proud.

In fact, we are already proud. Your friends, family, and classmates could not be prouder of your achievements. But I hope you know that the most important opinion in all of this is how you see yourself. Wolverines, be proud of yourselves. Recognize and celebrate you for all you have done. Have there been times of self-doubt and struggle for you? I am sure there have. After all, that is what it means to be human.

You are not alone. I have those moments, too — and I am the vice president for Student Life at "the greatest university in the world!” as the voice for Darth Vader (James Earl Jones) put it. Every single other Michigan alum has been through this before you, and as you cross this finish line and set your eyes on a new horizon, remember that they are excited for you to join them, and we the staff and faculty at the University of Michigan will always be here to support you, wherever you go.

And, wherever you go — Go Blue!

Congratulations again, Wolverines. We are so proud of you.
“Believe in yourself”

Neeraja Aravamudan

Associate Director of Teaching, Research and Academic Partnerships
Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning

“Congratulations! The transition to post-college life can feel uncertain and at times rocky, but your time at U-M has helped you develop skills, expand your thinking and form relationships that you can continue to rely on as you keep learning and growing in the years ahead. Your knowledge of A&PI history and context can be a foundation for the opportunities you explore. Good luck as you find your own unique ways to contribute to your communities!”

Susmetha Baidya

Student Administrative Assistant
The Program on Intergroup Relations

“Congratulations, Class of 2021 A&PI graduates! Wishing you the best in your future endeavors!”

Nadia Bazzy

Director
Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs

“Congratulations on completing this momentous milestone of graduation! On behalf of everyone at MESA we wish you well as you journey into the next phase of your life and are humbled to witness all that you have accomplished during such a difficult year. Forever Go Blue!”

Melissa Borja

Assistant Professor of Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies
Department of American Culture

“As Dr. Martin Luther King said that “everybody can be great because everybody can serve.” Like Dr. King, I firmly believe that pursuing lives dedicated to humble service is central to leading fulfilling, *great* lives. My hope for you is that you will find a way to use your abundant gifts and talents to serve others with wisdom, compassion, and joy.”
Words of Encouragement

**Arielle Chen** 陈爽
Administrative Coordinator/Project Coordinator
Department of Afroamerican and African Studies

“Dear Class of 2021, In this new chapter of your lives, remember that:
You will have challenges; be courageous enough to face them.
You will make mistakes, be ready to learn from them.
You will have choices to make, be brave enough to make them.
You will have hard days, be kind to yourself during them.
You will have dreams/goals, be sure to go after them.

Congratulations! Go Blue! ”

**Mark Chung Kwan Fan**
Assistant Director for Engagement
Spectrum Center

“Congratulations on this huge achievement. Thank you for your various contributions in making the UM community a better one and welcome to the alumni ranks! Remember your roots and heritage as you prosper in your next journey!”

**Deirdre de la Cruz**
Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Studies
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

“"Ang hindi marunong lumingon sa pinanggalingan ay hindi makakarating sa pinaroroonan."
--José Rizal

Mabuhay ang A&PI Class of 2021!”

**Manan Desai**
Associate Professor of Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies
Department of American Culture

“Congratulations! I hope you take a moment to relish in this great accomplishment especially during a year of such enormous challenges.”

**Irene Gonzaga**
Lecturer in Filipino Language
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

“Congratulations to the Class of 2021! Sana ay matapad nnyo ang lahat ng inyong mga pangarap. Binabti ko kayo sa inyong tagumpay! Good Luck at Mabuhay kayong lahat! (Congratulations to all the graduates this year. May all your dreams come true! Cheers to all and thank you very much!)”
**Words of Encouragement**

**Krishna Han**  
Associate Director  
Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs  
“You have reached another milestone in your life. Congratulations graduates on your well-deserved success. You are a rock star and the world is waiting for you all to bestow great things upon it. May you be successful in all your pursuits. Go be great and Go Blue!”

**Roland Hwang**  
Lecturer in Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies  
Department of American Culture  
“No matter what your profession, reserve time to serve the community and make a difference.”

**Maile'ana Mekeanuenue Kanewa-Mariano**  
Assistant Coach  
Women's Gymnastics  
“Mai maka'u oe 'apo ia 'oe iho i na mea apau e 'ho'omana'o ai ia'oe ma hea'oe i hele mai ai. (Never be afraid to be yourself, embrace every bit of what makes you you, and remember where you come from.)”

**S.E. Kile**  
Assistant Professor of Chinese Literature  
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures  
“Classical Chinese poetry celebrating academic success tends to focus on passing exams, which for some people only occurred after decades of attempts. As a result, they knew how to celebrate accomplishments like graduation. To mark this occasion, here is a poem written by Meng Jiao 孟郊 in 796 when he passed at age 46:  
《登科後》  
昔日驕縱不足誇, 今朝曠蕩恩無涯。  
春風得意馬蹄疾, 一日看盡長安花。  
Congratulations!”

**Madhumita Lahiri**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of English Language and Literature  
“Congratulations! You are well prepared for whatever comes next, and I am excited to see how you will lead and improve our world. Please be kind to yourselves, and enjoy your new adventures!”
Words of Encouragement

**Kening Li**
Director of the Chinese Language Program
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

“Remember where you are from. Be proud of who you are.”

**Tiffany Marra**
Executive Director
Center for the Education of Women+

“Take time to celebrate all that you have accomplished and be kind to yourself as your journey unfolds beyond U-M.”

**Vidya Mohan**
Lecturer in Tamil Language
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

“Congratulations to all the graduates! Extra special Kudos to all of you for navigating the last two semesters and completing what you set out to achieve! This past year has tested most in many ways than one. Your hard work and strength is what has paid off now. I wish all of the best of luck for all your dreams and plans and hope all those come true! In the words of the Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar

“அறிவு தசால் அரமணம் கருவிவா
சிற்பா ஆராய்ச்சி தென”

So learn that you may fall and faultless learning gain,
Then in obedience meet to lessons learnt remain.
This is true for lessons both in life and academics!”

**Susan Najita**
Associate Professor of Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies
Department of American Culture; Department of English

“You are the inspiration and reason for my teaching and research—and never moreso than in this year where we have needed to be continually inspired and energized. Thank you for being here at the University of Michigan! May your path in life—with all of its twists and turns—be one full of meaning, purpose, and aloha!”

**Thuy Anh Nguyen**
Lecturer in Vietnamese Language
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

“Congratulations to Class of 2021 (CHỨC MỪNG CÁC SINH VIÊN NIÊN KHÓA 2021)”
Sela Panapasa

Associate Research Scientist
Research Center on Group Dynamics

“Congratulations Class of 2021!! I hope your dreams take you to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known. Ofa lahi atu, Sela”

Melissa Phruksachart

Assistant Professor
Department of Film, Television, and Media

“"Perfectionism is a function of white supremacy. You can lay down. Let us rest and resist together." --The Nap Ministry”

Amy Stillman

Professor of Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies
Department of American Culture

“Here’s hoping that your experience at University of Michigan is the foundation for a lifetime of adventures. It has been an honor to introduce many of you to Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies, and especially share the hula traditions of my ancestors. Warmest aloha always!”

Marie Ting

Associate Director
National Center for Institutional Diversity

“Congratulations class of 2021!! What a year it's been, but you go through it! Remember -- "it's an honor just to be Asian!!!!"
Bachelors
Bachelors

Fumiya Abe-Nornes
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biophysics

Mahmuda Ahmed
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; English

“I know many of my fellow A&PI Graduates will agree when I say that it’s an honor to be a first generation university graduate in my family.”

Vedika Aigalikar
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

“Embrace all that is within you and cultivate your own sense of peace, joy and grace.”

Shania Allen
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Asian Studies; Communication and Media

Andrew Arche
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology; Cognitive Science

“Continue to embrace your heritage. Never lose your identity.”
Dah Youn Baek
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biology, Heath, and Society

Sara Bashir
College of Engineering; Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences

Liana Ysabel Bautista
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

“We did it! Maraming salamat for the love and support these past 4 years <3”

Brenda Bekins
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Business Administration; English

“Congratulations! Onwards and outwards from here!”

Lena Benjakul
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Economics
Bachelors

Ishan Bhalgat
School of Kinesiology; Movement Science

Mallika Brar
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Economics

Hustin Cao
College of Engineering; Computer Science
“If I can make it, so can y'all. Bring it home <3”

Anna Carl
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning; Architecture

Akshay Chacko
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science
Madalasa Chaudhari
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; International Studies

Subhan Chaudry
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Business Administration; Computer Science

Benny Chen
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

Zhiyang Chen
College of Engineering; Computer Science

Kevin Chen
School of Information; Information

“Congratulations to my fellow 2021 graduates! We'll get through this!”

“Wherever you go, go with all your heart.”
Bachelor's

Britney Cheng
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

Julia Cheng 成忆佳
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Sociology

Joseph Choi
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Economics

Abigail Coleman 樂鋒
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Statistics

Samantha Damocles
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
Bachelors

Anna Dang ANDOM Mỹ-Duyend
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; American Culture; Film, Television, and Media

Dipita Das
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Gender and Health

“We did it and we will continue to make space for A/PIA representation!”

Sai Rasmi Davu
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biomolecular Science; International Studies

Mickaela Dela Cruz
College of Engineering; Electrical Engineering

Isaac Deng .DAOK
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Mathematics

“Go forth and change the world. Forever Go Blue.”
Lotus Derry ถิ่น
College of Engineering; Computer Science
“ช่วยมี, ขอใจ!”

Deepali Desai ติปินลี
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; International Studies; Asian Studies

Tanvi Deshmukh
college of Engineering; Engineering Physics; Computer Science

Gitika Deshmukh
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

Annika Dhawan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; International Studies
Rhea Dhingra  
*College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Philosophy; Biomolecular Science*

Nikhil Dhulipudi  
*Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration*

Amy Ding  
*School of Kinesiology; Movement Science*

Caitlin Do  
*Uyên Thương  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Economics*

“Thank you everyone for creating a welcoming atmosphere that fostered education, culture, and community. Coming from a background with little A/PIA exposure, the community at the University of Michigan made became my second family.”

Bowen Dong  
*College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science*
A huge congrats to the class of 2021! The past few years have shown us how much we've all grown and how resilient we are. Despite the challenges the A&PI community continues to face everyday, we have emerged stronger and more empowered. I can’t wait to see how we uplift our community upon entering our careers. Congratulations again!

Be ready to fail, and be okay with failing often. But, never let your failures be what define who you are.

Heather Duval
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Asian Studies

AJ Espinoza
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology

Jason Fan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Economics

Sania Farooq
School of Public Health; Public Health Sciences

“A huge congrats to the class of 2021! The past few years have shown us how much we've all grown and how resilient we are. Despite the challenges the A&PI community continues to face everyday, we have emerged stronger and more empowered. I can’t wait to see how we uplift our community upon entering our careers. Congratulations again!”

Kinzah Fatima
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience; Biology, Health, and Society

“Be ready to fail, and be okay with failing often. But, never let your failures be what define who you are.”
Felicia Franklin
School of Kinesiology; Movement Science

Danielle Garrido
College of Engineering; Biomedical Engineering

Victoria Guevara
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Political Science

Emily Guo
School of Public Health; Community and Global Public Health

Bhoomika Gupta
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology

“I am incredibly proud of us all for powering through this PWI but it is our continued responsibility to fight the systems that oppress us and to educate our communities.”
Bachelors

Riya Gupta
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

“We did it! Despite everything set up against us, we did it. I'm proud of us, and proud of all we've accomplished as a group!”

Arushi Gupta
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; Public Policy

Anooshka Pushpa Gupta
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Communication and Media; Sociology

Maria Cristina Guytingco
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; International Studies

“It has been an honor to get to know you all, learn from you all, and experience my undergraduate career with you all. I have grown so much because I have known a lot of you, and I have grown so much in my cultural identity, and take so much more pride and value in my identity, thanks to this community.”

Rita Hathaway
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Women’s and Gender Studies
Bachelors

Khwaja Haye فرياب
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science; Mathematics

Susan He 何婉莹
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology

Yingchao He 贺盈超
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Asian Studies; International Studies

Mary Giselle Herran
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biology, Health, and Society

Cindy Huang 黄嘉谊
School of Information; Information
Bachelors

Judy Huynh
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biology, Health, and Society

Johnson Huynh
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Saika Islam
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science

Tanvi Jagtap
College of Engineering; Mechanical Engineering

Nina Janies
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Information; German
Bachelors

Christine Jegarl
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Philosophy

Sarah Jeng
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Vishal John
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Ria Joshi
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

Surabhi Joshi
College of Engineering; Biomedical Engineering
Even the smallest person can change the course of history." - Lady Galadriel from Lord of the Rings

Sending lots of love to all of the grads today! I hope you continue to learn, grow stronger, and become more resilient each and every day. I hope you continue to always fight for change. I hope you never forgot how wildly capable & powerful you are.

These past one and a half years challenged us in every sense. However, we stepped up and showed incredible resilience and unity. I am honored to share this moment with you. To my parents and all the mentors, professors, advisors, friends, and colleagues that helped me achieve this feat, thank you very much! Without your invaluable support, I would not be here today. Congratulations to the U-M Class of 2021. Go Blue!
Bachelors

Soomin Kim  김수민
School of Information; Information

Promise Kim  김주은
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; History; Asian Studies

Miri Kim  김미리
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology

Limmy Kim  김경림
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; School of Kinesiology;
Asian Studies; Movement Science

Kei Kohmoto  甲元慧
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Environment
“Recognize and always remember our own humanity and other’s humanity. We are humans first before we are students or anything else.”
Bachelors

Aishwarya Laddha
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

Natalie Basuel Lampa
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; School of Information; Asian Studies; Information

Kimberly Lao
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Organizational Studies

Evan Latham
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

Valerie Le
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Art and Design; Communications and Media
Bachelors

Tiffany Lee 李少玲
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biology, Health, and Society; Asian Studies

Verity Lee 李佳馨
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Katie Lee 이재희
College of Engineering; Computer Science

Samantha Lee 李文棋
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biology, Health, and Society

Joyce Lee 이채린
School of Nursing; Nursing
Bachelor's

Helen Lee
Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design; Art and Design

Jiayi Li 李佳怡
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Political Science; English

Jasmine Li Chen 李承洁
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biology, Health, and Society

Daphne Lin 林锦茵
College of Engineering; Chemical Engineering

Alice Liu
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science
Kent Lui 雷庭光
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics; Business Administration
“Congratulations everyone!”

Zhuoran Ma
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Mathematics; Statistics

Joeita Macfield
School of Public Health; Public Health Sciences

Ria Mahesh
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Cognitive Science

Arun Mangrulkar
School of Music, Theatre & Dance; Performance
**Joy Mecano**
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; Spanish

“Thank you UAAO for creating a safe space to share experiences and thoughts-- wish I would've known about y'all earlier but I'm happy to have been able to join the experience during my remaining time here.”

**Annie Mei** 梅淑桦
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biology, Health, and Society

**Alyanna Marie Melicor**
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biomolecular Science

**Rikako Miki**
College of Engineering; Biomedical Engineering

**Rahul Mirchandani**
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration
Bachelors

Shreya Mullapudi
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; Gender and Health

Kai Myran 海
College of Engineering; Mechanical Engineering

Saveri Nandigama
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Philosophy

Louis Bryxter Navalta
School of Nursing; Nursing

Jason Ngo
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Cognitive Science
Bachelors

Khanh Ngo  Ngô Hoàng Khanh  
College of Engineering;  Aerospace Engineering

Ellie Nguyen  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;  Biology, Health, and Society

Gauri Oak  गौरी  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;  Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity

Juliet Yeonsu Oh  오연수  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;  Communications and Media

Celine Ong  王新宇  
College of Engineering;  Psychology
Binta Patel
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Harini Pennathur
College of Engineering; Industrial & Operations Engineering

Emily Phuong
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology

“...I hope to stand in solidarity with my fellow A&PI community - thank you for continuously creating a safe space that I can be my complete self with.”

Sahithi Polisetty
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

Danya Pollack
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Anthropology

“I missed my mom a little less when I was around you all, so thank you. I promise to drink more boba, keep in touch, and always make sure our stories are heard. 爱死你，想死你！”
Bachelors

Vedhika Raghunathan
College of Literature, Science, and the Art; Microbiology

Meghana Ranabothu
College of Literature, Science, and the Art; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

“Congratulations Class of 2021! Throughout the many challenges of the pandemic, I’ve been amazed by the incredible resilience and talents of all the students in my class.”

Rashika Rao
College of Engineering; Space Science & Engineering

Matt Ratanapanichkich
College of Engineering; Chemical Engineering

Aakash Ray
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience
Bachelor’s

Malavika Sabu
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

“It has been wonderful to work with such esteemed faculty and students. My four years here have been a pleasure.”

Sahil Saini
College of Engineering; Mechanical Engineering

Iffat Saiyara
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science

Angela Salacata
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; School of Music, Theatre & Dance; Computer Science; Music

Anna Dessiree San Bartolome
College of Engineering; Chemical Engineering

“I am so proud of our community’s accomplishments and our resiliency. I am so excited to see where our lives’ journeys will take us from now onwards, and I only wish the best for you! Congratulations & good luck!”
Bachelors

Afsana Shahid अफसाना
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Economics

“I haven’t come this far, to only come this far. With support from my community and friends, I hope to make this world even a bit more inclusive, supportive, and loving. And I know, it starts from me.”

Merysta Smith
School of Dentistry; Dental Hygiene

Dhruv Tatke
College of Engineering; Materials Science and Engineering

Ana Taylor 柳志碧
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Microbiology

Sharon Thomas
College of Engineering; Computer Engineering
Bachelors

Christina Thomas
School of Nursing; Nursing
“Congrats! We did it!”

Jaya Thyagarajan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Rebecca To
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity

Julia Toye
College of Engineering; Mechanical Engineering

Quynh Tran
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience
“Congrats fellow grads! Be proud of how far you’ve come and how much further you have left to go, forever go Blue!”
Bachelors

Sean Tran
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Communications and Media; Spanish

Mai-Ly Tran  Trần Đoàn Mai-Ly
College of Engineering; Mechanical Engineering

Yu-Chian Tsai  蔡語謙
College of Engineering; Computer Science

Suhana Virdee
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology

“Congratulations, class of 2021! नींदे हो जाओ!”

Levana Wang
School of Music, Theatre & Dance; Theatre Performance: Acting

“Do yo thang Chicken WANG!”
Bachelors

Calise Wang 王臻欢
College of Pharmacy; Pharmaceutical Sciences
“Congrats!”

Steven Wang 王锴
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science

Ruchi Wankhede
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Political Science; Asian Studies

Jia Chen Wee 黃嘉成
College of Engineering; Mechanical Engineering

Katherine Wei 魏亦萱
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Actuarial Mathematics; Statistics
Rachel Kim Westrick
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Computer Science

“Wouldn’t be here without Revolution!”

Jessica Wu 吴乔乔
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Cellular and Molecular Biology

Lucy Xu
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Economics

Grace Xu
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Communications and Media
We still have a lot of work to do within our community, but it's been a joy and a pleasure to share these few transformational years with you all!
Yuanchun Ye  叶元纯
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Mathematics; Economics

Julie Ye  叶卓莉
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Neuroscience

Hexiao Yu  俞鹤霄
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Psychology; Environment; Romance Languages and Literatures

Allison Zhang
College of Engineering; Industrial & Operations Engineering

Lucy Zhang
Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design; Art and Design
Bachelor's

Felicia Zhang 张漪宁
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Informatics; International Studies

Brian Zhao 赵博安
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Business Administration

Veronica Zhao 赵睿芷
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Statistics

Ann-Marie Zheng 郑思悦
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology

Melissa Zhou 周丽莎
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Economics

Yangshuying Zhou 周杨戌婴
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Linguistics
Master's
Abdulrahman Alfahad
School of Nursing;  
Master of Science in Nursing, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Yeongyun Ay
College of Engineering;  
Master of Science in Engineering, Mechanical Engineering  
“Congratulations and wish all the best!”

Aditya Benyamin
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, School for Environment and Sustainability;  
Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability; Master of Public Policy  
“Congratulations on making it through your degree in such a weird and contentious time especially for Asians. We are strong and we will be even stronger as we make our marks in the world after graduating. Never feel discourage to be authentic in showing your cultural identity wherever you contribute.”

Mansi Bhatt
College of Engineering;  
Master of Science in Industrial & Operations Engineering  
“Congratulations Class of 2021! Go Blue!”
Master's

Shivika Bisen
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Master of Data Science

Helen Blom
School of Public Health; Master of Public Health in Health Behavior Health Education

Yi Cao
College of Engineering; Master of Science in Environmental Engineering

“Happy Graduation!”

Bharadwaj Chepuri
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Master of Business Administration
Amrita Das ပূজা
School of Information; Master of Science in Information

""The most beautiful part of your body is where it's headed. & remember, loneliness is still time spent with the world." -- Ocean Vuong. This past year was a rollercoaster, but I'm so grateful to be here. I'm super excited to start another chapter and see what I can do next."

Bianca Dragone
School for Environment and Sustainability, Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability; Master of Business Administration

Mary Regine Figueroa
School of Public Health; Master of Health Services Administration

Kimberly Guo 郭茹钴
School for Environment and Sustainability; Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability
As we graduate today and go out into the world, carving our own paths and steadfast towards our goals, remember to be kind and empathetic to those you encounter on your journey.”

Manahil Hashmi
College of Engineering; Master of Science in Design Science

Sophie Hasuo
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Master of International and Regional Studies

Zhaoying He
School of Information; Master of Science in Information

Celina Horbat
School for Environment and Sustainability; Master of Science in Environmental Justice
Meitong Hu 胡美彤
College of Engineering; Master of Science in Industrial and Operations Engineering

Dimple Jeswani
College of Engineering; Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering

Gauri Kambhatla
College of Engineering; Master of Science in Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering

Emma Kern
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; Master of Public Policy
Akari Komura  幸村あかり
School of Music, Theatre & Dance; Master of Music in Composition

Emily Ku  구본미
School of Social Work; Master of Social Work, Community Organizing and Community & Social Systems

Jimmy Lee  李百安
School of Information, School of Public Health, and Medical School; Master of Health Informatics

Zijun Li  李子珺
School for Environment and Sustainability; Master of Environmental Informatics
Zhengru Li  李铮儒
College of Engineering; Master of Electrical Engineering

Di Lin  林迪
School of Information; Master of Applied Data Science
“Congratulations!”

Yu-Hung Luan  梁昱竑
College of Engineering; Master of Science in Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering

Priyanka Marudhavanam
College of Engineering; Master of Engineering in Global Automotive and Manufacturing Engineering
Gyanesh Mishra
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Master of Business Administration

Kelly Ni
College of Engineering; Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (December 2020); Master of Science in Environmental Engineering

Mayur Hasmukhbhai Padharia
College of Engineering; Master of Science in Industrial & Operations Engineering
“Walk on with Hope in your Heart... and You'll Never Walk Alone!”

Myoungil Park
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Master of Business Administration
Avril Prakash
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Master of Public Policy; Master of Business Administration

Minjia Qian 钱敏佳
School of Information; Master of Science in Information

Jiabei (Angel) Rao 饶加贝
College of Engineering, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Master of Science in Industrial and Operations Engineering; Master of Applied Economics
“We suffered but survived in the pandemic! Wish all fellows a bright future.”

Oshita Sapte
College of Engineering; Master of Science in Industrial & Operations Engineering
“COVID was tough, and so were we! We are the first graduating zoom class and cheers to us for getting through it!”
Mariam Sayeed  مريم
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy; Master of Public Policy

“It has been an incredible experience being surrounded by talented and passionate people these past two years, and it was only amplified by my time on board of Students of Color in Public Policy at the Ford School. I am excited to take what I’ve learned from UofM and my peers, and continue to push for equity in our communities. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in my growth, and Go Blue! ”

Maria Teresa Seitz
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Master of Business Administration

Grace Sekulidis
School of Social Work; Master of Social Work

Anjali Shakya
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; Master of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Akash Sivah
School for Environment and Sustainability; Master of Environment and Sustainability
“Take care of the planet where ever you go just as she takes care of you :)”

Nrmeen Turkistani
School of Nursing;
Master of Science in Nursing, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Amy Wood
School of Social Work;
Master of Social Work, Interpersonal Practice Children and Youth

Jingyun Wu
School of Education;
Master of Arts in Educational Studies, Design and Technologies for Learning
Jane Xie  谢真真
Stephen M. Ross School of Business; Master of Business Administration

Yangtao Zhang  章杨涛
School of Information; Master of Science in Information

Zhou Zhang  张洲
School of Education; Master of Arts in Educational Studies, Program Evaluation and Improvement Research
“ It is amazing! Thanks for everything here.”
Siyin Zheng 郑斯尹
School of Information; Master of Science in Information

Runqing Zhou 周润卿
School of Information; Master of Science in Information
Doctoral
Doctoral

Alex Bau 鲍荣光
Law School; Juris Doctor

Sonya Choi 高鵬凱
School of Dentistry; Doctor of Dental Surgery

Peng-Kai Kao 高鵬凯
College of Engineering; Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical Engineering

Courtney Liss
Law School; Juris Doctor
Doctoral

Sumer Panesar
School of Dentistry; Doctor of Dental Surgery

Kiana Shin
Law School; Juris Doctor

Steven Zhao
Law School; Juris Doctor
Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Feature

**AA & PI Heritage Month 2021: March 17th - April 14th**

The Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AA & PI Heritage Month) is a university-wide celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage. While the month is federally recognized in May, the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs (MESA) and the United Asian American Organizations (UAAO) celebrate the month from mid-March to mid-April so that students can celebrate during the academic year. Throughout the month, there is a diverse range of events that honor AA & PI history, heritage, community, and identities. You can learn more about the University’s AA & PI Heritage Month at this website: [http://bit.ly/AAPIHM2021](http://bit.ly/AAPIHM2021).

The official month of recognition is known as the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month (previously Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month) in May. While Native Hawaiians are not explicitly mentioned in the federal month’s name, many nationwide and local organizations have built coalitions across the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in the U.S. in order to advance collective welfare. For those interested in learning more about the federal recognition of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, you can visit the federal website here: [https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about](https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about).

**2021 AA & PI Heritage Month Committee Members:**

- Maddie Chau, Class of 2023
- Anna Dang, Class of 2021
- Anooshka Gupta, Class of 2021
- Zoe Hu, Class of 2024
- Yoon Kim, Class of 2023
- Liana Lau, Class of 2024
- Gina Liu, Class of 2023
- Selina Lu, Class of 2023
- Victoria Minka, Class of 2022
- Gray Snyder, Class of 2023
- Nicole Tooley, Class of 2023

MESA Staff Support: Andrea Wilkerson
The A&PI Graduation Celebration Committee is made up of involved students and a staff member from the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives. This year, the committee met virtually to determine a way to honor students of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

The committee works together on several aspects of the celebration, including the theme, marketing and publicity, graphic design and booklets, and community involvement through a recipe collection and Spotify playlist. If you are interested in joining the committee in the future, please contact Chandani Wiersba (cwiersba@umich.edu).

Reggie Galanto, Class of 2022

I valued having the opportunity to help celebrate the accomplishments of the A&PI graduates, as part of this committee. It has been such a worthwhile experience working with an amazing group of students and faculty throughout the process! I’m glad that we’re still able to honor the Class of 2021 during these times, and I wish nothing but the best for all graduates!

Cindy Huang, 黃嘉誼, Graduating Senior

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such passionate and hardworking people on the committee and help celebrate the many accomplishments of our Asian and Pacific Islander graduates! Congratulations, class of 2021!

Kei Kohmoto, 甲元慧, Graduating Senior

I am grateful for the opportunity to get to meet and work with such kind and hardworking people to plan this meaningful graduation celebration! Thank you!

Tiffany Lee, 李少玲, Graduating Senior

I value having the opportunity to unify, encourage, and celebrate graduates during these difficult times. Being on the committee has allowed me to foster community safely while honoring the hard work and dedication it takes to pursue education. It has been a privilege to work with such enthusiastic individuals since the first A&PI graduation celebration, and I am excited to see what the future holds.
Esther Park, Class of 2023

I valued the artistry, the planning, and the collaboration that went into this year’s viewbook and outreach efforts. I also loved being able to help plan an avenue where Asian and Pacific Islander graduates can gather while encouraging important values of belonging and culture. It truly was a pleasure to work with such dedicated and thoughtful people.

Gauri Oak, गौरी, Graduating Senior

I valued being part of a committee that is dedicated to seeing Asian and Pacific Islander students be celebrated. Graduation is a big part of our lives, especially since we have spent so much time and energy, so I’m glad I got to be a part of celebrating their (and my) hard work! I also got to work with many new people on this committee, and I am excited to see what the underclassmen do with future celebrations!

Sarah Morgan, Class of 2022

I am incredibly appreciative of the fact that I am part of the A&PI committee to celebrate the hard work and dedication of this year’s graduates! Being part of a friendly and collaborative team that wanted to give the graduates a memorable graduation viewbook was a very valuable experience.

Karen Nguyen, Class of 2023

I valued the creativity, flexibility, and dedication that this committee showed towards planning a wonderful celebration for this year’s graduates. Being on the A&PI committee has allowed me to meet and collaborate with passionate and amiable students and faculty and I am incredibly grateful for that.
We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for all of the students, faculty, and staff who have provided input for this celebration. The committee chose the theme of a sunrise for the viewbook to symbolize the start of a new day for our graduates as their time at Michigan comes to an end and they begin a new journey. We recognize that this graduation celebration may not include all experiences and perspectives of the A&PI community at Michigan. Our hope is that all A&PI graduates feel honored and celebrated for their accomplishments.

We are committed to educating ourselves and being more inclusive of other voices in the planning process of future A&PI graduations. We look forward to continuing our conversations and community building with various Asian and Pacific Islander communities represented on campus.

This year we have a working title, Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration, previously Asian/Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration. This is in recognition of our distinct Asian and Pacific Islander communities. If you would like to have further conversations or are interested in learning more about the Committee’s steps to be inclusive, please reach out to Chandani Wiersba (cwiersba@umich.edu).

Meet the Team

Chandani Wiersba, चाँदनी, Program Coordinator, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

I valued creating a virtual graduation experience with a committee of talented, dedicated, and thoughtful students—many of whom I have never met in person! The committee took full advantage of meeting online to work together in an authentic and engaging way. I’m excited for our graduates to enjoy their special day and soak in the love and support of our communities.

Harry Yang, 杨嘉澍, Class of 2024

I am grateful to have had this opportunity to honor and celebrate our Asian and Pacific Islander graduates’ accomplishments, as well as their strength through all the difficulties of this past year, as they move into the next chapter of their lives. Working with so many outstanding people across campus has been a wonderful experience, and I couldn’t have asked for a more supportive or inspiring community.
Special Thanks

Gloria Derr Taylor
Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Cari Neubrand
Multimedia Coordinator, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Mike Morland
Communications Manager, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Professor Amy Stillman, Professor Susan Najita, Dr. Sela Panapasa
Faculty - Pacific Islander Community Members

Helen Blom, Heather Duval, Samara Jackson Tobey, Sarah McNally, Anaise Thomas, Adelle Victor
Students - Pacific Islander Community Members

Thank you to the A/PIA Studies faculty Hitomi Tonomura (Director), Manan Desai, Roland Hwang, Emily Lawsin, Joo Young Lee, Susan Najita, Ian Shin, as well as the A/PIA Studies Core Faculty for the congratulatory video to our graduates!

Staff of the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives
Sharon Burch, Associate Director
Angela Espinosa-Gould, Administrative Assistant
Hector Galvan, Program Manager & Success Coach
Lumas Helaire, Associate Director
Alan Hernandez-Solis, Success Coach
Adan Hussain, First Generation Project Manager
Erika Johnson, Program Director
Janice Jones, Program Director
Carole Lapidos, Program Manager & Success Coach
James Logan, Program Coordinator & Success Coach
Gloria Derr Taylor, Director
Gregory O. Thomas, Program Manager & Success Coach
Chandani Wiersba, Program Coordinator & Success Coach
Chelsea Zhang, Research Associate
The University of Michigan Board of Regents

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Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc  Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor  Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor  Mark S. Schlissel (ex officio)
Sarah Hubbard, Okemos

Statement of Affirmative Action

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Statement of Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

The University of Michigan strives to create an open form in which diverse opinions can be expressed and heard. Members of the University community, speakers, artists, and other invited guests have a right to express their views and opinions, and the University will protect that right. The University also supports the rights of those with differing views to express their opinions. In the interest of protecting these rights for all, University representatives may warn anyone unduly interfering with a speaker of performer’s freedom of expression, and if the warnings are not heeded, may remove those individuals from the building. The policy extends and affirms University policies set forth by our Civil Liberties Board in our Student Handbook; and in the U-M Standard Practice Guide; Regents Ordinance Article XII, Section 1; and state statutes.
These symbols represent the cultural graduation ceremonies that are coordinated annually through the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.

Top left to right: Black Celebratory, Native American Graduation, La Celebración Latina
Bottom left to right: Middle Eastern/North African Graduation, First Generation Graduation, Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation

oami.umich.edu
The Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration is coordinated by The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

A unit in the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion