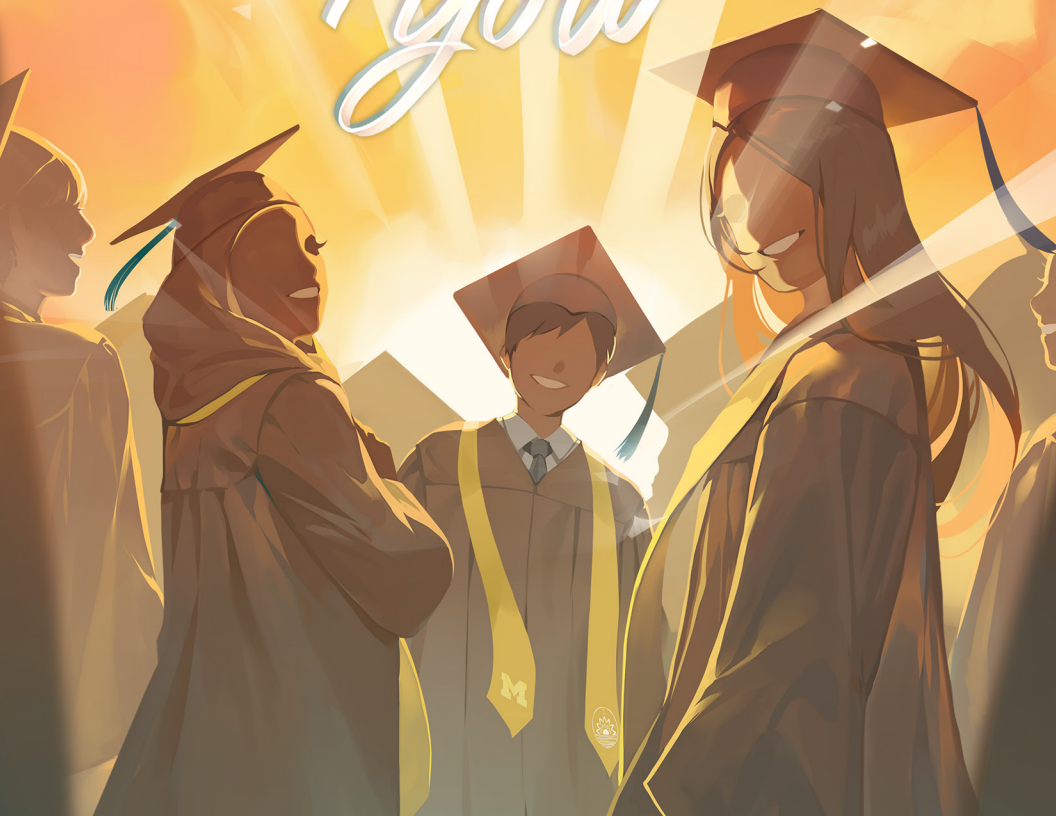


UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Asian & Pacific Islander

GRADUATION CELEBRATION

*Spotlight
On
You*



Recognition from University Leadership

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate our Asian & Pacific Islander Class of 2024. Congratulations on this tremendous accomplishment!

This annual celebration began in 2018 and continues to highlight the cultural significance of this diverse community and its impacts on the greater University community and society.

As we honor you, we are excited about the opportunities that await each of you. You have demonstrated the skills, talent, drive and commitment to significantly impact your communities and our world.

While the college process can be challenging for all students, you have also endured one of the most challenging times in the history of the University and our broader society. We are humbled by your resilience as a U-M student, and we hope that you're able to draw on the strength, knowledge, and wisdom you've developed and gained to meet future life challenges.

While graduation often signifies the conclusion of an academic journey, the root of the word "commencement" is the act of beginning, starting and initiating. We wish you nothing but success and happiness as you begin the next steps in your life's journey.

To be a Michigan graduate is not just joining the community of over 600,000 Michigan alums around the globe – half a million friends, colleagues, and mentors ready to help you in your next chapter. Being a U-M graduate also means embracing the idea that the knowledge and experiences you have cultivated are gifts to be used and shared.

Go forth and excel in everything that you do personally and professionally, and always with integrity and pride. And wherever your journey takes you – Go Blue!



Santa J. Ono
President



Laurie K. McCauley
Provost & Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs



Martino Harmon
Vice President for Student Life



Tabbye M. Chavous
Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion
& Chief Diversity Officer

OAMI's Expression of Gratitude

Congratulations on your graduation from the University of Michigan! You should look upon this accomplishment with pride and use it as inspiration for your future endeavors. As you stand on the threshold of a new chapter in your life, I want to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate your unique experiences and contributions during your time here.

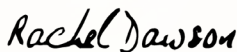
As part of our campus community, you demonstrated a great deal of determination, resilience, and excellence. From facing the internal and external pressures of excelling at the highest level, navigating the challenges of rigorous coursework, and balancing extracurricular activities and community involvement, you exemplified a level of dedication and determination that is truly inspiring. And you did all of this while struggling through a pandemic where many in your community were unjustly blamed and victimized by the evils of racism and Asian hate.

As you move forward, we encourage you to continue to embrace your heritage, celebrate your achievements, and pursue your dreams with passion and purpose. I hope that you will continue to control your identity and demand respect, to insist that people recognize the many splendid cultures from which you come and that harmful stereotypes transform into respect for each of your cultures, and respect for each one of you as individuals.

As members of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities, you enriched our campus with your diverse perspectives, cultures, and traditions. Your voices added depth and richness to our discussions, and your leadership helped to create a more inclusive and vibrant campus environment for all. You taught us to appreciate your community while respecting the differences within your community. For all these things we are deeply grateful and say thank you.

Congratulations, Class of 2024! We are incredibly proud of all that you have accomplished, and we can't wait to see the incredible impact you will continue to make in the world.

Sincerely,



Rachel Dawson

Director for the Office of Multicultural Academic Initiatives

Order of Program

PERFORMANCE PIECE: DUNHUANG

Qingyun Chinese Music Ensemble at U of M

GRADUATE PROCESSION

LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dr. Victor Mendoza

Acting Director, Asian/Pacific Islander American (A/PIA) Studies Program

WELCOME

Dr. Tabbye M. Chavous

Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

REMARKS

Dr. Laurie K. McCauley

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

THEME READING

Ashley Bouse

Junior, Information - User Experience Concentration

A&PI Graduation Celebration Student Committee

Xi Yuan Zheng 郑熙媛

Junior, Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology

A&PI Graduation Celebration Student Committee

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE

Jess Wang

Senior, Math & Asian Studies

A&PI Graduation Celebration Student Committee

KEYNOTE

Ms. Frances Kai-Hwa Wang 王凱華

PBS NewsHour Communities Correspondent

U-M Dept of American Culture Program in Asian/ Pacific Islander

American Studies Lecturer

Order of Program

GIFTING OF A LEI

Carly Nicole Salazar

*Junior, Anthropology: Archaeology, A/PIA Studies & WGS
Vice President, Oceania Student Association*

GRADUATES WALK

Bachelor's Students

Master's Students

Hooding of Doctoral Students

NAMES READ BY:

Dr. Neeraja Aravamudan நீராஜா

Director, Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service & Learning

Dr. Connie Tingson Gatuz

Associate Vice President, Student Life

Roland Hwang, JD

Lecturer, Asian/Pacific Islander American (A/PIA) Studies Program

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GRADUATION CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Julia J. Barron

Program Coordinator, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Victor Mendoza

GRADUATE RECESSION

Master of Ceremonies



Victor Mendoza, Ph.D.

Acting Director, Asian/Pacific Islander American (A/PIA) Studies Program

Victor Román Mendoza (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) currently serves as acting director of the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program. Victor holds joint appointments in the departments of Women's and Gender Studies, English, and American Culture. Victor's first book, *Metroimperial Intimacies: Fantasy, Racial-Sexual Governance, and the Philippines in U.S. Imperialism, 1899-1913* (Duke University Press, 2015; University of Philippines Press, 2016) showed how the management of Philippine sexuality was intrinsic to U.S. colonial conquest and how the colonization of the Philippines is integral to the history of sexuality in the United States. The monograph was a finalist for the 2017 Philippines National Book Award (History category).

Ceremony Speakers



Laurie McCauley, Ph.D.

*Provost & Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Laurie K. McCauley is the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, William K and Mary Anne Najjar Professor of Periodontics, Professor of Dentistry, Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine, School of Dentistry, and Professor of Pathology, Medical School.

Dr. McCauley earned her B.S., D.D.S., M.S. and Ph.D. (Veterinary Pathobiology) all from The Ohio State University. She has had several visiting scientist/professor appointments including the Institut de Genetique et de Biologie Moleculaire et Cellulaire, the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, and the Center for Experimental Therapeutics and Reperfusion Injury, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School.



Tabbye M. Chavous, Ph.D.

*Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion
and Chief Diversity Officer*

Dr. Tabbye Chavous is the Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Michigan. She is also a professor of education and professor of psychology.

Dr. Chavous has held leadership roles at the department, college, and central administration levels during her almost 24 years at U-M. Most recently, she was the director of the National Center for Institutional Diversity and associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Prior to that, Dr. Chavous served as an associate vice president for research, associate dean for academic programs and initiatives in the Rackham Graduate School, and chair of the Combined Program in Education and Psychology. Across all of her roles, the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion have been central to her leadership approaches and practices and infused throughout the initiatives, programs, and practices she helped develop and implement.

Keynote Speaker



Ms. Frances Kai-Hwa Wang 王凱華

PBS NewsHour Communities Correspondent

U-M Dept of American Culture Program in Asian/ Pacific Islander

American Studies Lecturer

Frances Kai-Hwa Wang is a journalist, essayist, scholar, and poet, focused on issues of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, race, justice, and the arts. The child of immigrants, she was born in Los Angeles, raised in Silicon Valley, and now divides her time between Michigan and Hawai'i. She is a Communities Correspondent for PBS NewsHour, and her writing has also appeared at NBC AsianAmerica, PRI GlobalNation, AngryAsianMan, Cha Asian Literary Journal, and more. She taught Asian/ Pacific Islander American Studies at University of Michigan. She co-created a multimedia artwork for Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. She wrote three chapbooks and a book of prose poetry, "You Cannot Resist Me When My Hair Is in Braids." In Chinese School, she was often scolded for having the best spoken Chinese in class and the worst written Chinese.

Performance Piece: Dunhuang

Qingyun Chinese Music Ensemble at U of M

Qingyun Chinese Music Ensemble at U of M was founded in 2019, and they are the first and only Chinese music ensemble under U-M. Qingyun is established for the purpose of providing opportunities for performance experience and allowing students with previous experience in Chinese traditional instruments to continue their passion. They are determined to bring Chinese traditional music to the University of Michigan and therefore promote cultural and musical diversity on campus. The music piece performed today is Dunhuang. Dunhuang, an ancient city located on the Silk Road in China, holds significant cultural and historical importance, serving as a meeting point where diverse cultures, beliefs, and artistic expressions converged along the Silk Road, resulting in a rich tapestry of human experiences and interactions. Qingyun shares, "Through our music, we invite our audience to embark on a journey of discovery and illumination, where each note and melody shines a light on the timeless beauty of Dunhuang's cultural heritage."

Qingyun's Instruments

Chinese musical instruments encompass a rich diversity of sounds and traditions, reflecting the country's long history and cultural heritage.

Yangqin - A traditional Chinese hammered dulcimer consisting of a set of tuned metal strings stretched over a trapezoidal wooden frame.

Guzheng - A plucked zither with movable bridges, the Guzheng has a long history in Chinese music.

Erhu - Often referred to as the Chinese violin, the Erhu is a two-stringed bowed instrument with a characteristic soulful sound.

Pipa - A pear-shaped lute with a fretted neck, the Pipa has a bright, crisp sound and a rich repertoire spanning centuries.

Zhongruan - A four-stringed lute with a round body and fretted neck that produces warm, mellow tones.

Bamboo Flute - Crafted from bamboo, the Chinese bamboo flute (Dizi) has a hauntingly beautiful sound characterized by its airy, ethereal quality.

Percussion - Consists of a wide range of instruments such as drums, cymbals, and gongs provide rhythmic accompaniment and dynamic contrast.

Gift of a Lei

Crafted with care, a lei is made with deep intention. Lei can be made with a variety of materials, but regardless of the medium, the lei maker takes the utmost care in choosing the color, design, and presentation. The gifting of lei is a shared practice across the Pacific and carries cultural meaning in every island nation. Lei are exchanged as symbols of friendship, honor, to greet, and show love. In Pacific Islander communities, lei are often bestowed to graduates to recognize their hard work and accomplishments. We hope you receive this lei with all the care and celebration that went into crafting and gifting it. Given that the lei holds such cultural meaning, we ask at the time of disposal, you do so honorably and respectfully with the environment and our values in mind.

Congratulations, A&PI Graduates!



Doctoral Graduates

Yeo Ryeong Ahn 안여령
School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Orchestral Conducting

Carlina Duan 段娜娜
Rackham Graduate School
English and Education

Siqi Li 李思琦
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Chemistry

Daniel Salas-Escabillas D nette
University of Michigan Medical School
Cancer Biology

Musawer Ahmad Saqif সাকীফ
College of Engineering
Civil Engineering and Scientific Computing

Yuan Shi 师远
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Finance

Annie Xu 许易琳
University of Michigan Law School
Juris Doctor

Master's Graduates

Andrew Arche

School of Social Work
Social Work

Siddharth Anilkumar Bhurat

सिद्धार्थ
College of Engineering
Robotics

Chia Wen Cheng 鄭佳玟

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy;
Rackham Graduate School
Public Policy; Survey and Data Science

Amit Das अमति

School of Information
Information

Shubham Deshpande शुभम देशपांडे

Rackham Graduate School
ECE-SIPML

Praharsha Gurram

College of Engineering,
Rackham Graduate School
Mechanical Engineering

Ami Hasebe 長谷部 亜実

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Hejing Hu 胡赫婧

Rackham Graduate School; School for
Environment and Sustainability
*Sustainable Systems; Sustainability and
Development*

Marissa Novita Hutabarat

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Applied Economics

Dimas Jayadipura

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Prathamesh Joshi प्रथमेश संगीता गणेश जोशी

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Data Science

Pragya Joshi

School of Information
Information

Yuya Kamon 賀門勇也

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Simranpreet Kaur Anand

ਸਮਿਰਨਪ੍ਰੀਤ
Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design
Art

Panida Khuansanguan แพร่ไหม

Rackham Graduate School
Biological Chemistry

Austin Lan 兰宇辰

College of Engineering;
Rackham Graduate School
Materials Science and Engineering

Quang Le Lê Nh t Quang

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Tiffany Lee 李曉欣

School of Social Work
Social Work

Qirong Liang 梁齐蓉

School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Performance, Voice

Muhamad Rifki Maulana Rifki

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
*International Economic Development
Policy*

Satya Sri Mummidivarapu Sath-Yeah

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Vivian Nguyễn

Rackham Graduate School;
School of Education
Higher Education

Master's Graduates

Rohini Perera

Rackham Graduate School;
School of Public Health
Public Health Epidemiology;
Healthy Cities Graduate Certificate

Dipro Prattoy দীপ্ত প্রত্যায়া

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Management

Rima Rahman

School of Social Work
Social Work

Apurva Prem Rathee

University of Michigan Law School
Master of Laws

Adrian Jules Rocha

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering

Bhavarth Shah

School for Environment and Sustainability
Environment and Sustainability

Spandan Sharma

School of Information
Information

Ruth Silitonga

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Shivam Singh

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Japjyot Singh

School for Environment and Sustainability
Environment and Sustainability;
Environmental Justice

Eva Situmorang

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Chun Tang 唐春

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Saurav Telge सौरव तेलगे

College of Engineering
Electrical & Computer Engineering

Raeleen Faith Trowla

School of Social Work
Social Work

Masaya Ueno 上野雅哉

Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business Administration

Mayu Ueno 上野 川添 真友

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy

Cat Hy Vo Võ Hy Cát

School of Social Work
Social Work

Yuping Wei 危昱萍

School for Environment and Sustainability
Environment and Sustainability

Thu Rain Yi (Tiffany) Win

သူရိန်ရည်ဝင်း
School for Environment and Sustainability
Environment and Sustainability

Jiangbo Yu 余江波

College of Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Yanze Yu 余彦泽

Rackham Graduate School
MIRS: Chinese Studies

Bachelor's Graduates

Shubh Agrawal शुभ अग्रवाल

College of Engineering
Computer Science

Tazkira Ahad তাজকরিয়া

School of Public Health
Community and Global Public Health

Anissa Alam

School of Public Health
Public Health Sciences

Safra Arevalo

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Simrun Bose

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*International Studies;
Program of the Environment*

Jenny Cai Jieyu

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Madelyn Chau Mai

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Earth and Environmental Science

Chihuiye Chen 陈池慧也

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Tasfia Chowdhury

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Mahalina Dimacali

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Environment; Museum Studies

Hunter Divinagracia

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Political Science

Alexander Dunn

School of Nursing
Nursing

Hannah Feng 冯玥莹

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology; International Studies

Juan Carlos Feraro

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Public Policy; A/PIA Studies

Aarushi Ganguly

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;
School of Public Health
Public Health Sciences; Spanish

Ruimin Gao 高睿敏

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Computer Science; Biopsychology,
Cognition, and Neuroscience*

Caitlin Ruth Gines

School of Nursing
Nursing

Carina Gordon

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science

Kaitlyn Gozon

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Economics; Cognitive Science

Ana Ha Ha Tuyét Nhi

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Zainab Hakim زينب

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Women's and Gender Studies: Art History

Linjie Hao 郝麟杰

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Mathematical Sciences

Vidhiyaa Harish விதியா ஹரிஷ்

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Neuroscience

Judy Hoang Judy Hoàng

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Communication + Media

Zeyuan Hu 胡泽元

College of Engineering
Materials Science & Engineering

Mindy Huang 黄敏迪

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Molecular, Cellular,
and Developmental Biology*

Bachelor's Graduates

William Huang 黄琮威

School of Nursing
Bachelor's of Science in Nursing

Bilal Irfan بلال عرفان

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
International Studies

Josephine Itchon

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Guntaaz Kaur

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Yoshiki Kawase 川瀬佳樹

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biochemistry

Monica Khalique

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering

Amanath Khandaker আমানাত খন্দকার

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Cognitive Science

Ashley Kim

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology, Health, and Society

Seira Kojima 小島青空

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering

Velyn Kwok 郭文淇

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science; Cognitive Science

Ally Langenkamp 雷譚琳

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Communication + Media

Keithan Lee 李伟伦

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Janet Lee 이서은

School of Nursing
Nursing

PinYi Lee 李品儀

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Cognitive Science; American Culture

Emelia Lei 雷王瑞

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science

Chenxuan Li 黎謙軒

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology and Sociology

Ruixi Li 黎芮希

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Sociology

Zheng Li 李铮

College of Engineering
Computer Science

Eileen Liang 梁伊莉

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology, Health, and Society

Merrila Liu 刘雨桐

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Melissa Long 邱雨浓

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Emily Madlambayan

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Microbiology; Gender and Health

Shreya Mani

School of Information
Data Analytics

Jeanelle Mapili

School of Nursing
Nursing

Amanda Marie- Arzadon Sutherby

School of Nursing
Nursing

Jodi Moy 梅佩苓

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology

Bachelor's Graduates

Andrew Nakamura

School of Information
Information

Minh-Thu Nguyen Nguyễn Hoàng Minh-Thư

School of Public Health
Public Health Sciences

Nina Nguyen 阮美娜

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Neuroscience

Phat Nguyen Nguyễn Thành Phát

School of Nursing
Nursing

Angeleia Ordoñez

School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Musical Theatre

Kimberly Pham

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology, Health, and Society

Sanjidah Rahman সানজীদা রহমান

School of Public Health
Public Health Sciences

Eshan Raul

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Astronomy & Astrophysics; Physics

Mia Rodriguez

School of Nursing
Nursing

Lauren Rosenblatt

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biology, Health, and Society

Indira Sankaran

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Program in the Environment and Ecology;
Ecology and Biology*

Sarah Seto

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Shameena Shahzad دازش انیم‌اش

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Neuroscience

Anna Shinohara 篠原杏奈

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Psychology

Kripa Srinivasan

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts,
School of Information
Statistics, Information Science

Jessica Suan

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Microbiology

Michelle Angela Torralba

School of Nursing
Nursing

Roshni Veeramachaneni

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Creative Writing and Literature

Irene Wang 王琳月

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science; Philosophy

Yuzhu Jessica Wang

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Math; Asian Studies

Sakiko Watkins

College of Engineering
Chemical Engineering

Amber Wei 魏郁安

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts,
School of Public Health
*Community and Global Public Health;
Gender and Health*

Fei Wu 吴菲

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science

Harry Yang 杨嘉澍

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Biochemistry

Alice Yang

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Computer Science

Alan Yang 杨杰伦

School of Information
User Experience Design

Bachelor's Graduates

Madeline Young

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Economics

Hasan Zai

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Political Science; International Studies

Christine Zeng 曾楚芸

College of Engineering, College of Literature,
Science, and the Arts
Computer Science

Abigail Zhang 张尔悦

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts,
Stephen M. Ross School of Business
Business; International Studies

Xumeng Zhang 张栩萌

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
*Molecular, Cellular,
and Developmental Biology*

Matthew Zhou 周之任

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Economics

Qingyao Zhu 朱清瑶

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
Mathematics; Data Science

Xingyi Zhu 朱星颐

School of Kinesiology
*Movement Science;
Intraoperative Neuromonitoring*

Theme Statement

The graduating Class of 2024 came into college at the start of the pandemic. This unique beginning has brought so much uncertainty in a crucial semester where many are transitioning from high school to college. The Class of 2024's resilience in navigating these obstacles is commendable, marking them as a cohort of remarkable strength and determination. We want the 2024 Asian and Pacific Islander (A&PI) graduation celebration to focus on each graduate's accomplishment and individual potential with our theme statement, "Spotlight on You."

In the art piece at the front of each booklet, graduates are depicted stepping into the embrace of a new dawn. Their journey is illuminated by the first light of day symbolizing the unlimited potential each day brings. The sunrise, with its vibrant hues of orange and blue, embodies the start of a new chapter and a shining "Spotlight On You" to celebrate each graduate's unique journey, achievements, and future. It showcases a moment of individual recognition and collective celebration, where every graduate is seen, acknowledged, and celebrated under the vast, open sky.

The silhouettes, dressed in their caps and gowns, smile broadly, their faces turned towards the endless possibilities that lie ahead. The confetti from above glimmers from the sunlight and mirrors the joy of this significant milestone as graduates embark on their unique paths.

This piece stands as a testament to our theme statement, "Spotlight On You," emphasizing the idea that among the collective journey of education and growth, the individual stories, struggles, and successes of each graduate hold immense value and are worthy of celebration. It is a reminder that at this key moment, as they stand on the brink of the future, each graduate is recognized, their potential is limitless, and the spotlight shines brightly upon them, encouraging them to step forward into their next chapter with confidence and pride.

Artist Bio



Rachel Liu is a concept artist and illustrator working in the video games industry with a passion for subtle storytelling. She graduated the University of Michigan Ann Arbor with a Bachelor of Arts in 2022, and has since worked on creating character designs and illustrations for numerous game titles, both small and large. Rachel spends her free time cooking, playing video games, and trying to find more space in her cupboard for her ever expanding cup collection.

About the Committee

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 came together to decide how to honor and celebrate students of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

The committee works together on several aspects of the celebration, including the theme, marketing and media, graphic design and booklets, decorations, day of logistics, speeches, and community involvement. We are looking for more students to join the committee. If you are interested in joining the committee in the future, please contact Julia Barron at juliajb@umich.edu.



Ashley Bouse, Junior

I'm so thankful to have been a part of this year's A&PI Graduation Committee. It is so rewarding to watch our ideas come to life throughout these past few months. Thank you to Julia for all of your help and for supporting us unconditionally. I am grateful for the A&PI committee and our community, which has shaped me so much over the course of my college career. Thank you for being my home. To this year's graduates, the spotlight's on you, and I cannot wait to see all that you accomplish. Binabati kita!



Xi Yuan Zheng 郑熙媛, Junior

I have had such a wonderful time as a part of this committee. Over the past four years, I've had the pleasure of working with passionate students to create meaningful celebrations for such a special community on campus. Our theme this year is especially significant as I recall stumbling across this opportunity as an eager freshman and am now finally walking across the stage myself. Thank you to my fellow committee members and our lovely coordinator, Julia, for an amazing last celebration. I will forever cherish my time as a part of this committee and cannot wait to see how it grows in the years to come.



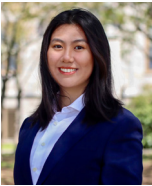
Ting-Ting Kao, Junior

Seeing the outcome of our collaborative efforts finalize into a memorable event has been immensely fulfilling, and I'm deeply thankful for the chance to contribute to such a meaningful cause. As my time with the committee concludes, I extend heartfelt appreciation to every member for their dedication and teamwork in planning this A&PI Graduation Celebration. Additionally, I sincerely hope that all the graduates will find joy and success in their future endeavors.



Vincent Chiang, Junior

Watching our collective vision materialize into reality has been incredibly fulfilling. A heartfelt thank you to each person who lent their talents and support along the way. May this celebration be a testament to our shared dedication and passion.



Jess Wang, Senior

I am extremely grateful for being a part of the A&PI Graduation Committee. I have had the pleasure of working with such dedicated and passionate people along the way. As my time at Michigan comes to close, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me and supported me in this journey. I will forever cherish this amazing experience. Happy graduation!



Julia J. Barron, Staff

It has been a complete joy working with Ashley, Xi Yuan, Vincent, Ting-Ting, and Jess. These five made up the Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration Student Committee this year. I have watched them grow in confidence as individuals and as a community. I am so proud of them for coming together to create a meaningful celebration to honor our 2024 graduates. To our graduates: We are so excited to have you create a lasting memory through this year's Graduation Celebration. We send a big thank you to our faculty, staff, graduates families & friends for celebrating the A&PI community and providing our graduates with love and support.

Recognition Statement

We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all of the students, faculty, and staff who have provided input for this celebration. We are committed to educating ourselves and being more inclusive of other voices in the planning process of future A&PI graduations. The committee is continuously working toward intentionally including Pacific Islander voices in our planning and celebration. One step we have taken is to change the title from "Asian/Pacific Islander" to "Asian & Pacific Islander," recognizing the distinct communities. We are excited to present Pacific Islander graduates with leis.

We recognize that this graduation celebration may not include all the 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.

If you would like to have further conversations or are interested in learning more about the Committee's steps to be inclusive, please contact the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives at oami-uofm@umich.edu.

Platform Guests

In Order of Speaking

Dr. Victor Mendoza

Acting Director, Asian/Pacific Islander American (A/PIA) Studies Program

Dr. Tabbye M. Chavous

Vice Provost for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Dr. Laurie K. McCauley

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Ashley Bouse

*Junior, Information with a User Experience Concentration
A&PI Graduation Celebration Student Committee*

Xi Yuan Zheng 郑熙媛

*Junior, Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology
A&PI Graduation Celebration Student Committee*

Jess Wang

*Senior, Math & Asian Studies
A&PI Graduation Celebration Student Committee*

Ms. Frances Kai-Hwa Wang 王凱華

*PBS NewsHour Communities Correspondent
U-M Dept of American Culture Program in Asian/Pacific Islander
American Studies Lecturer*

Carly Nicole Salazar

*Junior, Anthropology: Archaeology, A/PIA Studies & WGS
Vice President, Oceania Student Association (OSA)*

Dr. Neeraja Aravamudan நீராஜா

Director, Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service & Learning

Dr. Connie Tingson Gatuz

Associate Vice President, Student Life Division

Roland Hwang, JD

Lecturer, Asian/Pacific Islander American (A/PIA) Studies Program

Other Platform Guests

In Order of Last Name

Sharon Burch

Associate Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Rachel Dawson, JD

Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Dr. Doo Jae Park

Lecturer, Sport Management & Asian/Pacific Islander Studies Program

Ting-Ting Kao

*Junior, Cognitive Science & Computer Science
A&PI Graduation Celebration Student Committee*

Dr. Ann Lin

Associate Professor; Director, Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies

Dr. Allen Liu

Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

Gaston Lopez

Admissions Counselor, Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Dr. Martino Harmon

Vice President for Student Life

Roland Hwang

*Lecturer, American Culture
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

Dr. Laura-Ann Jacobs 방

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow; Dije Instructional Support
and Professional Learning Specialist
National Center for Institutional Diversity; School of Education*

Dr. Sally Oey

*Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Astronomy
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

(cont.)

Dr. Marie Ting

Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Dr. Hitomi Tonomura

Professor of History, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Dr. Katrina Wade-Golden

Associate Vice Provost, Deputy Chief Diversity Officer & Director of Implementation for the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Strategic Plan

Dr. Deborah Willis

Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Special Thanks

Sharon Burch

Associate Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Rachel Dawson, JD

Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

Brendan Kirwin

*Assistant Director of Marketing and Communication,
Office of Multicultural Initiatives*

Oceania Student Association (OSA)

Wren Palmer

*PhD Student, Department of American Culture
President, Oceania Student Association (OSA)*

Carly Nicole Salazar

*Junior, Anthropology: Archaeology, A/PIA Studies and WGS
Vice President, Oceania Student Association (OSA)*

Dr. Marie Ting

Assistant Vice Provost, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Land and Labor Acknowledgment

The University of Michigan is located on the territory of the Anishinaabeg people. The Ann Arbor campus resides on land ceded through the Treaty of Detroit in 1807. Additionally, in 1817, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadami Nations made the largest single land transfer to the University of Michigan, ceded through the Treaty of Fort Meigs, with the agreement that their children would be educated in perpetuity.

We assert the sovereignty of tribal lands and acknowledge the painful historical and ongoing genocide, forced assimilation, and displacement of Native communities in establishing the university.

We affirm contemporary and ancestral Anishinaabeg ties to this land, the profound contributions of Native American peoples to this institution, and the University's commitment to educating the children of Native ancestors.

We further recognize that whether you are on campus in Ann Arbor or elsewhere in the United States, we stand on land developed at the often-fatal expense of forcefully enslaved Black people. We acknowledge that much of this country, including its culture, economic growth, and development has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants who suffered the horror of the transatlantic trafficking, chattel slavery, and dehumanization through segregation and Jim Crow laws.

We remember those who did not survive the Middle Passage, those who were beaten and lynched, and those who are still suffering while fighting for their freedom. We are indebted to their labor and unwilling sacrifice, and acknowledge the violence throughout the generations and the resulting impact and generational trauma still felt today.

The fights against settler colonialism and anti-blackness will always be inextricably linked. To the land, to the collective, and to the ancestors, we thank you, we thank you, we thank you.

History of the Celebration

The Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration was first held in April 2018. The celebration is key in bringing together several communities, both made up of different ethnic and cultural identities and from across student-staff-faculty areas of the University of Michigan campus. The celebration brings together families and friends.

We, the University of Michigan Asian and Pacific Islander Student Committee, plan this annual celebration to honor students of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage here at the University of Michigan.

Graduation Celebration Mission

The Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration celebrates the commonalities and differences that characterize the experiences of Asian and Pacific Islander students, as well as other students at the University of Michigan and serves as an example of the University of Michigan's commitment to diversity.

The ceremony acknowledges the value and uniqueness of the Asian and Pacific Islander student experience and serves to commemorate the accomplishments of those students that participate in the celebration. The celebration recognizes faculty and staff who provide academic enrichments, research opportunities, programs, and activities that promote the communal striving and sense of accountability that help students to achieve.

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI), in partnership with the Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration Planning Committee, institutes this annual celebration as an expression and tradition of valuing the University's cultural offerings and commitment to diversity.

Statement of Freedom of Speech and Artistic Expression

The University of Michigan strives to create an open forum 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, speech that breaks the law, violates the University of Michigan's code of conduct, or threatens harm to another person will not be tolerated. Persons engaging in such speech may be warned by University representatives, and if the warnings are not heeded, may be removed 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.

Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Office for Institutional Equity - 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388, institutional.equity@umich.edu.

Regents of the University of Michigan

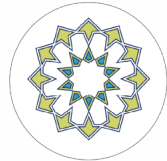
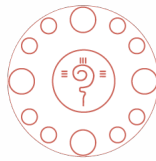
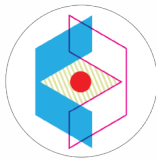
Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods
Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor
Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor
Sarah Hubbard, Okemos
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms, chair
Ron Weiser, Ann Arbor
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Santa J. Ono, *ex officio*

Cultural Graduation Celebrations

OAMI's cultural graduation celebrations supplement the traditional U-M commencement. They are held during graduation week to express appreciation for the achievements, commonalities, and cultural differences that characterize the experiences of graduating students. Additionally, they offer a chance for students to recognize the impact of faculty and staff with awards and honors.

Celebration Symbols

These symbols are used by OAMI and the organizing committees to represent the seven cultural graduations:



Black Celebratory
Native Student Graduation
La Celebración Latina
Middle Eastern/North African Graduation

Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation
First-Generation Graduation
Undocumented Students Graduation

oami.umich.edu/grad-celebrations



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN