

# Interwoven Journeys

20 ASIAN STUDENT CELEBRATION 26





GRADUATING 2026?

YES

NO







Congratulations!

## Theme Statement

The 2026 Asian Student Celebration theme, “Interwoven Journeys”, ties together the concepts of photos and threads of fate. It illustrates the idea that all graduating students have unique journeys, but are also interwoven with the journeys of other students within the college community. The memories captured by photos represent snapshots of the students’ journeys throughout their years at U-M. The idea of photos was inspired by the concept of “capture your best moment,” often associated with college, where many people find their dreams and goals. Photos are captured in various ways, and the two most common among college students are photobooths and Polaroids. The threads of fate came from the concept that students have the opportunity to influence their own fates in college. Oftentimes, the decisions they make allow their fates to cross with others, resulting in the formation of meaningful connections and relationships. The threads of fate represent the idea that college is also the place where students’ paths overlap or interconnect with others through various means.

The booklet design features four panels that bring the theme to life. The first shows students at a photobooth, with a red woven thread symbolizing the beginning of their shared journeys. The second highlights a desk with Polaroid photos strung together with the red thread, capturing everyday memories and experiences. The third panel shows a group of students sitting around a photobook on a table outside the Michigan Union. The photobook has a bookmark woven with red thread, and the students are choosing which photos to include. The final panel shows the same photobook lying open on the grass, with the red woven bookmark resting on the open page. A bright beam of sunshine hits the page as photos from the photobook fly out and into the air, representing new journeys the students will embark on after graduation. The booklet’s art style was inspired by the tones of Studio Ghibli.

## About the Artist



Jenni Renas is a graphic designer with a specialty in identity programs for visual storytelling. She earned a BFA in Fine Arts at Savannah College of Art and Design with a major in Graphic Design and minor in Advertising. Jenni strives to create material that is witty + memorable and enjoys drawing, good socks, and learning from those around her.

# Celebration Welcome Letter

Greetings,

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2026 and the participants of this year's Asian Student Celebration.

Commencement is a meaningful milestone for the University of Michigan community. Today, we recognize your achievements, your growth, and the communities that supported you along the way. We celebrate all that you have contributed to this campus.

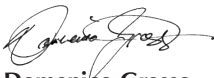
This year's theme, "Interwoven Journeys," reflects the spirit of the Class of 2026. Each of your paths has been uniquely your own, shaped by your experiences, choices, and aspirations. At the same time, your journeys have been connected through shared moments, relationships, and community.

Throughout your time here, you have created memories that mark your experience. Moments of joy, challenge, growth, and discovery. Like snapshots captured in time, these experiences reflect the many ways you have shaped your journey and contributed to the life of this campus.

You also built connections that will continue beyond this moment. The relationships you formed, the spaces you created, and the ways your paths intersected with others have strengthened a sense of belonging that will carry forward.

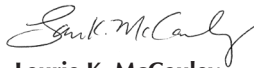
As you move into what comes next, your journeys continue. The connections you have built remain part of your story, and new paths will emerge as you carry your experiences forward.

We celebrate you, your journey, and all that is ahead.  
Wherever you go from here - Always Go Blue!



**Domenico Grasso**

President



**Laurie K. McCauley**

Provost & Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs



**Martino Harmon**

Vice President for Student Life



**Angela D. Dillard**

Interim Vice Provost for Access &  
Opportunity and Vice Provost for  
Undergraduate Education

## OAMI's Expression of Gratitude

Dear Graduates,

It is a privilege to celebrate with you at this year's Asian Student Celebration at the University of Michigan.

This year's theme, "Interwoven Journeys," offers a beautiful way to reflect on your time here. Each of your paths has been uniquely your own, shaped by your experiences, your identities, and the moments that have defined your time at Michigan. And yet, along the way, your stories have become connected, crossing, overlapping, and growing alongside one another in meaningful ways.

Like photographs, your time here is made up of moments, some big, some quiet, all significant. The conversations, the laughter, the late nights, the celebrations, these are the snapshots that tell the story of who you've been and who you've become.

And like threads, your journeys have been woven together. Through friendships, communities, and shared spaces, you have built connections that will extend far beyond this campus. You have created something lasting not just for yourselves, but for those who will follow.

In the ways you have shown up for one another, celebrated culture, and built community, you have helped shape a Michigan that is more vibrant, more expansive, and more connected.

As you move forward, carry these moments and connections with you. The paths you continue to build will keep intersecting with others in ways you may not yet see—but will always matter.

This is your story, one that continues to unfold, connected to something larger than any single moment.

We are proud of who you are and all that you will continue to become.

With pride and appreciation,

**The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives**

# Order of Program

## GRADUATE PROCESSION

### LAND AND LABOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dr. Melissa Borja

*Associate Professor, Department of American Culture*

### WELCOME

Dr. Angela D. Dillard

*Interim Vice Provost for Access & Opportunity  
and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*

### THEME READING

Yi Miao Zheng 郑毅苗

*Junior, Biochemistry*

*Asian Student Celebration Student Committee*

### INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE

Om Khuperkar ॐ

*Junior, Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience*

*Asian Student Celebration Student Committee*

### KEYNOTE

Ayesha Ghazi Edwin अयेशा गाज़ी एडवनि

*Assistant Clinical Professor*

*University of Michigan School of Social Work*



# Order of Program

## 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*

Roland Hwang, JD  
*Lecturer, Asian/Pacific Islander American (A/PIA)  
Studies Program*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF STUDENT CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

Julia J. Barron  
*Program Coordinator  
Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives*

## CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Melissa Borja  
*Associate Professor, Department of American Culture*

## GRADUATE RECESSION

## Ceremony Speakers



### **Melissa Borja, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor  
Department of American Culture*

Dr. Melissa Borja is Associate Professor of American Culture at the University of Michigan and Director of the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program. Trained at Harvard, the University of Chicago, and Columbia, she is a historian of migration, religion, race, and politics. She is the author of *Follow the New Way: American Refugee*

*Resettlement Policy and Hmong Religious Change* (Harvard University Press, 2023) and creator of the podcast *One Million Neighbors*. She advised Princeton's Religion and Forced Migration Initiative, leads the Virulent Hate Project, and teaches in the Immigrant Justice Lab. For her research and advocacy, USA Today honored her as one of its 2022 Women of the Year.



### **Angela D. Dillard, Ph.D.**

*Interim Vice Provost for Access & Opportunity  
and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*

Angela D. Dillard is the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and the Interim Vice Provost for Access & Opportunity at the University of Michigan; former chair of the Department of History in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA); and the Richard A. Meisler Collegiate Professor of Afroamerican & African Studies and History. She also maintains affiliated faculty status within the Residential College, where she is a

member of the Social Theory & Practice program.

Dillard is an interdisciplinary scholar trained in history and political theory with a Ph.D. in American Studies, from the U-M's Department of American Culture. She specializes in American and African-American intellectual history, particularly around issues of race, religion, and politics — on both the Left and the Right sides of the political spectrum.

## Keynote Speaker



### **Ayesha Ghazi Edwin, M.S.W.**

अयेशा गाज़ी एड्वनि

*Assistant Clinical Professor*

*University of Michigan School of Social Work*

Ayesha Ghazi Edwin is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work and a public servant dedicated to advancing equity and civic participation. She is an Indian Asian immigrant and the granddaughter of refugees, experiences that

have shaped her lifelong commitment to immigrant rights, justice, and advocacy within Asian American and other marginalized communities.

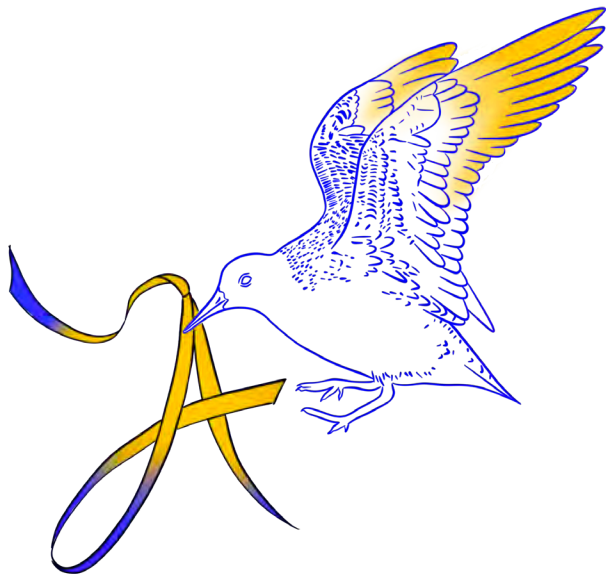
Ayesha has a long history of organizing and advocacy within Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. She previously served as Executive Director of American Citizens for Justice, conducted voting rights work with APIAVote-Michigan, and helped found a South Asian immigration rights organization, South Asian Voices for Impact.

In 2021, Ayesha was appointed by Gretchen Whitmer and confirmed by the Michigan Senate to serve as Chair of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC), becoming the first South Asian, first woman, and youngest person to serve as Chair of the Commission. Under her leadership, MAPAAC has focused on uplifting historically marginalized AANHPI ethnic identity groups and advancing policy priorities including expanding language access, advocating for integrating Asian American history into K-22 education, uplifting voting rights protections, and supporting immigration rights and protections. As Chair, she has helped expand the Commission's grantmaking to support local AANHPI community-based organizations across Michigan - directing more funding to grassroots groups than any other state commission and strengthening organizations working to serve and uplift our communities.

Ayesha also serves as an elected member of Ann Arbor City Council, representing a city with one of the largest Asian American populations in the state. In this role, she has focused on advancing policies related to housing affordability, disability access and equity, workers' rights, and protecting the rights and well-being of immigrant and other marginalized communities.

## Asian Student Celebration Logo

Depicted in this artwork is a Red Knot, a shorebird with impressive migrations that can even span all of Asia. Over the course of its migration, the Red Knot will gather in huge numbers at traditional stopover points, taking time to rest and gather energy. The migration of the Red Knot runs parallel to the journey we take as students. We have gathered here at the University of Michigan, and from here we will take our own unique paths as we move towards our goals. However, as we move on from our undergraduate years, we will continue to hold onto the memories and connections we have made here, symbolized by the maize and blue ribbon carried by the Red Knot. No matter where our future takes us and where we migrate to, the University of Michigan will always be a place for us to stopover.



## Doctoral Graduates

### **Sarah Day Dayon**

School of Education  
*Doctor of Philosophy*  
*Educational Studies - Teaching & Teacher Education*

### **Daiyao Zhong** 钟岱瑶

School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
*Doctor of Musical Arts*  
*Voice*

## Master's Graduates

### **Mridul Aggrawal** মৃদুল

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
*Accounting*

### **Anjali Arora Anjali**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Data Science*

### **Sajib Barua** সজীব বড়ুয়া

College of Engineering  
*Chemical Engineering*

### **Agniva Bhaumik**

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering*

### **Swapnil Bhole**

Rackham Graduate School  
*Electrical & Computer Engineering*

## Master's Graduates

**Yan-Ann Chen** 陳彥安

Stephen M. Ross School of Business

*Accounting*

**Man hei Chong** 莊汶希

School of Public Health

*Nutritional Sciences*

**Rezwana Islam** রজেওয়ানা ইসলাম

School for Environment and Sustainability

*Environmental Science*

**Sarah Jin** 金燕葳

Rackham Graduate School

*Transcultural Studies*

**Surya Kalluri** కళురి సూర్య

College of Engineering

*Aerospace Engineering*

**Ridhima Kalra**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business

*STEM*

**Sonia Kore**

College of Engineering

*Biomedical Engineering*

**Saahil Kothari**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business

*Business Administration*



## Master's Graduates

**Yaokun Lai** 來堯琨

School of Public Health  
*Nutritional Sciences*

**Timmy Li** 李安麒

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
*Business Administration*

**Hillary Luan** 栾希慧

College of Engineering  
*Computer Science*

**Nuanqiao Ming** 明暖乔

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
*Business Administration*

**Masashi Nishimura** 西村雅至

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
*Business Administration*

**Devavrath Raghunath**

College of Engineering  
*Mechanical Engineering*

**Bansal Shah**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
*Business Administration*

**Charles Taylor-Fulton Ka Ua 'Ō'ili'ili Maka Akua**

School of Social Work  
*Interpersonal Practice in Integrated Health, Mental Health,  
& Substance Abuse*

## Master's Graduates

### **Michael Vu**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
*Business Administration*

### **Levi Wang** 王继纬

Law School  
*Jurisprudence*

### **hongye xuan** 宣洪晔

School of Public Health  
*Biostatistics*

### **Ruoyi Zhang** 张若仪

School of Public Health  
*Biostatistics*

### **Zhenjing Zhou** 周娴华

Rackham Graduate School  
*Survey and Data Science*

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## Bachelor's Graduates

### **Angelica Anne Alpas**

School of Nursing  
*Nursing*

### **Luke Avery** 卢克

College of Engineering  
*Electrical Engineering*

### **Nina Blanco**

School of Kinesiology  
*Applied Exercise Science*

### **Pamela Bortolin** 白玉洁

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering*

### **Alexa Brockway**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Political Science*

### **Toby Chan** 陳曉嵐

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Psychology & Linguistics*

### **Isabelle Chan Phuongthy**

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

### **Seoyoon Chang** 장서운

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biopsychology, Cognition, & Neuroscience;*  
*Biology, Health, & Society*

### **Jie-Min Chen** 陳玠旻

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;  
School for Environment and Sustainability  
*Environment; Quantitative Methods in the*  
*Social Sciences*

### **Nicole Cheung** 張子晴

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

### **Ji Hoon Choi** 최지훈

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Political Science*

### **Sophie Chong** 해영

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;  
School of Kinesiology  
*Neuroscience; Movement Science*

### **Melinda Jia-Ying Chong** 莊嘉瑩

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

### **Taryn Daclison**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biology, Healthy, & Society*

### **Abhishek Dahad**

College of Engineering  
*Computer Science*

### **Henry Dai Ngoc Thinh**

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

### **Ishani Das**

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

### **Cali Der** 장유진, 杜凯丽

School of Nursing  
*Nursing*

### **Dominique Diokno**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Psychology; Arts & Ideas in the*  
*Humanities; Creative Writing & Literature*

## Bachelor's Graduates

### **Vivian Durkin**

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

### **Yunhan Fang** 方韵涵

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Earth & Environmental Sciences; Chemistry*

### **Brooklin Flaughter** 林阳颜

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

### **Sunny Geng** 耿晨欣

College of Engineering  
*Electrical Engineering*

### **Sofia Beatrice Gestida**

School of Kinesiology  
*Movement Science*

### **To Nguyen (Sami) Hoang Hoàng** **Tổ Nguyễn**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;  
School of Information  
*UX Design; Communication & Media*

### **Xiaoya Huang** 黄小雅

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

### **Grace Tsz Wai Huang** 黄子惠

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Psychology; UX Design Minor*

### **Julia Hui** 惠欣然

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Statistics*

### **Tayyiba Hussain** সামিনা

School of Nursing  
*Nursing*

### **Saarim Iqbal**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental*  
*Biology; Islamic Studies*

### **Nadia Jahan** নাদিয়া জাহান

School of Information  
*Information Science*

### **Tisha Jain**

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

### **Devyani Jain**

Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design;  
School of Information  
*Arts & Design; Information Science User*  
*Experience Design*

### **Mish Jude**

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

### **Joanne Jung** 정은비

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biophysics*

### **Roshan Kawaguchi Sadhu**

道路 川口 サドウ  
रौशन कावागुची साधु  
College of Engineering  
*Computer Science Engineering*

### **Om Khuperkar** ॐ

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

## Bachelor's Graduates

**JIn Kim** 김진

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Economics; Psychology*

**Joon Ko** 고준혁

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

**Amrita Kondur** ಅಮೃತ, अमृता

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

**Eilene Koo** 구주은

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Philosophy; Cognitive Science*

**Navya Kumar** नव्या कुमार

College of Engineering  
*Computer Science*

**Isabelle Lamug**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biochemistry; Biophysics*

**Gormao Lee**

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

**Sasha Lee**

College of Engineering  
*Mechanical Engineering*

**Celing Li** 李欣羚

College of Engineering  
*Robotics & Engineering Physics*

**Allison Li**

College of Engineering; Stephen M. Ross  
School of Business  
*Business; Computer Science Engineering*

**Ivan Li** 李锦茂

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

**Qinkai Li** 李覃楷

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Statistics; Data Science*

**Qihao Liang** 梁祺皓

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

**Ames Lim** 林慧芳

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*History; Spanish*

**Sara Lin**

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

**Jason Lin** 林博舟

College of Engineering  
*Computer Science*

**Tony Liu Kaixuan**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Political Science & English*

**Mya-Lynn Lopez** ชรีศรรา โลเฟษ

School of Nursing  
*Nursing; Global & Population Health*

**Samantha Nicole Lorzano**

College of Engineering  
*Mechanical Engineering*

**Audrey Beverly Lui** 項蓓安

School of Nursing  
*Nursing; Entrepreneurship*

## Bachelor's Graduates

### **Ben Luu Lưu Lâm Vũ**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Economics*

### **Rheadawn Marasigan**

College of Engineering  
*Nuclear Engineering & Radiological  
Sciences*

### **Vincent Aethaniel Reboya Maribao**

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

### **Muskaan Mittal मुस्कान मित्तल**

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

### **Lukas Nepomuceno**

School of Music, Theatre & Dance  
*Music Technology*

### **Sydney Ng 吳雪梨**

College of Pharmacy  
*Pharmaceutical Science*

### **Raymond Nguyen**

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

### **Tyler Nguyễn Nguyễn Tuấn**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*International Studies*

### **Kayenne Ohno 大野花苑**

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

### **Shriya Pamnani**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Economics; International Studies; Business  
Administration*

### **Gayatri Panda ଗାୟତ୍ରୀ**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Economics*

### **Mari Park まり**

College of Pharmacy  
*Pharmaceutical Science*

### **Jasmine Parlett Chang Lie MingXia**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Anthropology*

### **Emmanuel Pascua**

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

### **Yifei Peng 彭绎霏**

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

### **Carolyn Potter**

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy  
*Public Policy*

### **Leilei Pu 蒲雷蕾**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Statistics*

### **Sehj Rai सहीन राई**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

### **Lily Ruden 卢丽丽**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biochemistry; Asian Languages & Culture*

### **Salika Safar Salika**

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering*

# Bachelor's Graduates

**Erin Segui**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Psychology; Communications & Media*

**Brian Song** 송은호

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Computer Science; Creative Writing*

**Rhea Sridhara**

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

**Vidhya Harini Srinivas**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Microbiology*

**Kristen Su** 苏陈阳

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

**Advika Surnilla**

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

**Falak Suteri** फलक

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Psychology; Asian Studies; Quantitative  
Methods in the Social Sciences*

**Jiayue Tang** 唐佳明

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Statistics*

**Tasuku Uraguchi** 匡

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering*

**Laila Vang**

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

**Utsavi Vaswani**

School of Kinesiology  
*Applied Exercise Science*

**Milena Vu Mile Ngân Vũ**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*English*

**Tina Vũ Ti Maria Hoa Mai Đỗ  
Thùy Trang Vũ**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Political Economic Development*

**Jennifer Wang**

College of Engineering  
*Electrical Engineering*

**Carey Wang** 王语妍

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Mathematics*

**Ruilin Wang** 王瑞林

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Pure Mathematics; Economics*

**Xiaoqing Wang** 王小菁

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

**Yiqi Wu** 吴亦奇

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Data Science*

**Meichi Wu** 邬美池

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Communication & Media; Economics;  
International Studies*

**Michelle Wu** 吴佩如

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

## Bachelor's Graduates

**Jeffery Wu 伍瑞豪**

College of Engineering  
*Computer Science*

**Meiting Xu 许美婷**

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

**Jailia Yang**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

**Angelina Yang 杨博雯**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Neuroscience*

**Ruthie Yu 余如意**

Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
*Business Administration*

**Yixin Zhang 张译心**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts;  
School for Environment and Sustainability  
*International Studies; Environment*

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**Angela Zhang 张安琪**

College of Engineering  
*Biomedical Engineering*

**Xinyin Zhang 张馨尹**

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

**Kening Zhao 赵克宁**

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

**Yi Miao Zheng 郑毅苗**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biochemistry*

**Tiffany Zheng 郑昕**

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
*Biology, Health, & Society; Cognitive  
Science*



## Platform Guests

### In Order of Speaking

#### **Dr. Melissa Borja**

*Associate Professor, Department of American Culture*

#### **Dr. Angela D. Dillard**

*Interim Vice Provost for Access & Opportunity  
and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education*

#### **Yi Miao Zheng 郑毅苗**

*Junior, Biochemistry  
Asian Student Celebration Student Committee*

#### **Om Khuperkar ॐ**

*Junior, Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience  
Asian Student Celebration Student Committee*

#### **Ayesha Ghazi Edwin अयेशा गाज़ी एडवनि**

*Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Michigan School of Social Work*

#### **Dr. Neeraja Aravamudan நீராஜா**

*Director, Edward Ginsberg Center for Community Service & Learning*

#### **Roland Hwang, JD**

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

## Other Platform Guests

In Order of Last Name

**Sharon Burch**

*Interim Co-Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives*

**Aline Calas** カラス杏凜

*Junior, International Exchange Student  
Asian Student Celebration Student Committee*

**Dr. Michelle D. Ferréz**

*Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Research & Student Success |  
Senior Director, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program*

**Dr. Connie Tingson Gatuz**

*Associate Vice President, Student Life Division*

**Justin Guo** 郭銘桦

*Freshman, Pharmaceutical Sciences, UM College of Pharmacy  
Asian Student Celebration Student Committee*

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*Vice President for Student Life, Office of the Vice President for Student Life*

**Dr. Jennifer Hsieh** 謝若鈴

*Assistant Professor, Anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts*

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*Instructional Support & Professional Learning Specialist, Marsal Family  
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**Michelle Liu** 柳雪

*Freshman, Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering  
Asian Student Celebration Student Committee*

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*Assistant Vice Provost, Access & Opportunity*

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**Kimberly Truong**

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**Dr. John Vasquez**

*Assistant Vice Provost for Student Success & Comprehensive Studies Program Senior Director*

**Dr. Deborah Willis**

*Assistant Vice Provost, Access & Opportunity*

**Special Thanks**

**Sharon Burch**

*Interim Co-Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives*

**Hector Galván**

*Interim Co-Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives*

**Brendan Kirwin**

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

**Dr. Marie Ting**

*Assistant Vice Provost, Access & Opportunity*

## Getting to Know the Committee

The Asian Student Celebration Committee is composed of involved students and a staff member from the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives. This year, the committee came together to collaborate on meaningful ways to honor and celebrate students of Asian 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.



**Yi Miao Zheng** 郑毅苗, *Junior*

This is my second year of being on the Asian Student Celebration committee, and it's been a fun and interesting experience. Seeing everything coming together for this celebration and being a part of this amazing journey has been truly rewarding. I enjoyed working with everyone in the committee to plan everything out and make this celebration possible. Congratulations to the Class of 2026!



**Om Khuperkar** ॐ, *Junior*

It has been an absolute honor to serve on this year's Asian Student Celebration committee. Working alongside such an incredible team of people to celebrate something so meaningful has been both inspiring and rewarding. Coming from another Class of 26 student, I hope today is a moment for fellow graduates to commemorate all that you have accomplished and everything that is to come. Thank you to this committee for making today so special!



**Justin Guo** 郭銘桦, *Freshman*

My utmost congratulations to the Class of 26! You made it :) It's my pleasure to be a part of this committee and to see how far you came. This wouldn't be possible without you. However, if anyone deserves recognition, we should all give a special thanks to Julia and the wonderful people here at the Office of Academic Multicultures Initiatives! May this day be a testament to you and the people you hold dearest. It was an absolute honor for the University of Michigan to have you! I wish you good health, fortune, and luck in your future.  
z(^-^)



**Michelle Liu** 柳雪, *Freshman*

As a first-year student on the Asian Student Celebration committee, I am grateful to be a part of this special opportunity. It's been wonderful working with everyone—it's been exciting to see all of our work come all together to make this possible, and I definitely learned a lot along the way. Thank you, Julia, in particular, for making this a possibility and bringing all of us together. Congratulations to the Class of 2026, and best of luck on your future journey!



**Aline Calas** カラス杏凜, *Junior, International Exchange Student*

Thank you, Julia, and all my peers, for an incredible year with the Asian Student Celebration Committee! As an exchange student, joining this committee as soon as I arrived in Michigan made me feel part of something bigger right away. Even though I am not graduating, these are my last days here, and I'm truly grateful for the community and memories this experience has given me. Congratulations to the new graduates, and wishing all of you success!



**Julia J. Barron**, *Staff*

It has been a joy to work with this year's student committee, who brought the theme "Interwoven Journeys" to life through their planning, illustration meetings, photostations, keynote selection, and countless behind-the-scenes efforts. They have created something special for the Class of 2026. Thank you, Yi Miao, Om, Michelle, Aline, and Justin, for your heartfelt dedication. Without you, this celebration would not be possible. Congratulations to our graduates, and thanks to the faculty, staff, families, and friends who supported you along the way. Wishing the Class of 2026 all the best. And forever, Go Blue!

## History of the Celebration

The Asian Student Celebration, formally known as the Asian & Pacific Islander Celebration, was first held in April 2018. This annual event honors graduating students from East Asian, South Asian, and Southeast Asian communities, recognizing both their individual achievements and collective contributions to the University of Michigan. The celebration serves as a unifying occasion, bringing together diverse communities across the student, staff, and faculty body, as well as welcoming families and friends. Organized by the Asian Student Celebration Committee, the celebration brings together a wide range of communities across campus, creating space for connection across diverse lived experiences among students, staff, faculty, families, and guests. While the celebration centers Asian experiences, it is open to all students and members of the university community who wish to participate.

## Student Celebration Mission

The Asian Student Celebration highlights the shared connections and diverse experiences associated with Asian communities while welcoming all participants who choose to engage. It reflects the university's commitment to fostering an inclusive campus environment.

The ceremony commemorates the accomplishments of participating students and recognizes faculty and staff who support student success. Through this celebration, OAMI and the Asian Student Planning Committee continue a tradition of creating spaces that honor cultural expression and community across the university. The event is open to all students and members of the university community who wish to participate, engage, and celebrate in this space.

## 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.

## 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, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin, or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for the Office of Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office of Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX at 2072 Administrative Services Building, 1009 Greene Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109, 734-763-0235

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# OAMI Student Celebrations

OAMI Student Celebrations take place during graduation season to honor the achievements, shared experiences, and diverse backgrounds that shape our students' journeys.

All of OAMI's celebrations are open to all students at the University of Michigan, recognizing and honoring the diverse experiences and identities within our community.

## Celebration Symbols

These symbols are used by OAMI and the organizing committees to represent the eight student celebrations:



**Native Student Celebration**  
**La Celebración Latina**

**Black Celebratory**  
**Asian Student Celebration**  
**Oceania Student Celebration**  
**Middle Eastern & North African Student Celebration**

**First-Generation Student Celebration**  
**Undocumented Student Celebration**

[oami.umich.edu/celebrations](http://oami.umich.edu/celebrations)



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