

Fall 2019 - Spring 2021 Staff and Faculty Members and Fall 2019 - Spring 2020 Student Members

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Karina “K” Parker, Anthropology

K is a re-entry, transfer, first-generation college student and single parent who has served as the Pacific Islander Liaison Intern for APASD. “Eager to sit at the table and advocate for the marginalized NHPI experience while also building solidarity and community with others in the larger AAPI community,” they helped to create the first Critical Pacific Islander Library Study Guide within the Ethnic Studies Library and co-founded Oceania Connects, a multimedia organization dedicated to celebrating and supporting Pacific Islander excellence. K also works with Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC) to bring an NHPI Summer Leadership Conference to UC Berkeley and Chabot College, the College of San Mateo, and San Francisco Community College to strengthen the NHPI pipeline to 4-year universities like UC Berkeley -- with the goal of establishing the first NHPI Recruitment and Retention Center under BRIDGES.

Dara Sengchanthavong, Environmental Sciences

Dara has spent her years as a student organizer in Asian and Pacific Islander spaces with a focus on activism through art, as well as Southeast Asian student recruitment and retention. She has been involved in REACH! Asian Pacific Islander Recruitment and Retention Center, the Asian Pacific American Student Development Center (APASD), and the Southeast Asian Student Coalition (SASC). This year, Dara is one of the Co-Directors for SASC’s longest-standing program, Summer Institute (SI), an annual week-long overnight host program for Southeast Asian high school youth which has been held at UC Berkeley since 2002. She feels institutions such as UC Berkeley are lacking in their efforts to support Southeast Asian student populations -- more specifically, Lao, Hmong, Lu-Mien, Cambodian, Vietnamese, and other Southeast Asian indigenous groups -- and thus finds her work in SASC to be the most meaningful and integral to her identity on this campus.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Brianne Imada, Social Welfare

Brianne is a first-generation college student who is “passionate about issues related to low-income/first-generation AAPI students.” A leader of the API Social Welfare Caucus, she has identified her concentration in the major to be “Strengthening Organizations and Communities” (formerly known as Management and Planning). Her MSW placements have focused on the equitable development of programs and systems at the City of Berkeley's Health, Housing, and Community Services Department and Alameda County's Center for Healthy Schools and Communities.

Tarlochan "Tar" Rakhra, Berkeley Law

Tar is a 3rd-year law student at Berkeley Law. In 2014, Tarlochan served as a youth engagement and policy intern for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) for the Obama Administration. As a WHIAAPI intern he worked on programs to create pathways to public service for AAPIs, explored “best practices” for higher institutions to become more inclusive of AAPIs, and focused on identifying mental health challenges for AAPI youth. While at Berkeley, he has served as the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) Co-Chair at Berkeley Law, as well as the Law Student Co-Chair for the Asian American Bar Association (AABA) of the Greater Bay Area. He currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Volume 17 of the Berkeley Business Law Journal and as a volunteer for the Sustainable Economies Law Center fighting for economic justice.

STAFF

Marcia Gee Riley, Director and Ombudsperson, Student Affairs & Graduate Division

Marcia has served on many committees to promote inclusivity on campus, including leading the effort to build sustainable leadership and programming for the Asian Pacific American Systemwide Alliance (APASA). As a former member of the Coalition of Ethnic Staff Organizations (CESO), she helped to create the Rising Above Program for Staff of Color to encourage more diverse staff representation in campus leadership roles. She also served as a facilitator and trainer of trainers for the Staff Diversity Facilitator Network, and helped to create curriculum for students, staff, and faculty for the Multicultural Education Program. More recently, Marcia has served as a member of the Coordinated Community Review Team, the Chancellor’s Staff Advisory Committee, and the UC Taskforce for Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.

James Kato, Assistant Director, Center for Support & Intervention

James has had significant experience both contributing to and leading campus working groups dedicated to diversity and inclusion work. As co-chair of the Violence Prevention Collaborative for four years, for example, he led the effort to produce campus harm prevention projects related to gender-based violence, microaggressions, and identity-based harm. He also has been involved at a leadership level in the Asian Pacific American Systemwide Alliance (APASA) for four years, most recently as its current Past Chair. As a former standing member of the Coalition of Ethnic Staff Organizations (CESO), he advocated for the creation of the Leadership and Career Enhancement Program (LCEP) for staff of color.

Eunice Kwon, Director, Asian Pacific American Student Development Office

In addition to her current staff role, Eunice is a graduate student in the College of Environmental Design (CED), where she is a member of the CED Students of Color Committee. She also is an active board member for Asian Women’s United, a nonprofit organization dedicated to producing educational materials centering the diverse experiences of Asian American women, as well as a producer for APEX Express, a weekly Asian American radio show on KPFA focused on politics and the Asian American experience. Through her work she seeks to “increase the sense of belonging for AAPI students, staff, and faculty” on campus.

Djenilin Mallari, Assistant Director and Diversity Coordinator, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and Liaison, College of Engineering

Djenilin (she/her) is an Assistant Director in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (OUA). As an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, Djenilin's consciousness developed around her Southeast Asian American identity. Through her involvement in Pilipinx Academic Student Services (PASS) and *bridges* Multicultural Resource Center, she was empowered to question and challenge systems that oppress marginalized communities. She served as both the Transfer Director and Executive Director of *bridges*, which she continues to serve in an advisory capacity. In her current role, Djenilin initiated and co-led the Diversity Committee for OUA and manages its community-building efforts with AAPI communities.

Kusha Murarka, Staff Psychologist, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at UHS

As a South Asian-identified psychologist, Kusha “is actively working to advocate for SSWANA (South Asian, Southwest Asian, and North African) students on campus who have all too often been marginalized within the AAPI community for various reasons including xenophobia, Islamophobia, colorism, internalized racism, and lack of awareness.” Since 2005 she has worked at six different university counseling centers with international first-generation, immigrant, and racial/ethnic minority students. She also has served on the executive board for the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA)’s Division on South Asian Americans for three years. She currently is working on a SSWANA Wellness Grant through APASD.

Walter Wong, University Registrar, Office of the Registrar

Walter began his career at Cal working on issues of race and diversity with respect to undergraduate admissions. Since then he has served in a leadership capacity on multiple efforts related to these issues, such as the multi-year U.S. Department of Education review of undergraduate admissions on campus and the analysis of the impact of Proposition 209 on campus admissions and enrollment. He also has served as a member of the Campus Advisory Committee for Asian American Affairs which produced the 2001 report on the status of AAPIs on campus entitled “Asian Pacific Americans at Berkeley: Invisibility and Marginality,” as well as the Berkeley Initiative for Leadership on Diversity to promote partnership, access, inclusion, and staff development on campus.

FACULTY

Nancy Liu, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Psychology

Nancy’s research interests and specialties include the following: implementation science; clinical training in empirically supported treatments for depression, trauma, and severe mental illness; underserved populations; mental health services in low-resource settings; primary care integration; and global mental health. She is a former Fulbright Fellow and consultant for the World Health Organization, and also has served as a clinical psychologist in Implementation Science at the National Center for PTSD for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. She has a joint appointment as Assistant Clinical Professor at both UCB and UCSF.

Michael Mascarenhas, Associate Professor, Environmental Science, Policy, and Management

Michael is the author of *Where the Waters Divide: Neoliberalism, White Privilege, and Environmental Racism in Canada* (2012) and *New Humanitarianism and the Crisis of Charity: Good Intentions on the Road to Help* (2107). His work examines the interconnections between contemporary neoliberal reforms, environmental change, and environmental justice and racism. As a new faculty member to campus, he has struggled to find academic support systems for AAPIs on campus and believes that the recruitment and retention rates of underrepresented AAPI ethnic groups at the undergraduate and graduate levels, faculty, and staff need to be higher.

Michael Omi, Associate Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies

An affiliated faculty member of Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies, Michael is the co-author of *Racial Formation in the United States* and the co-editor of the Asian American History and Culture book series at Temple University Press. He has both served on and led a number of committees, including the Daniel E. Koshland Committee for Civic Unity at the San Francisco Foundation, the Project Advisory Board on "Race and Human Variation" for the American Anthropological Association, and the UC Asian American & Pacific Islander Policy Multicampus Research Program (UC AAPI Policy MRP). More recently he served as the Director of the Center for the Study of Social Change and Associate Director of the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society (HIFIS).

Winston Tseng, Lecturer, Department of Ethnic Studies, and Associate Research Professor, School of Public Health

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Winston conducts participatory action research pertaining to social determinants of health, health literacy, health promotion, building community capacity, healthy policy, diabetes, and healthy aging. He has assumed a variety of leadership roles including Associate Director of Research of Health Research for Action, Governing Councilor of the American Public Health Association (APHA), and Research Advisor for the Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce. His recent research projects have included Cancer Prevention through Low Cost Remediation of Arsenic in Drinking Water Project and the Hmong Older Adult Zoosiab "Happy" Program.

Lisa Tsuchitani, Lecturer, Department of Ethnic Studies

Lisa has worked with numerous organizations on campus, including the Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, the Center for the Teaching and Study of American Cultures, and the Student Learning Center. Her work in the Bay Area nonprofit community has included serving as Director of Education for the National Japanese American Citizens League, Arts and Culture Fellow of the San Francisco Foundation, and Executive Director of the Cupertino Educational Endowment Foundation. An affiliated faculty member of the Center for Japanese Studies, she currently serves as chair of the Japanese American Studies Advisory Committee and the Japanese American Women Alumnae of UC Berkeley. She recently co-edited a multi-campus anthology commemorating the 50th anniversary of the birth of Asian American Studies.

Staff to the committee: Villy Somthida, Executive Assistant to the VCEI

