We are a growing and dynamic program of study that explores the histories, experiences, and positionings of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. First established in 2000, the Asian American Studies Program offers social, political, cultural, psychological, and historical approaches to understanding our diverse and rapidly growing community. Our students learn how to navigate multiple and intersecting identities, how racial categories are continually (re)constructed with various consequences, and how representation and inclusion are vital yet often remain elusive. As the fastest growing race-ethnic group with members from many different origins, the experiences of Asian Americans also speaks to how migration and transnationalism affect identity and belonging.

Asian American Studies at the University of Maryland offers a vibrant program and support for our students with our 15-credit minor and scholarship programs. Our faculty members are excellent researchers and teachers dedicated to their students and the advancement of Asian American Studies. We also strive to be a resource for the larger community through the sharing of faculty research, talks and workshops, and other opportunities for meaningful dialogue.

It is my honor and pleasure to begin my appointment as the Asian American Studies Program Director. I first arrived at the University of Maryland in 2008 as a jointly-appointed assistant professor in Asian American Studies and Sociology. The Program has gone through many changes in the past decade and has grown due to students, faculty, and community partners who are consistently passionate about Asian American Studies. We will build on our strengths to have a greater impact for our University of Maryland students and our communities.

Julie Park, PhD
Director, Asian American Studies Program
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
The Asian American Studies Program (AAST) at the University of Maryland provides students with the opportunity to critically study the experiences of Asian Americans. Through an interdisciplinary academic curriculum and student-centered programming, students examine the histories, communities, and cultures of people of Asian origin in the United States. The curriculum and programs reflect historically marginalized perspectives and underscore the University’s commitment to supporting the intellectual development of a diverse student population.

Created in 2000, AAST is the result of student engagement and activism. In 1995, UMD undergraduate students initiated a movement to create the Asian American Studies Program. Over the next three years, with the support of key staff, faculty, and community stakeholders, students continued an active campaign for a new program through teach-ins, high school visits, media outreach, protests, sit-ins, and informational sessions at Stamp. In 1998, Provost Daniel Fallon endorsed a proposal to create an Asian American Studies Program and a steering committee to develop a curriculum and identify professors. In 2000, the University Senate approved the proposal and the AAST program was launched.

AAST offers a 15-credit minor program for students who wish to develop a specialization in Asian American Studies alongside their degree pursuits. It also offers robust academic and student-centered programming that highlights key themes in Asian American Studies, including literature and the arts, demographic change, race and politics, and leadership development.
In FY18, AAST offered 26 multidisciplinary classes and filled more than 530 seats. It is worth noting that over the course of the past five years, AAST has more than doubled the number of minors enrolled in the program. In FY13, just 22 students were enrolled as AAST minors. In FY17, 41 students were enrolled and 14 students graduated with an AAST minor. In FY18, 50 students were enrolled and 20 students graduated with an AAST minor.

### Fall 2017 Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Seats Issued</th>
<th>Seats Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAST200/AMST298C</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST201</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST222</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST298AMST298B</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST378</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST388</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST388P/AMST359A</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST388D/AMST328J</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST398AMST328V</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*AAST398F/AMST328L</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST398L</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST443</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*AAST498D/AMST498D</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*AAST498H/AMST498J</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST498J/AMST498Q/PSYC489Z</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST498M</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fall 2017 Semester Totals**: 336 seats issued, 397 seats offered. 87% enrollment.

### Spring 2018 Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Seats Issued</th>
<th>Seats Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAST200/AMST298C</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST201</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST298J</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST378</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST388</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*AAST398J/ENGL349J</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST398M</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*AAST398H/HIST428F</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST498B/PSYC498G</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAST499J/ENGL479Z</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring 2018 Semester Totals**: 200 seats issued, 231 seats offered. 85% enrollment.

### Scholarships and Recipients

#### Major General Antonio Taguba Profiles in Courage and Leadership Scholarship

**Asma Shah** is a Junior Criminology and Criminal Justice major with Computer Science & Creative Writing minors. She is an Honors Intern at the US Department of Justice, where she does counter-terrorism research focused on extremist ideology and motivations. After graduation, Asma plans to continue a career in law enforcement doing counter-terrorism work.

**Daoyou Zhou** is a Sophomore Criminology and Criminal Justice major with Chinese Language and Global Terrorism minors. As a Cadet in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps, he has chosen to study criminology, global terrorism, and the Chinese language so that he can best serve his country. He hopes to live up to the example General Taguba has set up for Asian-Americans and all Americans in the Armed Forces.

#### TIMOTHY J NG Scholarship in Asian American Studies

**Diksha Patel** is a Biology major on the pre-med track. Her extracurricular involvement revolves around activism and the empowerment of student voices. The Asian American Studies Program has helped her develop a sense of belonging outside her science and pre-med classes, allowing her to simultaneously pursue her passions in biology and activism.

**Heather Kim** is a Sophomore Broadcast Journalism major and an Asian American Studies minor. She has an academic interest in visual journalism, Asian American Studies, and subjects that help her understand her own identity as well as the intersections of other people’s identities. She wants to pursue a career in photography and work with marginalized communities, highlighting their stories in an appropriate and accurate light.

### Linh-Thong Huu Nguyen Memorial Scholarship

**Danielle Ocampo** is a Junior Psychology major with Asian American Studies and Human Development minors. She has served with the Asian American Student Union since her freshman year, and values the opportunity to lead within the community. Danielle hopes to pursue counseling psychology with a focus on aiding children and families in marginalized communities. AAST has helped her discover a deep compassion for others, teaching her how to use her voice to stand against societal injustices.
Program Highlights

Programming

Chandni Kumar Annual Lecture on Asian Americans and Activism
This year AAST invited Darakshan Raja, founder and co-director of Justice for Muslims Collective, to be the inaugural speaker for the Chandni Kumar Annual Lecture on Asian Americans and Activism. As part of the annual speaker event, Reg Ledesma was awarded the Student Impact Award. More than 60 students, staff, and faculty attended this event.

10th Anniversary of FAST at UMD
AAST celebrated the 10th anniversary of Filipino American Studies at UMD. Gem Daus started teaching Filipino American History and Biography in Fall 2007. Letters from former students were collected by Professor Janelle Wong to create a book to thank Gem Daus.

Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Project
AAST facilitated and hosted an on-campus internship project, “Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Project,” led by Samantha Cheng, involving 8 undergraduate students and an off-campus internship at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

A panel discussion organized by Phil Nash, a long-time AAST adjunct faculty member, featured Zahra Haider, international development professional and Lakshmi Sridaran, Director of National Policy and Advocacy at South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT).

Other co-curricular programming this year focused on deepening the undergraduate experience through Asian American Studies. In Fall 2017, we hosted a screening of American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs with MICA, and co-sponsored the No Muslim Ban Ever: History and Solidarity screening and dialogue about the parallels of Japanese internment during World War II and the recent Muslim Ban.

Bao Phi Book Reading
In Spring 2018, we hosted Bao Phi, a Vietnamese-American spoken word poet, to read from his latest poetry book and award-winning children’s book (attended by 50 students, staff and faculty).

AAPI Advocates
In partnership with the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) coordinator within the Office of Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy (MICA), 8 students served as AAPI advocates who focused on various Asian American issues (e.g. mental health, masculinity, transgender/queer identity, mixed race identity).

End-of-the-Year Banquet
We celebrated graduating minors and the completion of another successful academic year. Students shared their research, oral history narrators were honored, scholarship recipients were recognized, and Professor Janelle Wong received recognition and appreciation for her 5 years of service as the AAST Director. Over 120 students, staff, community members, and faculty attended.

We also co-sponsored the “Census 2020: Race and Whose Story Counts” conference with the Center for Global Migration Studies.

Other co-curricular programming this year focused on deepening the undergraduate experience through Asian American Studies. In Fall 2017, we hosted a screening of American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs with MICA, and co-sponsored the No Muslim Ban Ever: History and Solidarity screening and dialogue about the parallels of Japanese internment during World War II and the recent Muslim Ban.

Bao Phi Book Reading
In Spring 2018, we hosted Bao Phi, a Vietnamese-American spoken word poet, to read from his latest poetry book and award-winning children’s book (attended by 50 students, staff and faculty).

End-of-the-Year Banquet
We celebrated graduating minors and the completion of another successful academic year. Students shared their research, oral history narrators were honored, scholarship recipients were recognized, and Professor Janelle Wong received recognition and appreciation for her 5 years of service as the AAST Director. Over 120 students, staff, community members, and faculty attended.

We also co-sponsored the “Census 2020: Race and Whose Story Counts” conference with the Center for Global Migration Studies.
In FY18, AAST underwent several personnel changes.

**Dr. Julie Park** transitioned in as the new AAST Director. She is a jointly-appointed Associate Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies. Dr. Park taught “Immigration and Ethnicity in America” and a newly-developed course, “Urban Demography and Community.”

**Anne Bautista** also joined in Fall 2017 as AAST’s new program coordinator and academic advisor. Ms. Bautista has a Master of Education in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs from the University of Southern California. She previously worked as a Student Affairs Officer in the Asian American Studies Department at the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Dr. K Anh Do**, the inaugural Calvin J. Li Postdoctoral Fellow (2016-18), completed her second year with the program and was very active in the program in terms of research, teaching and community engagement. Along with AAST affiliate faculty member Dr. Cixin Wang and AAST core faculty member Dr. Janelle Wong, Dr. Do co-founded Connect!, a newsletter for Asian-American parents and children. Dr. Do has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in the Department of Human Ecology.

**Dr. Terry Park**, a full-time professional track faculty member, joined the AAST core faculty in Fall 2017 to strengthen its offerings in the Arts and Humanities. Among many of his innovative co-curricular programming activities, Dr. Park developed an interactive, multimedia exhibit, “Memories of Militarism and War: Asian American Oral Histories From the DMV,” to be displayed in Hornbake Plaza.

**PROGRAM SUPPORT**

**Thank you to our donors!**

AAST would like to thank our generous donors. The program received more than $21,000 in external donations in the past year. The programs also thanks the donors for the Calvin J. Li Fellowship in Asian American Studies, the Linh-Thong Huu Nguyen Endowed Scholarship, the Guerzon Tablang-Jimenez Family TerpStart Endowed Scholarship in Asian American Studies, and the Chandni Kumar Annual Lecture on Asian Americans and Activism and Impact Award.

Dr. Terry Park also garnered private gifts to fully fund a trip for 40 students (in the Introduction to Asian American Studies course) to attend a showing of M. Butterfly at the Everyman Theater in Baltimore.

**RECOGNITION**

**Donna B. Hamilton Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching**

Through student nominations, Dr. Julie Park was awarded the Donna B. Hamilton Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching - Office of Undergraduate Studies Program Teaching Award. The award recognized the impact of Dr. Park’s newly developed course, “Urban Demography and Community.”

**PUBLICATIONS**

AAST faculty continue to raise the national profile of AAST.

Dr. Janelle Wong’s book, *Immigrants, Evangelicals and Politics in an Era of Demographic Change*, was published in May 2018. Dr. Wong also published articles in *The Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. Her research and commentary were featured in major news outlets, including the Washington Post, Boston Globe, Bloomberg, and Huffington Post.

AAST Director Julie Park published articles in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and *International Migration Review*. Dr. Park’s commentary was featured in the Washington Post.

**PCEMI - Minority Achievement Award**

AAST was awarded the 2018 President’s Commission on Ethnic Minority Issues (PCEMI) Instructional Unit- Minority Achievement Award. This award recognizes the program’s accomplishments and contributions to advancing the University’s teaching, research, and service to ethnic minorities, noting the scope and content of its courses, the number and range of students reached through its courses, and the programs provided to the community.
GET INVOLVED

AAST

5 REASONS TO MINOR WITH AAST

1. Show potential employers and grad schools you know how to navigate diversity
2. Learn about Asian Americans, and also globalization and migration
3. Enhance your savvy around race, identity, and culture
4. Get to know professors who understand Asian American issues
5. Make connections and join a meaningful community of students, faculty, and staff

BE IN THE KNOW

Email aast@umd.edu to join our email list

Enhance student learning experiences through AAST programming, make a donation at http://ter.ps/give2aast