

# MAASU

Midwest Asian American Students Union



## ISSUE 01

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Meet the executive coordinating committee  
New initiatives, Leadership Retreat & MAASU  
in DC!

Dear MAASU Community,



My name is Victoria Yu and I am the Chairwoman of the Midwest Asian American Students Union (MAASU) for this academic year of 2014-2015. I hope you have enjoyed your summer and that you're excited for the school year ahead! The MAASU Executive Coordinating Committee (ECC) has been diligently working this summer to bring out the best in MAASU for you.

MAASU is committed to provide support and resources for students to work towards social change in their communities, assist in connecting APIA student organizations in the Midwest and promote leadership development through programs such as MAASU Mixers, the Leadership Retreat and the Spring Conference. This newsletter serves to offer more information about MAASU, provide various resources and highlight unique programs from our member schools and affiliate organizations. Be expecting a newsletter every month!

On behalf of the ECC, I wish you all the best on your studies this school year. Please do not hesitate to let me or other ECC members know how we can best meet your needs and interests. I encourage you to take our SurveyMonkey for feedback on how MAASU can be improved. We look forward to working and connecting with you and your organizations.

Best Regards,

Victoria Yu  
Chairwoman, MAASU  
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*Love isn't about what we did yesterday;  
it's about what we do today and tomorrow and the day after.*  
- Grace Lee Boggs



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# INFO INFO INFO!



The Midwest Asian American Students Union is a 501(c)(3) non-for profit organization that was started in response to a need for political unity among Asian American students in the Midwest. MAASU works to recognize the needs of the AAPI community by assisting schools with the establishment of AAPI student organizations, promoting leadership among students, addressing educational needs and rights of the AAPI community, and developing a channel of communication among AAPI student organizations in the Midwest.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!



Fall Leadership retreat will be held at the **University of Missouri in Columbia** this year! The dates are, **November 14 & 15!** Information regarding registration will be released soon! We hope to see you there!

### University of Missouri - Columbia Quick Facts!

Nicknamed: **Mizzou**

Established: **1820** - First University West of Mississippi River

Mascot & Colors:  
**Bengal Tiger**  
**Black and Gold**

To Register click here:  
<http://maasuir2014.wix.com/maasuir-2014>



Spring Conference 2015 will be held at the **University of Wisconsin - Madison** this year! The dates are **April 3rd & 4th!**

### University of Wisconsin - Madison Quick Facts!

Established: **1848**

Mascot & Colors:  
**Badger**  
**Cardinal and White**



Check out a day in the life of students across the Midwest! The MAASU Instagram Project is a bi-weekly series that is passed along to APIA organizations to spread awareness about the programs, topics, and issues that affect students in the Midwest. Follow @maasustories and use #maasustories to get involved and share your stories with us!

## MEMBER SCHOOLS

### Illinois:

College of Lake County  
Loyola University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

### Indiana:

Ball State University

### Kansas:

University of Kansas  
Wichita State University

### Michigan:

Kalamazoo College  
Michigan State University  
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

### Minnesota:

St. Catherine University  
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities  
University of Minnesota - Duluth

### Missouri:

Missouri State University  
University of Missouri  
Washington University - St. Louis  
St. Louis University

### Ohio:

Capital University  
Denison University  
Miami University  
The Ohio State University

### Oklahoma:

Oklahoma State University

### Wisconsin:

University of Wisconsin - Green Bay  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
University of Wisconsin - Platteville  
University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

Interested in becoming a member school? Contact our member outreach chairs Kenny Mok ([memoutreach1@maasu.org](mailto:memoutreach1@maasu.org)) or Ben Nguyen ([memoutreach2@maasu.org](mailto:memoutreach2@maasu.org)) for more information!



Left to Right: Chris Vo, Kevin Dao, Victoria Yu, Craig Hyl, Peter Limthongvirat, Schyler D'Souza

## MAASU Steps Out of Midwest to Broaden Perspectives

By: Daphni Yu, MAASU Communications Chair

On July 11, six MAASU ECC board members left from Chicago and found themselves surrounded by the hustle and bustle of life in Washington D.C. For some, the unique mish-mash of architectural styles was the tell-tale sign they were in the nation's capital. For others, it was the opportunities the political mecca offered.

"I felt like we were 'in D.C.' when we went to the department of labor," programming chair Kevin Dao said. "The networking opportunities from talking to government officials and staffers are what I imagined it would be like in D.C."

Dao and his co-chair Schyler D'Souza were selected to attend the 2014 East Coast Asian American Students Union (ECAASU) Youth Leadership Week with the hopes that they would be connecting and branching out when it comes to programming ideas for the upcoming year. The other positions chosen to attend included Advocacy chairs Craig Hyl and Peter Limthongvirat, Public Relations chair Chris Vo and MAASU Chairwoman Victoria Yu.

Throughout the week, the six mid-westerners mixed and mingled with members of the ECAASU and attended discussions and presentations on a variety of APLA-related issues including education, arts and culture, health, law and policy. Fighting through the humidity and stormy weather, the team attended events located in the Department of Labor to Capitol Hill to the White House.

While the experience was demanding both physically and mentally, advocacy chair Craig Hyl, who is a returning member of the ECC and had visited D.C. last summer, knew beforehand how stressful it would be.

The toughest matter of the trip was keeping energy constant. You always have to come in with your game face on, or you'll miss so many fleeting opportunities.

"In a mental sense, last year I was constantly on my toes and found myself in an environment where I had to learn to operate by means of live trial and error. This year I came with founded elementary knowledge, ready to start playing a bit of handball" say Byll.

With the goal of asking the questions and challenging others, Byll was prepared to work hard to find the information he learned instead of letting it catch him by surprise. Inevitably, however, there were still a few things that was shocking in a sense. Byll remembers teaching on the topic of public service, and how it thrives off one's ability to find his or her particular niche to do well.

"What was fascinating was that hardly anyone we encountered in a high ranking position set out knowing what their niche was let alone that they were going to be relatively significant leaders," Byll said. "This idea expands into a grander notion; apparently, we are all leaders, but we all lead differently. Leadership is all about taking some degree of risk by having faith in your abilities and the abilities of those with whom you work, and going on from that point."



Another topic that made an impression on multiple members of the EOC was a discussion on mental health. Dr. Ida from the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association (NAAPIMHA) was in D.C. to lead a discussion on a topic that is often "swept under the rug."

"Oftentimes in the AAPI community, there is a stigma attached to mental health issues," Chairwoman Victoria Yu said. "It was helpful to have an honest, open discussion and have students share their stories, perspectives and experiences on their campus related to this topic. It's rare to have a safe space in the AAPI community to openly discuss mental health without being judged."

Similarly, Dao was touched by the openness in discussing the issue of mental health, and how relatable it became.

"It was remarkable to me because I heard stories that I could relate to," Dao said. "It made me realize that we all have some kind of mental health issue or had a friend that suffers from it, but we sweep it under the rug like it's not a problem, when it's killing us on the inside."

As co-programming chair, Dao hopes to work with his co-chair Schyler D'Sousa to implement more mental-health related events as well as provide our peers with the knowledge and network they need to succeed in their respective communities through social media and regional socials.

Throughout the trip, the six students were able to experience the magic of D.C. and the whirlwind of possibilities, even for minorities like Asian Americans.

"What shocked me the most is the amount of Asian American role models and mentors in the DC area as well as in the public sector," Dao said. "I always thought about working in DC, but I never thought it was possible till I saw it with my own eyes. There is a network of people there willing and wanting to help you succeed there. All you have to do is be willing to go there."



# AAPI Resources:

## EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP

Midwest Asian American Students Union -

[www.maasu.org](http://www.maasu.org)

Center for Asian American Media -

[www.asianamericanmedia.org](http://www.asianamericanmedia.org)

Asian Nation - [www.asian-nation.org](http://www.asian-nation.org)

Asian American Journalists Association

[www.aaja.org](http://www.aaja.org)

National Association of Asian American

Professionals - [www.naaap.org](http://www.naaap.org) Asian American

Press - [www.aapress.com](http://www.aapress.com)

Asian American Justice Center -

[www.advancingequality.org](http://www.advancingequality.org)

Asian Pacific Americans for Progress -

[www.apafoprogress.com](http://www.apafoprogress.com)

Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote -

[www.apiaivote.org](http://www.apiaivote.org)

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs

Association - [www.uspip.org](http://www.uspip.org) Asian American/Pacific

Islanders in Philanthropy - [www.uspip.org](http://www.uspip.org)

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy,

& Leadership - [www.apaafforcommunities.org](http://www.apaafforcommunities.org)

Asian Americans for Community Involvement -

[www.aaci.org](http://www.aaci.org)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice -

[www.advancingjustice.org/](http://www.advancingjustice.org/)

## SCHOLARSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

Organization of Chinese Americans

[www.oceanational.org](http://www.oceanational.org)

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies

[www.apaics.org](http://www.apaics.org)

Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund

[www.apiaiaf.org](http://www.apiaiaf.org)

Asian American Journalists Association

[www.aaja.org/apply-for-a-scholarship-some/](http://www.aaja.org/apply-for-a-scholarship-some/)

U of Maryland Scholarship, Internship, and Fellowship Directory

[www.aast.umd.edu/scholarships/scholarship-directory/](http://www.aast.umd.edu/scholarships/scholarship-directory/)

Cornell University Internship Database -

<http://asianamericanstudies.cornell.edu/resources/internships/>

Asian Woman in Business Scholarship Fund

[www.awbf.org](http://www.awbf.org)

Kimbo Foundation

<http://www.kimbofoundation.org/index.html>

Korean American Scholarship Foundation

<http://www.kaaf.org/>

## ENTERTAINMENT

Angry Asian Men - [www.angryasianmen.com](http://www.angryasianmen.com)

Wong Fu Productions - [www.wongfu productions.com](http://www.wongfu productions.com)

Kollaboration - [www.kollaboration.org](http://www.kollaboration.org)

Channel APA - [www.channelapa.com](http://www.channelapa.com)

The Asian American Identity Project - [jackiehuang.net/](http://jackiehuang.net/)

aaip/ Jubilee Project - <http://jubileeproject.org>

Fanny Choi - <http://fannychoi.com/>

Elephant Rebellion - <https://www.facebook.com/>

ElephantRebellion Ruby Barna - <http://>

[www.rubybarna.com/](http://www.rubybarna.com/)

# SAVE THE DATE!

## AAJC National Convention

September 24-25  
Washington D.C.

## The States of Southeast Asian American Studies

University of Minnesota  
October 2 & 3, 2014

Website: <http://www.cohd.umn.edu/cj/saseconference/>

Southeast Asian American studies encompasses multiple sociopolitical formations that intersect with war, immigration, race, citizenship and identity. At the same time, the conditions that "brought the field into being" have shifted in light of scholarship in social sciences, education, the humanities, and cultural studies. This conference aims to continue the productive dialogues and conversations of previous triennial "Southeast Asians in the Diaspora" gatherings (held in 2005, 2008, and 2011).

## SASE National Convention

October 14-16  
Philadelphia, PA

Website: <http://www.saseconnect.org/10-slides/104-national-conference-2014-2>

APIA-U Leadership Training(s) 11/1 @ St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO

**FACT Conference November 7-8 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**  
Filipino Americans Coming Together, or FACT, is a collegiate conference that bring together Asian Americans from all over the nation through the efforts of the undergraduate students, alumni, and the FACT committee from the Philippine Student Association (PSA). Over 1,000 delegates from 20 different universities come to the U of I for one weekend because FACT gives them a chance to explore their identities through workshops, ceremonies, and the FACT Variety Show.

## Contact Information:

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