



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST UPDATES FROM THE MAASU BOARD
CREATED BY JANE ELLISTON, LILLIE LEE, AND JAMES LIU

NEW ECC SPOTLIGHT

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New ECC Spotlight

KYLE HOANG

(he, they)

Kyle is a second year at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. He is a Marketing major with minors in Sustainability Studies and Chinese.

Kyle will be joining the Executive Coordinating Committee (ECC) as our new Advocacy Co-chair!

"I believe that the coolest thing I have learned just from transitioning for MAASU is getting to see firsthand the things that MAASU does as an organization..."

Kyle hopes to implement long-term sustainable programs that would help local community leaders across campuses in the Midwest grow more as advocates and activists for social justice.

"My immediate plan for this vision is to work with MAASU's Communications Chair to create Advocacy contents or workshops and provide learning experiences for our MAASU Representatives (M-Reps)."

What are you thankful for?

I'm thankful for my friends and my cousins for being a part of my life!



I was in a video-journalism class and this is a picture of my crew. I didn't necessarily feel like I fit in with all of these people in the photo. But this class was still very impactful for me because that is when I started to step out of my comfort zone and develop better communication and speech skills, as well as my confidence.



New ECC Spotlight

C H E E M E N G X I O N G

(he, him, his)

Cheemeng, also known as Chee, is a fourth year at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He is an Education Studies major with a minor in Asian American Studies Certificate.

Chee will be joining the Executive Coordinating Committee (ECC) as our new Membership Outreach Co-chair!

"I am really excited to get to work as an ECC member of MAASU and alongside everyone else on ECC."

Chee hopes to reach out to APIDA students at smaller colleges and universities so that they can be connected to a really great organization to participate in and get resources from.

Chee shared, "As someone who started at a smaller university, getting connected to MAASU was very beneficial because I was able to connect with others who were passionate about activism and issues in the APIDA community just as much as I was."

What are you thankful for?

This is cheesy, but I am thankful for all of the people in my life. Whether it be family, friends, teachers, or co-workers. I wouldn't be who I am without them.



This picture was taken just this past summer. It is a photo of my family and I during our grand opening of Jasmine Leaf, my brother-in-law's boba tea shop. This photo is meaningful because it reflected the hard work and dedication that my family and I put in the past year to make this happen.



New ECC Spotlight

SEAN KIM

(he, him, his)

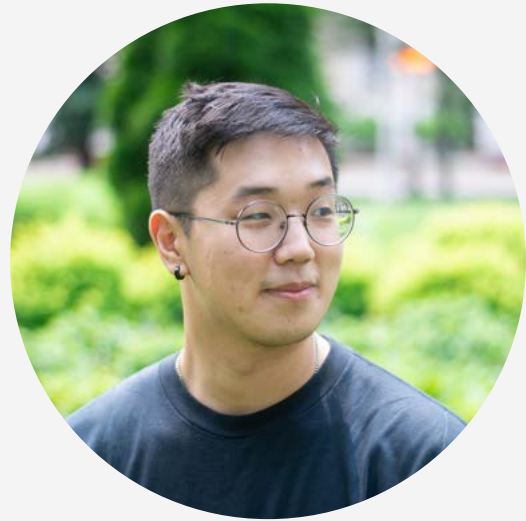
Sean is a third year at the University of Illinois - Chicago. He is a Computer Science major.

Sean will be joining the Executive Coordinating Committee (ECC) as our new Membership Outreach Co-chair!

"I'm super excited to be joining MAASU as an ECC member and I can't wait to work with everybody!"

Sean hopes to implement and make it clear to colleges and universities the benefits and opportunities from being a MAASU member school.

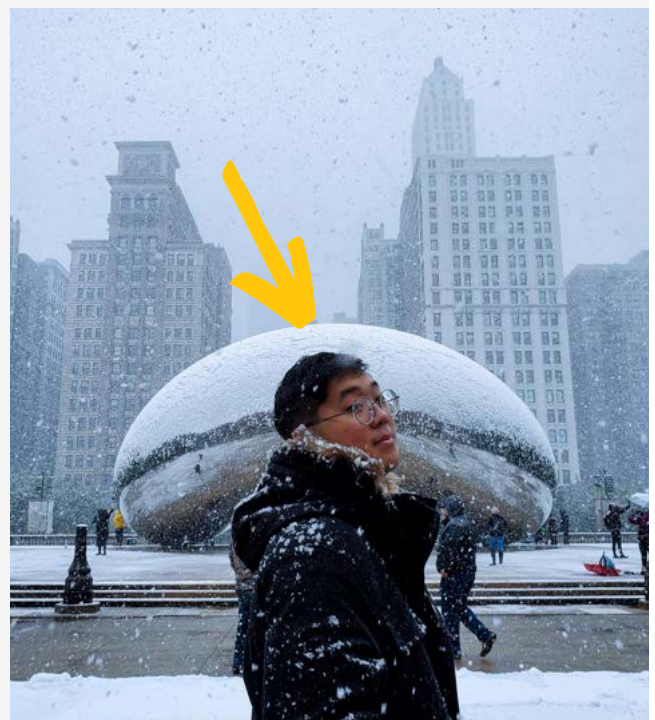
Sean explains that Membership Outreach wants to implement and take the time to update MAASU's membership packet to really highlight the benefits and opportunities being a member school can provide. During times of Covid-19, the Membership Outreach Co-chairs believe it's still possible to get a lot out of being a part of the MAASU community such as being connected to a vast alumni network or engaging with fellow student leaders. They want to help bring these opportunities to light for new and current member schools!



What are you thankful for?

I'm thankful for my parents for always doing their best to support me!

It snowed super early last year and I remember taking this photo during Halloween!



EXECUTIVE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (ECC) UPDATES



ALICE YU (EXECUTIVE CHAIR)

What are you thankful For?

I'm thankful for my network for people who have kept me going and continue to encourage me through the ups and downs of the past semester (and honestly, longer). I love my community; they are the best cheerleaders and motivators!

This photo was taken December 2019 when I boarded a ferry to Santorini, Greece, with two close friends I met during my study abroad in Edinburgh. I still call them often and we have plans to travel together again (post-COVID). I shared a big life event the next day with them on our ferry back to Athens, and they helped me through my processing so much; words will never describe how grateful I am to have them in my life!

What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?

This past month I was focused on a lot of community networking, so I hope our MAASU audience can be on the lookout for some collaborative programming in the future. We also onboarded two new Membership Outreach Chairs! Whoop Whoop! So we are ready to reach out and start making more connections across the Midwest. Each ECC position also has a lot of amazing projects coming up, so make sure to check their updates for exciting things to come. Take a listen to Jenny's first Ask Advo Podcast if you haven't already! I am super proud of Fall Conference Planning Committee for pulling through and putting on a FANTASTIC virtual conference!

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

First, I want to continue building our collaborations with ECAASU and other organizations. Second, my goal for this next month is mostly going to be making sure our ECC is mentally and emotionally okay because a lot of our schoolwork has picked up and serving on board can be a lot. I also hope everyone who is reading this and everyone of our members are doing alright and finding time to de-stress, process, and thrive (or just survive)! Cheering you all on!





MAASU's 2018 Leadership Summit at Michigan State University. One of my favorite trips of all time, if not my favorite trip of all time, due to the long lasting impact it left on my life that has opened up dozens and dozens of opportunities in addition to attending the conference with some of closest friends of all time. It was a trip that had equal amount of business, play, growth, joy, and hope I've been fortunate to be afforded so many opportunities to travel with friends and family or for business, but this trip still reigns supreme.

JORDAN CAO (SECRETARY)

What did you accomplish this month?

I got a lot of groundwork covered this past month and caught up on my work. Although I could write a literal thesis on the projects that are about to come, I'd rather just allow the suspense to creep in until they are formerly announced/finished.

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I hope to get some of the projects I just formerly mentioned completed so that I can provide some new grounds and opportunities for the MAASU undergraduate community.

What are you thankful for?

I'm going to choose not to have a cliché answer. Obviously, I am thankful for many things, but I am extremely thankful for electric toothbrushes. I was once a lazy teeth brusher, but I am one no longer.

JENNY TAM (ADVOCACY CHAIR)

What did you accomplish this month?

I recorded the second Ask Advo Podcast with Advocacy Co-Chair Kyle Hoang and I am currently in the process of editing it!

Here is the link for the podcast:
<https://linktr.ee/AskAdvo>

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

Kyle and I hope to record another podcast and think through internal initiatives to sustain advocacy for the entire board.

What are you thankful for?

My family, close friends, and my therapists.



Just a cute picture at a gathering.





It's always a good time hanging out with my friends!

DANNY NGUYEN (PROGRAMMING CHAIR)

What did you accomplish this month?

I accomplished creating a MAASU programming packet.

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I hope to set a foundation for the MAASU and ECAASU collaboration project.

What tradition do you coordinate with friends or family that have deep meaning for you?

I rarely eat with my family all together. Only during Thanksgiving do we usually eat together and that holds deep meaning for me.



GIANG NGUYEN (PROGRAMMING CHAIR)

What did you accomplish this month?

Secret! Trying to plan some cool stuff.

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I hope to get the secret project finalized!

What are you thankful for?

Friends, family, and the fact that I am pretty happy with my current life!



Ever since college began, my cousins and I have been super busy and had our own friends and stuff. Recently, we've gotten closer again so that makes me happy!



SAM BOSSLEY (TECHNICAL NETWORKING)

What did you accomplish this month?

School is now in full swing! I've been doing a lot of behind the scenes research for the MAASU Alumni Association! We're hoping to roll out a functional MAASU Alumni Association (MAA) Directory Portal before the end of 2020.

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I hope to stay both physically and mentally healthy and have a functional template for the MAA portal.

What are you thankful for?

I appreciate everyone who has supported me in my endeavors.

This was taken during my freshman semester, roughly around when we were all going to suffer during the week before finals. We always found time to group up and get into our feels and have a heart-to-heart night. I remember crying our eyes out until 4AM, reminiscing on the year. It's true that things have changed, but this moment will always be special.

JEWEL LO (COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR)

What did you accomplish this month?

I collaborated with our Advocacy Co-Chairs, Jenny & Kyle, on establishing an advocacy program where M-Reps will be put into family groups and paired up in buddy systems to attend advocacy workshops and discussions, as well as getting to know each other more beyond our bi-weekly meetings.

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

Finalize collaboration with Advocacy Co-Chairs and collaborate with Membership Outreach Co-Chairs on implementing importance of M-Reps in dialogue when reaching out to schools on MAASU membership.

What are you thankful for?

I'm thankful for honestly everything. As cliché as it is, there's really nothing that doesn't hold significance for me.



This photo is meaningful for me because it invokes memories of my family (almost) all gathered together in Canada. Since my siblings are spread across the continent(s) it's hard to gather together, and in the times that we are able to gather, it's especially meaningful to me. In this photo we celebrate my mom's birthday, but my siblings and I just messed with her the entire day.



I was a Freshman Representative for Mizzou AAA last year and this is a picture from our Winter Banquet of my campus community and I found and all of my friends and I'm getting sentimental, but I love them very much!

JANE ELLISTON (PUBLIC RELATIONS)

What did you accomplish this month?

Lillie and I have been working on collecting videos for Voter Registration and our collaboration with ECAASU! Check it out on our social media and make sure to vote!

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

You know, Lillie and I keep saying this, and we've been pushing it off a lot, but I really want to push for reviving Twitter.

What are you thankful for?

This fall semester, I have been really thankful for my support team. I've been very busy and stressful and having my family or my boyfriend always there to pick me up, to listen, and to take care of me has been really helpful.

LILLIE LEE (PUBLIC RELATIONS)

What did you accomplish this month?

Jane and I have accomplished a great ECAASU and MAASU collaboration for Voting Awareness. Have you watched it? In the meantime, we are also discussing about some great scaffolds with other ECC members for some cool projects!

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I'm not going to lie, I'm with Jane about addressing our Twitter. I hope to continue importing historical MAASU documents to share our MAASU history on LinkedIn. I also am increasing and trying to implement and develop awareness of more internet accessibility on our MAASU graphics.

What are you thankful for?

I am extremely grateful to MAASU for allowing me to be a part of ECC this year. They motivate me in doing better! I am extremely grateful for the people I have met and of course I am extremely grateful for family, especially my mom.



This was me when I was little and the outfit I was wearing in that photo was actually sewn by my mom for the New Year. I would want to pass it down to my future child/ grandchildren to wear.



Hot Pot with the family for important occasions and holidays during the winter months hold deep meaning for me. Speaking of hot pot, here's a photo preparing for a family hot pot night!

VICTORIA YU (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

What did you accomplish this month?

We onboarded MAASU's newest Board of Advisors (BOA) member, Jolie Yang! MAASU's BOA serves as a resources and helps advise the organization, especially around long-term initiatives. We're still recruiting additional BOA members so if you have worked professionally for 5 years or more and are interested, you can learn more about the position and application here: <https://www.maasu.org/board>

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

The Director's Council and I will be working on solidifying a detailed fundraising plan for MAASU's first participation in #GivingTuesday. Save the date for December 1, 2020!

What are you thankful for?

I am thankful for every member of MAASU's ECC, DC, and Fall Conference Planning Committee. Thank you for your leadership, hard work, and perseverance in all that you do, and thank you for your dedication of creating a community for APIDA students in the Midwest during these challenging times!

JAMES LIU (DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS)

What did you accomplish this month?

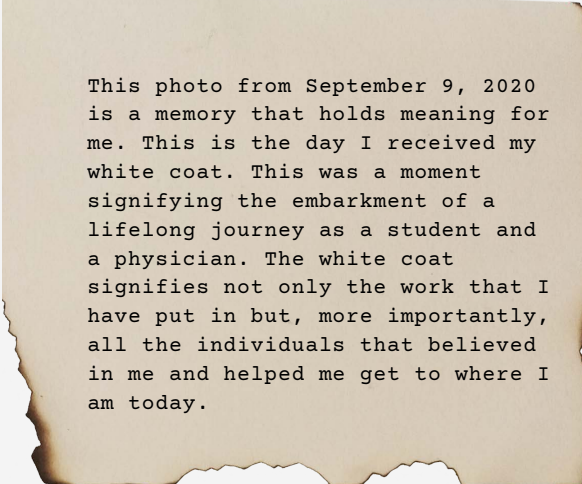
This past month I sent out the first MAASU alumni newsletter!

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I hope to continue building upon our MAASU alumni network in new and unique ways!

What are you thankful for?

I am thankful that I have a wonderful support system in my family and friends.



This photo from September 9, 2020 is a memory that holds meaning for me. This is the day I received my white coat. This was a moment signifying the embarkment of a lifelong journey as a student and a physician. The white coat signifies not only the work that I have put in but, more importantly, all the individuals that believed in me and helped me get to where I am today.





This is the first turkey I ever made by myself! It has a fancy brine and has butter inserted under the skin, which apparently is the most flavorful way to make your turkey!

DAVID LEE (DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING AND ASSESSMENTS)

What did you accomplish this month?

I began to do some research for our upcoming Giving Tuesday campaign in December! Otherwise, I managed to wrap up creating the survey for the Fall Conference.

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

My goals for next month will be mainly spending most of my efforts for our fundraising campaign!

What are you thankful for?

I'm thankful for all the mentors, teachers, and role models who have guided me to where I am today. I'm incredibly lucky to have worked and stand alongside some phenomenal people in the past, and those people have positively influenced me tremendously.

JESSICA LEE (DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PARTNERSHIP)

What did you accomplish this month?

I created a plan for fundraising and member school engagement.

What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I hope to help ECC however I can in promoting positive school life balance.

What are you thankful for?

The relationships I've made in Denver and that my life is currently trending in a positive direction!

What tradition do you coordinate with friends or family that have deep meaning for you?

My family friends usually get together and we eat Thanksgiving dinner together since most of us do not have extended family in the states.



This here is a picture of me and my dad at my parent's clothing booth at the flea market in Fresno, California. This photo is one of the few photos of us together before my dad passed away several years later.

M-Rep Spotlight

ZARA HASSAN

(she, her, hers)

Zara is a second year studying Biology with a minor in Spanish at the University of Kansas!

Why did you choose to become an M-Rep?

I wanted to be more involved in my own school's organization and make sure that we have the tools and information to encourage as many of our own members to experience events like MAASU.

What have you gained from becoming an M-Rep?

I have gained another support system with people that I can learn a lot from. Everybody was so welcoming and inclusive and I hope to bring those values to my own organization.

Wacky fun fact:
I have had 8 piercings so far and plan to get more!



What have you gained from MAASU?

I can tell that MAASU is a unique experience where people can learn more about their identities and create bonds with people that they might not have made otherwise. I really hope I can be a part of that this fall!

A piece of advice for future m-reps?

Don't be afraid and don't hold yourself back when it comes to taking on new roles and meeting new people because more often than not, you'll be opening yourself up to new ideas and perspectives and be able to share your own experiences too.

M-Rep Spotlight

JUSTIN SHEN

(he, him, his)

Justin Shen is a third year studying Accounting and Information Systems at the University of Illinois!

Why did you choose to become an M-Rep?

Every year, our Vice President External is the M-rep, so I was the successor.

What have you gained from becoming an M-Rep?

It's nice seeing the wide range of APIDA organizations across the country.

Wacky fun fact:
I have a permanently fractured pinky from basketball.



What have you gained from MAASU?

A new network of people and clubs that I can reach out to for organizational advice.

Any piece of advice for future M-Reps?

Be active! Reach out to people!

Denison University Mid-Autumn Festival



Song Huang (pictured above) is a junior double majoring in Political Science and East Asian Studies at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

Outside of school and his studies at Denison University, you can catch him exercising to relax and aid his mental health. He favors lap swimming most out of all exercises, which he did competitively in high school.

"I try to make lap swimming a habit of mine," Huang shares.

Other than watching his favorite Netflix Show House of Cards, one thing that he is also passionate about is advocacy with cross cultural engagement with Asian Culture Club (ACC) and recognizing Asian culture on campus and the community. In addition to being a college student, political science major, and healthy buff, Huang also serves as the acting President for ACC.

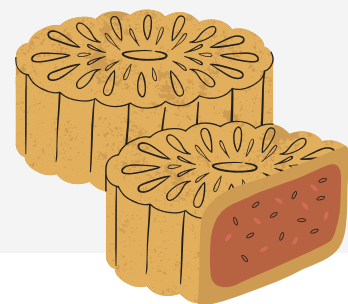
"The Mission Statement of ACC is that we recognize Asian Culture around our community."

Huang shared, "Denison University is a predominantly white institution."

Despite the racial demographic at Denison University, ACC has been an active campus organization since the late 1990's (previously known as Asian American Association). ACC hopes to use their roots and cultures to create unique cross-cultural engagement in the Denison community.

Their most recent event was the Mid-Autumn Festival, where all 200 mooncakes were handed out!

The Mid-Autumn Festival holds a deep place for ACC and Huang.





"I immigrated into the United States since I was twelve years old. In regards to my background and coming from a country in Asia celebrating Mid-Autumn Festival, it was weird to do so in a totally different environment."

However, there were worries about what the Mid-Autumn festival would look like and how they would plan with obstacles.

"Because of COVID-19, guidelines for on campus events is very different this year."

Because of COVID-19, guidelines for on-campus events are very different this year. Due to the increase and huge uncertainty of COVID-19 cases, ACC moved their initiatives solely through online meetings. Throughout the semester, their board has not met in person throughout the semester until the very day of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

ACC made sure to abide by the guidelines to make the Mid-Autumn Festival a possibility.



With Denison University's financial support to continue ACC's tradition of hosting Mid-Autumn Festival, there was enough Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for the staff and facilitators of the event.

"We prioritized using cleaning disinfectant, hand sanitizers, gloves. Even during planning, instead of the food itself, we started to focus on the health aspect of the event."

The most important part of Mid-Autumn Festival was the mooncakes, which ACC had wrapped individually.

"Mooncakes are a sweet snack and embedded with cultural history," Huang explained.

"Mooncakes symbolize the idea of unity, family, and the moon. During this time of the year, families get together to celebrate their existence in our lives and how thankful we are for them."

In terms of ACC's future plans for the rest of the semester, Huang shared the changes they were going to make for ACC's Annual Dinner. The purpose of ACC's Annual Dinner is to raise money for the organization and to have proceeds donated to any causes that will aid any underrepresented Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Communities.

"Financially, we don't believe everyone has the ability to contribute this year. So, we hope to move the event to a completely grab and go food event."

In late January, they hope to have two major events: the Lunar New Year Dinner and their Concert Series, which will include games and more collaborative cross cultural activities in the community.

"Flexibility was one of the huge adjustments we made. Although our productivity has gone down, we still got some things done."



The University of Missouri presents...



maasu

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



root • rise • reflect

The University of Missouri is excited to host MAASU Leadership Summit: Root, Rise, Reflect! Leadership Summit (LS) will be a virtual conference held from March 19-21, 2021 focused on leadership development for Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) students. Stay tuned to MAASU's Facebook and social media as we announce more information!

Instagram: @maasuofficial Website: <https://www.maasu.org/>

DIRECTORS COUNCIL ALUMNI UPDATES

Directors Council Committee (DCC)

Recently, the Directors Council (DC) introduced the DCC as an opportunity for MAASU alumni with specific knowledge, skills, and expertise to assist MAASU with special projects. For more information on potential projects or the DCC application, please scan the QR code below or visit <https://www.maasu.org/dc> :



As always, if you have any questions/concerns or any ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at directorscouncil@maasu.org.