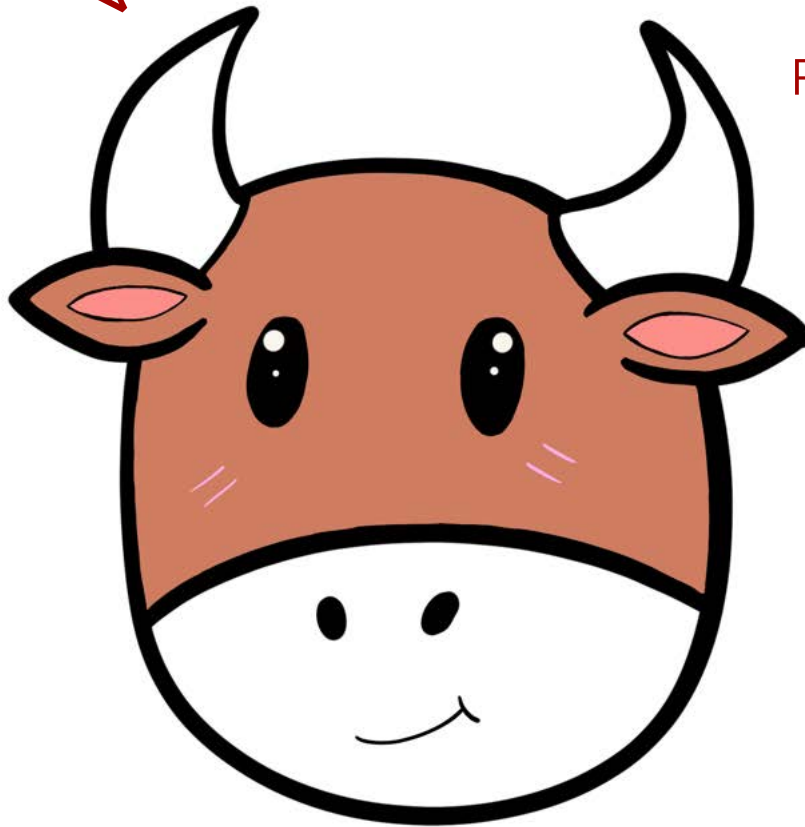




BRINGING YOU THE LATEST UPDATES FROM THE MAASU BOARD  
CREATED BY JANE ELLISTON, LILLIE LEE, AND JAMES LIU

Who is the artist?



Find out on  
page 13!

Happy Lunar New Year!

WHAT'S ALSO INSIDE:

ECC Updates  
Page 1-8

Leadership Summit  
Announcement  
Page 8

M-Rep Spotlights  
Page 9-10

Where are they  
now  
Page 11

# EXECUTIVE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (ECC) UPDATES



## ALICE YU

*Executive Chair*

**What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?**

This past month we finished our winter retreat, and we're working on updating our bylaws to make sure MAASU runs smoothly for the future. I'm also the planning chair for this year's Leadership Summit, and registration is opened, so be sure to register!

**What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

After updating the bylaws, we can open up applications for next year's ECC, so hopefully we can reach out to leaders and aspiring leaders and get an amazing ECC on board for 2021 - 2022 year! I also hope to bring an insightful Leadership Summit to everyone where students, alumni, and professionals alike can form new connections and build on the networks we already have.

In this photo, I'm with two people I consider my sisters in this life. We're not biologically related, and they're both people I love dearly and who truly make me feel loved in this world.

## JORDAN CAO

*Secretary*

**What did you accomplish this month?**

My production this past month has been minimal, at best. I had some strategic development meetings with other members of ECC, but besides that, it's been a pretty quiet month for me.

**What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

To possibly create a more sustainable future for MAASU over the next few years into the future.



This is a picture of co-programming chair, Danny Nguyen, and I playing Roblox on Christmas Eve. I value this picture because it reminds me to treasure even the small things in life, such as playing a kid's game on a quiet winter evening.



## **DANNY NGUYEN**

*Programming Co- Chair*

**What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?**

I laid down the ground work and skeleton for a potential virtual MAASUx.

**What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

I hope to find a way to create a space for natural socialization that doesn't feel bland and "virtual".

I love my littles.

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## **GIANG NGUYEN**

*Programming Co-Chair*

**What did you accomplish this month?**

We've been planning some stuff and working on a booklet!

**What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

Hopefully we will have an event that could bring the community together for some fun times!



My Family makes me feel loved.



## JENNY TAM

*Advocacy Co-Chair*

### **What did you accomplish this month?**

I connected with another podcast keynote and Kyle. We talked about the events at the Capitol.

### **What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

I hope to get more advocacy content out for the community to engage with while working on internal advocacy initiatives for the future advocacy positions.

My best friends are the bestest people and offer me unconditional love.

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## KYLE HOANG

*Advocacy Co-Chair*

### **What did you accomplish this month?**

I have been preparing an Ask Advo podcast episode on Disability Justice for the month of January. I have also published a public statement on the domestic terrorism incident that happened at the Capitol on January 6th. I have also been helping Communication Chairs put together this year's first M-Rep meetings as I try to incorporate more advocacy into MAASU's connections with M-Reps.

### **What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

I hope to be able to establish a stronger MAASU base, one where we are able to mobilize advocacy movements quicker, as a collective. I also hope that my Ask Advo podcast episode will be able to start more dialogue and engage more people in learning more about Disability Justice.

This is a picture of my high school best friends and I. We all go to different colleges now, but we still manage to keep in contact with each other. This picture makes me feel very nostalgic of our friendship!



## JANE ELLISTON

*Public Relations Co-Chair*

### **What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?**

I have been working on this month's newsletter, worked with Leadership Summit Marketing Team and brainstormed new outreach plans, and have been ordering Summit Package items, as I also serve as Leadership Summit's Finance Chair. Finally, Lillie and I hosted a relaxing Scribbl.io night with a few members in our MAASU Student Network!

### **What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

I hope to continue my momentum between MAASU school, and school organizations, hopefully not getting burned out!



This is a picture of my little brother and I when we were still itty bitty children. Honestly, my brother is my best friend - although seven years younger than me, he is a wise soul, always there to give me good advice or listen to my vents. Although still years away, I know that he will accomplish great things - I only have high hopes for this young fella.

## LILLIE LEE

*Public Relations Co-Chair*

### **What did you accomplish this month?**

During winter break I was able to catch up on National Day posts for the following two months and successfully subtitle caption all of Advocacy's Ask Advo Videos on YouTube! Take a look, they should all be captioned well for all of our audience! I was also able to complete this month's newsletter! Let's also reminisce the week of break where I did nothing but accomplish distressing, picking up hobbies, and baking away! (I lowkey want to make a YouTube channel where all I do is BAKE now on the side).

### **What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

I hope to create a stronger connection between MAASU ECC and the MAASU community. Behind this organization are everyday community leaders and students just like YOU.

During my third year, my peers recognized me for the TRIO Excellence Award. I was shocked that I was even recognized on campus or by my peers. That night was super emotional. We all cried because of our shared experiences and I was proud to have my family and friends there to witness my achievements that night.



## JEWEL LO

### Communications Chair

#### What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?

I met with Jordan and Chee Meng to discuss ways we can make MAASU Membership more meaningful, as well as repurpose the M-Rep position. Additionally, I met with Kyle to modify our plans for M-Rep involvement and content during biweekly meetings. We hope to include more advocacy in our workshops for M-Reps and provide more resources.

#### What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I hope to increase MAASU membership with smaller universities through repurposing the benefits and what can be received by member schools.



These are a couple of my very good friends (who look very familiar ehehe) and this sadly had been the last time we all got together :( We got some boba, caught up on our lives, and just enjoyed each others' company. This photo makes me feel loved because we have always shown support for one another and continue to encourage each other with our accomplishments. To be able to sit down and just chat with a couple of really good friends is enough love!

## SAM BOSSLEY

### Technical Networking Chair

#### What did you accomplish this month?

I am working on creating a MAASU official Discord server for members of the APIDA community to communicate more freely with each other and make connections.

#### What are your goals for ECC for next month?

I hope that the Discord will be public by the end of the month!



I love this photo because a lot of my friends all gathered from various places to take a photo together after a strange but wonderful day. I would do anything to see all of them again.

## FIKA

[fee-ka] : Swedish

(n.) the intention to slow down and appreciate the good things in life. "Have a cup of tea with friends."



## CHEE XIONG

*Membership Outreach Chair*

### What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?

This month I was able to meet up with Jordan and Jewel to discuss ideas on how we could repurpose MAASU's membership so that it could be more beneficial to member schools. Right now, I am working on fleshing out the details as well as getting feedback from other board members to see how we can go about pursuing this.

### What are your goals for ECC for next month?

Something I hope to achieve with this project is to make sure that those who are member schools as well as those who are interested in becoming a member school are more aware of what our membership program can provide them other than just a reduced price for conferences. Additionally, I want to make sure that the pricing of the membership is fair in relation to the perks that come with it.

I value this photo because my friends and I met up with each other after not seeing each other for a while. We caught up on school, life, and all of that while enjoying some tea. I really like the quote in the background since it encapsulated what we were doing.

## VICTORIA YU

*Executive Director*

### What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?

The MAASU ECC was busy conducting interviews for two open positions: Executive Director and Board of Advisors. I'm excited to share and welcome Daphne Yu as MAASU's new Executive Director and Vigor Lam as MAASU's newest member on the Board of Advisors! This past month, I worked on transitioning Daphne into the ED role and also onboarded Vigor into the BOA position.

### What do you hope for the future MAASU?

As my term comes to an end and Daphne officially takes on the role of ED on February 1, 2021, I hope to continue to support the MAASU leadership team from afar.

My sisters mean the world to me <3





**JESSICA LEE**

*Director of Finances and Partnership*

**What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?**

Focused on supporting the organization and connecting with others.

**What do you hope for the future of MAASU?**

I hope we can help provide more resources to APIDA students.

She is one of my first friends I made in Colorado and has continued to be a close and trusted friend!

**JAMES LIU**

*Director of Alumni Relations*

**What did you accomplish this month?**

I worked with Sam and Jordan on the MAA portal and published the alumni holiday newsletter!

**What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

This upcoming month I hope to solidify plans for the MAA portal!



This photo is from my last Cultural Vogue performance at Michigan State University. I value this photo because of the people that are in the photo with me. This photo was a group called the Chinese Student Coalition (CSC), where I made some of my best and closest friends to this day. I will forever cherish the memories and the lessons that I learned with this group of amazing individuals.





Missing a few, but these are my nieces and nephews <3

## DAVID LEE

*Director of Programming  
and Assessments*

### **What did you accomplish for ECC this past month?**

This month, I worked with Deep and James on planning out our alumni mixer event! Additionally, we've been planning out our future alumni events and programs so stay tuned.

### **What are your goals for ECC for next month?**

Looking ahead, I look forward to strengthening MAASU's alumni community through events, mixers, and programs.

### **What's your favorite Valentines Day memory?**

In college, I once surprised my girlfriend by decorating her room with flowers, hearts, and plastic rose pedals. I like to tell her that I don't like setting that bar high because I'd have to raise it higher the following year. Regardless, she loved it and that night we made dinner and started a K-drama.



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 on MAASU's Facebook and social media as we announce more information!

**Instagram:** @maasu\_conference

**Website:** [maasuls2021.org](http://maasuls2021.org)

# M-Rep Spotlight

## H A R U K A Y U K I O K A

they/them/theirs

*Haruka Yukioka is a fifth year at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. They are studying Music Education and Racial Justice in Urban Schools and Asian American Studies.*

### **Why did you choose to become a M-Rep?**

I became an M-rep because I think it's really important to make connections with other APIDA organizations across the Midwest. We're stronger together than we are apart!

### **What have you gained from becoming an M-Rep?**

I gained a community of engaged and motivated APIDAs that care about making change and supporting each other.

Wacky fun fact:

I love playing Untitled Goose Game.



### **A piece of advice for future M-Reps?**

Don't be afraid to speak up during meetings —your voice and perspectives matter and will add so much to the conversation!

# M-Rep Spotlight

## RICHY THACH

he/ him/ his

*Richy Thach is a fifth year at Wichita State University. He is studying Health Science.*

### **Why did you choose to become a M-Rep?**

I chose to be an M-Rep because I wanted to stay in the know. I wanted to bring the ideas our organization has to the table while being able to learn from the many other M-Reps.

Wacky fun fact:

I met my childhood Japanese pop group, Morning Musume and I was able to get by with the Japanese I learned from anime.



### **What have you gained from becoming an M-Rep?**

I have been able to participate in meaningful conversations to better enhance my knowledge and experiences. I have also gotten to learn how other organizations are succeeding during this pandemic.

### **Any piece of advice for future M-Reps?**

Put yourself out there. Bring that positive inclusive team dynamic into your space so that you can spread that light within others.

# MAASU Alumni: Where Are They Now?

By Lillie Lee



## JOLIE YANG

she/her/hers

*Jolie Yang currently serves on MAASU's Board of Advisors and helps advise the Executive Director and Executive Chair. She graduated from The Ohio State University in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, International Relations, and Economics.*

When I sat down to interview Jolie Yang it was a humble experience. If anyone were to get something out of the interview it was with the fact that she is a huge fan of the American television producer Shonda Rhimes and is a fan of the Netflix hit show Bridgerton.

"The fact that there were more black main characters and that it was made with a modern twist with a historical aspect was enough to make me a fan of the show."

She claims that she "officially gotten old" because she had considers reading novels a leisure activity. One of her most promising and current reads was A Promised Land by Barack Obama. Her thirst for reading more about trailblazers gave her the experience of getting to meet them in person through pages if life failed to have them meet in person.

Of course, there is more about Jolie and her endeavors after her involvement with MAASU Executive Coordinating Committee (ECC) and so I began asking her more questions.

**Q: What did you want to be when you were younger?**

I wanted to be a foreign diplomat and government official. It was the reason why I went into law. Although it is no longer an aspiration, it was what I wanted to be when I was younger.

**Q: What does your day to day life look like now?**

When I worked as a Corporate Associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, it usually consisted of many phone calls and constantly drafting documents on my computer. They usually span as early as 8 am and go past 12 am.



Pictured above is Jolie Yang serving in MAASU ECC during the year 2010-2011

Currently, I switched my job to work for a coin based company that is involved in cryptocurrency. I am looking forward to knowing the team, tech company, the culture of the workplace, and having more control in schedule.

**Q: What is your favorite MAASU memory?**

My favorite MAASU memory would have to be planning the spring conference for MAASU. I loved working with all the students to pull off something fun. For me, it was life-changing!

**Q: If you could do one thing differently, what would it be?**

If I could do one thing differently, it would be to always stay in touch with all the MAASU folks I met at conferences and when I was on the ECC.

**Q: What is a piece of advice for future graduates?**

Don't lose sight of where you come from and the values you were taught. Even though I no longer live in the Midwest, I try to reconnect with my old classmates and remember that it is always important to be kind, present, and to remember that everyone has a voice and a unique perspective.

# WHO IS THE ARTIST?



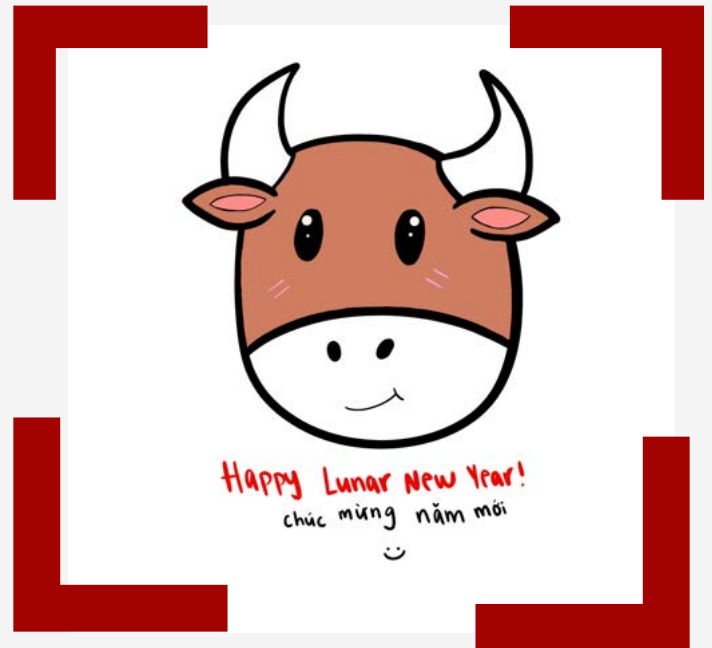
ANN VU

## she/her/hers

*Ann Vu is a first year attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in International Business.*

Ann Vu is originally from La Vista, NE, however, she usually tells people she is from Omaha. She decided to draw the ox since the upcoming Lunar New Year is in February and it'll be the year of the ox.

"Lunar New Year is one of my favorite holidays because I used to attend fun celebrations every year at my church. "



# DIRECTORS COUNCIL ALUMNI UPDATES

## **Directors Council Committee (DCC)**

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](mailto:directorscouncil@maasu.org).