

The Department of Asian and Asian American Studies Interns Present...

Mid-Semester NEWSLETTER

3rd Edition

October 2025

incoming message

Welcome back! We hope all AAAS students are doing well as we head into the middle of the semester. The AAAS intern team hopes to provide AAAS students important information about academic opportunities, on-campus events, and recreational outlets!

Cheers!

AAAS Intern Team

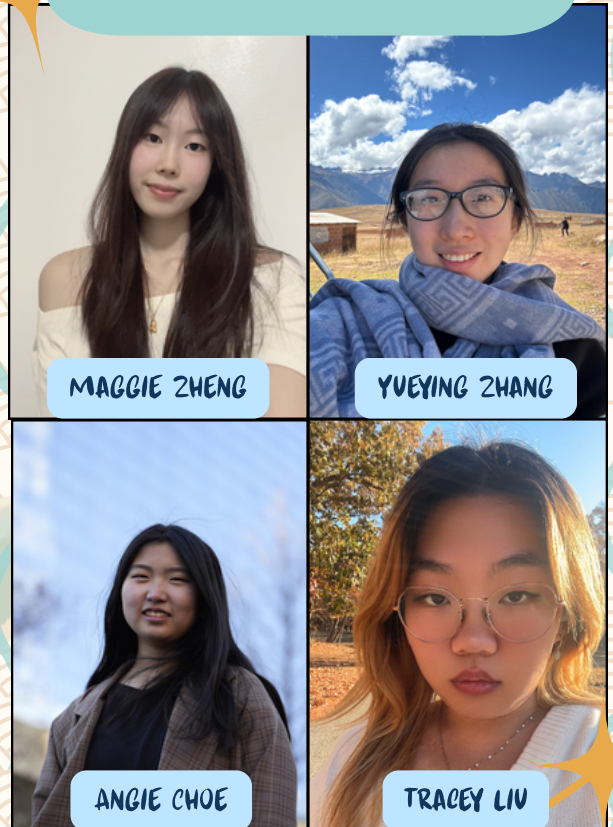
this edition's theme

this october, we celebrate the **mid-autumn festival**. so for this newsletter, we will share more about this holiday!

aaas department
socials



meet the fall 2025 interns!



MAGGIE ZHENG

YUEYING ZHANG

ANGIE CHOE

TRACEY LIU

read more about us [here!](#)

newsletter contents

-  scholarships/events
-  mid-autumn stories
club events
-  affiliated aaas club events
-  back at home
-  on the record/shows
-  alumni/faculty interviews

Scholarships, Programs & Events

a look at some of our department's exciting events and opportunities for students!



**INFO SESSION
SUMMER IN KOREA**

Unlock your summer with a journey to Korea! Join our 4th annual Faculty-led Study Abroad, where students from the Univ. of Utah, George Mason Univ., Stony Brook Univ., and Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison come together to experience Korea like never before. Spend 2 weeks in Songdo and Seoul and 2 weeks on Jeju Island exploring culture, history, and more.

10/29 12:30PM, Wednesday
Center for Korean Studies,
N5520 Melville Library

**** Pizza and light refreshments will be served.**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Get an authentic taste of Korean culture, society, and local life.
- Network and collaborate with like-minded peers.
- Attend courses (Korean language and History/Culture) at the Global Campus in Songdo and Jeju National University and earn 6-7 credits.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Study Abroad Schedule

- In-country program runs from July 1-31, 2026
- Get prepared with the pre-departure Zoom meetings

Application Deadline

- March 1, 2026 is your last chance to apply
- Act fast! We're admitting students on a first-come first-served basis

Eligibility

- Minimum 2.7 GPA
- Students must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program
- Korean language proficiency is not required

Questions?
Please contact: heejong.sohn@stonybrook.edu

Summer in Korea Info Session
October 29 | 12:30PM
N5520 Melville Library



Department of Asian & Asian American Studies

OPEN HOUSE

LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A
DEGREE IN ASIAN AND ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES (HINT: A LOT!)

HEAR ABOUT OUR MINORS AND HOW THEY CAN
COMPLEMENT YOUR CURRENT MAJOR
OR
HOW A DOUBLE-MAJOR IN ASIAN & ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
& YOUR CURRENT MAJOR MIGHT WORK

ALREADY A MINOR?
LEARN HOW EASY IT IS TO TRANSITION TO THE AAS MAJOR OR ADD A SECOND MINOR!

ALREADY A MAJOR?
HEAR ABOUT OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMS, TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS, OR
OUR NEW ACCELERATED BAMA PROGRAM!

FREE SNACKS! GIVEAWAYS! ALL ARE WELCOME!

WED NOVEMBER 5TH 2025
12:30-1:50 PM
HUMANITIES 1003

LEARN ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS HERE →



AAAS Department Open House
November 5 | 12:30PM - 1:50PM
Humanities 1003

**New Minor in Asian
American Studies (AAM)**



**DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN
AND ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

**NEW FOR
FALL 2025**

**Explore the Asian American Experience:
Minor in Asian American Studies (AAM)**

- 18 credits
- 1 core course
- 5 electives

Scan here for more info

Explore the rich and diverse histories, cultures, and identities of Asian American communities through courses that span the humanities and social sciences, students gain a deeper understanding of race, immigration, identity, and social justice—both in the U.S. and globally.

- Open to all majors
- Flexible and interdisciplinary
- A perfect complement to programs in history, sociology, health sciences, political science, literature, and more.

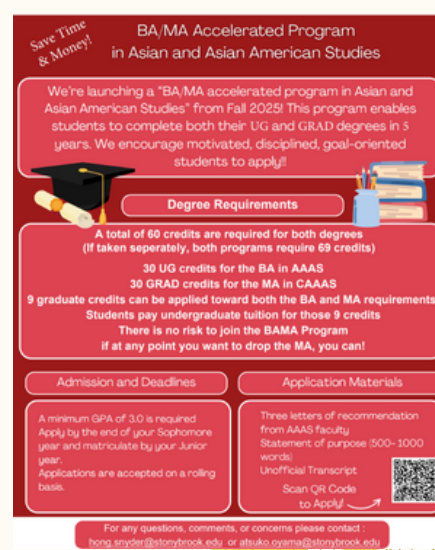
You'll gain critical thinking, cultural competency, and research skills—assets in any major or career path. Whether you're passionate about activism, interested in cultural studies, or preparing for a career in law, healthcare, education, or public policy, the AAM minor provides valuable tools for understanding today's complex world.

Start your journey today—connect with the AAM director to plan your path through this dynamic and relevant program.

Director of AAM Minor: Sandra So Hee Chi Kim
sandra.kim@stonybrook.edu

The AAAS department has a new minor
in Asian American Studies!
learn more here!

**New Accelerated BAMA in
Asian American Studies**



Save Time & Money!

**BA/MA Accelerated Program
in Asian and Asian American Studies**

We're launching a "BA/MA accelerated program in Asian and Asian American Studies" from Fall 2025! This program enables students to complete both their UG and GRAD degrees in 5 years. We encourage motivated, disciplined, goal-oriented students to apply!

Degree Requirements

A total of 60 credits are required for both degrees
(If taken separately, both programs require 69 credits)

30 UG credits for the BA in AAAS
30 GRAD credits for the MA in CAAAS
9 graduate credits can be applied toward both the BA and MA requirements.
Students pay undergraduate tuition for those 9 credits
There is no risk to join the BAMA Program
If at any point you want to drop the MA, you can!

Admission and Deadlines

A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required
Apply by the end of your Sophomore year and matriculate by your Junior year
Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Application Materials

Three letters of recommendation from AAAS faculty
Statement of purpose 500-1000 words
Unofficial Transcript
Scan QR Code to Apply!

For any questions, comments, or concerns please contact:
hong.yonder@stonybrook.edu or atsuko.oyama@stonybrook.edu

The AAAS department now has an
accelerated BAMA program in AAAS.
learn more here!

Edward Guiliiano Global Fellowship Program

CEAS undergraduate students can propose a creative/research project that offers **\$750 - \$5000** in funds depending on strength of application, cost of activity, and availability of funds.

Spring Deadline: **March 1, 2026**

Find out more about the fellowship [here!](#)

Critical Language Scholarship Program (CLS)

The CLS program provides funded immersive summer programs for critical languages including Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, and Korean. The program combines intensive language instruction with rich cultural activities.

Deadline: **November 18, 2025**

Find out more about the scholarship program [here!](#)

Ashley Schiff Preserve Scholarship

Full-time junior and senior undergraduate students, as well as graduate students, with a strong interest in the natural environment and a minimum 3.0 GPA can apply to potentially receive **\$1,000**.

Scholarship Deadline: **November 14, 2026**

Find out more about the scholarship [here!](#)

IAP Study Abroad Scholarship

Students who participated in a study abroad program this Summer of Fall semester are eligible to apply to potentially receive from \$500 - \$3,000 to put towards their study abroad experience.

Spring deadline: **November 1st**

Summer/Fall Deadline: **April 1st**

Find out more about the application [here!](#)

21st Japan Center Essay Competition Scholarship

Sponsored by Canon U.S.A.



College students* can write an essay discussing one or more aspects of Japan to be considered for Best Essay Award in the College Division, along with **\$3000** and a **Canon product**.

Submission Due: **January 8, 2026**

Learn more about the scholarship [here!](#)

Curious about other scholarship opportunities? Follow these links for more info:

- [Office of Financial Aid](#)
- [Scholarship Universe](#)
- [Funding Opportunities for International Students](#)

Mid-Autumn Festival Story

Today, many countries in Asia, including China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Vietnam, celebrate this season with moon-viewing with special meals and traditions. The following is a traditional Chinese legend that tells its origin.



Once upon a time, ten suns rose into the sky at once, scorching the earth and bringing great suffering. The emperor called upon Hou Yi, a master archer, to save the world. With his bow, Hou Yi shot down nine of the suns, leaving just one to light and warm the earth.

As a reward, the Queen Mother of the West gave him an elixir of immortality. But Hou Yi loved his wife Chang'e too deeply to drink it alone, so he entrusted it to her for safekeeping.

One day, when Hou Yi was away, his greedy apprentice Pang Meng tried to steal the elixir. To keep it from falling into the wrong hands, Chang'e drank it herself. At once, she floated higher and higher until she reached the moon, where she became the Moon Goddess, accompanied by the Jade Rabbit.

When Hou Yi returned and learned what had happened, he was heartbroken. That night, he gazed at the bright full moon and thought he saw the shadow of his beloved Chang'e. He placed her favorite fruits and cakes under the moonlight as an offering of love.

From then on, people followed his example, gathering under the full moon of the eighth lunar month to honor Chang'e. This tradition became the Mid-Autumn Festival, a time to share mooncakes, light lanterns, and celebrate family reunion beneath the shining moon.

Celebrations Around Asia

what do different cultures call the mid-autumn festival? how do they celebrate it?

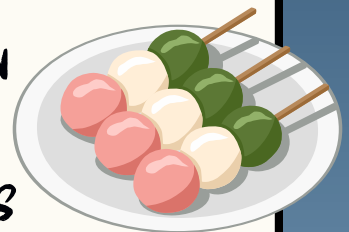
South Korea 🇰🇷
(Chuseok)

- ★ FAMILIES TRAVEL HOME TO HONOR ANCESTORS
- ★ SPECIAL FOOD: HALF-MOON RICE CAKES (SONGPYEON)



Japan 🇯🇵
(Tsukimi)

- ★ PEOPLE GATHER TO VIEW THE MOON
- ★ EAT ROUND RICE DUMPLINGS (DANGO) AND SHOW PAMPAS GRASS



Vietnam 🇻🇳
(Tết Trung Thu)

- ★ CHILDREN CARRY LANTERNS AND SEE LION DANCES
- ★ FAMILIES SHARE FRUIT TRAYS AND MOONCAKES



Singapore 🇸🇬

- ★ LANTERN DISPLAYS FILL CHINATOWN AND GARDENS BY THE BAY
- ★ FAMILIES MOON-GAZE, SHOP AT MARKETS, AND WATCH SHOWS



Mid-Autumn Festival Events

Some Mid-Autumn Festival events that happened on campus in October were brought to you by SBU student clubs and organizations!



October 17th

7-10 PM

Union Ballroom

The purpose of the Community Action Network is to empower students to engage with their local communities and take meaningful action on issues they care about by connecting them with opportunities and resources to create real, lasting change.

Founded in 2012, the Stony Brook Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) is a professional organization dedicated to empowering Asian scientists and engineers for workplace success while celebrating campus diversity, fostering leadership through professional and social events, mentorship, and national conference participation, and welcoming students of all backgrounds.



October 7th

7-8 PM

SAC 303



October 10th

7:30-8:30 PM

SAC Ballroom B

The Fujianese Culture Club at Stony Brook aims to build an inclusive community that celebrates and promotes Fujianese culture by bringing together students from diverse backgrounds to share cultural food, learn the Fujianese dialect, and connect through shared interests.



October 3rd

7-9 PM

Union Ballroom

Founded in 2002, the Stony Brook CSSA is the only non-profit student and scholar organization at SBU recognized by the Chinese Embassy in the U.S., dedicated to serving the Chinese community and promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

ISO is open to all students, regardless of religion, gender, culture, or nationality; their mission is to create events for both international and domestic students to experience and celebrate diverse cultures at Stony Brook University.

Look forward to their Diwali event on 10/20!



October 4th

6-10 PM

SAC Auditorium



October 10th

7:30-8:30 PM

SAC Ballroom B

The Chinese Network Alliance aims to help Chinese international students connect with the university community, enhance their campus experience, and promote cultural exchange with the local community.

Other Clubs & Organizations

Check out some other clubs & organizations that are popular with AAAS student — a great way to explore new interests, meet friends, and get involved in our school community!



International Student Organization (ISO)

Bringing together students from all backgrounds to celebrate global cultures through social events, support, and friendship. You don't have to be an international student to join—everyone's welcome!

Badminton Club

Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned player, come join us for some fun rallies and friendly matches on the MAC courts!



Club Times: Wednesdays 1:30–3:00 PM & Fridays 2:30–4:00 PM.



WOMENS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRACTICE TIMES

FALL 2025

TUESDAY 3:00PM-4:30PM
FRIDAY 3:00PM-4:30PM
SATURDAY 11:00AM-12:30PM

LOCATION: CAMPUS REC WOOD COURT 2

Women's Basketball

Girls! Want to play basketball but don't know where to start? Already love the game of basketball and want to continue? This is the perfect club for you!

Whether you are new or want to improve your basketball skills, we'll teach you the basics. No experience needed! Throughout the years we also host basketball tournaments and play in the intramural so come join us!

Club Times: Tuesdays 3:00-4:30PM, Fridays 3:00-4:30PM & Saturdays 11:00-12:30PM.

DO YOU HAVE A STUDENT CLUB OR EVENT THAT YOU WANT AAAS TO PROMOTE?

EMAIL: theresa.spadola@stonybrook.edu

Welcome back! When we're studying for midterms, what foods do we try to feel

BACK AT HOME?

Looking for something delicious? Take a ride and explore the Asian cuisine in New York !



KONBAN



311 W 17TH ST, MANHATTAN



A hidden gem tucked away in Chelsea! The entrance is a bit hidden as you have to walk into a little alley. Highly recommend their corn ribs! The Ebi Katsu here is also delicious. It's very light and crispy, served with salt and sauce. The corn ice cream dessert was so interesting and really had a nice corn flavor.



Súp Vietnamese Phó & Grill is a must-try spot. Within \$20, you can get a nice meal. All the grilled meats, such as the pork chop, are excellent. Serve with sweet and sour sauce and a salad side dish; you can't go wrong with anything on the menu.

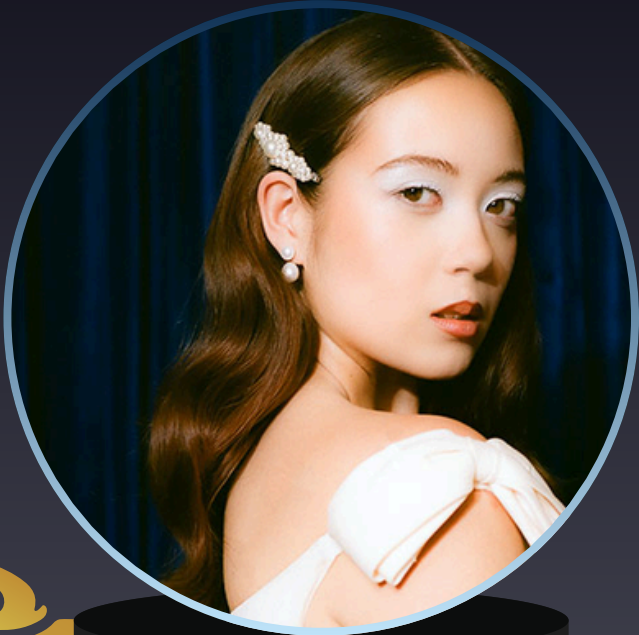


SUP VIETNAMESE PHO & GRILL
STONY BROOK



On the Record

Presenting to you, two extremely talented artists for you to check out!



Laufey

Icelandic-Chinese

Born in Reykjavik, Iceland

Inspired by Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee, and Chet Baker

Jazz Pop

Classical



Concert Review!

The concert showcased many songs from her new album and a lot of fan favorites. She invited guests like Pink Pantheress and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

She was very interactive with the fans! Overall a very fun experience and would definitely recommend!

MICO

Filipino-Canadian

Born in Toronto, Canada

Inspired by Panic! At The Disco and 5SOS

Indie

Pop-Rock



Senses
MICO



Parasite
MICO



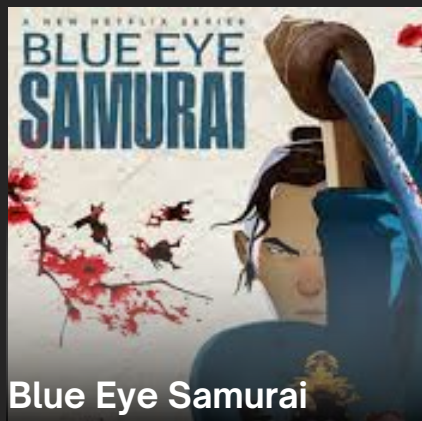
asian american show recommendations

in need of a new show to binge?
here's some shows to add to your
watch list!



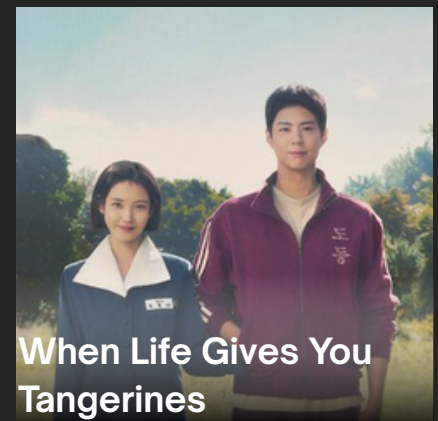
Pachinko

Genre: Historical Fiction



Blue Eye Samurai

Genre: Animation, Action



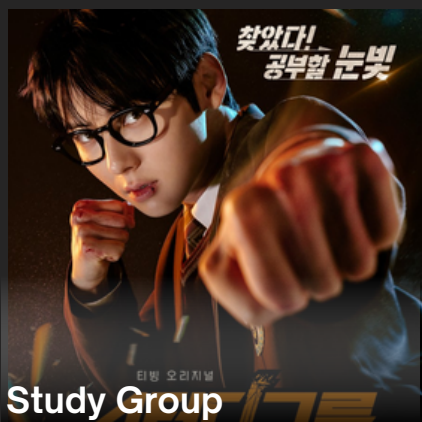
When Life Gives You
Tangerines

Genre: K-Drama, Romance



Alice in Borderland

Genre: Sci-fi, Thriller



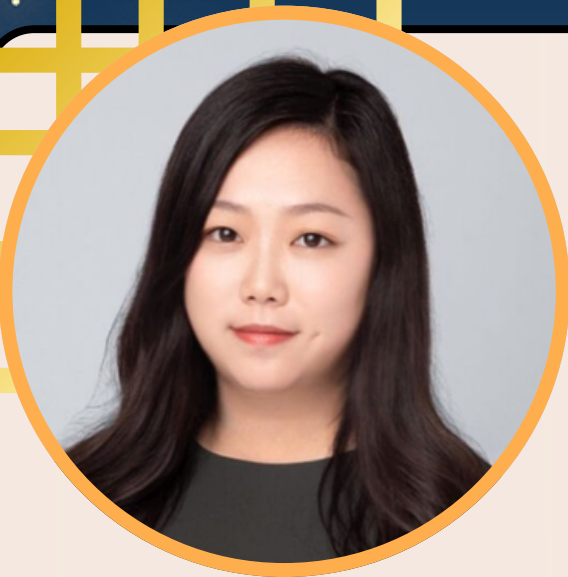
Study Group

Genre: Action, Comedy



Girl From Nowhere

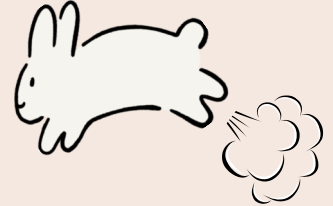
Genre: Drama, Supernatural



MEET THE FACULTY!

Professor Yi Wang

I am an Assistant Professor in the AAAS Department, where I teach courses on Chinese language, literature, and linguistics. I also coordinate outreach through our department's social media presence.



Would you like to share your background?

I received my Ph.D. in East Asian Studies with a focus on Chinese Linguistics from the University of Arizona, where I also trained in Second Language Acquisition and Linguistic Anthropology. Before joining Stony Brook, I taught courses on Chinese language and culture at Emory University and Middlebury College, and I coordinated study abroad programs in Shanghai and Hangzhou. These experiences shaped my perspective on how language learning is lived across the classroom, community, and transnational spaces.

What field do you study?

My research explores how language shapes students' language use, language learning, and the sense of identity and belonging. I look closely at how learners navigate Chinese in multilingual and intercultural settings—whether in study abroad programs in China or in diverse contexts in the U.S. For instance, I've studied how international students build social networks across languages in China, and I now lead a linguistic diversity survey project at Stony Brook to understand the language use and experiences on our campus.

How did you become interested in teaching?

I became interested in teaching because I see language as a mirror of identity and ideology; it was my early experiences in China—and later in study abroad programs and U.S. classrooms—that showed me how students' backgrounds shape their approach to learning. In my Chinese sociolinguistics courses, for instance, we examine how regional dialects surface in variety shows and online memes, and students often bring in clips, such as a viral skit contrasting Mandarin and Northeastern speech, which spark rich discussions about humor, stereotypes, and identity. Those exchanges remind me that teaching is not just about delivering content but about uncovering insights together.

Why did you choose to teach in the AAAS department?

I chose the AAAS Department because it brings together experts across Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and other language programs, creating a collaborative environment that fits my applied linguistics training and interdisciplinary interests. It's connected to the Center for Multilingual and Intercultural Communication (MIC), whose mission of exploring multilingual repertoires, researching the lives of bilingual and multilingual speakers, and building cross-cultural databases aligns with my own work. MIC projects such as the Campus Linguistic Diversity Survey and Stony Brook Stories of Language and Life highlight the diversity of languages spoken on campus and foster conversations about linguistic justice. I'm excited to collaborate on such initiatives. My colleagues bring different specializations, and the department truly feels like an intellectual home where I can weave together my research in applied linguistics and multilingualism, and language ideology.

Courses you teach at Stony Brook

- AAS 358: China's Language, Media, and Popular Culture in Global Context
- AAS 360: Chinese Sociolinguistics
- CHI 421: Chinese Poetry and Short Stories
- CHI 422: Chinese Lyrics Prose and Plays
- AAS 103: East Asian Popular Culture



How would you describe your teaching style?

I would describe my teaching style as interactive, student-centered, and critical. I design courses so that students don't just memorize language and content—they use it to make sense of real-world issues. I bring in materials like social media posts, films, and podcasts, and I often assign project-based or collaborative work. For example, in my Chinese sociolinguistics course, students might analyze how dialects appear in Chinese media; in language courses, they might perform role plays or intercultural communicative tasks that reflect everyday interactions. Diversity in the classroom is central: I encourage students to bring their linguistic and cultural backgrounds into our discussions, so we can learn from each other.

What do you find most valuable from your students?

What I value most is when students make connections between course materials and their own lived experiences. I also appreciate their willingness to take risks—whether experimenting with a new register in Chinese or challenging dominant narratives in a content class. Those moments of exchange remind me that teaching is a two-way process.

Meet Our AAAS Alumni.



Kaya Rexford

Hello!

My name is Kaya Rexford (she/her/hers). I am a recent graduate from Stony Brook with a Bachelor of Arts in Asian and Asian American Studies and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies

What is your current profession?

Currently, I work part-time at Indigo Books as a Visual Merchandiser and a part-time Intern for AAPI New Jersey.

Why did you choose to study in the AAAS department?

I chose to study in the AAAS department because growing up as a Chinese-American, I was never taught much about Asian American history or identity. The most I was taught was Chinese immigrants who worked on the transcontinental railroad and Japanese internment camps. Both events were framed as both events happened but never delving into how Chinese and Japanese immigrants were treated or how they felt. I wanted to feel more connected to my Chinese identity and who I was since I felt that I was not Asian enough or not American enough.



How has the AAAS department helped guide you to your current profession?

I was able to have the opportunity to work as an intern at AAPI New Jersey due to my work as a former AAAS intern and my classes in the AAAS department. I am able to apply the knowledge from all of my courses into the internship by reaching out to educators and providing them with resources on how to teach AAPI history and its communities.

What were your experiences studying in the AAAS department?

During my time in the AAAS department, I felt really supported by all of my professors for being patient with the 10,000 questions and comments I had. All of my professors ensured that myself and my fellow classmates took the time to understand the material taught and its importance. I felt comfortable to be myself and being able to talk in class, despite sometimes talking too much. The conversations I engaged in with my fellow classmates in AAAS classes were also really helpful in understanding different perspectives and experiences related to the class.

What advice would you give to incoming AAAS major/minor students?

My advice for any incoming AAAS major/minor students would be to really utilize your professor's office hours and to not be afraid of asking questions. I know that almost every professor and academic advisor says this but I can honestly say that the AAAS department faculty deeply care about their students. All of the faculty want students to be able to succeed and understand the information in class. I have learned that it is okay to make mistakes and also rethink the things you have learned in early education that often ignores or whitewashes Asian American and Asian history.