

Department of Asian and Asian American Studies

NEWSLETTER

1st Edition | March 2025

message from the department

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST EVER NEWSLETTER!

WE CANNOT EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW THRILLED WE ARE TO PRESENT AAAS'S NEWSLETTER. THIS NEWSLETTER SERVES THE PURPOSE OF SHARING NEWS ABOUT THE AAAS DEPARTMENT TO ALL STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF THEIR MAJOR. BEYOND ACADEMIC INFO, THE AAAS INTERN TEAM WORKED HARD TO FIND ACTIVITIES AND RECREATIONAL OUTLETS TO CONNECT STUDENTS CLOSER TO OUR CULTURES!

this edition's theme

march is **women's history month**. so for this newsletter, it will be highlighting and empowering asian and asian american voices! here's an inspirational quote for you:

THE ONLY WAY THAT WE CAN REALLY CREATE CHANGE IS NOT JUST CHANGING PEOPLES' MINDS. WE ALSO NEED TO FIND WAYS TO CHANGE PEOPLES' HEARTS

CECILIA CHUNG

newsletter contents

1.

- upcoming events
- scholarships

2.

- back at home

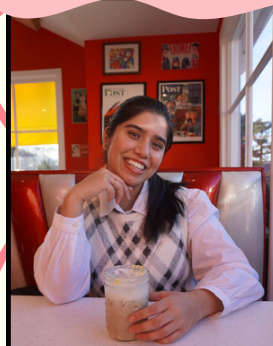
3.

- asian and asian american literature/music

4.

- interview with aaas alumnus
- interview with aaas faculty

meet the spring 2025 interns!



MAISHA RAHMAN



ALENA HUYNH



ANGIE CHOE



KAYA REXFORD

learn more about us [here!](#)



aaas department socials!

[website](#) | [instagram](#) | [twitter](#)

Upcoming Events

a list of some events we think you should attend!

cuny aari is making a magazine!
want your voice heard or have a
burning question about the aanhpi
community? fill out [this survey!](#)

Department of Asian &
Asian American Studies
Open House and
Cultural Fair

JOIN US FOR

PAPER CRAFTS,
CALLIGRAPHY,
MANDALA COLORING, AND
MORE!

CHAT WITH OUR
PROFESSORS
LEARN ABOUT OUR
PROGRAMS
AND COURSES!

Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Humanities Lobby
11:00-4:00 pm



Cultural Fair/Open House
April 2 | 12:00PM - 4:00PM

KOREAN MUSIC WORKSHOP
**STRINGS BEYOND
BORDERS:
THE HAEGUM EXPERIENCE**

Experience the captivating fusion of tradition and innovation in "Strings Beyond Borders: The Haegum Experience." Renowned New York-based haegum artist Hee Jung Han brings the timeless beauty of this traditional Korean string instrument to life. From soul-stirring Korean folk melodies to enchanting renditions of Western songs, Hee Jung Han takes you on a transcendent musical journey. Witness the delicate interplay of ancient artistry and contemporary sound that showcases the versatility of haegum.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hee Jung Han is a New York-based professional haegum (two-stringed fiddle) performer. A two-time recipient of the prestigious NYFA/NYSCA Fellowship, she is passionate about bringing Korean culture to diverse audiences through recordings and concerts supported by the New York Arts Foundation and the New York State Council.

Artist
Hee Jung Han

APRIL 17TH (THU), 3:30 - 5:00 PM
@ 1008 HUM

Questions? Please contact:
KoreanStudies@Stonybrook.edu



**Strings Beyond Borders: The
Haegum Experience**
April 17 | 3:30PM - 5:00PM

Awards/Scholarships

want to see some opportunities? check these out!

AAPI Mentorship Travel Award

- The AAPI Mentorship Network at SBU was established to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of the AAPI SBU academic community. They created this scholarship to support AAPI students exploring their field of study or career aspirations by attending conferences.
- This year's recipients are Aman Rahman and Radha Ganesans!
- [Learn more about them and their scholarship!](#)

AAAS/STEM Double Major [Application Form](#) Scholarship

- This scholarship is eligible for students who are double majoring in AAAS and STEM to help them gain perspective and knowledge in humanity and global context!
- Award amount: **\$500** • Deadline: March 28

Graduate Scholarship Opportunities

- The Center for Korean Studies presents scholarships for graduate students specializing in Korean Studies, fostering advanced research and dialogue on Korea-related topics at SBU. Each award is \$3,000 and two to three scholarships are available each year. This scholarship is available to international students as well!
- [Click here for further information!](#)

For all the moments we are tired, what do we do to feel

BACK AT HOME?



Go on a drive or take the LIRR and go on an adventure to indulge in Asian cuisines made with love right here in New York!



Amdo Kitchen

📍 JACKSON HEIGHTS · [WEBSITE](#)

OPERATING FROM A FOOD TRUCK, AMDO KITCHEN PRIORITIZES THE MAKING OF ONE DISH, THE TIBETAN MOMO! DON'T BE FOOLED BY ITS SIMPLICITY, AS THAT IS THE SPECIALITY OF THE DISH. FOR SUCH A GREAT VALUE OF \$7 FOR 8 MOMOS, THIS DISH BRINGS A RICH, UMAMI PUNCH WITH A WARM WAVE OF THE PURE JUICES OF THE MEAT REMINISCENT OF THE SOUP IN A XIAO LONG BAO. EVEN BETTER, THEIR FOOD IS FULLY HALAL!



BURMESE HARP

Burmese And Japanese Cuisine

📍 BAY RIDGE · [WEBSITE](#)

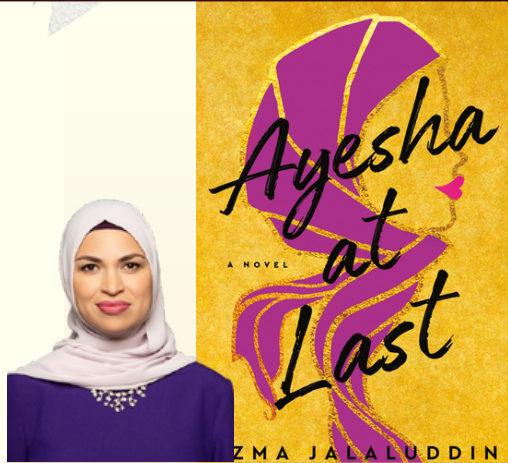


A NOD TO THE 1956 FILM THE BURMESE HARP AND A CLASSIC COUPLE'S TALE OF BUILDING A RESTAURANT TOGETHER, THE BURMESE HARP IS A COZY, AUTHENTIC, FAMILY-OWNED BURMESE-JAPANESE RESTAURANT THAT SITS ON 86TH STREET ON BAY RIDGE. KNOWN TO BRING NOSTALGIA TO THOSE WHO ARE FROM FROM BURMA, GET SOME MOHINGA FISH SOUP AND ENJOY THE AMBIENCE.



asian american female literature recommendations

IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, WE'D LIKE TO SHARE A VARIETY OF BOOKS THAT WE LOVE!



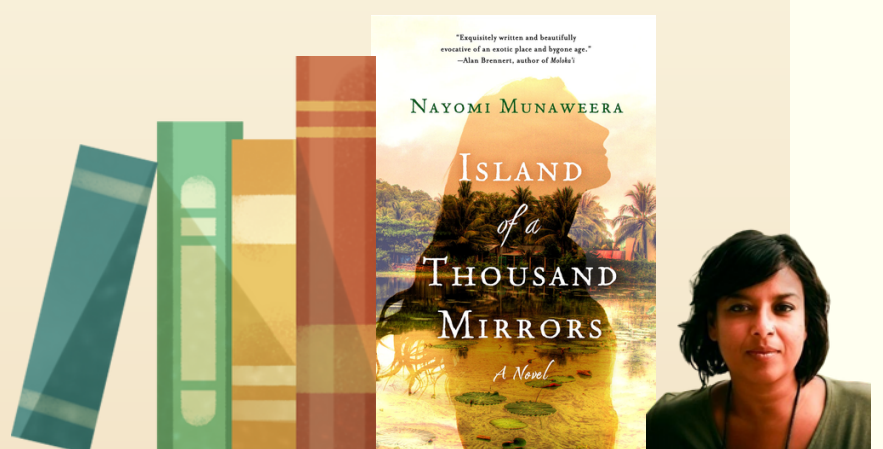
Romance



Sci-Fi/Fantasy



Horror



Historical Fiction



Poetry



Nonfiction

Play next...



here's two women with absolutely wonderful vocal talent...could be a new playlist addition!

H.E.R.

Filipino-American/Black
Born in Bay Area
Inspired by Sharon Cuenta
and Jay R growing up

11 million
monthly listeners

R&B

Ballad

Soul

We recommend...



Focus
H.E.R



Come Through
H.E.R · Chris Brown



We recommend...



Chuttamalle

Shilpa Rao · Anirudh
Ravichander · Ramajogayya Sastry



Chaleya

Anirudh Ravichander · Kumar
Arijit Singh · Shilpa Rao



SHILPARAO

Indian
Born in Jamshedpur
Sings in Hindi, Telugu, and
Malayalam

24 million
monthly listeners

Indian Pop

Sufi

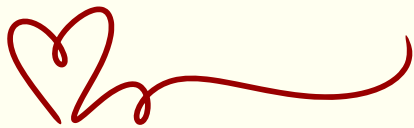
AAAS Alumni Spotlight



Hello!

Alana Puso-Gill

My name is Lana Puso-Gill (she/her/hers). I graduated from the AAAS department in Spring 2023. I double majored in Linguistics and Asian and Asian American Studies with a double minor in Japanese and Korean Studies.



Why did you choose to study in the AAAS department?

Growing up I was really interested in Japanese mythology and Korean history. I also watched historical K-dramas that featured strong female leads which I did not see in regular American media.

What is your current profession? Why?

I am currently an elementary school teacher in Shimane Japan through the JET program (The Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme). Growing up, I wanted to have a job where I could help people in a care position. I was thinking of either becoming a nurse, teacher, or a healthcare provider.

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

My JPN 211 teacher, Professor Nakamura, told our class about the JET program and encouraged us all to apply. I was at first hesitant because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do career wise

after college ended. The owner of Slurp Ramen in Port Jefferson came in for a talk about the JET program since she had taught abroad in Japan for 5 years. The informational session got me really excited and interested in the program that I decided to take the opportunity.



What was the most valuable thing the AAAS department taught you?

I am able to understand Korean and Japanese culture, be able to communicate, and get other students to understand the concept of their classmates being mixed race (Korean and Japanese). My own experiences as being a mixed race person help me connect to my students who might be going through their own struggles with trying to connect to their culture. Also, understanding the cultural differences!



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

My advice I would give to an incoming AAAS major/minor is to really connect with professors and add another major. I suggest adding another major because AAAS is a great base but it also complements well with other departments like history or linguists which can give you more opportunities in the future. It is important to connect with your professors because they are really there for you to succeed, a mentor and can help guide you to future opportunities.

MEET THE FACULTY

Professor Nerissa Balce

she/her/hers | AAAS associate professor

fields of study: popular culture, how popular culture is used by the state, our own ways to go against the state



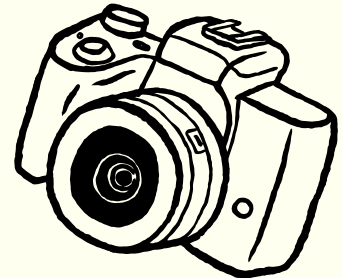
interests: cultural forms of humor, photography & its meaning for immigrants, minority communities, queer communities, photographers in war zones

Q. How did you become interested in teaching?

Growing up, I had always loved books and films as a child. When I was in college, cultural studies was first introduced in the Philippines. I wrote a thesis during college in the Philippines about Filipino horror comics as an allegory for life under dictatorship. I was heavily influenced by cultural studies scholars that are Jewish-German intellectuals who were fleeing the nazis. I became drawn to cultural studies because of the study's interest in looking at culture in a political way.

Q. Why did you choose to teach in the AAAS department?

I had discovered AAAS studies after doing my masters at UC Berkeley where I found literature called "Asian American Studies" that had started in the 90s. I wanted to read about Asian American literature with a feminist perspective which was how I was interested to AAS. Now due to this new fascist regime, it is interesting to think about American fascism. I think that being an AAS scholar means to engage with the colonial past and the fascist present to think of the U.S. as an empire.



**Q. Explain which courses you teach at Stony Brook?
Why those courses?**

AAS 232: Introduction to Asian American Fiction and Film

- introduces students to Asian American studies

AAS 305: The Pacific, Travel and Empire

- travel and empire, particularly focusing on photography in places of U.S. military occupation (Philippines, Vietnam, Korea).

AAS 328: Race, Humor in Asian America

- humor and satire, important cultural form studied by cultural scholars

Recently, AAS scholars want to include Palestine as a field of AAS scholarship and so my AAS 305 course looks at photography from Gaza because my interest in photography has to do with my background in cultural studies.

Q. What do you find most valuable from your students when teaching?

I believe it is important to teach students about beauty and how it is not always physical but it can be the desire for justice and equality. Beauty can take many forms such as family, community, love and not just about youth or sex or perfection since this is part of the narrative of capitalism.

Q. Why do you believe it's important for students to take AAAS courses?

I believe that AAAS courses are for all students no matter what their identities are. I learned a lot about the U.S. through AAAS and having history and the knowledge of critical understanding race, gender, class are really important because these are the topics that will be under attack for the next few years. In my classes, I hope to make them fun but also educational to learn about horrific and terrible things in the U.S. especially during now where rights are being taken away.

