The past year has been challenging for the APIDA community in a multitude of ways. We have experienced a sharp rise in anti-Asian violence, decreased patrons to Asian restaurants and businesses, health inequities, isolation from overseas family due to the inability to travel, and more. But through it all, we have turned to art and culture to express ourselves and come together as a community.

Our 2021 APIDA Heritage Month magazine showcases our collective resiliency as well as the abundance of talent in our UW-Madison community. From striking photographs of student activists to family recipes passed down through generations to searing poetry that captures the lived experience of Asian American womanhood, the submissions in this magazine highlight the diverse ways that APIDA students have been processing this past year through visual art, photography, writing, and more. The APIDA community has often been stereotyped as quiet and meek, afraid to rock the boat and draw any unnecessary attention. As you flip through the pages of this magazine, you’ll read and see works that openly defy this stereotype — you’ll see photos of student activists who refuse to simply accept racism, a wry mukbang video that openly discusses the topic of transracial adoption, and vibrant photos depicting cultural dance, among others.

Our theme for this year’s heritage month is The Spaces In Between, to reflect the ways that APIDA identity is continually re-situated and re-imagined in the complex racial landscape of America. While there is a wide variety of art and culture assembled in this magazine, the one thread that draws all these pieces together is their embrace of all things APIDA and the exploration of these complex spaces in-between. It has been a privilege compiling these submissions into this magazine — we hope that you enjoy these pieces as much as we have.

Warmly,
Juliet Chang, Manola Inthavong, Rachel Nguyen, Amanda Ong, Vasu Rishi, Simran Kaur Sandhu
the spaces in between
This fundamental question of APIDA identity has been met with answers as diverse as the community membership itself. On one hand, we are defined as having social and geographic ties to both America and our respective ethnic homelands. On the other hand, APIDA identity is a political identity defined relative to other communities of color in a White dominated society. In either case, we can be found in The Spaces in Between.

This April 2021, APIDA Heritage Month will be exploring the many ways that APIDA identity is shaped both within and outside the community. The Spaces in Between will center on the lived experiences of Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans to illustrate how identity continues to be situated and reimagined in a changing world.

Join us as we bridge The Spaces in Between us within the APIDA community!
Meet the Staff

Juliet (she/they) is a Hmong American second year at UW majoring in Social Welfare and Education Studies with a certificate in Asian American Studies (Hmoob Emphasis). She was born and raised in Wisconsin, making her a midwestern girl at heart, but she yearns to travel the world. Despite her slightly-awkward tendencies, her biggest dream is to form meaningful connections with those around her and uplift the voices of the most marginalized. Today, she wants to share with you the work of collective APIDA student voices at UW.

Manola (she/her/hers) is a Lao-Chinese American second year student at UW majoring in International Studies and Economics with a certificate in Chinese Professional Communication. She was born and raised in Menomonee Falls and is a first-gen American and first-gen college student. In addition to her work with the APIDA Heritage Month Planning Committee, she also is a member of Matriculate and CHASA, and can be frequently found walking around Madison listening to a podcast or whatever new artist was recommended to her.

Rachel Nguyen (she/her/hers) is a first-generation Vietnamese American and second year student at UW-Madison studying Marketing and International Business with a chosen area of study in Southeast Asia and Oceania and a certificate in Graphic Design. Born and raised in the greater Milwaukee, WI area. Alongside APIDAHMPC, Rachel is also an MSC intern and a chair the Chancellor’s Scholars Sophomore Cohort here on campus. She loves baking, listening to music, and making new friends. If you ever see her around, don’t be afraid to say hello!

Amanda Ong (she/hers) is a second-generation Asian American. Her mother is from Taiwan and her father is from Penang, Malaysia. She was born and raised in Los Angeles, California and is a fourth-year PhD candidate in literary studies. She is a communications graduate intern at the Multicultural Student Center. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, listening to Mitski, and re-watching Gilmore Girls for the 100th time.

Simran (she/her/hers) is a first generation Punjabi-Sikh American and a third year student at UW Madison. She was born and raised in Madison, WI. She grew up with many of her cousins, aunts and uncles, and grandparents living in the same town, making family and Punjabi-Sikh culture a major aspect of her childhood and is heavily influential in who she is today, seen through her involvement in Sikh Student Association. She believes it’s important to remain rooted in one’s culture and to invite change to remain rooted in one’s self.
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This video is our Asian Am 240 final project analyzing the complexity of the Asian American identity beyond the binary idea of Asian versus American. In it, we offer perspectives and experiences regarding dating as well as the feelings that come with being Chinese-American adoptees raised by White families. By shedding light on the intimate, weird, and fun aspects of who we are, we aim to illustrate a well-rounded view of our daily lives as Asian Americans.

CRYSTAL ZHAO

“If we keep trying to fit into the standards they are giving us...[and settling for a seat at the table with no voice]...that [won’t] get us to our end goal of equity”

KODA PARKER

“I feel more like myself, but also a little more insecure about what other people think of me...I still concern myself over whether or not cis-straight white men would find me attractive...I constantly question when it comes to dating...is it because I’m Asian?”

SAM STARKS

“Throughout my life, I never needed to know what my race meant to me as a person because I was just another Asian American...I am slowly learning how I want to take this term [Asian American] back for myself.”
backseat

Manola Inthavong

I breathe in the evening autumn air like a fresh glass of iced tea.
I watch my dad load his plants into the back of our well-loved 2005 Toyota Sienna;
I watch him line them up like music notes on a staff, an organized cacophony creating a harmony of life in the trunk of our minivan.
I watch my dad, a magician, car keys in hand, use his powers to make the trunk close on command.
my dad enters the driver’s seat, my sister and I in toe, and before we even asked he turned on the radio.
the glow of the center counsel illuminated the car as the sun went down and the music turned up.
we smiled, and out came a tune my seven-year-old self knew every word to: Katy Perry’s “Hot N’ Cold”.
my dad sang along too. an immigrant with a GED who knew how to keep a beat but never got the chance to prove it to prove he was a Grammy snub, too.
instead, he took his kids to the elementary school he worked as a custodian at.
one by one, he unloaded his plants into the school hallway for the winter, keeping them thriving all-year round as his kids played in the school gym.
Stained is a poem that describes the fears of immigrant families in the face of racism and injustice exacerbated by American politicians. It aims to illustrate the clear boundaries and barriers that immigrants of color face in the United States as a manifestation of systemic racism, even when immigrants stand up to injustices.

Where the émigré settled was a home to unduly chaos, despicable hatred, and a life of enduring hardships, welcoming of intolerance, blame visibly present, and yet they remained. Persisting through battalion, and with it prejudice, for their loved ones back home, a stain on the immigrant built nation. And somehow, still, cruelty exists, for the cries of justice have made no difference,
How-to: Recipe
Chatpate

“It’s an authentic Nepali snack that is savory and delicious. One of my easy and fast recipes to make whenever I’m hungry and need something quick.”
Rakshya Bhatta

Ingredients
- Wai Wai Noodles (1 packet)
- Puffed Rice (1 cup)
- Lime (3 tablespoons)
- Chat Masala (3 tablespoons)
- Dalmod (1/2 cup)
- Tomato (1 diced)
- Onion (to taste)
- Pepper (to taste)
- Salt (to taste)
- Takis (optional)

Steps:
- Retrieve a large bowl and add all of the ingredients
- Mix well and enjoy!
When I was a child, my grandmother made sukiyaki every Christmas. While my Japanese family is not Christian, we adapted sukiyaki (すき焼き), a winter nabemono (hot pot) dish, for our own Japanese Christmas celebration! It is one of many ways my immigrant grandmother adapted Japanese culture in America, and it reminds me of how lucky I am to have grown up close to my grandmother. Recently, my grandma stopped making sukiyaki for Christmas, and the tradition passed on to my cousins. With the prospect of never tasting my grandma’s sukiyaki again, I attempted to recreate her cooking by combining recipes online with her own instruction. It’s not lost on me that this reflects my journey to find my own Japanese cultural identity as a multiracial gosei Japanese American. But to me, sukiyaki is the quintessential Japanese comfort food. Its hearty, umami flavor tastes like home. Follow this recipe, and serve with friends and family!

**Sukiyaki (すき焼き) Recipe**

Adapted from my grandmother and chef Namiko Hirasawa Chen of Just One Cookbook

### Ingredients

- 2 servings udon noodles (uncooked)
- ½ head of napa cabbage
- 3 negi (green onions)
- 1 package enoki mushrooms
- 8 shiitake mushrooms
- 1 package firm (or extra firm) tofu
- 1 package shirataki noodles (yam noodles, preferably the knot shaped ones!)
- 1 pound very thinly sliced beef (chuck or rib eye)
- 1 tbsp oil to cook the beef
- 1 optional: package chikuwa (grilled fish cake, a type of kamaboko)
- 1 optional: tbsp brown sugar for beef

### Sukiyaki Sauce

- 1 cup sake
- 1 cup mirin
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 cup shoyu (soy sauce)
- 1-1.5 cup dashi to dilute the sauce (as needed)
Cut your napa cabbage, negi, tofu, and beef into medium-size (~2 in.) pieces
Cut off the stem of the shiitake mushrooms
Optional: cut designs into shiitake
Cut off the base of the enoki (~1 in off the bottom)
Combine sake, mirin, sugar, and shoyu in a medium pot and bring to a boil
Boil 1-1.5 cups of water and add dashi
Boil udon noodles for 4-6 minutes, set aside
Heat your large nabe (hot pot) or large pot to a medium heat
Add oil
Brown the beef (~1 min) (optional: sprinkle brown sugar on beef before cooking)
Spoon the sukiyaki sauce onto the beef
Add sukiyaki sauce (dilute as needed with dashi)
Add napa, negi, enoki, shiitake, shirataki, and tofu (optional: chikuwa)
Move ingredients into neat sections with cooking chopsticks
Cover
Bring to a gentle boil (~5-7 minutes)
Simmer for another 5-7 minutes
Add udon
Simmer for 2 minutes
Serve!
_NOAH LAROIA-NGUYEN_

**PRONOUN WORKSHEET BY LAKSHAYDA**

Ask me my

"What you may have noticed that our crew introduced themselves with their name and pronouns. This is a great habit even if you are cisgender to make sure we don’t misgender anyone.

**Pronouns** can help us affirm our gender and feel more comfortable. There is a broad list to choose from, and you can even come up with your own! Here are some examples:

- She/Her
- He/Him
- She/They
- He/They
- She/Her (no preference)
- He/His (no preference)

Would you like to experiment with your pronouns? Fill in the blanks with any you’d like to try out and see how they feel!

Name: ______________________

Subjective (They): __________

Objective (Them): __________

Possessive (Their): __________

 Reflexive (Myself): __________

Top! I meet someone named __________. They have a wonderful pirate and treated ________ crew like funny. They’ve really made quite a reputation for ________ on the Seven Seas Finor ________ and ________ crew.

© LAKSHAYDA

_Noah Laroia-Nguyen_
“During cookouts on Guam, there is always one common side that every household will have, and it is this recipe. It is a symbolic food on Guam, and throughout the Mariana Islands.”

Isabella Christy

Pictured on the right is a photo of Christy’s mother and aunt as children playing under a in by their home in Guam.

Now serving...

2 lbs barbecued chicken thighs, diced
1 cup fresh coconut, grated
1 yellow onion, diced
1/4 cup of lime juice
1 cup chopped green onion
hot peppers (to taste)
salt (to taste)

to enjoy some Kelaguen Mannok
#STOP ASIANHATE

Joey Yamat

THE SPACES IN BETWEEN
“call it what it is”
“they laugh, they judge, they hate”
“when will it end”

These images were taken on the night of March 18th during March for Asian American Lives in Madison. Through them I hope to amplify the voices of the APIDA community.
“Sun Yat-sen Masoleum”

This is a familiar landmark in my parents’ hometown in Nanjing, China. It was challenging to utilize prismacolor pencils to illustrate the warm landscape full of memories. I always loved coming here. There were always an absurd amount of doves everywhere, and the heat curved the air around me, forcing everyone to hide under the shade of the pillars.
“Morning Coffee” was inspired by a song by the same name, by Chevy and Nalba. It’s part one of three out of my song wallpaper series where the same bedroom is visited by different marine friends throughout her listless day, accompanied by her cat. The song had been stuck in my head for forever, and I had to etch it out of my head despite my hand’s pain and hatred of perspectives.
In this photo I am performing a classical fan dance with my Chinese dance troupe back home in Minnesota, CAAM (Chinese American Association of Minnesota) CDT (Chinese Dance Theater). This dance, nicknamed “Spring Rain” in English, is a rite of passage for most dancers in CAAM to learn and perform at least once for outreach events that do not fall inside of our yearly production show. The dance is made for 6-20 dancers with two leads. It is a modernized folk dance with lyrical, ballet, and minor acrobatic influence, with a clever rhapsodic track including use of flutes, vocals, and various string instruments. I performed this at our winter show in 2017 and several outreaches at different locations across Minnesota after that, including the rotunda at the Mall of America. It’s a beautiful dance that I hold very close to my heart.

...IT BRINGS ME BACK TO MY ROOTS
I am apart of SEADO (Southeast Asian Dance Organization) on campus. In this organization, we practice our appreciation for Southeast Asian culture through different dances. This photo was taken after we had filmed out showcase video for a Lao dance. In the photo, we are wearing traditional Lao clothing, the skirt is called sinh and the sash is called pa bieng. When wearing this outfit, it is important to remember to wear the sash on the left shoulder and never the right shoulder because the king would wear the sash on his right shoulder.

*Featuring undergraduates Katie Hardie and Jesibell Philavong.*
I have always been drawn to portraiture as an artistic medium. While I typically do not have time to draw, when I do I find myself drawing faces. There is something fascinating about capturing the dimension in someone’s face with a pencil alone. This drawing is of Japanese British singer, songwriter, and model Rina Sawayama. Through drawing this portrait, I realized that while representation is not everything, it feels pretty damn good to see another queer Japanese person excel in mainstream media. This is my tribute to Rina Sawayama and the work she has done for other queer Japanese people like myself!
What APIDA food are you?

FIRST: it’s date night, what prime campus location are you taking your significant other?
   a. sorry, we’re going off campus!
   b. my apartment
   c. for dinner on state st.
   d. the terrace
   e. i don’t go on dates. i prefer to stay in

SECOND: in summer, you can be caught doing...
   a. working at my new job
   b. chilling in the grass
   c. spending time at the beach. it’s a must
   d. taking time to unwind after the semester
   e. taking summer courses to get ahead

THIRD: my favorite way to celebrate my APIDA heritage is by...
   a. spending time with family
   b. cooking traditional meals
   c. dressing up in traditional clothes
   d. attending APIDA events
   e. creating art reflecting on my identity

FOURTH: you’re planning your next semester schedule. What are you taking?
   a. a billion stem courses
   b. i’m still focused on this semester
   c. an easy science credit to fill out my breadth reqs
   d. an elective to learn about something new
   e. english 100. i still need a comm a

FIFTH: if i had a million dollars, i would...
   a. wait to see what’s worth buying first
   b. buy a big house
   c. go on a vacation
   d. invest and save my money
   e. pay off my student loans

*Disclaimer, this is not to bash on food from any culture but to laugh about the common foods that have gained popularity amongst those outside your culture!
Contributors

Rakshya Bhatta (she/her)
Rakshya Bhatta is a Nepali first year student at UW Madison studying Biochemistry with a certificate in Criminal Justice. She was born in Dhangadhi, Nepal but raised in Kathmandu, Nepal and Sheboygan, WI. She works as a scholarship analyst for the UW Financial Office while also being a part of Matriculate and APIDAHM.

Isabella Christy (she/her)
Bella is a Black, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander sophomore at UW Madison studying nursing and is a scholar of the Center of Educational Opportunity. Bella is Chamorro and was born and raised in Madison, WI. Her mom came to the US from Guam when she was a little girl and since then, her family loves to keep their Chamorro traditions alive and well.

Katie Hardie (she/her)
Katie Hardie was born in Quzhou, Zheijiang, China and grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a child, she was lucky to have a strong Chinese community through dance, where she was able to see many of the girls she was adopted with and whom she is best friends. Besides dance, she plays tennis, piano, and writes and make infographics for one of UW’s school papers, the Badger Herald. Coming to terms with accepting her identity—being Chinese, being adopted, and being in a white family—happened gradually over the course of her life: “Now that I have accepted all three, I can say the biggest thing that helped me along the way was knowing others in my exact position and going through it together. Having the APIDA HM committee and the rest of the MSC has helped me gain even more pride in my culture, and I am so happy to celebrating it this month.”

Kimberly Inthavong (she/her)
Kim is a UW Madison alumni Class of 2020. Outside of her day job as a software developer, she often illustrates portraits and fantasy inspired by the videogames she plays.
Noah Laroia-Nguyen (they/them)
Noah Laroia-Nguyen is an artist, scribbler, maker, child of immigrants and refugees, Indian, Vietnamese, Brown, Mixed, curry creator, holder of many names, storyteller, cook, bulk mooncake buyer, queer, nonbinary trans, former christisan, future educator, current procrastinator, semitranslator, tea overdrinker, dyslexic, and perpetually in between the lines. They work in community based art practices of printmaking, glass, and comics. Their work explores the intersections of identity, the role of place in belonging, and generational trauma.

Rianna Mukherjee (she/her)
Rianna Mukherjee, a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is an Indian-American political advocate planning to pursue a career in public policy and law. As the daughter and granddaughter of Indian immigrants, Mukherjee is committed to increasing equity in her communities. She currently serves as the Chair of the College Democrats of UW-Madison and has previously held leadership positions in organizations such as the High School Democrats of America and March For Our Lives. Mukherjee has served as an intern in Senator Elizabeth Warren’s Boston Office and has dedicated her life to progressive activism.

Jesibell Philavong (she/her)
Jesibell Philavong is Lao American woman and first-generation second year student at UW Madison from South Elgin, Illinois. Growing up, she learned to appreciate her culture by learning how to Lao dance.

Emily Ren (she/her)
Emily Ren is a Chinese-American first year student studying Biology and Global Health at UW Madison spends her free time as a hobbyist artist from Rochester, MN
Contributors

Daniel Sanji (he/him)

Daniel Sanji (he/him/his) is a queer multiracial gosei (fifth-generation) Japanese American student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was born and raised in Bartlett, Illinois, a small suburb of Chicago, near several Japanese marketplaces, so he has always connected to his culture through Japanese food! While his family has called many places “home”—the north side of Chicago, the Japanese American concentration camps in Arkansas, Los Angeles, and Wakayama-ken, Japan—food is a constant in the Sanji family!

Joey Quirino Yamat (he/him)

Joey is a first generation Filipino American second year at UW Madison from Milwaukee, WI. Joey is studying biology on a pre-med track.

Koda Parker (they/them)

Samantha Starks (she/her)

Crystal Zhao (she/her)

“We are three Chinese American college students who all grew up in predominantly White communities. By answering questions and analyzing different themes that relate to race, sexuality, shame, and college life, we hoped to dismantle structural stereotypes and showcase authentic experiences of young Asian Americans living in the Midwest in 2020.”

Sam is a second year studying Mathematical Economics and Gender and Women’s Studies and pursuing a certificate in Studio Art at UW Madison. She is the Co-Director for Moda Magazine and loves to run in her free time. Being a transracial adoptee, this project has been crucial for her as she started to redefine what her Asian identity means to herself.

Crystal is a second year student studying Political Science and Gender and Women’s Studies with certificates in Asian American Studies and African Studies. She is also involved in ASM and Sigma Lamda Gamma National Sorority Inc. She is passionate about social justice issues and advocating for equity on campus.
QUIZ RESULTS

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY A’s, YOU ARE EGGROLLS/LUMPIA!
You’re a true classic. Like the dish, you make an appearance at every meal—or everywhere.
You know when you’re needed but you’re not overpowering.

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY B’s, YOU ARE SPAM AND RICE!
You’re the dish of our childhood dreams. Spam and rice is a meal that takes you back home
and you are family-focused individual.

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY C’s, YOU ARE BUBBLE TEA!
You’re everyone’s favorite person and so what if you like things a little more luxurious. I’ll take
another scoop of boba please.

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY D’s, YOU ARE DUMPLINGS.
You’re versatile and you know it. There are so many types of dumplings, like gyozas and
mamos. Like you, they’re multifaceted.

IF YOU ANSWERED MOSTLY E’s, YOU ARE CHICKEN TIKKI MASALA.
You like the basics; you stick to what you know. Don’t be afraid to branch out and experiment!
There’s a whole world waiting for you to discover it.