

2020-2021 AWARD RECIPIENTS



FACULTY AWARDS



Professor Anna S. Lau

Departments of Psychology & Asian American Studies

Patrick & Lily Okura Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health

RESEARCH PROJECT: Offsetting the Costs of Resilience among Asian American Youth Striving in the Context of Disadvantage



Professor Ninez Ponce

Fielding School of Public Health - Department of Health Policy and Management

Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS



Stephanie Hsin-Tien Yu

PhD Psychology

Patrick & Lily Okura Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health

RESEARCH PROJECT: Academic-Community Partnership: Adapting the Family Intervention for Suicide Prevention in Schools for Asian Pacific American Youth



Nadeeka Karunaratne

PhD Education - Higher Education & Organizational Change

Martha Ogata Research Grant to Study Domestic Violence and Abuse in Asian Pacific American Communities

RESEARCH PROJECT: Creating a Healing Space for South Asian Survivors of Campus Interpersonal Violence: A Participatory Design Research Project



Tamar Kodish

PhD Clinical Psychology

Patrick & Lily Okura Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health

RESEARCH PROJECT: Digital Mental Health Interventions for College Students of Color: Understanding Uptake and Enhancing Engagement among Asian American Students



Sarah Lautaha Soakai

PhD Urban Planning

Patrick & Lily Okura Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health

RESEARCH PROJECT: The Potential Opportunities and Challenges of Faith Institutions in Providing Mental Health Services: Examining Tongan Latter Day Saint Wards in Los Angeles



Emily Mun

MA Asian American Studies

Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship

RESEARCH PROJECT: Cultural Performance, Pilipino Cultural Nights, and Identity Formation

Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: How to link Ethnic Studies and Art History with the Curatorial Process

INTERNSHIP SITE: Japanese American National Museum



Hannah Joo

MA Asian American Studies & Social Welfare

21st Century Graduate Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: AAS Collective Memories Project

INTERNSHIP SITE: AASC and Center for Ethnocommunications

Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: The Role of Arts and Culture in Building Coalition for Japanese and Asian Americans in Los Angeles

INTERNSHIP SITE: Japanese American Cultural and Community Center



Daniel Luu

MA Urban Planning

George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: Land Acquisition for
Community Design

INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center

Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: How to Acquire Land for
Community-centric Design

INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center



Lauren Higa

MA Asian American Studies
& Social Welfare

Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: Okinawa Association of
America History Committee & Book

INTERNSHIP SITE: Okinawa Association of
America



Sharon Lau

MA Asian American Studies
& Social Welfare

Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: Changing Tide Mental
Health Conference

INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center



Emika Otera Kranz

MA Asian American Studies & Public
Health - Community Health Sciences

George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: Japanese American
Intergenerational Trauma and
Community-Relevant Health

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: The Fabric of Culture
and Health in Asian America:
Foundational Concepts and History

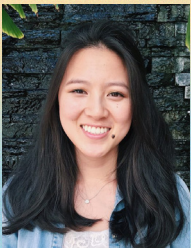


Erin Manalo-Pedro

PhD Public Health –
Community Health Sciences

Rose Eng Chin and Helen Wong Eng Fellowship

RESEARCH PROJECT: The Context of
the Struggle: Examining Immigration
Enforcement's Influence on the Mental
Health of AAPI Female Students Who are
Undocumented



Christie Yamasaki

MA Asian American Studies
& East Asian Studies

George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: An Analysis of Japanese
American and Vietnamese American
Identity Formation Through Food and
Foodways

Hiram Wheeler Edwards Best Paper Scholarship for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans

PAPER TITLE: Putting it Together: "From
Jap to Japanese - A Period in American
History"



Ashelee Yang

PhD Sociology

Pearl Wang Fellowship

RESEARCH PROJECT: The Rising of Chinese
Conservatism in the Trump Era Political
Preferences Leading to the 2020 U.S.
Presidential Election



Siyue Lena Wang

MA Education, Social Science &
Comparative Education, Race & Ethnicity
Specialization

Pearl Wang Fellowship

RESEARCH PROJECT: The Overlooked
Minorities: Undocumented Asian and
Pacific Islander Students in Higher
Education



Kathleen Corpuz

MA Asian American Studies
& Public Health

George & Lily Kagawa Award for AAPI Health Research Internship

RESEARCH PROJECT: Empowering Kalihi
through Settler Allyship

INTERNSHIP SITE: Kokua Kalihi Valley
(KKV) Comprehensive Family Services
& University of Hawai'i at Manōa Office
of Public Health Studies PUSO research
group

Rose Eng Chin and Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: The Half Has Never Been Told:
Decolonizing Our History, Our Knowledge,
and Our Mind



Emory Johnson

MFA Film & Television –
Directing/Production/Documentary

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship

RESEARCH PROJECT: “F1-100”: an
Experimental Documentary Film Project

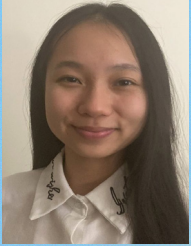


Zheyu Liang

MFA Film & Television –
Directing/Production

Pearl Wang Fellowship

RESEARCH PROJECT: Tighrope Walking



Ruo Lan Qiu

MS Nursing

Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Best Paper Scholarship

RESEARCH PROJECT: From Bad to
Benevolent: Chinese Characters in Film
Before and After World War II and their
Impact on Chinese Immigrants



Harleen Kaur

PhD Sociology

Ben and Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: The Specter of Khalistan:
Hauntings of Nation-State Belonging



Tiffany Wang

MA Social Welfare –
Child and Family Well-Being

Tsugio and Miyoko Nakanishi Best Paper Scholarship in Asian American Literature and Culture

PAPER TITLE: Without Words

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS



Jessica Pham

Major in Asian American Studies,
Minor in Global Health

21st Century Undergraduate Internship

INTERNSHIP SITE: Asian American
Studies Center - COVID-19 Multilingual
Resource Hub

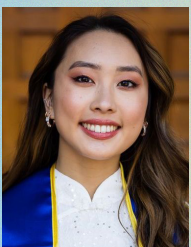


Yoshino Goto

Major in Cognitive Science - Computing,
Minor in Asian American Studies

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: Admission Impossible? –
Asian Americans and the Future of
Affirmative Action in College Admissions



Sharon Yuen

Major in Asian American Studies,
Minor in Global Health

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: When I Look into the Mirror



Ryan Moon

Major in Life Science

Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: The Peril of the Model Minority

Hiram Wheeler Edwards Best Paper Scholarship for the Study of World War II Internment Camps & Japanese Americans

PAPER TITLE: Remember Your Past



Haley Kaiulani Nakawatase

Major in Psychobiology

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: Exhibition Critique of Under a Mushroom Cloud: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the Atomic Bomb



Gabriel Sanchez

Major in Political Science,
Minor in Asian American Studies

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: Lack of Intersectionality in Law for Asian Americans



Yukino Torrey

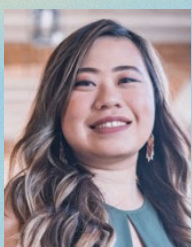
Major in Asian American Studies,
Minor in Public Affairs

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: Shin Isseis and Japanese Language Schools Role in Identity Formation

Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: Building Solidarity Within and Beyond the Japanese American Community



Ngoc Thi Hong Nguyen

Majors in International Development Studies, Sociology & Asian American Studies

Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: Resilience in Captivity: Lessons from Japanese Internment Camp

George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship

ESSAY TITLE: Caring for Elders & Intern with Thai Community Development Corporation & Nikkei Progressives

INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center & Japanese American Cultural & Community Center

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: SEA-zing the Opportunity to Advocate and Organize: The Positionality of Southeast Asian Student Conference for Advocacy (joint essay)



Kara Justeson

Major in Human Biology and Society,
Minors in Asian American Studies & Public Health

John Kubota Grant in Japanese American Studies

PROPOSAL TITLE: Multicultural Health Education and Policy



Jason Vu

Majors in Global Studies & Asian American Studies, Minor in Linguistics

Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: Rising as One: Reflections on Solidarity

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: SEA-zing the Opportunity to Advocate and Organize: The Positionality of Southeast Asian Student Conference for Advocacy (joint essay)



Kristi Mai

Major in Asian American Studies,
Minors in History & Labor Studies

Yuen Fong & Lew Oy Toy Family Internship in Chinese American Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: Chinese American Museum



Elizabeth Lixing Cannella

Major in Pre-Psychology

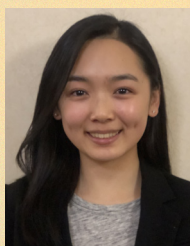
Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



Nina Mikyla-Kumiko Williams

Major in Psychology

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



Cindy Qi

Major in Pre-Psychobiology

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



Angela Li

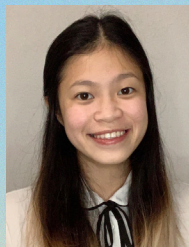
Majors in Political Science &
Asian American Studies

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: Unseen and Unforgiving:
Massage Brothels and the Sex Trafficking
of Chinese Women

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Best Paper Scholarship in Asian American Literature & Culture

PAPER TITLE: Made by Yang Chow for
America: Chinese American Food in Los
Angeles



Kelly Lin

Major in Biology

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



Vincent Sonny Leong

Major in Biochemistry

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



Justin Suarez

Major in International Development
Studies, Minors in Digital Humanities &
Asian American Studies

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: SEA-zing the Opportunity to
Advocate and Organize: The Positionality
of Southeast Asian Student Conference for
Advocacy (joint essay)



Josephine Stel Flores

Majors in Psychology &
Asian American Studies

Nhat Tran M.D. Scholarship

ESSAY TITLE: Power to the People
Because of the People

George and Lily Kagawa Award for Asian American & Pacific Islander Health Research Internship

INTERNSHIP SITE: To be determined



Grace Lee

Major in Sociology

George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship

ESSAY TITLE: Our Elders Deserve More
INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center



Ryan Neis

Major in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution,
Minor in Asian American Studies

Philip Vera Cruz Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: The American Call Center
Industry

Royal Morales Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: Call Centers: An American
Economic Borderland



Kristi Mai

Major in Asian American Studies,
Minors in History & Labor Studies

Yuen Fong & Lew Oy Toy Family Internship in Chinese American Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: Chinese American
Museum



Ashley Tran

Major in Anthropology

Ben and Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

PAPER TITLE: The Founding of Asian
American Studies: A Counter-Reaction to
the Model Minority Myth

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