Asian American Cultural Center

Senior Appreciation Week

Class of 2020

The Asian American Cultural Center welcomes you to our first Senior Appreciation Week. This week honors the accomplishments of our graduating seniors, student leaders, and other who have supported the center.
Senior Banquet Program

Welcome from the Coordinators
Maggie Cheung, Sunny Sarker, Shafina Chowdhury, Kulnoor Saini, and Sam Nguyen

Day 1 (4.27): SBC Introduction to the Week
From The Senior Banquet Committee

Day 2(4/28): Scholarship Winners
Rachel Wada & Sheila Kucko

Day 3(4/29): Pro Staff Message
Angela Rola, Merz Lim, Rachel Wada, & Sheila Kucko

Day 4(4/30): Senior Speeches

Day 5 (5/1): Senior Photo Video
From Kulnoor Saini

Whole Week
Instagram post from seniors

Asian/Asian American Mentoring Program

Since 2011, the Asian American Cultural Center has offered the Asian/Asian-American Mentoring Program Scholarships to honor the mentor and mentee of the year. Candidates for the scholarships are nominated by mentors or mentees, faculty, or staff members based on academic success, involvement at the Asian American Cultural Center, and demonstrated potential for leadership roles. A selection committee comprised of the AMP Coordinators and selected faculty and/or staff review the nominations.
Established in 2012 through an initial gift from the Slate Family: George, Laurel, Victoria (07’), and Rebecchah (11’), these scholarships recognize a UConn undergraduate’s active involvement with Asian American Cultural Center Programs, demonstrated leadership in Asian/Asian American student organizations, and/or demonstrated involvement in an Asian American initiative, research project or community cause within the State of Connecticut. The $1000.00 scholarships are renewable for 4 years or until undergraduate graduation, but may extend to graduate studies at UConn.
**Tavey Chang**

**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers  
**Degree(s):** Civil Engineering

**How have you grown since freshman year?** I have grown so much. I used to not know much about passion until I got involved at the organizations here at UConn. I joined KPL when I was a freshman. Since then, I pushed myself outside of my comfort zone in multiple ways. I took on many leadership positions and these enabled me to apply and learn new skills both professionally and personally. Besides organizations, I have learned what it is like to balance classes, extracurriculars and a social life. I feel like I have done a lot to get to know the people here at UConn and I look forward to the relationships I’ll be able to keep!

**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?** Pulling all-nighters with my friends studying for exams. It sounds painful (it is) but we have had such fun times goofing around during study breaks!

**What/Who will you miss most?** I will miss my friends the most because they are the ones who really made me feel so comfortable here at UConn.

**Campus Involvements:** Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., KConn, AMP

**Favorite AsACC moment:** When I sang the Alma Mater with three of my friends for the Fall 2019 Homecoming Pageant and won first place for AsACC!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had watched the sunrise at Horsebarn Hill with friends! I'm always too exhausted to go.

What does "home" mean to you? I believe "home" is where the people closest to you are.

**Favorite quote:** "I don't think anyone is born knowing the reason why they're here. It's just something you have to find as you go along." - Tohru Honda

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**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers  
**Degree(s):** Allied Health Sciences-Minors: Chemistry, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Molecular and Cell Biology

**How have you grown since freshman year?** Taller, I think. I've also made a lot of fantastic life-long friends.

**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?** Winning Homecoming 2019 with AsACC!

**What/Who will you miss most?** All my friends here who have yet to graduate...also low-key dining hall food

**Campus Involvements:** UConn Wushu; Asian Nite, Homecoming

**Favorite AsACC moment:** Winning homecoming with Avatar!!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I stepped on that seal.

What does "home" mean to you? A loving place

**Favorite quote:** As Tacita Dean put it, "Color is a fiction of light."

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**Amy Chen**

**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers  
**Degree(s):** Marketing

**How have you grown since freshman year?** Well, unfortunately not in height. However, I became the president of two RSOs on campus, founded a colony of Kappa Phi Gamma Sorority, Inc., interned at Prudent Financial, and have acquired a job at Pratt and Whitney before the end of the semester. I am most proud of developing the soft skills, and organizational skills, that I possess today to help others and my community.

**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?** Proudly intaking a line of brilliant young women into our organization and watching them grow.

**What/Who will you miss most?** My sorority family, my close friends from home, and everyone who really made my college years memorable and exciting!

**Campus Involvements:** Karate Club, Kappa Phi Gamma Sorority, Inc., and PAC(miss y'all and our discussions!)

**Favorite AsACC moment:** Building paper towers and failing miserably/Painting the small avatar clans for homecoming!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Gone to the dairy bar - yes. I wish this wasn't true

What does "home" mean to you? Being surrounded by accepting and loving individuals, by blood or not, and feeling 100% safe to be genuine and honest. Sticking true to what beliefs, cultures, and morals you live by alongside others.

**Favorite quote:** Que será, será - Whatever will be, will be.

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**Jessica Co**

**Pronoun:** He/Him/His  
**Degree(s):** Higher Education & Student Affairs

**How have you grown since freshman year?** Through working at the Rainbow Center and with the other cultural centers at UConn, I have learned more about myself and my own identity. I am more confident in myself and more understanding for others.

**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?** Presenting our findings from the assessment project to AsACC students/staff as well as on Assessment Day.

**What/Who will you miss most?** All of the staff at the cultural centers, my professors in the HESA program, and my amazing cohort. And I have to mention my amazing student staff at the Rainbow Center.

**Campus Involvements:** AsACC Assessment Project, Rainbow Center Graduate Assistant, CLAS Summer Orientation,ACES Practicum

**Favorite AsACC moment:** Getting to hear from several AsACC students about their experiences in AsACC as a part of my team’s assessment project

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had been able to attend Asian Nite

What does "home" mean to you? Comfort, safety, friendship, food, and love.

**Favorite quote:** "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." - Audre Lorde

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**Steven Feldman**

**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers  
**Degree(s):** Civil Engineering

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Chandler Gabagat

Pronoun: He/Him/His  
Degree(s): Accounting, Economics  
How have you grown since freshman year? By approximately 2-3 centimeters. The last 4 years have given me the chance to pick a future career path, develop leadership skills, connect with individuals from many different backgrounds and walks of life, explore new hobbies, and find my own identity outside of home. UConn has taken me on a roller coaster of extreme ups and downs that have widened my perspective on life and prepared me for what is to come after college.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Hosting FIND Dialogue 2018 with UConn FASA. 

What/Who will you miss most? I’ll 100% miss the people the most. There are so many communities within UConn that create a sense of belonging for thousands of people. The bonds that you create in 4 years may last a lifetime.

Campus Involvements: FASA, PAC, Accounting Society, Pi Kappa Phi, Intramural Basketball  
Favorite AsACC moment: Performing and watching Asian Nite every year. It’s so much fun watching all of the cultural performances and watching AsACC orgs getting the chance to showcase their diverse talents.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I checked out professional/business fraternities.  

What does "home" mean to you? For me, home is not always a fixed location but can be anywhere I am safe and comfortable being myself. Home is where my homies are at.

Favorite quote: Everything tastes nice with a bowl of rice #lyktv

Annie Gao

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers  
Degree(s): Major: Chemical Engineering, Minor: Computer Science  
How have you grown since freshman year? I have a stronger sense of my own identity (though it will be a continuous journey).

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Going up to the roof at the PhB building and seeing the UConn skyline (it was beautiful by the way)

What/Who will you miss most? Having all my friends together in one place.

Campus Involvements: USA  
Favorite AsACC moment: Seeing everyone in the community come together for the 25th anniversary. (It was the most packed I’ve seen the center in my four years here!)

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had branched out more and got more comfortable being uncomfortable.

What does "home" mean to you? Wherever my friends and family are.

Favorite quote: “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” - Wayne Gretzky” Michael Scott” - Annie Gao

Austin Gao

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers  
Degree(s): Major: Allied Health Sciences  
Minor: English  
How have you grown since freshman year? I’ve learned to step more out of my comfort zone without doubting myself or my capabilities. And letting myself be okay with making mistakes as long as I learn from it.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? The moment that I found the orgs/clubs and communities that I’ve been lucky enough to be a part of because they were the reason that helped me grow into the person I am today.

What/Who will you miss most? The people and the communities that made UConn the home that it was for me.

Campus Involvements: FASA, Alpha Epsilon Phi, KUBE, Child Development Labs, American Medical Women’s Association, The Odyssey Online, Jumpstart, Husky Ambassador  
Favorite AsACC moment: Asian Nite and AsACC winning homecoming representation.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Go on an alternative break trip/study abroad !

What does "home" mean to you? For me, home is more of the people, the memories, and the experiences that make up the place. I don’t define home by physically but rather, the intangible that comes along with it.

Favorite quote: “Sometimes all you need is 20 seconds of insane courage”

Franches Garay

Pronoun: He/Him/His  
Degree(s): Communications and Psychology  
How have you grown since freshman year? Physically, I feel like I have gained about 15 pounds since freshman year. Mentally, my perspective and view of the world has changed a lot. More than ever, I feel like I’m more aware of my surroundings and I can understand, respect, and listen to other people’s opinions.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? The night I emceed for Asian Nite. The night before was really stressful but seeing my dad the night of the show really made it for me. I cried.

What/Who will you miss most? I’ll miss a lot of people. All of you in UConn 2020, all of you are such characters (including me). All of you at SEASAW, you are something else. VSA peeps, KUBE leaders, ASACC staff, I’ll miss you!

Campus Involvements: KUBE, Asian Nite Emcee, #3 of Dike & the Boiz  
Favorite AsACC moment: Every moment! Just being able to walk into the center and say hi to so many friendly faces.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I guess one thing that has always been on my mind is UConn Skydiving club’s yearly tandem skydiving package.

What does "home" mean to you? To me, Home has never been a physical place: I was moved a couple of times when I was younger so it never mattered exactly “where” I was if I was still with the people I love. But, I have to say I will miss ASACC and its lovely green walls.

Favorite quote: “If you don’t take risks, you can’t create a future” - Monkey D. Luffy
Elizabeth George

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Elementary Education

How have you grown since freshman year? My experiences at UConn have pushed me beyond my limits. I have become a strong, driven, and resilient individual. I have grown personally, academically, and professionally. Through the organizations I joined, I gained leadership skills and interpersonal competence. I met people who have pushed me out of my comfort zone and made me a better person. My mentors inspired me and introduced me to many new opportunities that I was able to get involved in and then become a mentor to other people.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Going to a bid competition at the University of Iowa with Husky Hungama.

What/Who will you miss most? Husky Hungama. They've become my family and I am going to miss being able to see them all the time.

Campus involvements: Vice President of Husky Hungama, Program Director of Natchaug Tutoring through Community Outreach, Resident Assistant

Favorite AsACC moment: Asian Nile

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: HuskyThon

What does "home" mean to you? Home means a place where I feel completely myself and happy. A place where I can always go back to for comfort.

Favorite quote: "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth" -Muhammad Ali

Shalyn Hopley

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Higher Education and Student Affairs

How have you grown since freshman year? I feel incredibly comfortable bringing my full self to what I do and the people I am with.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Nights hanging out watching trash tv with my friends.

What/Who will you miss most? My cohort.

Campus involvements: AsACC HESA Assessment Team

Favorite AsACC moment: I loved doing the Affinity Friends event for grad students of color in AsACC in the fall. I was so happy to see so many grads come to the event.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Pushed more boundaries

What does "home" mean to you? Home is the space where my people are, the feeling of being part of something

Juliet Gonzalez

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Biological Sciences, Spanish

How have you grown since freshman year?

I've become more self-assertive. Being an extremely timid person prior to University, I still consider myself to be very soft-spoken by nature- but I've developed the self-confidence necessary to make myself heard when I know it's for the better/for something I am passionate about.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? My first dance competition with my team- I was never a competitive dancer prior to joining a dance team at UConn, so I was absolutely wrecked with nerves; but I loved performing with my team!

What/Who will you miss most? I will miss the accessibility to all of the friends I have made at UConn.

Campus involvements: ENCORE, HOLA, Ex Dancers, Public Health House, MFWC UConn Health

Favorite AsACC moment: Meeting all my AMP mentees for the first time! I love the nervous excitement that culminates up until the end of the summer training program- all of our work finally leads up to that moment! I'll always remember my first encounters with my mentees, which have led to some of my closest friendships at UConn.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Gone to more of AsACC student organizations' food fundraisers!

What does "home" mean to you? I feel most at home with those whom I can be most authentic around. I love the comfort and feeling of "belonging" that the company of loved ones provides.

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Animal Science
How have you grown since freshman year? Since freshman year, I’ve become much more independent, more open to sharing my culture with others, and more comfortable with being alone.
What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Moving in and living in an on-campus apartment with my roommate.
What/Who will you miss most? Horsebarn Hill and its residents ;), the Dairy Bar, my mentees (Vinh, Mehak, Ngen, Allison, and Willow), my roommate Alisia <3, Sueing, and AMP
Campus Involvements: Pre-Vet Club, AMP, Animal Science LC, Paws and Claws
Favorite AsACC moment: Lip Sync Battle 2019
One thing you wish you had done at UConn:
Participated more in homecoming with AsACC!
What does "home" mean to you? Home is a place where I can relax, be myself, and chat with my loved ones.
Favorite quote: "We’re walking a pathway that is so unique to us. It’s so hard to compare my pathway to other people." - Liah Yoo

Taylor Hurlburt

Callista Huang

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Major: Human Development and Family Sciences. Minor: Political Sciences
How have you grown since freshman year? I have grown in being more open and outgoing. I use to struggle with doing new things but since freshman year I have gotten adventurous and learned how not to let people tell me how to live.
What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Participating in various different events with AsACC and cannot wait to participate in HUSKYTHON 2020 with Team AsACC
What/Who will you miss most? AsACC professional staff: Going to miss sitting on Sheila’s ottoman and talking to her, going to miss bothering merz, and Angela is AMAZING.
Campus Involvements: UCONN Storrs, HAPA, MIXED (soon when I am free)
Favorite AsACC moment: AsACC Huskython, Drum Tao and Asian Nite
One thing you wish you had done at UConn:
Still have time to get more done
What does "home" mean to you? Where you are totally comfortable to be who you are and with people who make you happy
Favorite quote: When is payday?

Nicole Jain

Pronoun: He/His/Him
Degree(s): Finance
How have you grown since freshman year? I have found the ability to cope with a lot of situations in my life as I have grown from a freshman to a senior. I have seen myself grow into the man I needed to be over the course of the last 4 years and I am very grateful for the opportunities that have fallen my way.
What is your most memorable moment at UConn? My most memorable moment at UConn is joining PCUC.
What/Who will you miss most? I will all of my friends the most.
Campus Involvements: Storrs/AsACC/PCUC
Favorite AsACC moment: 2019 Homecoming
One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Be more involved early on in my college career
What does "home" mean to you? Family
Favorite quote: If you’ve never seen the bottom, you’ll never see the top
Greta Johnson

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Major: Physiology and Neurobiology Minor: Psychology and Neuroscience

How have you grown since freshman year? Since freshman year, I have been exposed to so many new experiences, diverse groups of people, and places, that I have gotten the chance to truly grow, broaden my horizons and prosper. I have learned problem solving skills in a group setting, learned time management skills and understood how to truly be a well rounded person. I am thankful to the opportunities that UConn has given me to develop into the person I am today.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? My most memorable moment at UConn is Kappa Phi Gamma’s semesterly Presents Ceremonies - it is such a light-hearted and fun event to attend that brings the community together!

What/Who will you miss most? I will definitely miss the camaraderie I saw at UConn amongst AsACC, OFSL, and the students. The proximity of having everyone on campus and the support everyone gives each other is so heartwarming!

Campus Involvements: Kappa Phi Gamma Sorority Inc.
Favorite AsACC moment: All the large events student groups host, and seeing the community come out and support them unconditionally!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I explored my options earlier in undergrad about what sorts of resources are available on campus and put myself out there earlier in undergrad.

What does “home” mean to you? Home is where you can unceasingly be yourself without fear of judgement.

Favorite quote: Romans 8:31 "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Jennifer Luo

Pronoun: She/Hers/Her
Degree(s): Communications

How have you grown since freshman year? Physically: I’ve grown an inch. Mentally: I’ve vibed out and learnt how to take everything with a grain of salt.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Becoming a Sister of Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

What/Who will you miss most? the breakfast sandwiches in the Union

Campus Involvements: Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., VSA, AMP

Favorite AsACC moment: AsACC’s Lipsync performance during Homecoming 2018

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Went to a basketball game

What does “home” mean to you? Home is where the people you care the most about are. You can leave and disappear for a while but come back with welcoming arms.

Favorite quote: “If it makes you nervous- you’re doing it right.” – Childish Gambino

Christian Marquez

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Molecular Cell Biology, Anthropology, Spanish

How have you grown since freshman year? I have become more confident and comfortable with myself. I have learned to try new things and step out of my comfort zone.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? During my sophomore year, my friends and I went up to Horsebarn Hill to watch the sunset and play frisbee. It's a memory that I hold very dear because everything felt so happy and carefree.

What/Who will you miss most? Being able to meet and spend time with so many people so easily.

Campus Involvements: KUBE

Favorite AsACC moment: I really enjoyed last semester’s holiday party because I was surrounded by so many dedicated, positive people. I loved looking through scrapbook pages and exchanging presents because it made the environment very cheerful and lively.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had started working at AsACC earlier! Everyone is so welcoming, and I love being a part of this community.

What does “home” mean to you? Home means my parents’ house in Glastonbury. I grew up there and it always makes me feel relaxed and at ease when I go back.

Favorite quote: “We are such stuff As dreams are made on; and our little life is rounded with a sleep.”

Pronoun: He/Him/His
Degree(s): Major: Allied Health Sciences Minors: Political Science, Biological Sciences

How have you grown since freshman year? I’ve been successfully turned my life around in a full 180, and now I’m proud to be where I am, giving back to others and serving the community around me.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? HuskyTHON 2016, I raised the most money out of my chapter for a cause that strikes close to home, AND got a sprained ankle while celebrating in the last 30 seconds of the marathon. AFTK.

What/Who will you miss most? I’ll miss seeing everyone, especially the friends I’ve met through my learning community and FASA.

Campus Involvements: NextGen Residence Hall, LC Executive Council, Pre-PA club, Pi Kappa Phi, FIND, Inc.

Favorite AsACC Moment: Back to back homecoming king for ASACC also love going to asian nights

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Double majoring and going to 1 ton sundae!

What does “home” mean to you? Home is where I’m surrounded by people that I love, being myself, happy and content with life.

Favorite Quote: If you stand for nothing, you’ll fall for anything. -Alexander Hamilton

Kanika Malani
**Josie McCormick**

**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers  
**Degree(s):** Psychology, Molecular and Cell Biology  
**How have you grown since freshman year?** I've definitely grown in my leadership skills, and have learned to branch out into the community. I've spent a lot of time focusing on things besides academics. I also think I've made so many friends in diverse communities at UConn through working at AsACC, research and studying abroad.  
**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?** I was at horsebarn hill with my roommates when it started raining. We ran to my car in the rain. Once we got in the car we drove through campus blasting Beyonce  
**What/Who will you miss most?** AsACC staff (special shoutout to AMP Coords and pro-staff). Also, the Student Union to be honest  
**Campus Involvement:** AMP mentor/coordinator, Participant and Trip Director for Alt Breaks in CO, Director for UConn Model United Nations Conference, Delegate for Travel Model UN, research at UCHC and then various PSYCH labs  
**Favorite AsACC moment:** The holiday party - especially when we got the deck of cards and AMP took a staff pic  
**One thing you wish you had done at UConn:** Sunset yoga or sunbathing!!  
**What does “home” mean to you?** Home is wherever the people you love and admire are.  
**Favorite quote:** “If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet...There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.” - Fred Rogers

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**Sarah Moore**

**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers  
**Degree(s):** Human Development and Family Studies  
**How have you grown since freshman year?** I think I am a much more outgoing person since freshman year. I am much more able to put myself out there than I was in the past.  
**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?** Sledding on horsebarn hill.  
**What/Who will you miss most?** All of the larger events that groups in AsAAC throw. I have a lot of good memories of formal nights and festivals thrown by different clubs.  
**Campus Involvements:** HAPA, JSA and Mixed.  
**Favorite AsACC moment:** Performing in Asian Nite  
**One thing you wish you had done at UConn:** Gone on more hikes.  
**What does “home” mean to you?** Having people around you that you always feel comfortable with.  
**Favorite quote:** “Half of the world is composed of people who have something to say and can’t, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.” -Robert Frost

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**Akriti Mishra**

**Pronoun:** She, Her, Hers  
**Degree(s):** Major: Allied Health Sciences, Minor: Chinese  
**How have you grown since freshman year?** By sleeping, may have grown an inch  
**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?** Sledding down Horsebarn Hill  
**What/Who will you miss most?** The China Care kids  
**Campus Involvements:** China Care, Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.  
**Favorite AsACC moment:** Every moment :)  
**One thing you wish you had done at UConn:** Go to class  
**What does “home” mean to you?** AsACC  
**Favorite quote:** “That’s what” -She

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**Arun Narikatte**

**Pronoun:** He/Him/His  
**Degree(s):** Molecular and Cellular Biology / Neuroscience  
**How have you grown since freshman year?** I have grown confident in communication skills to the point that I feel excited to meet and talk to new people, something that I would completely avoid in high school. I’ve made many genuine friends and colleagues and learned that you need a family away from home to feel supported and encouraged.  
**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?** Walking into the first meeting of this club that I started (really out of a whim) and seeing it so crowded we had to steal chairs from the other rooms in the union.  
**What/Who will you miss most?** Taking classes outside my major/focus and hanging out with my Buckley/Shippee RA staff.  
**Campus Involvements:** Delta Epsilon Psi Fraternity, Inc.  
**Favorite AsACC moment:** PA CSigiving  
**One thing you wish you had done at UConn:** Go to more free events (Late night, speakers, shows, etc.)  
**What does “home” mean to you?** Where my second family is  
**Favorite quote:** Everyone you meet and talk to is like adding another story to the storybook that is your life - Kyle Van Elten, Intervarsity Team Leader
Pronoun: He/Him/His
Degree(s): Major: Marketing Minor: Analytics

How have you grown since freshman year? I have learned a lot about what it means to take control of my life and to embrace who I really am. Life is too short to wish that we did/were something else, and because of that same reason, I’ve learned to be grateful for all that I do have at the same time.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Performing at Lip Sync 2019. Being apart of one of UConn’s biggest events of the year while contributing to AsACC’s second Homecoming win

What/Who will you miss most? My CUSA family and the community staff at AsACC. I’ve met some of the most passionate and hard-working people all in one place.

Campus Involvements: CUSA, UConn Wushu, VSA

Favorite AsACC moment: My very first Asian Nite in 2019. Being both a performer an audience member really allowed me to give and experience the love and support that this community has to offer.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: HuskyTHON!

What does "home" mean to you? To me, "home" - whether by a physical place or by the people you’re surrounded by - is any place that makes you feel like you can truly be yourself and be comfortable with who you are.

Favorite quote: "Life’s simple. You make choices and you don’t look back." - Han, The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift

Elizabeth Nguyen

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Biological Sciences

How have you grown since freshman year? Gained more confidence advocating for myself.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Transitioning into UConn my freshman year through a summer program called Student Support Services (SSS).

What/Who will you miss most? Late night studying, spontaneous trips for food, and being at one place on campus with friends.

Campus Involvements: Kube, UConn Surya, AsACC Staff, UConn Empower

Favorite AsACC moment: Eating AsACC’s pineapple with the entire staff and performing at Asian Nite with UConn Surya.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Study abroad

What does "home" mean to you? A place you can always come back to that encompasses with meaningful people you can laugh, cry, and make memories with.

Favorite quote: "Be loud about the things that are important to you"

Jason Ng

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Journalism, Psychology

How have you grown since freshman year? Being part of AsACC and the VSA community has made me more vocal and aware about celebrations and tribulations within the community. I’ve met many amazing student leaders throughout my time at UConn that has helped me realize my worth and potential, as well as the reach and impact I have on other students.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Successfully pulling off my first fundraiser at VSA.

What/Who will you miss most? I will miss the friends that I made in the VSA eBoard and the collaboration that I’ve had with them in the past time I’ve been a student leader within the community.

Campus Involvements: PAC and VSA

Favorite AsACC moment: PAC events where we all spoke about current issues within the community.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Taken more classes involving art and within Asian American studies.

What does "home" mean to you? People that understand or try to understand who I am as a student, an individual and a creative.

Favorite quote: You can do it!

Kimberly Nguyen

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Chemistry

How have you grown since freshman year? Like a blooming Rose! I was just a small bud when I first started attending UConn. I was always just in my room, and if not in my room, in class. But, by attending GIM’s of AsACC affiliated cultural orgs, I was able to meet friends with similar interests, and became more involved in the community. I figured out more of my identity and how I fit into this beautiful garden of all different forms of nature. I’ve gained confidence in myself and I am now happy to be myself, even with my little thorns.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? KConn, Breakdance, 1st floor MSB

What/Who will you miss most? NeTaZeInKa, AsACC, KConn/Seoular, my graduating & nongraduating friends, you

Involvements: AsACC Staff, KConn, KSA, TLCsa, VSA, JSA

Favorite AsACC moment: Fall semester, Homecoming (2019). Spring semester, Asian Nite(s)

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Study abroad or just travel more with friends and family

What does "home" mean to you? Home is where I am myself!

Favorite quote: “Love yourself” -- BTS

Rose Nguyen
**Truc Nguyen**

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers  
Degree(s): Allied Health Sciences, Psychology  
How have you grown since freshman year? After coming to the Storns campus my junior year, there has been much growth in me as an individual in different aspects. I have stepped out of my comfort zone and tried new leadership experiences that helped me grow to the independent women I am today.  
What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Meeting and interacting with different members from the AsACC community! I loved being at the center whenever I could and enjoying small talk with others.  
What/Who will you miss most? Definitely Angela Rolail! Although our interactions were limited, every time I sat in her class or saw her in general my day was made.  
Campus Involvement: Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority Inc., PAC, AMP  
Favorite AsACC moment: Winning Homecoming 2 Years in a row!  
One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I took the opportunity to join or explore what other clubs at UConn offers.  
What does “home” mean to you? Home is somewhere where you start your day, and end your day. It is where you are most comfortable and are surrounded by the people you love and care for.  
Favorite quote: “Everyday may not be good, but there is something good in everyday”

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**Aya Okada**

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers  
Degree(s): Biomedical Engineering  
How have you grown since freshman year? 3 inches - when I wear heels  
What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Sakura Matsuri 2019  
What/Who will you miss most? I am going to miss mirror lake in the winter times at night the most.  
Campus Involvements: JSA, PAC  
Favorite AsACC moment: I really enjoyed getting to know each and every one of my PAC family members. They really enriched my last year at UConn with their love and support.  
One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had gotten involved with AsACC a lot sooner than I had.  
What does “home” mean to you? To me, home is wherever my mom cooks food.  
Favorite quote: “For I know the plans I have for you” - Jeremiah 29:11

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**Cody Olson**

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers  
Degree(s): Economics, Accounting, Math  
How have you grown since freshman year? I became more open, and less of an introvert. I have more confident in myself.  
What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Celebrating my 20th birthday with my friends I met at UConn  
What/Who will you miss most? All of my friends & going to different fundraisers  
Campus Involvements: JSA  
Favorite AsACC moment: Asian Nite  
One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Join more clubs, go to a game night or tailgate, and go to horse barn hill  
What does “home” mean to you? Somewhere I feel comfortable showing my true self.  
Favorite quote: “You don’t need everyone to love you, just a few good people.” -Charity Barnum from “The Greatest Showman”

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**Emika Okada**

Pronoun: He/Him/His  
Degree(s): Higher Education and Student Affairs  
How have you grown since freshman year? I’ve grown in my understanding of myself and others and I have become more comfortable in being myself in both professional and personal spaces.  
What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Exploring UConn, Connecticut, and New England with my friends Steven and Shay.  
What/Who will you miss most? The wonderful people I’ve met at UConn and the support systems I’ve found  
Campus Involvements: Assessment Project Partner/ Campus Program Partner  
Favorite AsACC moment: Presenting the findings of my HESA Group’s assessment project to the AsACC and Higher Education community.  
One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Gone to more sporting events  
What does “home” mean to you? I find my home in the people I surround myself with and not in physical spaces. I’ve found many homes in my life and now I’m happy to say that UConn is a home too.  
Favorite quote: “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. —Malcolm X”
Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Psychology
How have you grown since freshman year? Freshman year I did not get involved in anything and felt that something was lacking in my college experience. My sophomore year I stepped out of my comfort zone and started slowly finding my place on campus. I have stepped up for leadership positions that have shown me my strengths and weaknesses.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? When all of my friends surprised me for my 21st birthday. I was touched by all of the people I knew who came to celebrate and they really made me feel so loved. What/Who will you miss most? Being around all of my friends and classmates in such a close vicinity all the time.

Campus Involvements: FASA, KUBE, Gamma Phi Beta, Professor Salamon's Research Lab
Favorite AsACC moment: When I performed in Asian Night for the first time last year. I was extremely nervous to go up on stage in front of such a large audience. The moment I was finally up there, I realized how amazing it felt to perform with my closest friends and showcase bits of our Filipino culture to people of the AsACC community and more.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish that I had become a mentor in the AMP. I was a mentee my freshman year and I loved my mentor so much. I really looked up to him and I always wanted to be this kind of mentor for someone else.

What does "home" mean to you? "Home" is being in an environment where you feel like you don't have to be anything but yourself.

Favorite quote: If I asked you to name all the things that you love, how long would it take for you to name yourself?

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Pronoun: He/Him/His
Degree(s): Electrical engineering
How have you grown since freshman year? Throughout the years I have turned into a student/person who is very sensitive to others cultures attempted to respect everyone from all over.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Those long talks with Sheila. Always concerned for my health, always giving me advice on how to live, and even talking about game of thrones. Those moments will never be forgotten.

What/Who will you miss most? I will miss the people. People can fill any building with love, however without it a building becomes alone and abandon. Everyone at the center will be what I miss. A break from this stressful world.

Involvements: AsACC Staff, KUBE Leader, PAC
Favorite AsACC moment: Best AsACC moment was when I was approached by four amazing men, Tim, Winsland, Ed, Anthony. They filled my lonely life at UConn into something that I enjoyed. Taking me to BBQ and events all around the center is just amazing how much of an impact it created.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish that I stayed at home. That sudden rush of adrenaline is what I live for.

What does "home" mean to you? Home is all about people. No matter what size or condition a building is. The only thing that truly matters is the warmth of others and all the love in the room can turn anything into a home.

Favorite quote: "Nothing lasts forever, but at least we've got these memories" -- J. Cole

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Alyssa Paladino

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Abdullah Rana

Pronoun: He/Him/His
Degree(s): Molecular and Cellular Biology
How have you grown since freshman year? One thing that college has taught me was to grow out of my shell and try out new things. I have grown to become a leader in my community and present myself in a way to be a leader and role model for others.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? My most memorable moment was joining P.O's when I was a Freshman. It was a turning point in my appreciation for Asian Culture.

What/Who will you miss most? I will miss seeing my brothers and friends every day.

Campus Involvements: Public Health learning community (Freshman and Sophomore Year), Pi Delta Psi, Filipino American Student Association, Pre-Dental Society, Research
Favorite AsACC moment: My favorite AsACC moment was participating with FASA for the first time for Asian Nite in 2017.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had stepped up to take more roles within AsACC such as being an AMP Mentor. The experience of being a mentor for someone else makes me think of when I was a mentee.

What does "home" mean to you? "Home" isn't just a place you go back to to feel comfortable. The people who you have laughed and experienced life with will always be a part of your life no matter where you go, and that is home to me.

Favorite quote: "If my mind can conceive it, and my heart can believe it - then I can achieve it." - Muhammad Ali

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Patrick Relator

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Dhaval Patel
Zeqing Shao

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers  
Degree(s): Allied Health Sciences

How have you grown since freshman year? I have become more involved in the community at UConn and taken up several leadership positions within my dance group. My confidence has grown in my abilities and I have pushed myself academically to be in the Honors program and fulfill my pre-med requirements.  

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Taking the stage for the first time at Jorgensen during Asian Nite with the crowd cheering my team on so loudly.  

What/Who will you miss most? I will miss my friends, being out of state I won’t really be able to see a lot of them often like I used to while I was in school.

Campus Involvements: UConn Surya, ISA, PCUC, UConn ASHA  
Favorite AsACC moment: Attending IMPAACT where I got to learn more about ASACC and connect with other students  

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had been more involved and expanded my horizons through volunteer work.  

What does “home” mean to you? Home is comfort. Comfort with the place you’re in, the people you are surrounded by, and the feelings you encounter. UConn is home to me.  

Favorite quote: Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning to dance in the rain.

Jessica Serrao

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers  
Degree(s): Majors: Psychology, Communication Minor: Women’s, Gender, Sexuality Studies

How have you grown since freshman year? In the past four years, I have become more comfortable and confident expressing my true self. During my time at cultural centers, I have tried my best to learn from my peers, to share my experience and stories, to apply expertise and help those in need, and to empower myself along the way.  

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Every moment I have spent at QAA (Queer Asians and Allies), ASACC, and the Women’s Center is memorable and precious.

What/Who will you miss most? I will miss those who appreciate my weird sense of humor :)  

Campus Involvements: QAA, Women’s Center VAWPP  
Favorite AsACC moment: Every single time I talked with Sheila :)  

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had worked at ASACC at least once.  

What does “home” mean to you? It’s not about where it is. It’s about whom you can be understood by the most.  

Favorite quote: “When you can’t find someone to follow, you have to find a way to lead by example.” — Roxane Gay

Isa Pollish

Pronoun: He/Him/His  
Degree(s): Economics

How have you grown since freshman year? Since freshman year, college and life has been a long roller-coaster with impactful experiences and memories along the way. I have seen myself grow and mature in the best way possible, from being a freshman and not knowing what will happen in my collegiate career or know if I had the abilities to even finish college to now as a senior, where I am soon to be the first college graduate in my family and a leader in different communities.  

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? When I studied abroad in Italy in 2017  

What/Who will you miss most? I will definitely miss my oh so sexy omega chapter and all of the underclassmen that I am truly close, it is going to be weird not being able to see them daily.  

Campus Involvements: Pi Delta Psi Fraternity, Inc., FASA  
Favorite AsACC moment: Performing in Asian Nite 2018 & 2019. But I loved the moments when I walked into AsACC and seeing my friends and familiar faces in the community.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wished I had done more during my years at UConn  

What does “home” mean to you? Home is to me is anywhere you are loved, appreciated and accepted for who you are while being at the utmost level of comfortable with people you cared about.  

Favorite quote: No matter how challenging life gets for yourself, always put one foot in front of the other and keep moving forward because nothing will not wait for you. Don’t let life pass you by. Be in control.

Tommy Phung

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers  
Degree(s): Photography

How have you grown since freshman year? I have learned how to be more independent and self sustaining!  

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Meeting Bernie Bui  

What/Who will you miss most? Emily, Grace, Bernie, Connie, Sarah, Emika, Aya (^-^)  

Campus Involvements: Lip Sync 2x, AMP Mentor, HAPA E-board Historian, JSA general member  
Favorite AsACC moment: Lip Sync  

What does “home” mean to you? My friends!  

Favorite quote: “My tummy feels spicy” -Bernie Bui
**Katie Quinn**

**Pronoun:** He/Him/His

**Degree(s):** Biological Sciences

How have you grown since freshman year? When I was a freshman I wasn’t very social, until I joined TLC and the breakdancing club. It was through those clubs that I was able to meet new people and lifelong friends. It was also through those clubs that I went to AsACC. For academic growth, I’ve learned a lot from my studies and hope to take this knowledge with me to medical school. For personal growth, I’ve learned how to be more genuine, to not care what others think and to be yourself.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? My first Asian Nite performance.

What/Who will you miss most? The thing I’ll miss the most is just being with friends. I’ll miss the times we hung out in AsACC, the deep talks about life, the spontaneous trips to Wendy’s, and all the fun TLC meetings we’ve had.

**Involvements:** TLCs, AMP, UConn Breakdancing Club

**Favorite AsACC moment:** When we won LipSync and all the homecoming events. We got to show off just how strong and dedicated our community is to the rest of campus.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: There’s this one breakdancing move called the windmill. Ever since freshman year I’ve been trying to learn it, but to no avail. Though one day in the future, I’ll definitely be able to do it.

What does “home” mean to you? “Home” is subjective, everyone has their own definition of home. For me, a home is somewhere where I can feel comfortably and be myself. My house back in New Milford is my “home”, UConn is my “home”, and AsACC is also my home.

**Favorite quote:** "A purpose of human life, no matter who is controlling it, is to love whoever is around to be loved." - Kurt Vonnegut

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**Eric Pongsamorn**

**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers

**Degree(s):** Economics, Global Studies

How have you grown since freshman year? Since freshman year, I have become more confident and more of a go-getter.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Performing Tokio Funka with JSA in Asian Nite 2018!

What/Who will you miss most? Nicole Jain!

**Involvements:** AMP, Artificial Intelligence Club, CUSA, KSA, Law Society

**Favorite AsACC moment:** Seeing AsACC represent in the homecoming activities every year!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: paint the rock

What does “home” mean to you? Home can refer to people instead of places!

**Favorite quote:** “Love the world and yourself in it, move through it as though it offers no resistance, as though the world is your natural element.” - Audrey Niffenegger

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**Riya Sheth**

**Pronoun:** He/Him/His

**Degree(s):** Finance and Physiology & Neurobiology

How have you grown since freshman year? I have been able to broaden my experiences and understandings of different groups of people throughout college. I came from a town that did not have a great deal of diversity, and over the years I have been exposed to, and gained appreciation for cultures and values that are very different from my own. In addition, I have become a lot more outspoken since my freshman year.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? 2018 PCUC concert

What/Who will you miss most? I will miss my ISA friends a lot. In addition, I will miss having AsACC as a home away from home, a place where I know everyone will accept me for who I am and support me through everything.

**Campus Involvements:** ISA

**Favorite AsACC moment:** Co-hosting a Chai Time with DEPsi

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Taken more risks

What does “home” mean to you? Home is where you are surrounded by those you love most

**Favorite quote:** If you want to look good in front of thousands then you have to outwork thousands in front of nobody-Damian Lillard

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**Rahul Sindvani**

**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers

**Degree(s):** Major: Biology. Minor: Psychology

How have you grown since freshman year? Since freshman year, I have grown in more ways than one. I have learned and experienced things that make me thankful for my family, friends, and just to be able to have an education. I have learned to develop real opinions, what I am passionate about and most importantly found a real purpose in my work.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? My most memorable moment at UConn is the first weekend spent here as a freshman. We did activities such as the class of 2020 picture, attend convocation and met some of my lifelong friends.

What/Who will you miss most? I will miss this beautiful campus, dairy bar ice-cream and all the incredible people I met here through my involvement in organizations and classes.

**Campus Involvements:** ISA

**Favorite AsACC moment:** My favorite AsACC moment was attending Asian Nite and watching all the talented performances that represent Asian Americans.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: One thing I wish I had done at UConn is sunset yoga on Horsebarn Hill

What does “home” mean to you? Home to me is place where I am surrounded by the people I love and care about.

**Favorite quote:** Make every moment count
Pronoun: He/His/Him
Degree(s): Major: Communication
Minor: Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
How have you grown since freshman year?
Since my freshman year, I’ve sprouted into a strong leader in my community. While I was eager when I began at UConn, there were so many more opportunities I wasn’t prepared for. These past four years have given me experiences I am eternally grateful for and experiences that have made me the confident, passionate and diligent leader I am today.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?
My most memorable moment at UConn was competing with the UConn Cheer Team at the 2020 UCA Nationals.

What do you miss most? I’m going to miss the cultural community at UConn and how much they made me feel at home here, especially my brothers of LPhiE.

Campus Involvements: Lambda Phi Epsilon International Fraternity Inc., UConn Cheerleading
Favorite AsACC moment: When Gei and I won Homecoming 2019, the entire cultural center ran up to the stage in pure excitement. It was truly a moment I’ll never forget.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had participated in Asian Nite!

What does “home” mean to you?
Home is where you feel comfortable, without even realizing where you really are.

Favorite quote: “If you can’t love yourself, how in the hell are you gonna love somebody else?” - Rupaul

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Fine Art, Graphic Design
How have you grown since freshman year?
1 inch

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?
Asian Nite

What do you miss most?
Friends

Campus Involvements:
JSA, HAPA
Favorite AsACC moment: Asian Nite
One thing you wish you had done at UConn:
Use the rec center more

What does “home” mean to you?
Bed

Favorite quote: “I’ll see you all in therapy.”

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Digital Media and Design
How have you grown since freshman year?
I think I’ve grown to be comfortable in my skin. I’m more confident in who I am, and, since freshman year, I’m more aware of myself and others. I tried everything to be the dream kid that my parents wanted. At the same time, I was also super depressed. Now, I’m doing more of what I want and what makes me happy! It’s helped me define what I’m looking for in almost everything. I’ve learned to put myself first for once, rather than constantly putting everyone else’s needs above mine.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?
Throwing my spear into the audience during Asian Nite 2016

What do you miss most?
My roommates! Isa, Grace, Bernie 😻 and honorary roommates (u kno who u are :)

Campus Involvements:
T-Huskies President, Wushu Treasurer, HAPA Treasurer, TLC PAC Rep, AMP Mentor, KUBE Big, JSA’s biggest fan
Favorite AsACC moment: Winning homecoming two years in a row!!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Studied Abroad 😊

What does “home” mean to you?
Home is where you’re most comfortable. You don’t have to put on any fake emotions, you can just be 100% yourself.

Favorite quote: “Isa: hi; grace: AHHHHH!!”

Pronoun: He/him/his
Degree(s): Management and Engineering for Manufacturing
How have you grown since freshman year?
I’ve learned a lot! My personality has really bloomed and I’ve become much more extroverted and have done things I never expected to do, but I’ve also learned how to be calm and really feel appreciative in the moments that I’m in.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?
Dike and The Boiz!!!!

What do you miss most?
Spontaneous decisions and late night adventures with friends 😚

Campus Involvements:
AsACC staff, KConn, VSA
Favorite AsACC moment: I.... really don’t know there’s too many memories that I’ve made in AsACC I can’t remember all of them anymore. 😥

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:
Skydiving 😪

What does “home” mean to you?
Home is anywhere I can feel comfortable and calm with people that I love 😊

Favorite quote: “Fly”

Emily Touch

Raven Soumpholphakdy

Connie Tao

Jason Trieu
Dora Vang

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers

Degree(s): Linguistics, Psychology

How have you grown since freshman year? I have grown immensely as a person. I saw college as a reset button where I could start fresh. No one knew what type of person I was, so I could be whoever I wanted. I pushed myself out of my comfort zone when possible, and now, I am much more extroverted, outgoing, and happier.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Some of my favorite moments have been winning Homecoming Lipsync and other events with Team AsACC, KSA Coffee House, and hot pot nights/grocery shopping with TLC.

What/Who will you miss most? Even if we’ve only talked a couple times, I’ll miss you and genuinely wish you luck with whatever you do after UConn. Special shoutout to TLC, KSA 2017-2019 Eboard, and KConn.

Campus Involvements: Homecoming Lipsync, KSA, TLC, KConn, USA

Favorite AsACC moment: My favorite AsACC moment has to be when we won Homecoming King/Queen, Banner, and Lipsync for the second year in a row.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Explore more non-AsACC clubs and participate in more service projects/community service

What does “home” mean to you? “Home” is wherever I feel most comfortable to be my true, uncensored self.

Favorite quote: “The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why.” - Mark Twain

Pronoun: He/Him/His

Degree(s): Dual Degree in Chemistry and Biology, Minor in Molecular Cell Biology

How have you grown since freshman year? The biggest lesson I picked up since freshman year is that life isn’t a competition but a journey to experience as much as possible.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? Late nights in the library at the old cubicles either studying, distracting others, or just playing games.

What/Who will you miss most? Angela Rola

Campus Involvements: AMP, USA, Crisis Text Line

Favorite AsACC moment: When Angela knocked over tables while I was putting them away.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: Study abroad.

What does “home” mean to you? Home is a place where you feel a sense of belonging and comfort.

Favorite quote: Mistakes can happen. But if you don’t do anything to stop them from happening again, you can’t keep calling them mistakes.

Matthew Wan

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers

Degree(s): Psychology, Human Development and Family Studies

How have you grown since freshman year? I used to be complacent with what I have and what I’ve done but I’ve learned to strive for more and to go after opportunities that are important to me.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? My most memorable moment at UConn was when we (VSA) thought we rented a coach bus for our New York trip but then a school bus showed up instead. Although unplanned, everyone still had a good time.

What/Who will you miss most? I’ll miss my coworkers and time at the Psych Department the most. I’ve met so many amazing people there who are all so passionate about their research and have made many contributions to the field.

Campus Involvements: America Reads, KUBE, VSA

Favorite AsACC moment: My favorite AsACC moment was walking into the center for the first time during AMP and meeting everyone there. From those first interactions, I have made a lot of great connections and have people I can definitely call my friends for life.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I learned how to skateboard. It was prime time.

What does “home” mean to you? Home is where you feel most comfortable.

Favorite quote: “To live will be an awfully big adventure.” — J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan

Shayla Vu

Pronoun: None

Degree(s): Major: Molecular and Cell Biology

Minor: Chemistry, Ornamental Horticulture

How have you grown since freshman year? Since freshman year I have expanded my confidence and know I can do much more than I thought I could. I have also become more socially aware and conscious as I build and maintain my personal connections.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn? My most memorable moment at UConn was my first involvement fair, picking up flyers from clubs I would soon join with friends I had just met.

What/Who will you miss most? First I will miss my darling friends, a list too long to write out. I will miss doing homework in AsACC. I will miss my clubs and campus politics. I will also miss my role models on AsACC pro staff.

Campus Involvements: President of QAA, President and founder of Moon Appreciation Club, Treasurer of Horticulture club, Secretary of Taiwanese Students’ Association, member of USA

Favorite AsACC moment: Meeting my AMP mentees for the first time at the fall kickoff.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I had planned my schedule out better so I could triple major and stay here for four years.

What does “home” mean to you? Home is where I can invite my friends over without having to tell anyone first.

Favorite quote: “Live life, breathe air! I know somehow we’re gonna get there And feel so wonderful” - iCarly theme song
Ivan Wong

Pronoun: He/His/His
Degree(s): Accounting/Data Analytics

How have you grown since freshman year?
I have become more mature

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?
My most memorable moments are the time I spent as a AMP mentor. I have really learnt a lot from this and establish a deep friendship with my mentees. It's a very unique experience for me.

What/Who will you miss most?
I will miss all of my friends and professors, they are all part of my life in UConn and I will never forget them.

Campus Involvements: I'm the coordinator of Global Gateways, a member of Beta Alpha Psi, and I'm also working as a TA this semester.

Favorite AsACC moment: The dumpling event we had in Global Gateways.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:
Went to more women basketball games.

What does "home" mean to you? A place where my family are.

Favorite quote: There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

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Jingyi Wei

Pronoun: He/Him/His

How have you grown since freshman year?
I have learned how to open up and be less shy. By moving out of my comfort-zone, I became more confident in doing anything independently such as traveling alone to new countries.

What/Who will you miss most?
The opportunity to see your friends everyday and creating moments together. The AsACC backroom lounge and SU 4th Floor private bathroom as well.

Campus Involvements: TLC, VSA, CUSA, JSA, KConn, KUBE, and Asian Nite.

Favorite AsACC moment: Every morning I used to stay at the front desk and talk with either Winsland L., Tim Y., Dike U., or Ed M. until my next class. Another would be at KUBE and spending quality time with my little, Chris.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn: I wish I continued taking Chinese at UConn so I wouldn't have to struggle as much when I traveled or when talking to native speakers.

What does "home" mean to you? "Home" to me has to have a private bathroom. Basically, a place where I feel safe enough to just relax and be who I am without "too much" judgement.

Favorite quote: "Just a banana in the morning is fine." - Saitama

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Simin Zhang

Pronoun: He/Him/His
Degree(s): Finance, Analytics

How have you grown since freshman year?
I have learned abundant knowledge about the business field, made a lot of friends and gotten to know many amazing people in classes, work, and college life in general, and been equipped with leadership as well as communication skills.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?
My most memorable moment at UConn is the day I accepted the offer of AMP coordinator, a decision that makes me become who I am today!

What/Who will you miss most?
My friends/fellow AMP coordinators/AsACC pro & student staffs.

Campus Involvements: AMP, Global Gateway

Favorite AsACC moment: Work with fellow coordinators and Ethan during summer 2019.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:
Joined a fraternity.

What does "home" mean to you? "Home" to me is a place where I feel very comfortable to stay, where I can find my fam and friends, and where I am sure I will be supported.

Favorite quote: The devil is always in the details.

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Haozhe Xu

Pronoun: She/Her/Hers
Degree(s): Accounting/Analytics

How have you grown since freshman year?
I believe that being curiously and keep learning is essential for the growth of person. So I would love to try things are challenging or new to me. And I always set short term goals (like every semester) and a longer term goals (like one or two year) for myself. These goals motivate and encourage me all the time.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?
My most memorable moment at UConn is my first experience of U.S university campus events and culture.

What/Who will you miss most?
My friends and staff/faculty members in UConn; UConn AsACC and AsACC staff; UConn Horsebarn Hill.

Campus Involvements: School of Business Peer Advisor; AsACC China Care, Global Gateways coordinator, AMP mentor; Beta Alpha Psi Member.

Favorite AsACC moment: Every time I go to AsACC, people in the front desk always say hi to me even though we don't know each other. That makes me feel being welcomed in AsACC all the time.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:
Join a sorority at UConn

What does "home" mean to you? For me, home is a place where I can be myself and I feel relaxed and comfortable to stay at.

Favorite quote: "If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor." – Eleanor Roosevelt
**Grace Zheng**

**Pronoun:** She/Her/Hers  
**Degree(s):** Major: Marketing  
Minor: Studio Art minor

**How have you grown since freshman year?**  
I’ve become a lot happier with the person I am.

**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?**  
My most memorable moment was performing in Asian Nite 2020. I’ve attended Asian Nite every year and performing in Asian Nite at least once before I graduated was on my bucket list.

**What/Who will you miss most?**  
I will miss my best friends, my roommates, my honor- ary roommates, and all the people who’ve helped me grow over the years.

**Campus Involvements:** JSA, HAPA, AMP Mentor, HKSA Secretary  
**Favorite AsACC moment:** My favorite AsACC moment was performing in Homecoming Lipsync and Asian Nite. I had never performed on stage before. It was a big step outside of my comfort zone, so I’m so glad I did it.

**One thing you wish you had done at UConn:**  
I wish I could’ve paused the better moments so I could hold them close to my heart.

**What does "home" mean to you?**  
Home is where my favorite people are; my friends and family.

**Favorite quote:** “Ignite, my love. Ignite.”

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**Winfield Zhou**

**Pronoun:** He/Him/His  
**Degree(s):** Communications, Minor in Digital Marketing and Analytics

**How have you grown since freshman year?**  
I’ve grown a lot as a person. I’ve matured a lot, learned how to be a better and efficient leader, and how to take responsibility for the things you do. I was a terrible person as a freshman and now I am less of a terrible person now.

**What is your most memorable moment at UConn?**  
Asian Nite 2019

**What/Who will you miss most?**  
Everyoneeeeeeeeeee  
**Campus Involvements:** VSA, PAC, AMP Mentor, AsACC Staff, NEIVSA, FASA  
**Favorite AsACC moment:** Asian Nite 2019 brooooooo It was a hassle to setup but at the end of the day it was worth it

**One thing you wish you had done at UConn:** Study abroad

**What does "home" mean to you?** Home to me means a place where I can be myself. Where I can let go of everything in my life and just enjoy the moment. I find this feeling often in AsACC :)  
**Favorite quote:** “People say nothing is impossible, but I do nothing every day” – A.A. Milne

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**Senior Banquet Committee**
CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2020

ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER