



ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
SENIOR BANQUET

Love From Afar

APRIL 25, 2021



**Asian American Cultural Center
Senior Banquet
Class of 2020**



**The Asian American Cultural Center
present you 2021 Senior Banquet.
We feel really apologetic that this year's
banquet could not be in person.
However, we are holding this virtual banquet
in place of it. This celebration is held to honor
the accomplishment of our graduating
seniors, student leaders, and others who have
supported the center.**



Asian/Asian American Mentoring Program

Since 2011, the Asian American Cultural Center has offered the Asian/Asian American Mentoring Program Scholarship to honor the mentor and 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.

University of Connecticut Asian American Cultural Center Endowment Fund Scholarship

**Established in 2012 through
an initial gift from the Slate Family:
George, Laurel, Victoria (07'),
and Rebeccah (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.**

RITIKA BAJAJ

How have you grown since freshman year?

Since freshman year I have gained many new experiences by meeting new people and learning about different cultures and practices.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Planning and executing Holi in April 2019!

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I have learned to be more independent though stepping out of my comfort zone.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Indian Student Association, Hindi Urdu Language Association, PAC Rep, AMP Mentee.

Favorite AsACC moment:

Chit Chaat event!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Been able to make a more long-lasting impact my senior year.



She/Her/Hers
Economics
Analytics

"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day."

SEJAL BHARGAVA

How have you grown since freshman year?

Since freshman year, I have grown directly in to my heritage and roots. Starting school at UConn, I was searching for a community that I fit in to and that I had interests in. By joining different organizations, I was able to broaden my horizon and learn more about myself and others.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

One of my most memorable moments at UConn would be joining Husky Bhangra. The moment I got accepted on to the team, I recall the feeling joy that I was joining a group that shared the same interests.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being far away from home actually deepened my perceptive on community. The saying "You don't know what you have until it's gone" really resonated with the attachment I had with my community at home and how I needed to develop myself and others to feel connected to the community I joined at UConn.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Husky Bhangra Indian Collegiate Dance Team , Asha for Education, Hindi Urdu Language Association, and Sanskriti - Kathak

Favorite AsACC moment:

One of my favorite AsACC moment was Lip Sync 2019. I really enjoyed this event because my team and I performed with the other organizations involved and it was so nice getting to know them better. I played a really fun role during the event that allowed me to connect with AsACC more than ever.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

One thing I wish I had done at UConn is getting more involved with the other orgs apart of AsACC. After studying abroad in Singapore, I was exposed to a lot of East Asian culture that I wish I knew more about before I went on the trip and want to now become more acquainted.



She/Her/Hers
Finance

"Everything happens for a reason"

SRIJANI CHALLAGUNDLA

How have you grown since freshman year?

Freshman year I feel like I didn't know much about the way the world worked and I was quite naive in my thinking. I feel like over these four years I have grown and learned a lot from fellow students and my professors. I have overcome a lot of obstacles throughout my college journey.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

In fall 2019, my friends and I went to the Lunar New Year celebration at South. We all had an amazing time and I looked around at all the wonderful friends I made at UConn and was overcome with joy.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I have really missed seeing my friends and getting involved in the Storrs community this semester. This experience has really showed how hard it is to be away from loved ones. I have also learned how important it is to be surrounded by a community especially in these hard times.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I am an AMP mentor, Global Gateways Coordinator, on the SUBOG special events and concerts committee, I am part of Active minds, and a few friends and I created a startup to help college students combat social isolation.

Favorite AsACC moment:

I really enjoyed hanging out at AsACC with my friends during last academic year. I love the atmosphere there and wanted to get more involved so I became an AMP mentor. My favorite AsACC moment was meeting all the pro staff and fellow mentors during the AMP class. I am so happy to know them all.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I could have gotten more involved and been more active in the clubs I was interested in. I feel like I put off a lot of things that I enjoyed doing before Covid began and I have now learned that it is never a good idea to wait to do the things that bring you joy.



She/Her/Hers

Biological sciences/ Statistics

"Your soul is attached to people the way flowers are attached to the sun. Surround yourself only with those who want to see you grow." -Pavana Reddy

SAMANTHA CHANG

How have you grown since freshman year?

I have grown to become more confident and outspoken. When I was a freshman, I was always in the back and did a lot of things behind the scenes. However, I always wanted to do something of my own, making my own impact at UConn. Therefore, I chose to join organizations that would help me.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

The most memorable moment at UConn was my first FASA Christmas party. I loved being with everyone and enjoying the good food. I really felt like I found a group to call my own family.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

It has opened my eyes to really understanding myself and the community I have become a part of. It has shown me more about how to understand others and supporting those who may not think the same as you. I have become more self-aware of how I can better myself and make an impact on my community.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

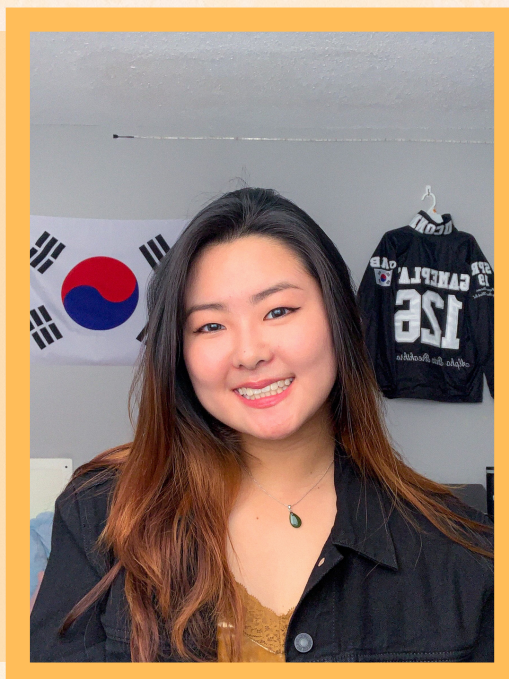
FIND Inc. Conference Planning Committee member, Active member of Filipino American Student Association, Active member of Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., Mansfield Middle School Tutor

Favorite AsACC moment:

Favorite moment was attending Asian Nite. I enjoyed seeing all of the other organizations, as well as my own, take time to really plan out all of these skits and performances. It was so memorable because of how much everyone supported each other. The energy level was at an ultimate high.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I had looked into potentially studying abroad for a semester. I had gone abroad during the summer of 2019, but I feel like going to a whole new country would have been fun to experience. I love to travel to new places, so this would have been a good experience.



She/Her/Hers

Political Science major

"You were born to be real, not perfect" - Suga of BTS

JADEN CHENG

How have you grown since freshman year?

Over the last four years I have seen myself grow and evolve from the woman I was when I entered UConn. I've learned that it is important to always be open-minded and understanding. Growth is not overnight and it isn't a destination. Take ownership of who you are but be open to change.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moment at UConn may have to be

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

My perspective on community has changed greatly when I became a part of Kappas and AsACC. We are there to uplift and support one another, as well as amplifying our voices. A lot of times we go through these experiences together so being there for one another is crucial in building success.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

UConn Figure Skating, ChinaCare, Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

Favorite AsACC moment:

I think my favorite AsACC moment would have to be when Kappas took part in Asian Nite in 2019. I headed our performance alongside another sister and I was really proud of the work that sisters put it into it. It turned out so amazing and I remember getting off stage to everyone being super happy.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish that I attended more of the school's activities similar to Late Night, One Ton Sundae, and even a basketball game or two. I think that will be something that I look back on and wish I was a part of because these are traditional UConn Undergraduate activities that I missed out on.



She/Her/Hers Communication

Before the moon I am, what a woman is, a woman of power, a woman's power, deeper than the roots of trees, deeper than the roots of islands, older than the Making, older than the moon -Ursula K Le Guin

MAGGIE CHEUNG

How have you grown since freshman year?

I was originally scared about not being accepted. But, I've been able to move past that. I received the honor of being AMP Mentee of the year, became AsACC staff and joined DPhil within my first year. I became resilient. I went through a fashion upgrade and a various false lashes. I also grew taller!

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Japanese Curry @ McMahon as well as Graham Central Ice cream

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Distance makes the heart grow fonder. I miss the sense of belonging through being in in-person events and the free ability to see my friends throughout the semesters. It changed my perspective by realizing the value each interaction had until it was restricted due to global issues.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

AsACC Staff, Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., KConn/Seoular, PAC, AMP

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moment(s) would be the small talk I've have with others in the center or in my organizations. Everyone is busy with their own schedule, mine included, that I'm appreciative of the small tidbits of conversations. I also loved talking to Sheila because she always motivated me.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Study Abroad! I've heard a lot of people's stories (one in particular, shout out to my big who reminds me that she went to Prague every once in a while), and it seemed to be a life-changing experience.



She/Her/Hers

Computer Science and Engineering

[Sheila's Long High Note During Staff Meeting] -- Sheila

AJITHA CHIVUKULA

How have you grown since freshman year?

These past four years have shown me what true friends are, and helped me build a strong support network. Especially since freshman year, I have discovered so many new interests and hobbies, and solidified what I am passionate about.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moment at UConn would have to be competing in Iowa with my acapella team, Husky Hungama, and bringing back two awards.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I realized how important it is to have people you can rely on and talk to, and distance does not necessarily affect how close you are although it may change your relationship and how you talk.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

In AsACC I have attended Chai Times, and I have been a PAC representative. I have participated in Asian Nite for the past two years and am planning on participating this year. I am also president of both Husky Hungama and UConn Rescue.

Favorite AsACC moment:

I loved the Chaat making event, it was such a fun time and a great experience to meet new people and get to know them.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I really want to go sledding down Horsebarn Hill!



She/Her/Hers
Biomedical Engineering

AMEET CHOWDHURY

How have you grown since freshman year?

I have gained many new friendships and connections.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Attending cultural shows

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Do not take friends and family for granted.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Bangladeshi Student Association

Favorite AsACC moment:

Chai Time



He/Him/His
Chemical Engineering
Mathematics

"Those Who Do Not Understand True Pain Can Never Understand True Peace." -Pain

MUKUND DESIBHATLA

How have you grown since freshman year?

While I was more of a general member of different cultural subgroups my freshman year, I have grown as both an individual and mentor for incoming students. I am driven to showcase the vibrant talent of UConn's Asian American community and echo this in the subsequent generations.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

During my junior year, I studied abroad in Granada, Spain. This was an enriching opportunity to immerse myself in a foreign culture and step into the shoes of individuals from other backgrounds.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

The COVID-19 pandemic has been especially tumultuous and divisive for my family overseas in India. As I reflect on the past year, I am grateful to stand with my family and unite in the face of adversities.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I was a member of Husky Hungama a cappella for three years and even served as a Public Relations Chair. I am also the founder and president of Riyaz since my freshman year, an Indian classical ensemble. Currently, I am a dancer on UConn Thunderaas and dancer representative for HuskyTHON.

Favorite AsACC moment:

During sophomore year, I collaborated with fellow PAC reps to launch a Late Nite x AsAcc crossover called "Little Asia." This was a memorable event and defining moment for diversity on UConn campus.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I had planned more collaborations with other cultural centers on campus. To improve diversity and equity, it is so imperative to foster multiculturalism.



He/Him/His
Physiology & Neurobiology
Spanish / European Studies

FLORAINE EVARDO

How have you grown since freshman year?

When I came in to UConn, I had no sense of ethnic identity. Throughout these past four years, I have grown to become a proud Filipina-American, with a better sense of time management and a developed passion for service and growth.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

I don't think I can point to a single moment that was the most memorable but I am eternally grateful for FASA and AOII for all of my littles, shoutout Cjei, Christia, Mel, and Elle, and my lineage/fam

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I have a greater sense of appreciation for relationships and overall communication. I used to take a lot of things for granted, like bumping into friends randomly or getting meals together, but now I am much more appreciative of time spent with others!

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Filipino American Student Association (FASA), Alpha Omicron Pi, Kids and UConn Bridging Education (KUBE), Pan Asian Council (PAC), Asian and Asian-American Mentoring Program (AMP), WOW Captain and Leader, UConn Health Leaders

Favorite AsACC moment:

I don't think there is a moment that really sticks out- all of it has been great. Although, I am very grateful to have been able to spend the majority of my free time in the center, both studying and hanging out with friends. It became a safe space where I was able to escape.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I was able to be a part more of AsACC organizations sooner, especially PAC and AMP both things I got involved with my senior year but had the chance to my freshman year but never went for it because I was too shy/nervous.



She/Her/Hers
Human Health

"We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us"

-Joseph Campbell

SHELLY EVIA

How have you grown since freshman year?

Ever since freshman year, I have grown into a more confident individual. I have become more comfortable in being uncomfortable, and found that this is the best way to challenge myself and keep growing.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moment at UConn is Spring Weekend 2018.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being away from my friends/loved ones has taught me that there is also someone there to comfort you, even when you think you are alone.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

ChinaCare, FASA, Alpha Zeta Omega

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moment is hanging out in AsACC during fundraisers and enjoying the delicious foods that a club has prepared.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

One thing I wish I had done at UConn is sledding at Horsebarn Hill.



She/Her/Hers

Molecular and Cellular Biology

"Lets go on a living free, they say the best things in life are free." -Kanye

ISAAC FAUSTINO

How have you grown since freshman year?

Coming from high school, I had gotten used to being alone and would rarely ask others for help. Since freshman year, I've grown knowing that there are others who care to see me become my best self and are willing to stick with me through both my successes and failings.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moment at UConn have been all of the unexpected movie nights with friends, ordering DP dough while watching, and the late night and deep conversations that would follow.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being away from friends/loved ones has broaden my view on community by showing that communities are ever changing as people both come and go within it. Despite this, communities endure through the passing of the torch from the older generation to the newer generation.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Looking back at the last four years, I've been a member of the Filipino American Student Association, a KUBE Big, an AMP Mentor, co-facilitated two Honors FYE courses, a HASB member, and participated in Undergraduate Research.

Favorite AsACC moment:

Favorite AsACC moments have been eating with FASA in the main room for kamayan nights and participating in Asian Nite. Even though I rarely came to AsACC to study, I enjoyed the moments when I was there as I was always sure to see at least one person I know and potentially meet many more people.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I had spent more time with friends before campus shutdown due to the pandemic last year. There are things that I wish I had done if I had not hesitated to reach out and decided to just push things for "next time."



He/Him/His Molecular and Cell Biology

"We must stop regarding unpleasant or unexpected things as interruptions of real life. The truth is that interruptions are real life." - C.S. Lewis

SANA HAROON

How have you grown since freshman year?

Since freshman year, I have learned how to manage my time and what my limits are. Early on, I joined tons of clubs and signed up for a bunch of commitments, but now I have learned the value of quality over quantity

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Sledding at horsebarn hill with my friends

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

The community I surround myself with is a choice that I have control over. A good community is one that nurtures you and pushes you to grow.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

UConn Salaam, Ecogarden, Muslim Students Association

Favorite AsACC moment:

Definitely the YSEALI dinner. It was so cool to meet people my age from across the world and learn about their amazing projects.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I went to more sports games and got to meet more people on campus. COVID sucks



She/Her/Hers

PNB

I am looking for someone to share in an adventure I am arranging, and it is very difficult to find anyone

JULIE HE

How have you grown since freshman year?

I was a big people-pleaser before. I loved being friends with everyone, but I cared too much about what other people thought of me. I still love meeting people, but I learned to love being my true self. You're not going to please everyone and not everyone's going to like you and that's okay!

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My Kappas reveal! It was the beginning of a new chapter of my life. I found people who I can call my family and know that they would be by my side no matter what.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I learned that there will always be a group of people who will support me and be there for me, and that I am never alone.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., former KCONN E-Board, VSA/KSA member

Favorite AsACC moment:

Homecoming 2018. It was my first experience of Homecoming and being a part of it! It was amazing being surrounded by such hardworking and passionate individuals, and it was so much fun watching everyone perform. It really showed how amazing the AsACC community is.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish that I did Stuff-a-Husky while at UConn! It's something super small and silly, but I'm very jealous of everyone who had the opportunity to do it because I always had scheduling conflicts and there were always long lines.



She/Her/Hers
Computer Science

Caring less is the easiest way to be happy :D

MOKARRAM HOSSAIN

How have you grown since freshman year?

I have become a much more open person since freshman year. I have learned to take more risks and take the initiative to talk to people more.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable memory at UConn was the last in person Asian Nite

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I have learned that community is everything in order to feel like you belong to something even when you can't be with them physically

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Bengali Student Association, UConn Sunrise, AMP, KUBE, Salaam, PAC rep

Favorite AsACC moment:

Our staff meetings

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I had got to live on campus



He/Him/His

Finance

Economics

SOUMEE KAR

How have you grown since freshman year?

College has really allowed me to figure out who I am without my parents' guidance. Freshman year I felt like I was only in college just because everyone else was. But through the years, I've learned to better take care of myself, network effectively, and finally develop goals for my future.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Late night study sessions at the Werth Tower lounge and ordering takeout from Kathmandu.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I make sure to be connected to my friends by checking in at least once a week through messaging apps or facetimeing them. But it definitely has made me appreciate the time we had together on campus more as I haven't been able to see them in person as often.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Captain of UConn Udaan, AMP mentee and mentor, ISA, KConn, BSA

Favorite AsACC moment:

Anytime there was an event with food!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I really feel that I missed out on my senior year especially since I had so many events & ideas planned that I never got to take part of on campus. Some of those plans included having a picnic at Horsebarn Hill, wearing sarees to our final ISA Diwali show, & performing at Asian Nite.



She/Her/Hers

Human-Computer Interaction

"Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

TRANE KESSLER

How have you grown since freshman year?

In my time at UConn, the people, spaces, and communities that I have engaged with have helped me grow by leading me to challenge unchallenged thoughts, solidify my values, increase my self-awareness, and better understand my authentic self.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Watching the sunrise on horsebarn hill with my friends.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Moving to college felt like I was uprooting my life and starting anew. While I missed my friends and family tremendously, finding a new family and support network at UConn has shown me that community is built and strengthened by supporting, listening to, and advocating for those around you.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Being a part of KUBE was a defining part of my experience at UConn. I spent one year as a big, two as a leader, and one as a coordinator. Besides being something I consistently looked forward to, KUBE has informed my career plans and has helped me build valuable skills working with youth.

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moment was during a KUBE day when Srimi and I were running a physical activity. After the first group of littles hated it, we decided to switch the activity. The kids ended up loving it! I loved thinking on my feet, coming up with a new plan, and watching the kids enjoy the game.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I had been able to be a Coordinator for KUBE in person! As a new staff member this year, I also wish I could have met and gotten to know the rest of the AsACC staff in person.



He/Him/His
Human Development & Family Sciences
Psychology

"Fear can't put dreams to sleep." -Stevie Wonder

JONATHAN KETH

How have you grown since freshman year?

I was able to grow out of my former shy self. Before coming to UConn, I was very quiet and reserved. Through AsACC, I was able to find a community where I could be myself and not have to fear of rejection. The people accepted me and allowed me to be more outgoing person and a leader.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Performing at and winning Lip Sync

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Community promotes individual growth.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

TLCsa, KCONN/Seoular, Homecoming

Favorite AsACC moment:

Asia Nite 2018

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I was able to act as leader and as an older figure while at UConn. During my freshman year, I was welcomed by so many older students who were kind and accepted me. They took care of me and helped me while at college. I wanted to return the kindness by being able take care of my younger peers.



**He/Him/His
Psychology**

JISOO KIM

How have you grown since freshman year?

During my undergraduate career, I've grown as a student, friend, daughter, and sister. I have become a lot more understanding, empathetic, and loving toward myself and others. Some of the most important things I've learned since freshman year are self-awareness, balance, and prioritization skills.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Just all the little moments like sleeping over at my friends' dorms, studying late at the library, DIY hotpot, Late Night events, and simply being in the presence of those I care about.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Both the physical and emotional distance makes me think about how important it is to make the effort to reach out and check in on people, and remind them that they are cared about-- but it all starts with myself; making sure I'm okay first, to be able to then give to others without becoming drained.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I am affiliated with Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. and in addition to multiple past minor board positions as well as secretary on E-board, I am currently the president for the 2020-2021 academic year. In addition, I enjoy attending various AsACC org events and collaborations in my free time.

Favorite AsACC moment:

At one of the first CUSA meetings in the Fall of 2017, I didn't know it then, but that was the day I met some of my closest friends!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I had gone to more club events/meetings, both within and outside of the AsACC community, to get a chance to explore all of my passions and meet new people, and to have fun before COVID hit.



She/Her/Hers Animal Science

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be" - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

ETHAN KIMARU

How have you grown since freshman year?

Not only have I been able to face my fears and expand my boundaries, I have learned a lot about others and myself. I am thus able to think more critically on what truly matters to me and act accordingly with the values that I hold most dear.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Winning Homecoming 2019 after intense strategizing and working long hours with the PAC team and AsACC community (shoutout to my amazing Homecoming Chair, Jessica Tang!)

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being away from my friends and loved ones has taught me that those you value the most in life will be in your corner no matter what distances separate you and to cherish the intimate moments—no matter how short—you spend with one another.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

PAC, Japanese Student Association (JSA), Leadership Legacy Experience, Marketing Society, Project Fashion

Favorite AsACC moment:

Taking my PAC Leadership Team to New York City on a retreat after Fall 2019. After an arduous but incredibly rewarding semester, my team and I took the opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper level whilst exploring the city. I will always treasure those truly splendid moments together.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I would have loved to have had the time to get even more involved while we were still in person. I met so many folks that loved our events that initially didn't know/hear about them sooner, and I wish I could have invited more people from outside the AsACC community to Asian Nite, IMPAACT, and more.



He/Him/His

Marketing with a Concentration in Digital Marketing & Analytics

"You have to be passionate, you have to be engaged and you have to be contributing to the world." - Tom Ford

SCOTT KWON

How have you grown since freshman year?

I feel like one of the ways I've grown since freshman year is in my independence. College has really pushed me to do things myself and focus on the things that matter most to me.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

I'm not sure if I have a single memorable moment, but I do believe if I had any, it would be during my freshman year in the BCLC. I really enjoyed the time I spent there and the friends I met.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

It has definitely changed my perspective on keeping in touch and how a simple text can go a long way. We're physically distant from one another, but are as close as ever with all the different ways we can stay in contact with each other.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Business Connections Learning Community, Pan Asian Council, Vietnamese Students Association

Favorite AsACC moment:

That one summer where AsACC was getting a paint job and I would come in to eat lunch with Sheila and Merz

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Our senior year in person.



He/Him/His

Management Information Systems

Data Analytics

SUEING NGOV

How have you grown since freshman year?

I've adjusted to change a lot better throughout the years and feel a little more open compared to back then. College has deeply widened my perspective and has allowed me to explore opportunities I never would've imagined.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Seeing Asian Nite for the first time. I was in awe watching everyone's performances and I was happy there was an opportunity to showcase and appreciate many different cultures.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Despite being away from others, there are still plenty of ways to stay connected with others thanks to platforms like Discord or video chatting. Community is something that humans thrive on and we're still able to make a community even through rough times.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I've been involved with the Thai, Lao, & Cambodian Student Association and Data Science Club. I was also a part of AsACC Staff and used to be an AMP Mentor.

Favorite AsACC moment:

I remember I was working a long night shift at AsACC with some of my coworkers during finals week and despite the gruesome studying, it was also a great way to bond with them and get to know them better.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Studied abroad!



She/Her/Hers
Applied Mathematics
Economics

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

JULIA NGUYEN

How have you grown since freshman year?

My fleeting years of undergrad gave me the confidence to be unafraid to voice my feedback and perceptions. From the everlasting friendships I've forged, to the brilliant staff and faculty at UConn, I've learned to have unwavering trust in my own power, and to believe in myself during hardship.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Staying up late hours of the night with my friends in NextGen- until 3, 4, 5 AM... lamenting about the future but cracking tear-jerking punchlines. The trauma bonding of academia is so real.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Our loved ones have an integral role in fueling our own self-motivation, while helping us create the best version of ourselves. The strength of a community is reflected through the tenacity of our relationships, and it's important we look after one another.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I was the MIXED co-coordinator for two years, a position that changed my life at UConn. I was a previous AMP mentee turned mentor during my junior and senior year. I was a research assistant for the Korey Stringer Institute for five semesters, and was the social chair for HOLA for 2 years.

Favorite AsACC moment:

The AsACC staff Christmas party (in 2019!). I got the best present (thanks Sheila!) and gave the best gift (you're welcome merz!)

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I went sledding on Horsebarn Hill. I was too lazy to make the hike my first 2 years, there was hardly any viable snow the third year, and COVID killed everything my senior year.



She/Her/Hers
Allied Health Sciences

"Pride is not the opposite of shame, but its' source. True humility is the only antidote to shame." -Iroh

PARTH PATEL

How have you grown since freshman year?

Over the course of my time at UConn, I think I have become more open as a person. UConn has allowed me to meet from very diverse backgrounds and broaden my understanding of cultures around me. The university has allowed me to better my public speaking skills and grow as a leader.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable experience has to be planning Asha for Education's Second Gala. It was rewarding to see all our hard work payoff and see people enjoy an event that you took we planned together.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

It has allowed me to understand my own culture and community from the perspectives of other people who grew up in different environment. All of our experiences are different, but being able to relate on the commonalities helped show me how we are all connected.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I have been a part of Asha for Education for the last four years, attended many AsACC events, and participated in many other organization on campus like UConn Model United Nations and the CLAS Student Leadership Board.

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moment had to have been rooming room to room at the Little Asia event in the Student Union. The event had to have been my most fun Late Night experiences, and I learned at lot about other Asian cultures through the event.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I could have had to time to study aboard.



He/Him/His

Molecular and Cell Biology & Political Science

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F. Kennedy

MOXA PATEL

How have you grown since freshman year?

College has had a great influence on my life and helped me grow in many ways. I've grown to become more mature in different situations. Especially when living in close quarters with so many other people, I've learned to be more understanding as well as come out of my comfort zone to try new things.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moments at UConn would be participating in programs such as AssACC and Uconn Thunderaas which allowed me with the opportunity to travel to many different places and meet others.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being away from friends and family has allowed me to be more independent and learn more about the community. I have learned to take on responsibility as well as be able to make decisions on my own.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

During my four years at Uconn I have been involved in AsACC, UConn Thunderaas, and a member of the Nursing Student Association.

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moments would be attending the kickoff and having the AMP class. The AMP class was my favorite as we learned many things but didn't have to stress about class.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I went skydiving at UConn.



She/Her/Hers
Nursing

Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.

ANH THY PHAM

How have you grown since freshman year?

Being very introverted, I used to have a lot of trouble voicing my opinions and standing up for myself growing up. However now, though I still have a lot to learn as an individual, I definitely think I have grown to be more confident in myself and more comfortable standing up for what I believe in.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moment at UConn is when I shared my mental health story in the AMP class taught by Angela Rola. This moment helped me realize just how supportive and caring the AsACC community is.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being far away from friends and loved ones has definitely taught me that love and community have no boundaries. No matter how far away we are from each other, we can still love and support one another as a community.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

AsACC

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moment is definitely Asian Nite 2018 (my freshman year) because it was my dancing debut. Being a self taught dancer, I had never danced in front of that many people before so it felt amazing to finally show everyone all of the hard work I had put into teaching myself how to dance.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

One thing that I wish I had done at UConn was build a better relationship with the AsACC professional staff. I know that they are amazing and extremely supportive people, so I really wish I had gotten to know them better and built a relationship with them.



She/Her/Hers
Allied Health Sciences

"I have many faults and I have many fears, but I am going to embrace myself as hard as I can, and I'm starting to love myself, little by little." -BTS

RAMONA RAMSARRAN

How have you grown since freshman year?

I have grown out of my shell and done things outside of my comfort zone. I am more confident now in my abilities and skills.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Going on an Alternative Break trip to Detroit, Michigan.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

It made me value home even more because it brings a lot of comfort and familiarity.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Asian American Mentoring Program for 3 years

Favorite AsACC moment:

The retreats that the AMP program would have at the beginning of the semester. As well as the workshops and funshops that were put together.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Joined more clubs. Studied abroad.



She/Her/Hers
Allied Health Sciences

"We rise by lifting others."

SUNNY SARKER

How have you grown since freshman year?

Freshman year I remember myself being a lot more shy, reserved and less willing to take risks outside my comfort zone. After getting involved with AsACC and BSA, I was put in very different positions that took me outside my comfort zone and also meet the people I consider my closest friends.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

I would have to say either Homecoming Lip Sync in 2018 when I played Jonathon the Husky in the performance or Huskython with Team AsACC in 2020.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

For me its mixed since I live on campus so I see half of my friends that do live on campus but for the ones I can only see virtually I definitely think it has made me more attached to my phone than before to keep up with them and to find ways to communicate now and keep these connections.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

AsACC Staff as Senior Banquet Coordinator, AMP Mentee and Mentor; BSA PAC rep, President, and Senior Advisor; PAC Homecoming Chair and Coordinator; And have participated in other programs and events like IMPAACT, Homecoming, Huskython, Salaam, Chai Time, etc.

Favorite AsACC moment:

Homecoming Lip Sync in 2018

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Met more people from the other centers! - - as well as nap on the AsACC couch one more time my senior year :((



He/Him/His

Computer Science and Engineering / Analytics

Rejection is just redirection

SHAINA SELVARAJU

How have you grown since freshman year?

As a freshman, I was very shy and never stepped out of my comfort zone. Initially I was dragged out by people to try new things but then I became fond of change. If something interested me I did it. This gave me a diverse range of skills and experiences that have aided in my growth and maturity.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Last semester, two of my closest friends that I met at UConn and I decided to pitch an idea we had for an incubator. Not only did we win a spot but we were able to obtain a seed grant as well.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I learned to appreciate my family a lot more. I think when I graduated high school I was so excited to leave that I didn't realize how meaningful it was to be with loved ones. As I became more connected with family, I also came to understand the kinds of relationships and people I wanted around me.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

IMPAACT Co-Chair, Global Gateways Coordinator, Student Peer Counseling at Leadership and Organizational Development Office, Global Health Spaces on Campus, CLAS Women's Leadership Collective Member, Active Minds and SUBOG

Favorite AsACC moment:

Asian Nite 2019. This was the first time I had seen such a large scale event that celebrated Asian and Asian-American culture. I met a lot of amazing people that night who are still some of my closest friends and is what made me want to become more involved with AsACC.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I had taken the time to attend more events on campus, especially cultural ones. I spent my first two years studying a lot and not going out so I feel as if I missed out on a lot of things.



She/Her/Hers

Biological Sciences major

"We make our world significant by the courage of our questions and the strength of our actions" Carl Sagan, Cosmos

PAIGE SHERIDAN

How have you grown since freshman year?

I think most of my growth at UConn has been in how I view my self-worth. How good I look on a resume does not define me, and I should be doing things and spending time with the people that I love the most. Life is too short to let others' perceptions of what you should do determine your value!

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

I don't have a specific moment, but it would be meeting my best friends! We don't get sappy often, but I'm really grateful to have so many memories with them that I wouldn't trade for anything.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being away from friends and family has taught me that no matter where I am, I always have a support system to back me up. I don't go a single day without constantly talking to my friends and family either on the phone or via facetime. You don't have to be in person to support one another!

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

KUBE Leadership Team, KCONN/Seoular Dance Crew, Illumin8 Dance Crew

Favorite AsACC moment:

I think I don't have a favorite moment, but my favorite group of moments would be just walking in and seeing a friendly face at the front desk! I loved being able to see my friends working and just have a nice conversation while I was waiting to meet someone/for a club meeting. They made my days!

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

One thing I wish I had done at UConn would be to have put myself out there earlier! I used to be really afraid of sharing my interests with others, so I waiting until my sophomore year to do anything related to what I enjoy! I wish I had started earlier so I would have more time to be involved!



She/Her/Hers
Computer Science
Mathematics

JESSICA TANG

How have you grown since freshman year?

I was able to find my voice, became more confident in myself, worked on projects that I was truly passionate about, and learned to appreciate the little things in life.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Going on the stage before the T-Pain concert and throwing t-shirts into the crowd :)

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Your community isn't the people that you are in direct contact with everyday, but instead your community is the people that will support you through thick and thin, despite being far away.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

AMP (mentee, mentor); PAC (Homecoming Chair, Asian Nite Co-Chair); Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.

Favorite AsACC moment:

Homecoming 2019! Seeing everyone come together in order to work towards a common goal has been the most rewarding experience of my college career. The feeling of true happiness, pride, and love for one another after all our hard work paid off is one I will never forget.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Eat at Whitney



She/Her/Hers
Biomedical Engineering

SOVANNARITH TOUCH

How have you grown since freshman year?

Freshman year, I was actually kind of quiet and didn't really want to talk to anyone. I would distance myself and watch others at a distance, but sometimes you have to learn not to care about how others view you. From there, I slowly opened myself up, and it feels good to be myself.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Asian Night during my freshmen year. Watching the insane performances on stage or hearing the crowd cheer on was worth every penny.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Because COVID made everything virtual, meeting with people that I haven't seen in a long time feels awkward and I sometimes forget how to socialize. Regarding Uconn, I feel I do better when they give me the material and I study on my free time, but lose motivation really fast.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I slowly climbed my way to being the president of the Thai Laos Cambodian Student Association. From PAC Rep, to Secretary and now President, I'm happy to have helped TLC grow to where it has been. Hopefully we can keep the momentum in the future, and remember, TLC will set you free!

Favorite AsACC moment:

Losing at the smash tournament after practicing with everyone in ASAAC weeks before. Though it was a glorious lose, the games leading up to the match were really fun, and some super funny to look back on. Definitely keeping those clips I saved on my switch (if I can find it.)

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Definitely branched out and gone to more clubs. I worked the majority of my college life and missed out on a lot of events, so I definitely regret it. The events I were able attend to were really fun and definitely worth it, but if I could go back in time, I'd probably ask for less hours.



He/Him/His
Civil Engineering

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

– Dr. Seuss"

JACOB TRAN

How have you grown since freshman year?

I came in my freshman year not knowing anything, so I really started from the bottom, but now I'm here. Within those four years, I experienced countless memories and friendships that I'll always cherish. I came to embrace the love and warmth of those around me at UConn.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moment at UConn would be riding my electric scooter to get to class or to go play table tennis.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

It's important to keep in touch with those in your life. Being away from them has made me realize how much I miss being able to interact with them in person. Fortunately, we still have the ability to make video calls and talk.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I'm a mentor in the Asian/Asian American Mentoring Program, the president of UConn's Table Tennis Club, and the vice president of UConn American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moment was when we got free ice cream, but most importantly, it was all the time spent getting to know one another in AsACC.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I could go back in time and do this before my senior year, to eat in the eight dining halls at UConn in one day. I also would have done a lot more if I knew COVID was gonna make me stay at home.



He/Him/His

Mechanical Engineer

"100 pushups, 100 sit-ups, 100 squats, and a 10km run!" - Saitama

"It is fine now. Why? Because I am here!" - All Might"

KATHERINE TRINH

How have you grown since freshman year?

Freshman year, I was reserved, self-conscious, and unsure of my passions and aspirations. Since then, I immersed myself in opportunities at UConn and grew from a follower to a leader. I found passions for Pan-Asian awareness and social justice, and became a confident, ambitious person.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moment is when I joined Kappa Phi Lambda and had my class reveal. It felt so good to have my hard work pay off with my line sisters, and to finally, proudly rep our letters.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being away from loved ones has truly changed how much I value the little things when interacting with community members. Looking back, I wish I enjoyed the little moments more and stayed present. I hope to enjoy those things more with the time I have left as an undergraduate, and later as an alum.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I was co-recruitment chair, co-fundraising chair, co-cultural chair, warden, and president of my chapter for Kappa Phi Lambda. I was PAC rep for Kappas, a member of the Filipino American Student Association, and co-Asian Nite chair for PAC.

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moments are definitely every Asian Nite I attended and performed in. I'll never forget the nerves, excitement, and pay-off I felt during and after my performances with FASA and Kappa Phi Lambda. Hearing Kappas' in the audience call our chant at the end of our act gave me chills.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I got involved with other AsACC and PAC organizations more!



She/Her/Hers

Psychological Sciences

Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

"The planet does not need more successful people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind."

MARA TU

How have you grown since freshman year?

I have changed so much from my time here at UConn! I remember first feeling really lost about who I was and not being completely sure about what I felt really passionate about. Since then, I have become so much more comfortable and confident in myself and the work I aspire to do.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My favorite memories are the ones with friends where we are “studying” but end up goofing off and laughing all night. Horsebarn Hill sunsets are also so memorable too.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

OOof- being away from people has made me realize that being a part of a greater community is so valuable and without being close to one another, it is so much harder to communicate, connect, and care for one another. We rely on one another for essential things like joy, hope, and support.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Through AsACC, I am involved with AMP, ChinaCare, and popped into CUSA once in a while! Outside of AsACC, I'm involved with EcoHusky, the BOLD Women's Leadership Network, the UConn Office of Sustainability, Upsilon Sigma, and other environmental spaces.

Favorite AsACC moment:

I loved AMP and getting to connect and reflect with people even though our class was held virtually. I also loved learning the tiktok “Renegade” dance with Hannah, a participant in ChinaCare, in the AsACC lounge during a playgroup.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish that I had performed in Asia Nite! I loved watching the performances every year and it looked like people had so much fun on stage.



She/Her/Hers

**Environmental Science and Urban and Community Studies
Human Development and Family Studies**

Use your heart, your courage, and vision to fix, to heal, to empathize, to connect. Because living life for something bigger than yourself is a hero's journey. - Viola Davis

THU VU

How have you grown since freshman year?

I have grown mentally, academically, professionally, and even physically. Through my college experiences and as I learn more about myself, I slowly became more Thu. :)

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Lunar New Year 2020. There was months of planning to bring together students, family, and the community to celebrate the new year. I danced with friends, walked the fashion show, and fed a lion too!

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

It was (and still is) difficult adjusting to the pandemic. With the unexpectancy of life, I realized many of my feelings and experiences are shared by others as well. Our passions, ideas, and experiences bring us together, not proximity

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

AMP (2017-2020)

Delta Phi Lambda (2017-2021)

Vietnamese Student Association (2017-2021)

Favorite AsACC moment:

Asian Nite 2019. I had a great time volunteering, watching incredible performances, cheering on my friends from backstage.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I just did more! Like, putting off activities thinking I could do it next time or not attending events alone. Honestly, I should have eaten more UConn ice cream.



She/Her/Hers Management

“You are only đẹp after you bathe” - Mẹ

RACHEL WADA

How have you grown since freshman year?

Since I started at AsACC/UConn, I have come to better understand my multiracial Japanese American identity and have felt so much love, community, acceptance, warmth, and support from the my communities through this journey. I have also grown professionally through all of my experiences at AsACC.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My experience at UConn has been memorable through the relationships and connections I have built. Therefore, my most memorable moments have been ones were I am in community with folx who I appreciate.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

I haven't felt like I've been away from family and friends in the past two years, folx in AsACC and HESA are my community. I felt welcome in the AsACC community on my first day of work and a sense of belonging since then. I am so grateful for the AsACC community becoming my home away from home.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I was involved in a little bit of everything! I was most involved in AMP and MIXED through working with the student coordinators for both programs. I also served as the staff advisor of Queer Asians and Allies (QAA) for the 20-21 academic year.

Favorite AsACC moment:

There are so many to choose from! I loved any time that I was in the center and shared space and spontaneous conversations with students. I also loved the energy during AMP kick-offs and retreats. And I will always love and cherish the laughter and joy that I experienced while working at AsACC.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

While there are many things I wish I had gotten to do while UConn, on the top of my list is wishing that I had experienced an in-person Asian Nite. I am excited about the possibility of coming back in the future to get this experience!



She/Her/Hers

M.A. Higher Education and Student Affairs

"I am and always will be a catalyst for change."

- Shirley Chisholm"

JUSTYN WELSH

How have you grown since freshman year?

Going into freshman year of college, I was HIGHLY nervous to go to Storrs. I had never been away from my parents for more than a few days, and never away from home for more than a week. Since then, I have grown to be more independent and confident in myself day in and day out.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Playing in the Spring 2019 UConn Concert Band Performance. It was the most high level music I have ever performed and it was a real challenge.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

It has made me more independent; however, more importantly, it has made me appreciative of the memories I make with each and every one of my friends and family. They have made me who I am and who I will be in the future.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Engineering World Health (Treasurer); Student Administrative Assistant; UConn Concert Band; METAS LatinX Student Mentoring; KUBE Middle Schooler Mentoring (Leader); American Institute of Chemical Engineering; UConn IDEA Grant program; Environmental Justice Cogen.

Favorite AsACC moment:

My time at KUBE has been amazing - my most memorable part was the first ever virtual KUBE meeting we have ever done. It was definitely nerve wracking for everyone seeing if it would go smoothly, but it blew everyone's expectations completely out of the water.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish at UConn I got involved quicker. It took me until Junior year to really get involved all over campus, but once I did I never went back. I wish I wasn't so nervous to start doing every single thing I could do.



He/Him/His

Chemical Engineering

Entrepreneurship & Technological Innovation

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."

MICHELLE WU

How have you grown since freshman year?

Coming into UConn, I was extremely timid and reserved. However, after finding my community and support system, I learned that my UConn experience is what I make of it; thus, I should take advantage and seize every opportunity. As a result, my confidence in my voice and capabilities has skyrocketed.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

My most memorable moment at UConn is being revealed as a Sister of Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. at the Fall 2017 New Member Presentation. Since then, many doors and connections have opened for me.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

Being away from my friends/loved ones has taught me that community knows no bounds. They will always be there to uplift and encourage you into being the best version of yourself wherever you are.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

I have been an AMP mentee and mentor; Vice President, Liaison, Banquet Chair, Alumni Relations Chair, and Cultural Chair of Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.; and Vice President and Secretary of the Intercultural Greek Council.

Favorite AsACC moment:

My favorite AsACC moment was taking the AMP course with Angela! I learned a lot about my own identity and had deep conversations with my peer mentors that I would not have had otherwise. It taught me a lot about introspection and utilizing my voice while being a part of a collective.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

I wish I went to a women's basketball game before everything went virtual!



She/Her/Hers

Environmental Studies / Geography

"Life will give you whatever experience is most helpful for the evolution of your consciousness. How do you know it's the experience you need? Because it's the experience you're having at the moment."

CHRISTINE ZHU

How have you grown since freshman year?

Before entering college, I was always terrified of anything that would draw too much attention to me. Now, I'm able to openly speak my thoughts and opinions, even if they differ from others', and I'm more comfortable speaking in front of a crowd. I've become more outspoken overall.

What is your most memorable moment at UConn?

Anytime I ran into a friend on campus while walking to class on a sunny day. It's the small moments like those that I miss and will miss when I'm no longer on campus.

How has being away from your friends/loved ones changed your perspective on community?

A lot of my close friend group came to UConn with me, but I definitely learned to step outside of my comfort zone even if I have the option to stay comfortable. This helped me learn that the world is vast, and there's so much more than my little bubble.

Campus/AsACC/student org involvement:

Daily Campus, PAC, Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., AMP, HOLDUP!

Favorite AsACC moment:

Going to Homecoming Royalty Pageant 2019 with my AMP class to support Raven and Geli. It was one of the first times I felt really included in the AsACC community.

One thing you wish you had done at UConn:

Attended a basketball game or a tailgate. I made excuses every year, and ended up never going thanks to COVID.



**She/Her/Hers
English
Communication**

It's time to start living the life you've only imagined.

CONGRADTULATIONS

Class of 2021



**THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS WORLD
THAT WILL SEPARATE US.**

**NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, YOU
WILL BE LOVED AND REMEMBERED
UNTIL THE END OF TIME.**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF
OUR FAMILY AND WISH YOU ALL
THE HAPPINESS LIFE CAN OFFER.**