



Spring 2021

# ABSA Informer





## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Members, Alumni, and Valued Partners,

Welcome to the Texas Asian Business Student Association! It has been such an incredible privilege to serve as your president for the 2020-2021 academic year. With our theme of the year being “Empower Your Growth”, I hope ABSA has been a source of development for you. Although this year has certainly looked very different than any other one in the past, I was constantly in awe of the resilience, determination, and passion I have witnessed. It warmed my heart to know that whatever challenges might have been handed to us this year, ABSA has still been able to foster a strong community and offer valuable opportunities for growth.

To Our Members:

Your participation, efforts, and dedication to ABSA are what made all the events we hosted this year possible. During my past three years in college, ABSA has been instrumental in not only developing me as a leader but also helping me find my own path. Most important, the people in ABSA are always some of the most welcoming, hardworking, and inspiring individuals I have met at UT. Even thousands of miles away virtually, I have felt the exact same love and support. I am extremely humbled to have the opportunity to give back to ABSA this past year, but it would not have been possible without everything you have put into the organization. Looking forward to next year, I cannot be more excited to see all the amazing things you will achieve!

To Our Alumni:

Thank you so much for taking the time to come back and speak to our members. All of us have loved getting to hear about your fun college stories, learn from your career advice, and know more about what awaits us after our time at UT. Especially with all the initiatives we have tried to push out, I am really grateful for your willingness to come out to some new and different events. It has been an absolute pleasure working with the Alumni Association, and I look forward to seeing you around more often!

To Our Corporate Partners:

Thank you for your unwavering support of our organization. Especially in such a unique year, your contributions have made all of what we do possible and enabled ABSA to continue serving its members. I really appreciate your desire to invest in the growth of our members professionally, socially, and philanthropically, even through a virtual format.

On behalf of the executive panel, I want to say that it has been an honor and pleasure to serve ABSA this year. We hope that each of you is able to grow from and reflect on your personal ABSA experience. The following informer is a brief highlight of some events we have had this past semester. As you read through, I hope you will be reminded of the wonderful memories you made and realize how much you have grown during this trying semester.

Sincerely,

*Vincent Lin*

2020 - 2021 ABSA President

# EDITORS NOTE

Dear ABSA,

It has now been a year since the pandemic started, and we've survived two semesters of Zoom University. Despite the world coming to a pause, we kept moving forward and growing. Whether through case competitions, networking with corporate sponsors, or volunteering events, the organization pushed through to give valuable experiences to its members. Many of us have only seen each other through Zoom, but we continued to and make memories together. Hopefully, with a lot of vaccines, we can gather in-person next semester and return to some version of normal.

In this Informer, we pay homage to our roots as an Asian-American organization. Despite the current political climate, we are proud of our heritage as it shapes who we are as people and as a community. Through this year's theme, "Empower Your Growth", we hope to develop Asian Americans as successful leaders in the professional world.

The Informer wouldn't be possible without the lovely people in ABSA helping us. To Chris, thank you for guiding us through our first year of college as well as a year of directorship. You made us laugh and smile even through this difficult transition period. To Admin Branch, even though we didn't all get to meet in person, we're still grateful for all the Zoom memories and online game nights. To Panel, directors, and committee members, thank you for making online ABSA fun and supporting us throughout the year. Although we missed out on a lot of the normal ABSA experiences, we hope the light at the end of the tunnel is near.

Sincerely,

Derrick Lam, James Li, and Stephanie Shih  
2020-2021 Creative Directors

## President: Vincent Lin



### ***What's your favorite part about being an officer?***

My favorite part of being an officer is the ability to invest in and witness the growth of ABSA and everyone within it. ABSA has helped me be where I am today, and I love the opportunity to do the same for others. It always makes me so happy and proud to hear other members talk about how much they learned from participating in a particular event!

### ***What's something you are proud of doing as an officer this semester***

I am really proud of increasing alumni involvement in different events throughout the year. Alumni are such a great resource, but I remembered being really scared to reach out as a freshman. I hope that by creating more opportunities to engage with these alumni, in both formal and informal settings, everyone can feel more comfortable reaching out to them for help!

## Executive VP: Yue Taira



### ***What's your favorite part about being an officer?***

My favorite part of being Exec VP was definitely being able to create connections with people throughout the year. Whether it be with new members at tabling, old friends at GM, or company representatives at networking events, I loved the fact that I got to meet so many new people this year. Despite the pandemic and the virtual nature of things, I really felt like I got to connect with a whole variety of people as a result of my position in ABSA and the opportunities it provided for me to be at different events.

### ***What's something you are proud of doing as an officer this semester?***

Something I'm proud of doing as an officer this year is fostering a branch environment that resulted not only in four successful events, but also meaningful friendships with my directors. Although planning the events took a lot of work and effort, going through the process with my branch and seeing the result of our work made everything so much more rewarding. I know I wouldn't have been able to put up those events alone and the Exec branch would not be the same without my directors, so I'm definitely proud of them and all the work we put in towards helping fellow ABSA members develop their professionalism!



## Financial VP: Bryan Onghai



### ***What's your favorite part about being an officer?***

My favorite part about being an officer has definitely been getting to lead a branch of directors. I have gotten to watch my directors grow and really turn their leadership positions into something they own. Throughout the year, we have also been able to become close friends, and now that the year is coming to a close, I still have a lot to look forward to because even though the school year ends, the relationship gets to continue.

### ***What's something you are proud of doing as an officer this semester?***

I am very proud that I was able to teach my directors something new. During a Branch Meeting, I held a little class where I taught them some personal finance so that they would be able to start planning for their futures. I hope the lesson I was able to teach my directors leaves an impact much bigger than the immediate work of the branch, and helps them have even more successful careers.

## Professional VP: CiCi Lu



### ***What's your favorite part about being an officer?***

My favorite part about being an officer this year was my little group of people who had my back and helped me through the year. It's no doubt that leading an organization as big as ABSA is difficult, but being on panel with my best friend, Emi, and finding even more best friends through my directors made this year worth it.

### ***What's something you are proud of doing as an officer this semester?***

My goal for the year was to have ABSA be named the best professional organization on campus and it happened! Obviously, the professional development ABSA provides to our members is really important to me, so I was glad that the org's efforts to maintain professional development through our virtual year paid off despite how difficult it was. I am also extremely proud of my directors for creating the Journey to the Top event and having it turn out as successful as it did. We had three famous YouTubers come speak to us and the determination my directors had to contact and sit in Zoom calls with so many potential guest speakers wows me.



## External VP: Diane Lee



### ***What's your favorite part about being an officer?***

As External Vice President, I really enjoyed working behind the scenes to give back to the Austin community. And another community I loved serving was the one and only ABSA. From seeing members, directors, and panel on a nearly daily basis, I felt the special power of having a place to call home, especially when I thought the virtual year would make it hard for me to find one. Most importantly, having a supportive and loving group of directors encouraging me and seeing each other grow throughout the entire year made my experience extra extra special!

### ***What's something you are proud of doing as an officer this semester?***

I think the greatest sense of satisfaction comes from making events for ABSA and our members. With volunteering events, charity events, and social media activities, I was happy to see members have fun and enjoy the moment. There were definitely times where I got stressed and nervous, but I ultimately reminded myself about the core of philanthropy, to do mindful things to help others and myself, and to have fun at the end of the day! And this always seemed to give me peace.

## Internal VP: Andrew Kwak

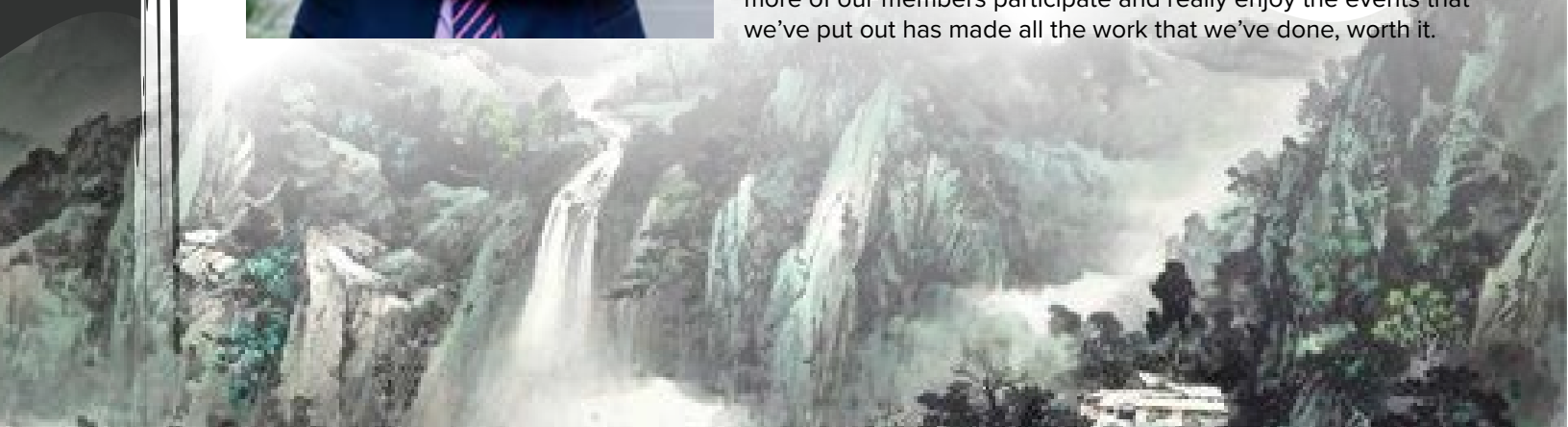


### ***What's your favorite part about being an officer?***

Being an officer this year was different in a lot of ways, but I think my favorite part was being able to spur my branch's creativity to plan out and host completely new events. Starting off from scratch wasn't easy, but encouraging my directors to try new things with our family events and socials helped us bring our own flair to Internal. Listening to all the ideas that they brought to the table, planning them out, and watching everyone laughing from the activities and games we played was truly a rewarding experience, despite the online circumstances.

### ***What's something you are proud of doing as an officer this semester?***

Something that I'm proud of...I think we as an org were able to accomplish a lot of our goals this year, in developing our members. But the thing that I'm most proud of was seeing our members come out of their shells. Turning off our camera during Zoom and muting ourselves is something that we all are guilty of; even I've kept pretty quiet during my classes. But seeing more and more of our members participate and really enjoy the events that we've put out has made all the work that we've done, worth it.



## Administrative VP: Chris Chen



### ***What's your favorite part about being an officer?***

My favorite part about being an officer is all of the fantastic people that I got to meet and continue to work with this semester. Since ABSA is so diverse, I am continually amazed at the people that I encounter who all have their own unique stories and backgrounds. It was such a pleasure seeing my directors grow into the capable and accomplished people they are today. Working with panel was an absolute blast and I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to spend my Sunday afternoons with. Lastly, to the members - thank you for being there this semester. I know it's difficult this year with things being online, but just your presence and your ability to put a smile on my face makes being an officer worth it ten thousand times over.

### ***What's something you are proud of doing as an officer this semester?***

One thing I am really proud of doing as an officer this semester is getting to organize Spring alumni weekend. Alumni are such an important part of ABSA, and they're not nearly being involved enough with ABSA events and activities. Seeing all the alumni come in and just talk about their lives and catching up with each other while also chatting with members makes me feel like I've made a difference this year in terms of bringing people together from all around the world who have not seen each other for a while.

## Academic VP: Emi Rinkliff

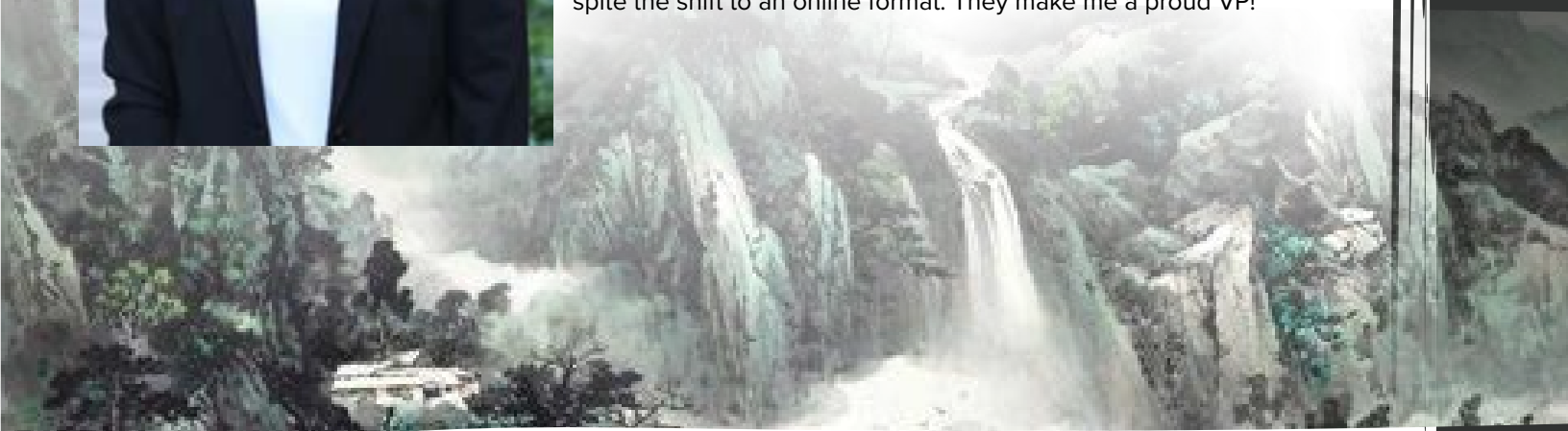


### ***What's your favorite part about being an officer?***

My favorite part of being an officer this year was the ability that it gave me to form close connections with my branch and with panel. Working alongside and spending hours on Zoom meetings with people really helps you grow close. Through this work I'm so glad that I was able to form friendships with my branch and panel and get to know truly wonderful people.

### ***What's something you are proud of doing as an officer this semester?***

I'm so proud of ABSA for being named the Most Outstanding Student Organization on campus at the Swing Out Awards. I went to countless meetings and workshops to help us be eligible, and it's rewarding to know it was time well spent! I'm also so proud of all of my directors for all of the hard work that they've put into this year to make the Academic events wonderful and amazing despite the shift to an online format. They make me a proud VP!



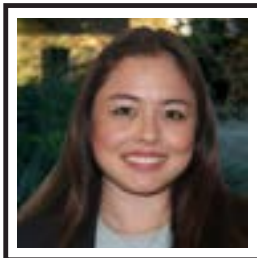
## Academic Branch



**Grace Wang**  
Academic  
Business Honors



**Brian Guo**  
Feed Your Mind  
MIS



**Lynn Palmer**  
Academic  
Finance



**Kevin Jacob**  
Feed Your Mind  
MIS/Math



**Meira Rigley**  
Academic  
Unspecified Business



**Seann Aswin**  
Feed Your Mind  
Plan II & Corporate  
Finance

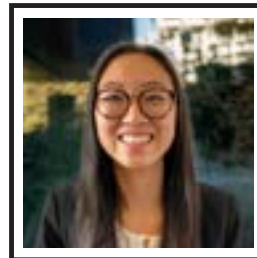
## Administrative Branch



**Yina Wu**  
Administrative  
Finance



**Stephanie Shih**  
Creative  
Design, BFA



**Emily Lim**  
Administrative  
Unspecified Business



**Derrick Lam**  
Creative  
Advertising



**James Li**  
Creative  
Marketing



**Forrest Sun**  
Webmaster  
Computer Science



**Daniel Oh**  
Media  
Unspecified Business



## Professional Branch



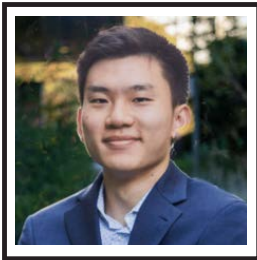
**Voon Goh**  
Professional  
Unspecified Business



**Davina Le**  
Professional  
Unspecified Business



**Junqi (Eric) Wen**  
Career  
MPA

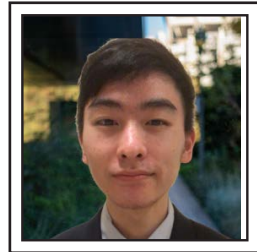


**Douglas Lin**  
Professional  
Accounting

## Financial Branch



**Nini Kuo**  
Financial  
Accounting



**Matthew Kim**  
Financial  
Accounting

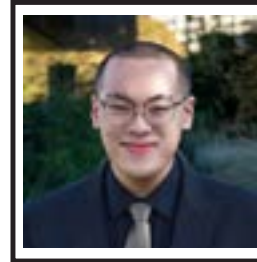


**Mitchell Lee**  
Financial  
Biology

## Executive Branch



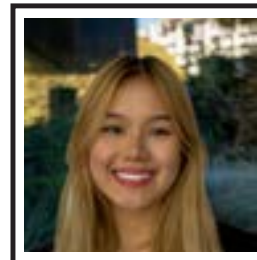
**Olivia Du**  
Corporate Relations  
Business Honors



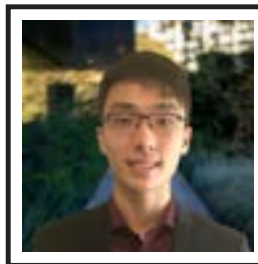
**Tyler Tran**  
Corporate Relations  
Business



**Janie Chen**  
Corporate Relations  
Unspecified Business



**Sally Vo**  
Corporate Relations  
MIS and Psychology



**Ray Lee**  
Corporate Relations  
Electrical and Com-  
puter Engineering

### External Branch



**Melanie Guillermo**  
Volunteer  
ESL Generalist



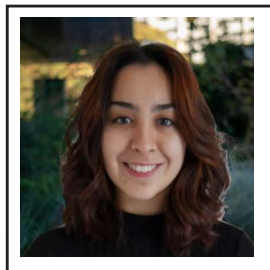
**Casey Truong**  
External  
Unspecified Business



**Wenting Du**  
External  
Business Honors



**Jack Hu**  
External  
Unspecified Business



**Anabella Chamoun-Ko**  
Public Relations  
Marketing



**Neha Boinapalli**  
Volunteer  
Unspecified Business

### Internal Branch



**Logan Kim**  
Family  
Government



**Raymond Xu**  
Social  
Unspecified Business



**Ashley Lee**  
Social  
Business Honors



**Erin Lim**  
Social  
Accounting



**Annie You**  
Family  
MIS and IRG



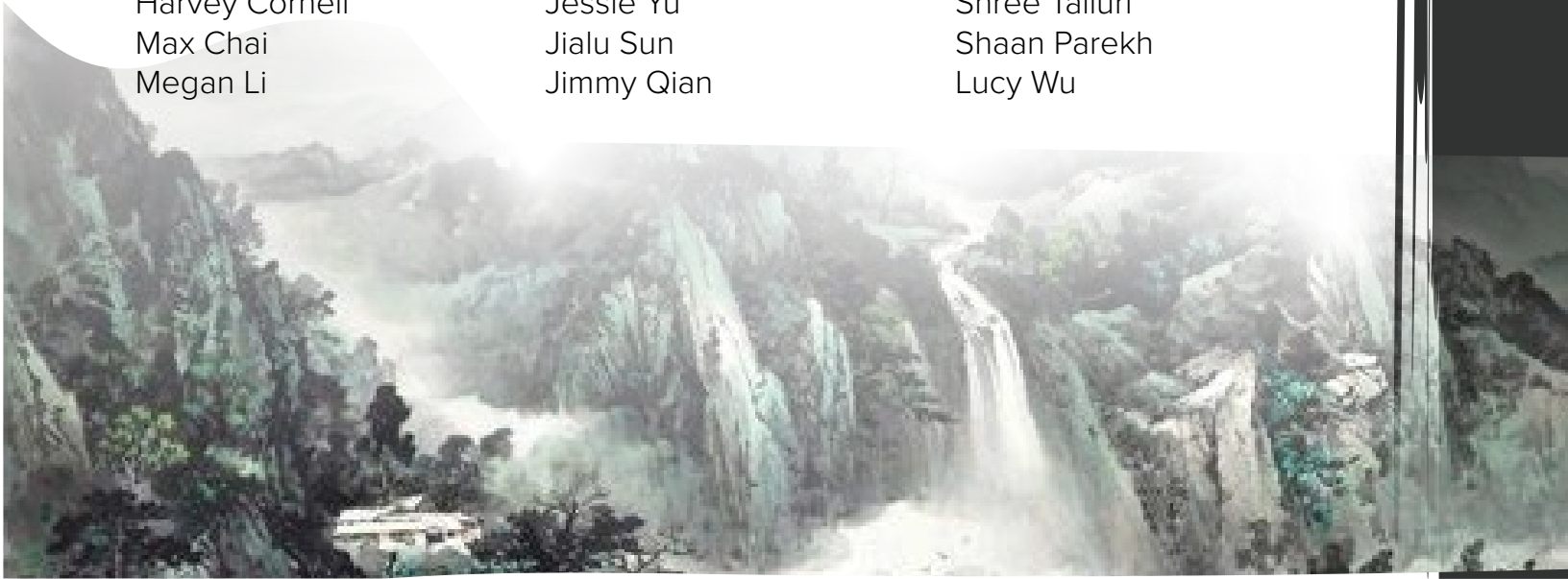


# FINANCE TEAM

Brian Liao  
Emily Nguyen  
Max Fu  
Noah Carr  
Ajay Raja  
Alan Huo  
Andrew Chen  
Joanna Lu  
Harin Sabhaya  
Harvey Cornell  
Max Chai  
Megan Li

Stephenson Gokingco  
Amy Zhao  
Divyank Mehta  
Cindy Wang  
Jeffrey Yu  
Himani Verma  
Rashu Jain  
Brian Lee  
George Rao  
Jessie Yu  
Jialu Sun  
Jimmy Qian

Juliana Yu  
Michelle Jiang  
Michelle Zhang  
Sunny Wang  
Aishwarya Agnihotri  
Chloe Jin  
Hamza Suhail  
Jennifer Cho  
Philip Ng  
Shree Talluri  
Shaan Parekh  
Lucy Wu





## MARKETING TEAM

Shawn Ha  
Sue Shin  
Abby Cheng  
Jade Yeng  
Cindy Wang  
Aaron Zou  
Jenny Xu

Joy Qin  
Voon Goh  
Lili Xu  
Theodore Jiang  
Catherine Guo  
Tyler Tran  
Annabella Chamoun-Ko

Shawn Ha  
Sue Shin  
Abby Cheng  
Jade Yeng  
Cindy Wang  
Aaron Zou





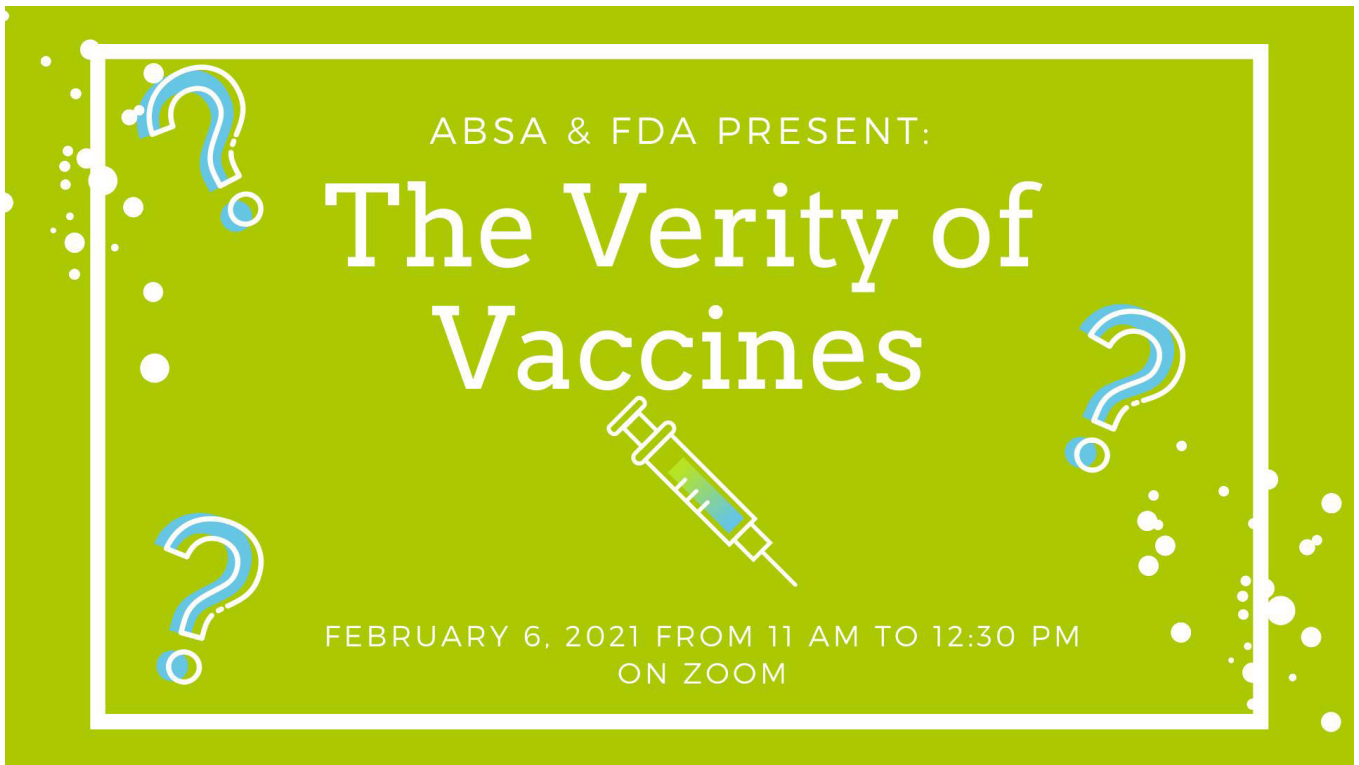
# CONSULTING TEAM

Andy In  
Angela Gao  
Cindy Yu  
Do Young Jung  
George Li  
Kevin Wang

Lynn Palmer  
Michelle Park  
Patrick Chen  
Rahul Shah  
Rutuja Joshi  
Shubham Sh

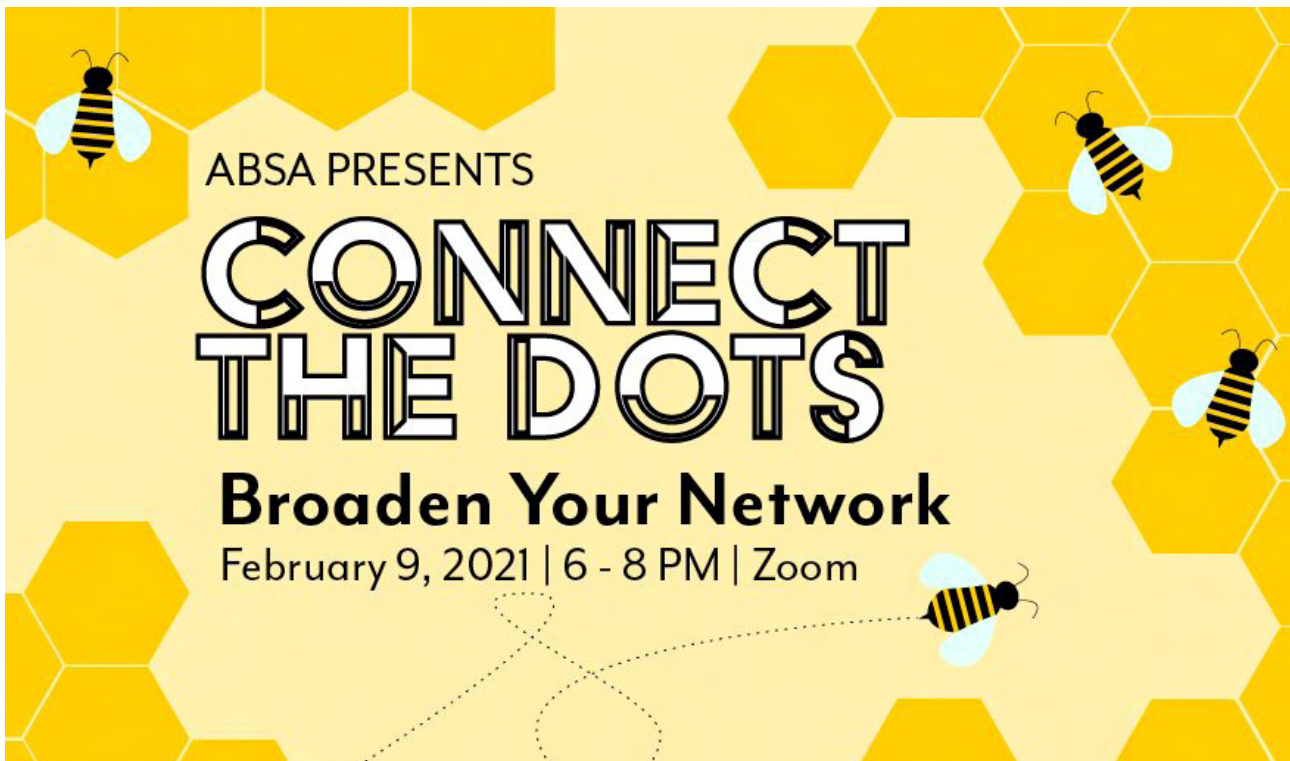
Sonia Abraham  
Yue Taira  
Pranitha Kona  
Maansi Chodavarapu  
Shawn Khetarpal  
Jenny Xu





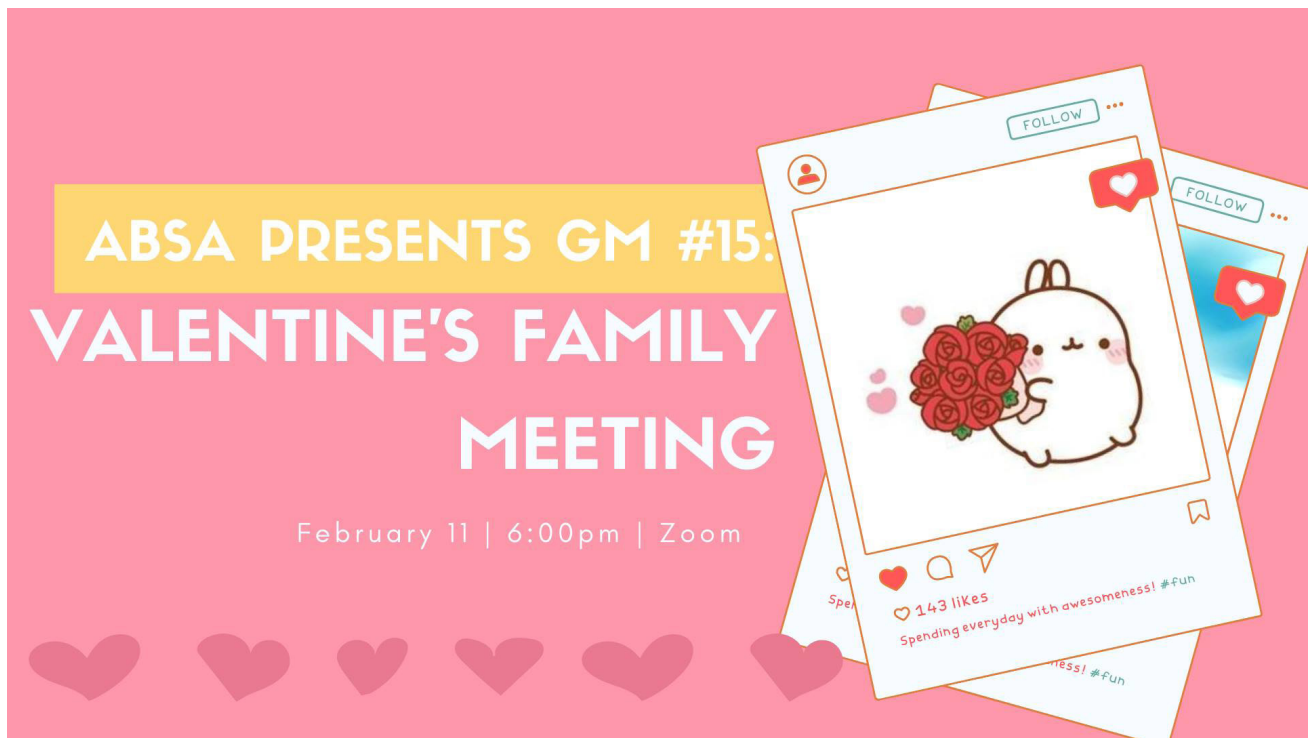
In order to raise awareness about the COVID-19 vaccines, we teamed up with Future Doctors of America at UT (FDA) to make infographics about how vaccines work, the different brands of vaccines, and other pertinent information. In breakout room groups of ABSA and FDA members, volunteers were tasked with creating colorful infographics on Canva. In total, we were able to make six graphics which each addressed a different topic. Culminated together, everybody's work was showcased on the ABSA Instagram page where members could learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine in a fun and accessible way.





At Broaden Your Network, students networked with recruiters in a roundtable event asking about everything from corporate advice to cereal preferences. The purpose of the event was to allow students to interact with company representatives in a more casual setting to reduce the stress that often comes with traditional networking events or career fairs. Students were able to engage with representatives from companies like KPMG, EY, Indeed.com, Duff & Phelps, Altria, Sense Corp, and so many more.





Valentine's Family GM was truly filled with immaculate vibes in this event giving members a chance to show each other some much-needed love and appreciation. With Siblings or Dating that tested ABSA members' relationship radars to Subtle ABSA Brown Bagging that highlighted some of the most quality Bachelors and Bachelorettes, we really filled that Zoom call with some extra love. Thanks to everyone for coming out to this magical event and if you managed to find your ABS-Bae, then kudos to you!







The second workshop, Money Moves, was a time to grow in one's financial literacy. Topics that were covered included bank account types, basic investing, and retirement accounts, as well as a quick introduction to relevant definitions, concepts, and future-looking ideas. Examples include the comparison of savings versus checking accounts, passive versus active investing, and 401K's versus Roth IRA's. Conversations about financial literacy were both casual and fun with open-ended questions diving deeper into the complexities.





In order to raise awareness about the COVID-19 vaccines, we teamed up with Future Doctors of America at UT (FDA) to make infographics about how vaccines work, the different brands of vaccines, and other pertinent information. In breakout room groups of ABSA and FDA members, volunteers were tasked with creating colorful infographics on Canva. In total, we were able to make six graphics which each addressed a different topic. Culminated together, everybody's work was showcased on the ABSA Instagram page where members could learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine in a fun and accessible way.





Thank you to Kory and Mary from Phillips 66 for coming out to our GM and teaching our members about different leadership styles and what it looks like at P66. The interactive GM with Kahoot was so fun, and we loved hearing about internship opportunities open to our members at P66!



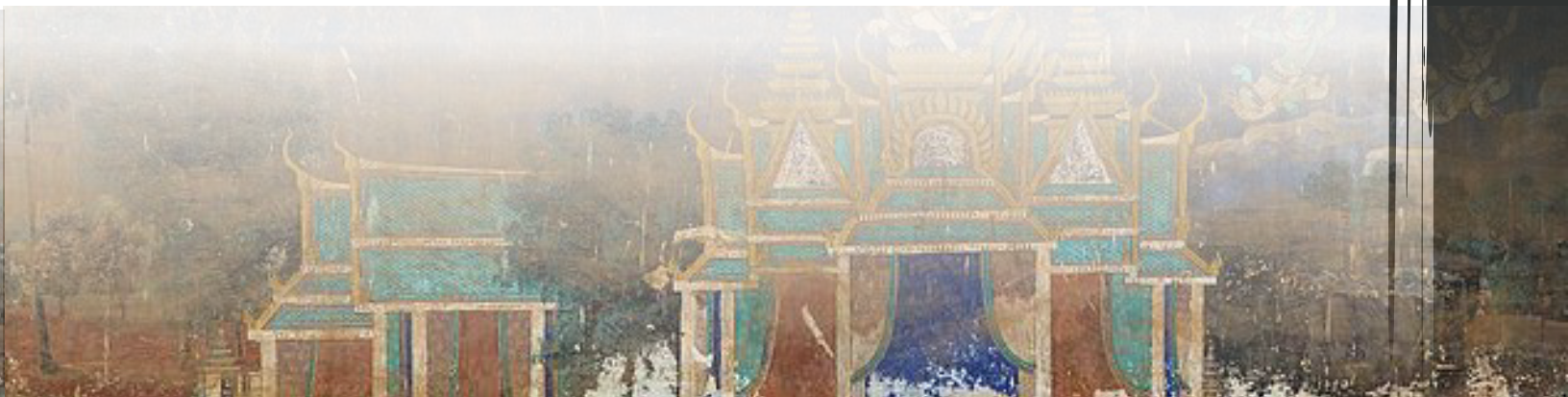


This year's Leadership Summit, "Level Up: What's Your Game Plan?", focused on developing leadership skills by encouraging individuals to follow their own path of self-discovery. This year's summit focused on the importance of fostering one's sense of identity in order to set goals for personal growth. We heard from a variety of speakers about their experiences with self-discovery, the impact of diversity, and leadership growth!





The External Branch did it again with another great virtual charity event! Trials of the Labyrinth was a Greek Mythology-themed event that consisted of a series of challenges to determine if players could become a god. The top two teams were awarded with prizes from our partners, including Pizza Press, Cabo Bobs, Potbelly, and every participant had a chance at a raffle to win a Kendra Scott necklace. From this event, ABSA raised over \$400 for Project Hope, and we have our amazing co-hosts to thank: TASA, HBA, and MISA. All four organizations had fun both planning and participating in the event!



SPONSORED BY ALVAREZ & MARSAL 

ABSA & WBA PRESENT

# SPRING CASE COMPETITION

KICKOFF: Monday, March 22nd, 5-6PM  
OFFICE HOURS w/ A&M: Wednesday, March 24th  
COMPETITION DAY: Saturday, March 27th

LIMITED SPOTS! Application-based sign-up closes  
Friday, March 19th at 11:59PM  
<https://tinyurl.com/SpringCaseComp>

Spring Case Competition was a week-long case competition hosted alongside with Alvarez & Marsal. Student teams came up with solutions to a real-world business problem given to them at the beginning of the week. Through this competition, students were encouraged to develop their problem solving, collaboration, and presentation skills, while also networking with professionals from A&M!





ABSA Presents GM #21:

# DARE AN OFFICER

*Fundraiser GM for March of Dimes*

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Thursday, April 1st | 6:00 - 7:30 PM | Zoom



Dare an Officer was an event that served to raise money for March of Dimes. Within this event, members received a one-of-a-kind experience where officers provided entertainment by partaking in a number of “dares” that moderators auctioned off. The reactions we received from our members were ones of pure joy and laughter as the barriers created by hierarchy, the pressures of school, the intensity of the classic stranger... began to wear off. Instead, everyone was at an even playing level, and embraced philanthropy with a twist of fun.





Admin Branch was able to strike again with another alumni weekend, but this time make it spring edition! This Spring Alumni Weekend was hosted on April 3rd, 2021 where the Admin Branch teamed up with the Internal Branch to host our alumni. Internal Branch kicked off the event with a social titled Iffy Influencer Influenza, our alumni and members were able to join teams together to attract companies to recruit their influencer. Admin Branch went next to host a game of Cranium where the teams were able to complete exciting challenges. Finally, the event was able to end with a casual meet and greet session with our wonderful alumni.



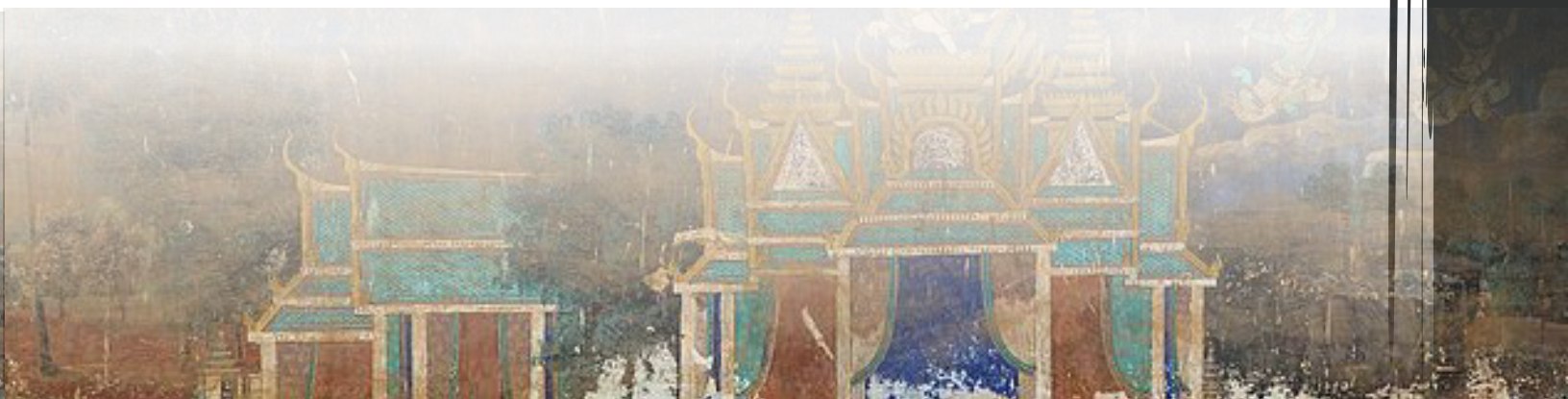


TEXAS ABSA PRESENTS GM #22

*Top Model  
Family Meeting*

APRIL 8 | ZOOM | 6:00 PM

Our final family GM of the year showcased each family's respective top talents. Never did we expect to see such a wide variety of skills and abilities coming from all our lovely ABSA members; we got to see top acts ranging from self-defense lessons to astounding musical performances to Mona Lisa-level grape drawings. By the end of the night, the audience had voted for James Li's swooning saxophone solo, crowning him as ABSA's top model of the year. A warm thank you to everyone who showed up to cheer on ABSA's diverse candidates!



## Neha Boinapalli

**Bella** - The kind of friend that is my ride or die. I couldn't have made it through this year without you!

**Diane Lee** - Wholesome, sweet, and the nicest person you'll ever meet!

**Melanie Guillermo** - I couldn't have asked for a more attentive fellow volunteering director

**Wenting Du** - Chill, confident vibes forever

**Casey** - Immaculate humor

**Jack** - Thoughtful and someone who listens and cares

**Vincent** - Most interactive, present, considerate President ever! Couldn't imagine this year with anyone else as our President

**Alina & Jenny** - Thanks for making OnlyFam so fun!

**Timmy Ren** - Thanks for suffering through those case comps with me!

**Isabella Hsu** - Your taste in music is iconic. Can't wait to see you in-person next semester!

**Isabella Haen** - Thanks for helping me survive through MIS!

**Tiffany Lin** - Hope we get to hang out next semester! You seem really cool!

**Janie Chen** - OMG this girl is sooo fun and nice to be around! Can't wait to do a proper pizza run with you next semester (and thanks for being supportive)!

**Nini Kuo** - I love you art, but more than that, I love the kind of person you are. Thanks for being there. Can't wait to see you in-person next semester!

**Gerardo Bote** - We should totally hang out! Thank you for coming to volunteer events. It was great to have someone actively engaged!

**Tyler Tran** - Someone honest and confident is rare. Love that you own it!

**Kim Ngo** - I hope we can hang out in the future next semester!

**Bonghai** - I was surprised to learn you weren't financial director last year because you killed it as VP this year!

**Andrew Kwak** - Thanks for making ABSA a social place to meet members, even if it was only done virtually. I can't wait to see what you do next year as President!

**Chris Chen** - Thanks for being an amazing Administrative V.P.!

**Stephanie Shih** - It was cool getting to know you in OnlyFam!

**For everyone else** - It has been a fun journey throughout this year with y'all. I can't wait to be in-person next year and get to know everyone even more!

## Gerardo Rafael Bote

**Vincent Lin** - Thank you so much for your hard work this year! I appreciate your hard work as President this year. I can't wait to see what the future holds for you!

**Diane Lee** - I appreciate you being so thoughtful and amazing throughout the events! Love that kind of positivity... :D

**Joe Mamas** - Thank you all for being great family members! You all provided something great to the table of awesomeness and I cannot wait to see what the future holds for you!

**Sanmay Seth, Shivam Aggarwal, & Alice Tian (Joe Mama Bigs)** - Thank you for bringing great encouragement to our family members! You lightened the mood and made everything comfortable when things were at their worst! YOU'RE THE BEST!

**Kim-San Ngo** - You're a cool gal! I remember those times that we collaborated well in UGD 303! Keep being you!



## Gerardo Rafael Bote

**Andrew Kwak** - 당신이 최고예요! I know that you will serve and represent ABSA well as our next President! I believe in everything that you do and will be able to support you along the way! I believe in you! (Also, when you are wearing that maid outfit again?)

**Tyler Tran** - Thanks for being you! Your sassiness and positive personality brings the laughter out of me! You cool~~~!

**Voon Goh & Cici Lu** - Thank you for being very active within the coffee chats! Your questions with alumni surprise me sometimes not because I didn't think of them, but they provide insight I never thought I would ever receive!

**Bryan Onghai** - I appreciate you being your best this year! I wouldn't be here without you and your explanation of the great organization that is ABSA! I can't to see what you do in the future!

**Christopher Chen** - Fellow CS major! Thank you for your hard work this school year! I hope you don't get too stressed in your future path with CS, especially with those UDEs! I know you are going to be successful in the future, so don't stop going for your dreams!

**Neha Boinapalli** - You are amazing! Your passion for volunteering and helping others as a Volunteering Director was exceptional! I know you will do great things in the future, and I can't wait! Blow us all away~~~~! :D

**Emi Rinkliff** - Ahhh~~~, a great Academic VP, I see! You were exceptional in fulfilling the responsibilities asked of you, and I can assure that the queen herself can also appreciate what she has done for members like me! You were awesome this year, and I can't wait to see what you do in the future!

**Nini Kuo** - I love your personality! You were exceptional in providing the best art, the best feedback, the best everything! I cannot wait to see what you do in ABSA next year..

**Matthew Onghai** - Thank you for the CS mentorship you gave me in the fall! I really appreciated it :)

**Janie Chen** - Thank you for being you! Your great dancing skills awe me! Can't wait to see what you do in ABSA next year!

**Executive Panel & Directors** - Thank you for hard work this year! It will not be forgotten! Your work for making ABSA successful on an online platform was astounding and a great mark for ABSA history! Thank you for all the services (whether it be coffee chats, socials, volunteering events, etc.) that you provided this year. We hope—nay, WE KNOW—that you will do great things in your respective careers and academic goals!

**Everyone** - WE MADE IT THROUGH THE SCHOOL YEAR! We made it through a year's worth of Zoom calls and online meetings and virtual conferences and other stuff of the same nature. But... we're almost there! The light at the end of the tunnel, signifying that things "might" go back to normal, is close. BUT, we cannot easily give up, especially with COVID cases still rising; we still need to stay vigilant and keen about what we do next. Graduating seniors and upperclassmen, you're about to graduate. How does that feel? Weird? Exciting? No matter the feeling, your college life is almost done. But that doesn't mean a sad ending. After graduating, you get to explore a new path that might help you learn more about yourself and what you're capable of. Take this path and do what is best for you. Freshmen and Sophomores: the journey is just beginning. Tell me: what steps are taking in the near future to improve yourself? What are going to do that will 1) make you happy, and 2) bring the best outcome for you? Either way, I hope you all of you have a great summer! See you next year (in-person, hopefully)!"



## Annabella Chamoun-Ko

**Neha** - You are one of the HARDEST working people I have absolutely EVER known in my entire life. You leave me in awe with your work ethic, your drive, and your passion.

**Diane** - You are like a warm blanket on a rainy Sunday. I don't even know, like words beyond cannot describe how grateful I am to have met you and gotten to have you as my External VP. Diane you are absolutely precious.

**Casey** - You have so much spunk, like INCREDIBLY swag Casey. I love your confidence, it is awesome, it is amazing and you legitimately lighten up the room with every comment, every remark. And the CARDS oh my god the CARDS you made me, I still have them in my diary - some of the most thoughtful things anyone has ever given me.

**Wenting** - Your HEART, is HUGE. Absolutely humongous, your love for the world and for the people around you is nothing short of absolutely pure and wholesome. You are going to do so many great things in life, people are going to come to you and they are going to feel this warm, enwrapped, bundle of absolute joy and safety.

**Melanie** - Melanie you are the CUTEST, the CUTTEST person in the absolute world. I love how you make the funniest comments, and it's sort of like a sneak attack of fits of laughter. You are so ambitious, hardworking, and you are going to do so so GREAT - so NEVER doubt yourself.

**Jack** - Jack you are so sweet and you are more than perfectly CAPABLE. You are growing into someone who is more than capable, actually, to take on the world one step at a time. Please never think you are doing any less, Jack. I hope that you are greeted with nothing but warmth, and good hotpot this summer!

**Mia** - I think we had like really good conversations about language and tennis and unforeseeable circumstances at the external charity event. You're hilarious.

**Nini** - You are SO LOVELY and sweet! You are like a literal cherry blossom, a flower, please never lose your precious personality! They don't come often my dear. But we are lucky to have you!

## Christopher Chen

**Vincent Lin** - It's VINCENT LIN!!! I swear it should be impossible to be this good at being ABSA president two semesters in a row... yet you seem to defy all odds. Whether it's at events, OM, or hangouts, it's always such a pleasure to talk to you and listen to your perspective on so many things. There's no other person I would have to guide and mentor me through these trying yet fun months at ABSA. When you come back to the states I'm definitely spoiling you with dinner. And I might crack a joke or two just so I get to hear your million dollar laugh again.

**Yue Taira** - Yue! Every time I see you in the gym I feel small and even more motivated to get your body... heaven knows I desperately need to get in shape for the summer. Also thank you for helping set up my tinder profile HAHAAHA idk why I was so embarrassed about it - it's just scary! It was fun to work with you and I look forward to hanging out with you next semester!

**CiCi Lu** - Oh my gosh, ew, it's CiCi. jkjk, hello best friend! It's been another semester and I still don't understand how you manage to stay on top of everything, I swear you're able to unlock 100% of your brain power and multitask on like 10000 things at once. Pls teach me how to get a dump truck or else I'm gonna be sad.

**Andrew Kwak** - Hey sexy babe. SHEESH HHHH ur without a doubt the cutest vp on panel, but don't tell anyone else I said that. Thanks for making OM's and ABSA events funny with your sense of humor and I really had fun playing ultimate frisbee with you. I know you're gonna make next year amazing for everyone!



## Christopher Chen

**Diane Lee** - Well, well well, if it isn't the amazing Diane herself. Never at the beginning of the year did I have the faintest idea of how much of an absolute savage you are, but I absolutely love it. I cannot emphasize enough how fun you are to hangout with and we better get foodheads next year too! P.s. my succulents are growing so well!

**Emi Rinkliff** - Is that Queen Emi I see? Ugh - I absolutely LOVE your attitude and your energy and it was such a pleasure working with you this year! I still remember when we used to live on the same floor in Jester and had absolutely no idea who the other person was until like halfway through the school year. Look how far we've come since then LOL

**Bryan Onghai** - My favorite financial VP! Whether it's your cheesy puns about dues during GM, or the crazy stories you tell, you always find a way to make my day brighter and smile. You're a hard worker and super super smart and I wish my life was half as interesting as yours!

**Christopher Chen** - wow I love ur peccs, let me kiss them the next time I see you

**Stephanie Shih** - Miss future VP! Another semester is over and time seems to fly by so fast. You're an incredible person with an incredible work ethic and I loved watching you grow as a person this year. Your creativity has no limits and I'm literally in awe of how you're able to manage so many things at once. Let's grab coffee again - Lucky Lab was soooo good! You're gonna absolutely kill it next year, I can't wait to see what you will do!

**James Li** - Oh my gosh, when I heard your saxophone solo during top model GM, I think I fell in love... do I need to say anything more? Hehe thanks for sticking with me through this year, it was fun listening to you complain about how classes are screwing you over during our highs and lows and awkwardly - I can definitely relate!

**Derrick Lam** - Derrick my man, you've been a freaking awesome creative director. You always have such fresh ideas and a keen eye for design, seeing you create stuff was so oddly satisfying to watch and be a part of! You always churn out quality work and I wish you the best of luck in the future! We still need to play exploding kittens together sometime!

**Emily Lim** - Hey there Emily! Idk why but everything you say is so so funny to me.... I only got to hang out with you once when we went to play ultimate frisbee together, but that was so fun, we should definitely do it again! You also need to teach me how to play pickleball! Great job this year - I think we can all unanimously agree that you're the best host ever!

**Yina Wu** - What a pleasure it was having you as my director this year! I hope you're doing alright and are not too stressed with everything. You always find a way to make me smile and make BM's better by being there! You're also a hard worker and there's no one else I would have as my admin director, thanks for being you!

**Forrest Sun** - Oh man, what would ABSA be without Forrest Sun? My favorite part of every week was seeing an email from you telling me what ABSA events were gonna happen this week, especially your GIFs. You have a natural charisma that I don't think anyone can replace, and I loved playing ultimate frisbee with you... even if you dropped some of my passes I'll let it slide. Have a great rest of your semester and best of luck with CS in the future... it's a long road haha.

**Daniel Oh** - dude, all I gotta say is, stay safe LOL. Hope you're doing alright with classes and personal life and everything... don't be too stressed! It was a blast filming with you and Diane for the swingout awards video, and I loved the EOS video! You're freaking awesome and we still gotta go to a party together and have non-alcoholic drinks ;)



## Christopher Chen

**Annie You** - oh jeez, I can't believe I am even writing a shoutout for you HAHA. You're pretty awesome I guess, I'm sorry I couldn't go out to eat with you on so many occasions, I promise I'll be free next time! I'm also down to drink water at your place if you're ever interested! You're hands down the best person to go to for advice when I need help with my right hand, so thank you for that! When next year is in person, I think some late night study sessions are in order

**Amy Wang** - Amy Wang! The real OG! It was awesome to hang out and chill with you this year, your dogs are so cute I definitely need to walk them again sometime ! Also thank you for peer pressuring me into getting Tinder and giving me a photoshoot in the McCombs 5th floor study lounge - you made me realize how ugly I am. You and I are about to pop off next year - UT can't handle our energy

**Logan Kim** - so when's our date?

**Sanmay Seth** - am I allowed to shoutout boomers? lolol congrats on graduating you old chump, but it's too sad you aren't around so I can slap your massive booty. Thanks for bigging this year, you were amazing.

**Shivam Aggarwal** - 5 months later and I'm still diggin your ridiculous flow. Maybe I should actually go skateboarding with you one day, but it might be dangerous because I think I'd be falling for you too often ;) Thanks for being an awesome big too!

**Alice Tian** - Joe Mama? My mama? Who is sheeeeeeee? haha thanks for being a great big.

**Brian Guo** - cutest roommate and best FYM director on jah

**Matthew Onghai** - Hey there cutie! I haven't seen you in a while but that trip to the domain where we had lunch and messed around at H&M was so fun - definitely need to do that again! I miss u - what's the fun in being degenerate late at night alone when you can be degen with Matthew Onghai? lolol but seriously though, thanks for all the mentorship and guidance and help you've given me, I just hope I did half as great of a job as you. Wish you the best in the future and pls remember me when you become rich and famous.

**Tyler Tran** - Sushi Junai round 2? I think I can make it to 9 rolls this time.

**Jenny Xu** - toss? Clark? lolol I feel like it's been forever since I've seen you, we need to hangout more! Get the gang together and we'll be unstoppable as I zoom across the field. especially with your light up disk at night - yesssssss. Too bad I wasn't in onlyfam or you would've been hearing my spicy relationship content all semester long :(

**Matthew Kim** - yung matty kim, can I preorder your next mixtape?

**Sophie Zhang** - my favorite koreaboo, let's hang out again soon!

**Brittany Given & Catherine Guo & Jessica Ye** - old admin branch get together is happening 100% and if I have to drag y'all along, so be it!

**Victoria He** - hehe hello Vic, I guess ur not as scary as you seemed at first. I wish you the best of luck in the future and beyond! You're pretty awesome and funny and I think I might be giving you too many compliments so I'll stop right here before I inflate your ego too much LOL.

**Mitchell Lee** - Road to radiant in Valorant? I think it's definitely achievable LOL, nice to get to know you more bud

**Fernando Su Chen** - the man, the myth, the legend

**ABSA** - thank y'all for making this an exciting and memorable year, even despite everything being online. You've given me experiences that I never would've dreamed of having when I first came to UT, but this org continually surprises me in the best way possible. Everyone here is amazing and awesome and wholesome and welcoming and there is no better group of people that I'd rather spend time with.



## Janie Chen

**Nini Kuo** - Literally the nicest person ever! Idek what else to say, I just love Nini so much XDD IF UR READING THIS NINI ILYYYY (Liang Sen superiority >V<)

**Kim-San Ngo** - Hehe one of my best friends in ABSA!!! I always get scared to reach out to people, but Kim reached out to me first and now we're hecka close. Kim's energy is just so fun and very...ahahah interesting V(o.o)V

**Yue Taira** - THE BEST VP HANDS DOWN!!! Yue is always willing to answer my questions, whether it's about skincare, life, or Exec events. She has been such a good mentor and just has the biggest smile eheh

**Vincent Lin** - HONESTLY I cannot imagine how ABSA would have been this year without Vincent. He's literally the cutest bean and always radiating such positive energy. You can tell how much he genuinely cares about ABSA all the way from TAIWAN. From the scavenger hunt during our first GAM to his small talk in the last financial workshop, I respect and appreciate Vincent SO MUCH

**Shivam Aggarwal (aka Mama Shimmy)** - Hehe one of my favorite bigs! I really enjoyed our mini fam walk to the dog park and da amazingggggg photography SKILLZZ :)

**Sanmay Seth (aka Mama Sanmay)** - Honestly the coolest big!! Even though I never got to actually meet Mama Sanmay in real life I really love the Baby Got Back energy he brings to every fam event!!!

**Andrew Kwak** - idek what to say AHAHAHA... Maid costumes and cucumber horror stories o.o Andrew is just so quirky and really brings the life to all ABSA events. Best future president uwuu

**Jack Hu** - THE SMARTEST AND COOLEST DUDE IK!!! Mr. International??? Mr. J2??? Who even is he? My only wish is that one day I can also run into Gordon Ramsay V(-- o --)V

**Christopher Chen** - AHAHA A very cool dude...lowkey scarred me during his shirtless GM but its ok :(((

## Tong Chen

**Jenny and Alina** - Thanks for being co-bigs with me this year :)

**OnlyFam Littles** - Love you all <3

**Matt Onghai** - Matt matt matt to the old town matt

**Andrew, Annie, and Logan** - Bark Bark Bark Bark

## Melanie Guillermo

**Flexternal Branch** – We did it!! I'm going to miss our BM's and laughing with you guys every week.

**Diane Lee** – THAT'S MY VP!!! Thank you so much for guiding us through such a great year. I'm so proud of all of the things we have accomplished and none of it would have worked without your endless support. Thanks for always checking up on me through good and bad times.

**Bella Chamoun-Ko** – I always admire your optimism and your awareness about mental health. I know you'll go and do amazing things, you got it girl!

**Neha Boinapalli** – Great job this year co! I'm super proud of us for pulling off all of the volunteering events despite the obstacles we've faced. I appreciate your creativity and attention to detail, and I know that'll get you far!

**Wenting Du** – My hometown girl, I just couldn't get away from you!! Thanks for being so supportive of everything and I'm proud of all you've been able to accomplish this year!



## Melanie Guillermo

**Casey Truong** – To the funniest of them all...I love your humor and thank you for all of the support you've given me this year. So proud of you and I can't wait to see what's to come for next year!

**Jack Hu** – I'm always happy to run into you! Thanks for being such a chill and stylish friend!

**Brown Bag** – So grateful for our late-night food runs and finding random parks to sit at each time. I'll miss squishing together in the car ahaha...

**Voon Goh** – Thanks for being chauffeur and bringing me to all the best places to get food!! You're the most antisocial-social person I know and you literally kill everything you do...don't even deny it. So ready for next year!!

**Stephanie Shih** – My girl...your laugh always makes me laugh!! Thanks for helping a girl out when I overthink everything and you help me realize I need to just chill out. I'm so proud of everything you've done this year, you LAX queen. I can't wait for next year!!

**Shuwen Ong** – You are my literal biggest fan and biggest hype woman and I love you for it. I'm so excited for what next year brings, and I'll make sure we to go to basketball games soon ;))

**Jennifer Truong** – Thank you big and mentor for bringing me to eat good food and for giving me helpful advice!

## Matthew Kim

**Bryan** - what a cool vp/you as bright as a Christmas tree:)

**Mitchell** - thanks for the fun this year/to many future cheers:)

**Nini** - so wholesome and kind/a natural impa studious mind:)

**PB&J** - DANG we all treats/think you're pretty neat/fun online calls/we tall:)

**Everyone** - thanks for a good online year/lets meet in the near(future):)

## Logan Kim

**Michael He** - one day we'll hangout and cook chicken

**Juwon Lee** - hey cutie. can we hang out sometime

**Chris Chen** - hey cutie. when r we going on a date

**Tyler Tran** - hey bestie

**Ben Fa** - choo choo

**Zach Wang** - hi grandpa

**George Li** - hi joob. can u teach me how to make my own joob bed

**Tongus Bongus** - bark bark

**Alina Xie** - bark bark

**Jenny Xu** - bark bark

**Tony Ho** - hello head ho. thanks for all the help w genshin and china fam dinners. if ur ever back on campus let's go eat dinner again

**Andy In** - hello bestie. can we go get dinner again sometime

**Victoria He** - congrats on graduating and good luck next year in Cali. also thanks for telling me to roll and getting Childe

**Matthew Onghai** - thanks for all the late night McD's and Tea Haus runs and the fam vids during GM. the serotonin boost every time was always appreciated

**Sophie Zhang** - still can't believe you eat cucumbers like a worm

**Erin Lim** - let's eat some more vegetables next year when ur on campus





## Logan Kim

**Raymond Xu** - thanks for swiping me into jester. let's play volleyball next year

**Diane Lee** - I can't stress enough how good of a job u and external did this year. all the events were always innovative, exciting, and new. also thanks for all the help during elections. good luck on ur mpa next year if that's what u decide to do

**Andrew Kwak** - hi oppar and fellow degen. thanks for being my VP this year. thanks for all the late night hangouts, the silly BMs, and 2606 memories. I can't believe we went from random degens to friends somehow. I can't wait to see what you do next year. Whether that be as ABSA's president or ABSA's hottest bachelor on the block.

**Annie You** - hi daebak chingu. since you know me, this will literally be the only time I'm nice to you. I swear our entire friendship is just bullying each other and I would literally not have it any other way. I can't wait til next year when everything's in-person and on campus, and I know ur gonna drag me out somewhere after waking me up from my nap. next year is gonna b so fun and I cannot wait for it to come.

**Ashley Lee** - hello therapy patient. I can't wait til next year when we're on campus when we can find our fellow besties and do other stupid things. thanks for all the serotonin boosts from ur insta and try not to get banned again. next year when I'm taking cs I can't wait for u to teach my dumbass how to do the problems

**Bigs** - thank y'all for ur effort throughout the year. Annie and I literally cannot stress how thankful to have y'all as bigs this year. y'all each made ur own family vibes where the littles felt comfortable and could have fun. even with the online format and everything being more difficult, y'all did an amazing job and I cannot repeat that enough. thanks for the past year and all the memories along with it.

**Vincent Lin** - hi Vincent. I can't stress enough how good of a job you did this year as ABSA's president. you literally went to every single event, was active in the events, and even did all the extra stuff like brown bags. I swear you're an alien b/c ur superhuman. ur literally one of the smartest, funniest, brightest, and fun people to be around and ur laugh is literally the best. i know you'll do great in whatever you decide to pursue and I hope you remember when you win the Nobel Peace Prize.

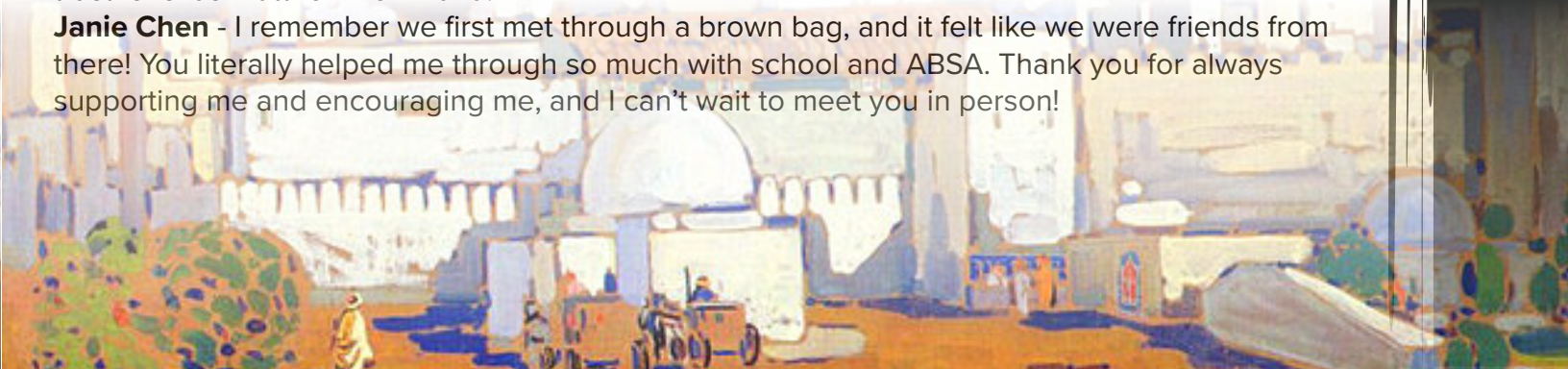
## Nini Kuo

**Bryan Onghai** - Best VP, insightful mentor, and of course an amazing friend, you have taught me so many things this past year, especially in the area of how to create puns (mine still needs work tho) There are so many times in classes where I will remember the advice you shared, and during the day I will unconsciously start telling my family about Financial Branch memories. There are always so many laughs shared at branch meetings and I feel SO lucky to be one of your directors!

**Matthew Kim** - Matthew I don't know how you're always able to radiate a very calm and happy energy, but you do! You're always so proactive and it motivates me to do the same. Also, thank you for always bringing so many good haiku poems and raps!

**Mitchell Lee** - Not going to lie, in the beginning of directorship I was so shy I didn't think I could open up, but your personality was so outgoing and easy before I knew it I could just talk to you without feeling awkward. Thank you for all your encouragement and hopefully I'm on the same trust level as Matthew now haha.

**Janie Chen** - I remember we first met through a brown bag, and it felt like we were friends from there! You literally helped me through so much with school and ABSA. Thank you for always supporting me and encouraging me, and I can't wait to meet you in person!



## Nini Kuo

**Abby Woo** - Abbyyy WOOO! Volleyball queen! Thank you for dealing with my random questions and conversation starters, honestly, if I were you I would think I'm kind of weird.

**Lili Xue** - From song recs to knitting a beanie at the same time (although yours looked better) I can't believe how much we have in common and I can't way to hang out with you next semester!

**Diane Lee** - You are so sweet and hardworking! You have your own aesthetic and it's definitely something so inspiring. I can't wait to meet you next year!

**Jack Hu** - Best moderator for Make the Escape haha! And I'm so happy to find another friend I can speak Chinese to, can't wait to finally meet you next semester!

**Ashley Lee** - You literally always do your best to make everyone feel welcomed and included! There is never a dull moment with you, thank you for always bringing in the brightest energy. Can't wait to meet you next semester!

**Casey Truong** - My kickboxing teacher for 5 minutes, but I didn't make you proud. I promise I'll work on my t-rex punches before I meet you haha.

**Neha Boinapalli** - I felt like I got to know you so much more during alumni weekend and I can definitely tell you're a very dedicated and smart person, and also, you really need to try shrimp chips.

**Bella Ko** - Literally the most passionate person I ever met! Thank you for always warming our hearts and sharing your amazing stories!

**Wenting Du** - You're so sweet, smart, and kind, don't let anyone tell you otherwise!

**Isabella Hsu** - Whether it's in ABSA or TASA, you always helping me out and I feel so so lucky to have met you!

**Annie You** - You are literally so cute and energetic! Thank you for always being so welcoming to everyone!

**Shuwen Ong** - SHUWEN WEN WENN, you have such a cool personality and very aesthetic room decor! Can't wait to finally meet you!

**Grace Wang** - I had so much fun solving puzzles at the academic workshop! Thank you for being an amazing friend and I can't wait to meet you next semester!

**Ananya Mahesh** - The other half to Anini Studios! You are so amazing and talented and I literally can't think of anything you can't do. Even now I'm still so in shock by how amazing your wall looks.

**Melanie Guillermo** - You have the cutest laugh haha! Thank you and Neha for always putting on amazing volunteering events!

**Vincent Lin** - THANK YOU FOR BEING AN AMAZING PRESIDENT VINCENT!!

## Andrew Kwak

**Annie You** - you've now taken all my friends away from me and i see you like 7 times a week... anyways ily daebak dongsaeng aka absa's biggest flirt

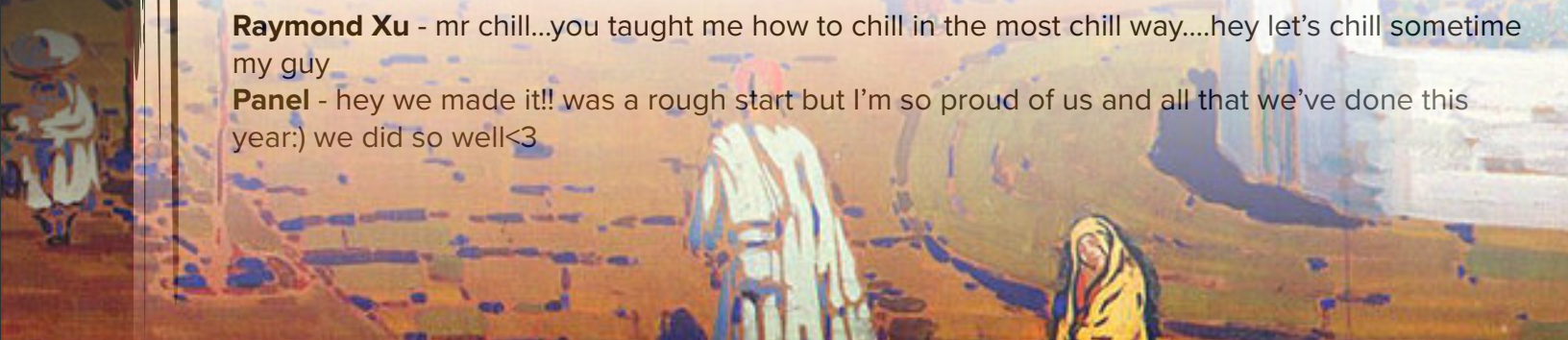
**Logan Kim** - hi kim jungyoon idk if you'll see this because you're probably sleeping but you're kind of cool when you're awake

**Erin Lim** - hi not soft girl u r so funny omg i hope we can hang more next sem when you're on campus

**Ashley Lee** - so can we have shoddy shark tank shubmission night or....ashley u so crazy but in a way that you bring so much energy to everything heh you are my favorite roblox sugar momma

**Raymond Xu** - mr chill...you taught me how to chill in the most chill way....hey let's chill sometime my guy

**Panel** - hey we made it!! was a rough start but I'm so proud of us and all that we've done this year:) we did so well<3



**Ashley Lee**

**Abby Cheng** - abby abby abby abby i adore with you oh so much ! i'm gettin ripped tonight r.i.p. that \*\*\*\* if you're ever going through it, tell me and i'll be there 100%. also, you truly taught me that all hot girls own a bunny and that includes you and tofu. peace out girl scout

**Annie You** - hi annie. thank you for holding my hand the longest. i love and appreciate you dearly and i like getting pedicures with you. your mini (but taller) me will always follow you till the end. i'm sorry that i didn't simp for you as much as i should've, but you taught me a lot about mutual simping. i think i will know you when i'm 25. < - you won't understand this reference, but it means a lot to me. you asked for an easter egg, here it is: repeated mistakes

**Nicole Greenberg** - nicole <3 i'm sosososo happy i met you bc of our brown bag. what a start to a beautiful friendship LOL i can't wait to spend more time with you the next few years and maybe we'll even work at a boba shop together this summer !! stats gal pals : )

**Tyler Tran** - hey bestie ! hehe. i'm so glad i got to be there with you on the rooftop of a bank parking garage. i think that's a core memory now. i know you don't receive love well, but i really do love you bunches and yeah that's it <3 i'm v happy that you wanted to use abby's pc to play league. the banh xeo and banh tet during the winter storm made me very happy.

**Matthew Onghai** - hello matthew. can't wait to destroy case comp and hackathon season with my favorite one-semester swimmer LOL if i ever become a pm, it's your fault.

**Andrew Kwak** - omg andrew~ <3 my fav vp and now my future fav pres <3 thank you for everything. i don't think i would've had as much fun in absa without you guiding me. i'll be at every absa event next year if it means that i can bother you 사백이십 LOL

**Logan Kim** - hello logan. does your back hurt carrying me through cs303e? can't wait to do it again for cs313e teehee. i don't know how good your memory is, but all i can say is i trust you. visiting you next year will be like killing two birds with one stone.

**Fernando Su** - hello fernando. i'm so sorry i give really bad school tours. i am indeed happy that i, on a whim, decided to hang out with you. that was the start of a fun friendship. and istg if you ever crap on my workload again, i'll shove my mis excel sheets down your throat.

**Ashley Wu** - hello ashley wu. thank you for being my monthly older sister. you will never know how much your advice means to me and how much of it i stick with and quote. i will always think of you when i see the roses on the side of the honors dorms. i hope i actually get to see you and meet you in person next year!

**Aric Guiwang** - hello aric. i knew you for like 12 hours. 12 hours well spent. you have arguably one of the worst sweet tooth and i'm v happy you're kinda a big car nerd.

**Bryan Onghai** - hello bryan. i used to be a member of the bonghai simps. i'm sorry for being an inactive member.

**Nini Kuo** - nini, i am SOOOOOO excited to see you on campus next year. omg so many things to do !!!

**Ray Lee** - istg if i end up owing benjamin yi chong a stupid milkshake, i'll castrate you. but yay #internetfamousbuddies

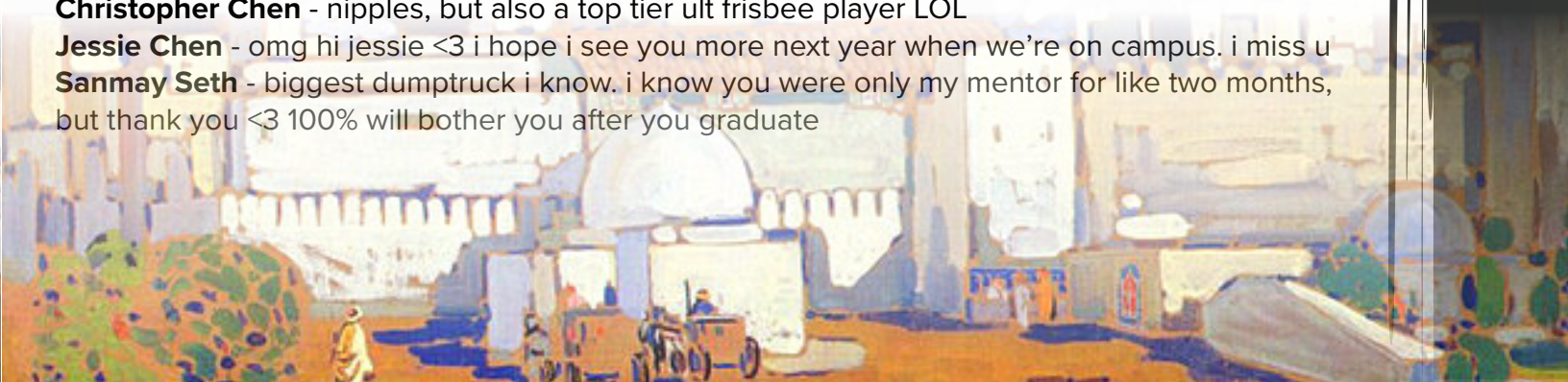
**Olivia Du** - hi olivia, when you were inebriated, you said you thought i was super cool. well, reverse uno card. thank you for walking me to a car at 3am so that i could get denny's safely <3

**Mitchell Lee** - lee siblings to the end. i know we kinda fight a lot but thank you for showing how god tier a purple cushion is.

**Christopher Chen** - nipples, but also a top tier ult frisbee player LOL

**Jessie Chen** - omg hi jessie <3 i hope i see you more next year when we're on campus. i miss u

**Sanmay Seth** - biggest dumptruck i know. i know you were only my mentor for like two months, but thank you <3 100% will bother you after you graduate



**Ashley Lee**

**Erin Lim** - hi erin, ehehehehe. you're kinda the coolest person i know

**Raymond Xu** - i hope you enjoyed im sports. pls don't ever change your hair. i use it as your identifier.

**Diane Lee**

**Flexternal Branch** – The year went by a bit too fast but time flies when you're having fun! Thank you for sticking with me and being the best branch I could've asked for. Y'all are the highlight of my year and I can't wait to see what else we'll be able to do next year!

**Bella Ko** – Hello love! You are a girl with big visions and big dreams and I'm here to support!! You've got such a big fire in your heart that it even ignites some of your food in the kitchen ;)

**Casey Truong** – Hello queen! I'm beyond excited about all that you'll achieve next year as Ms. VP and I just know your future branch will hype you up for your puns, comedic highness

**Jack Hu** – Hello Jack of all trades! I've never met a person who's more willing to learn and grow than you AND you have the best job in the world by working at J2 fine dining ;)

**Melanie Guillermo** – Hello beautiful! This year has been amazing with you and I can always count on you for a good serotonin boost! Please don't get injured anymore ~

**Neha Boinapalli** – Hello beautiful! You're ambitious and visionary and I'm thankful I get to see you grow continuously – including your ability to have your zoom backgrounds work!

**Wenting Du** – Hello love! Wenting Du, I can count on you! I'm honored to know you and I truly think you'll become BIG wherever you go so may you thrive just like how your fits fly

**Panel** – Y'all are so amazing and such hard workers and I'm thankful I got to work with y'all this whole year. I'll be waiting for an in-person panel social!

**Vincent Lin** – Thank you so much for being there for me 1000% of the time and I learned so much from you. Come to Austin quickly!!

**Yue Taira** – You are driven and confident and I admire that! I can't wait to see all that you'll achieve ;)

**CiCi Lu** – I can always count on you to have the best shoutouts and boosts since you have a way with your words

**Andrew Kwak** – Mr. President!! You're always so willing to sacrifice and do good things for others. You'll do amazing next year

**Christopher Chen** – Your patience and drive is out of this world and I hope you get lots and lots of sleep over the summer

**Emi Rinkliff** – Your mind and outlook on life is exquisite and I can't wait for mpa with you next year!

**Bonghai** – It's been an amazing two years being in a branch with you even though it hasn't felt that long haha besternal superiority

**Juwon Lee** – Thank you for being there for me each step of the way and for reminding me about what's important

**Annie You** – You are actually serotonin and sunshine in a human being and congratulations on VPship! I'll be your biggest fan

**Nini Kuo** – You're always so bright and welcoming whenever I see you on Zoom so I can't wait to see you in person next year!

**Michael He** – Thank you for being someone I can always look up to with absa, acts, and mpa ;)

**Shelly Lu** – Hey love! You're always so cute and hydrated and bright and bubbly!!

**Thuy Nguyen** – I feel like I say this every time but you're always so nice and bright and now, you're savage at rapping



**Diane Lee**

**Jade Yeng** – Thank you for being an amazing big and doing the most for our fam! You really worked hard

**Jennifer Truong** – I'm so glad I got to talk to you more this semester and learn more from you, bigo!!

**Jane Li** – Fam events would not be the same without you – thank you for being an amazing big!

**JoDei Pasasadaba** – Congrats on graduating and doing so much for ABSA, including being an awesome big

**PB&Js** – Y'all are so nice and I'm so glad I got to be in a fam with y'all! Truly, we fit the together like peanut butter and jelly

**Matthew Kim** – Sokka looks up to you, the haiku master! Can't wait for classes together next year (hopefully)

**Davina Le** – The amount of passion and drive you have is insane and I know you'll thrive wherever you go!

**Lili Xu** – You are absolutely the cutest and I'm so happy to have met you!! You're always so vibrant and amazing

**Janie Chen** – I love hearing your voice and you're so bright and cute all the time!

**Kim Ngo** – I hope I can see you dance one day! You're also so cute and stylish!

**Cindy Chung** – Hey Cindy! You're so bright and bubbly and I can't wait till I get to see you in person next year!

**Tyler Tran** – Hi king! Thank you for always stepping up and for eating a raw onion for charity ^^

**Voon Goh** – Your visions are so powerful and I can't wait to see how amazing you'll do next year!

**Mia Nguyen** – I am SO happy I got to have a brown bag with you and Bojack Horseman will now forever be special to me because you liked it hehe

**Isabella Hsu** – You have the biggest brain I've ever come across with the most radiant energy

**Crystal Le** – How could anyone be so talented and have immaculate energy and be the most passionate stan I've ever seen??

**Lynn Palmer** – You did so well this year and I think I was always in your breakout room in workshops haha

**Ray Lee** – Represent PB&J!! You did great this year and I can't believe you're over a foot taller than me..

**Abby Woo** – You have such a cute smile and are an athletic queen!

**Ashley Lee** – You're so cute and stylish and I hope your fire never dies!

**Gerardo Bote** – Hey! You're so passionate and active and I'm so glad I get to see you at all types of events!

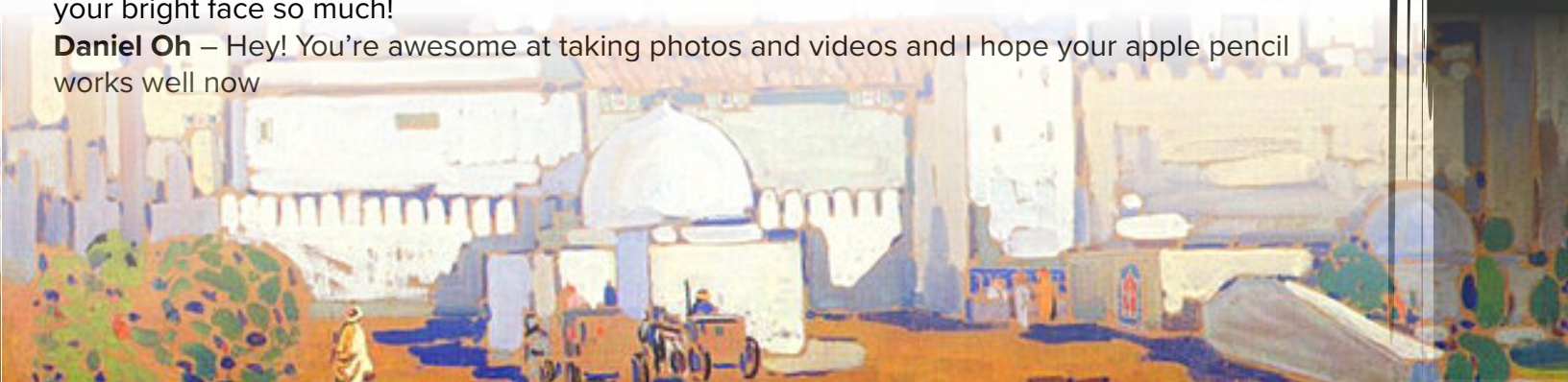
**Andy Ma** – I hope you had a great first year with ABSA and I'm happy I got to see you around a lot!

**Mitchell Lee** – I'm so glad I got to see you thrive this year, and you'll do amazing next year, wherever you go

**Logan Kim** – I hope you get lots and lots of rest soon and your foot heals fast! You did so well this year!!

**Shu Wen Ong** – Hi! Thanks so much for volunteering so much this year and I'm glad I got to see your bright face so much!

**Daniel Oh** – Hey! You're awesome at taking photos and videos and I hope your apple pencil works well now





## James Li

**Chris Chen** - THE COOLEST VP AROUND thank you for all that you have done for admin branch!! I can't wait to actually meet the legendary Chris Chen in person next semester <3

**Andrew Kwak** - Joe Biden who? President Andrew Kwak 2021

**Creative Directors** - It has been an absolute pleasure working with you two for the past year. It was yall's passion and talent that inspired me to work my best and to grow as a creative. Thank you! I can't wait to see what other amazing things you two will do at UT!

**Stephanie** - VP? more like VIP

**Admin Branch** - Ya'll are too cool for school, but for the sake of capitalism, stay in school.

**OnlyFams Bigs** - Whatt can I say except... yall are awesome! (in Dwayne Johnson's singing voice) Please continue to be as awesome as yall have been. Although I never got to meet yall, I hope I still can one day whetehr on campus or during an alumni event!

**Emily** - Emily, it has been so fun getting to know you this year whether it is through BM or MIS "study" sessions! I can't wait to meet you in person because I know we can be even more unproductive when we're actually on-campus!

**Tyler Tran** - BESTIE thank you so much for sticking by me this semester and during all of my antics and MIS-induced panic attacks! Although I'm still surprised that you choose to remain my bestie after all of the things that you have accused me of saying, I am still proud to call you my enabler <3 During this year, I've heard a lot of people complain that you can't really meet or make any friends over Zoom, but I like to believe that our bestie-ship is the exception! Here's to another semester of self-inflicted hate crimes (but in person) PS i just realized how long your shoutout is compared to other people's. Oops

**Annie You** - Mannn you have such a long nickname for me that I need to start making one up for you! Good thing school's in person next semester ;)

**Abby Cheng** - I have literally never seen you in any ABSA events ever. But its ok because I'm so glad to have met you this year!! Here's to meeting you again next year...but in person!

**Fernando** - HI HOW ARE YOU

**Isabella Hsu** - I'm so grateful to have met you this year from SOLE to obliterating case competitions to AACM! See you next year!!!

## Douglas Lin

**Cici Lu** - Best VP

**Andrew Kwak** - Oppa

**Vincent** - Best P

**Annie You** - You do you

**Raymond Xu** - J2 bby

## Vincent Lin

**Members** - Thank you for all of your dedication to ABSA. Your participation and involvement are what make everything we do possible. Especially in such an unprecedented year, I am beyond grateful for the time you put into the organization and constantly inspired by all the development I have witnessed through the semesters. Not only have this motivated me to continually innovate the events we host but also be excited about what next year (hopefully in person) would look like. This has personally been one of the most rewarding yet challenging positions I have taken in college, and I am incredibly humbled to have this amazing opportunity. Thank you for making this year such an amazing experience.



## Vincent Lin

**Panel** - Thank you for being the best seven people I can imagine working with. I am always in awe of your drive and passion for making ABSA a better home it could be. There is no way I could have been able to do my job without having each of you on panel. Moreover, from our six-hour meetings to the virtual hangouts, I have enjoyed getting to know you and call you my friends. Whenever we are all back in Austin, I cannot wait for our much belated hang out and the fun adventures we have talked about going on!

**Directors** - Thank you for the hard work you put into everything we hosted this semester. I really admired the ingenuity and creativity you brought into what you do, even in a very different looking year. I was blown away by all of the events and projects you worked on and had a wonderful time seeing them come to fruition. All of what we do could not have happened without all of your time, effort and dedication.

**Bigs** - Thank you for creating such a warm and welcoming environment in your individual families. It is sometimes such a difficult and thankless job, especially in a virtual setting. Nonetheless, I have loved hearing about all of the fun stories and seeing all the conversations that happen between you and your littles. Personally, my bigs have always been such an integral part of my ABSA and I know you have done the same for many others.

**Sonia Abraham** - I love your positivity and energy! I hope you had a great year on C-Team!

**Manas Agarwal** - Keep being such a cool dude! I can't wait to hear more of your fun stories!

**Shivam Agarwal** - You are always such a hilarious person to be around! Thank you for being my VP last and a great guy to talk to.

**Shree Balaji** - I hope you remember my name (jk)! But keep on doing all the amazing things you do!

**Neha Boinapalli** - Your energy never ceases to light up the entire room! I love the big heart you have for external and amazing voice you have!

**Isaac Bromgard** - You are one of the most interesting people I have ever met and I stan your vibes!

**Matthew Bui** - What a gamer god. I wish I can have just an ounce of your gaming talent!

**Bella Kuo** - Thank you for always being so willing to share. I have loved getting to know more about you and listening to all the profound thoughts and stories you have.

**Christopher Chen** - The positivity you have with you is always so infectious! I really loved getting to know you better and working on panel with you this year.

**Daniel Chen** - I really enjoyed our brown bag last semester! Let's get another in person next semester!

**Janie Chen** - I have loved getting to know you through the year! Your positivity always makes my day! I can't wait for the amazing things you will do as Executive VP next year.

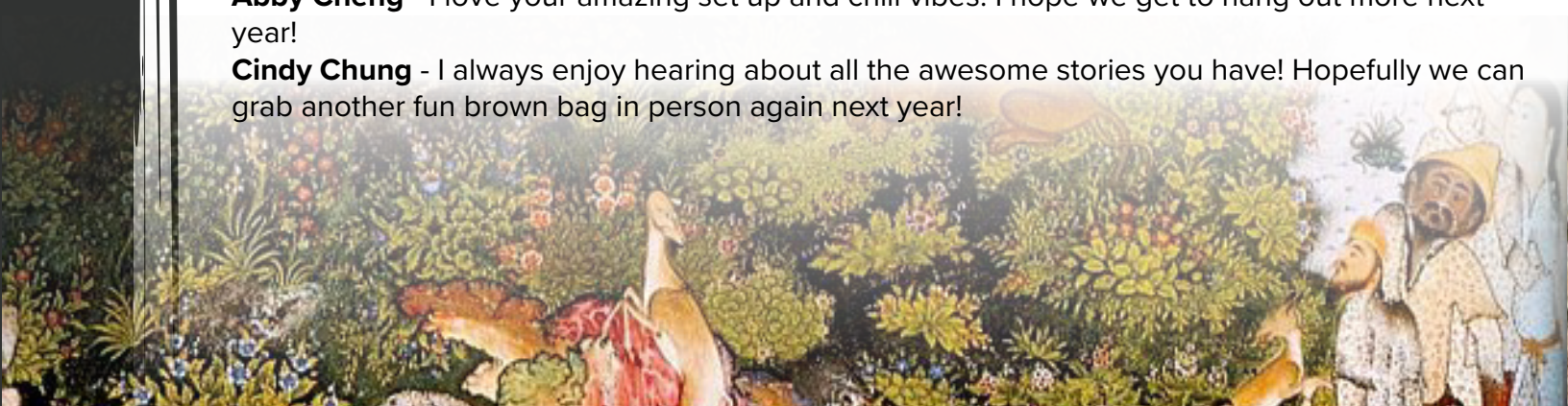
**Justin Chen** - I really liked our long conversation about anything and everything! Don't hesitate to reach out in the future.

**Steven Chen** - I enjoyed reconnecting with you again in our brown bag. I can't wait to meet up with you in person sometime soon!

**Tong Chen** - The nicest and funniest guy I know! Thank you for being such a great big and always yourself!

**Abby Cheng** - I love your amazing set up and chill vibes! I hope we get to hang out more next year!

**Cindy Chung** - I always enjoy hearing about all the awesome stories you have! Hopefully we can grab another fun brown bag in person again next year!





## Vincent Lin

**Tai Diep** - I miss you Tai! Thank you for always being unwaveringly yourself!

**Sean DSouza** - I still haven't heard your story about being an Australian! I am very curious to hear how that came to be!

**Olivia Du** - I remembered interviewing you all the way at the beginning of the school year! Great job this year in Exec and hosting Startup Simulation

**Wenting Du** - Thank you for always being such a happy person to be around! I am so proud to see all of the work you put into External!

**Voon Goh** - I love literally all of our conversations from the orchids to your high school stories! I cannot wait to see all the cool changes you will make as Professional VP.

**Nicole Greenberg** - I am so glad to have met you this year and hopefully I have been a helpful mentor! I'm always here if there is anything I can help with!

**Melanie Guillermo** - I still remember that email you sent me during the summer! It has been so amazing seeing all the work you put into the volunteering events.

**Aric Guiwang** - I can't believe you know how to ride a motorcycle! I have enjoyed our brown bag and hopefully we can get one in person when we are both back in Austin!

**Brian Guo** - I loved getting to know you these past two years! I know we stole Chris from you a ton this year, so thank you for letting us do so.

**Catherine Guo** - I can't believe we've known each other for so long! Hopefully we can catch up again when we are back in person!

**Shawn Ha** - You are literally the reason I passed K last semester! The all-nighter will always be something I remember!

**Michael He** - Thank you for always checking up with me and being there for me. I have missed living 30 seconds from you, but I can't wait for all the fun board game nights and deep talks we will have!

**Victoria He** - I am going to miss you so much next year :( Thank you for always being such a great source of advice and the most relatable person ever!

**Tony Ho** - I am going to miss all of your fun stories and witnessing your amazing sports skill in person!

**Alex Hoang** - I loved getting to talk to you and hear about your swimming stories! I hope we get to talk more next year in person!

**Isabella Hsu** - Literally the trivia queen who carried our team to victory!! I look forward to getting to know you better next year!

**Jack Hu** - Mr.Worldwide! I had loved getting to know you through our family and just chatting with you. I can't wait to hear more of your amazing stories!

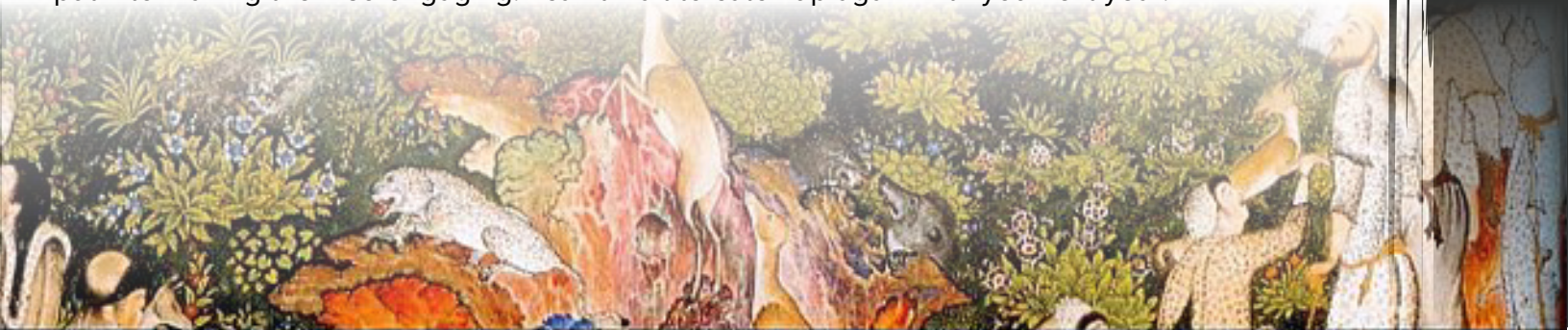
**Jade Huynh** - I loved seeing you pop off in the Joe Mamas chat! I hope to meet you in person sometime soon!

**Andy In** - I am going to miss you so much next year! You are the chilliest and coolest person I have ever met.

**Kevin Jacob** - I stan your big brain energy! I hope you are doing well and I cannot wait to see all the amazing things you will accomplish!

**Theodore Jiang** - I loved the rap god verses you spit! I can't wait to witness more of that creativity in person!

**Logan Kim** - I had such a great time at family GMs this year! Thank you for all the hard work you put into making them so engaging. I can't wait to catch up again with you next year!



## Vincent Lin

**Matthew Kim** - Thank you for always being such a nice and welcoming person! I have loved hearing your hidden rap talent and being in class with you!

**Anna Koshikawa** - I am going to miss our lunch time meeting at O's! I hope I get to see you soon when you come back!

**Nini Kuo** - Thank you for being such a sweet and open person all the time! I have loved seeing you at all of our events and am so excited to see you as our Financial VP!

**Andrew Kwak** - From Freshman year to now, I have seen you grow in so many different ways. Working with you this year on panel has been such a great time and I have no doubt you will do an even better job as President next year! I cannot wait to see it!

**Derrick Lam** - Thank you for all the awesome work you did this year as the Creative Director! They are always so aesthetic and creative!

**Linda Lam** - I had a great time chatting with you during our brown bag! Hopefully we can get one in person next year!

**Crystal Le** - I loved seeing all of the food pics you post in the family chat! You are always such an awesome person to talk to and I cannot wait to get to know you more in person!

**Davina Le** - Thank you for all the amazing work you have done as Professional Director. I am so inspired by all the ambition you have and am so excited to see all the amazing things you will do.

**Steven Le** - I am really going to miss seeing you around next year and trying to give you hugs! Stay awesome and spiffy!

**Ashley Lee** - Your energy is always so palpable and talking to you always brings a smile to my face! I hope to see you around next year and get to meet you in person!

**Diane Lee** - I have loved getting to work with you this year. From our long conversations about everything and struggles through Finance, I had so much fun learning more about you! Thank you for doing such an amazing job with External this year!

**Juwon Lee** - From middle school to now, you are always someone I continually learn from. You have one of the purest hearts and always inspire me to be a better person! I cannot wait to hang out with you again next year!

**Mitchell Lee** - I had such an awesome getting to know you this year. I had loved witnessing the amount of passion you have for the organization and I know you will do great things in the future!

**Ray Lee** - It had been great meeting you through our family! I hope I get to see your amazing magic tricks and volleyball skills in person!

**George Li** - Thank you for always being such a chill person! I am so glad we got to be in BA 101 together!

**James Li** - I am so jealous of your amazing saxophone skills! You are such a funny guy and I loved all the amazing work you did this year as a Creative Director!

**Jane Li** - Thank you for being such an amazing big this year! I had a great time getting to know you and I hope to see you in person next year!

**Olivia Li** - Since our Freshmen year, I had such a great time getting to know you. You always made me laugh and I am going to miss you next year.

**Christian Lim** - Thank you for always being such a friendly person to talk to! I cannot wait to meet again in person soon!

**Emily Lim** - The hostess with the mostest! Thank you for always being such great energy into all the alumni events!



## Vincent Lin

**Erin Lim** - Thank you for doing such an amazing job as a social director! I have always loved going and having fun!

**Douglas Lin** - I had such a great time getting to know you last year and I am so glad to see you do such amazing things under Professional. I hope to get to witness your basketball skills in person soon!

**Tiffany Lin** - I had such a great time seeing you at our events! I hope to meet you in person when you come to Austin from Kansas City!

**Cici Lu** - I had such an amazing time working with you this year on panel. I loved how straightforward you are and your desire to always speak your mind. I have also enjoyed hearing all of your fun stories and I hope we get to hang out in person again next year when we are both in Austin!!

**Shelly Lu** - I had loved getting to know you better this year through our triple brown bag! I cannot wait to be a big with you next year!

**Andy Ma** - I really enjoyed getting to know you better this year! I hope to see you in person soon next semester!

**Joanna Ma** - I can't believe it's been two years since we were directors together! Thank you for always being such an energetic and caring person! I hope we get to hang out more next year!

**Daniel Miao** - I had our brown bag from last year! I hope we get to meet up in person for another one next year!

**Arnav Mohanty** - What a cool guy! I had such a great time getting to know you and I hope to get to see you around more next year!

**Kim Ngo** - I loved our amazing rap verse during the volunteering event! I hope to get to see you in person next semester!

**Elizabeth Nguyen** - I had a great time during our brown bag last semester! I cannot wait to see you in person and hear more of the amazing stories you have!

**Hannah Nguyen** - Thank you for being such a cool person! I hope I get to see you around more next semester!

**Mia Nguyen** - I really enjoyed having a class with you this semester. Hopefully we can have part 2 of our 3-hour brown bag.

**Thuy Nguyen** - Thank you for being such an amazing friend during the past three years. It has been so weird not seeing you as often as we used to, but I look forward to being able to hang out with you again! Jenny's here we come!

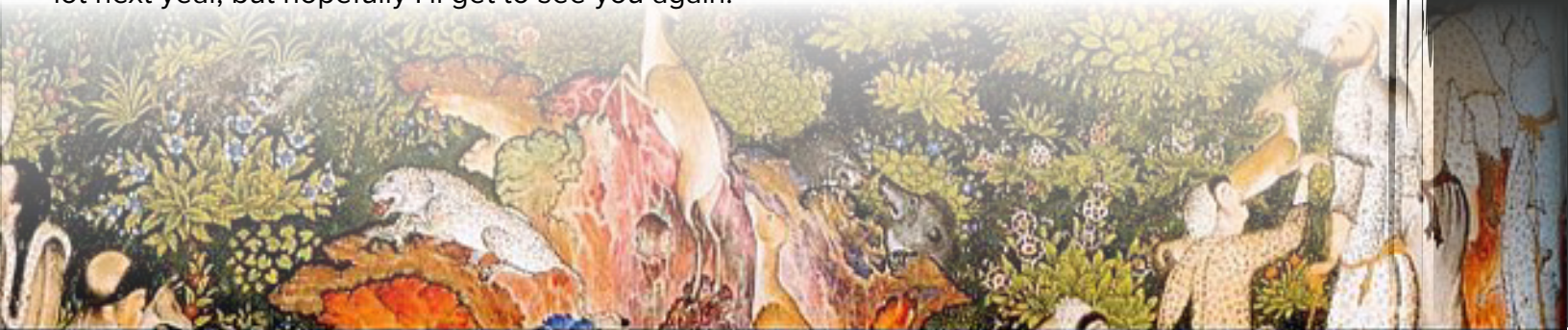
**Ansh Oberoi** - I am so glad to have been blessed by the grape god! Thank you for showing us your awesome talent and enlightening me with something I have never seen before!

**Daniel Oh** - Thank you for the amazing videos you have created this year! I loved seeing them and was always in awe of the production quality!

**Shu Wen Ong** - I had such a great time talking with you at our events! Hopefully we'll be able to meet in person soon!

**Bryan Onghai** - I loved getting to serve on panel with you this year! I have always loved your relaxed vibes and positivity! You literally have such a big brain and don't forget us when you become an engineer!

**Matthew Onghai** - I can't believe we've known each other for three years! Thank you for always bringing a smile to my face and being such an easy person to talk to. I am going to miss you a lot next year, but hopefully I'll get to see you again!



## Vincent Lin

**Lynn Palmer** - I had loved getting to know you better this year and going to all the events you hosted. I am so impressed with your ability to speak Chinese and desire you have to get even better!

**Shilpika Pandey** - I really enjoyed the brown bag we went on! I hope we get to hang out more in person next semester!

**Jodei Pasasadaba** - Thank you for always bringing so much energy and enthusiasm every time. You are such an easy person to talk to and always a fabulous queen! I'm going to miss you next year, but come back and visit!

**Joy Qin** - Thank you for being the best partner ever for these past two semesters! I have enjoyed working with you and look forward to doing the same next semester!

**Gerardo Rafael Bote** - I have always loved presence at all of our events. Thank you for being so engaged in everything we have to offer. I hope we get to hang out in person next semester!

**Sahana Rao** - I had a great time during our brown bag! I hope we get to grab another one when we are in person!

**Meira Rigley** - I really enjoyed all of the workshops, especially the meditation session, and the leadership summit you helped put on. I cannot wait to see all that you will do as Academic VP!

**Emi Rinkliff** - It has been such an honor to work with you on panel this year. I love how passionate you are about making a difference and changing things for the better with your role. Moreover, it is always such a great time talking with you and I hope we get to hang out again next semester!

**Alexandra Rivera** - I had such a great time in our brown bag! Hopefully we get to hang out again in person and hear more of your stories!

**Mikael Rizvi** - It was awesome having BA 324 with you. I am going to miss not seeing you around McCombs next year.

**Sanmay Seth** - Thank you for being such a king all the time! You are always such a great person to talk to and I will miss you lots next year! Come and visit us soon!

**David Shi** - I had such a great time getting to know you throughout the past few years. Thank you for always being such a wise source of advice and for being so willing to listen. Please come back and see us again!

**Alice Shi** - I had such a great time hearing about your stories. I hope we get to meet up when we are back in person!

**Stephanie Shih** - Thank you for always being such an awesome person to talk to! I am so impressed with all of the work you have accomplished this year as a Creative Director. I look forward to seeing all that you do as the Administrative VP.

**Fernando Su Chen** - I had loved getting to know you through our family! I can't believe you know how to speak four languages! I hope we get to hang out more next semester!

**Greg Sulistio** - I had such a great time during our brown bag! Hopefully we get to hang out again in person soon!

**Forrest Sun** - I loved getting to see your weekly newsletters in the inbox! Thank you for all that you do this year as the webmaster!

**Justin Sun** - It has been so great getting to know you during the past two years! I know you will be doing great things in the future, so just remember me then!

**Jennifer Suriadinata** - I can't believe we have known each other for almost 7 years now! Thank you for always being such a great person to talk to. I am really going to miss you next year, but come back to visit whenever you can!



## Vincent Lin

**Yue Taira** - I have had such a great time working with you on panel this year, especially after knowing you for so many years! It was also great getting to know you even better and seeing all the great work you did with Executive! I hope we get to hang out again in person!

**Alice Tian** - I cannot believe it has been three years since we started in External. I have always loved getting to catch up with you and hearing all the fun stories you tell. I am going to miss you so much after you graduate, but come back and visit us!

**Tyler Tran** - Thank you for being such a fabulous person all the time! I love you energy all the time and seeing you pop off in the family chat! Hopefully we will get to hang out next year!

**Casey Truong** - I had love getting to work with you during our debate social! Thank you for all that you do in External branch and I can't wait to see the amazing things you will accomplish as External VP next year!

**Jennifer Truong** - I had a great time getting to know you during these past few years! I have missed seeing you in my classes, but hopefully we'll be able to hang out again in person!

**Rumya Velu** - I loved getting to talk to you during the past few years! I hope you are having a great time in M-Team!

**Emily Vo** - I really liked getting to know you during our brown bag! Hopefully we can grab another one in person next semester!

**Sally Vo** - I loved getting to know you during our events and seeing all the amazing things you have done this year in Exec!

**Amy Wang** - Even though I always roast you, I am so happy to see all that you have done!

**Gloria Wang** - I hope I was helpful for you as a mentor! Let me know if there is ever anything I can help with!

**Susie Wang** - It was great getting to know you these past few years! I am so amazed at all of your super cool photos!

**Zachary Wang** - Thank you for always being such a great person to talk to! Hopefully we get to hang out more next year!

**Eric Wen** - Literally the SMARTEST guy I ever know! Thank you for always being such a great person to talk to and I know you will be off doing big brain stuff! Just remember me in five years!

**Abigail Woo** - I had such a great time during our brown bag together! I hope we are able to grab another one in person soon!

**Ashley Wu** - Thank you for being such a great friend for these past few years. I always love hearing all the fun stories you have and seeing all the great things you have accomplished. I hope we get to hang out in person again some time soon!

**Catherine Wu** - It was great getting to know you better through our family! Hopefully we can grab a brown bag in person next semester!

**Yina Wu** - I missed getting to eat lunch with you like last year. Thank you for all the amazing work you did this past year as an admin director and I hope we will be able to grab a brown bag in person some time soon!

**Alina Xie** - Thank you for being such a great person to talk to! You are one of the most open people I have met and I still loved getting to know you better J2 during Freshman year! Hopefully we can hang out again soon!

**Jenny Xu** - I can't believe it's been two years since we first started working together in Internal. Thank you for being such a great big this year and I can't wait to hang out again next year!

**Lili Xu** - I had loved getting to see you at our events and learn more about you during our brown bags! I definitely hope we can meet up again in person next year!



## Vincent Lin

**Raymond Xu** - Thank you for all of the amazing work you had done this year as a social director! I hope we get to hang out more next year in person!

**Jefferson Ye** - I hate you so much (jk). Thank you for being such a great friend and such an amazing person I look up to all the time. I know we missed out on being roommates this year, but I can't wait for all the fun we will have as roommates next year!

**Jade Yeng** - Thank you for being such a great big this year! I loved going to our family events and seeing how much passion you have for ABSA. It really moved me to see you be so active and I hope to see you again in person next semester!

**Annie You** - Thank you for being such a great friend and for the energy you bring to everything. I am so proud of everything you have accomplished and know that you will do such great things as Internal VP next year!

**Rufaida Zaman** - I really enjoyed seeing you stay active in the family! I am really glad we had a chance to talk and I hope we get to do so in person next year!

**Sophie Zhang** - Thank you for always being such a cool person! I still can't believe you spent an entire semester in Korea and hope I get to hear some of your fun stories!

## Cici Lu

**Best Branch in ABSA** - Davina, Doug, Eric & Voon <3 I'm so happy to have had you 4 as my directors. Y'all are my favs forever. <3

**Emi & Olivia** - my wives<3 hi luv<3

**Mitchell Lee** - Hi bestie + Emmanuel is mine.

**Stephanie Shih** - Definitely expect me to bombard y'all's apartment daily next year.

**Voon Goh** - Hi Vooooon. I think that you're supeeeer cool and you have pretty hair and nice nails.

**Davina Le** - Hi Davinaaaa. You're such a fun personnnn. You are soooo smart and nice and funny.

## Emi Rinkliff

**Academic Branch** - It has been such an immense pleasure being your VP this past year. You all made the best of this situation of being in a pandemic and online. I'm so glad that we were still able to get to know each other and have a few branch hangouts. Y'all made my year much better, and I'm grateful to know each and every one of you.

**Panel** - Thank you for such a great year. VPship wouldn't be the same had it not been with all of you.

**CiCi Lu** - My go-to and the person who always has my back. I have no idea where I would be if I hadn't met you two years ago. You are going to have the most amazing future and kill it at anything you put your mind to. I love you so much and CEO forever<3

**Olivia Li** - Forever my co-director. I'm so lucky to have met you two years ago, and I wouldn't trade our friendship for anything. Thank you for all of the craft store trips and picture days. I can't wait to visit you in New Orleans with CiCi. I love you so much and CEO forever<3

**Brian Guo** - Thank you for being such a steady presence in Academic and for everything you've done this year to make Feed Your Mind better. I miss our UGS class days!

**Grace Wang** - Thank you for always being a wonderful person (and for having an easy favorite dessert to make :D) and for all you do for Academic. You have such a bright future, and I can't wait to see what you do.



## Emi Rinkliff

**Kevin Jacob** - Thank you for being so efficient in everything you do and for everything you've done this year to make Feed Your Mind better. It's been a pleasure knowing you!

**Lynn Palmer** - Thank you for always being so caring toward everyone around you and for all you do for Academic. I can't wait to see you kill it in T4K!

**Meira Rigley** - Thank you for always being there for me in anything I need ABSA or otherwise and for all you do for Academic. I'm so excited for you to take my position and can't wait to cook/bake you more things.

**Seann DSouza** - Thank you for always being a voice of reason and understanding and everything you've done this year to make Feed Your Mind better. I can't believe that we singlehandedly supply all of the coin supply to McDonald's on Lamar but I wouldn't change that for anything.

**Voon Goh** - I can't believe how interconnected you are into my life. I'm excited to see all that you accomplish next year, and we'll have to go on a picnic and make a charcuterie board :-)

**Davina Le** - I'm so happy that CiCi would randomly add us into the same call because now I've gotten the pleasure of knowing you. You're going to do so many wonderful things!

## Stephanie Shih

**Admin Branch** - My high for the year was definitely being in Admin w/ y'all :)

**Chris Chen** - You survived a year of VPship! Thank you for all the support and advice over the past year. I hope you can rest easy now and dedicate more time to sleeping/getting swole.

**Voon Goh** - I can't wait to spend the next year of our lives stressing over this org because I wouldn't want to do it with anyone else. <3

**Melanie Guillermo** - My first brown bag! I never imagined we'd end up living together but I can't wait! Hopefully we'll keep ourselves fed and not burn the apartment down... love you long time

**Victoria He** - HAGS. I love you more than Jun loves his phone and I can't wait for you to come to Alumni Weekend as a full adult with your dark jeans, dark hair, and Longchamp purse.

**Alina Xie** - awooga <3 thanks for introducing me to a bunch of time consuming hobbies lol. I'm so glad you were my big this year and that we got to go through some exciting and some slightly traumatizing life events together.

**Jenny Xu** - Hi I love you very much!! None of this would be possible without you pushing me to join and apply for directorship. Crazy to think that we've known each other for so long, but I'm so glad we got closer again this past year!

**Tyler Tran** - I'm still mad that you paid for that dinner even though it was closer to your birthday. jk lol ily and we should go to dinner again<3

**Mitchell Lee** - Hi hi thank you for always supporting me and helping me with my stress. I couldn't have gotten to where I am without you and I can't wait to see you grow in whatever field you decide to go into.

**Vincent Lin** - Thank you for everything you've done this year! You're an amazing President and I can't wait until you become famous and I can say I know THE Vincent Lin!

**Cici Lu** - At this point, I fully expect to come home to you sitting in our apartment

**Andrew Kwak** - sheeeeeeeeeeeeeeee it's the future Mr. President of ABSA

**Matthew Onghai** - Thank you for all of the advice you gave me before elections! Congrats on gradating and sorry in advance for all the questions you'll be getting from me next year :)



## Yue Taira

**Janie Chen** - Congrats to the new Exec VP! You've shown me your drive and bright personality since day one and I can't wait what you do with it next year. You are THE girlboss. Love u Janie.

**Olivia Du** - You are so effortlessly cool and I couldn't have asked for a better director to kick off Exec events for the year! Also your smile could kill. Love u Olivia.

**Sally Vo** - QUEEN!! You are an actual inspiration of mine in so many aspects of life (one day I only hope to deadlift as much as you period) and couldn't have asked for a better director/mom friend. Love u Sally.

**Ray Lee** - You are very funny. And athletic. But more importantly, you have a heart of gold! Thank you for being someone in our branch we can all look up to :) Love u Ray.

**Tyler Tran** - I'm so glad to have had you in our branch this year! YOU are the beauty and the brains and thank you for hyping me up despite my ~vertical challenges. Love u Tyler.

**Vincent Lin** - I have never seen more commitment and dedication from a person and over the past almost 6 years I've known you, I've only grown to respect you more. You're a role model! Come back to Texas please :')

**Alina Xie** - HI Alina thank you for always being there for me and for seeing something in me wayyy back last year. I've said this before but you've taught me so much and I wouldn't be where I am today without you! Also you are so talented and aesthetic ugh pls share.

**Amy Wang** - Idk Where To Start But You're Super Cool and I Would Also Die For You

**Catherine Guo** - you probably won't see this but if you do je t'adore as always mon petit chou <3

**Cici Lu** - Thanks for bringing the cool vibes to our panel. You are a great leader and I'll miss passing the mic off to you.

**Andrew Kwak** - I admire your passion for the org and can't wait to see what great things you'll do next year! Hope you keep the maid outfit.

**Diane Lee** - You are so fierce yet so kind and I genuinely look up to you. Thank you for being there for everyone in our panel 100% of the time!

**Chris Chen** - You bring life to our panel and we couldn't have had a friendlier, more down-to-earth, and genuinely kindhearted Admin VP! Go Chris.

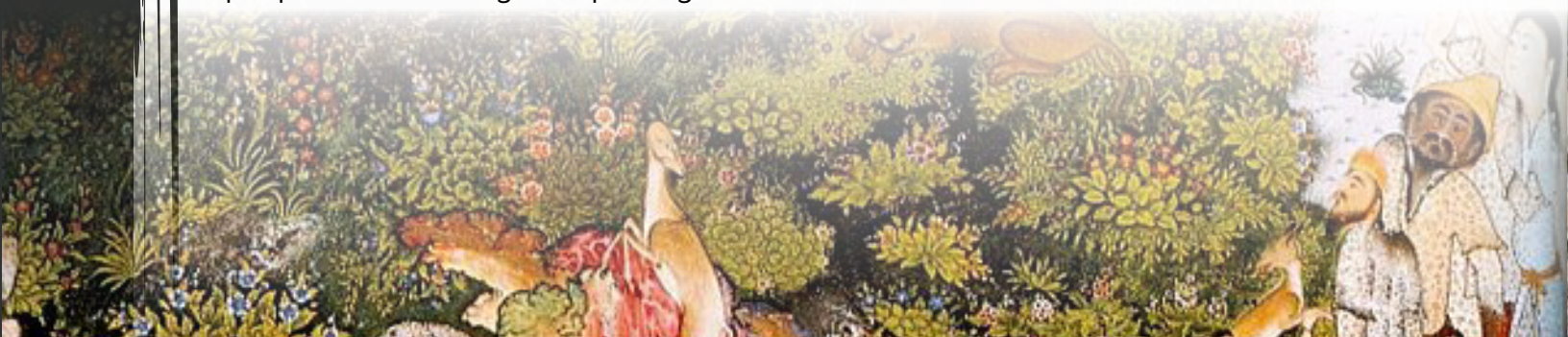
**Emi Rinkliff** - I've said this before but I am SO glad we decided to join the same org freshman year. I admire everything about you (including your ability to switch in and out of accents in a second)!

**Bryan Onghai** - You've been a great VP to work with and an even better friend since freshman year! Miss the KFC little days :')

## Tyler Tran

**To my Executive Branch** - Thanks for being the best co-directors we really were THE branch to be. Hottest and FLYEST. Sally, u r literally so kind and have the body of a GIRLBOSS! You are my creative and body goalz. Ray, from hunchback of notre dame to TIKTOK CONTENT CREATOR!! We love to see that arc and I'm super happy you've found things you love doing like volleyball. Janie, legit we could talk for hours about nothing or just food LOL I'm so happy to have been able to see you on campus and hang out!! Olivia, you are actually one of the tallest ppl I know wow you always hype us up on IG and I still think it's so cool you wrote articles and stuff. Keep being a genius in like business

**Yue Taira** - Thank u for being a great VP! You've been so amazing and one of the funniest people I know. Biking in Copenhagen





## Tyler Tran

**Annie You** - Since you didn't make yours long I'll make this one short. U r actually a crazy person best friend. My favorite memory we have together is when I first unmuted myself and said, "OMG are you that girl from the orientation video? I'm your biggest fan." Like ASJDPLAKSDJSA:LKD THAT WAS SO FUNNY. The second favorite memory is when we went to Houston (if u catch my drift). Anyways, I can't wait to live in ur basement in Sacramento like in Black Swan (the Movie). All the best, ur tilapia tata

**Ashley Lee** - Girl first and foremost you need therapy. Second of all you've been a great bestie and it's fun to hang out with you even if it means you have to drag me out LOL Here's to more fun times and hopefully a dedicated therapist to unpack all that trauma for my ex-roblox girl

**Abby Cheng** - What like you're gonna read this? LOOLOLOLOL I installed league on ur computer

**Andrew Kwak** - Congrats new prezzie! You've been an amazing bestie and going on trips with you is always so freaking fun. I'll keep it short by saying we're hitting up 23 instead of 11 next time <3

**Victoria He** - Hello my M\*LF I'm so happy to have met you and you forced me to reconnect to my K-Pop roots. I just listened to ur cry playlist and discovered songs to cry to. Not to mention you're so freaking sweet and down to earth I wish we got to dr\*nk together :(

**Jenny Xu** - I loved having you in M-Team and as a big. Honestly you've been a really big supporter both in my hoe and marketing team career. I can't thank you enough and you give off such bruh girl energy you're legit so cool.

**Alina Xie** - WHOA BIG MILKERS I know we still have another year together so I'll keep this short: we are defo linking up and having fun I swear thank you for being an amazing role model

**Voon Goh** - You're still intimidating and everyone thinks you're cool but at least now we're friends and I can say "yeah, I'm friends with THE VOON GOH" LOL hey bestie ;:))))

**Logan Kim** - I still want to touch the pin that holds your foot together like a haphazard jigsaw puzzle.

**Stephanie Shih** - Thank you for your amazing work with graphic design and congratulations on vice presidency. Similar to Voon you are also one of the coolest people I know and I'm so happy that you decided to be VP luv u bestie

**Matthew Onghai** - Thank you laughing at all my funny jokes and driving ^^ you really r leaving this year :( gonna miss u thanks for always being down for a good time

**Bryan Onghai** - U R really cool bestie thanks for also always laughing at my jokes and competing in a case comp with me it was super fun and your jokes were always my highlight of ABSA. #NIBBLEONMYNATURE

**Sophie Zhang** - hey bestie ;) lets get kwazy I'm happy to have met you this year!

**Fernando Su** - Thank you for tolerating me I'm sorry that you were born a man amongst boys 21 Pearl 2606 boys minus Andrew - It's been fun thank you for dr\*\*king with me and taking photos when i ask kindly

**Aric Guiwang** - My favorite part of knowing you is legit just hearing some of the crazy shit you do like of course you were born in NYC then moved to China only to return to the US and live in FLORIDA and then Austin like it just makes sense. Also I think it's so funny how we could've hung out all semester except YOU WERE IN CHINA FOR LIKE THREE MONTHS smh but luv u bestie.

**Christopher Chen** - Remember that time I dropped you off at your apartment that was actually three blocks away? You're legit so crazy and lausnes in the worst way possible. I hope we can hang out more because you've lived a full life like I think you've really weird.



## Tyler Tran

**James Li** - HEY BESTIE I'm so glad I met you this sem and we spent an unhealthy amount of time together. Whether it was abt Charlotte from Charlotte's web or the hot fish from Fish Tales we've gotten to know each other too well. I can't wait for you to be on campus so I can bother u in person (socially distanced) love u bestie here's to you being someone I'm happy to call friend

**Emily Lim** - My favorite memories are when james and I are studying and you randomly pop in and promise to study more only to not study more and then do it all over again. You are absolutely bestie and so freaking dumb it's so fun <333

**Gordon Liu** - are you even in this org? If you are, hey bestie thank you for the STA 301 carry luv u

**Daniel Han Lee** - Thank you for being the wind beneath my wings, the light of my life and always pushing me to be my best. You're a mentor, a trainer, and an inspiration. Always keep shooting for the stars and know that I am dancing in your footsteps. #GIRLBOSS

**Tong Chen** - We got a number one victory royale yeah Fortnite we 'bout to get down (Get down) ten kills on the board right now just wiped out Tomato Town My friend just got downed I revived him, now we're heading south-bound now we're in the Pleasant Park streets look at the map, go to the marked sheet

## Casey Truong

**Flexternal Branch** - Thank you all for such an amazing year! I loved working and hanging out with you all when planning our events, especially Dare An Officer. Let's all meet in person next year!

**RRR bigs** - Y'all are the coolest bigs! Thanks for making every fam GM super fun.

**Davina Le** - hi :)

## Sally Vo

**Tyler Tran** - you are one of the funniest people I know

**Yue Taira** - thanks for being the best vp ever and always hyping me up!

**Ray Lee** - okay tiktok king and roller skating master!

**Olivia Du** - you are so cool and the sweetest ever!

**Janie Chen** - I love that you're always so smiley and optimistic! it's contagious

## Amy Wang

**Yue** - love u forever bestie. So proud to see u do big things as vp <3

**Cathy** - miss u babes.

**Shivam** - ayo girl what's ur email address?

**Sanmay** - good big

## Alina Xie

**2020-2021 Panel** - Congrats on finishing your officer year!

**2019-2020 Panel** - Miss u homies :\*

**OnlyFam** - Hi family! Thank you for such a great year and it was an honor being your big. I hope you all had a great two semesters and I hope to see you in person next year! Please never hesitate to reach out if you need anything <333

**Andrew Kwak** - Hello presidaddy \*eats you\*

**Annie You** - Hello ms. Internal vp lets f it up at camping next year yeah





## Jenny Xu

**OnlyFam Littles** - hello kiddos!! thank you for a wonderful year filled some amazing memories <33 very very thankful to have met you all this year hehe i will always be y'all's #1 fan :))

**Alina Xie** - henlo !!! am very thankful for our starbucks + trader joes + general walking adventures and to have you as a friend :) thank you for always letting me rant about stats and for adopting a cat LOL i yam very excited for this summer so that we can hang out all the time !! i love u very much mwah <3

**Victoria He** - my lovely fifth year,,,, so thankful to have you and so thankful for all the love that you show me :) please do not graduate i will be Sad :( here's to many more memories and to (hopefully) a haikyuu summer part 2 !!! you are the sweetest soul and i love u very much <33

**Stephanie Shih** - hello to my lovely smol kid !! it's been so incredible to see you grow throughout the years, and i'm so glad you found your home within absa like i did as a freshman :) thank you for another few years at UT, and i'm so excited for many new adventures in the future hehehe love u very much !!!

**Tong Chen** - halloooooo co-big!! very thankful to have someone else who encourages our post-meeting barking sessions LOL thanks for a great year bigging together hehe

**Tyler Tran** - hello litto ~ thankful to have had you on client team this semester heheh u always brighten up my day !! much love for u !!

**Andrew Kwak** - future president hello ! thankful for our ultimate sessions lets pls toss soon thank u imbaby

**Annie You & Logan Kim** - hi family directors v thankful for a lovely year with u two!!

**Matthew Onghai** - minecraft reunion when

**Vincent Lin** - pls come back from Taiwan soon so we can hang out!

**2606** - more tossing more fun interesting nights pls thank u

## Jade Yeng

**Jellies** - HELLO MY LITTOS!!! Being a big this year for ABSA was an honor, so thank you for letting be a part of your college experience. From the seeing you all get to know each other, the movie nights, and cooking together I have memories from this semester that I can look back on fondly. I love you all <3

**Vincent Lin** - THATS MY PRESIDENT I am so proud of you and everything that you have done this year. It was not easy, and you truly are an inspiration!!!

**Jane Li** - My day one...honestly do not know what I would do without you <3

**Justin Nguyen** - MENTEE seeing the growth in you this year makes me so proud

**Victoria He** - You are honestly my mother all of the guidance and advice that you have given me really carried me

**Jodei Pasasadaba** - Always my QUEEN

**Jennifer Truong** - s/o for your apartment as our big hang place

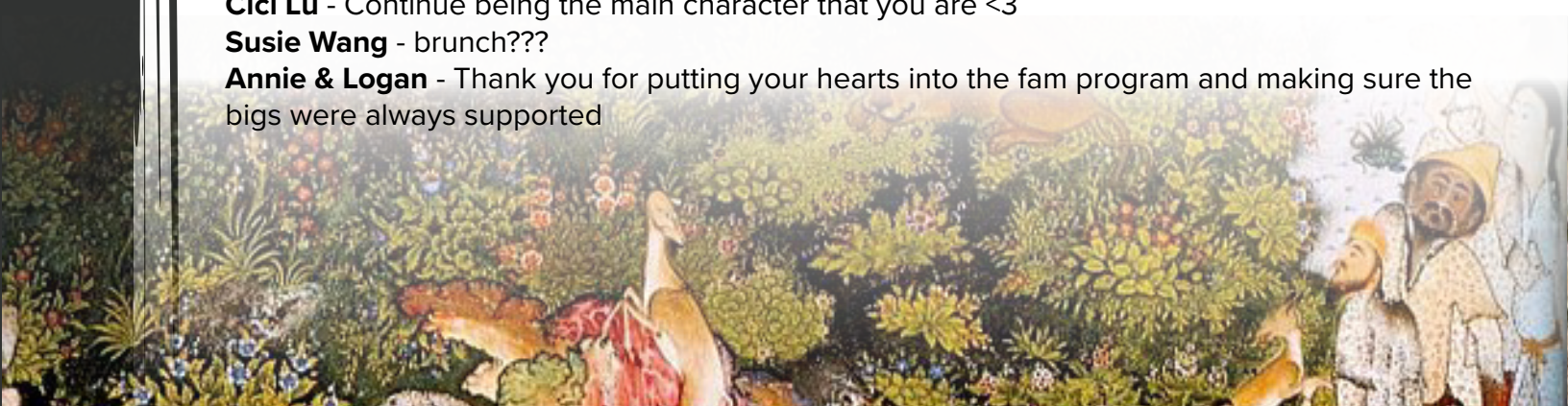
**Ananya Mahesh** - Hello mentee, you are so talented and never forget it...I wish I was as artistic as you!!!

**Emi Rinkliff** - You have heard me say it before, but I will say it again. I could not be more proud of you and what you have done with the branch this year.

**Cici Lu** - Continue being the main character that you are <3

**Susie Wang** - brunch???

**Annie & Logan** - Thank you for putting your hearts into the fam program and making sure the bigs were always supported



## Annie You

**Andrew Kwak** - hello minjoon oppar-hyung, I am so so grateful to have you in my life and for all the fun stoopid times that we have together. I will always have the utmost admiration for everything that you do in and out of ABSA. You are such an amazing person and I am super excited to be on Panel with you next year! I hope we have lots and lots of more good crackhead vibes <3 Let's blulululul everyday.

**Ashley Lee** - It's so weird to see how our friendship has developed since orientation. You are quite honestly my sister or child at this point. Just know that I will always be here to wipe your tears away and smack sense back into your head <3

**Erin Lim** - I absolutely adore you to the moon and back, Erin. I literally get made fun of for how much I simp over you but I will continue to simp over you. You are always so fun to be around and every time I hang out or talk to you, my heart feels so happy. lly <3

**Logan Kim** - come pick up your birthday present already foo. Thank you so much for being such a good homie. Despite all the banter and the way we make fun of each other, I know that you are the homie with the biggest heart out there. I love all the memories that we were able to make this year as family directors and as daebak chingus and hope that there's many more to come in 21 Pearl next year :))

**Raymond Xu** - lmaooo thank you for always giving me a good laugh during BMs and for the clutch J2 and Jester swipes. You're honestly such a chill guy and I am so glad and grateful to have you in our branch this year. You better come back for IMs next year, the volleyball team is counting on you for the dubs!

**Vincent Lin** - Helloooo Vincent <3 You are my biggest inspiration. I am so proud of all the work that you have done in and out of ABSA. I don't think there is a limit to the amount of respect and admiration that I have for you for literally everything that you do. Pls come back to Texas soon so we can have more internal struggle bus hours like last year.

**Bryan Onghai** - hey hey hey bon bon, I am so appreciative of you and your energy. I feel like no matter what we're doing even its a car wash LOL we always have a good time filled with good vibes. I am super grateful to be able to have you as a friend! Let's eat more hot pots, win more case comps, and go on more carwashes.

**Matthew Onghai** - good morning Matthew Philips Reyes Momo Momicita Monghai Onghai Onghair. We have literally had so many INSANE adventures this semester. The amount of late night food runs, intercity day trips, and case comps this past year has been such a wild ride. So many tenqs for being such a good friend and dork, can't wait for you to become D1 swimmer for UT next sem!

**Chris Chen** - hi chest day chris. Ty for all the laughs about your right hand and workout routines. Every breakout room and zoom call with you is just funny so vibey. You did such a good job in holding admin together and I'm very very proud of you! Pls get some more sleep in the coming semesters.

**Tyler Tran** - heyyy best friend, did I ever tell you how much of an icon you are? Tata, you never fail to amaze me.. You are quite honestly one of the most caring and charismatic people that I know and I am quite literally your biggest fan. I know that this year has definitely not been easy for you but you faced life like a freaking CHAMP. With your AKAKKAK energy, I don't think there is anything that you can't accomplish. Just know that I will always have your back <3

**Sophie Zhang** - helllooo roommate with the biggest posterior game that I know. Ty for accompanying on all those coffee runs and bus rides. I love the chaotic energy that you bring especially whenever you're feeling a lil \*crazy\*. I hope we make lots of more meaningful chaotic memories next year, HAGS! <3



## Annie You

**Elizabeth Nguyen** - hi dominoes girl, I freaking adore you. You are so damn badass. I don't think that I have ever met any as spontaneous as you. Thank you so much for always being there for me and supporting me in whichever endeavor I pursue. You're definitely one of the OGs that I hold very very close to my heart

**Rumya Velu** - Rumyaaaaa, I misssss you. I literally miss all of our late night convos and laugh and the way we things just click between us. I hope you and your family are doing a lot better and that we get to see eachother more in the upcoming semester. Thank you for always supporting me behind the scenes and know that it doesn't go unnoticed <3 llyyyy

**Tony Ho** - tony tony tony!!! I cannot believe that you are graduating already, I'm going to miss you lots. You are such a freaking cool and down to Earth boomer. Thank you for always being so fun to talk to and such a vibe during our semi-weekly dinners. Lets play lots of genshin when you're in Dallas!!

**Victoria He** - I was actually so scared of you and I still am a little bit LOL but you're honestly such a vibe and such a cool upperclassmen. I love how in every room and conversation that you're a part of, you always leave a mark because you're so unapologetically yourself. <3

**Andy In** - hi mister In, I also cannot believe that you're graduating and that you're a senior already. I was honestly very intimidated by you at first but I had such a good time being in the same class with you debating about Huawei! You're such a chill guy and I wish you the best in all your future endeavors!

**Diane Lee** - I am the biggest Diane Lee fan, always have been and always will be. You are such a wholesome and kind soul through and through. I have so much love for you in my heart and I am so proud of everything that you have done for ABSA, for your branch, and for your directors this year <3

**Alex Hoang** - Hellllloo Hwangyyy! You should alreadyyyy know you always hold a special place in my heart from summer orientation. I am so impressed with all the work that you have done for this year and cannot wait to see all the things you'll accomplish in the future! I finally got my pc so lets play val together soon :D

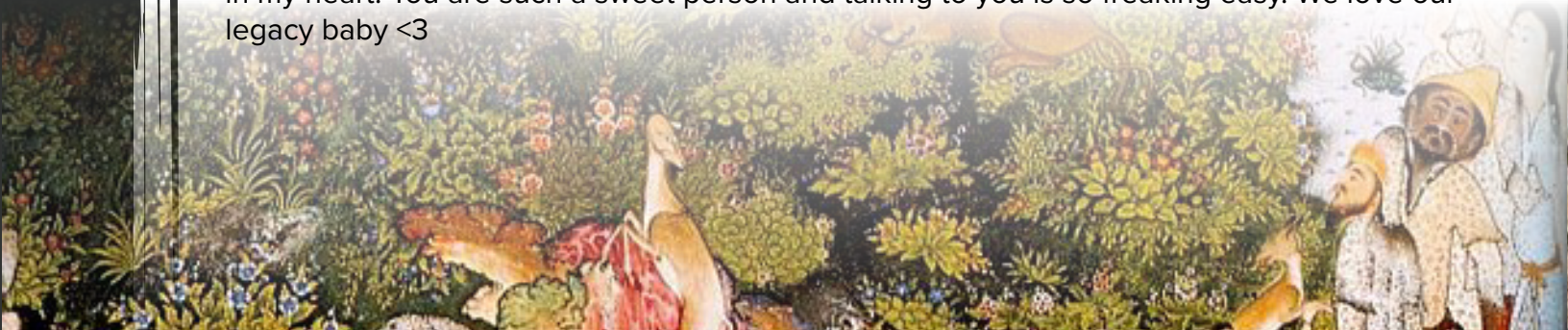
**Juwon Lee** - JUWON! You are a freaking GOAT. There are no words to express how thankful I am for your presence in the organization and as my friend! You are one of the most talented and most humble people that I know. I hope we have lots of fun times next year!

**2606 / sÜs** - hey hey MONKEHS! Thank you to grandpa aang, jobbies li, and beanbuurchata for all the great times this past year. I had such a blast with all the weekday and weekend shenanigans and I cannot imagine a better jobhaus trivia gang. Pls don't ever graduate so we can stay in college and blululululu and go to monkehland everyday while playing genshin and val :))

**James Li** - hi mister saxophone spider lover, it was sooo awesome getting to know you this semester! You never fail to amaze me with your talents and your very creative jpg file names. I can't wait for you to come on campus next year and lead our absa ensemble ;)

**Isabella Hsu** - MENTEE <3 I know that our mentee mentor shenanigans have all just started but wow wow wow, I am already so impressed by everything that you do. Isabella, you are actually so freaking cool. I can't wait to see all the super cool things that you'll do your 4 years here but just know that I'll always here to support you.

**Melanie Guillermo** - Melanieeeeee, everytime I hang out with you, I leave with such a warm feeling in my heart. You are such a sweet person and talking to you is so freaking easy. We love our legacy baby <3



## Annie You

**Emily Lim** - my absolute favorite gameshow host! Your energy is so contagious and everytime I am in a room with you - hollyyyy you just light up the whole breakout room with your puns and your jokes. Lets grab jester pizza sometimes soon.

**Jack Hu** - It was such a pleasure to meet you in person this year, Mr.Worldwide! I loved all the energy that you brought to the family GMs and all the stories about you and your family. Proud to see how you've grown in orientation <3

**Bella Ko** - Oh Bella, everytime I see your name, I just smile. You are such a wonderfully thoughtful person and I am so fortunate to have met you this year. Your energy and your charisma is just contagious with no bounds. Thank you so much for always being so supportive and kind <3

**Abby Cheng** - helllooo chengoooot, ur actually the baddest b on the block. No matter what you do and what you say, you just exude cool-ness. Lets hang out more when you come back from cali :))

**Fernando Su** - FERNANDO! I am so glad that you were able to come on campus this semester and I am so beyond happy that you were able to find such a good group of friends. I cannot be more proud as your OA and dscnasjdn we gotta hang once you come by next semester!

**Douglas Lin** - hey xiao lin, don't forget to win IMs for me next year.

**Catherine Guo** - Hi Catherineeee, thank you so much for being such a good roomie <3 Your humor is actually such a vibe <3

**Andrew Pham** - hey PHAM! Ty so much for joining ABSA this year and for putting yourself out there even during your first family meeting. You have such a bright personality and smile and we're lucky to have you in the org!

**Shelly Lu** - hi shelly, I love you and I miss you, lets hug the next time we see eachother.

**Jester Crackheads** - I miss y'all. Let's have a reunion soon and eats lot of hot pot and play code names until 6am in jester basement again.

**To All the Bigs** - I always get super cheesy whenever I think about thanking the bigs for this year and I really cannot express my gratitude enough. To Alice, Barklina, Jade, Jennifer S., Jennifer T., Jenny, Jane, Jodei, Matthew, Thuy, Sanmay, Shivam, and Tongus - THANK YOU! I think I speak for everyone when I say that y'all have made a world of a difference for all of our members this past year. Being virtual completely sucked and things were tough, but y'all really did a phenomenal job pushing through and being the amazing bigs that you were for all our members. I am so proud to be the family director this year and having the opportunity to work with each of you. Thank you <3

## Victoria He

@All of ABSA - HAGS



## Vincent Lin

Personally, this year has been filled with a lot of introspection, learning, courage. It forced me to re-examine the beliefs I hold, educate myself on what is going on around me, and speak out about my own thoughts and experiences. However, these actions are much easier said than done and often conflict with what is instilled and instinctive to me. Now more than ever, as members of the AAPI community, it is imperative to engage in these dialogues and make your voices heard.

Ever since I was young, I had been told by my parents to just focus on myself and not mind others' business. While this provided me a safe space to grow up in, it blinded me from the world beyond my immediate bubble. Furthermore, these values also tacitly discouraged me to speak out because I did not want to cause any "troubles" or be a disappointment to my parents.

With everything that transpired with the BLM movement and the rise of AAPI violence, I realized that I can no longer bite my tongue. By not learning how to be an ally for others and being vocal about my own experiences, I am allowing things to stay the way they are and choosing to let egregiously hateful acts continue. Changes do not happen unless you are willing to push for them.

Even though what has been going on might not have personally affected you, it happened because the system in place allowed it to. Moreover, as we have seen time and again, this system has been designed for the benefit of a select few at the disenfranchisement of many others. As a result, I hope each of y'all take the time to understand others' stories and embrace the discomfort of sharing your own. We are always stronger together and united.





## Tyler Tran

Author's Note: For the sake of clarity, Asian American references the entirety of the AAPI community.

### The Asian American Success Story

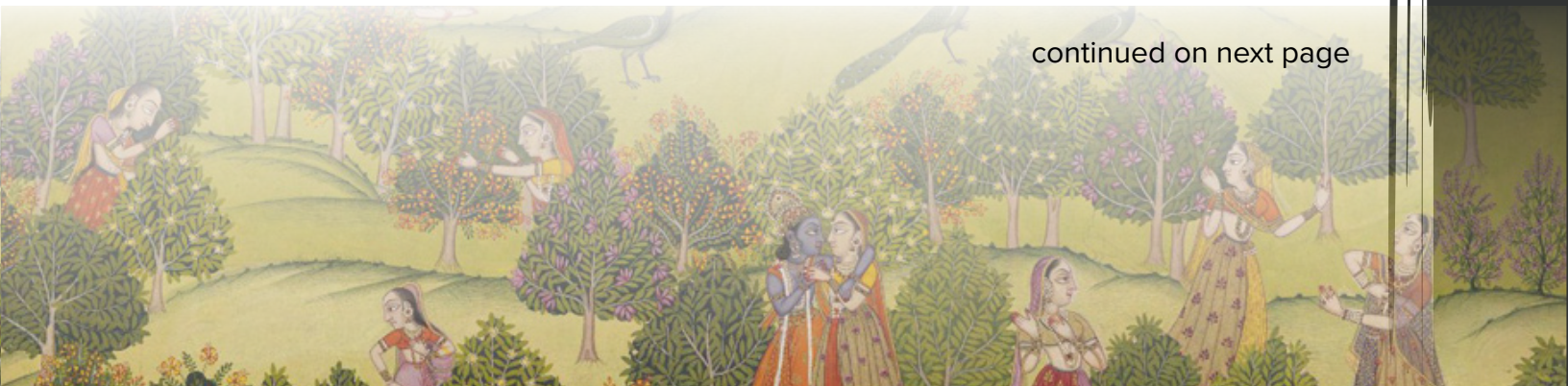
I am the classic Asian American success story growing up. As a kid I had all A's, never got in trouble in class, and even played the piano. Did I mention I'm also six foot? Cause I am. Thanks, three glasses of milk every day. But what isn't a part of the Asian American success story was reaching for any kind of career choice besides doctor, nurse, or lawyer. And if your parents are really liberal, maybe a dentist. That means you can't be a vet, a firefighter, or god forbid, a writer. Being a first generation Asian American is not a question of how to be successful, but what path is the fastest way to success? It meant minimizing risks and putting your head down and working until we were suddenly adults who can't even begin to count the number of regrets and what-ifs we had growing up.

These ideas aren't unfamiliar with many of my peers. But the sacrifices that we've made, and will make, isn't the point of my writing. I was always told never to question authority, be grateful I lived in America, and keep out of trouble. But when stories of teens shot in their doorways simply for existing differently from the white American experience, you can't help but keep asking yourself what am I really grateful for? When my grandparents fled Vietnam to America, they faced discrimination every step of the way. They were mocked, shouted at, and even assaulted. And they simply took it. Because they believed it was the price they had to survive a country pock-marked with bomb explosions. But I knew it wasn't the price they had to pay to survive a war. It was the price that they, as well as every single Asian American, had to pay for not being born white.

Sure, we can argue we've had it pretty good. It hasn't been lately that we've come into the cross hairs of Americans everywhere. In fact, we've been marked as the "model minority". We are hardworking and smart and most importantly, driven. But are we the model minority because of these qualities or because we learned to not bite the hand that hits us? According to AAPI data, Asian Americans are less likely to feel comfortable reporting hate crimes. Whether it was words, insults, or bottles thrown, we're so focused on making sure not to cause a fuss we simply look the other way.

The privilege of the model minority has been wielded as a weapon. Not by us, but by those who are traditionally in power. White Americans are quick to praise how hard-working we are, how we stay out of trouble and always do our best. And we eat it up. Asian Americans are so proud to have earned a spot at the white man's table that we've never stopped to wonder why we needed to earn it in the first place. We excuse microaggressions because they "didn't really mean it that way" or because "it's too much trouble to correct them" until their mockery of the way we speak ends up with an 84 year old woman being stabbed at a bus stop.

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## Tyler Tran

Author's Note: For the sake of clarity, Asian American references the entirety of the AAPI community.

Generations of the expectations for the AAPI community to simply work hard like a hamster spinning in a wheel have stunted us. Why run the risk of failing at reaching the stars when the ground is so comfortable? Why scream out in pain when we should be grateful to even get to live in the US? The skills of hard-work, submission, and drive for monetary success leaves us widely unfulfilled in life and underrepresented in America. But it's time for us to find our voices. I've seen enough grandparents screaming for help with bloodied faces and orphaned children to recognize that change starts when we learn not to hunch our shoulders when we work. As a community, we must be unapologetic and not fight for our spot at the table, but to use our hands to build our own. Even if it means our parents aren't proud of our decisions (and let's be honest ,when are they ever?) and we have to fight tooth and nail, we must rewrite the asian american success story.

