

## Asian American and Transnational Asian Studies: Self Study

By Morgan Pitelka and Heidi Kim

### **Section One: Overview**

#### ***Why Asian American and Transnational Asian Studies?***

Asian American Studies emerged out of the Civil Rights Movement and the growing interest of diverse ethnic populations here in the U.S. in their unique, but also shared, experiences and political challenges. The interdisciplinary approach to studying the history, culture, and experiences of Asian Americans, and the ongoing migration of people from Asia to the U.S. (as well as to other parts of the world), is as salient today as it was in the 1960s and 70s. The population of Asian and Asian American students at UNC has grown to the point that today it is the largest minority group on campus.

At the same time, the growing awareness of the great diversity within this population, in terms of heritage, language, and social and economic outcomes, is a reminder that Asian Americans defy stereotypes and need to be understood within larger global flows and specific American historical contexts. For Asian and Asian American students, too, opportunities to study the history and culture of these populations within the larger sweep of American and global history is vital to understanding what diversity actually means in the complex and evolving racial history of this country.

Asian American and Transnational Asian Studies today is thus a vital component of the university's focus on fields such as American Studies, Asian Studies, Global Studies, International Relations, Critical Race Studies and Cultural Studies. Asian American and Transnational Asian Studies is a field that allows us to explore the links between uniquely American stories of the trials and tribulations of individuals and families, as well as the larger global networks within which they are nested.

#### ***Current Study Opportunities***

The University currently lacks a certificate, minor, or major in Asian American and Transnational Asian Studies. Courses are available in two departments in the College: English and Comparative Literature and Asian Studies.

Some recently taught courses in this field include:

<b>Course Title</b>
Studies in Asian American Literature
Contemporary Asian American Literature and Theory
Literature and Race, Literature and Ethnicity
Mixed-Race America: Race in Contemporary American Literature and Culture

First Year Seminar: The Legacy of the Japanese American Internment: from WWII to 9/11

Asian American Women's Writing

The Place of Asian Americans in Southern Literature

Globalization/Global Asians

The Asian American Experience

In addition, Professor Eric Muller in the Law School has taught a First-Year Seminar in the College on the Japanese American imprisonment: "Race and Rights in the American Legal System: The Case of the Japanese American 'Internment.'"

### ***Faculty***

*Jennifer Ho: Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature; Associate Director, Institute for the Arts and Humanities*

My research and teaching interests are in Asian American, Multiethnic American, Contemporary American literature and Critical Race Theory. In particular, I am interested in the construction of contemporary American identities—the topic of my first book, *Consumption and Identity in Asian American Coming-of-Age Novels* (Routledge Press, 2005)—and anti-racist activism/education. My book, *Racial Ambiguity in Contemporary Asian American Culture* (Rutgers University Press, 2015) examines the theme of racial ambiguity in various modes of cultural production (oral history, new media, literature, film, sports journalism) created predominantly by and about Asian Americans in the late-20th/early 21st century. Other book projects include a critical biography on contemporary American writer Gish Jen, *Understanding Gish Jen* (University of South Carolina Press, Fall 2015) and a co-edited (along with James Donahue and Shaun Morgan) collection of essays, *Narrative, Race, and Ethnicity in the Americas* (under review at The Ohio University State Press). I am also co-editing (along with Dr. Jenny Wills) an "Approaches to Teaching Asian North American Literature" through MLA (in-progress). In the future I hope to work on a critical autobiography about breast cancer and a study of the Chinese diaspora in the Global South.

*Heidi Kim: Associate Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature*

For detailed information on publications, public speaking, and teaching, please see the website: <http://heidikim.web.unc.edu>

Heidi Kim's work ranges through nineteenth and twentieth-century American literature and Asian American studies. Her monograph *Invisible Subjects: Asian Americans in Postwar Literature* (Oxford UP, 2016) resituates the work of Ralph Ellison, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, and the Melville Revival critics through recent advances in Asian American studies and historiography. A second monograph in progress will extend this focus on the Cold War to the writing of and about Chinese Americans, who were dogged by the stigma of illegal immigration and paranoia about Communist infiltration. She also researches and speaks extensively on the literature and history of the Japanese American incarceration, including *Taken from the Paradise Isle* (UP Colorado, 2015).

Past projects have included work on Walt Whitman published in the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Journal*, and criticism and translation of *Le Vieux Salomon*, a transnational antislavery Louisiana

Francophone novel from the nineteenth century (*PMLA*, May 2010). Currently, she is collaborating with a team of environmental and social scientists to help them shape narratives of food security in dryland west Africa, funded by an NSF grant, and working on a new monograph about illegal immigration in Chinese American Cold War literature.

*Eric Muller: Dan K. Moore Distinguished Professor of Law in Jurisprudence and Ethics*

After earning his Phi Beta Kappa key from Brown University and serving as Current Topics Editor for the Yale Law and Policy Review while at Yale, Muller clerked for United States District Judge H. Lee Sarokin in Newark, New Jersey from 1987 to 1988. He then practiced in the litigation department of a private law firm in Manhattan from 1988 to 1990, before joining the United States Attorney's Office in Newark, where he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Appeals Division from 1990 to 1994.

After several years of adjunct teaching at Seton Hall Law School while still in government practice, Muller moved to the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1994 to begin full-time teaching, specializing in criminal law and procedure and constitutional law. In 1997, the graduating class named him the Outstanding Faculty Member in the College of Law.

Muller joined the UNC faculty in the fall of 1998. He has published articles in the Yale Law Journal, the Harvard Law Review, and the University of Chicago Law Review, among many other academic journals. His book "[Free to Die for their Country: The Story of the Japanese American Draft Resisters of World War II](#)," was published in August of 2001 by the University of Chicago Press, and was named one of the Washington Post Book World's Top Nonfiction Titles of 2001. His second book, "[American Inquisition: The Hunt for Japanese American Disloyalty in World War II](#)," was published by the University of North Carolina Press in October of 2007. His most recent book, "[Colors of Confinement: Rare Kodachrome Photographs of Japanese American Incarceration in World War II](#)", published by the University of North Carolina Press in association with the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, was [profiled](#) in the [New York Times](#) in June of 2012. It won the Joan Patterson Kerr Book Award from the Western History Association in 2013.

From 2008 through 2011, Muller served at the law school as Associate Dean for Faculty Development. In both 2010 and 2011, he received the [Frederick B. McCall Award for Teaching Excellence](#), voted by the graduating classes.

Muller serves as Chair of the Board of Governors of the [University of North Carolina Press](#) and is a member of the university-level Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Committee at UNC-Chapel Hill.

From January of 2012 through December of 2015, Muller served as Director of the [Center for Faculty Excellence](#) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the campus's faculty development center.

Many of Muller's papers are [available online via SSRN](#).

*Ji-Yeon Jo, Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies*

My research and teaching interests include the Korean diaspora, ethnic return migration, and Asian American Studies. My first book, "*Homing: An Affective Topography of Ethnic Korean Return Migration*" (University of Hawai'i Press, 2017) addresses some of the most vexing and pressing issues of contemporary transnational migration—citizenship, cultural belonging, language, and family relationships—and highlights their affective dimensions. I have published several book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and am currently working

on my second book project, "*Documenting Diasporas: Explorations of Diasporic Affect in the Films and Documentaries of Korean Diasporas*." This project explores Korean diaspora films and documentaries produced by diaspora Korean filmmakers around the world and critically investigates how their films and documentaries question, (re)imagine, and articulate diaspora Korean subjectivities in different spaces.

Please note that additional faculty, such as Mai Nguyen in City and Regional Planning, and Lilly Nguyen in Women's and Gender Studies, conduct research in related areas.

### ***Library Resources***

Significant resources for the study of Asian American and Transnational Asian Studies are available in the libraries of the university, though resources would need to be devoted to expanding these materials if a curriculum were to be successful. From Special Collections, unique primary sources such as records of Asian American student organizations, oral histories, family papers, and other materials are available for further research. Please see the appendix at the end of this report for more details.

### ***Professional Affiliations and Institutional Linkages***

Our small faculty is already well connected to a host of key institutions in the field of Asian American Studies:

External to UNC:

Association of Asian American Studies. Description available here: <http://aaastudies.org/about/> Jennifer Ho has served as representative on the Board of Directors; she may run for president in the future. Heidi Kim has served on the Program Committee. Both are regular attendees and panel organizers. Lilly Nguyen (Women's Studies) has attended the annual conference. Several graduate students have presented there in recent years.

Circle for Asian American Literary Studies, a member society of the American Literature Association. Description here: <http://caals.org/about> Heidi Kim is a past president and secretary of CAALS. Jennifer Ho was also a board member and participant. Both have presented on and organized CAALS panels and author readings at the ALA annual meeting. English graduate students have also presented.

Forum for Asian American Literature, a division of the Modern Language Association. MLA is, of course, the governing body of all literary study in the U.S. and has an international scope. Description here <https://www.mla.org/About-Us/About-the-MLA> Heidi Kim is currently on the Executive Board of this forum.

Densho. Nonprofit public history group. Description available here: <http://www.densho.org/about-densho/> Densho just hosted the first annual Scholars Roundtable, meant to foster conversation about the field by bringing together several of the most active scholars in Japanese American incarceration studies. Eric Muller generated the idea and also partly funded it. Both Eric and Heidi attended and presented. \*\*This is something that, if we move forward, we would love to ask the administration for money to host.\*\*

Japanese American National Museum. Description here: <http://www.janm.org/about/> Eric has served in an advisory capacity when they convened a meeting of scholars several years ago. Heidi worked with them to publish the book *Taken from the Paradise Isle*, which includes drawings and correspondence that the family had donated. <https://heidikim.web.unc.edu/2015/08/16/paradise-isle/>

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. <http://heartmountain.org/visit.html> Eric Muller was formerly on the committee and worked to found and develop this museum.

#### Inside UNC:

Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP). <http://murap.unc.edu/> This is a UNC-hosted, Mellon-funded pipeline program for higher education. Jennifer Ho and Heidi Kim have served as faculty mentors.

Carolina Performing Arts/Arts@theCore. <https://www.carolinaperformingarts.org/artsthecore/> Heidi Kim is on the Faculty Advisory Board and served as the Arts@theCore Mellon Curatorial Fellow; as part of that, she presented a Japanese American taiko drum duo in fall 2015.

The Process Series. <http://www.processseries.unc.edu/> Heidi Kim is on the Faculty Advisory Board and brought playwright Philip Gotanda to workshop a piece in 2013 and Lauren Yee to workshop a piece in 2014, which later premiered at the Goodman Theater in Chicago.

Both Jennifer Ho and Heidi Kim have served as the DOECL diversity liaisons.

Jennifer Ho is also on the Chancellor's Diversity Committee, is co-convenor of the Racial Literacies working group, and is on the faculty advisory board for the Center for the Study of the American South.

#### ***Funding for Faculty, Grad Students***

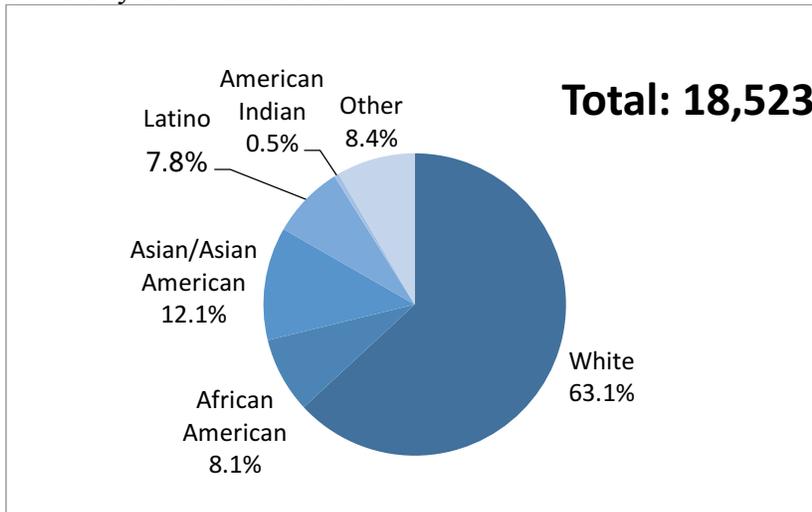
We do not currently have any targeted research or travel funding to support grad student and faculty work in the area of Asian American and Transnational Asian Studies.

### ***Student Body***

UNC's student body now includes *over 12%* Asian American and Asian students, a sharp rise in the last several years that reflects the change in North Carolina demographics. We can expect this percentage to continue to rise and to form a substantial new alumni demographic. In addition, Asian ethnic demographics have shifted significantly, with the arrival of a substantial Southeast Asian population as well as increased immigration from South Asia. UNC is home to an active and rich tapestry of Asian American related student organizations now numbering in the dozens. (See Appendix)

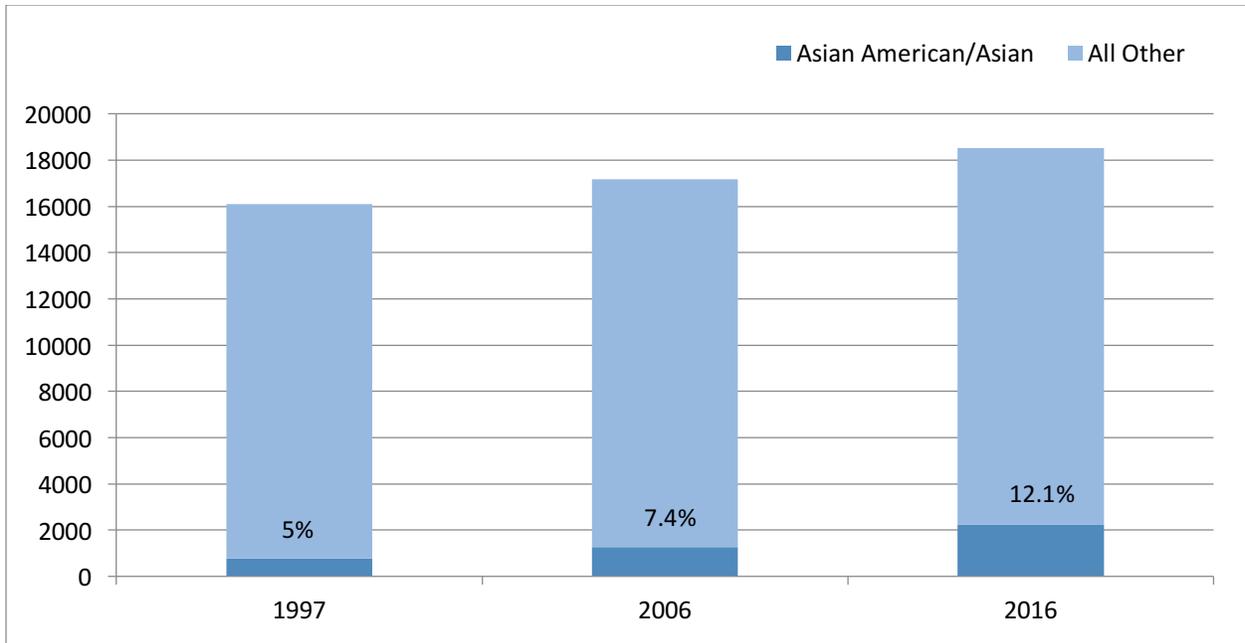
### **2016 UNC Undergraduate Racial/Ethnic Demographics**

This pie chart shows Asian Americans in relation to other racial/ethnic groups as captured by the university's own statistics.



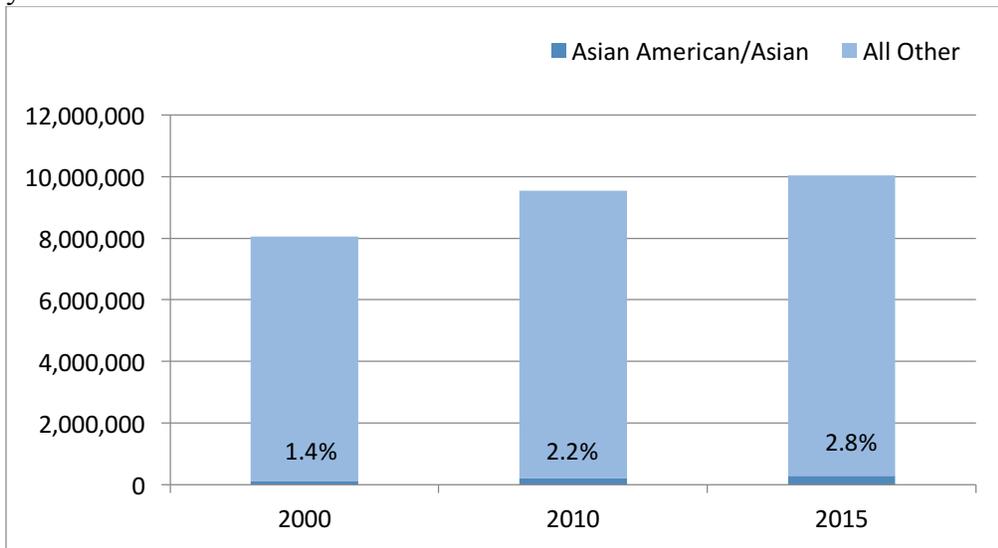
### **UNC Asian American undergraduate population over time**

The Asian American population has drastically increased in the last twenty years, as well as diversifying by national origin/ethnicity.



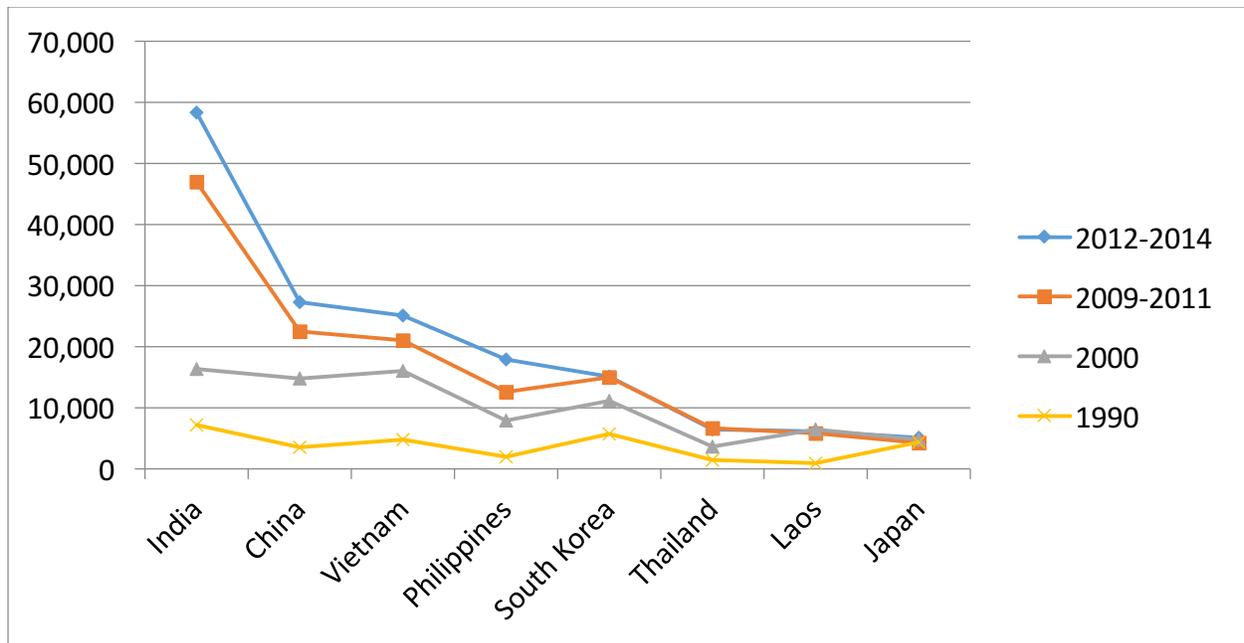
### North Carolina Asian American Population over time

This chart shows the growth in the Asian American population in the state. Though still not large in absolute numbers, note that the percentage of Asian Americans has doubled in the last fifteen years.



### North Carolina Foreign-born Asian population by national origin, over time

This graph reflects the rapidly shifting demographics of the state due to new immigration. Newer groups not shown here include the Hmong population (now the ninth largest Asian ethnic group in the United States) and the Karen population that lives in and around Chapel Hill.



## Student Organizations

### [UNC alpha Kappa Delta Phi International Sorority, Inc.](#)

alpha Kappa Delta Phi is the first and largest international Asian-interest sorority. aKDPhi strives to maintain the highest levels of integrity and innovation in the promotion of sisterhood, philanthropy, scholastic excellence, and Asian awareness in the community while creating lifelong friendships.

### [Asian Students Association \(ASA\)](#)

The Asian Students Association dedicates itself to advancing the interests and the needs of UNC's Asian and Asian-American student population by providing members with resources and opportunities to define Asian-Americans' role in American culture.

### [Asian-American Law Student Association](#)

AALSA provides support, information, and guidance to Asian-American law students, international students from Asia, and all other interested students at the law school.

### [UNC Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.](#)

KPL is an Asian-interest sorority that aims to bring a new perspective on social issues, enhance Asian-American identities, and discover similarities through differences within the student body.

### [UNC Kenan-Flagler Asian Business Association](#)

UNC Kenan-Flagler Business Association is uniquely prepared to both excel in applying knowledge to drive results & to lead, collaborate & inspire to bring positive change.

### [UNC Pi Alpha Phi Fraternity, Inc.](#)

Pi Alpha Phi is the first Asian-interest fraternity to be founded in the United States. They are based on the pillars of academic excellence, Asian awareness, brotherhood, leadership, and philanthropy.

### [Refugee Community Partnership](#)

RCP works with refugees in the local Orange County community and connects students with opportunities to serve refugees.

### [Carolina China Network](#)

CCN brings together people with academic and professional interests in China from across UNC. They host educational events and guest speakers throughout the year.

### [Carolina Dragon Boat Organization](#)

The Carolina Dragon Boat Organization aims to promote healthy living and a sense of teamwork among students through the fun, alternative water sport of Chinese dragon boat racing.

### [Carolina Go Club](#)

We are an organization that meets to play the ancient Asian board game Go. Beginners and players of all levels are welcome!

### [Carolina Kendo Club](#)

Carolina Kendo promotes the study and practice of kendo, a modern Japanese martial art, for recreational and competitive purposes. The kendo club holds regular practices and participates in sanctioned kendo competitions.

### [Carolina Otaku Uprising \(Anime Club\)](#)

Carolina Otaku Uprising hosts regular meetings and special events to promote the understanding and appreciation of Japanese anime at UNC.

### [Chinese House](#)

The Chinese House now part of the Global Scholars House through the Carolina's Residential Learning Programs offers UNC students the opportunity to pursue their interests in Chinese language and culture as part of their on-campus housing experience. The Chinese House features a wide variety of programs, including conversational hours in which students meet up to use Chinese in social settings around Chapel Hill.

### [Chinese Conversation Club](#)

This club provides a relaxed environment and frequent opportunities for conversing in Chinese language(s). All skill levels are welcome, including beginners, native speakers, and everyone in between.

### [Chinese Undergraduate Student Association](#)

The Chinese Undergraduate Student Association brings together Chinese students and scholars and those interested in Chinese culture or language at UNC. CUSA serves as an educational instrument for the university and the community by organizing events which promote awareness of and appreciation for Chinese culture.

### [Duke-UNC China Leadership Summit](#)

The Duke-UNC China Leadership Summit is an annual student-run conference organized by Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We invite leading experts to speak on topics of importance to Sino-U.S. relations and create a platform for students from across the United States to exchange perspectives on these issues, connect with speakers, and network with one another.

### [Falun Dafa Club](#)

Falun Dafa teaches five easy-to-learn meditative exercises that bring relaxation and stress relief from college. The organization also spreads awareness and understanding of the practice of Falun Dafa.

### [Flying Silk Chinese Dance Troupe](#)

Flying Silk is UNC's only classical Chinese dance group. Their purpose is to educate the student community on the traditional aspects of Chinese dance through performances.

### [Friendship Association of Chinese Students & Scholars](#)

FACSS, established in 1999, is committed to providing a full range of service and support for UNC-Chapel Hill's Chinese community. An executive committee administers student activities, outreach and advocacy.

### [Hanmaum Church English Ministry](#)

Hanmaum English Ministry (EM) is a campus Christian ministry based in a local Korean church.

### [Japan Club](#)

The Japan Club provides a chance for students to experience Japanese culture through various events and celebrations.

### [Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association – Young Generation](#)

KSEA-YG establishes an academic and professional network among 1.5 to 2nd generation Korean-American scientists and engineers in the United States and provides members with opportunities to receive scholarships and attend international conferences.

### [Korean-American Student Association](#)

KASA seeks to promote cultural, political, and social awareness about the Korean-American community both on UNC's campus and in the community at large. Membership is open to any and all who are interested in Korean-American issues.

### [Korean Association of Students and Scholars](#)

KASS provides opportunities for Korean graduate students at UNC to network and form community.

### [Liberty in North Korea \(LiNK\)](#)

LiNK is a grassroots organization that helps North Korean refugees within China. UNC's LiNK Rescue Team, through awareness and fundraising, helps those who have already escaped live a better life.

### [Taiwanese Student Association](#)

The Taiwanese Student Association provides Taiwanese students at UNC with a community and networking opportunities.

### [Carolina Language Partnership](#)

Carolina Language Partnership provides one-on-one ESL classes to non-native English speakers among dining hall, housekeeping, and grounds-keeping employees on campus. Student volunteers and their tutees usually meet for 1-2 hours per week.

### [Hmong Students Association of Carolina](#)

Hmong Students Association of Carolina recognizes the "Hmong American identity" and endeavors to educate the community about the Hmong culture through cultural events, exhibits, and community service.

### [Kasama](#)

Kasama is a Filipino American association that hosts networking events to cultivate UNC's Filipino community and spread awareness about Filipino culture.

### [Southeast Asia Interest Association](#)

SEAIA is dedicated to enhancing the understanding of social, cultural, and economic issues relating to Southeast Asia and raising funds for humanitarian and educational efforts that affect Southeast Asian nations.

### [Thai Student Association](#)

The Thai Student Association provides a community for Thai UNC students and promotes Thai culture to the community.

## Vietnamese Student Association

The Vietnamese Student Association is an on-campus organization for those who are interested in Vietnamese culture. VSA is dedicated to appreciating the beauty of Vietnam and understanding its unique history.

## Bhangra Elite

Through the means of high-energy dance, Bhangra Elite strives to educate the UNC community and the Triangle area on Punjabi culture. Bhangra Elite also aims to represent UNC as a nationally competitive dance team through bhangra competitions in the fall and spring.

## Carolina Khalsa

Carolina Khalsa is an organization focused on the Sikh faith. Community service is the main goal of this organization. Members of Carolina Khalsa work to educate Chapel Hill students and community about Sikhism.

## Chalkaa

Chapel Hill Chalkaa is a cultural group whose purpose is to spread awareness of the Bollywood film industry as well as broaden the university's knowledge of Indian culture through modern dance.

## UNC Delta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc.

DPO is a South Asian interest sorority promoting sisterhood, respect, loyalty, honesty, and friendship. DPO highlights the diversity within Indian culture through participation in the community and social service projects.

## UNC Delta Sigma Iota Fraternity, Inc.

Delta Sigma Iota is a South Asian interest fraternity that spreads South Asian awareness through service, education, and unity.

## UNC Ek Taal

UNC Ek Taal promotes understanding and appreciation of Bharatnatyam, a classical Indian dance in existence for over 1,000 years which originated in the temples of Southern India.

## UNC Hindu Yuva

Hindu Yuva serves as a great source of knowledge on the Hindu way of life and a forum to discuss the many facets of the Hindu dharma, including its religious, philosophical, spiritual, cultural, and social elements.

## Holi Moli UNC

Holi is the Hindu festival of spring and harvest. UNC students observe Holi every spring with a giant celebration on the quad.

## Monsoon

Monsoon's mission is to creatively foster dialogue about all eight South Asian countries as well as the vibrant South Asian diaspora around the world. It seeks to fight both the misrepresentation and under-representation of South Asia in mainstream media by producing original content that informs, entertains, and also sparks discussion.

### [Pakistan Student Association](#)

Pakistan Student Association is a philanthropic organization aiming to promote cultural, educational, and social awareness of Pakistan.

### [UNC Samaa](#)

Samaa was born to create harmony between western and eastern cultures. It is a co-ed a cappella group that combines everything from pop to alternative music with traditional Indian and Bollywood music using only voices as instruments.

### [Sangam](#)

Sangam is a South Asian student organization that shares the diverse and ancient cultures of South Asia with the rest of the university community. As the second-largest multicultural organization at UNC, Sangam hosts numerous events throughout the school year to not only support South Asian awareness on campus, but to spur community involvement as well.

### [Tar Heel Raas](#)

Tar Heel Raas actively entertains the general public and raises cultural awareness of the traditional West Indian dances, Raas and Garba. They also represent UNC at national dance showcases.

## Section Two: Benchmarking

### *Comparison with Peer Universities (#faculty, #courses)*

UNC significantly lags behind the majority of its peer institutions in Asian American academics. Out of our recognized peers, twelve offer an undergraduate minor or major in a department or program. Only three have no formalized course of study. The chart below shows the programs offered:

University	Academic Division	Offering	TT core faculty	Fixed term faculty	Website
<b>Berkeley</b>	Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies in the Department of Ethnic Studies	Undergraduate major	5	14	<a href="http://aaads.berkeley.edu/">http://aaads.berkeley.edu/</a>
<b>UCLA</b>	Asian American Studies Department and Center	Department and research center	13		<a href="http://www.asianam.ucla.edu/">http://www.asianam.ucla.edu/</a>
<b>U Maryland College Park</b>	Asian American Studies Program	Undergraduate minor			<a href="https://www.aast.umd.edu/">https://www.aast.umd.edu/</a>
<b>Michigan</b>	Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies in the Dept. of American Studies	Undergraduate minor or focus within American Studies major			<a href="https://lsa.umich.edu/apia">https://lsa.umich.edu/apia</a>
<b>Minnesota</b>	Asian American Studies Program	Undergraduate minor and graduate student group/travel awards			<a href="https://cla.umn.edu/asianamerican/">https://cla.umn.edu/asianamerican/</a>
<b>Texas at Austin</b>	Center for Asian American Studies	Undergraduate major, minor, and honors program			<a href="https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/aas/">https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/aas/</a>
<b>Virginia</b>	Asian Pacific American Studies	Undergraduate minor			<a href="http://www.virginia.edu/americanstudies/apas/">http://www.virginia.edu/americanstudies/apas/</a>
<b>Washington, Seattle</b>	Asian American/Pacific Islander American Studies within the Dept. of American Ethnic Studies	Concentration within undergraduate major			<a href="https://aes.washington.edu/">https://aes.washington.edu/</a>
<b>Wisconsin, Madison</b>	Asian American Studies Program	Undergraduate certificate			<a href="http://asianamerican.wisc.edu/">http://asianamerican.wisc.edu/</a>

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<b>Northwestern</b>	Asian American Studies Program	Undergraduate major and minor	<a href="http://www.asianamerican.northwestern.edu/">http://www.asianamerican.northwestern.edu/</a>
<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	Asian American Studies Program	Undergraduate minor	<a href="https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/">https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/</a>
<b>University of Southern California</b>	Asian American Studies Program in Dept. of American Studies and Ethnicity	Undergraduate major	<a href="https://dornsife.usc.edu/ase/asian-american-studies/">https://dornsife.usc.edu/ase/asian-american-studies/</a>

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## **Section Three: Objectives**

### **Tenure-track hires**

Faculty hires in departments such as History, American Studies, Geography, or Sociology would significantly enhance the educational opportunities for all students to learn about the Asian American experience in American and global history, society, and culture. As the population of Asian and Asian American students at UNC continues to grow, such faculty hires would also signal to this key student population that their participation in and contribution to the university matters and that they and their families are represented in the curriculum.

### **Increase funding levels for research, grad student support, and programming**

UNC has fallen behind its peers in funding for graduate students, making it necessary to raise funds that target specific topics and fields. Asian American studies should be a targeted field of study across many departments and disciplines. As the College of Arts and Sciences noted in its 2017 Strategic Plan, “A common feature of many departmental plans was excellence in graduate student training; a common threat from the SWOT analyses was insufficient funding. To attract the strongest graduate students to our programs, we must be able to keep up with our institutional and aspirational peers. Having stellar graduate students in a department can be a powerful tool to recruit and retain top-tier faculty. Graduate students assist faculty with their scholarship and conduct their own original research. They provide valuable teaching assistance in the classroom and are the next generation of scholars who serve as ambassadors to Carolina as they enter the academy, industry, government and other sectors. “

### **Improve collection of and access to data**

As the population of Asian and Asian American students grows at the university, the need for sophisticated data collection increases as well. On the one hand, we need to ensure that the overall size of the Asian and Asian American student population is recognized as the largest minority population at the university, which helps to highlight how significant the creation of new education opportunities in Asian American studies would be. On the other hand, we also need access to more nuanced data that disaggregates the Asian and Asian American population to allow careful analysis of education outcomes and other data points for diverse populations. As Sefa Aina of Pomona College noted during his tenure on President Obama’s Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders, “Working with diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) college students for years has been both rewarding and a struggle. The diversity that exists under this umbrella makes it difficult to balance their many voices and experiences, but, at the same time, it has provided a richness of cross-cultural and inter-cultural sharing and solidarity. Added to this diversity of culture and ethnicity is the diversity of other identity markers including sexual orientation, immigration status, and generation (first generation, second generation, etc...). According to the most recent Census data, some AAPIs have staggering educational needs that may be overlooked or masked by aggregated data. For example,

29 percent of Vietnamese-Americans, 38 percent of Hmong-Americans, 33 percent of Laotian-Americans, and 37 percent of Cambodian-Americans do not complete high school. Only 13 percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders 25 years of age and older have a bachelor's degree." Our data-collection practices need to take into account this diversity of experiences and outcomes.

### **Create opportunities for cross-university teaching**

Professor Eric Muller in the School of Law has taught First-Year Seminars in the College, and would like to continue to teach Asian American studies topics across the university. Other faculty in schools such as Global Public Health, Media and Journalism, and Information and Library Science may also be interested in contributing to a curriculum in Asian American Studies, which will require careful planning and management.