

“Crazy Inspiring Asians” Panel Showcase

Wednesday, May 1st

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

HOSTED BY JOSHUA BAY

CRAZY INSPIRING ASIANS

PANEL SHOWCASE OF AMAZING AAPI
LEADERS IN OUR LA VERNE COMMUNITY!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST ★ 8PM-10PM
CAMPUS CENTER BALLROOM A

Wendy
LITIGATOR
& BOARD OF TRUSTEE

Mary Anne
PHD CANDIDATE
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Adam
DIRECTOR OF
STUDENT LIFE

Paul
PROFESSOR OF
KINESIOLOGY

Mariel
SOCIAL MEDIA
SPECIALIST

Katherine
PHD CANDIDATE
ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Ian
ASSOCIATE DEAN
ARTS & SCIENCES

FREE TICKETS AT ASIANSINTERRUPTED.COM

QUESTION? CONTACT JOSHUA BAY AT JOSHUA.BAY@LAVERNE.EDU

Event Description

Crazy Inspiring Asians is a panel showcase of 7 amazing leaders in our La Verne community that identify as Asians American Pacific Islander. The panel showcase discussed their stories with this identity, through questions like the myth of the model minority, to explain how this has affected their personal and professional life. My panel consisted of Katherine Bay, Paul Alvarez, Wendy Lau, Ian Lising, Adam Wong, Mary Anne Mendoza and Mariel Cornel.

Katherine Bay

Katherine Bay is a rising fourth-year organic chemistry PhD student in the laboratory of Professor Ken Houk at UCLA. She obtained her B.S. in Chemistry from the University of La Verne. As an undergraduate student, she performed synthetic organic chemistry research with Professor Brian Stoltz at Cal Tech and with Professor Matthew Gaunt at Cambridge University. Now as a PhD student, she moved towards the computational side of organic chemistry and is involved in several collaborations through the Center for Selective C-H Functionalization (CCHF) with Scripps Research Institute. Katherine is Filipino-American and proud of her heritage.

Paul Alvarez

Dr. Paul Hajime Alvarez is a Professor of Kinesiology and Athletic Training Program Clinical Coordinator at the University of La Verne. Now in his 32nd year at the University, Dr. Alvarez also served for 24 years in a dual appointment role as Athletic Trainer to the Athletic Department, tending to sports medicine needs of La Verne student athletes. His work as an athletic trainer has taken him far beyond that role, having also been part of the medical staff for the United States Universiade Delegation to the The World Games in Belgrade, Serbia; Shenzhen, China; Kazan, Russia; Gwanju, Korea; and Taipei City, Taipei; Dr. Alvarez is of Mexican-American and Japanese-American heritage, and is proud of both cultural backgrounds.

Wendy Lau

Wendy Lau is a knowledgeable litigator with over 16 years of experience in business transactions, contracts, construction, labor and employment, and general liability. From her role as a partner at Wood Smith Henning & Berman LLP, a national law firm with 24 offices across the country, to her new position as Risk Management Lead - West Region for AECOM, a Forbes Fortune 500 company, Wendy's professional expertise includes strategic planning, team-building, fiscal accountability, on-boarding and professional development, as well as talent management and pipelining. Additionally, Wendy's various volunteer responsibilities include serving on Phi Sigma Sigma Supreme Council for 10 years as a Director and as Grand Vice Archon – Finance, a Trustee for the University of La Verne, and a Planning Commissioner for the City of La Verne. Wendy is Chinese-American and proud of her heritage.

Ian Lising

Ian T. Lising is an author, professor of speech communication and the Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at the University of La Verne. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines and his M.A. in Education from the University of La Verne. The University appointed him Speech Communication Department Chair in 2009. In January 2016, he was appointed as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Lising has served on the International Studies Institute, CAS Curriculum committee, and on the University Faculty Senate. In 2017, to commemorate the University of La Verne's sesquicentennial, he was honored as one of its 125 Influential Individuals. He has written two books; *Across the House: The Art and Science of World Universities Championship Debating* (2010) and *The Spin Doctrine: Communicating Belief, Truth and Fact* (2019) through Kendall Hunt Publishing. Ian is Filipino-American and proud of his cultural background.

Adam Wong

Adam Wong is the Director of Student Life, Development and Leadership at the University of La Verne. He previously worked as an Associate Director at New York University and Program Coordinator at Duke University. Adam received his B.A. in Business Administration and M.A. in Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs at the University of Southern California. He was heavily involved as a student at USC, involved in orientation programs, student government, PASA Network and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. At New York University, Adam initiated the first

Asian American and Pacific Islander commencement ceremony. Adam is Chinese-American and proud of his cultural background.

Mary Anne Mendoza

Mary Anne Mendoza is a PhD student of Political Science and Senior Pedagogical Fellow at UC Irvine. Her research focuses on colonial education policies, and nationalist rebellion in the Philippines and Burma. Mary Anne is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of La Verne and Cal Poly Pomona. She is a La Verne alumna of the History and Political Science Department. During her time at La Verne, Mary Anne was a part of the Honors Program, Debate Team, Model UN Delegation and Co-Founder of SPARK Women Leadership Conference. Mary Anne is Filipino-American and proud of her cultural background.

Mariel Cornel

Mariel Cornel is a Copywriter and Digital Strategist for brands, such as Avec Les Filles, AYF Media, Agahi and Forever 21. Experienced in social media marketing, copywriting and e-commerce, Mariel is the Founder and Creative Director of Polydeux, a fashion and lifestyle blog based in Los Angeles. Mariel collaborates with brands by taking versatile roles as a model, brand ambassador, product influencer and content creator. She has established her strong presence in the fashion industry with her trademark contemporary and high-end street-influenced style, combined with an engaging and active voice with creative visuals by photographer Justin Quebral. As an alumna of the University of La Verne, Mariel is a proud Phi Sigma Sigma sorority member, and double major in Public Relations and Creative Writing. Mariel is Filipino-American and proud of her cultural background.

Timeline

8:00 PM - 8:15 PM - Introduction (Joshua Bay)

Hi everyone! Thank you so much for coming to my panel showcase “Crazy Inspiring Asians.”

This panel showcase was created in support of the campaign I created called Asians Interrupted. This campaign is a space to ignite passion and action for Asian American and Pacific Islander visibility in the media. I often tell my peers that the push for representation on this large of a scale can't happen without acknowledging and celebrating the amazing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our own La Verne community. This is where the brand, campaign and tonight's panel showcase rooted from.

For those who do not know me, my name is Joshua Bay and I am a senior public relations major here at the University of La Verne. Asians Interrupted is my senior project and has been a labor of love to create from the ground up. When ideating this campaign, it was important for me to choose a topic that I'm not only passionate about but would mean something to someone. As a Filipino-American student, it was a gamble for me to choose AAPI representation as the core of

my campaign. I ran through different scenarios in my head about if anyone in our La Verne community would actually care. Is there really a strong demand for AAPI visibility at our University if an event at this scale had to be hosted by a student?

It's because of this that I felt compelled to give a platform for our community to spark that curiosity to want to learn more about the diversity in a culture that isn't shown in the media. I've covered stories of some amazing students for my social media campaign that tackle the struggles of being multiracial, mental health, being forgotten as Asian, pursuing a career beyond the stereotypes and understanding your cultural background when both of your parents were adopted. My hope is that this will increase both social and academic dialogue among students on campus, and lead to more events like this in the future.

Tonight, I am so fortunate and appreciative to have a panel of 7 strong leaders from our University. From faculty to alumni, our speakers will explain how being a part of the AAPI community has shaped who they are as a person and professional.

First up, we have Professor Ian Lising. Ian is an author, professor of speech communications and the Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. Ian was honored as one of the 125 Influential Individuals at the University of La Verne.

Next up, we have Katherine Bay. Katherine is a PhD candidate in organic chemistry at UCLA. Moving towards the computational side of organic chemistry, she has done research at Caltech and Cambridge.

Next we have Mariel Cornel. Mariel is an experienced social media specialist, copywriter and content creator. She has made a strong presence in the fashion industry as the Founder and Content Creator for Polydeux, a contemporary, street-influenced style blog.

Next we have Dr. Paul Alvarez. Paul is a Professor of Kinesiology at the University of La Verne. Now in his 32nd year, Paul is also the Athletic Training Program Clinical Coordinator. He has also worked as an Athletic Trainer for the World Games.

Next we have Adam Wong. Adam is the Director of Student Life at the University of La Verne. He has worked in leadership development and student activities at NYU and Duke. During his time at NYU, he initiated the first Asian American Pacific Islander commencement ceremony.

Next we have Mary Anne Mendoza. Mary Anne is a PhD candidate in Political Science at UC Irvine. Her research focuses on colonial education policies and nationalist rebellion in the Philippines and Burma. She is also an Adjunct Professor and Model UN Coach.

Last but certainly not least we have Wendy Lau. Wendy is an accomplished Litigator for Wood Smith Henning & Berman and Board of Trustee for the University of La Verne. She additionally

works for AECOM, a Forbes Fortune 500 company, and is a part of the Phi Sigma Sigma Supreme Council.

8:15 PM - 10:00 PM - Panel Questions

1. How has the ideology that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the “model minority” impacted your life thus far, positively or negatively? What steps have you taken to combat the stereotype?
2. What are your thoughts on Asian American and Pacific Islander visibility in the media?
3. What are your thoughts on the idea that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are viewed as a “perpetual foreigner?”
4. How would you describe the difference between Asian culture and Asian American culture?
5. What are your thoughts on affirmative action? And has affirmative action impacted your life thus far, positively or negatively?
6. What are your thoughts on institutional support for Asian American studies and programs in our La Verne community?
7. What is the biggest piece of advice you can give to younger members of our AAPI community? To our La Verne community as a whole?

Goals

My goals for this event was to ignite passion and action for Asian American Pacific Islander representation in our La Verne community. This panel showcase explored questions and stereotypes that are often deemed socially acceptable in our society. My panel broke them down through stories of their personal and professional experiences.

Outcomes

Attendance: 82 people (10 faculty, 5 professors, 37 students and 30 family of the speakers)
Press: Campus Times and Her Campus

