

THE ASIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
WELCOMES YOU TO

SENIOR BANQUET

*A Toast
to
Tomorrow*

APRIL 21, 2024

**ASIAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER**

Senior Banquet

CLASS OF 2024



The Asian American Cultural Center
welcomes you to the
2024 SENIOR BANQUET.

This evening's celebration is held to
honor the accomplishments of our
graduating seniors, student leaders,
and others who have supported AsACC.



ITINERARY

Welcome from the Coordinators

*Chrisaphon Reach, Dabra Dy, Niyati Dave,
& Zayneb Shaikh*

Office of Diversity & Inclusion

Jeff Hines

Remarks from the Director

Angela Rola

Senior Speaker

Anson Lau

Dinner

UConn 2A Speaker

Jeff Alton

Alumni Speaker

Tommy Lee

Special Presentations

AMP Scholarships

Elisa Tolentino

UConn AsACC Endowment Fund Scholarships

merz lim & Jeff Alton

Presentation of Senior Graduates

Angela Rola, merz lim, & Jeff Alton

Senior Moments

Ending Remarks



Asian/Asian American
Mentoring Program

Since 2011, the Asian American Cultural Center has offered the Asian/Asian American Mentoring Program Scholarship to honor the outstanding mentor and mentee based on academic success, involvement at the Asian American Cultural Center, and demonstrated participation in the mentoring program.

University of Connecticut Asian American Cultural Center Endowment Fund Scholarship

Established in 2012 through an initial gift from the Slate Family: George, Laurel, Victoria (07'), and Rebeccah (11'), these scholarships recognize UConn undergraduate active involvement with Asian American Cultural Center, demonstrated leadership in Asian/Asian American student organizations, and/or demonstrated involvement in an Asian American initiative, research project, or community cause within The state of Connecticut. The \$1,000 scholarships are renewable for 4 years or completion of an undergraduate degree, whichever comes first.



ISA (Indian Students Association) Memorial Fund Scholarship

This scholarship, originally created by Prof. Devendra Kalonia and Shilpa Radia, provides financial support to an undergraduate or graduate UConn student who has made an outstanding contribution to intercultural understanding. This is a one-time award of \$1,000 to the applicant who best fulfills the criteria demands.



Maya Anam

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Major: Molecular & Cell
Biology*

Involvement

*Kids & UConn Bridging
Education and Asian & Asian
American Mentoring Program*

Favorite Memory

*The last KUBE day of each year
where I got to celebrate with the
middle school and UConn students.*



A Toast to...

**My family, friends, mentors, KUBE
and AMP family.**



Antony Anthony

He/Him/His

Degree

*Major: Physiology & Neurobiology
and Sociology*

Involvement

**Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program, UConn
Thunderaas, and Lambda Phi
Epsilon**

Favorite Memory

**Watching the men's basketball
team win the championships with
all my friends :)**



A Toast to...

**My mother and all the people who I've met
in the past four years. Wouldn't be here
without everyone!**



Sahiti Bhyravavajhala

She/They

Degree

*Major: Molecular & Cell Biology
and Chemistry
Minor: Anthropology*

Involvement

*ASACC Staff and Kids &
UConn Bridging
Education*




Favorite Memory

*Any KUBE team leader
meetings; they always have a
way of making me laugh and I
love every single member of my
team for the memories we've
made.*



A Toast to...

*The short span of 9 months that introduced
me to my new family. Also merz.*



Thomas Bonitz

He/Him/His

Degree

*Major: Geographic Information
Science and Economics*

Minor: Urban & Community Studies



Involvement

**Kids & UConn Bridging
Education**

Favorite Memory

When my little, Jose, was filling out his journal at the end of the first KUBE day, & wrote that his favorite part of the day was getting to know me.



A Toast to...

The Paragon of Paragons and his Lawyer



Faith Cesaria

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Majors: Cognitive Science and Speech,
Language & Hearing Sciences
Minor: English*

Involvement

*Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program, China
Care, UConn Late Night, and
Sweeter Than Fiction Book
Club*

Favorite Memory

*Taking walks around campus
with friends and going to the
Dairy Bar/Horsebarn Hill*



A Toast to...

*All the artists on Spotify whose music single-
handedly got me through the past 4 years of college*





Aditya Chandraker

He/Him/His

Degree

Major: Physiology & Neurobiology
Minors: Chemistry, Computer
Science, and Molecular & Cellular
Biology



Involvement

Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program,
Taekwondo, and T-Huskies
Demo Team

Favorite Memory

AMP Class Cultural Presentations



A Toast to...

Graduation





Cathy Chang

She/Her/Hers

Degree

Major: Mathematics

Minors: Actuarial Science

Involvement

*Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program, China
Care, and Taiwanese Student
Association*

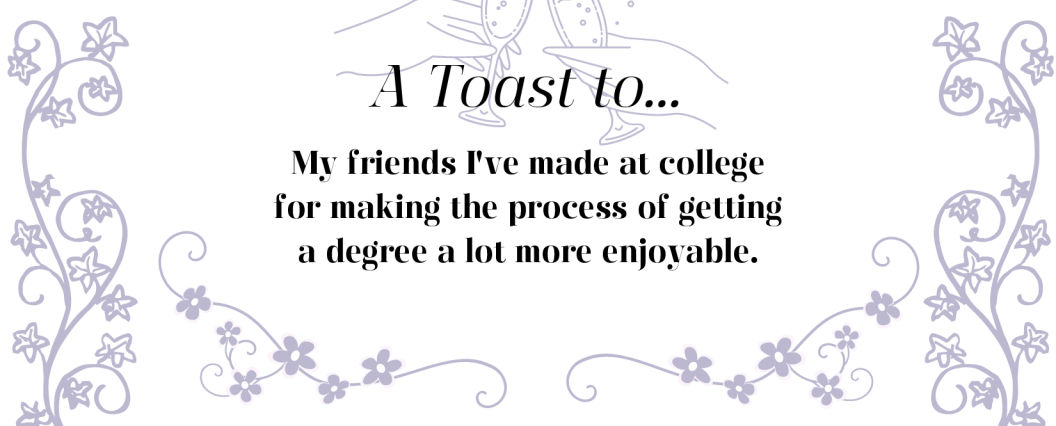
Favorite Memory

*Attending and having a booth at
Sakura Matsuri with TSA*



A Toast to...

*My friends I've made at college
for making the process of getting
a degree a lot more enjoyable.*





Charlotte Chen

Sbe/Her/Hers

Degree

*Majors: Materials Science &
Engineering and Molecular &
Cell Biology*
*Minor: Ecology & Evolutionary
Biology*

Involvement

*Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program*

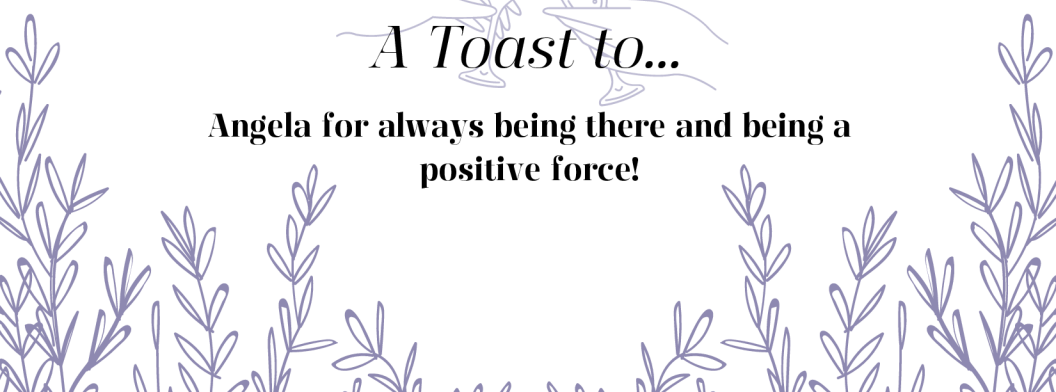
Favorite Memory

*Painting tote bags with
other AMP mentors for our
mentees!*



A Toast to...

*Angela for always being there and being a
positive force!*





Janice Cheng

She/Her/Hers

Degree

***Major: Environmental & Natural
Resource Economics
Minors: Global Studies***

Involvement

***Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program, Ecoposium,
Chinese Undergraduate Student
Association, and Cross Cultural
Connections***


Favorite Memory

***My favorite memory with AsACC
was performing and watching
our AMP pod family skits during
the 2022 summer kickoff.***



A Toast to...

***All the seniors graduating this
semester!!! We should be proud
of how far we've come :)***



David Gan

He/They

Degree

Majors: Chemical Engineering

Minor: Chinese

Involvement

Chinese Language & Culture Club, Chinese Undergraduate Student Association, Taiwanese Student Association, Filipino American Student Association, Thai Lao & Cambodian Student Association, Break Dance, Muay Thai, and WHUS Radio

Favorite Memory

Chatting and playing mahjong at AsACC (up until it got banned) is one of my favorite memories. I got to meet new people and spread my favorite game!

A Toast to...

To everyone I've met! They're responsible for the million rebirths that made me who I am today!



Halle Gavin

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Major: Physiology and
Neurobiology, Pre-Med*

Involvement

**ASACC Staff, MIXED, Asian &
Asian American Mentoring
Program, Vietnamese Student
Association, Chinese
Undergraduate Student
Association, and the Pre-
Medical Society**

Favorite Memory

**Morgan Xu telling her lobster-
bus station joke during the 2022
AMP fall kickoff.**



A Toast to...

**Thank you Angela,
for your love and loyalty;
I will stay in touch.**

Ohm Ghutadaria

He/Him/His

Degree

Majors: Physiology & Neurobiology

Involvement

ASACC Staff, Kids & UConn
Bridging Education, and
Asian Nite

Favorite Memory

Picking a favorite memory is like picking a favorite child, you can't do it, they're all (mostly) great! One of my favorite memories is the championship!



A Toast to...

All my slimes that I met throughout college!



Hayden Godfrey

He/Him/His

Degree

Major: Computer Science

Involvement

Filipino American Student Association and Chinese Undergraduate Student Association

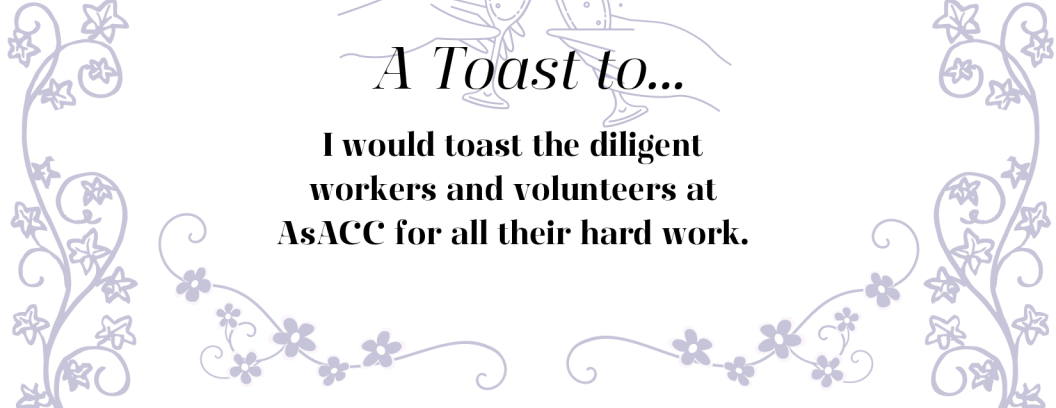
Favorite Memory

Facilitating the CUSA Christmas GBM this last semester. It was a lot of fun revealing prizes, playing Jianzi, and making gingerbread houses.



A Toast to...

I would toast the diligent workers and volunteers at AsACC for all their hard work.



Victoria Guadalupe

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Majors: Human Development
and Family Sciences*

Involvement

**Kids & UConn Bridging
Education**

Favorite Memory

Last day of KUBE, getting
pied.



A Toast to...

The people I've meet during my 3 years at
KUBE along with all the cultural centers!

Also my mommy :)



Shalvi Gupta

She/Her/Hers

Degree

Major: Molecular and Cell Biology

*Minor: Physiology and
Neurobiology*

Involvement

UConn Udaan


Favorite Memory

My favorite memory at UCONN is basically any adventure I have been on with my friends. Such as, going to the dairy bar on a hot summery Friday.



A Toast to...

I would make a toast to all my friends and making it through 4 years of undergrad.





Eun Sok Hong

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Majors: Digital Media and
Design*

*Minors: Human Rights +
English*

Involvement

*Japanese Student
Association, and Asian Nite*


Favorite Memory

*One of my favorite
memories at UConn is the
cherry blossom festival,
Sakura Matsuri, during
UConn Spring Weekend.*



A Toast to...

*I would like to give a toast to the current
Senior advisor and my former pres of JSA,
Sara Oba♥*





Alison Huang

She/Her/Hers

Degree

**Major: Analytic Information
Management**

Minor: Digital Marketing

Involvement

**Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program and
Chinese Undergraduate
Student Association**



Favorite Memory

**Having hotpot in the dorm
lounge!**



A Toast to...

**My friends & family and the AMP program
because that's where I met most of my
friends in my freshmen year**





Bonita Huang

She/Her

Degree

Major: Nursing

Involvement

**Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program and
Chinese Undergraduate
Student Association**

Favorite Memory

**Getting bubble tea with
mentors and mentees from
AMP then walking around
downtown and playing pool
at Buckley.**



A Toast to...

Friends and family





Shannon Huang

She/Her/Hers

Degree

Major: Exercise Science

Involvement

Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program and
AsACC Programmer



Favorite Memory

Going to merz's office to rant
about my biggest issue of the
day/week and having him
listen to my crazy stories and
dealing with my sass.



A Toast to...

Thank you to my friends & family and the
one's closest to me who have supported me
all 4 years <3



Niti Kamani

She/Her

Degree

*Majors: Molecular and Cell
Biology, Nutritional Sciences*

*Minor: Physiology and
Neurobiology*

Involvement

*UConn Udaan, Asian Nite and
Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program*

Favorite Memory

*My favorite AsACC memory is
definitely performing at Asian
Nite with my friends! I get to
learn in an entertaining way.*



A Toast to...

*My past four years here, the amazing
friends I've made along the way, & our
bright futures together!*



Joann Khambaylarsirikul

She/Her/Hers

Degree

Major: Communications

Involvement

**Thai Lao & Cambodian
Students Association**

Favorite Memory

My favorite memory at UConn was definitely seeing all of the food fundraisers and getting to try a little bit of culture from each cultural club.



A Toast to...

My lovely boyfriend Alex Liew



Jason Ky

He/Him

Degree

**Majors: Computer Science &
Engineering**
Minor: Mathematics

Involvement

**UConn Wushu and Lambda
Phi Epsilon International
Fraternity Inc.**

Favorite Memory

Performing at AsianNite 2022



A Toast to...

Chrisaphon Reach



Anson Lau

He/Him/His

Degree

Major: Civil Engineering

Involvement

Asian & Asian American Mentoring Program, Chinese Undergraduate Student Association, Chinese Language & Culture Club , UConn Airsoft, and UConn Table Tennis




Favorite Memory

Taking over classrooms and studying/hanging out in them until 2 in the morning with my closest friends. We lost a lot of sleep, but it was fun.



A Toast to...

I want to give a toast to my home away from home. To those I can call “family.”





Vicky Li

She/Her/Hers

Degree

Majors: Chinese

Minor: Asian American Studies

Involvement

Kappa Phi Lambda

Sorority Inc.

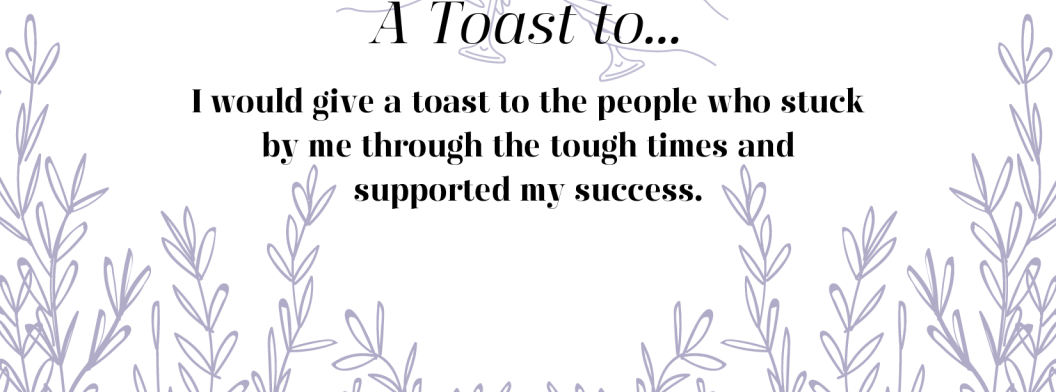
Favorite Memory

My favorite memory being at UConn is joining Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority Inc. and participating in Asian Nite in 2022.



A Toast to...

I would give a toast to the people who stuck by me through the tough times and supported my success.





Justin Lin

He/Him/His

Degree

*Major: Analytics &
Information Management*

Involvement

*Vietnamese Student
Association and Asian &
Asian American Mentoring
Program*

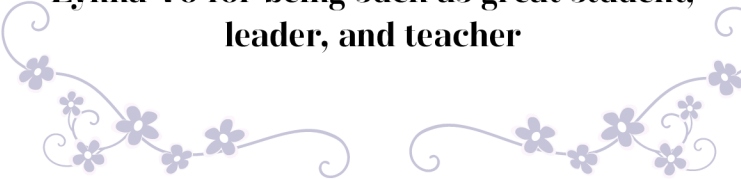


Favorite Memory

*Being apart of VSA as a
member and then transitioning
into a leadership position as a
Co-Events Coordinator.*



A Toast to...

*Would like to give a toast to my VSA pres,
Lynna Vo for being such a great student,
leader, and teacher*





Sara Oba

She/Her/Hers

Degree

Majors: Mathematics + Sociology

Minor: Crime and Justice

Involvement

Japanese Student Association,

AsACC Staff, Kids & UConn

Bridging Education, and

Undergraduate Student

Government

Favorite Memory

Playing bananagrams with

friends at AsACC!



A Toast to...

**My family who believe in me more than I do,
my friends, JSA E-Board, Eun Sok Hong,
and everyone at AsACC!**





Jared Osinski

He/Him/His

Degree

*Major: Management &
Engineering for Manufacturing*

Involvement

*Kids & UConn Bridging
Education, English Language
Learners, and Honors Across
State Borders*

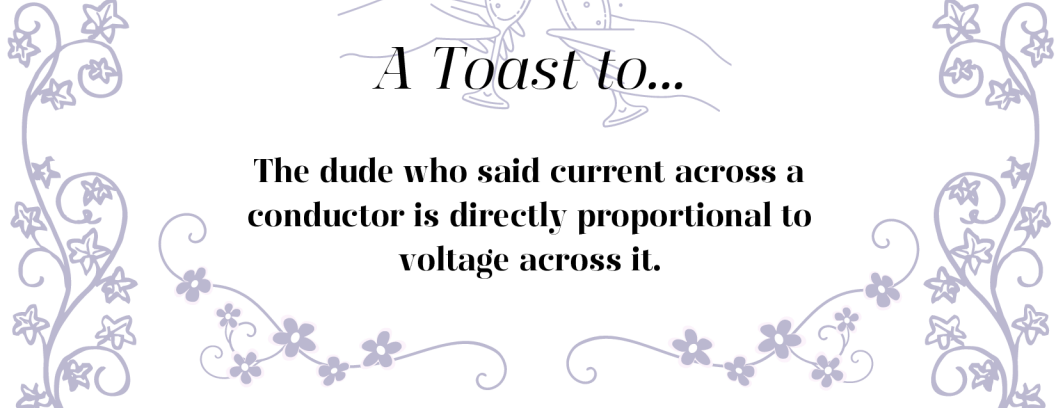
Favorite Memory

*Jandee, my KUBE little, asked
why I joined, and I explained
that I love teaching. He
grinned, read my name tag and
called me Mr. Osinski.*



A Toast to...

*The dude who said current across a
conductor is directly proportional to
voltage across it.*



Soo-Jin Park

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Majors: Healthcare
Management*

*Minor: Human Development
and Family Sciences*

Involvement

*Kappa Phi Lambda
Sorority Inc.*

Favorite Memory

*It's hard to choose one
specific moment, but my
favorite part of AsACC was
being able to chit-chat and
seek advice from staff.*



A Toast to...

*I would love to toast to my organization and
merz because they made me love being at UConn.*



Niki Patel

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Major: Molecular & Cell
Biology*

Involvement

**Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program, South Asian
Women Empowerment
Association, Health Occupations
Students of America, and Hugh
O'Brian Youth Leadership**


Favorite Memory

**All the AMP Coord meetings
in Katelyn's office!! I miss
and love you all so much, and
I especially miss Larry the
lobster <3**



A Toast to...

**To my family, friends, role models, and of
course the class of 2022!!**



Irene Pham

any/all

Degree

*Majors: Studio Arts, Painting
Concentration
Minor: Art History*

Involvement

*Pan Asian Council and AsACC
Staff*

Favorite Memory

*Anything that Tam does. Too
funny for her own good.*



A Toast to...

*I toast to the Asian creatives who have given me
hope to show my stories to the world.*



Rilee Roldan

He/They

Degree

*Major: Fine Arts,
Illustration/Animation
concentration*

Involvement




**Queer Asians & Allies, Pan
Asian Council, Filipino
American Student
Association, and AsACC Staff**

Favorite Memory

**Meeting Domee Shi with my
AsACC art besties!!!(shoutout
Irene and Nicole).**



**To all the friends I made and my queer
Asian family I met with every Thursday
night. <3**





Lia Rosenbloom

She/Her

Degree

*Majors: Psychology
Minor: Chinese and Studio Arts*

Involvement

KCONN

Favorite Memory

Staying until midnight during
finals week of my sophomore
year.



A Toast to...

My friends





Nina Sayarath

She/Her

Degree

Major: Communications

Involvement

Thai Lao & Cambodian Student Association and Asian Nite

Favorite Memory

As the performance chair of TLCSA, I loved showcasing TLC culture to all the showcases that has been held at UConn; Lunar New Year, Sakura Matsuri, SUBOG around the world, and my favorite event..Asian Nite !



A Toast to...

My grandma - Just because she was my day 1



Khadija Shaikh

She/Her

Degree

*Major: Environmental Studies
Minors: Social Justice Organizing,
Asian American Studies*

Involvement

*UConn Salaam, Kids & UConn
Bridging Education, and
Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program*

Favorite Memory

*Running for Homecoming my
junior year! I ran with my
best friend, Juanito, and got
to grow as a member of the
AsACC family! I loved being
your Queen!*



A Toast to...

**My sisters, my inspiration to pursue my dreams and pave
my path, so that you may both do the same**

Pavayee Socrates

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Major: Physiology &
Neurobiology*

Involvement

*Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program, Kids
& UConn Bridging
Education, and Tamil
Student Sangam*

Favorite Memory

*Playing Jenga in an AMP time
with chopsticks and NOT
knocking the tower over. We
used chopsticks to take the
bottom 2 pieces out and
everyone cheered!*

A Toast to...

*Halle for making me come to AsACC for the
first time.*

Uthara Sunderesh

She/Her

Degree

*Major: Physiology and
Neurobiology and Global
Health and Reproductive
Rights*

Involvement

*Kids & UConn Bridging
Education*

Favorite Memory

**Any of the KUBE team leader
meetings <3 We frequently
had get ourselves back on
track after completely
losing it over the goofiest
things.**



A Toast to...

My parents, my friends, kubies and UConn!! :)



Anna Tran

She/Her

Degree

Major: Psychology

Involvement

Thai Lao & Cambodian
Student Association and
Delta Phi Lambda




Favorite Memory

I got to meet a lot of my close
friends through AsACC and
it's honestly such a welcoming
community, a home away
from home for everyone at
UCONN



A Toast to...

I would toast to myself, my mom, my friends, and
Mochi for supporting me throughout my UCONN
journey





Jamie Trinh

She/Her/Hers

Degree

Major: Biomedical Engineering

Minor: Mathematics

Involvement

Pan Asian Council, Chinese Undergraduate Student Association, Vietnamese Student Association, and Filipino American Student Association

Favorite Memory

My favorite memory at UConn was the men's basketball team winning the NCAA National Championship and celebrating afterwards in Gampel with everyone.



A Toast to...

To my family & UConn friends: Cheers to an unforgettable 4 years!





Lynna Vo

She/Her/Hers

Degree

*Major: Elementary Education,
Minor: Human Development and
Family Sciences*

Involvement

**ASACC Staff, Vietnamese
Student Association , and
Asian & Asian American
Mentoring Program**

Favorite Memory

**2022-23 AMP & PAC coords
painting the mountain mural
during the summer... It was a
lot of paint, paint mixing, and
scrubbing paint off the floor.**



A Toast to...

**To my fellow AMP coords, VSA e-board, Banh Mi
Ducky, AsAcc, and gia đình. Here's to the memories.**

<3





Yasmeen Wahid

Sbe/Her

Degree

Major : Psychology

*Minor: Human Development and
Family Sciences*

Involvement

**China Care, Alzheimer's
Association, and Psi Chi**

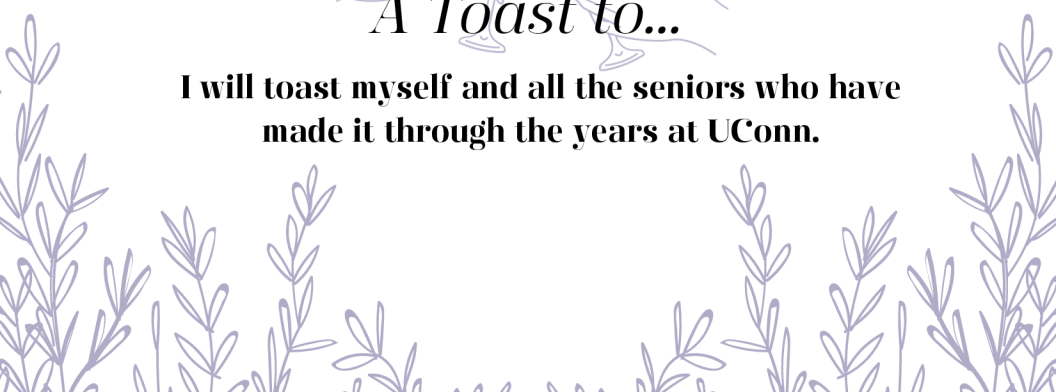
Favorite Memory

**Flying kites in our spring
playgroup with the kids.**



A Toast to...

**I will toast myself and all the seniors who have
made it through the years at UConn.**





Michelle Wong

She/Her

Degree

*Major: Accounting and
Mathematics/Statistics dual
degree*

Involvement

**China Care, and Intern at the
Center for Career
Development**

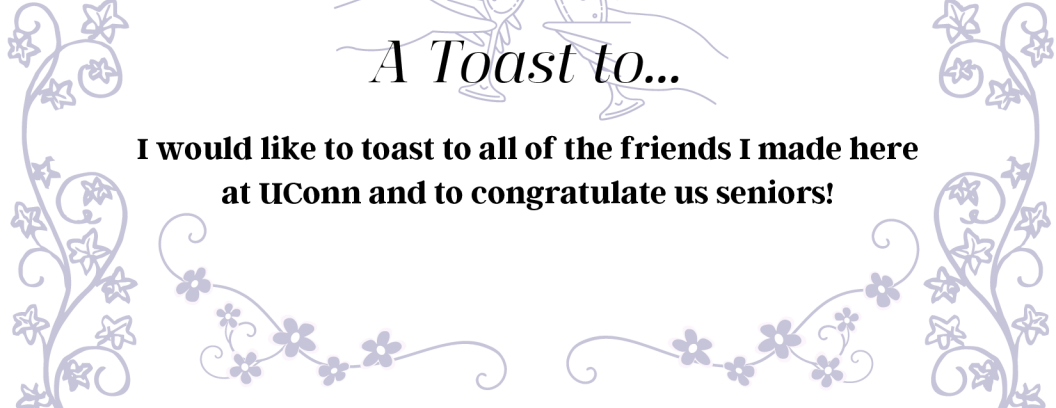
Favorite Memory

**Making crafts, and dumplings,
with the kids at our China Care
playgroups!**



A Toast to...

**I would like to toast to all of the friends I made here
at UConn and to congratulate us seniors!**





Winnie Wu

She/Her

Degree

*Major: Marketing
Minor: Chinese, Analytics*

Involvement

*Chinese Undergraduate
Student Association*

Favorite Memory

*Co-Hosting LNY with VSA and
AsACC*



A Toast to...

**I would toast to all the friends I've made at UConn
and everyone I've made a positive impact.**





Vincent Xie

He/Him

Degree

Major: Statistics

Minor: Computer Science

Involvement

AsACC

Favorite Memory

Every time I enter the main room and see my friends. It is always a fun time and takes the stress off of classes and exams.



A Toast to...

To everyone that has helped me grow as a person throughout the past 4 years



Baasim Zafar

He/They

Degree

*Majors: Environmental Engineering
and Civil Engineering*

Involvement

ASACC

Favorite Memory

My 21st birthday party last spring where a bunch of my friends showed up and we had a good time. It was my first proper birthday party since Covid.



A Toast to...

**Continuing these wonderful friendships post
graduation!**



Wasif Zaman

He/Him

Degree

Major: Chemical Engineering

Involvement

**Bangladeshi Student
Association, Pan Asian
Council, and Society of Asian
Scientists & Engineers**




Favorite Memory

**Running IMPAACT for the first
time was so rewarding. Our
day was hectic, but we were
ready for everything.**



A Toast to...

**To my old Co-Co Tam Vu! You are my role model
and one of my closest friends. <3**





Laura Zheng

She/Her/Hers

Degree

Major: Physiology and Neurobiology

Minor: Molecular and Cell Biology

Involvement

**Chinese Undergraduate
Student Association and
Filipino American Student
Association**

Favorite Memory

**Executing Lunar New Year
23/24 and being able to
showcase Chinese culture to
the UCONN community.**



A Toast to...

My girlie pops and my homeboys



Coordinators' Toast

A Toast to...

To all of the graduating seniors:
Thank you for all of your hard work for AsACC. We toast to all of you! We hope you have beautiful futures and greater tomorrows :)



Best wishes from
**Chrisaphon, Dahra, Niyati,
and Zayneb**



*Congratulations
Class of 2024!*