

## 2021 AAACC Elections: Nomination Bios

Below are short bios that the candidates have written to express their interest in the position and to share their qualifications. Each position is for a two year term and you can read more about each position's duties [here](#).

### Co-chairs (2)

**[Dr. Christopher Waldo](#) (Assistant Professor of Classics, University of Washington):** It has been an incredible honor for me to serve as the inaugural president of the AAACC. I sincerely hope that our members will deem me fit to oversee the transition from the original group of officers to this new executive committee. I would really appreciate the opportunity to carry a number of our current endeavors to completion, including the launch of our professionalization service and the administration of our paper prize. If elected as co-chair, I would provide a measure of stability and continuity as the AAACC moves into this exciting new stage of its development as an organization.

**[Dr. Arum Park](#) (Assistant Professor of Classics, University of Arizona):** When the AAACC first started, I wasn't sure what kind of community we would be. I wondered whether the common denominator of Asian or Asian American identity would be enough for a relatively small slice of the Classicist pie to truly coalesce around. In the few short years of its existence, I have been nothing short of amazed: the AAACC has brought together a stronger community than I could ever have imagined, and it has taught me how crucial this community is for personal and professional survival. The AAACC's founders recognized the need for this group, a need that I didn't fully perceive until I joined and realized what I had been missing in the days before the group existed. Remarkably, much of this existence is online--entirely so this past year, thanks to the pandemic--and yet the AAACC continues to thrive, providing the community we desperately need, despite the barriers to doing so.

What I appreciate most about the AAACC is that it supports its members, for example, through its mentorship program, and that it also prods us to betterment. In last summer's Asians Against Anti-Blackness Reading Group, I was moved to see so many AAACC members come together in mutual understanding of where we came from and where we had to go to work in solidarity to eradicate anti-Blackness. As part of the AAACC's leadership, I would be honored to continue carrying out the vision of the founding members: to do the work of building and fostering the community that we want and need, for ourselves and for the BIPOC coalitions we are part of. Bringing people together in service to a larger goal is a big part of my scholarship--my first book was an edited volume dedicated to my dissertation advisor, and one of my current projects involves bringing scholars together to collaboratively build a Race and Classics course. I would be thrilled to apply this collaborative impulse in service to the AAACC.

### Financial Officer (1)

**Ethan Ganesh Warren (PhD student, Department of Classics, University of Texas - Austin):** I believe I would be a good fit for this position due to my experience and work in DEI both in and out of the field. I'm currently working on our departments 'Paths to an Inclusive Classics Ph.D' project highlighting work that can be done to improve Classics at state universities. I feel as though I can bring this passion and experience to future planning and meetings within AAACC.

### Programming Officer (1)

**Yusi Liu (PhD student, Department of Archaeology, Bryn Mawr College):** I would like to run for the programming officer position. I want to run for this position because I would like to help make the discipline more accessible – accessible to Asian/Asian American community of students and scholars, and accessible to people with diverse research interests, be that philological, archaeological, or art historical. I want to help foster a community that is also intellectually rigorous as well supportive and inclusive. Asian and Asian American scholars are equally (if not more!) competent in the field and they deserve more opportunities to be under the spotlight and recognized. I would like to oversee the paper prizes and encourage people to share their research. I also want to organize events that can bridge established scholars and students who are preparing, or worrying about, the future job market, inviting people to share experience of both positions both in and out of the academia and thus getting to the know the multi-possibilities of our career path.

I believe I am capable of this position as I have extensive experience in programming events. At Bryn Mawr, I have planned annual lecture and brought international scholar, and I am currently in the planning committee of our 13th graduate group biennial symposium. I was also the co-president of the classic society and art history society during undergraduate where I organized various events. I am a confident and an enthusiastic person.

I was a mentee in the mentorship program two years ago and I found it to be very beneficial and supportive. The AAACC session at SCS/AIA conference in Washington D.C. also made me feel confident in pursuing this career as an Asian international student. I am inspired and I hope to build this legacy.

**Tori Lee (PhD candidate, Department of Classical Studies, Duke University):** I attended the AAACC's conversation following the Atlanta spa shootings, and I was really moved by how much the organization was able to do on such short notice. It was so empowering to see people coming together from all around the country to listen and support the Asian and Asian American community in Classics. I realized I wanted to become more involved in creating events like this--as well as more upbeat events that aren't responding to tragedies--that can unify the Asian and Asian American Classics community across physical distance. As a former Assistant Editor of Eidolon and current Assistant Editor of the SCS Blog, I have a good sense of the struggles and joys of the online Classics community. I've also learned how to efficiently work as part of a team that meets fully remotely across multiple time zones (even during non-pandemic times!). My time at Eidolon showed me how much change we can effect just by speaking and sharing our voices online, even just as grad students. I want to help grow this community and eat snacks together and make Classics a more vibrant place! (P.S. My favorite snack fluctuates weekly, but it is currently Gardetto's snack mix, which is superior to Chex Mix because of the high ratio of bagel chips : everything else).

### Outreach Officer (1)

**Dora Gao (PhD Student, Interdepartmental Program in Greek and Roman History, University of Michigan):** Having spent over a year in relative pandemic isolation, I have really come to appreciate the ways that social media can bring communities together from all over the world. My experience with my own Twitter and the relationships I've built through that platform have not

only given me an understanding of how to connect meaningfully with people through social media, but will also help me expand the AAACC's outreach. I want to help make AAPI Classicists more visible and to celebrate our presence within the Classics community and academia more broadly; as Outreach Officer, I would be excited to continue Stephanie's great legacy and look to feature members of our community through Instagram takeovers, Twitter profile highlights, etc. I'd also look into expanding our social media co-presence with other groups, such as Eos, Trans in Classics, the Sportula, etc. Most importantly, I am really committed to the AAACC's mission and would love the opportunity to contribute to an organization that has made my time in academia infinitely better and more meaningful. (PS. my favorite snack is sachima, which are infinitely superior to Rice Krispie Treats).

### **Secondary Education Liaison (1)**

**Annie Huynh (Latin teacher, Lowell High School):** As a high school Latin teacher and a woman of color, I have learned first hand how looking different in this field can be incredibly difficult. I want to create a support system and community for not only teachers, but middle and high school students to be able to step foot in and thrive in Classics.

### **Mentorship Coordinator (1)**

**Cassandra Tran (PhD Candidate, Department of Classics, McMaster University):** Hello, everyone! Last summer, the AAACC hosted a reading group, where we were asked to pick from a list what type of activists and community members we are. Out of choices like a builder or a leader, the trait I picked for myself was a weaver. I love connecting with people, and I love connecting people. As a mentorship coordinator, I would match participants with careful thought, empathy, and consideration, so that your group becomes your team – one that helps everyone achieve their goals, as well as provides the type of support that each member needs.

Having been a mentee in the AAACC membership program since its start, I have experienced a lot of healing and growth, both personal and professional, and both in their due time when I needed each most. When I first joined, I was shocked to learn that there were so many AAPI folks in Classics! I'm grateful to have been able to not only get to know some of them over the past two years, but also to start weaving for myself a meaningful community within a field that, as rewarding as it is, can often feel isolating. This is something that I'll strive to do for you as the mentorship coordinator: I'd like to help you weave meaningful and supportive relationships between other members of the AAACC, not just in your mentorship teams, but also throughout the AAPI Classics community and beyond.

(PS. Shoutout to the co-host of the reading group and co-founder of the [Novalia Collective](#), Vina Vo, for making the activist exercise!)

**Helen Wong (PhD Student, Art and Archaeology of the Mediterranean World, University of Pennsylvania):** The first thing that led me to become aware of AAACC was the mentorship program. At the time, I had just graduated from undergrad. My decision to pursue graduate school for classics/archaeology had been part of an agonizing process. In the end, I did it. I don't regret it. But at that point in time, despite having made my decision, I was grappling constantly with anxiety over whether I had done the right thing. I joined the mentorship program hoping to find some reassurance, guidance, and support from others who would understand my doubts, which came partially from the specific cultural context of being Asian-American. As a mentee in the program, I found exactly the kind of support I needed and more. For the first time, I became

aware of senior Asian-Americans in the field, as well as peers who were going through or had gone through the same difficult processes as I had. I found a community and since then, it has been an incredible pleasure to be a part of AAACC. It would be an honor to serve the organization as its mentorship coordinator, organizing one of its core programs which has done so much good for the community. If I were to take on this position, I would do my best to do for others what the program has done for me: to connect members of the Asian-American community in classics with each other, and to continue building a community of trust, awareness, and advocacy.