

Outstanding Asian American Alumni of The City University of New York



The Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI), of The City University of New York, (CUNY) has begun a compilation of a list of outstanding Asian American alumni of CUNY whose remarkable achievements demonstrate leadership and excellence so that others may be inspired to follow in their footsteps. They serve as role models for the next generation and beyond.

This list is a work in progress, and will be expanding over the coming years. In addition, we will be spearheading a CUNY Asian American Alumni association and leadership initiative to provide networking, mentoring and professional development opportunities for our community of Asian American alumni and others.

If you are a CUNY alumnus or alumna, please let us know by e-mailing us at info@aaari.info along with a brief bio and contact information.

Thank you,

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CUNY Alumni Featured In This Edition

AZIZ AHMAD
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RON KIM
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HENRY C. LEE
YOUNG JEAN LEE
DORIS LING-COHAN
NELSON LOUIS
LISA NAKAMURA
YUH-LINE NIOU
ANDREW PAU
BETTY LEE SUNG
PETER TOM
ALTAF TYREWALA
ROBERT WANN
CYNTHIA WONG
KAM WONG
LILY DIN WOO
RON WOO



AZIZ AHMAD has a B.E. and M.E. degree in Electrical Engineering from The City College of New York/CUNY. He is the co-founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of UTC Associates, a leading systems and network integration company and developer of software for information technology and telecommunications applications, headquartered on Wall Street in New York City. He is CEO and founder of Vonair Inc., a leading software provider for multimedia applications for wireline and wireless markets. He is also the founder of the US Bangladesh Global Chamber of Commerce, which was created to develop business opportunities and exchange between the US, Canada, Pacific Rim and global companies, and Bangladesh.

He is the Managing Director of Grameen Solutions, Grameen Bitek in Bangladesh where Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus serves as the Chairman of the Board, and he is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the US Pan-Asian American Chamber of Commerce, North East Region (USPAACC).

He has directed the AT&T Local Services team in the NGI (Next Generation Internet) Consortium, which focused on the creation, research, development and demonstrating next generation broadband access network based on IP and Multi-Wavelength optical technology.

Aziz serves as a board member of numerous telecommunications and information technology companies in the USA and Bangladesh. He serves on the board of Glowpoint, one of the world's leading broadcast quality, IP-based video communications service providers; Vonair, Inc., which includes VoIP client based, location-based applications, presence, instant messaging, and mobile client applications; and Codertrust, a company with a vision to democratize access to education via the internet on a global scale. He also serves on the board of various educational and nonprofit institutions, including, The High School for Enterprise, Business, and Technology of the NYC Department of Education, Engineering Leadership Council at the Grove School of Engineering at The City College of New York/CUNY, New Jersey Technology Council and South Asian Business Networks (SABAN).

Among his many awards and honors, the Asian American Business Development Council recognized Aziz as one of the Top 50 Asian American Business Leaders in America. He is the recipient of the First Asian American Distinguished Alumni

Award by Asian American/Asian Research Institute/CUNY, and he has been inducted into The City College of New York's Grove School of Engineering/CUNY Wall of Honor.

He was an adjunct professor at City Technical College/CUNY, and at Pace University where he taught graduate level courses in advanced telecommunications and converging technologies. He established the "Aziz Ahmad Leadership Lecture Series" and an entrepreneurship institute at City College, where fortune 500 corporate leaders are invited to offer keynote speeches, and he is an advisory member of The City College of New York's Grove School of Engineering/CUNY.



HUSAM UDDIN AHMAD graduated with a M.S. in Civil Engineering from The City College of New York/CUNY in 1986. He earned his B.E. in Civil Engineering at NED and completed his postgraduate studies at Columbia University.

Husam is the Chairman and CEO, and owner of HAKS, a highly successful engineering, construction, and management firm in the New York metropolitan area. The firm was established as a partnership in 1991 and incorporated in 1994. Under Husam's leadership, HAKS has grown steadily to become a leading mid-sized consulting firm in the New York Metropolitan area with 15 offices in the US, two international offices in India and Bahrain, and a multi-disciplined staff of over 650. He is responsible for the planning, direction and operations of HAKS' award-winning multi-million dollar projects in major public transportation and building projects. They include the \$400 million reconstruction of the Gilboa Dam, New York City's Build it Back recovery efforts after Hurricane Sandy, and a \$12.3 million New Jersey State Police Station as part of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority's five-year, \$500 million Facilities Improvement Program, to name a few.

Husam is also a majority owner (90%) of a construction firm HASA. He has over 30 years of diversified experience in design and construction management for bridges, roads, and various facilities. He is a professional engineer in 13 states and the District of Columbia. Husam plays a lead role as a board member of numerous professional societies, including the Concrete Industry Board, Society of American Military Engineers, American Council of Engineering Companies, Construction Management Association of America Metro NY/NJ Chapter, South Asian American Association, Inc., and the New

York Building Congress. Husam is an expert in quality assurance/quality control and safety, and oversees all corporate-wide initiatives, including the HAKS mentoring program for M/W/DBE firms. He is also responsible for developing and directing HAKS' strategic plan. Husam was recognized as leading one of the nation's fastest growing firms in a Hot Firm interview in the Zweig Letter.

In April 2015, Husam established an endowment for students to support the study of STEM principles of science, technology, engineering and math. As his way of giving back and paying it forward, he donated \$50,000 to the Queens Library, a place where he was able to find a peaceful place to study while pursuing his Master's degree at City College.

Husam was born in India and immigrated to the US in the 1980s to study and work in the US. His first job was as an engineer in the NYC Department of Transportation. He lives in Forest Hills, Queens, New York with his loving wife and four beautiful children.



BRIDGETTE AHN has a scientific background including premed training at UC Berkeley and graduate studies in Computer Science at The Grove School of Engineering/CUNY. Her academic credentials include a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School, a M.S. in Computer Science from The City College Grove School of Engineering/CUNY, and a B.A. in Rhetoric from the University of California at Berkeley. Bridgette is admitted to the New York state bar.

She is currently the President of the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York ("KALAGNY"), and chairs KALAGNY's Intellectual Property Law Committee. She is also a member of the Executive Council for the Network of Bar Leaders, and an alumna of the Collaborative Bar Leadership Academy and the Future Leaders' Conference, hosted by the Overseas Korea Foundation. Bridgette is a solo practitioner focusing on intellectual property and technology law at the Law Office of Bridgette Y. Ahn. Her experience includes practicing at Chambers ranked and internationally recognized law firms, including Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, a global firm. She has extensive experience representing technology, pharmaceutical, medical device, and manufacturing companies with respect to their product lines. Bridgette was also a law clerk to Judge Mark M. Russello of the Bergen County Justice Center, and a judicial intern to Judge Harold Baer, Jr. of the Southern District of New York and the former

Chief Judge Edward J. Damich of the United States Court of Federal Claims. As a trained mediator for the State of New Jersey, Bridgette has also mediated a number of civil cases to settlement.



ANTHONY CHAN received his B.B.A. in Finance & Investments from Baruch College/CUNY in 1979 and his M.A. (1983) and Ph.D. (1986) in Economics from the University of Maryland. Anthony joined J.P. Morgan in 1994 and currently serves as the Chief Economist for Chase. His responsibilities include economic analysis and research in support of Chase and the Private Bank's Global Investment Committee. In addition, he travels both globally and domestically to meet with clients and to make presentations on economics and investments.

Anthony is a member of several forecasting panels, including the Blue Chip Monthly Forecasting panel, the National Association of Business Economists Quarterly Macro Panel and the Reuters, Bloomberg and Dow Jones Weekly Economic Indicator panels. From 2001 to 2002, he served on the Economic Advisory Committee of the American Banker's Association. One of the most important responsibilities of this ABA group was to brief Alan Greenspan and the rest of the board members in Washington, D.C., twice a year in an off-the-record session.

From 1985 to 1986, Anthony was a Doctoral Fellow at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C. After completing his doctoral studies, he was a Professor of Economics at the University of Dayton (1986 to 1989). He was an Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from 1989 to 1991 and was a Senior Economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Government Securities from 1991 to 1994.

Anthony has been quoted in many media outlets, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Barron's*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Los Angeles Times* and *Investor's Daily*. He appears several times per month on CNBC, and often is featured in other media outlets such as Fox Business News, CNN, Reuters and public television's Nightly Business Report.



DEBORAH CHAN is an attorney at the Law Office of Deborah Chan, P.C. Since 1995, her firm has specialized in the area of trusts and estate planning, using advanced estate planning techniques and strategies, to assist individuals and families in wealth preservation and business succession planning. Deborah also has been a speaker in many trusts and estate planning seminars and radio broadcasts in Manhattan and Queens, New York City. She is a member of the Trusts & Estates & Elder Law Sections of the New York State Bar Association.

A true protégé of CUNY, the City University has provided Deborah with many opportunities to enable her to turn dreams into a reality. She received her undergraduate degrees from LaGuardia Community College and Baruch College, and graduated from CUNY Law School at Queens College in 1990. Upon completion of law school, Deborah was Counsel to the Office of Legal Affairs at the Human Resources Administration of the City of New York. After working for five years, she decided to venture into her own private practice, now in its 20th year.

In 2008, Deborah received the Mission for Integrity Award from St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center for her outstanding leadership and fundraising roles. She also served as a former chairperson of the Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation, which played a key role in the successful formation of the Chinatown Business Improvement District in 2012.

Deborah currently serves on the Board of Directors of several organizations: LaGuardia Community College Foundation of The City University of New York, which provides scholarships and funds internships for many students in need; the New York Asian Women's Center, which services victims of domestic violence and related issues; and CMP, Inc., a community-based organization working with new immigrants in employment training and development.

Deborah currently resides in the Chinatown community with her husband, Nelson Louis. Both are very proud to be the grandparents of two lovely granddaughters, Kyra and Vivien.

Deborah and her husband Nelson Louis, Queens College/ CUNY alumnus '77, were both recipients of the CUNY Distinguished Asian American Alumni Award at Asian American/

Asian Research Institute's 14th Annual Gala held in December 2015.



SAVIO S. CHAN is a graduate of Baruch College/CUNY with a major in International Marketing. He is a pre-eminent expert on doing business in China. He serves as President and CEO of US China Partners Inc., a privately held business development firm specializing in Market Entry, Strategic Sourcing and Marketing Development in China for US companies, and facilitates local and cross-border joint ventures among leading Chinese multinationals as well as Fortune 1000 companies.

Savio is a frequent keynote speaker and panelist at business and technology events including the American Express Minority Small Business Seminars, and the e-Business Conference and Expo, co-organized by BusinessWeek and InformationWeek. Among his many awards and recognitions are the "40 Under 40" Business Leader Award, and Top 10 Movers and Shakers on Long Island, Top 100 Most Influential and in 2007, ExecuLeaders presented him with a special award in the category of International Business Leadership.

Savio has been featured in numerous industry and trade success profiles, including articles in *The New York Times*, *Chief Executive Magazine*, and *InformationWeek*. He serves as Vice Chairman of ITP China and was formerly the president of the Northeast Chapter of US Pan Asian Chamber of Commerce, the largest Pan Asian Chamber in the country, senior advisor for the Outsourcing Institute, on the boards of Executive Council of New York and Association of Commerce, Industry and Technology (ACIT). Savio also hosts the PBS syndicated TV show, *Asian America*, sponsored by Wal-Mart.



HENRY CHANG is a graduate of The City College of New York/CUNY with a B.A. in Liberal Arts. He is a native son of New York City's Chinatown and Lower East Side. His poems have appeared in the seminal *Yellow Pearl* anthology, in *Gangs of New York's Chinatown*, and *The Lineup*. He is the crime mystery author of the acclaimed Chinese-American NYPD Detective Jack Yu series -- *Chinatown Beat* (2006), *Year of The Dog* (2008), *Red Jade* (2010), *Death Money* (2014), and *Lucky* (2017) -- all from Soho Press Inc./Soho Crime. His short stories appeared in *Murdaland* (2007 Mug Shot Press), and *Asian Pulp* (2015 Pro Se Press).

Henry had this to say about his student days at CUNY:

"I attended CCNY from 1971-1975. When I arrived from downtown, I already knew many Chinatown faces -- everyone with long hippie hair and ragged bell bottoms and peace icons. I tutored Chinese ESL freshmen and wrote a couple of pieces for the school newspaper. I took a class by the great Joseph Heller (Catch-22), and learned storytelling and alternatives to straight journalism.

My student life was interesting and often intense, a combo of violent downtown and academic uptown struggles. Because of the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, Asian American Awareness, and the rise of the 'Chinatown Gangs' nationwide in the 1970's, activism was strong. We fought for Black Studies, and Asian Studies. We took over Compton Hall, made demands and got concessions. Nascent Student Power, (remember SDS? later, at Columbia...) We were anti-war. We marched on Washington. We marched to Bob Dylan, CSNY, and the Rolling Stones. We tasted tear gas.

Off campus downtown, the street gangs had taken over Chinatown. My neighborhood. So, I was motivated to tell all these stories, set in turbulent, violent times. My time at CCNY was very formative in the writing and literary life I have today."

Henry has been a lighting consultant, and a Security Director for major hotels, commercial properties, and retail businesses in New York City. He is represented by Adkins & Phillips Agency, Ltd.

Find out more about Henry Chang at Chinatowntrilogy.com



WELLINGTON Z. CHEN graduated with a B.S. from The City College of New York School of Architecture & Environmental Studies/CUNY in 1977. He is the Executive Director of the Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation (CPLDC) in New York City. CPLDC was founded not only to bring residents, business owners and community groups together to rebuild and to mitigate the devastating impacts of 9/11 and its many subsequent lingering negative effects on the community but also to reverse the aging life cycle of a traditional Chinatown. A challenging riddle that continues to confound many other ethnic enclaves.

He has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York since June 2000. He is Chair of the Board's Standing Committee on Academic Policy, Pro-

gram, and Research, and holds membership on the Board's Standing Committee on Facilities, Planning, and Management.

Wellington has a long track record of community service and civic engagement. He became the first Asian American to serve on a community board and a local development corporation in Queens. He was also the first Chinese American to serve as a Commissioner on the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals. He led numerous initiatives and campaigns and co-founded a number of organizations, including a firm that offers strategic advice and insights to help shape and guide public/private policies. His decade long work as Landmark Committee Chair at the community board helped to preserve and restore Flushing Town Hall and he designed the structure that now houses the Tonga Mission to the United Nations.

Wellington has held many positions and been called upon to serve in many capacities. He worked for four years from 1980-1985, for I.M. Pei & Partners. He co-founded Tri Plus Construction Corporation in 1989, a company dedicated to creating affordable housing in New York City. He helped to co-found 2 of North America's 10 Chinatown BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) in Flushing and in Manhattan.

Wellington serves on numerous boards, including the Bowne House Historical Society; In addition to membership to the New York Chinese Opera Society, the Health Advisory Committee of the School of Public Health, Public Policy Committee and on the board of YMCA of Greater New York, the Metropolitan Museum board, and the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission,.

Wellington has won many civic and community service awards for his decades of community service including the Freedom Medal; the Vision and Planning Award to improve Downtown Flushing and many others in recognition of his years of dedicated public service.



AVA CHIN comes from a long family line of CUNY graduates . “I am proud to be a third-generation CUNY graduate,” Ava said. “I received my B.A. from Queens College, my mother graduated from CCNY, and my grandmother, an original member of the Ging Hawk Club, graduated from Hunter when it was an all-girls school in the Bronx.”

Ava is an associate professor of creative nonfiction and journalism at the College of Staten Island. She is the author of

Eating Wildly: Foraging for Life, Love, and the Perfect Meal, and the editor of the anthology Split. Eating Wildly won 1st Prize in the MFK Fisher Book Awards, and was a Library Journal pick for “Best Books of 2014.” Her writing about food, culture, and sustainability has appeared in *The New York Times* (as the “Urban Forager”), the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *Marie Claire*, *Saveur*, and the *Village Voice*, among others.

She is currently a 2016-2017 Fulbright Scholar to China, a fellow at the New York Institute for the Humanities at NYU, and a Distinguished CUNY Fellow at the Graduate Center’s Advanced Research Collaborative, where her work addresses transnational history and the Chinese Exclusion laws. She has been the recipient of awards and residencies at the Asian American Writers’ Workshop, Purchase College, USC, and the Ucross Foundation. Ava, who holds a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California and an M.A. from Johns Hopkins, was an undergraduate at Queens College.

Ava gives credit to her CUNY background and finds a way to pay it forward to her students. “As an associate professor at the College of Staten Island/CUNY, where I teach talented creative writing students from across the city, it is an honor to give back to the university system that gave so much to me and my family,” she said.



JUDITH J. CHIN graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1992 and a M.S. in Education in 1994 from The City College of New York/CUNY. Judith was elected by joint session of the Legislature to the Board of Regents to a three-year term effective March 10, 2015 representing the borough of Queens, the 11th Judicial District. She is a first generation Chinese American woman and is the first Asian-American member on the Board of Regents in its 231 year history.

As a lifelong educator, Judith has served the students of New York City for over 35 year as a teacher, principal, Executive Director of Instruction and Professional Development, a Regional Superintendent, Chief Education Officer and a Supervising Superintendent for over 230 schools across the five boroughs.

She has received numerous awards throughout her career: The Distinguished Educator Award in 1994, The New York State Assembly Citation for Excellence in Education in 2005,

Congressional Citation for Leadership – Congressman Gregory Meeks in 2007, Distinguished Woman of the Year – Senator Frank Padavan and City Council of the City of New York Proclamation for Education Excellence in 2010. Continuing in her service to students, Judith works at Columbia University, Teachers College Reading and Writing Project.

Judith is married to Henry Louis and they have one daughter, two sons, and three granddaughters.



MARGARET CHIN graduated from The City College of New York/CUNY with a degree in Education in 1975.

Margaret took office in the New York City Council in 2010, as the representative for District 1, Lower Manhattan. Margaret is Chair of the Council's Committee on Aging and is a member of the Committees on Education, Youth Services, Rules, and Transportation. She is the founding member of the Progressive Caucus, a member of the Women's Caucus, and Co-Vice Chair of the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus.

Margaret immigrated to the US with her family from Hong Kong in 1963 when she was nine years old. She grew up in NYC Chinatown. It was at City College through taking Asian Studies courses that Margaret got involved in community organizing. For more than 30 years she has dedicated herself to public service to help immigrants, low income and working families.

Margaret worked for 14 years at LaGuardia Community College's Division of Adult and Continuing Education helping immigrant adults get a college education. Many of her students learned English, got a college degree and built a better life for their families.

Margaret also worked at Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE), an organization that she helped to form when she was in college. As the Deputy Executive Director, Margaret led the organization's work in advocacy, community organizing and coalition building. She fought for the preservation and building of affordable housing; better access to government services; and equal opportunity and fair treatment for immigrants, low income, and working families.

In her many years of public service she served on boards of numerous not-for-profit organizations. Margaret was formerly the Chairperson of the NY Immigration Coalition (NYIC). She was a Board Member of the Association for

Neighborhood and Housing Development (ANHD) and chaired the Advocacy Committee. Margaret was a founding member of Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation (CPLDC) and served as the Vice-Chair of the Board. Additionally, Margaret served as Chair of the Census Bureau's Race and Ethnicity Advisory Committee on the Asian and Pacific Islander Population for Census 2000. Margaret was a member of Community Board 3 and Community Board 1. Margaret was also one of the founding members of Asian Americans for Equality, where she served as President of the Board from 1982 to 1986. In 2003 Margaret was a Fannie Mae Foundation Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

As an advocate for civic participation and voter education, Margaret was elected to the Democratic State Committee for two terms from 1986 to 1990. Margaret ran for City Council in 1991, 1993 and 2001. She fought hard to get bilingual ballots for the Asian community.



GEORGE HU graduated from Hunter College/CUNY with a B.S. in Political Science in 1982. In 1992, he graduated from Hunter College/CUNY with a M.S. in Urban Affairs and Public Administration. George is currently the Director of the Community Assistance Program of the NYC Department of Finance. From 2010-2016, he served as the Senior Government Affairs Liaison of the NYC Department of Finance. From 2007 to 2010, he served the Governor of New York as the Assistant to the Governor for Asian Affairs. From 2004 to 2007, he was in charge of several city-wide multi agency projects.

In 2000, representing the Finance Department, he participated in the establishment of the city-wide 311 citizen service center.

He was certified as a New York City translator for the Chinese language by the Mayor's office in 1991.

In 1989, George joined public service, and worked at the NYC Department of Finance as a Policy Analyst. Later, he was appointed as the Director of the Central In Rem Office (Real Estate Tax Foreclosure).

George came to New York State in 1979 as a student from China.



LILY HUI received her B.B.A. in Accounting from Baruch College/CUNY in 1988. Lily is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, Asian Women in Business, and Asian American Real Estate Association. She also serves as a board member of the US Pan-Asian American Chamber of Commerce (USPAACC) - Northeast Region.

She is a certified public accountant and a partner with Raich Ende Malter & Co. LLP. Lily provides accounting, auditing, tax and consulting services to closely and privately held companies and individuals. She has experience serving a wide range of industries, which include real estate, professional service organizations, law firms, manufacturing and wholesale/distribution. She also specializes in auditing company sponsored retirement plans which include 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, profit sharing plans and other types of retirement plans.

Prior to her current position, she worked for over 26 years as a certified public accountant and partner with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, beginning at the firm's regional offices in 1988.



TANWI NANDINI ISLAM graduated with a M.F.A. in creative writing from Brooklyn College/CUNY in 2009. She credits several Brooklyn College professors: Francisco Goldman, Ernest Mestre-Reed, and Meera Nair, for their influence and impact on her career. During her years at Brooklyn College, she completed an independent study in South Asian literature with Prof. Wendy Fairey, another influential professor, and worked as a youth program manager at South Asian Youth Action. She has also worked to help young minority students and women at the Urban Arts Partnership and Step Up Women's Network, two New York City-based non-profits.

She is the author of *Bright Lines*, a finalist for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction. It is the first book featured in the Gracie Book Club series launched by the Gracie Mansion Conservancy and NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray in April 2016 to raise awareness and bring attention to the New York City's many diverse communities and experiences through literature.

Tanwi is a writer, multimedia artist, and founder of Hi Wildflower Botanica, a handcrafted natural perfume and skincare line. Her writing has appeared on Elle.com, Fashionista.com,

and Billboard.com, and in the Feminist Wire, Open City, and Hyphen magazine. Prior to Brooklyn College, she graduated from Vassar in 2004. She currently resides in Brooklyn.



JUNE JEE received her B.A. in Art from The City College of New York/CUNY in 1979 and received her Corporate Community Relations certification from Boston College. She is currently President of the NY Chapter of OCA. She is a community affairs and strategic partnership consultant based in New York City. Previous to this, June worked at Verizon for 31 years. One of her last initiatives before retiring from Verizon was a scholarship program for CUNY students in S.T.E.M.

June is a government and external affairs professional with extensive experience in strategy development and execution; internal and external stakeholder relationship cultivation and management; philanthropic program development and management; employee volunteer engagement; and budget management.

June has accomplished much in her career at Verizon. She has served in a variety of positions including Medium and Large Business Services, Outreach and Education, Ethnic & Premium Markets where she was responsible for the planning, development, implementation and events marketing in the multi-ethnic market segments. June also served in the Strategic Alliances organization with responsibilities that included establishing and maintaining national third-party stakeholder relations and issues management.

As an active member in the community, June currently serves on various boards including as Co-Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Museum of Chinese in America, Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation, United East Athletic Association, and Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. She recently completed two terms on the Asian American Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy board. June has also served on the Thirteen WNET Tri-State Community Advisory Board, Asian American Justice Center Advisory Board, Long Island City Partnership, Queens Chamber of Commerce and Manhattan Chamber of Commerce boards. At Verizon, June was the national president of the Asian Pacific Employees for Excellence (APEX) of Verizon, an employee resource organization which addresses the professional needs of Asian-American employees in Verizon.



NOZOMI "ROSE" KATO graduated from LaGuardia Community College/CUNY Fine Arts Program in 2002. While at LaGuardia, she was awarded an honors residency at Barnard College/Columbia University as an ICP Scholar. She later transferred to and graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Painting. She then earned her Master of Fine Arts in photography from the Art Institute of Chicago.

She taught and created art courses as an adjunct assistant professor in the Visual Arts Program, which is part of the Humanities Department at LaGuardia. Her photography was recently shown at the Landscape Photo Show, which she curated, in Manhattan. All Things Project (ATP) organized the exhibition of nature, wildlife and scenery photography in contemporary landscape by twenty-one artists.

Nozomi grew up in Kobe and Hawaii, went to school in Paris, Rome, and New York City. As a visual artist, she has exhibited her work at Johnson Museum of Art in Ithaca, Vermont Studio Center, Sullivan Center at the Art Institute of Chicago, Bridge Art Fair NY, LVL3 Chicago, Evanston Art Center, New Century Artist Chelsea, Kravets | Wehby, and the Swan Hill Museum of Contemporary Art in Hyogo (Japan), among others.



VIRGINIA M. KEE received a B.A. in Humanities in 1961 and a M.A. in Secondary Education in 1965 from Hunter College/CUNY. For over three decades Virginia has been a dedicated teacher in a NYC public junior high school. She is a founding member of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), the largest and most comprehensive non-profit service organization serving the needy and poor Asian Americans in New York City. Virginia has been a past chair and continues on the CPC board of directors.

Virginia actively promoted voter registration and education because she believed in participatory democracy. In the 80s and as a member of Governor James Hunt's Commission setting the rules for the Presidential Nominating Procedures, she helped to increase diversity in the Democratic Party by inserting the requirement that there should be representation from Asian Pacific Americans as delegates to the Democratic National Convention. She has served as a presidential elector numerous times.

Virginia has served on a number of task force and commissions. After the attack on Abner Louima, she was appointed on the Task Force on Police and Community. The task force worked to address the systemic problems which contribute to poor police-community relations. Among other activities, Virginia has served on the NYC Task Force on Daycare Funding and the NYC Human Rights Commission.

In 1965 she was instrumental in bringing the first Youth Program and Head Start Program to Chinatown. Her efforts have contributed to improving the lives of many generations of immigrants. In her personal life, Virginia and her husband Dr. Herbert L. Kee have mentored and nurtured many young immigrant students. Their personal commitment and involvement has helped to develop many successful leaders. In 2003, they were both honored by the New York City Council.

Over the years Virginia has received numerous awards for her outstanding community service. Her alma mater Hunter College has inducted her into their Hall of Fame. The National Conference of Christians and Jews recognized Virginia Kee as one of the "Fifty Extraordinary Women." She was given this award in recognition of her role in building understanding among people.



RON KIM was the first and only Korean-American elected to the position of Assembly Member in the New York State Legislature. Ron is a proud CUNY alumnus and longtime resident of Flushing, Queens. A graduate of the National Urban Fellows Program, he earned his Master's in Public Administration in 2005 from Baruch College/CUNY while simultaneously advising the Chief Education Office of the Chicago Public Schools. He credits the lessons and experiences he gained at CUNY with helping him understand the importance of self-reflection, resilience, and having a growth mindset.

Since being elected in 2012, Ron has broken boundaries and built bridges across neighborhoods. His open door community-centric policy has served over 35,000 constituents on a diverse range of issues. He has made national and international headlines for mediating a dispute between local businesses and senior citizens, standing up for immigrant workers and small business owners, and physically tackling a purse-snatcher just outside his District office.



CORKY LEE, a self-taught freelance photographer has been passionately documenting the Asian Pacific Islander American community since leaving Queens College which he attended from 1966-1969. He organized a Chinatown "Pushcart Derby" on Mott St. affiliated with the Chinese Student Intercollegiate Sports Committee (CSISC) while chairman of the organization and went on to further organize the first "street sweep up" campaign in Chinatown. Student volunteers conducted the first daylong street and sidewalk sweep up campaign. He also coordinated students for a first ever socio-economic census type door to door survey in preparation for the 1970 US Census. The results were published in the Chinatown Report 1969 by Danny Yung, founder of the Basement Workshop.

Corky has often been referred to as the "undisputed, unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate". He has photographed "day in the life images" that identify and illustrate Asian Pacific American immigrant gateway communities. In the process, he has also captured civil rights rallies against social injustice over the course of 45 years. A *New York Times* article dated, August, 2002 quoted him as saying that the photograph of a few hundred Chinese Americans in front of the two locomotives at Promontory Summit, Utah was an "act of photographic justice." The historic photograph taken in 1869 denied 12,000 Chinese laborers their rightful place in American history by excluding the Chinese from the photo.

The Smithsonian APA Center has utilized his photographs in two traveling exhibits. The APA Smithsonian Folk Life Festival showcased his images in 2010 and the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery is installing an image of Yuri Kochiyama, a Japanese American activist on a restaurant picket line in Chinatown, NYC. Corky has curated APA photo exhibits; been named artist in residence at Syracuse University, NYU and UCLA; had 24 solo exhibits; and received 36 awards for civil rights, arts, and journalism. One unexpected recognition was when former NYC mayor, David Dinkins declared May 7th 1993 "Corky Lee Day."



HENRY C. LEE was born in China and grew up in Taiwan. He first worked for the Taipei Police Department, attaining the rank of Captain. Henry and his wife came to the United States in 1965. He earned his B.S. in Forensic Science from John Jay College/CUNY in 1972. Henry continued his studies in biochemistry at NYU where he earned his Master's Degree in 1974 and his Ph.D. in 1975.

Henry is one of the world's foremost forensic scientists. His work has made him a landmark in modern-day criminal investigations. He has been a prominent player in many of the most challenging cases of the last 50 years. Henry has worked with law enforcement agencies in helping to solve more than 8000 cases. In recent years, his travels have taken him to England, Bosnia, Canada, China, Brunei, Bermuda, Germany, Singapore, Thailand, Middle East, South America and other locations around the world.

Henry's testimony figured prominently in the O. J. Simpson, Jason Williams, Peterson, and Kennedy Smith Trials; and in convictions of the "Woodchipper" murderer as well as thousands of other murder cases. He has assisted local and state police in their investigations of other famous crimes, such as the murder of Jon Benet Ramsey in Boulder, Colorado, the 1993 suicide of White House Counsel Vincent Foster, the death of Chandra Levy, the kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart, and the reinvestigation of the Kennedy assassination. He was a consultant for more than 800 law enforcement agencies.

Henry is currently the Director of Forensic Research and Training Center and Distinguished Professor in Forensic Science of the University of New Haven. He was the Chief Emeritus for the Connecticut State Police during 2000-2010 and was the Commissioner of Public Safety for the State of Connecticut during 1998 to 2000 and has served as the state's Chief Criminalist from 1978 to 2000. He was the driving force in establishing a modern state police communication system, community based police services sex offender and DNA databank, major crime investigation concepts and advanced forensic science services in Connecticut.

In 1975, Henry joined the University of New Haven, where he created the school's Forensic Sciences program. He has also taught as a professor at more than a dozen universities, law schools, and medical schools. Though challenged with the demands on his time, Henry still lectures throughout the country

and world to police, universities and civic organizations. Henry has authored hundreds of articles in professional journals and has co-authored more than 40 books, covering the areas, such as; DNA, Fingerprints, Trace Evidence, Crime Scene Investigation and Crime Scene Reconstruction. He is the author of some best sellers, such as Famous Crimes Revisited, Cracking Cases: the science of solving crimes, Blood Evidence, and Cracking More Cases. In addition, his textbooks such as Forensic Science, Physical Evidence and Henry Lee's Crime Scene Handbook have been widely adopted in medical legal and forensic professions. He has appeared in many TV shows and movies. His new television series, Trace Evidence – Dr. Henry Lee File has received high ratings and has been broadcasted around the world.

Henry has been the recipient of numerous medals and awards, including the 1996 Medal of Justice from the Justice Foundation, and the 1998 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Science and Engineer Association. He has also been the recipient of the Distinguished Criminalist Award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS); the J. Donero Award from the International Association of Identification and in 1992 was elected a distinguished Fellow of the AAFS. He has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Forensic Examiners (ACFE) in 2000, Medal of Honor by the Ellis Island Foundation in 2004, Congressional Recognition for Outstanding services by the US Congress in 2004, Presidential Medal of Honor by the President of Croatia in 2005, Medal of Service from the Ministry of Interior, Taiwan, ROC in 2006, and Gusi Peace Award from the Philippines in 2008.

Henry received special training from the FBI Academy, ATF, RCMP, and other organizations. He is a recipient of 20 Honorary degrees: Doctorate Degrees of Science from the University of New Haven, University of Connecticut, Honorary Doctorate of Law from Roger Williams Law School, Mitchell College, American International University and Taiwan Scientific Technology University, Honorary Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters from the University of Bridgeport, St. Joseph College, Armstrong University, in recognition of his contributions to Law and Science, etc. Henry and his wife have been married for more than 40 years and have two grown children, a daughter, Sherry, and a son, Stanley.



YOUNG JEAN LEE received a M.F.A. degree from Mac Wellman's playwriting program at Brooklyn College/CUNY in 2005. She is a writer, director, and filmmaker who has been called "the most adventurous downtown playwright of her generation" by *The New York Times* and "one of the best experimental playwrights in America" by *Time Out New York*. She has written and directed ten shows in New York with Young Jean Lee's Theater Company, and toured her work to over thirty cities around the world. Her plays have been published by Theatre Communications Group (*Songs of the Dragons Flying to Heaven and Other Plays*; *The Shipment and Lear*; and *We're Gonna Die*) and by Samuel French (*Three Plays by Young Jean Lee*).

Young Jean is currently under commission from Lincoln Center Theater and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and has written a screenplay commission for Plan B/Paramount Pictures. Her first short film, *Here Come the Girls*, was presented at The Locarno International Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, and BAMcinemaFest. In 2013, she released her debut album, *We're Gonna Die*, with her band, Future Wife. Young Jean is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two OBIE Awards, a Prize in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a PEN Literary Award, a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, a Doris Duke Artist Residency, a Foundation for Contemporary Arts grant, and the ZKB Patronage Prize of the Zürcher Theater Spektakel.

She has also received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Rockefeller MAP Fund, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, Creative Capital, the Greenwall Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Arts Presenters/Ford Foundation Creative Capacity Grant, the Barbara Bell Cumming Foundation, and the New England Foundation for the Arts: National Theater Project Award.



DORIS LING-COHAN graduated from Brooklyn College/CUNY in 1976 with a B.A. in Psychology (Summa Cum Laude). She attended New York University School of Law on a full scholarship where she received her J.D.

She has been a trailblazer. In 2014, she became the first woman of Asian descent to preside as a judge in a NYS appellate court, having been appointed to the Appellate Term, First Department. In an historic election in 1995, she became the first public official of Asian descent to be elected from

Manhattan's Chinatown (other than school board), when she was elected to the Civil Court (2nd Municipal Court District). In 2002, she became the first woman of Asian descent to be elected to the Supreme Court in New York State. Prior to becoming a judge, she taught at Queens College, City College, and CUNY School of Law.

A former legal services lawyer and managing attorney, assistant attorney general and law professor, Doris was born in Manhattan and raised in New York's Chinatown and Brooklyn, from humble beginnings as a child of immigrants from China whose parents worked in the garment and hand laundry industries. She is President of the national organization of federal and state judges of Asian descent (NAPABA Judicial Council) and one of the founding members of the Asian American Bar Association and New York Asian Women's Center, which offers services to domestic violence and trafficking victims.



NELSON LOUIS graduated with a B.A. in Education from Queens College/CUNY in 1977. He is the Executive Officer of The Ong Family Foundation, a private family foundation that awards grants to not-for-profit agencies located in the northeast region of the United States. Established in 1997, The Ong Family Foundation has a broad range of philanthropic interests and principally seeks to fund programs that are comprehensive, community-based and preventive in nature, with special interest in agencies that service the Asian community. The scope of program areas funded include Social Services, Education, Medicine & Health Care and Arts & Culture. To date, The Ong Family Foundation has provided over \$4.2 million in donations to over one hundred local and regional non-profit organizations, and works closely with grantees to build their organizational structure and grow their financial and human capital.

Prior to working for The Ong Family Foundation, Nelson was employed with the YMCA for 37 years. His most recent position was President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Bergen County, and prior to that, served 26 years with the YMCA of Greater New York, beginning as a Youth Coordinator and eventually serving as Executive Director at two branches. He was active in the YMCA movement, serving as founding member of the YUSA Asian Leadership Network and then as a delegate to the YUSA National Assembly in 2007 in the Mid-Atlantic Region. He has twice been the recipient of the YMCA

National AYP Award for Excellence.

Nelson served on the National Advisory Committee of the Rebuilding Chinatown Initiative created after 9/11 to assist with rebuilding Manhattan's Chinatown community. He has also served as Trustee for the YMCA of USA Fred Y. Hoshiyama Asian Leadership Scholarship Fund; Founding Member of YMCA of USA Asian Leadership Network Steering Committee; Trainer for the YMCA of USA Fiscal Stewardship for Organizational Leaders; and Coach for the YMCA of USA Multi-Cultural Executive Development Institute.

He resides in New York City with his wife, Deborah Chan. Both are very active in building capacity and organizational sustainability for Asian Pacific Islander American community organizations. Nelson and Deborah, who is also a CUNY graduate, were both recipients of the CUNY Distinguished Asian American Alumni Award at Asian American/Asian Research Institute's 14th Annual Gala held in December 2015.



LISA NAKAMURA graduated with a Ph.D. in English in 1996 from the Graduate Center/CUNY. She taught at Kingsborough Community College and at Hunter College/CUNY from 1989 - 1992 as a Graduate B Fellow teaching writing, literature, introduction to media studies, and ESL.

Lisa said that she would not have later taught Asian American Studies if not for her CUNY students whom she has a special affection for after seeing how hard they worked and the struggles they had to overcome. She even marched in the streets with them to protest the rising tuition on working class students at that time. Lisa said that she never had students in other colleges that could compare to CUNY students. "I adored teaching those students and am proud to have been part of the open admissions years at CUNY," she said.

Lisa is a Gwendolyn Calvert Baker Collegiate Professor in the Department of American Cultures at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She earned her bachelor of arts from Reed College. She is a professor of Media and Cinema Studies; professor of Asian American Studies; and professor of Gender and Women's Studies. She is a member of the editorial board of the "Journal of Asian American Studies, Communication" and "Critical/Cultural Studies," "Games and Culture," and "New Media and Society."

She is the coordinator of Digital Studies at the University of Michigan and serves on the steering committee of the Fem-TechNet Project, a network of educators, activists, librarians, and researchers interested in digital feminist pedagogy. She has been writing about digital media since 1994 and has faculty affiliations with the Departments of English, Women's Studies, and Asian and Pacific Islander Studies. She was the former director of the Asian American Studies Program, professor in the Institute of Communication Research and Media Studies Program and professor of Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.



YUH-LINE NIOU graduated with a Master of Public Administration, National Urban Fellow, from Baruch College in 2011. She is the NYS Assemblymember-elect, having recently won New York City's 65th Assembly District seat with 76 percent of the vote in November 2016 and will be the first Asian American to represent a district in Manhattan.

She came to this country as an infant, when her parents emigrated from Taiwan with six suitcases, limited funds and Yuh-Line and their new baby daughter. Her family moved around the country while she was growing up, seeking better educational and job opportunities. Yuh-Line began working on state policy while still in college, eventually earning a job with the Washington State House Health Committee Chair, helping develop policies to expand senior access to prescription medication, improve women's health care, and expand health coverage for low-income families.

As an immigrant herself, Yuh-Line also took the lead on addressing language access issues in the legislature and in legal and public hearings, where people with language barriers frequently fall through the cracks of public support systems. Yuh-Line then went on to work as an advocate and organizer on anti-poverty issues, building a broad coalition to fight predatory lending and help create asset-building programs for low-income families.

After moving to New York, Yuh-Line was chosen for a prestigious National Urban Fellowship, working on critical regional and international environmental concerns. Upon completing the fellowship, Yuh-Line was hired as Chief of Staff for Assembly Member Ron Kim, where she has built her expertise in knowing how state government and our state legislature works, understanding the state budget process, and how to deliver effective constituent services. Under her leadership,

Assembly Member Kim's office has helped thousands of immigrants, small business owners, teachers, seniors, workers, and students who needed their state government to work for them. She has drafted legislation to expand language access for immigrant communities, fought for more affordable housing, and expanded services for seniors.

With a career built on advocacy and community organizing, Yuh-Line has been a passionate and effective voice for the needy and vulnerable, and has a proven track record of bringing communities together to make state government work. As the next Assembly Member for the 65th Assembly District in Manhattan, Yuh-Line has pledged to stand up to Albany's corruption and dysfunction, improve transparency while leading on issues such as creating green jobs, protect tenants and expand affordable housing, fight for social justice and end discrimination of all kinds, and keep our massive systems of transportation safe.



ANDREW PAU is an Assistant Professor of Music Theory at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, where he has taught since 2011. He received his Ph.D. degree in Music in 2012 from the CUNY Graduate Center.

His research focuses on the music of nineteenth-century French composers. He has written and presented papers on chromatic harmony, phrase rhythm and text setting, and theories of narrative and musical meaning. He is especially interested in musical genres such as opera that lie at the intersection between music and the literary, visual, theatrical, and choreographic arts.

In April 2016, Andrew appeared on national television as a contestant on the game show Jeopardy, where he became a six-day champion.



BETTY LEE SUNG earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the Graduate Center/CUNY in 1982, a Masters of Library Science from Queens College/CUNY in 1968 and her B.A. in Economics from the University of Illinois in 1948. Betty was awarded an honorary doctorate, Doctor of Letters, from the State University of New York Old Westbury in 1996. She is currently Professor Emerita, The City College of New York, having retired in 1992.

She is a trailblazing Chinese American scholar best known for her book, *Mountain of Gold* (1967), and has authored an

additional 8 books including the 1976 award-winning, *Chinese American Manpower and Employment*. In many ways, Betty defied the expectations and barriers that existed for Asian women of her generation in pursuing careers with the Voice of America, in academia and continued community activism.

She established and taught the first Asian American Studies courses at The City College of New York/CUNY until her retirement in 1992. She also led the way for disaggregation of Asian American data decades before this current effort, when she painstakingly extracted the first Chinese American census data by states, 1970 (Arno Press). This data was critical to understanding the Chinese American community because Asians were lumped together as “Others” in the census.

Betty is co-founder of the Asian American/Asian Research Institute (AAARI), and served as the first Chair of its Advisory Board. Today, she remains active and is an honorary member of AAARI’s board.

She is an active member of the community and has received countless honors and awards throughout her lifetime. She is mentioned in numerous books and publications., most recently in *The Women Who Made New York*, by Julie Scelfo.



PETER TOM is the Acting Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department Supreme Court of the State of New York Justice. Peter’s career — which spans over 30 years from his appointment as a Housing Court Judge to his current position as the senior justice and Acting Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department — holds a number of judicial “firsts” for an Asian American. In April, 1985, he was the first Asian American appointed to the Housing Court of the City of New York, where he disposed of more than 4,000 landlord-tenant cases. Many of his novel rulings in the Housing Court had significant impact over the lives of residents in New York City and received wide coverage in the New York Law Journal and various local newspapers.

In November, 1987, Peter was one of the first Asian Americans elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York. In winning the Civil Court, he further broke new grounds as one of the first Asian Americans to win a county-wide contested election in Manhattan. In a landmark decision, Peter utilized a 100-year-old “Bawdy House Statute” (RAPAPL § 715) for the first time to evict drug dealers from residential property.

Employing Peter's novel ruling, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau and the City of New York established a Narcotics Eviction Part throughout the city's Civil Courts, using this statute to effectively evict drug violators from residential and commercial properties. In November, 1990, Peter became the first Asian American elected to the New York State Supreme Court in New York County. During his tenure in Supreme Court, he was assigned to the Protracted Trial Part, where he presided over complex commercial and medical malpractice trials.

In January 1994, Peter became the first Asian American appointed to the Supreme Court, Appellate Division (First Department), and for the next 14 years was the only Asian American to serve in the Appellate Division of the State of New York before another Asian American (Justice Randall Eng) was appointed in 2008 to the Second Department. Justice Tom and Justice Eng are presently the only two Asian American Appellate Division Justices in New York State. Peter has authored over 430 opinions and decisions, many of which have received front page coverage in the New York Law Journal. His opinions have been regularly affirmed by the Court of Appeals, and his dissents have often been the basis of reversal in that Court. The fairness of his decisions as well as his absence of ideological constraint have been remarked upon by commentators in the New York Law Journal and by colleagues of the bench and bar. Peter is the present Acting Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department.

He was also Acting Presiding Justice in 2007 and 2009. Peter is active in the Asian-American community where he was raised and still resides. He has received numerous awards, notably the Trailblazer Award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the Louis D. Brandeis Award from the Jewish Lawyers Guild, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Leadership Award from the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert as Acting Presiding Justice of the First Department, and the Asian Americans for Equality Leadership Award. He has also been honored and received awards from legal institutions and associations including the New York County Lawyers Association, the Association of Law Secretaries to the Justices of the Supreme and Surrogates' Courts, the Asian American Bar Association of New York, Chinese American Planning Council, New York University and Brooklyn Law School. Peter is also the first Asian American to win the New York City Golden Gloves Boxing Championship.



ALTAF TYREWALA was born in Mumbai, India. He attended Baruch College, CUNY and graduated with a B.B.A. in 1999. Altaf studied advertising, marketing, and writing while in New York, then returned to India to pursue his professional and writing ambitions.

He is the author of several internationally acclaimed works of fiction, but is best known as the author of *No God in Sight*, a critically acclaimed novel, published in 2005. The book depicts a vast array of first-person accounts and unheard stories about the struggle, strife and drama in the lives of the people who contribute to the makeup and life blood of the city of Bombay. His books have been published and translated in India, USA, Canada, Germany, Spain, and Italy. He is currently based in Dallas and works as an Instructional Designer and Learning Analyst for PepsiCo, a multinational corporation.



ROBERT WANN graduated from Queens College/CUNY in 1982 with a B.A. in Accounting and is on the Board of Trustees of the Queens College Foundation. He is Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and a member of the Board of Directors of New York Community Bancorp, Inc. (the “Company”), its savings bank subsidiary, New York Community Bank, and its commercial bank subsidiary, New York Commercial Bank. Robert has been on the Board of Directors of the Company and the Banks since January 1, 2008, and assumed the positions of Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company and New York Community Bank on October 31, 2003, and Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of New York Commercial Bank since its inception on December 30, 2005.

Prior to his appointment as Chief Operating Officer, Robert spearheaded the Finance Division of the Company and the Community Bank. He joined the Company in 1982, and was named Comptroller in 1989; in 1991 he was appointed Chief Financial Officer. An original member of the management team that took the Company public in 1993, Robert played, and continues to play, a crucial role in the development and growth of the Company.

Robert is a member of the American Bankers Association and the New York Bankers Association, and serves on the Board of Directors of various organizations. He also serves as a

member of the Board of Trustees of the Queens Museum of Art. An active member of the community, Robert previously served as president of the Flushing Central Lions Club and currently serves on the Board of Directors of a private charitable foundation based in New York.



CYNTHIA WONG is a proud member of the National Urban Fellows alumni network and Greenlining Academy Alumni Association. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Berkeley, a Master of Science in Social Work from Columbia University, and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College/CUNY in New York City.

She is a dedicated public service professional who has spent over a decade building community leadership and strengthening resources in diverse neighborhoods across New York City. She currently serves as Director of the Youth Leadership Academy at Coro NY Leadership Center, where she oversees programming that trains NYC high school students and adult allies to work in partnership towards bringing greater youth voice to NYC Department of Education policy discussions. Prior to Coro, Cynthia led the pilot of CUNY Start at Medgar Evers College and served as Senior Program Officer at the Union Square Awards, where she oversaw grants and technical assistance programs for grassroots organizations working to address the city's most pressing social justice issues. During her tenure at the Coalition for Asian American Children & Families, Cynthia also helped launch the Asian American Student Advocacy Project (ASAP), a leadership program for pan-Asian and immigrant youth.

Cynthia credits her Baruch education for providing a solid foundation in public affairs that she has applied in her career developing innovative programs, establishing key stakeholder partnerships, and building organizational capacity across the nonprofit and government sectors.



KAM WONG earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting degree from Baruch College/CUNY, and an M.B.A. in Finance from Dowling College of New York. He is the President and Chief Executive Officer of New York's Municipal Credit Union (MCU). MCU, the oldest credit union in New York State and one of the oldest and largest credit unions in the country, with more than 400,000 members and over \$2.4 billion in assets. His remarkable journey began at Bronx Community College/CUNY.

Kam has been at MCU for more than 30 years, joining the credit union in 1981. In 1988, he became MCU's Chief Financial Officer, a position in which he was instrumental in developing the credit union's solid fiscal and investment policies. Kam was named MCU's President in 2006 and assumed the additional role of Chief Executive Officer in 2007. Kam was born in Hong Kong and lived there until the age of 19 when he and his family immigrated to the United States. Prior to joining Municipal Credit Union, Kam held various accounting positions at Banco de Brasil and Chase Manhattan Bank.

Kam is a Certified Management Accountant and a Certified Financial Manager as designated by the Institute of Certified Management Accountants. In 2015, Kam was named to the Dean's Advisory Council at Baruch's Zicklin School of Business. Kam has also completed executive training coursework from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business, Cornell University's Johnson School of Management, and the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.



LILY DIN WOO received a Bachelor of Arts from Queens College/CUNY in June, 1973, with a major in Education and a minor in Behavioral Sciences. She is the director of Cahn Fellows Program for Distinguished Principals, Columbia University. She has served as the principal of PS 130 Manhattan, District 2 for over 24 years. As principal, she is credited with helping to transform the school from a Title I School in Need of Improvement (SINI) into a recognized NYC, NYS and US Department of Education Title I Distinguished School.

Lily has served in the NYC public school system as an ESL teacher, an ESL staff developer, and then later as a director for a demonstration project for the Division of High Schools. In 1981, she joined the NYS Education Department as an associate, working in the field of ESL and bilingual education. She returned to the NYC public school system in 1990 as Principal of PS 130 from where she retired in August 2014.

Lily received the NYC and NYS Departments of Education's Title I Distinguished Educator Award in 2002 and was one of the 16 principals to be selected for the first cohort of the Cahn Fellows Program in 2003. In 2004, she was selected by the World Olympics Committee as an "Everyday Hero" and ran part of the New York City leg of the Summer Olympics torch relay that year. In 2010, she received the "Principal of the Year" Blackboard Award for her work at her school and

for her service to the community. Over the years, she had served on many Chancellor's Advisory Committees, as a mentor principal for the NYC Leadership Academy, as an adjunct instructor at Baruch College's Aspiring Leaders Program, and as an adjunct instructor at Bank Street College's Principals Institute.



RON WOO holds a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, a M.A. in TESOL/Applied Linguistics from NYU, and a B.A. in Education from Brooklyn College/CUNY. He is currently the Chair of the Board of the Asian American/Asian Research Institute/CUNY and Senior Policy Associate at The City University of New York.

Ron has served for more than 45 years in public higher education and Pre-K to 12 public school levels. For more than 35 years, Ron served in the NYC Department of Education where he became the first Asian American to serve as superintendent among other senior leadership positions. His main interests are in the education of language minority students, education policy and law, and teacher and education leadership preparation. In addition to presenting nationally and internationally on these areas, he continues to advocate widely on policies affecting them.

Ron has served on numerous national and state task forces and committees that impact the education of our public school students. He currently serves on the New York State Education Department's 15-member Building Educator Capacity Task Force. Ron teaches education leadership and education policy and law at Bank Street Graduate School of Education.

Most recently, Ron was the recipient of the Advocacy Award jointly given by NYS Association for Bilingual Education and NYS TESOL in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the *Lau v. Nichols* decision protecting the rights of language minority students. He has served on numerous boards serving Asian Americans, including the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, and the Organization of Chinese Americans. Ron is also a regional delegate for the New York State Bilingual Education Association.

About AAARI

Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) was established on November 19, 2001, by The City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees, in a resolution introduced by Chancellor Matthew Goldstein. AAARI is a university-wide scholarly research and resource center that focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans. It covers four areas: Asian American; East Asian; South Asian; and Trade & Technology Studies.

The City University of New York, with 24 institutions city-wide, is rich in faculty who have expertise in Asian and Asian American studies. As of Fall 2015, CUNY enrolled over 49,740 (20.3%) Asian undergraduate and 4,481 (15.4%) graduate students who will soon emerge as a vital segment of New York City's workforce and leadership. Asians represent over 5,869 (12.9%) faculty and staff at CUNY.

Our Mission

- to be an Asian intellectual and cultural center that addresses the needs of New York's diverse ethnic subgroups of Asian origin
- to bring together a community of scholars and channel their scholarship and research energies on Asia and the Asian American experience
- to conduct scholarly, unbiased studies impacting policy goals and community concerns
- to disseminate research results and educate the public about Asian and Asian American issues
- to serve as a bridge between the City University of New York, and the Asian American community



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