



## ALANA Staff:

**Raven Williams**  
Director

**Dennis Velez**  
Associate Director

**Julie Rivera**  
Assistant Director

**Joseleen Gomez**  
Program Assistant

**Giovanna Baisie-Arthur**  
Graduate Assistant

**Knekiya Harper**  
Graduate Assistant

**Michelle Mencia**  
Graduate Assistant

# ANTHEM

MARCH / APRIL 2020



In April, the Asian Cultural Alliance (ACA), and ALANA's newest organization Middle Eastern South Asian Alliance (MESA) alongside Loyola celebrate Asian and Pacific Islander Awareness Month (APIA). APIA Month is celebrated nationally in May. The APIA Heritage Month originated from a legislative bill in response to activism in the Asian American community. The celebration extended from the first 10 days of May, originally proclaimed in 1977, to the full month in 1990. Activists chose the month of May to honor the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843 and on the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, which was made mostly by Chinese immigrants.



To the Class of 2020, you've come a long way and persevered through a number of obstacles too long to mention in this brief article. Many individuals enriched your journey, but you've also given so much of yourself to our community. Your impact is felt in ALANA, your residence halls, Loyola, and parts of Baltimore where you did service. As you move forward into the real world, know that ALANA and the Loyola community will continue to support you in your future endeavors as you live out the Ignatian values as budding professionals. So never back down from great opportunities, even if they seem out of your league. You are worthy of success. Never back down from future challenges, even when they seem insurmountable. Most importantly, never give up. You've overcome past adversity to get to this moment. If you discern that an opportunity helps you progress closer to fulfilling your personal and professional desires, take in the excitement and pursue it without apology. Whether you feel confident and prepared or highly anxious and unprepared, you are not alone. You're still in process like the rest of us. Congratulations!

## Director's Corner

I hope the first half of the spring semester was successful and enjoyable. The second half has certainly taken an unexpected turn with the COVID-19 outbreak. We are feeling the implications of this global pandemic not only within our campus community, but in our personal lives as well. As our sense of normalcy has been disrupted, I am mindful and grateful for the health and safety of the ALANA staff, campus colleagues, and our students. I share in the disappointment of having to cancel programs and events that students have worked so hard for (i.e. BSA Fashion Show, Asia Fest, Carnaval). Please know we are holding each of you in our hearts.

I encourage us to find light in the midst of darkness, and that light is celebrating the achievements of our students. I would like to congratulate our students who were selected for various leadership positions for the 2020-2021 year. I would also like to thank our current student leaders who worked so diligently within their respective organizations and leadership roles to host successful events and engage our campus community. Although programming has been suspended for the remainder of the semester, I encourage you to join us in celebrating the remainder of Women's History Month and Asian & Pacific Islander Awareness Month.

I would like to dedicate this issue of the ALANA Anthem to the Class of 2020. You arrived at Loyola ready to leave your mark and you have done just that. You've held numerous leadership and mentoring positions across campus, and we in ALANA thank you for an enjoyable and memorable four years. We look forward to celebrating with our seniors once social distancing restrictions have lifted. I would also like to thank our supporters near and far who have contributed to the success of the department. Lastly, I have to give a huge THANK YOU to the ALANA staff: Dennis, Julie, Josie, Giovanna, Michelle, and Knekiya. This has definitely been a year of transition (to say the least) and I could not have made it through my first year as Director without their support and hard work. I'm optimistic of what the future holds for ALANA and Loyola! Be well and stay safe. Peace and Blessings,

*Ms. Raven D. Williams*

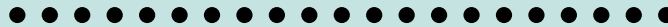
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"The Asian Cultural Alliance (ACA) Executive Board chose the theme of Flow for this year's Asia Fest. This theme has several layers and dimensions that highlights what it means to be Asian and/or Asian-American. Flow represents the body of water that Asian immigrants needed to cross in order to begin their lives in the United States. Furthermore, water is also a symbol of the strength, resilience and healing. These areas encompass the experiences, struggles, and stories of immigrants and children of immigrants. Although unfortunately Asia Fest is cancelled, celebrating Asian Pacific-Islander American (APIA) month is extremely important to each member of the executive board and is ultimately, the reason we all the joined the board. We love that Loyola gives us the opportunity to showcase our culture. Education and celebration is at the heart of ACA's mission and APIA week lets us do just that. Like water, we hope that Flow will be able to move people to learn and connect with each other through the Asian-American story."

## Words from ACA

Written by: Nicole Arro '20  
*Vice President*



## Words from MESA

Written by: Jenn Jafari '20  
*Vice President*

APIA month allows us to celebrate heritages that are often ignored in the media. To MESA this means having a month dedicated to acknowledging the culture and traditions from our countries. Oftentimes these cultures are marginalized in the media, and people do not know anything about them. The goal of MESA is to foster a sense of community within the student body and increase Middle Eastern and South Asian cultural awareness throughout the Loyola campus. We think this month is a great opportunity to educate people on these cultures and identities. Asia and The Pacific Islands represent some of the oldest and diverse cultures in the world. We think this month gives us an opportunity to empower students to discuss issues of identity, politics, and race. While at the same time foster unity among the Asian and Asian American communities at Loyola and around the country.



# Words from Mosaic

"Our mission strives to provide resources, support, and encouragement for our Women of Color on Loyola's campus and abroad. Through our development of an inclusive environment that breeds sisterhood and continued support, we aim to involve, inform, and inspire women who embody the excellence of the collective presence and hold intersectionality at the forefront of their minds."

*"Empowered women, empower women."*



## Spotlight on ALANA

We would like to congratulate students who all serve in leadership positions across campus for the 2020-2021 school year.

### AMP Mentors

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Kayla Ta            | Natalie Rosdao   |
| Dominic Nesmith     | Kyra Atkinson    |
| Raiannamei Elad     | Mea Foster       |
| Taylor Dacosta      | Cayla Wilke      |
| Johanna Montenegro  | Marianna Carillo |
| Brett-Ashely Hooper | Jada Brown       |
| Jocelyn Early       | Ahsan Huland El  |
| Hubelbank           | Sydney Mann      |
| Erin Curley         | Daelin Cook      |
| Mhret Alemu         | Moises Zelaya    |
| Kayte Rooney        | Matthew Franco   |
|                     | Alison Diaz      |

### MAP Navigators

- Kristen Richards
- Jean Gonzalez
- Alyssa Dverte
- Allyson Bolden
- Gillian Chambres
- Bernadatte Del Pardo
- Amber Davis
- Natalia Medina Lozada
- Ariana Butler
- Gavirella Hardoon Hodge
- Carla Dacanay

### Evergreens

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Triumph Akpabio         | Terrence Lans     |
| Angel-Wilsonica Aubourg | Emilio Layton     |
| Casey Chin              | Believe Mbaya     |
| Mia Conde               | Caroline Moore    |
| Taylor Dacosta          | Venus Okwuka      |
| Sydney Edwards          | Journie Orozco    |
| Malachi Emmanuel        | Kiara Roeder-Yika |
| Jaime Gialloredo        | Mary Velazquez    |
| Christopher Goodson     | Jade Wehner       |
| Diana Guevara           |                   |
| Simon Gunther           |                   |

# COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

We all hold identities connected to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious and spiritual beliefs, ability, immigration status, and/or socioeconomic background. It's helpful to consider how we can communicate about our identities and explore our beliefs and values with those around us who might hold shared or differing perspectives. Some of these conversations, particularly when different beliefs are held between individuals, are challenging and push us to tolerate discomfort. Perhaps any conversation in which we share about ourselves can require some level of courage. Here are some things to keep in mind from the courageous conversations model (for sustaining and deepening interracial dialogue; Singleton, 2011, 2014) that can be applied across contexts when discussing cultural identity, lived experience, and beliefs/values:

- Stay engaged: Resist the urge to move away from or avoid the conversation;
- Expect to experience discomfort: Remember that discomfort is a necessary part of growth;
- Speak your truth: Try to be honest about your thoughts and feelings rather than saying what you think others want to hear;
- Expect and accept lack of closure: Keep in mind these conversations will likely be ongoing and may not come to a point of resolution (Singleton, 2011, 2014).

Also consider the counseling center as a potential space to explore your cultural identities and the possible impact of systemic oppression, privilege, and other social or cultural identity experiences on your every day life and connections with others.

We care. We're here to help. Let's Talk

-The Staff of the Counseling Center|410-617-CARE|[www.loyola.edu/counselingcenter](http://www.loyola.edu/counselingcenter)

## THINKING ABOUT YOU

To All of the ALANA Students

In the midst of all the challenging health concerns, academic upheaval, and general chaos, I am reaching out to let you know that I have placed you all on my prayer candle. SSWP has been so touched by your warm welcome to the CIE over the course of the year. Thank you for letting us enjoy so many afternoons of crafting and conversation. The afternoons in the CIE were often the highlight of our week! And to all the seniors...My goodness, how overwhelming this time is for so many of you. Watching students walk across the stage at Commencement is one of our favorite moments at Loyola. I am hopeful that we will see you graduate and celebrate this milestone with you in the near future. It has been a genuine pleasure to know all of you and to witness your many accomplishments, dedication, perspective on topics that matter and shape the culture at Loyola. Thank you, and please know that we are here for you during this time - and always.

*Mary Beth Mudric*

# Words of Encouragement from ALANA



"The semester has not gone as planned, however I'm grateful for the health and safety of ALANA students and staff. Let's keep each other encouraged and uplifted through this challenging time, and I'm hopeful we will see each other again soon. ALANA is still here to support you...we're just a phone call, email, or Zoom video away. I miss you all dearly. Continue to do well in your classes and make me proud!"

"Life doesn't always get easier, or more forgiving. We get stronger and more resilient. Although this wasn't the semester or start to 2020 that you would have hoped for, take solace in the fact that you've overcome so much already and you are still thriving. Focus on the blessings you do have, and know that this minor setback doesn't undo the incredible things you've accomplished. Take care of yourself, and one another."



"Challenges tend to come to those who are ready for it. Know that you will only grow stronger from these experiences. Take it one day at a time and know that you're not alone!"

"Take It one day at a time, and try to set a routine so you have something to look forward to everyday. At the end of day list the things you are grateful for and stay motivated!"



"I know this is a trying time for everyone! If you can, try to take care of your mental health as well as your physical health. Focus on the things that bring you peace and joy. Use this time to clear your mind. Always remember I am a phone call or text away."

"I know everyone is bummed about how the semester ended., but let's try and be optimistic and stay positive. Class of 2020 finish strong, you have made it this far. Love you all, stay safe and wash your hands!"

"These next few weeks may feel weird and frustrating, but hang in there and stay positive! I have found it helpful to follow funny meme accounts, go on runs/walks around my neighborhood, and catch up with friends and family over video!"



# Stay Engaged with ALANA

## Follow our social media pages!

Our handles are below

## Comment and respond to our posts

Respond to our IG and Twitter Polls!

## Email the staff

Email [alana@loyola.edu](mailto:alana@loyola.edu) or a specific staff member

## Keep up with our notifications

We are planning more ways to engage with our students!

Follow us!



@alana\_services



@Alana\_Services



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