

DIVERSITEA

A Duke DPT Diversity Club and Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Newsletter

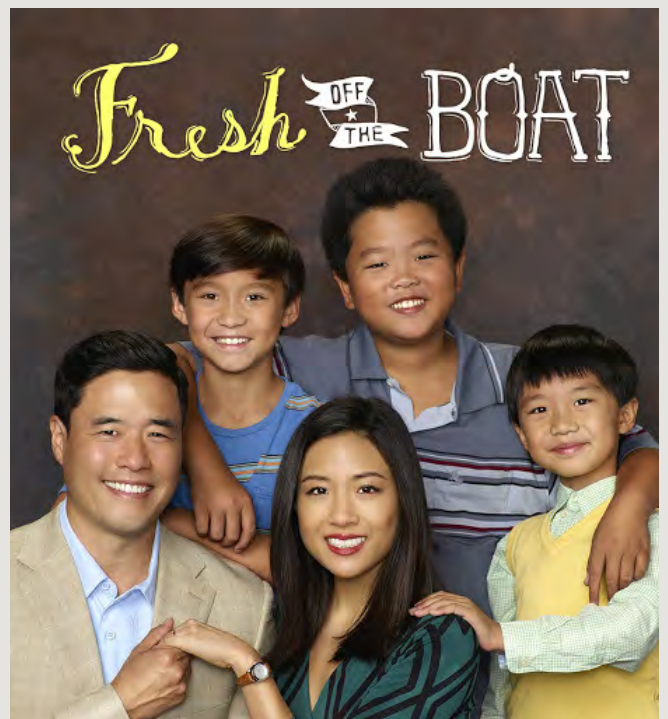
AWARENESS OF XENOPHOBIA & RACISM DURING COVID-19

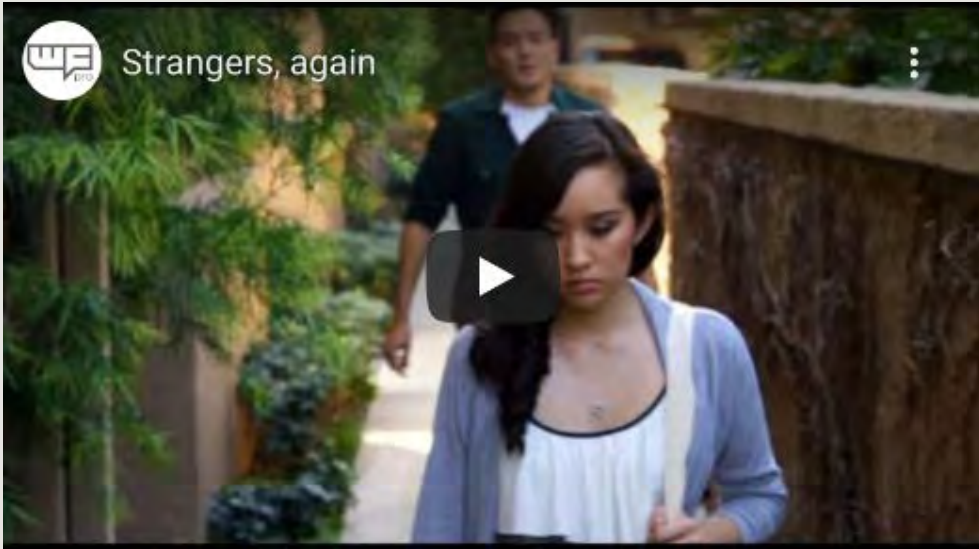
This current time has brought racism and xenophobia to rise across the country specifically towards Asians and Pacific Islanders as the president continuously deems COVID-19 the "Chinese-virus". These incidents include verbal and physical assaults (even towards doctors), vandalism, and loss of business in Asian establishments. This is not the first time that Asian Americans have faced hostility during a global public health emergency as the "model minority" shifts to "yellow peril." Duke SOM's Office of Diversity and Inclusion has provided a number of resources and dedicated a page on their website to specifically address D&I during this time.



"FRESH OFF THE BOAT" SUCCEEDED DESPITE TV HISTORY OF TROUBLED WATERS

On February 21, 2020, the series finale for "Fresh Off The Boat" aired on TV to conclude 6 successful seasons. Premiering in 2015 on ABC, "Fresh Off The Boat" was the first network show centered around an Asian American family since Margaret Cho's "All-American Girl" debuted in 1994 (the latter unfortunately only lasted one season). Depicting a Taiwanese-American family living in Orlando, Florida in the 1990s, each episode allowed Asian Americans a chance to personally connect with a TV storyline in a way that was previously unavailable, while also remaining universally accessible to viewers of any race. The resilience of "Fresh Off The Boat" is a hallmark to the importance of Asian representation in TV, and it has paved the way for others to follow its lead. - Pia Salcedo





WONG FU PRODUCTIONS

Wong Fu Productions originally started with Wesley Chan, Ted Fu and Philip Wang at UCSD in 2004. They originally created videos via YouTube and have since created films featured in festivals and amassed more than 3.2 million subscribers since their inception. They are recognized in the media for their dramatic shorts and comedic sketches featuring diverse casts and Asian American-leads, and

their authentic representation of Asian Americans. Not only do their works reflect Asian American experiences, but they delve into universal topics of dating, relationships, and work-life. Some of their notable works include Single by 30, Asian Bachelorette, Yappie, and Strangers Again.

DUKE PROFESSOR URGES CHINESE STUDENTS NOT TO SPEAK THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGE (2019)

Last year, the Director of Graduate studies in Duke SOM's Biostatistics program stepped down after sending out an email asking international students to not speak Chinese in the building. Two faculty members complained to her about these students speaking loudly in the student lounge and study areas. This is not the first time that students have been criticized for speaking Chinese in this department. While this prompted the university to issue a formal statement, this incident has sparked an ongoing, worldwide debate regarding international students rightfully speaking their native language while studying in the US and improving language discrimination in education.



England, Norway, and the United States, with large populations in Minnesota, Nebraska, and Utah. And, the most unifying aspect of Karen culture across the globe is dance. There are anecdotes of Karen people's books being burned by the Burmese, so Karen people utilize dance and song to tell their stories, preserve their history, and connect with one another. Dance has been used to make political statements throughout history, but it is also survival. One Karen man stated when asked about the reason to maintain traditional celebration, "We have to. It is all we have left." - **Dr. Rosie Canizares**

DANCE: AN ARTFORM OF SURVIVAL & PRESERVATION

In 1948, Myanmar, or Burma, gained its independence from the British; simultaneously, the Burmese and non-Burmese ethnic groups began a civil war over land, particularly the land of the Karen people. The Burmese attitude and effort to displace and eliminate Karen people is often described by this dark remark, "If you want to see the Karen in the future you will have to go to the museum." Many Karen people have fled to Thailand, refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border, Australia, Canada,

"PARASITE" BREAKS A 92-YEAR-OLD GLASS CEILING

In an industry and awards show that is notorious for its lack of diversity, the wins accumulated at the 2020 Oscars by the South Korean film "Parasite" are groundbreaking. It was awarded Best Picture (the first time a non-English film has achieved this honor after 92 iterations of this awards show), Best Director, Best Foreign Language Film, and Best Original Screenplay. This marks an important level of recognition for Asian artists in the film industry. Particularly in American cinema, Asians have been poorly represented, more frequently being cast in stereotypical Asian roles (e.g., Long Duk Dong from "Sixteen Candles") or not being cast in Asian roles at all (e.g., Scarlett Johansson in "Ghost in the Shell," Emma Stone in "Aloha"). Also, recognition of all international films in the United States is only now starting to gain momentum, and this night for "Parasite" is indicative of a much needed and long overdue change in tide for this genre of film. As Bong Joon-ho, the director of "Parasite," stated in his acceptance speech at the Golden Globes earlier this year, "Once you overcome the 1-inch-tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films." - **Pia Salcedo**



HAVING AN "EHTNIC" NAME

Our names are the way in which we share with the world who we are. But, what happens when you have what some may deem an "ethnic" name? Phuong-Thao (Alex) Nguyen, a rising third year DPT student at University of Miami in Florida, describes her journey of navigating the personal and professional aspects of having an "ethnic" name. Phuong-Thao (Alex) shares both positive and negative experiences, partners with others to share their stories, offers advice for others, and even discusses the larger impact that names can have on everyday life from job applications to a coffee order

at Starbucks. Name discrimination is so pervasive in life that some even change their name or "whiten" their resumé. The common thread between everyone's story is effort - one very small step toward active allyship.