

## Student Spotlight



Name: Katie Bui

Major: Asian American Studies/Psychological & Brain Science

Hometown: Rancho Santa Margarita, California

Graduation quarter: Spring 2020

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### **What made you decide to major in AS AM?**

Asian American Studies courses were my first introduction into feeling recognized and represented in education. After taking AS AM 1 my first quarter at UCSB, I never turned back. I continued to take course after course because I genuinely enjoyed the material. It came as a surprise to me when I realized how close I had come to finishing the AS AM minor. It was after finishing the minor that I realized I wanted to continue studying AS AM. I was so focused on this four-year plan I'd created before coming to college, I didn't even think about what might have changed since I came to UCSB. Becoming a major was one of the greatest choices I've made, and I've loved every minute.

### **What have been some of your favorite classes?**

Within the AS AM department, I've had the privilege of taking several classes I've loved. Honestly, I've enjoyed every class I've taken in this department so picking favorites is difficult.

- AS AM 142: Asian American Performance (aka Playsia)
  - I loved being able to work with everyone in the course to create something where there once was nothing. Writing and directing and acting in each other's short plays was so much fun!
- AS AM 175: Asian American Theory & Methods
  - I really enjoyed getting the opportunity to conduct my own research in this course. You definitely need to be independent, but it was truly a growing experience that resulted in an honors thesis with the AS AM department.
- AS AM 100EE: Vietnamese Americans
  - As a Vietnamese American, I genuinely enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about my community. This was my first upper division course, and I loved every minute!

- AS AM 197: Asian American Culture Nights
  - I had the opportunity to facilitate this course my third year. I really enjoyed the discussions we had and loved getting to facilitate the direction of the course.

Outside of this department, I've really enjoyed the following courses:

- WRIT 105M: Writing for Multimedia
- WRIT 109ED: Writing for Education
- THTR 5: Intro to Acting
- PSY 145: Supernatural Psychology
- PSY 154: Cultural Psychology
- PSY 147: Intergroup Relations

Each course has been enjoyable in its own way. The topics of each course were genuinely interesting and the course itself yielded really interesting assignments.

**What kinds of work/internships did you pursue as an undergrad?**

During my time at UCSB, I held several student-leadership positions in various student organizations and worked a few different on-campus positions.

I've been a board member for the Southeast Asian Union (SEA-U) and the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) at UCSB. I've also had the opportunity to be a staffer for the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations (UVSA) in Southern California. On-campus, I have worked as a Guest Summer Representative for UCSB Conference & Hospitality Services and a Student Assistant with the Office of Summer Sessions. This past year I was one of the Peer Advisors with the Asian American Studies department. There is so much I could say about each of these experiences and how they've changed me. So, I'll leave it at that.

**What advice do you have for students you might be interested in majoring in AS AM?**

Why not? If time or energy is a worry, the minor is definitely a feasible addition, especially if you enjoy the courses. I'd say that if you enjoy the coursework, it'll be worth any extra effort or time you might spend. It was for me.

Feel free to ask the department any questions! It's been such a comfortable place for me, and I hope it is for you too!

**What are your plans after UCSB?**

I am currently taking a gap year to figure out what I want to do. But I plan on pursuing higher education and I hope to be able to find a way to best combine Psychology and Asian American Studies in my future.

**Favorite quote:**

I don't have a particular favorite quote, but I like to remind myself to persevere through adversity. Especially when things are difficult, or the world feels like it's ending.