

Meet the speakers and moderator for the Humanities & Business Panel

Panel Moderator:



Meet [Catherine Yu](#)! She is currently at National Institutes of Health (NIH), as a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) fellow in the Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program's (EGRP) Genomic Epidemiology Branch (GEB), where she works on the management and coordination for two international metabolomics consortia.

Catherine received her Bachelor of Science from Duke University where she majored in Biology and minored in Chemistry. She is also a part of the NIH Academy Fellows 2020-2021 cohort, a program focused on learning about health disparities and what is being done to address them. Ms. Yu serves as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee for the NIH Chapter of FAPAC. In this role, she is implementing a professional workshop series and creating a resource database to actively promote the career development and workplace wellness of AAPI at the NIH. She also successfully planned and organized the FAPAC Future Start Program (FSP) closing ceremony for the 2019-2020 cohort. As Community Outreach Committee co-chair for FAPAC national, Ms. Yu supports future generations of AAPI leaders through coordinating career fairs and creating internship opportunities within FAPAC for AAPI students.

In her free time, Ms. Yu volunteers as an English Second Language tutor for several local organizations that support immigrants, including Homestretch, DC Chinatown Service Center, and Washington English Center. She also enjoys charcoal drawing, acrylic painting, and spicy cuisine.

Panelist:



Meet [Brian Buhr](#)! He is an Analyst with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC).

"I grew-up in the Philadelphia suburbs but have strong familial ties to AAPI communities across the country from Hawai'i to Mississippi. I received a BA in Public Policy from Duke University in 2019 and a Master's from the Fuqua School of Business in 2020 with a concentration in science and technology management.

While in school, I completed private sector internships in project management, pharmaceutical regulatory affairs, and government contracting. I maintained interest in the public sector through my co-curricular activities and as a Mount Vernon Leadership Fellow. After graduating, I worked as the Fundraising Director for a Florida House campaign before joining the FEC at the end of the 2020 election cycle.

Outside of work, I enjoy long distance running, cooking, and (formerly enjoyed) traveling."



Meet [Rebecca Soo](#)! She is currently a junior at the University of California, Berkeley, double majoring in Sociology and Media Studies and minoring in Public Policy.

“Last summer, I interned at the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) where I was able to expand my knowledge about the federal government while also learning about how to uplift minority communities, specifically in the realm of commerce. While at WHIAAPI, I conducted research relating to AAPIs breaking the “bamboo ceiling,” helped to organize the AAPI Young Leaders Summit, and collaborated with other branches within the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) on projects to empower small businesses. As an aspiring future lawyer, I am very interested in human rights issues, business, and foreign policy. At Cal (that’s how UC Berkeley is referred to), I like to spend a lot of time in student government and I also lead a faith-based apparel brand.”



Meet [Elizabeth San](#)! She is currently a Business Financial Management Analyst in the Naval Acquisitions Development Program.

“I graduated from the University of Maryland-College Park in May 2019 with degrees in Marketing and Information Systems. My first job as a federal employee was being a part-time Student Honors Intern for the Office of the Secretary at the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which I completed spring semester of my senior year. I applied to a bunch of jobs and internships on [indeed.com](#). I tried to figure out which ones seemed most legitimate, and eventually got a call back from the SEC. I had a phone interview, which I thought went poorly, but thankfully my future managers liked me and saw some potential. My experience at the SEC was cut short by a government shutdown, but I would consider this my first “big girl” job, as I was no longer working on campus for the university.

During fall semester of my senior year, I attended the business school career fair. I already decided I wasn’t interested in consulting and at the time, didn’t have the energy to compete with the hundreds of other students lined up to talk to private sector companies. It worked out really well for me to be interested in federal employers since there was no line to speak with them. I thought I was interested in becoming a contract specialist, but the woman I spoke to was only recruiting for financial management. Additionally, she was recruiting for that role within an entry level development program designed for recent grads. Although I was leery of anything with the word ‘finance’ in it, I applied for the job and went through two interviews before being offered a tentative acceptance. I accepted the job in February, while I was at the SEC. I started working in July 2019.”