2016 marks my second and final year as President of our dynamic Section 5 of Division 35 and it has been my privilege to serve our section. I am happy to report that Section 5 continues to grow and to involve more members who are passionate about AAPI feminism within and beyond psychology. I am grateful for the support of the Extended Executive Committee members who have been generous with their time and effort in advancing the work of the section. We still have much more work to do but it is also important to take the time to recognize and reflect on the work we have accomplished together.

When Section 5 was established near the end of 2008 (many thanks to our Founding President, Phi Loan Le), we barely had enough members to make up the core Executive Committee (i.e., president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor/publicist, student representatives), yet over the 8 years since then, we have expanded beyond our core EC to include 7 committees (Membership Committee, Awards Committee, Elections Committee, Programs Committee, Coordinator/PR Committee, Procedure and Policy Committee, Research Collaborations Committee) and 2 task forces (Student Task Force, Early/Mid-Career Task Force). This year, we created the 2020 Fundraising Initiative Committee and next year, the Gender and Sexual Diversity Task Force. Furthermore, we are in the preliminary stage of planning for the Inaugural Convention of AAPI Feminist Psychologists to take place in 2018 at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The growth of Section 5 is apparent but what may be less apparent in igniting the growth is the dedication of its leadership teams over the years and its membership. In my communication with other members and in reflecting on my own involvement in the work of the section, what has become clear to me is that Section 5 represents a much needed professional home for AAPI feminist psychologists. I hope it will continue to be so for both current and new members long into the future.
In my mentioning of the newly established 2020 Fundraising Initiative Committee, at the time of writing this column, we are awaiting for APA’s approval of our fundraising documents. Once these documents are approved, I hope members and non-members of Section 5 will join me in making a donation to this fundraising initiative. I am happy to share that for each year, from 2016 through 2020, Division 35 will provide a $1000 annual matching fund, totaling $5,000 over 5 years (many thanks to Division 35!). Our goal is to raise at least $10,000 to support travel awards for student and early-career members, and a Legacy Fund for future initiatives. If financially-able, I hope you will consider making a donation to support the work of future generations of AAPI feminist psychologists.

I also want to speak to the importance of establishing the Gender and Sexual Diversity Task Force (GSDTF), which will begin its work in 2017. There is much diversity within the AAPI feminist population (and AAPI population in general), but often we neglect the dimensions of gender and sexual diversity. In thinking about multiple marginalized identities and intersectionality of lived experiences, AAPI feminists of gender and sexual minority statuses face additional layers of oppression within and outside their AAPI communities and families. The invisibility and invalidation are even much greater for those of us living at this complex intersection. Section 5 recognizes the complexity and challenges of multiple oppressions faced by AAPI feminists but also their strengths and resilience despite these challenges. It is our hope that the GSDTF will further advance the social justice work of Section 5 by focusing on the importance of gender and sexual diversity in AAPI feminist psychology and activism.

Finally, I want to speak to the issue of the Independent Report (IR) on APA’s involvement in the collusion with torture. I understand that specific individuals were named in the IR regarding their involvement, but from where I stand, someone who came to the U.S. as a child refugee in the aftermath of the Viet Nam War, every one of us is guilty in the collusion. We, individually and collectively, did not do enough to prevent the torture and killings – many of us knew about this when it was happening and long before the IR was made public, and sadly to say, the destruction and killing of women and girls, people of color, and other marginalized individuals continue, both within and outside the U.S. Regardless of our individual perspective or position on the IR and the fallout from its investigation, Section 5 stands firm in our fight against every form of injustice and oppression, and this fight is a lifelong struggle for all of us who care about social justice.

In closing to my last presidential column, it has been an honor to be given an opportunity to lead Section 5 and its membership. I hope I have served the section well as it has been and continues to be an important professional home to me and other members. I want to extend a warm welcome to our incoming President, Catherine Hsieh, and know that she will further advance the work of our section. I look forward to AAPA and APA conventions in Denver, and to meeting new and current members of Section 5!

I would like to end my closing with a few quotes/statements by a favorite comedian, Margaret Cho:

“I always felt like an outsider growing up. In school, I felt like I never fit in. But it didn’t help when my mother, instead of buying me glue for school projects, would tell me to just use rice.”

“Sometimes the only way to deal with horrific things in life is through a dark sense of humor.”

“If you say you’re not a feminist, you’re almost denying your own existence.”

“The power of visibility can never be underestimated.”

Khanh T. Dinh, Ph.D.
Section 5 President
Introducing the 2016 Section 5
Extended Executive Committee

Khanh T. Dinh, Ph.D. | President
Khanh is Professor of Psychology at University of Massachusetts Lowell. Her research interests include adjustment and well-being of immigrant individuals and families, diversity, and effects of discrimination.

Catherine Hsieh, Ph.D. | President-Elect
Catherine is currently a senior staff psychologist at University of California, Irvine Counseling Center. Her interests include the cultural context of coping, Asian American feminist issues, working with international students and undocumented students, and mentoring and clinical supervision.

Yuying Tsong, Ph.D. | Past President
Yuying is a faculty at California State University, Fullerton, Department of Human Services, and the Programming Coordinator for the 2017 National Multicultural Conference and Summit. She enjoys growing things that can be eaten in her backyard when she is not writing, teaching, or tiger-parenting her 6- and 9-year-olds.

Yuki Okubo, Ph.D. | Secretary
Yuki is a faculty member at the Department of Psychology at Salisbury University. Her research focuses on racism and coping, cultural adjustment, and utilization of mental health services among Asian immigrants and refugees. She enjoys mentoring psychology majors who are committed to serving marginalized communities.

Sherry C. Wang, Ph.D. | Treasurer
Sherry is an assistant professor of Counseling Psychology at Santa Clara University. Her scholarship is rooted in advocating for the voices of underrepresented groups (e.g., ethnic minorities, immigrants, refugees) to address health disparities and intersectionalities.
Meet the Extended Executive Committee

Bonny Chang, Ph.D. | Newsletter Editor
Bonny is a postdoctoral psychology fellow at A&M Christian Counseling Center in Bryan, Texas. She enjoys modern calligraphy, watercolor, and paper crafts.

Tiffany Chang, M.S. | Student Representative
Tiffany is a Counseling Psychology doctoral candidate at Indiana University Bloomington. She will be completing her predoctoral internship at UC Irvine’s Counseling Center this fall. She is excited to be moving to sunny California!

Jessica Liu, M.S. | Student Representative
Jessica is a Counseling Psychology doctoral student at Lehigh University and being in nature is her safe haven. She’ll be doing her practicum at a college counseling center this upcoming year and is excited to see what it’s like to work in this setting!

Kayoko Yokoyama, Ph.D. | Membership Co-Chair
Kayoko is currently Professor of Clinical Psychology at JFK University (Pleasant Hill, CA) and has a private practice in Albany, CA. Her professional interests include multicultural training around issues of power, privilege, and oppression, Asian American identity, feminist therapy, and microaggressions.

Vanessa Li | Membership Co-Chair
Vanessa is a student in Adelphi’s Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program. She will be starting her predoctoral internship at NYU-Bellevue in July.
Meet the Extended Executive Committee

Stephanie Phan, M.S. | Membership Co-Chair
Stephanie is a doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology Psy.D. program at JFK University.

Phi Loan Le, Psy.D. | Awards Co-Chair & Procedure and Policy Committee/Herstorian
Phi Loan is a training director for the newly APA-accredited, on contingency doctoral internship program at Santa Ana College. Her interests include training and supervision, multicultural feminist psychology, and working with underserved population.

Leilani Crane, Psy.D. | Awards Co-Chair
Leilani is a psychologist in private practice in Philadelphia. Much of Leilani’s work focuses on multicultural identity issues, trauma, and eating disorders.

Chu Kim-Prieto, Ph.D. | Program Co-Chair
Chu is an Associate Professor of Psychology at The College of New Jersey.

Grace S. Kim, Ph.D. | Program Co-Chair & Early/Mid-Career Professional Task Force Co-Chair
Grace is an associate professor of psychology at Wheelock College. Her research and teaching focus on diverse Asian American experiences (e.g., transracial adoptees, immigrants, transnational families) and social justice education.
Meet the Extended Executive Committee

Jan Estrellado, Ph.D. | Coordinator Co-Chair
Jan works as a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Center for Stress and Anxiety Management and as a lecturer at San Diego State University with the Department of Counseling and School Psychology. Jan focuses on issues related to stress, anxiety, and trauma within multicultural contexts.

Shihwe Wang, Ph.D. | Coordinator Co-Chair
Shihwe is a research psychologist at the Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts. Her current studies focus on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for chronic illness and PTSD.

Diane S. Hayashino, Ph.D. | Procedure and Policy Committee/Herstorian & Student Task Force Co-Chair
Diane is a licensed psychologist and the current training director of Counseling and Psychological Services at California State University, Long Beach. She has served as past president of Section 5.

Ivy K. Ho, Ph.D. | Research Collaborations Coordinator & Student Task Force Co-Chair
Ivy is a clinical health psychologist and an associate professor at UMass Lowell. She is also very excited to be the 2017 president-elect of Section 5!

Susana M. Lowe, Ph.D. | Early/Mid-Career Professional Task Force Co-Chair
Susana’s passion is to help people discover and articulate meaning in their lives, foster understanding of the self-in-context, and facilitate developing skills to accomplish personal, social, academic, career, community, and political goals.

Linh Luu, M.S. | Student Task Force Member
Linh is a Counseling Psychology doctoral candidate at Lehigh University. She is currently on internship and expects to graduate in August.
Community Service Spotlight

Section 5 member Dr. Claudette Antuña has completed 637 pro bono evaluations in forensic cases over the last 10 years. We asked her to share more about her work in forensic evaluations.

What is the most rewarding part of your work [in forensic cases/documentation of trauma]?

Over the years I have mentored 11 clinical psychology doctoral students interested in conducting forensic evaluations and countless other clinicians who have contacted me because they were approached by an immigration attorney and were not sure what to do next. I have witnessed the vital role these evaluations play in the application for legal relief of undocumented individuals in the U.S.

Since 2006 when I started my practicum, I have continued to provide pro bono services to Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP), and I am one of a few who now conduct competency evaluations for detained undocumented immigrants who are mentally ill. I also testify in Immigration Court and have had the pleasure of educating the judge and government attorneys on the many ways people from different cultures present with different mental disorders.

What is the most challenging part of your work?

The most challenging aspect is that there are not enough of us to do the work. Research conducted by the Physicians for Human Rights shows that nearly 90% of asylum requests are granted when a forensic evaluation accompanies an application for legal relief. Thousands of men, women and children are deported to their countries of origin and subjected to unspeakable crimes because they are not entitled to legal representation in this country, so we do not get the opportunity to be their voices. When an immigration attorney is representing someone he/she needs a competent clinician to conduct an objective, culturally competent report that can educate the court when needed.

How can other feminist psychologists get involved in this area?

Completing a forensic evaluation is in our purview and wheelhouse. As competent clinicians we may need some fine-tuning as to what should be included in this kind of document, but it is the willingness to provide an impartial, unbiased report of your observations that is required. If you are willing to sign the document, then you can describe your findings in an administrative court (which is what Immigration Court is all about). Immigration attorneys exist throughout the U.S. and have a professional organization (aila.org), which will be happy to put you in touch with attorneys in your community who represent individuals and families seeking safety in the U.S. I have always made myself available to anyone interested in this kind of work.
“If life is an orchestra, what would your song be and how would you write it?” – a musician and conductor once asked me. At the time, as a teenager, I had no idea how I would write my song, as it seemed like my song had already been written for me with cultural and familial expectations. For some reason, this question really resonated with me through all those years.

As I am completing my pre-doctoral internship and becoming an ECP, this past year, I have been having quite a few moments of reflection on my personal and professional journey. One thing I realize is that I often ask myself if the song I am writing is a true reflection of my passion, my needs, my roots, and most importantly myself within my community. As a third culture kid, who spent developmental years in three different countries, finding a place, a group, or a community where I felt belonged was always a struggle for me growing up. I remember direct and indirect messages about what I should do or how I should be because I am Asian and that is how an Asian woman is “supposed” to be. I also remember the many moments thinking “uh-oh, I am none of these things people said an Asian woman should be, so what does that make me? If I am not a “real Asian”, then what am I?” Never in my wildest dream then, did I think that I would become a psychologist and would proudly identify myself as an AAPI feminist. As I consider the convergence of my personal and professional journey, I have realized that my process of “writing my own song” is parallel with me becoming more aware of my and others’ identities and privileges as well as injustices and socio-political-cultural context.

I feel extremely honored and humble to be awarded the Pioneer Award from Division 35, Section 5. I genuinely believe that the recognition I have today is because I had ideas, but most importantly because I had many people helping me make these ideas happen. It truly takes a village: from my very first mentor who taught me about feminism, my mentors and colleagues who have advocated for me tirelessly and taught me that advocacy happened in many forms and shapes, to the AAPI feminist mentors and sisters of section 5 who have provided a community and professional home for me. If I ever have another chance to see that musician from all those years ago to answer his question, I would tell him that my song would be my own narrative as an AAPI feminist psychologist. My song would be one that I have not only solo moments but also many supporting moments and resting moments. I know that my solo moments happen thanks to many others’ supporting moments and I am so thankful for that. I am grateful for the mentorship and guidance I have received and feeling very passionate and committed to be a part of the orchestra of life supporting future AAPI feminists writing their own songs.
2016 Section 5 Pioneer Awards

Fanny Ng
2016 Pioneer Graduate Student

Fanny Ng is a doctoral candidate in the Clinical Psychology program at the University of Massachusetts, Boston working with Dr. Karen Suyemoto. Fanny is an incoming pre-doctoral intern at the Integrated Health Psychology Training Program in Psychology at the Wright Institute. Fanny’s clinical and research interests broadly include the study of the impact of race and racism on mental health in Asian Americans and other communities of color. Her master’s thesis focused on race-related stress and its relation to racial identity, ethnic identity, and racism-related empowerment in Asian Americans. For her dissertation, she is examining the strategies for negotiating intersectional discrimination related to racism, sexism, and their intersection for Asian American women leaders. Fanny is also interested in organizational leadership, public policy, and community advocacy. Fanny will be ending a 2-year term as the Asian American Psychological Association’s Board of Directors as Student Representative this August and is an alumni of the Minority Fellowship from the American Psychological Association. She will serve as the APA SPW Section 5 Student Representative in 2017-2019.

Dr. Susana Lowe
2016 Distinguished Pioneer Mentor

As a psychologist, Dr. Lowe’s passion is to help people discover and articulate meaning in their lives, to assist in fostering understanding of the self-in-context, and to facilitate developing skills to accomplish personal, social, academic, career, community, and political goals. She has great love for food, music, family, friends, and her dogs. She tends to care deeply about her students, clients, and colleagues. She is especially appreciative of people who mean well and do their best to act accordingly, as well as people who, at times, can laugh heartily about life.
Dr. Diane Hayashino
2016 Distinguished Pioneer

Diane Hayashino is a licensed psychologist and the current training director of Counseling and Psychological Services at California State University, Long Beach. She is also an adjunct faculty member in the graduate program in Educational Psychology, Administration and Counseling at CSULB. She received her doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Oregon. She has served as past president of Section 5 and continues to serve as the co-chair of the Student Task Force Committee. Her interests include training and clinical supervision, trauma, and Asian American mental health.
Section 5 at AAPA and APA Denver

Wednesday, Aug 3

From graduate student to early-career professional: Lessons and wisdom among AAPI women
AAPA Convention, Tivoli Student Union, University of Colorado - Denver
(Time TBA)

Thursday, Aug 4

2:00 – 3:50 PM
Section 5’s 2-Hour Suite Program/Awards & Recognition: A deeper reflection: What does it mean to be an AAPI feminist?
APA Convention, Division 35 Hospitality Suite, Sheraton Denver Hotel

4:30 – 7:30 PM
Section 5’s Social Networking & Mentoring Events
Offsite, Restaurant TBA

Friday, Aug 5

10:00 – 10:50 AM
Section 5 with Other Sections’ APA Presentation Hour: Living at the intersection of marginalization: Struggles and resilience of diverse feminists
Convention Center, Ballrooms 2A & 3A

Saturday, Aug 6

9:00 – 9:50 AM
Section 5’s APA Presentation Hour: From marginalization to empowerment: Asian American Pacific Islander Women resist invisibility
Convention Center, Room 508
Celebrations!

• Khanh Dinh is the lead Guest Editor, in collaboration with Ivy Ho and Yuying Tsong, on a Special Issue for Women & Therapy, entitled, “Trauma and Well-being among Asian American Women.”

• Yuying Tsong received Tenure and Promotion this year and will become an Associate Professor as of August 17, 2016!

• Yuki Okubo has recently moved to Eastern Shore of Maryland where her dogs have plenty of space to run around and for her family to grow flowers and vegetables.

• Over the summer, Kayoko Yokoyama is looking forward to attending the International Congress of Psychology in Yokohama, volunteering at her son’s Japanese American summer camp in Berkeley, CA, and spending time on her yoga mat.

• Vanessa Li is having her second baby in August.

• Grace Kim has just returned home from Italy, where she spent the first 6 months of 2016. She loved traveling, learning about/observing new cultures, and learning to teach online courses.

• Shihwe Wang started a part-time private practice in Arlington, Massachusetts in 2016.

• Diane Hayashino is honored to be the recipient of the Section 5 Pioneer Award this year (even though awards make her very very uncomfortable).

• Ivy Ho will always be a Harry Potter fanatic. Always.

• Linh Luu accepted a health psych staff position at the University of Memphis Student Health and Counseling Center.

• Leilani Crane left UPenn’s counseling center in February to enter full-time private practice in Philadelphia and Swarthmore.

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Visit our website
http://division35section5.weebly.com
2016 Division 35 Midwinter Conference in New Orleans

2016 Section 5 Southern California Spring Social
2016 Section 5
Northern California Social

2016 Section 5
New England Social