

**PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN GOVERNMENT**

**Upcoming Events:**

- Aug 25—FAPAC 2018 Potluck and Picnic, Potomac Overlook Regional Park, Arlington, VA, [www.fapac.org/picnic](http://www.fapac.org/picnic)
- July & Aug—National Board of Directors Nominations Due for 2018 FAPAC Elections, [www.fapac.org/elections](http://www.fapac.org/elections)

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**Federal Asian Pacific American Council**

**FAPAC**

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June 2018

Unite Our Voices by Working Together

Volume 2018 Issue 4

**Secretary Chao delivers Keynote at the 33rd National Leadership Training Program**



Secretary Elaine L. Chao with FAPAC National Board of Directors and FAPAC Past Presidents at the Civilian Awards Banquet on May 17. Left to right: Past President Farook Sait; Peter Nguyen; Kevin Le; Fahmida Chhipa; Marina Milton; Secretary Elaine L. Chao; FAPAC President Olivia Adrian; Immediate Past President Grace Spence; Rene Lau; Annabelle Flores; Past President Kin Wong; and Tat Shum

On May 14-17, FAPAC hosted over 300 attendees at the 33rd National Leadership Training Program (NLTP) at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA. The NLTP is FAPAC's flagship event and the only training designed for Federal and DC government employees to promote diversity, education and the representation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in public service.



Left to right: Secretary Elaine L. Chao; FAPAC Conference Co-Chairs Kelly Sewell & Darrick Lee; and FAPAC President Olivia Adrian.

Since 1985, FAPAC has strived to foster an environment in government that promotes our shared American values like inclusion and equal opportunity. This year's theme, *Unite Our Voices by Working Together*, built on last year's theme of diversity and emphasized that the act of inclusion allows all people to thrive and succeed.



Secretary Elaine L. Chao speaking at the FAPAC Civilian Awards Banquet.

FAPAC was proud to have the **Honorable Elaine L. Chao**, the 18th U.S. Secretary of Transportation, as the Keynote Speaker of the Civilian Awards Dinner. Secretary Chao is the first Asian Pacific American woman in U.S. history to be appointed to a President's Cabinet when she was sworn-in as the 24th U.S. Secretary of Labor in 2001. Secretary Chao spoke about her early life as an immigrant, and urged the audience to believe in working for something larger than themselves. "If you only think about your own advancement, your own success, you run out of fuel pretty quickly. But if we believed in something bigger than ourselves, that kind of motivation is self-sustaining."

**Johnny Stephenson Jr.**, Director of Strategic Analysis & Communication at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), gave Welcome Remarks and invited attendees to join NASA in Huntsville, AL for the 2019 NLTP. 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing and

NASA MSFC developed the Saturn V rocket that carried the astronauts to the moon.

**Brigadier General Lapthe C. Flora** of the Army National Guard presented the Keynote Speech to an attentive audience at the Military Awards Luncheon. BG Flora is the first Vietnamese boat refugee (who fled Vietnam after the end of the Vietnam War) to be promoted to general officer in the United States Army. Other speakers included: **Rear Admiral Joseph M. Vojvodich**, U.S. Coast Guard; and **Clarence Johnson**, Director of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Department of Defense.



BG Lapthe C. Flora at the Military Awards Luncheon

The NLTP featured over 24 workshops covering a range of topics including servant leadership, leadership diversity, emotional intelligence, effective communication, and much more. Attendees enjoyed engaging plenaries that featured dynamic speakers including **Dr. Vu Pham** presenting on *The ROI of Employee Organizations*, an esteemed panel providing insights from women in power, an SES panel on the importance of mentoring, as well as presentations from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) about issues that effect the Federal workforce. The Department of Veteran Affairs and OPM provided targeted workshops for veterans and students that offered practical tips for navigating the Federal hiring process.

Attendees heard captivating stories from OPM Director of Diversity & Inclusion **Allison G. Wise**, U.S. Department of Commerce Director of Civil Rights **Tinisha Agramonte**, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) General Deputy Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity **Bryan Greene**. OPM Director **Jeff T. H. Pon**, FAA Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety **Ali Bahrami**, and HHS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health **Matthew Y.C. Lin** shared inspiring messages about their shared experiences as government leaders.

Thank for you joining us at the 2018 NLTP! We look forward to seeing you next May in Huntsville, AL.



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**Save the Date**

FAPAC's 34th National Leadership Training Program will be held in Huntsville, AL in May 2019. [www.fapac.org/nltp](http://www.fapac.org/nltp)

**FAPAC NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**FAPAC Recognizes Civilian Awardees**



*Civilian Awardees and FAPAC Officers from left to right: (Front row) Joreen Lee; Annabelle Flores; Eva Ngai; Hilda Kwan; Fahmida Chhipa; Tat Shum. (Back row) Rebecca Doroshenk (accepting for Gerald Tiqui), Michael Gregoire; Manan Vyas; Patricia Wilson; Kenneth Bailey; Marina Milton; Secretary Elaine L. Chao; FAPAC President Olivia Adrian; Randy Moore; Lisa Zimmerman; Johnny Stephenson, Jr. (accepting for Jody Singer) and Rene Lau.*

The 2018 NLTP concluded on May 17 with the Civilian Awards Banquet in which **Secretary Elaine L. Chao** presented 12 Civilian Awards. These awards recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) communities and promote diversity and inclusion in the government.

Prior to the NLTP, government employees were invited to submit nominations for their colleagues who demonstrated a commitment to the AAPI communities through public service. A panel of judges evaluated each nomination package according to a set of five criteria. To learn more, visit [www.fapac.org/civilianawards](http://www.fapac.org/civilianawards).

Here are the notable winners in each of those categories:

**Outstanding Individual Leadership.**

- GS 1-12 - Lisa K. Zimmerman (NAVY)
- GS 13-15 - Patricia Wilson (FAA)
- GS 13-15 - Manan Vyas (NASA)
- SES - Jody A. Singer – NASA

**Excellence in Individual Achievement.**

- GS 1-12 - Eva Lee Ngai (FAA)
- GS 13-15 - Annabelle A. Flores (FAA)
- GS 13-15 - Gerald J. Tiqui (NASA)
- SES - Michael C. Gregoire (USDA)

**Diversity Excellence:**

- GS 1-12 - Hilda Kwan (USDA)
- GS 13-15 - Joreen Lee (NASA)
- GS 13-15 - Kenneth M. Bailey (NOAA)
- SES - Randy Moore (USDA)

**FAPAC Honors Military Meritorious Service Awardees**

At the Military Awards Luncheon on May 16, FAPAC honored 13 members of the U.S. Armed Forces for their significant contributions to the advancement of U. S. military missions and the promotion of equal opportunity in the AAPI communities. The FAPAC Military Meritorious Service Awards honor military members, men and women, who have supported the Department of Defense (DoD) mission, overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective Military Service or other DoD Component. Brigadier General **Lapthe C. Flora**, Army National presented the military awards. Learn more at [www.fapac.org/militaryawards](http://www.fapac.org/militaryawards).

The 2018 Winners of the FAPAC Military Meritorious Awards are:

- Lieutenant Colonel Lan T. Dalat (Army)
- Captain Amie M. Foster (Army)
- Commander Sylvaine Wong (Navy)
- Lieutenant Andrea Liou (Navy)
- Sergeant Aldin A. Ambol (Marine Corps)
- Staff Sergeant David Chen (Marine Corps)
- Major Steven B. Lee (Air Force)
- Captain Juliette E. Simpson (Air Force)
- Lieutenant Christine T. Igisomar (Coast Guard)
- Captain Ervin B. Nicolas (Army National Guard)
- Senior Master Sergeant Melissa R. Bilbruck (Air National Guard)
- Captain Stacy C. Jer (Army Reserve)
- Captain Jae S. Hwang (Army Reserve)



*FAPAC Military Meritorious Service Award recipients on May 16. Left to right: Sgt. Aldin A. Ambol (Marine Corps), SSgt. David Chen (Marine Corps), Lt. Andrea Liou (Navy), Capt. Amie M. Foster (Army), Lt. Col. Lan T. Dalat (Army), Rear Admiral Joseph M. Vojvodich (Coast Guard); FAPAC President Olivia Adrian; BG Lapthe C. Flora. (Army, Virginia National Guard), Capt. Ervin B. Nicolas (Army National Guard), Capt. Stacy C. Jer, Capt. Jae Hwang (Army Reserve), Capt. Juliette E. Simpson (Air Force), CDR Sylvaine Wong (Navy), SM.Sgt. Melissa R. Bilbruck (Air National Guard), Major Steven B. Lee (Air Force), Lt. Christine T. Igisomar (Coast Guard), and ODMEO Director Clarence A. Johnson (DoD).*





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**2018 FAPAC National  
Board of Directors Election**

Current FAPAC members are eligible to vote in the upcoming FAPAC Elections. Log into your membership profile or contact [membership@fapac.org](mailto:membership@fapac.org) to keep your membership up to date!

**Contribute to the  
Newsletter:**

Contact Newsletter Chair Ranmali Fonseka at [newsletter@fapac.org](mailto:newsletter@fapac.org) with any comments or future article submissions.

View past newsletters at [www.fapac.org/newsletters](http://www.fapac.org/newsletters)

**Newsletter Contributions**

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**Editors:** Kelly Sewell, Darrick Lee

**Photo credits:** Thong Vu, Thong Nguyen, Olivia Adrian

**FAPAC presents 2018 Distinguished Public Service Scholarship**

The 2018 Distinguished Public Service Scholarship was presented to Jenny Chhea of Rosemead, CA by Secretary Elaine L. Chao during the Civilian Awards Banquet on May 17. Ms. Chhea is pursuing a Juris Doctor from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree Summa Cum Laude in History with minors in Political Science and Asian American Studies in 2015 from the University of California, Los Angeles. Ms. Chhea's motivations for attending law school stem from the struggles and aspirations of her Chinese-Cambodian refugee family and her commitment to creating social change for underserved communities. At the University of California, Berkeley, Ms. Chhea serves as the Community Social Chair of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and as a case manager for the International Refugee Assistance Project.



Left to right: Secretary Elaine L. Chao; Jenny Chhea; and FAPAC President Olivia Adrian.

"With this award, I hope to help students from traditionally underserved communities—including Asian Pacific Americans—access opportunity and achieve their dreams," said Chhea, whose ambitions echoed Secretary Chao's remarks that evening.

The FAPAC Distinguished Public Service Endowment Fund, Inc., is a non-profit that promotes the recognition of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students who are interested in public service and have made contributions to foster diversity and inclusion in the AAPI communities. For more information about the scholarship and to view past winners, visit [www.fapac.org/scholarship](http://www.fapac.org/scholarship).

**FAPAC Career Development Program Launches Fifth Year**



2018 FAPAC CDP participants with CDP Committee Members at Orientation on April 13 at the USDA Whitten Building .

The FAPAC Career Development Program (CDP) for High Performers kicked off its fifth year with Orientation at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Whitten Building in Washington, DC on April 13, 2018. The FAPAC CDP supports the Federal government's vision to achieve and maintain a diverse, inclusive, and high-performing workforce by providing CDP Mentees with developmental and networking opportunities. The FAPAC CDP serves as an excellent resource for government employees to develop their leadership skills and enhance career opportunities through mentoring, training, networking, and the completion of required activities and projects.

The CDP Orientation was skillfully planned and organized by FAPAC Program Committee Chair **Cailine Kim** and Program Committee Assistant Chair **Sara Kaul**. 24 Mentees were paired with Mentors at senior grade levels. CDP Committee Members **Malissa Lewis** and **Ranmali Fonseka** facilitated a Meet & Greet between Mentors & Mentees and briefed Mentees on program completion guidelines and

requirements that includes 12 hours of One-on-One Mentoring; 12 hours of Workshop Activities; and 16 hours of Leadership Projects.



Kenneth Bailey speaks at 2018 FAPAC CDP Orientation.

During this Orientation, experienced speakers shared their expertise and guidance for both Mentors and Mentees to make the most of the mentoring experience. **Kenneth Bailey**, Director of Civil Rights at NOAA, introduced *Elements of Effective Mentoring*; FAPAC President

**Olivia Adrian** spoke on *Performance Evaluation & Self-Appraisal*; and OPM's Senior HR Specialist **DeShaun King** provided training on *How to Create/Refine your IDP*. An alumni panel discussion featured former Mentees **Kelly Sewell** and **Robin Strepak** and former Mentors **George Eisenback** and **John Sporing** in which current participants gained helpful hints and guidance on mentoring relationships.

In closing, Sara Kaul urged Mentees to develop their potential through the assistance and coaching of their Mentors.

The 2018 FAPAC CDP is scheduled to conclude on October 31, 2018- [www.fapac.org/cdp](http://www.fapac.org/cdp)

**CDP Mentees at 2018 NLTP**

*Submitted by: Cailine Kim, 2018 FAPAC Program Committee Chair*

Sixteen of 24 Mentees participated in the 2018 NLTP on May 15-17. These Mentees actively participated in small group workshops, plenary session, executive coaching, networking luncheons, and dinner meetings. They also graciously volunteered during the NLTP in between training sessions. Mentees were impressed with the quality of the speakers, organization of the program, and opportunities to network and meet with high-ranking government leaders such as Secretary Elaine L. Chao.

The Mentees were eager to become FAPAC members and were empowered to become the next generation of government leaders. They were excited to return to their agencies to share their experiences at the 2018 NLTP with co-workers and agency leadership.





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**Become a FAPAC Member**

FAPAC offers invaluable professional development and networking opportunities. Learn more at [www.fapac.org/membership](http://www.fapac.org/membership).

Contact Membership Chair Elizabeth Jung at [membership@fapac.org](mailto:membership@fapac.org).

**Join a FAPAC Chapter**

Connect with fellow FAPAC Members through a Chapter near you. View all active chapters at [www.fapac.org/chapter](http://www.fapac.org/chapter).

Contact Chapter Chair Anthony Chu at [chapter@fapac.org](mailto:chapter@fapac.org).

FAPAC is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing the civilian and military Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (AAPI) employees in the Federal and District of Columbia governments.

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**FAPAC Chapters celebrate AAPI Heritage Month**



HHS AAPI Heritage Month sponsors with guest speakers on May 9 (left to right from center): Dr. Matthew Y.C. Lin, HHS Director of Office of Minority Health; WHIAAPI Executive Director Holly Ham; and FAPAC President Olivia Adrian.

On May 9, FAPAC HHS Parklawn Chapter; FAPAC NIH chapter; NIH Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; USPHS Asian Pacific American Officer Committee (APAOC); NIH Asian and Pacific Islander American Organization (APAO); and the Association of Asian Pacific Islander Employees of CDC and ATSDR and FDA, co-sponsored this year's HHS AAPI Heritage



FAPAC President Olivia Adrian at 2018 HHS AAPI Heritage Month Observance on May 9.

Month Observance. Featured speakers included Executive Director **Holly Ham**, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), Dr. **Matthew Y.C. Lin, MD**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health at HHS, and FAPAC President **Olivia Adrian**.

**FAPAC at AAPI Heritage Month Events**

FAPAC President Olivia Adrian represented FAPAC with boundless energy and enthusiasm at several Federal agencies during their Asian Pacific American Heritage Month observances. Ms. Adrian was frequently requested to speak on the topic of *Unite Our Vision by Working Together*, this year's AAPI theme. Ms. Adrian also discussed how FAPAC is promoting equal opportunity and diversity for Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) within the Federal government.



Panel Discussion at OPM's AAPI Heritage Month Observance on May 24. Left to right: Director Zina Sutch, OPM Office of Diversity and Inclusion; Dr. Vivian Chen, Chair of AAGEN; WHIAAPI Executive Director Holly Ham; FAPAC President Olivia Adrian; and Program Manager Fred Cheng, USDA.

On May 23, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s AAPI event, Ms. Adrian shared her personal experiences about the personal challenges she overcame and her ongoing commitment to mentoring and community service.

NOAA Civil Rights Director **Kenneth Bailey** expressed his gratitude for Ms. Adrian's participation and the success of the event. Mr. Bailey noted that several employees had a shared interest in discussing collaboration opportunities

On May 9, the U.S. Coast Guard FAPAC Chapter (FAPAC-USCG) organized an AAPI event at USCG honoring Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The Keynote Speaker at this event was **Ms. Anh N. Duong**, Program Executive Officer for Unmanned Aerial Systems at the Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate.



Left to right: Lt. John Santorum, Ms. Anh Duong, cultural performer, and USCG member.

Participants enjoyed a cultural dance performance and delicious food samplings. The USCG Commandant and his wife were present as well as volunteers from different backgrounds.

within NOAA's Asian Pacific Islander community. He believed that others were motivated to begin or continue to find ways to improve their communities at home and work, embracing this year's theme of *Unite Our Vision by Working Together*.



Chinese zither performance by Alice Gu-Zheng Ensemble at OPM.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) hosted an AAPI event on May 24, where Ms. Adrian participated as panelist in a discussion moderated by Director **Zina Sutch**, OPM Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

Ms. Adrian joined other panelists including **Dr. Vivian Chen**, Chair of the Asian American Government Executives Network (AAGEN); Executive Director **Holly Ham**, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI); and **Fred Cheng**, Program Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), who has represented FAPAC in many capacities, as both a member and a leader.

Ms. Adrian was also a keynote speaker for a joint event of the Office of Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Department of State, and Broadcasting Board of Governors on May 29; and the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) on May 30.



FAPAC President Olivia Adrian speaks on May 30 at GPO AAPI observance