Dear Graduating and Continuing Students of Asian American Studies,

I write in the midst of a very difficult period for our community, the nation, and the world. I write also in the midst of what ought to be a celebratory moment. On behalf of the Department, I wish to congratulate our graduating seniors. You’ve grown in multiple ways during your time here. You’ve shown courage and steadfastness in the midst of uncertainty. You’ve shown intellectual rigor and curiosity in the midst of banality, racism, and intersectional oppression. And yet, through it all, we have forged an academic community together and you have built other kinds of important relations and engaged in important work during your time at UCSB.

My wish for you is to take what you’ve learned in Asian American Studies and at UCSB to create a life and work that is deeply meaningful to you personally and that helps to create a better world for all. Please know that as you graduate, we, the professors, staff, and students of Asian American Studies, remain available to you as part of a community. If there are ways that we can support you and your future endeavors, or if you’d like to simply say hello and let us know how you’re doing, we would very much like to hear from you.

To our continuing students: The last two quarters have been challenging and emotionally exhausting. Do feel free to reach out to us if we can support you. While we do not yet know what Fall quarter will look like, please know that we are working to develop our classes and are engaging in collective discussions so we create the kinds of classes that matter and a department that is responsive to you.

We are very proud of our Class of 2020!

Warmly,

Diane Fujino, Interim Chair
on behalf of the UCSB Department of Asian American Studies