
THE BUTLER CENTER

NEWSLETTER

ATTENDING THE NASU POW WOW



By Rachel Phillips

Before going to the Powwow, I was admittedly a bit nervous. I may be a flavor of an indigenous person through my Waray-Philippine heritage, but the Indigenous American culture was something I never immersed myself in before. Did I belong there? What would people think, since I'm not Indigenous American? What do I do when I get there?

After entering Ed Robson Arena and making my way up to the concourse, my worries melted away. Steady beats of the drum, the ringing of bells from the women's jingle regalia, and the soft murmurs from the vendor's stalls were comforts to my ears.

There's something powerful about watching people – young and old – being active in their cultural practice. So much so that I actually cried. Yes, I cried at the Powwow. Those tears weren't sad, however. These kids – some were only just toddlers – knew about their culture and wore it with pride. That was the stark opposite of my own childhood, as I resented my heritage for a long time due to living in a predominantly white area.

May 7th, 2024

@butlercentercc

ATTENDING THE NASU POW WOW



I was so wrought with the emotion of these children loving and embracing their heritage that I cried. Nobody warns you of the emotional affair that is Powwow.

And then I was on the Arena floor, honoring the NASU seniors. I felt like a sore thumb, as I was wearing my Barong Tagalog amidst the sea of ribbon skirts and other regalia, but I was happy. More than happy, actually. Even though I was a visitor to this community, they let me participate in loving, moving gestures to our NASU seniors. Not to mention the potato dance I did with my friend (google it).

If you're interested in going to the next CC Powwow, go! Eat frybread, appreciate indigenous culture, and live in the moment.

Photos by Jamie Cotten

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS!!



Congratulations to the wonderful recipients of the Butler Center all college awards which were presented at Honors Convocation on May 7th.

EmRhys Jenkins - Taizo Nakashima Emerging Leader Award. For their work with the Pride LLCs and Allies of Unhoused Youth.

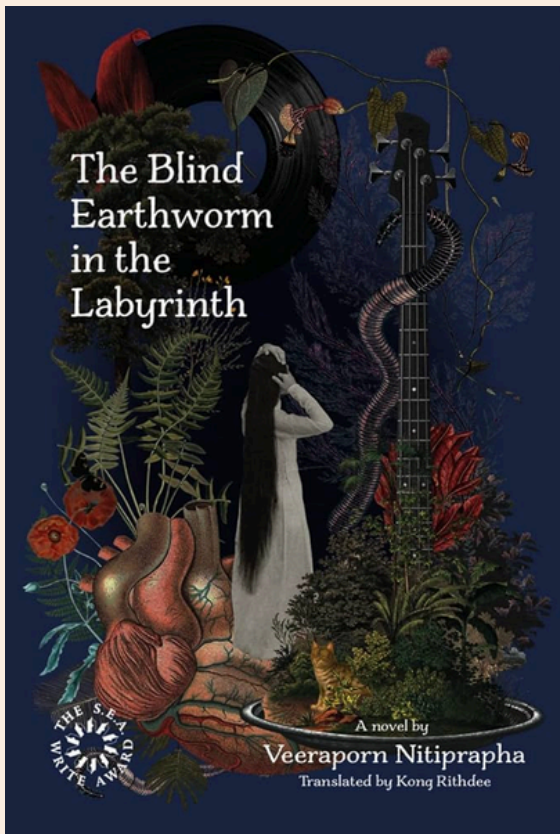
Rakim Johnson and Atquetzali Quitoz - Frederick Roberts and Charles Jackson Outstanding Student Leader Award. Rakim for his work with BSU and CCSGA and to Atquetzali for her work with NASU and other diversity on campus.

Kate S. Holbrook, Chaplin - Theodore Roosevelt Collins Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award. For her unending and unwavering support of the CC community, for creating safe spaces for the LGBT+ community, supporting Butler Center initiatives and events, and for providing for the holistic wellness of our students.

Pasifika Student Collective (Accepted by Braelyn Cayaban and Vicente Preciardo Blas - Taijeron) - Outstanding Student Organization Award for Intercultural Understanding. For spreading a spirit of caring, family, and hospitality as well as for celebrating and uplifting others in the CC community.

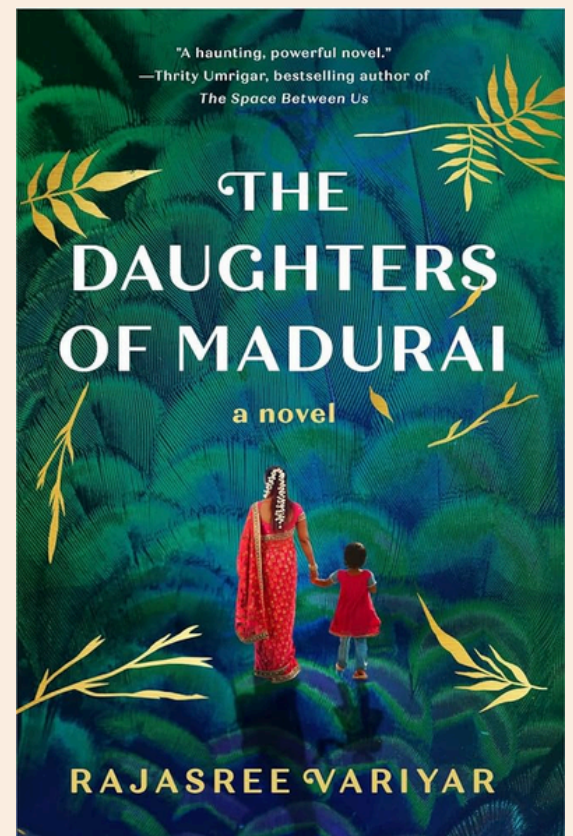
The Unyielding Spirit of Black Activism with Conscious Lee by Black Student Union (Accepted by Rakim Johnson) - Rochelle T. Dickey-Mason Award for an Outstanding Event for Communities of Color. For brining a prestigious speaker to campus and providing a space for conversations about race, empowerment, and education.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - AAPI FICTION



The Blind Earthworm in the Labyrinth by Veeraporn Nitiprapha is a dreamy ethereal novel that combines the best of traditional folklores and Thai romances with the melodrama of modern soap operas. Careeya bears the curse of her parent's disappointments and failed relationship. Growing up with her sister Chalika, the two encounter the lush culture and landscape of Thailand, transporting readers to a place where they can experience the sounds and smells of the land. The story focuses on the two sisters and their best friend, Pran, with whom they find their fates intertwined in a fantasy and desire. Author Lawrence Osborne calls it "Mesmerizing and unputdownable - a virtuoso translation of what must surely be one of the best Thai novels to make it into English." *The Blind Earthworm in the Labyrinth* also won the 2015 S.E.A. Award, Southeast Asia's most prestigious literary prize.

The Daughters of Madurai, by Rajasree Variyar is a evocative tale of secrets, love, and the generational trauma of female infanticide. Taking place in India in the 1990s, the novel follows Janani who is told her one purpose is to produce a son. She is allowed to keep her first daughter, but any other daughters she bears are taken away and killed. Later on, that daughter Nila will go on a journey to uncover the dark mysteries her family has been hiding. This book is about the strength of womanhood and the journey of self discovery. *Women's Own* calls it "Utterly devastating and quietly hopeful." Author Veronica Henry says "Heartrending but ultimately hopeful, this richly evocative and spellbinding book will touch your soul."



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS - AAPI FICTION



Exit West by Pakistani author Mohsin Hamid takes place in an unknown country on the brink of civil war. Nadia and Saeed engage in a love affair and suddenly find themselves forced together as violence explodes in the city. The two hear whispers about magical portals that will take them to the West to escape the war - but only at a cost. When they leave behind their homeland they also leave behind a piece of themselves. The book acts as an analogy of the migrant experience of struggling to hold onto themselves, each other, and their past in the face of great change and grave uncertainty. Kirkus says, "Hamid crafts a richly imaginative tale of love and loss in the ashes of civil war." and further calls **Exit West**, "One of the most bittersweet love stories in modern memory and a book to savor even while despairing of its truths." The New York Magazine says it's "A little like the eerily significant Market Atwood novel, this love story amid the rubble of violence, uncertainty, and modernity feels at once otherworldly and all too real."

Pasifika Author Bishakh Som presents her highly anticipated graphic novel of short stories, **Apsara Engine**, which presents eerie and delightful tales with gorgeous illustrations. The stories, painted in watercolor, are dark, humorous, and foreign but familiar. The stories have won multiple awards for LGBTQ+ representation and feature old mythology mixed with modern and postcolonial perspectives. Booklist describes it as, "Richly hued, gorgeously lettered, and often exquisitely detailed, Som's work, the writing as well the art, presents a brave new world of diverse women." NPR reviewed the book saying, "Som's imagination is science-fictiony, without being particularly technological, mythic without being particularly traditional, and humanistic without cherishing any particular assumptions about where we, as a species, are headed. . . . Evading standard categories and unsettling familiar narrative patterns, the book is a testament

