



# International Student Advisory Board's 10th Anniversary Celebration Awards Night

# Land Acknowledgement





# Opening Remarks

Dr. Russ Ganim, associate provost and dean of International Programs



# Partners in Advance

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- Russ Ganim - Associate provost and dean of International Programs
- Maria Bruno - Executive Director for Belonging and Inclusion and Assistant to the Vice President
- Michael Bortscheller - Associate Director International Student & Scholar Services
- Angie Reams - Associate Vice President & Dean of Students
- Sarah Hansen - Vice President For Student Life
- Bill Nelson - Associate Dean and Executive Director, Iowa Memorial Union
- University Counseling Service
- Undergraduate Student Government
- Graduate and Professional Student Government
- Global Engagement Student Advisory Board
- College of Public Health International Student Advisory Board

**Thank you for supporting ISAB and the international student community!**



# Founders of ISAB



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## Jeffrey Ding, Shen Lu, Joelle Brown, Kyra Seay, and Janet M Lawler

"The idea (of ISAB) came because of the Judy Polumbaum Bridging our Global Community event. Jeffrey, Shen Lu, and I brainstormed the idea together, but then Jeffrey, Kyra and Janet (all in UISG) wrote the bylaws. We got the inspiration for the idea from Old Dominion University – a professor there, Chris Glass (who is now in Boston) talked to us about their model." - Joelle Brown

"Jeffery Ding and Joelle Brown played an active role in setting it up; UISG president Elizabeth Mills and Morgan Britain were super supporters in the first year" - Akash Bhalerao



# Connecting Bridge



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**Raghav Sharma, 2023–2024 GPSG  
International Affairs Director**

**Brian Leal, 2016–2017 USG  
Director of Justice and Equity**

**Apoorva Raikwar, 2017–2018 USG  
Director of Justice and Equity**

# ACE Members

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- **Jintao He**, 2016-2017
- **Yusuf Sermet**, 2016-2017
- **Jia Ern Ong**, 2019-2020
- **Rishika Avvari**, 2019-2020
- **Nafisa Kamal Ayntee**, 2020-2022
- **Ya'u Adamu**, 2021-2023
- **Yeji Son**, 2019-2023
- **Fascha Aryasa**, 2022-2024
- **Ayushi Sood**, 2020–2022, 2023-2024
- **Kahyun “Gabby” Kang**, 2023-2024
- **Mia Qu**, 2017-2019

# ACE Members

- "**Jintao** definitely stood out as a member – helped with creating a video responded to racism towards international students"
- "**Yusuf** helped with interviewing the next board (during finals week!!!). After his time at Iowa, Yusuf also worked with a student organization, OASIS, to help sent out a support message to students from Turkey when a major earthquake hit Turkey in 2023."
- "**Jia** really took their time to intentionally create programs and engage in critical dialogue pertaining to International students in campus." "Definitely kudos to Jia for being active and continuously bringing in suggestions and input!"
- "**Rishka** really took their time to intentionally create programs and engage in critical dialogue pertaining to International students in campus, as well as maintain ISAB's social media presence"
- "**Nafisa** has served on ISAB for 2 years and as a liaison for 1 additional year. Her presence and contribution was critical to maintain ISAB's presence."

# ACE Members

- "**Ya'u's** unwavering dedication was evident in his tireless efforts to contribute positively to ISAB's mission and objectives. “
- "**Yeji** served on ISAB for 4 years, and actively participated in many of the initiatives on the board, especially for the many mental health related initiatives and conversations.“
- "**Fascha** has gone above and beyond as a general member, being present at meetings, helping with initiatives, social media, etc."
- "**Ayushi Sood**: Excellent involvement in all the meetings of ISAB. She kind of led the pre-arrival hand book and played a key role in getting it done."
- "**Gabby** is always present. She helped with many of the internal tasks, such as updating recruitment materials, aligning logistics, etc."

# ACE Member of the Decade – Jeff Lai

"Throughout his time at ISAB, Jeff's contributions were nothing short of remarkable participation in numerous events and initiatives of ISAB. An exemplary member, Jeff's passion, humility, and readiness to go the extra mile for others have significantly shaped ISAB's advocacy efforts. His involvement in projects like international student fee and the pre-arrival handbook are noteworthy."



# Peak Year



# Peak Year: 2020 - 2021



- Alaa Albashayreh
- Ayushi Sood
- Frankline Matanji
- Gordon Louie
- Jeff Lai
- Mary Hartel
- Mishma Nixon
- Nafisa Kamal Ayntee
- Redwan Bin Abdul Baten
- Soumya Venkitakrishnan
- Tejaswini Kannan
- Wenxin (Zephyr) Xiao
- Xinyi Wu
- Yangyi (Edward) Luo
- Yeji (Sophia) Son

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# Behind The Scenes (BTS) Performers

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- Onyeche Oche
- Divija Sharma
- Ayushi Sood
- Soumya Venkitakrishnan
- Fascha Aryasa
- Katherine Lyu
- Ariadna Orbe Vivero
- Allison Kim
- Anis Shakirah Mohd Muslimin
- Marie E A Hoppe

# Behind The Scenes (BTS) Performers

- "**Onyeche's** dedication, attention to detail, and organizational skills were instrumental in ensuring the smooth functioning of ISAB's operations"
- "As a former President and Secretary of the Undergraduate ISAB board, **Divija's** spirited and proactive leadership has inspired many. Her dedication and strong work ethic have been instrumental in advancing ISAB's goals and initiatives."
- "As the former undergraduate board secretary, **Ayushi** worked on all internal matters, from keeping meeting notes, retaining board members, and managing recruitment during the pandemic year. As the former undergrad board chair, she helped the undergraduate board return to an in-person setting, provided space to cultivate leadership among board members. "
- "As the first grad board secretary, **Soumya** had maintained great notes and records for all grad board's internal matters. Soumya's contributions are acknowledged as valuable to the team, demonstrating commitment and support to ISAB's endeavors."
- "**Fascha** has taken on many internal tasks to ensure the success of the board, such as serving as a co-leader for this 10th year anniversary celebration, running through logistics, and more."

# Behind The Scenes (BTS) Performers

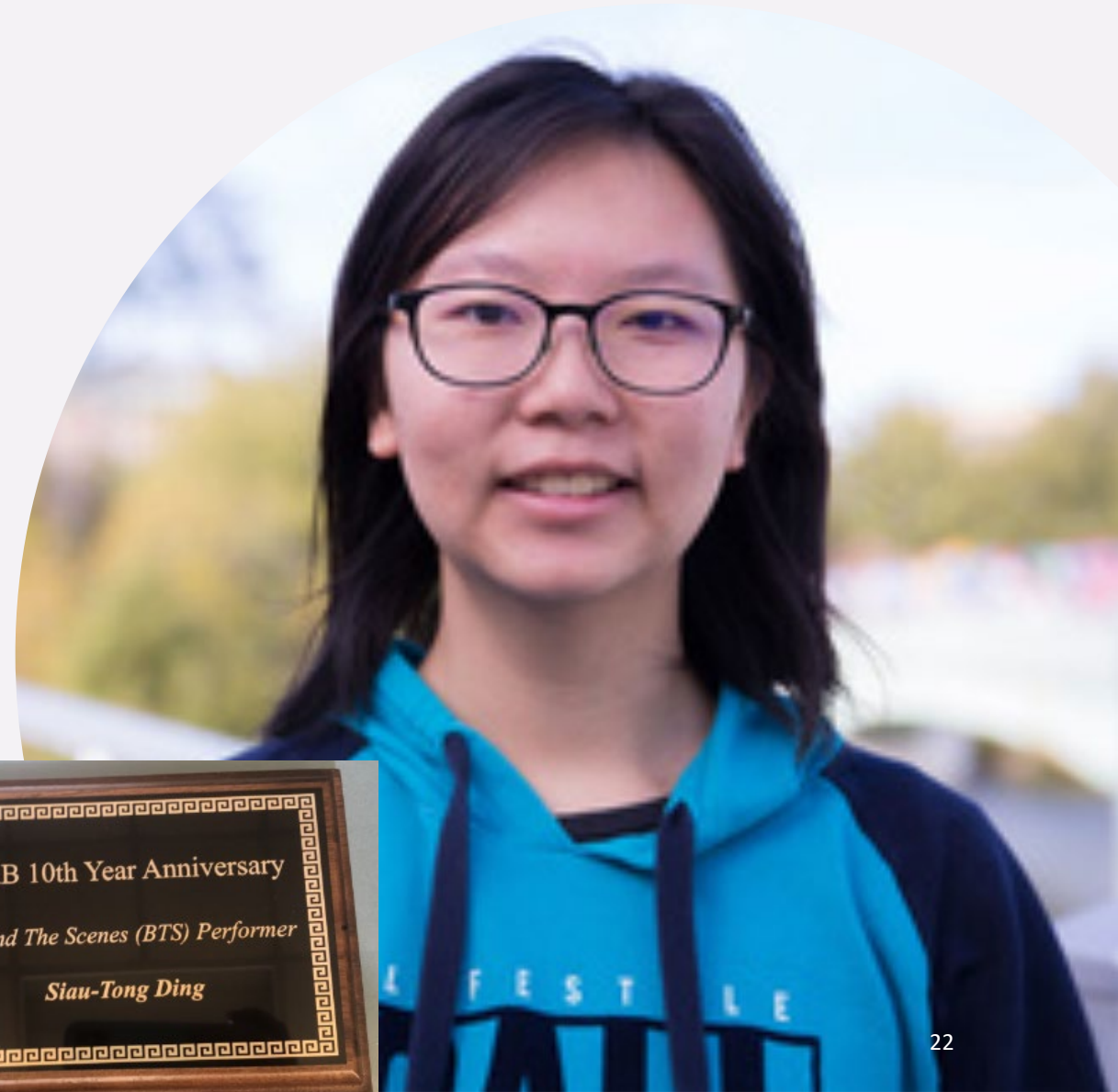
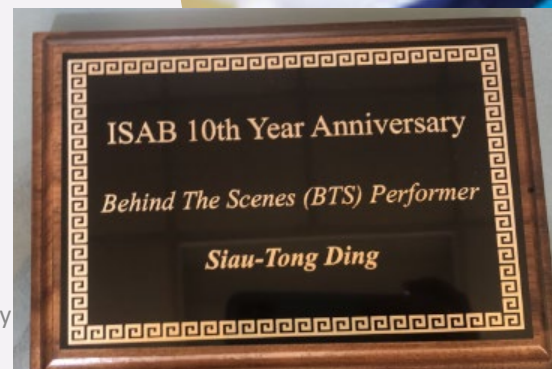
- "As the Vice President of the UG board this year, **Katherine** has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ISAB. Her diligent work ethic and dedication have made her a vital asset to our team."
- "**Ariadna** has provided steady leadership over two years and has been a valuable ISAB member. She is currently serving as the president of the ISAB UG board. Her quiet yet impactful efforts have significantly contributed to our mission."
- "**Allison** was the glue of the board! Under her leadership as the UG chair, board members were engaged and actively participated in board initiatives."
- "**Marie** has been instrumental in creating and updating ISAB's structure, showcasing a dedication to improving and strengthening our organization."
- "**Anis Shakirah's** role contributes significantly to the fabric of ISAB, warranting appreciation for her involvement."



# Behind The Scenes (BTS) Performer of the Decade – **Siau-Tong Ding**

"Recognizing her substantial contributions, we celebrate her instrumental role in establishing the foundational framework for our interviews, which continues to guide our processes today. Notably, in her final year, despite not holding a formal leadership position, Siau-Tong demonstrated exemplary commitment and initiative."

International Student Advisory





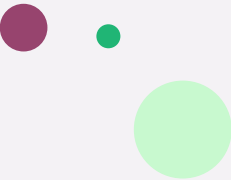


# International Student Advocates

# International Student Advocate – **Akash Bhalerao**

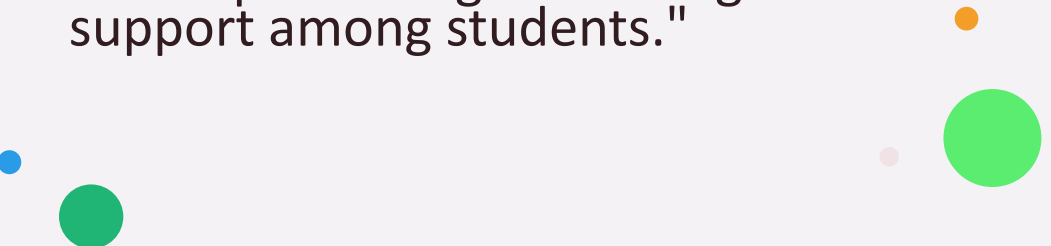
"Beyond his contributions within ISAB, Akash extended his advocacy to broader campus efforts, collaborating closely with the USG liaison to secure a dedicated staff member for ISAB and playing a pivotal role in establishing an international constituency senator within the USG. "





# International Student Advocate – **Yu Chak Sunny Ho**

"Sunny has been an instrumental figure in amplifying the presence of ISAB and the international student community across the campus. Beyond his dedicated involvement with ISAB, Sunny has also made significant contributions to numerous mental health initiatives, playing a vital role in promoting well-being and support among students."



# International Student Advocate – Gordon Louie

"Gordon's contributions to ISAB and the broader international community have been multifaceted and impactful. From International Student Experience During Pandemic survey project, statement to support international students, to working with GESAB and Tippie Buddies, Gordon has been an outstanding advocate."





# International Student Advocate – **Joelle Brown**

"Joelle Brown's contributions were foundational in shaping ISAB's direction and priorities, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to improving the experiences and welfare of international students within the community."



# Advisor of Advisors

# Advisor of Advisors – Shuhui Lin

"Lin's valuable input, combined with her collaborative spirit, has been a cornerstone of our success, driving forward our most cherished initiatives."







# Leadership of the Decade and Face of ISAB

# Leadership of the decade

Piroska Boros

Allison Kim

Siau-Tong Ding

Mishma Nixon

Grace Vebi

# Face of ISAB

# Face of ISAB

- Tejaswini Kannan
- Manisha Skaria
- Onyeche Oche
- Piroska Boros
- Jason Xu
- Redwan Bin Abdul Baten
- Mary Hartel
- Ebenezer Aidoo
- Frankline Matanji
- Fay Lin

# Face of ISAB

- Over two years of leadership, **Tejaswini** has been a driving force behind ISAB, demonstrating exceptional dedication to advancing the organization's goals and making a significant impact within the university community.
- As the Communication Director for the years 2022-2023, **Manisha** has shown outstanding commitment to mental health awareness and advocacy for international students' needs, such as emergency housing. Her leadership in critical initiatives like the Emergency Housing Petition and active involvement in events has been instrumental in promoting ISAB's mission.
- Serving as secretary during 2021-2022, **Onyeche's** meticulous attention to detail and organizational prowess significantly contributed to the smooth operations and growth of ISAB. Her proactive communication and dedication have been vital in advancing ISAB's objectives.
- **Piroska's** ability to unify the team and drive collaborative efforts has been a cornerstone of her contribution to ISAB, showcasing her exceptional leadership and team-building skills.
- **Jason's** valuable contributions to ISAB are widely recognized by past and current members, meriting acknowledgement for his efforts.

# Face of ISAB

- **Frankline's** His relentless commitment and visionary insights have dramatically advanced ISAB, leaving a lasting legacy on its path. Through his pursuit of excellence and creative approach, Frankline has profoundly enriched ISAB's endeavors, guaranteeing its enduring success and impact within the academic community
- With a year of leadership and a year as a general member, **Fay** has played a crucial role in ISAB's endeavors, contributing significantly to the organization's visibility and success.
- **Redwan's** efforts to increase ISAB's visibility have been pivotal, showcasing a commitment to enhancing the organization's presence and impact within the university.
- **Mary's** role signifies a meaningful contribution to ISAB, deserving recognition for her involvement and support.
- As the graduate board chair during the 2021-2022 term, **Ebenezer** demonstrated exemplary leadership and collaboration, championing significant initiatives for the benefit of international students. His advocacy for providing winter clothing and his innovative approach to creating short videos showcasing the successes of international graduate students winning grants are just examples of his commitment to inspire confidence among his peers.





# Face of ISAB of the decade

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## Khyathi Gadag



"As the ISAB Grad Board President for two years, Khyathi demonstrated exemplary leadership and an innate ability to unify the team. Her efforts significantly boosted ISAB's visibility, and she consistently represented ISAB at numerous events. Her tenure was marked by her unwavering passion for ISAB, a commitment to collaborating across campus resources, and a compassionate approach coupled with a strong work ethic."

# Face of ISAB of the decade

## Mishma Nixon



"Throughout her time with ISAB, encompassing two years of leadership and an additional six months as a general member, she has been deeply immersed in the heart of ISAB's initiatives. Her dedication and hard work alongside campus partners have been fundamental in bringing to fruition a series of impactful advocacy efforts."