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CELEBRATING ASIAN AND ASIAN AMERICAN ALUMNI AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

## Plenary Session Speaker Biographies

### Christopher L. Eisgruber '83



Christopher L. Eisgruber has served as Princeton University's 20th president since July 2013. He is the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Public Affairs in the Woodrow Wilson School and the University Center for Human Values. Before becoming president, he served as Princeton's provost from 2004-2013 and as director of Princeton's Program in Law and Public Affairs from 2001-2004. A renowned constitutional scholar, he is the author of *The Next Justice: Repairing the Supreme Court Appointments Process* (Princeton 2007), *Religious Freedom and the Constitution* (co-authored with Lawrence G. Sager, Harvard 2007), and *Constitutional Self-Government* (Harvard 2001), as well as numerous articles in books and academic journals. In 2014, he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Before joining the Princeton faculty in 2001, he clerked for Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and for Justice John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court, and then served on the faculty of the New York University School of Law for eleven years. Eisgruber received an A.B. *magna cum laude* in Physics from Princeton, an M. Litt. in Politics from Oxford University, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. His wife, Lori Martin, is a distinguished securities litigator with the law firm WilmerHale, and his son, Danny, attends Princeton High School.

### David S. Lee \*99



David S. Lee became provost of Princeton University on July 1, 2013. His appointment was announced June 5 by Christopher L. Eisgruber, who had been provost since 2004 and took office as the 20th president of the University on July 1.

Lee, who has a bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and a master's and Ph.D. in economics from Princeton, joined the University in 2007 as professor of economics and public affairs. In 2009, he became director of the Industrial Relations Section, an academic unit that promotes research and training in labor economics.

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Before he joined the Princeton faculty as a member of the Department of Economics and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs, Lee was a professor of economics at Columbia University from 2006-07, an associate professor at the University of California-Berkeley in 2006, an assistant professor at UC-Berkeley from 2000-06, and an assistant professor at Harvard from 1999-2000. He was a faculty research fellow for the National Bureau of Economic Research from 1999 to 2008, and has been a research associate for the bureau since 2009.

## Denny Chin '75



Denny Chin is a United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit and was the first Asian American appointed a United States District Judge outside the Ninth Circuit. Born in Hong Kong, Judge Chin graduated from Princeton University magna cum laude and received his law degree from Fordham Law School, where he was managing editor of the *Law Review*. After clerking for the Honorable Henry F. Werker, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, he was associated with the law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York from 1982 until 1986, when he and two of his colleagues from the U.S. Attorney's Office started a law firm, Campbell,

Patrick & Chin.

In 1990, Judge Chin joined Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard, P.C., where he specialized in labor and employment law. From September 13, 1994, through April 23, 2010, Judge Chin served as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York. He presided over both civil and criminal matters, including cases involving Megan's Law, the Million Youth March, Al Franken's use of the phrase "Fair and Balanced" in the title of his book, the Naked Cowboy, the Google Books project, and the United Nations Oil for Food Program. He also presided over the trial of an Afghan warlord charged with conspiring to import heroin and the guilty plea and sentencing of financier Bernard L. Madoff.

Judge Chin has taught legal writing at Fordham Law School since 1986. While in private practice, he provided extensive *pro bono* representation to the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. He served as President of the Asian American Bar Association of New York from January 1992 through January 1994 and has served on the boards of numerous non-profit organizations.

Chin is a member of Princeton University's Board of Trustees, and was the recipient of the University's Woodrow Wilson Award in 2011.

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## Kathy Hirata Chin '75



Kathy Chin is a partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP and a member of the litigation group specializing in healthcare and real estate issues. She graduated from Princeton University magna cum laude and Columbia Law School, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Transnational Law*.

Ms. Chin served as Commissioner on the New York City Planning Commission from 1995 to 2001 and is currently a Commissioner on the New York City Commission to Combat Police Corruption, a position she has held since Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed her in August 2003. She has served on the Federal Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the Eastern District of New York, Governor Mario Cuomo's Judicial Screening Committee for the First Department, the Gender Bias Committee of the Second Circuit Task Force, Judge Judith Kaye's Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections, the Second Circuit Judicial Conference Planning and Program Committee, and the Board of Directors of the New York County Lawyers Association.

Chin currently serves on the Attorney Emeritus Advisory Council and the Commercial Division Advisory Council, appointed by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman of the New York State Court of Appeals. Her non-profit work includes serving on the Board of Directors of the Medicare Rights Center, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping older adults and people with disabilities get affordable healthcare, and the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, a nonprofit legal services organization serving the needy. In December 2012 and December 2014, she was nominated for appointment to the New York State Court of Appeals by the New York State Commission on Judicial Nomination.

## Rishi Jaitly '04



Rishi Jaitly is Vice President, Asia Pacific & Middle East at Twitter. Prior to this role, he established Twitter's operations in India and led market development in Southeast Asia. Previously, he led public-private partnerships in India for Google, and served as an aide to then-CEO Eric Schmidt '76. Earlier in his career, Jaitly was a director at the Knight Foundation and College Summit, the executive director of Michigan Corps and the founder of Kiva Detroit.

Jaitly earned a Bachelor's degree in History from Princeton and is a winner of the

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University's Class of 1901 Medal. He is also a former Trustee of Princeton University. He can be followed on Twitter @rsjaitly.

## Chris Lu '88



Chris Lu was sworn in as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Labor on April 4, 2014, after being confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate. He serves as the chief operating officer of a 17,000-employee organization that works to create greater opportunities for all Americans.

During his career in public service, Lu has worked in all three branches of the federal government. From 2009 to 2013, Lu served as the White House Cabinet Secretary and Assistant to the President. In this role, he was President Obama's primary liaison to the federal departments and agencies, helping to coordinate policy and communications strategy. As one of the highest-ranking Asian Americans in the Obama Administration, Lu was also the Co-Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. One of President Obama's longest serving aides, Lu started working for then-Senator Obama in 2005, first as his Legislative Director, and then as his Acting Chief of Staff. After the 2008 Presidential election, Lu was the Executive Director of the Presidential transition planning efforts.

Lu's government experience includes eight years working for Rep. Henry Waxman as the Deputy Chief Counsel of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and serving as a law clerk for Judge Robert E. Cowen on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He began his legal career as a litigation attorney at Sidley Austin in Washington, D.C.

In addition to his government service, Lu has been a fellow at the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy, the University of Chicago Institute of Politics, and the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress. He is also the co-editor of the book, *Triumphs and Tragedies of the Modern Congress*.

Lu is a proud member of the Princeton Class of 1988 and served as class secretary for over 20 years. He received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1991, and is the recipient of an honorary doctorate degree from MacMurray College. He is married to Katie Thomson, the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation.

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## Kavita Ramdas \*88



As senior adviser on global strategy at the Ford Foundation, Kavita Ramdas works closely with the executive leadership team at the foundation to help tackle ongoing challenges and seize opportunities arising from changes to civil society across the world. Together with foundation colleagues, she is developing approaches to advance indigenous philanthropy in the Global South, where the culture and practice of philanthropy is poised to evolve in powerful ways that are vital to advancing social justice. She is also focused on ensuring that support for women and girls is integrated into all Ford's work, drawing on her long and distinguished career in global work on gender justice.

From 2012 to 2015, Ms. Ramdas served as the representative for the foundation's office in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, where she oversaw the foundation's entire grant making in that region. Before joining Ford, she was the founder and first executive director of the Program on Social Entrepreneurship (PSE), housed at the Centre for Democracy, Development and Rule of Law at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. PSE brings together global leaders in social innovation to share their expertise as practitioners with the academic community. From 1996 to 2010, Ramdas served as president and CEO of the Global Fund for Women, which grew under her leadership to become the world's largest public foundation for women's rights.

Ramdas completed a master's degree in public affairs with a focus on international development from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, a bachelor's degree in politics and international relations from Mount Holyoke, and academic training at Delhi University.

## Maria Ressa '86



Maria Ressa is the CEO and Executive Editor of Rappler, a social news network which uses a hearts and minds approach to news through a unique mood navigator. Rappler combines the best of professional journalism with citizen journalism and crowdsourcing.

Ms. Ressa has been an award-winning journalist in Asia for nearly 30 years. Most of that time was spent as CNN's bureau chief in Manila (1987-1995) and then in Jakarta (1995-2005). She was CNN's lead investigative reporter focusing on terrorism in

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Southeast Asia and wrote *Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia*, published by Free Press in 2003.

In 2005, Ressa took the helm of ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs in the Philippines, for six years determining strategic direction and managing more than 1,000 journalists for the largest multi-platform news operation in the country. Her work aimed to redefine journalism by combining traditional broadcast, new media and mobile phone technology for social change.

She taught courses in Politics and the Press in Southeast Asia for Princeton University and in broadcast journalism for the University of the Philippines. Ressa worked on her second book, *From Bin Laden to Facebook*, as Author-in-Residence and Senior Fellow at the International Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research in Singapore. She is also the Southeast Asia visiting scholar at CORE Lab at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Ressa graduated from Princeton University and completed a Masters in journalism on a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

## Koda M. Wang '10



Koda Wang is Chief Operating Officer at *The Huffington Post*. As COO, he focuses on building *The Huffington Post's* global business. Today, *The Huffington Post* has over 200 million users that span 15 markets. The site has over 100 thousand contributors, and is also a market leader in native advertising with its Partner Studio.

Prior to becoming Chief Operating Officer, Wang served as General Manager of *The Huffington Post's* international business. He led the company's global expansion, bringing the international audience to over half of the site's total audience.

Koda was also been Chief of Staff to *The Huffington Post's* Co-Founder/Editor-in-Chief Arianna Huffington, and its previous CEO Jimmy Maymann. Prior to HuffPost, Koda was a management consultant at Booz & Company. Koda is an alumnus of Princeton University, where he studied at the Woodrow Wilson School and proudly served as president of his class. He lives in New York, grew up in Texas and California, and originally emigrated from Beijing.

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## Sir Gordon Wu '58



Sir Gordon Wu is Chairman of Hopewell Holdings Ltd., one of the largest property development and infrastructure groups in Hong Kong. Wu established Hopewell Group in 1972 and successfully listed it on the stock exchange of Hong Kong in the same year.

With his foresight and ingenuity, Sir Gordon Wu was the first entrepreneur of Hong Kong to invest in major infrastructure developments in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Since the early 1980's, Hopewell actively initiated and developed the major transportation and power infrastructure facilities in the PRC, including: the Guangzhou - Shenzhen Superhighway; Guangzhou East-South-West Ring Road; Phase I, II and III of the

Western Delta Route; Shunde Highways System; Humen Bridge; Shajiao B Power Station, Shajiao C Power Station and Heyuan Power Station. Since the implementation of China's Open Door Reform policy in 1979, Hopewell Group has invested in 408km of highways, 3,880MW of power generating capacity, and total project costs of 64 billion RMB. Through these transportation and energy developments, Wu has modernized the PRC and boosted Guangdong's economic growth.

In the early 1980's, Sir Gordon Wu pioneered the BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) concept, a slip form method of construction for high-rise buildings, by which the concrete structure of such buildings can be erected at the rate of one floor every three days. This approach was used to develop the 1,200 room China Hotel in Guangzhou and the Shajiao B Power Station in the PRC. The latter was completed in world-record time, just 22 months from ground breaking to generating electricity, and is now a quality asset owned by China.

Today, Wu advises a number of councils and organizations in Hong Kong and China including the China Development Bank, the Xiamen Special Economic Zone and the Guiangzi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Qinhuangdao. He also serves as the Director of the United Nations Association of China.

Sir Gordon Wu was elected as a term member of the Princeton University Board of Trustees, serving from 2008-2012. Wu graduated from Princeton in 1958 with a bachelor's of science in engineering and is the recipient of multiple honorary doctorate degrees from universities in the UK, Hong Kong, Macau and Canada.

Among his many distinguished awards and honors, in 1997, Sir Gordon Wu was knighted by the Queen of England for services to British Exports. He also received CNBC's Asia Business Leaders Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. Wu and his wife Ivy live in Hong Kong and have four children, including June Wu '92 and Thomas Jefferson Wu '94.

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## Sheryl WuDunn \*88



Sheryl WuDunn, the first Asian-American reporter to win a Pulitzer Prize, is a business executive and best-selling author. Currently, she works at a small banking boutique helping growth companies, including those operating in the emerging markets. She raises capital for a variety of clients: men and women entrepreneurs in new media, media technology and social enterprise. She also co-founded FullSky Capital, a social enterprise advisory firm.

Previously, WuDunn has been vice president in the investment management division at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and a commercial loan officer at Bankers Trust. She has also worked at *The New York Times* both as an executive and journalist: in management roles in both the Strategic Planning and Circulation Sales departments at *The Times*; as editor for international markets, energy and industry; as *The Times*'s first anchor of an evening news headlines program for a digital cable TV channel, the *Discovery-Times*; and as a foreign correspondent for *The Times* in Tokyo and Beijing.

WuDunn is co-author of *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity*, a *New York Times* best-selling book about altruism and how to bring about change in our society using evidence-based strategies. She co-authored three other best-selling books: *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*; *Thunder from the East*; and *China Wakes*. Among numerous other awards and journalism prizes, she won a Pulitzer Prize with her husband for covering China and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Lifetime Achievement.

In 2011, *Newsweek* cited WuDunn as one of the "150 Women Who Shake the World." The following year, WuDunn was selected as one of 60 notable members of the League of Extraordinary Women by *Fast Company* magazine. In August 2015, *Business Insider* named her one of the 31 most prominent graduates of the Harvard Business School. Ms. WuDunn lectures on economic, political and social topics related to women in the developing world, the global economy, China and the emerging markets and has been asked to address a wide range of audiences on various television and radio programs.

Ms. WuDunn earned an M.P.A. from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, where she is a former member of its Advisory Council. She was elected as an alumni trustee to Princeton University's Board of Trustees for a term beginning July 1, 2014. She graduated from Cornell University and later earned an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. WuDunn served as a member of the Cornell University Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2013 and served on various Board committees, including the Finance Committee, the endowment's



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Investment Committee and as co-chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. Ms. WuDunn received an honorary doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and Middlebury College.

## Helen Zia '73



Helen Zia is an award-winning journalist and scholar who has covered Asian American communities and social and political movements for decades. She is the author of *Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People*, a finalist for the prestigious Kiriya Pacific Rim Book Prize. Ms. Zia is also co-author, with Wen Ho Lee, of *My Country Versus Me*, which reveals what happened to the Los Alamos scientist who was falsely accused of being a spy for China in the "worst case since the Rosenbergs."

Zia is former Executive Editor of *Ms. Magazine*. Her articles, essays and reviews have appeared in numerous publications, books and anthologies. She was named one of the most influential Asian Americans of the decade by *A. Magazine*. Zia has received numerous journalism awards for her groundbreaking stories. Her investigation of date rape at the University of Michigan led to campus demonstrations and an overhaul of its policies, while her research on women who join neo-Nazi and white supremacist organizations provoked new thinking on the relationship between race and gender violence in hate crimes.

A second generation Chinese American, Zia has been outspoken on issues ranging from civil rights and peace to women's rights and countering hate violence and homophobia. In 1997, she testified before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on the racial impact of the news media. She traveled to Beijing in 1995 to the UN Fourth World Congress on Women as part of a journalists of color delegation. She has appeared in numerous news programs and films; her work on the 1980s Asian American landmark civil rights case of anti-Asian violence is documented in the Academy Award nominated film, "Who Killed Vincent Chin?", and she was profiled in Bill Moyers' PBS documentary, "Becoming American: The Chinese Experience."

Zia received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Law School of the City University of New York for bringing important matters of law and civil rights into public view. She is a graduate of Princeton University's first graduating class of women. She quit medical school after completing two years, then went to work as a construction laborer, an autoworker, and a community organizer, after which she discovered her life's work as a writer.