

Chai Galano – PHD Personal Statement

1. I have been an active member of FSA since my 1st year here at UCSC. As a product of ASF 12, I came to recognize that the Filipino community has a strong following and joined KAMP, Kasama, and subsequently volunteered for ASF 13, 14, & 15. My 2nd year, I co-coordinated Kasama alongside Kevin Casaretto and Olivia Chiu. It was Winter quarter my 2nd year that I took PHD and was highly inspired by the coordinators and the material obtained for the course. I am currently a 3rd year and although I have taken a step back from coordinating, I have been an early participant of Kasama, People Power and KAMP. FSA is much more than simply one of the largest ethnic orgs here on campus. We strive to provide co-curricular activities for, but not restricted to, the Filipino community and by this we encourage the feeling of solidarity among other people of color. Through our outreach and retention programs, FSA has made a solid mark on the ethnic population at UCSC, which I find quite a feat. Although the numbers can be higher, the fact that FSA has taken the initiative to outreach and retain our fellow members shows that we truly care for our community.

2/3. I am applying for the position of PHD coordinator to continue the course's goal of raising awareness and education about the Filipino culture. I hope to foster dialogue on issues about our Filipino history that may have been forgotten or overlooked in our present hegemonic society. My goals include outreaching to more students who are not members of FSA to partake in this course because it falls under the umbrella of ethnic studies. I wish to raise awareness about our past and current social and political stances and how they relate to our community. By providing the tools of education and dialogue, these goals remind the FSA community that there is much more than simply being a member of an ethnic organization. By facilitating this course and having active members, it shows that the plight of preserving all things ethnic is still going strong. This course provides the foundations for discovering our history so that we can figure out our progression in the future.

4. I am a literature major and feel that as a 3rd year, I have honed my analytical skills which is extremely pertinent to facilitating this course. I have a very patient demeanor yet I know when to push a group forward if it falls behind. As a past volunteer for ASF, I have come into contact with leading a diverse group of people. From being a co-coordinator for Kasama, I have learned the values of leading a team, meeting deadlines, and gauging the group's progression and intake of the material. I am currently an intern at the Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center and have coordinated events that have brought guest speakers to campus and will be coordinating and hosting the Spring faculty student luncheons. My ability to facilitate discussion will stem from my curiosity of the material and my interest in the subject. I am also good at getting others excited because I find the simplest matters fascinating.