

\*\*\*Subject to change without notice. Final details will be distributed onsite at the conference.



## #KAAN2017 Conference

*Together We Rise: Negotiating Difficult Conversations in Adoption*

**JUNE 23-25, 2017**

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh – Greentree

500 Mansfield Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15205

Details for #KAAN2018 will be available here in mid-January 2018. The information below from our last conference is provided to give you a sense of our conference and organization.

### **Amarel, David**

David Amarel, PhD, is a clinical psychologist in private practice based in New York City. He is also an adoptive parent and teen-wrangler to a son and daughter, both born in Korea. Professionally, David specializes in couples therapy and trauma work. At home, he excels at raking and creating culinary magic from leftovers. David is currently writing a novel about PTSD and the power of surprising connections.

### **Ashlee, Aerial A.**

Aerial A. Ashlee, M.Ed., is a scholar and activist who is passionate about racial justice. She earned her B.A. in Strategic Communication from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and her M.Ed. in Counseling & College Student Personnel from the University of Maryland, College Park. She is currently pursuing her doctoral studies in Educational Leadership at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Aerial's research interests include Asian-American transracial adoptees' racialized experiences in college and women of color in academia. Her critical lens coupled with her story-centered facilitation style make her a highly-dynamic educator, speaker, and facilitator.

### **Ashlee, Kyle C.**

Kyle Ashlee is a doctoral student in the Student Affairs in Higher Education Program at Miami University. He is the Co-Founder of Ashlee Consulting and co-author of the book, *VITAL: A Torch For Your*

Social Justice Journey. Kyle's research interests relate to developing capacity in white college students to effectively engage in racial dialogue. His work around race and whiteness is centered in vulnerable storysharing as a means to facilitate personal accountability and healing.

### **Assalone, Amanda**

Amanda E. Assalone, PhD, is the Postdoctoral Research and Policy Analyst at the Southern Education Foundation (SEF) in Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to joining SEF, Amanda completed her doctoral studies in higher education at the University of North Texas and her research focused on improving post-secondary access and outreach initiatives for underrepresented students. Her dissertation investigated the college pathways of Asian-American community college students and explored how family, culture, and model minority stereotypes influenced their college aspirations, perceptions, and experiences. She also has extensive experience working in community college outreach, academic advising, educational programming, and high school counseling. Amanda was adopted from Seoul, Korea through Dillon International at three months and grew up in Tulsa, OK.

### **Bondy, Kerry**

Kerry Bondy, MS, PA-C, is a Korean-born adult adoptee who has participated in KAAN since 2002 as an attendee, volunteer, and speaker. She

values the community found at KAAN as well as the experience of attending adoptee gatherings in Korea and throughout the US. She currently works as a Physician Assistant at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center. In both her personal and professional life, she is dedicated to helping others confront life's challenges.

### **Burdan, Michael**

A KAAN regular with an MS.Ed in Counseling and an MA in organizational management, Michael is a Korean adoptee living outside DC. Currently doing grants management at the George Washington University, he is always interested in engaging with the adoptee community.

### **Burlbaugh, Brenda**

Brenda Burlbaugh is from Annapolis, MD, and has two sons adopted from Korea, ages five and six. She is the owner of an online retailer of motivational and inspirational gifts ([courageinstone.com](http://courageinstone.com)). Brenda enjoys traveling, cooking (well, mostly eating), fine wine, jogging, reading, and napping. This is her fourth KAAN conference.

### **Campbell, Sara**

Sara Campbell, MSW, is an adult adoptee who has been involved with the Korean adoption community since 2003. She has been to multiple KAAN conferences and is a former member of KAAN's Advisory Council. Sara is also the Partnership Specialist at Connect-a-Kid and this year's coordinator of KAAN's youth

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and childcare conference programs. She continues to teach, demonstrate, and display a positive aspect of the adoption triad.

**Chasing Lovely**

Hailing from Nashville, folk-pop sister duo Chasing Lovely combine haunting harmonies, powerful melodies and insightful lyrics to create one of the most captivating acoustic performances. Chloe and Taylor spent the past three years touring across the continental United States, and it shows—both in their showmanship and undeniable bond as sisters. In the spring of 2016, they opened several dates for the "Hapa Tour" for fellow Asian-American artists Meiko and Marié Digby. On their latest EP "Unbridled" (released in early 2016), they had the privilege of working alongside producers and musicians who have worked with Mumford & Sons, Joy Williams, and Ben Rector. Their mission is to provoke thought, promote understanding, and capture both glimmers of light and darkness as they share the deeply moving human experience through song.

**Crawford, Martha M.**

Martha Crawford, LCSW, is an adoptive parent, a psychotherapist, and a member of the Executive Officers committee of Sejong Cultural Education Inc. She is the author of the blog, *What a Shrink Thinks*, and a long-time member of the KAAN community.

**Firestone, Kate**

Kate Firestone is a Korean American adoptee, born in Seoul and adopted at three months of age. She is currently working on her PhD in Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures at Michigan State University. Her studies focus on the ways adoptees, as a diasporic group, make meaning and culture, particularly through the use of multimedia in digital spaces. She is a founding member of MSU's Asian Pacific American Graduate Student Alliance, and is excited to attend her third KAAN conference this year as a volunteer with the youth program.

**Fritz, Lee**

Lee Fritz was born in Busan, South Korea, and adopted at four months of age. He grew up in Harrisburg, PA, and lived there all of his life until he married Whitney in 2013 and relocated to Nashville, TN. Lee has a desire to someday learn more about his birth family. He's had the unique opportunity to see the interaction between Whitney and her Korean birth family, which most adoptees do not get to witness first-hand. Having a better understanding of this family dynamic is key for Lee in making his future decision to either start a birth family search or leave things in the unknown.

**Fritz, Whitney**

Whitney Fritz, MBA, is a Korean adoptee who was given the unexpected opportunity to reunite with her birth family in 2010. Seven years later, she maintains close relationships and regular contact with them and has experienced all of the ups and downs of navigating the complexities and dynamics of birth family reunion. Whitney has made every attempt to remain an open book throughout the experience in an effort to offer a perspective to adoptees and their families about what a birth family reunion can potentially look like. She is quick to emphasize that she is not an adoption expert and that her experience is just that—her own individual experience.

**Gehringer, Erica**

Erica Gehringer is a Korean-American adoptee and Adoption Home Study Specialist. Her main goal in life is to support and advocate for people with marginalized identities, the folks who are very often left out of (positive) mainstream conversations and spotlights.

**Gonzalez, Rosita**

Rosita González, MS, blogs at *Mothermade.us*. Her writings have appeared in several anthologies, *xojane.com* and The Goodman Project. In 2014, she and her Lost Daughters' sisters started a social media campaign (#FliptheScript) to raise awareness of the adult adoptee narrative. As an artist, she creates ceramics that express the fluidity of

life as an adoptee. Her best days were spent during her five months as a Seoul resident. She is currently writing her memoir and working at Apple in Madison, WI.

**Hagland, Mark**

Mark Hagland is an adult Korean adoptee. He was born in South Korea in 1960 and adopted in infancy by parents of Norwegian-American and German-American descent. Mark was raised in Milwaukee, WI, and attended the University of Wisconsin (B.A.) and Northwestern University (M.S., Journalism). He has spent about 17 years in public spaces discussing and presenting on topics related to transracial adoption, including 15 years of participation in the annual KAAN Conference. He currently lives and works in Chicago.

**Hathaway, Carolyn**

Carolyn Hathaway has supported KAAN in a variety of ways in the past seven years including AV, website support, and moral support for the director. She lives near Philadelphia with her husband and two children. Hearing the wide variety of voices and viewpoints at KAAN has helped make her a better parent and she is pleased to support this group.

**Hale, Bevin**

Bevin Hale, Med, was adopted from Korea at the age of four months and grew up in the St. Louis (MO) area. In 2006, she traveled to Seoul to attend her first KAAN conference. Bevin is an elementary school teacher who currently resides in Boston with her husband and two children.

**Heitzig, Ellen Picklesimer**

Ellen Heitzig was adopted when she was five months old and grew up in central Illinois with her younger sister, also adopted from Korea. She received her master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis and is currently a district social worker with the City of St. Charles School District. Ellen previously served as the social worker for Sejong Cultural Experience Inc. and traveled on the annual Korea trip each year. In this position, she worked with

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adolescents and has facilitated biological family reunions.

**Hilzinger, Ethan**

This is Ethan Hilzinger's 10th KAAN. He was born 2 months early in 1997 in Seoul, South Korea. He was adopted at 6 months old. He lived for 5 months in Seoul with a foster family before making the trip to the US. He began talking about his adoption at age 4 but didn't understand what it actually meant until he was 16. After contemplating what adoption means to him, he went into a deep 2 1/2 -year depression during which he struggled with feelings of abandonment and self-worth. With the support of his family and a lot of hard work, his depression lifted and he now has a more authentic view of the world. He recently graduated from high school with a few college credits and he is eager to be a college student.

**Hilzinger, Jen**

Jen Hilzinger and her husband have three children--two who were adopted from China and South Korea, and one born to them. Their children are 22, 19, and 10 years old. Jen has participated in KAAN Conferences for twelve years in many capacities. She is a former Advisory Council member for KAAN.

**Johnson, Stephen David 정은기**

Stephen D. Johnson is a reunited adoptee, activist, and long-time contributor and beneficiary of KAAN. He studied social work at Baylor University and international development at Eastern University's School of Leadership and Development. Stephen is also currently a member of the KAAN Advisory Council. He and his partner currently live in Austin, TX.

**Kenstowicz, Andre S.**

Born and raised in Pittsburgh (PA), Andre S. Kenstowicz, MA, recently moved to Tacoma, WA with his wife Bethany, a Korean adoptee. Andre has lived abroad in Costa Rica and Spain for a total of two years and is fluent in Spanish. He and Bethany enjoy exploring Korean language,

food, and culture in Washington State, which boasts a large Korean community. Next year, Andre and Bethany plan to honeymoon in Korea.

**Kenstowicz, Bethany L.**

Bethany L. Kenstowicz, Master of Public Administration, is a Korean adoptee who seeks to encourage other first-generation college, graduate, and law school students throughout their own journey of identity and independence. She currently lives in Tacoma, WA, with her husband and fellow fan of Korean food, Andre Kenstowicz. Bethany is currently planning her first trip back to Korea.

**Kidman, Michelle**

Michelle Kidman was adopted from Korea in 1986 at the age of nine along with two biological brothers, ages 5 and 7, to the same family in central PA. Her hobbies include taking pictures and spending time her family. Last year was her first KAAN conference and it was an experience. She works for First National Bank as a personal banking representative. She resides in Duncannon, PA with her husband, one child, three step children & six step grandchildren.

**Kim, JaeRan**

JaeRan Kim, PhD, LISW, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington Tacoma. JaeRan has over fifteen years of experience working with foster and adopted children and families and has developed numerous training curricula for child welfare professionals. JaeRan's research focuses on child welfare including adoption, foster care, institutional care, and children with disabilities.

**Ko, Grace Euna**

Grace E. Ko is a distinguished Korean teacher who came to the field of teaching with a longtime journalist background. As a Korean Instructor at Kennesaw State University, she currently teaches three courses per semester. She also teaches the e-Mentor Online Korean classes (ementoronline.org) as part of the Language Enabled Airman Program (LEAP). On the weekends, she teaches

at her church's Korean language school. Grace has served weekend Korean schools in the US for ten years. Outside of teaching, she is the most experienced Korean evaluator at ALTA Language Services, Inc., a US-based company specializing in language testing. Grace also taught at the Atlanta International Language Institute for seven years before joining Kennesaw State University.

**Koniak, Nicki**

Nicki Koniak is a deaf, transgender, Korean adoptee, who is currently a student at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. (one of the only deaf, liberal universities in the world), pursuing his B.S. in Biology. He is also a LGBTQA+ activist, more specifically for the transgender community. In his free time, he enjoys photography, music, reading, and being a huge comic nerd.

**Lee, Heewon**

Heewon Lee, BA, is pursuing an education in genetics and public health. She is a research assistant at the University of Minnesota and is studying ovarian cancer and the effects of chemotherapy. Heewon is also involved in parenting research and is a facilitator using Incredible Years, an evidence-based parenting curriculum.

**Lemire, Leanne**

Leanne Lemire is a Minnesota native of French-Canadian descent. She is semi-retired as a writer and an artist. She is also the proud mother of an Asian American transracial adoptee.

**Majors, Allen**

Allen Majors is a "first wave" adoptee who was adopted in 1961 to a farm in rural Illinois. He has been active in the adoptee community since 2008 and has served on the boards of Korean Adoptees of Chicago (KATCH) and the Korean Cultural Center (Champaign-Urbana, IL). He believes it is important to use photographs to document the adoptee community around the world and to share his view of Korea through images. Allen is employed as a labor advocate for public education employees.

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**Maloney, Sarah Gallenberg**

Sarah Gallenberg Maloney, MA, serves as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at Regis College in Weston, MA. Some of her responsibilities involve campus-wide strategic planning for diversity and inclusion efforts, implementing workshops and trainings around identity and social justice, and teaching courses about race, justice, and Catholic social teaching. She has been involved with the NASPA Multiracial Knowledge Community to advance voices of transracial adoptees and wrote a chapter for their iBook on her story as an adoptee. Sarah has also been an informal consultant for Camp Moon Hwa, a Korean culture camp in Rochester, MN established and founded through the work and service of her parents. Academic accomplishments include an M.A. in Leadership in Student Affairs from the University of St. Thomas and a B.A. in English and Communication from St. Louis University.

**Matthews, Dan**

DanakaDan is an alternative rap artist based in Los Angeles, CA. As a Korean adoptee, he produces content that chronicles his experience with self-identity, addiction, and adoption. This has included a full length album "Stuntman" and a documentary series detailing the very personal journey of meeting his biological family, including an identical twin brother he never knew (who also raps). His music is high energy and eclectic, drawing inspiration from indie rock artists to house and trap. With millions of views online, he's had opportunities to travel and perform around the world in locations like Singapore, Korea, and Malaysia amassing fans in every region. He is currently working on his second full length album.

**McKee, Kimberly**

Kimberly McKee, PhD, is the director of the Kutsche Office of Local History and an assistant professor in the Liberal Studies Department at Grand Valley State University. Her research interrogates the institutional practice

of international adoption in its examination of American adoptions of South Korean children. She also analyzes representations of Asian Americans in popular culture and the use of social media in communities of color. McKee serves as the Assistant Director of KAAN. She previously wrote for Gazillion Voices and is a current contributor to The Lost Daughters.

**Naftzger, Katie Jae**

Katie Naftzger, LICSW, has been involved in KAAN for several years. As a Korean adoptee, she maintains a private psychotherapy practice in Newton, MA, where she works with adoptive families and provides consultations. Katie's upcoming book focuses on a path for adoptive parents through the teen years.

**Nestleroth, Amanda**

Amanda Nestleroth is a Korean adoptee who was adopted in 1983 along with an older sister. She is the co-founder of KAAP, the Korean Adoptee Association of Philadelphia. Amanda hopes her experience of reuniting and maintaining contact with her birth family may offer a perspective for others during their family search. Amanda enjoys spending time with and mentoring younger adoptees, including several nieces and nephews.

**Newton, Grace**

Grace Newton is a recent graduate from Macalester College. She has interned for Land of Gazillion Adoptees (LGA) and served as editor for the college section of the Gazillion Strong magazine. She has spoken on panels for Families with Children from Asia, KAAN, MAASU, Macalester College, and has presented research at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs. When she isn't discussing issues of race and adoption in person, she is writing about it on her blog ([redthreadbroken.wordpress.com](http://redthreadbroken.wordpress.com)).

**O'Connor, Susan Harris**

Susan Harris O'Connor, MSW, is a national solo performance artist of her groundbreaking autobiographical narratives compiled in The Harris Narratives:

An Introspective Study of a Transracial Adoptee. Since 1996, they have been performed over 100 times as keynote addresses, lectures, and featured performances at places such as Harvard Medical Conference series, Smith College Summer Lecture series, Yale Law, and Massachusetts General Hospital. Published by the Yale Journal of Law and Feminism and Adoption and Fostering, Susan received the 2014 Outstanding Practitioner in Adoption Award from St. John's University and the 2016 President's Award from American Adoption Congress. Susan contributed as an editor of the An-Ya Project's seminal book, Black Anthology: Adult Adoptees Claim Their Space (2016). She is a former board member of the American Adoption Congress.

**Oser, Benjamin Kim**

Benjamin Kim Oser, MA, was adopted at three months from Seoul. He has been involved with athletics since the age of five and he has been playing competitive ice hockey since he was eight, which includes collegiate club hockey for NYU. He is currently an educator and leadership administrator for the University of Delaware Athletic Department, as well as the camp director for a Korean culture camp in New Jersey. He is passionate about supporting the adoptee community, specifically relating to confidence building around male adoptee identity.

**Park Nelson, Kim**

Kim Park Nelson, PhD, is an educator, researcher, and associate professor in the American Multicultural Studies program at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. She is the author of Invisible Asians: Korean American Adoptees, Asian American Experiences and Racial Exceptionalism. She received her Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, where she also developed and taught the first college-level course exclusively focused on Korean transnational adoption. In 2007, Park Nelson was the lead organizer of the First International Symposium on Korean Adoption Studies, held in

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conjunction with the International Korean Adoptee Associations (IKAA) Gathering of Korean Adoptees in Seoul. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture (ASAC). Her work has appeared in multiple anthologies and scholarly journals. She has been interviewed on the topic of international adoption by Public Radio International and public radio affiliates in Minnesota, Wisconsin and California, and by a variety of local and national publications including the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. She currently lives in Minneapolis.

**Partain, Amy**

Amy Partain is the mother to an eleven-year-old Korean adoptee. Adoptive parenting changed her in ways she never imagined when she and her husband, Kyle, started this journey in 2006, and she loves continuing to learn and grow as a parent and a person. She is currently a communications and web site professional for a small private school in Colorado. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, traveling, photography and crafting.

**Pine, Shaaren**

Shaaren Pine is an Indian adoptee, mother, writer, author, crafter, and business owner. You can find some of her work in The Washington Post, Upworthy, and Masala Mommas. She is involved with various adoptee organizations (Lost Sarees, Adoptions Links, DC, and the Adoptee Rights Campaign). She has lived in Washington, DC, since 1997.

**Rho, Joy Lieberthal**

Joy Lieberthal Rho, LCSW, is a social worker and private clinician in New York. She has held a variety of positions in policy, practice, and advocacy for the adoptee community for the last 20 years. Currently, she is in private practice, a counselor at the Juilliard School, is the Vice President of Programming for Sejong Cultural Education and supervises a team at the Korean American Family Service Center. Joy was adopted from Korea

and has been in reunion with her birthmother for 22 years.

**Rupright, Rachel Hye Youn**

Rachel Hye Youn Rupright, MSW, is a Korean adoptee raised near Binghamton, NY. She currently serves as one of KAAN's registrars and is a member of the KAAN Advisory Council. She lives and works in Albany, NY.

**Schroeder, Matthew**

Matt Schroeder is the proud father of two Korean adoptees and has been attending KAAN for many years. He has participated in the Dadspace forum as both a discussion leader and participant and has found the insights he has gained from adoptees and other dads to be very valuable. Matt and his wife, Stacy, live in Mechanicsburg, PA, with their children, Nick and Allison, (when they are not off at school) and their dog Cleo (who runs the house).

**Schroeder, Stacy**

Stacy Schroeder is the president and executive director of KAAN and lives with her husband and children in PA. Most of her career has been in leadership and event planning for nonprofits. She also co-authored a book and looks forward to a time that allows for more writing. For now, she is proud to use her skills to support KAAN.

**Sheppard, Nicole K.**

Nicole Sheppard, MA, is a mental health therapist with Mental Health Systems, based in the Twin Cities. She has experience in mindfulness and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), individual and group therapy, and career counseling. Nicole initiated and was the lead therapist of a no-cost, mindfulness-based, therapy group for adult Korean adoptees to process grief and loss in adoption; and the principal investigator of a grant-funded study examining the effects of this therapy. With the Korean Adoptees Ministry (KAM) Center, Nicole is the Project Manager of a Minnesota Department of Health-funded mental health and suicide assessment of the adult Korean adoptee community. She grew up in Minneapolis and lived in

Seoul, Korea (2002-2010) working in global Korean adoptee community development and advocacy at Global Overseas Adoptees' Link (GOA'L) as the vice secretary general and annual summer conference director.

**Sinangil, Noah**

Noah Sinangil was adopted from Seoul at four and half months old and raised in New Jersey. He has two sisters, one of whom is also adopted from Korea. Since he was young, he has maintained a strong interest in Korean culture. Noah began attending Camp Sejong, a culture camp for Korean-Americans, at the age of nine and has been a counselor there for the past three years. He currently attends Rowan University, where he is majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

**Slutter, Brian**

Brian Slutter is a Korean adult adoptee. He lives in Michigan with his partner, Sara, who is also an Korean adult adoptee. He is involved with the Michigan Korean Adoptee group. This is also his second KAAN conference. Brian has enjoyed meeting new adoptees and is looking forward to being more involved in the adoption community.

**Smith, Sara**

Sara Smith, CCH, is a Korean adoptee, adoptive parent to a Korean-born daughter and bio parent to two sons. In 2015, Sara also discovered she had a biological brother through DNA testing. She currently lives in New Hampshire with her husband and children. Sara is a homeopathic consultant in private practice at New Leaf Homeopathy, LLC.

**Stanley, Michael**

Michael is a professional financial advisor and KAAN's treasurer. He splits his time between New York City and Philadelphia.

**Stevens, Spencer**

Spencer Stevens is a Korean-Adoptee, born in Seoul and raised in the suburbs of St. Louis, Missouri. In pursuit of higher education, he enlisted into the US Air Force with the great fortune of serving six years

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as a Korean Cryptologic Language Analyst, spending two years learning Korean in Monterey, California. After being stationed in Maryland, Spencer pursued networking and community building within the international adoption community in the Greater Washington DC metropolitan. There, he has served on the board for Adoption Links, DC, where he later connected with Connect-A-Kid in 2015 as Social Media Manager. Aside from community involvement, Spencer is pursuing a career in the federal government and actively training and competing in the ice sport of curling.

#### **Switzer, Suzanne**

Suzanne Switzer, MS, has been involved with the adoption community since her pre-teens and part of the KAAN family since 2008. She grew up in Denver, CO, and made her first trip back to South Korea at age seven, accompanied by her American parents. At that time, an informal birth search was requested and seven years later, Suzanne found her biological parents, extended family, older brother, and identical twin sister. Since then, Suzanne has remained in contact with her Korean family and has made multiple trips back to visit. Suzanne is an avid speaker and participant at a variety of national adoption and adoptee conferences, culture camps, and transracial parenting groups. Suzanne recently returned from living in South Korea, working with Global Overseas Adoptee's Link (GOA'L), International Korean Adoptee Service Inc. (InKAS), and various Korean orphanages, while also teaching English, between 2011 and 2015. Currently, Suzanne is the Program Director for Parker Personal

Care Homes, a company that assists families and children with developmental disabilities. She also has an extensive background working in child welfare and the foster care system.

#### **Wager, Alex Myung**

Alex Myung Wager was adopted from South Korea and raised in Albany, NY. In 2005, he moved to NYC where he graduated from the School of Visual Arts with a BFA in 2D Animation. He has spent the past five years working as a Tech Designer for companies such as Tiffany's, Diane von Furstenberg, DKNY, and 3.1 Phillip Lim. Alex recently finished his first independently animated short film, "Arrival," and has spent the last year screening it at various film festivals internationally.

#### **Walker, Tynishia**

Tynishia Walker, LLMSW, is a queer, multiracial-black, transracially adopted social justice educator working at the University of Michigan's LGBTQ Resource Center. She uses her social work education to advocate for LGBTQ inclusion and hopes to one day work at the intersection of adoption and identity development focused on racial, sexuality, and gender identities.

#### **Williams, Mariette**

Mariette Williams, MS, is a transracial adoptee born in Jeremie, Haiti. She was adopted at the age of three and grew up near Vancouver, B.C. In 2015, she reunited with her birth mother and several members of her birth family. She has been featured in *The Atlantic*, *For Harriet*, and *Canada Adopts*, and she has curated a collection of adoption stories on her website ([marietwilliams.com](http://marietwilliams.com)). She is a columnist for the *Lost Daughters*

collective and a contributing author to *Black Anthology: Adult Adoptees Claim Their Space*.

#### **Yost, Alyson**

Alyson Yost, BSN, RN-BC, CHPN, was adopted at four months old from Busan, South Korea. She returned back to Korea in 2010 with G.O.A.L.'s First Trip Home, and she is currently involved in local adoptee groups in central Pennsylvania. Alyson has worked as a Registered Nurse at Hershey Medical Center for the past 10 years. She resides in Harrisburg, PA, with her husband and two children (Emma and Carter).

#### **Zhou, Xiang**

Xiang Zhou, MA, is a fourth-year doctoral student in the counseling psychology program at the University of Minnesota. Xiang's research focuses on ethnic-racial identities and its impact on mental health under a transnational framework. He is also currently developing a manualized treatment to retain and engage ethnic and racial minority families in parenting programs.

#### **Zielaskowski, Becca**

Becca Zielaskowski, BBA, is currently working on her master's degree in Public Health at the CUNY School of Public Health. She lives in the Bronx and is married to a Korean adoptee. This is her second KAAN conference.

#### **Zielaskowski, Kate**

Kate Zielaskowski, MS, is an adult adoptee who was adopted from Seoul as an infant. She earned master's degrees in social psychology and experimental psychology and is currently a research coordinator at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She lives in the Bronx with her wife and two dogs.