Statement of Solidarity with the AAPI Community

To All Members of the University Community,

The undersigned faculty and staff of the University of Richmond are saddened and outraged by the murders of eight people, six of them Asian and Asian American women, in spas near Atlanta, Georgia earlier this week. It is undeniable that incidents of harassment and violence against Asian Americans are sharply on the rise.

Since the start of the pandemic, Asian Americans have increasingly been targeted and attacked, as repugnant anti-Asian conspiracy theories have spread. The fear and anxiety in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities is palpable.

We stand in solidarity with AAPI people and communities and our Asian international students, recognizing that our values as a University community include diversity, equity, inclusion and love for humanity. We grieve with you for your losses, and we empathize with your pain. When part of our community is not safe, we must stand up against all hatred, racism and violence and work to make love, acceptance and peace prevail.

We seek to meet our words with action. First and foremost, we invite members of our University community to become educated about recent attacks on AAPI communities (some useful resources are provided below). We can also seek out, listen to, and strengthen our relationships with relatives, friends, neighbors, strangers and members of our University community who identify as AAPI or are Asian international students. We can call on Congress to act by passing two House resolutions that condemn this rising tide of racist hatred and aim to curb the damaging effects of anti-Asian bias and violence.

Let us reach out to provide comfort to those who are mourning. Let us find the strength and inspiration to use every ounce of strength we have in the service of building a world of inclusion, justice and peace.

Links to resources:
- AAPI hate reporting center
- The National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum
- Asian American Feminist Collective
- Reports of AAPI hate crimes
- Self Evident: a podcast of Asian American stories
- Not So Slight: Combating mAcroaggressions (Registration Site)

Signed,
Samuel A. Abrash
Ross Whitney-Abrash
Joanna Wares
Bedelia Richards
Mari Lee Mifsud
Julie Laskaris
Monti Narayan Datta
Ernest McGowen
Kristjen Lundberg
Kristine Nolin
Jennifer Cable
Eric Anthony Grollman
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Diana Trinh
Omar A. Quintero-Carmona
Christopher Corts
Stephanie Spera
Lidia Radi
Anthony Russell
Matthew Oware
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Melissa Ooten
Mia Reinoso Genoni
Crystal L. Hoyt
Melinda A. Yang
Julietta Singh
Andrea Y. Simpson
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Laura A. Webb
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Kasongo Kapanga
Doron Samuel-Siegel
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Martha Merritt
Luke Norris
Zara Sibtain
Kerry Albright Fankhauser
Janet D. Hutchinson
Joel B. Eisen
Da Lin
Elizabeth Schiller
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Molly Lentz-Meyer
Daniel Schaffa
Jim Gibson
Hayes Holderness
Jessica Erickson
Susan D. Dudley
Lisa Miles
Kim Edwards
Patricia Herrera
Tamar R. Schwartz
Meredith Johnson Harbach
Maja E. White
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Michelle Heck
Camilla W. Nonterah
Jack Preis
Ashley R. Dobbs
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Jonathan Stubbs
Kym Osterbind
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Julie Pollock
Alem Areki
Mary Finley-Brook
Georgia Osborne
Lauren Henley
Julie Baker
Wade Downey
Carrie Wu
Timothy Barney
Sara Hanson
Angelika Vugteveen
Kristine Grayson
Margaret Ivey
Joanne Even
John M. Warrick
Sharon Feldman
Jessie Fillerup
Cheryl Pallant
Jasleen Singh
Cory Schutter
Scott Tilghman
Dean Simpson
Joanna Drell
Heather Hogg
John Adams
Sue Young
Tequita Hawkins
Nicki Pugh
Maren Reiner
Orlanda Stevens
Carol Parish
Michele Cox
John Treadway
Noah Sachs
Abdullah Kumas
Roger Mancastroppa
Michael Dixon
Emmeline Reeves
Laura Runyen-Janecky
Julie McConnell
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Tanja Softic Kylie Korsnack
Nathaniel Ayers
Walter Schoen
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Angie Hilliker
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Natalie McCauley
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Jeremy Drummond
Nathan Snaza
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Erica Riesbeck

Addendum
As I do not sign letters which can be modified by the general public, I am attaching this image.

I stand in solidarity with AAPI people and communities and our Asian international students always, and particularly in this time of increased targeting and attacks.

Rebecca Crootof
March 28, 2021