



SASE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

CHAE LEE

YEAR:	JUNIOR
MAJOR:	CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
BOARD POSITION:	PRESIDENT
RUNNING MATE:	DIANE NGUYEN

INTRODUCTION

Hello everyone, my name is Chae Lee, and I am a junior majoring in chemical engineering. I was born in Korea, raised in New Jersey, and came to Minnesota for college. I really had to learn to be extroverted, and now, I love meeting new people. One way that I believe is the best way to connect with others is through food; buying it, cooking it, eating it. If you are ever looking for someone to eat a meal with, I will never hesitate to join you (except w/ COVID-19 precautions)! Furthermore, I love to spend time with the people important to me. I believe that you should only surround yourself with people that will support you, push you to be better, and be there for you when you need them. I am really lucky to have met the people in my life (esp my SASE fam) that positively influence me.

WHY SASE LEADERSHIP?

I want to run for leadership, because I see the potential for SASE to grow in so many different ways. My passion for SASE drives me to become a better board member, better mentor, and better person overall. Through previous leadership positions, I've learned to separate my personal and professional feelings as well as how to network with companies and other chapters in SASE. I have so many visions for SASE as we shift back to being in person



and I can see the influence that SASE @ UMN will have in our community. We have a solid foundation, and now it is time to build up. I want to be a leader to contribute to SASE's growth and support SASE as much as I possibly can. As president, I was able to connect with my board members to learn about their own personal goals and lives. I took into account everyone's goals and opinions and brought them together as a team for an overarching goal of making SASE better. I want to continue to do this and encourage my team to know that there are no limits to what we can do. The people that I surround myself not only support me but teach me, and I also hope to learn as a leader how to grow and be the best I can be for my team.

WHAT DOES SASE MEAN TO YOU?

One of the hardships that I struggled with when moving to Minnesota was finding a community and group of friends that not only accepted me for who I was but helped me to grow to be a better person. During spring semester of freshman year, I attended SASE events purely because of the delicious food that they served at each event. It was nice to go to an event where I didn't have to cook or buy Asian comfort food. I went for the food but I stayed for the people. SASE members were very welcoming and offered a conversation even when I was too shy and awkward to talk to them. Because of that, I realized how much I cared and loved about SASE. After joining the board, I believe that I made the right decision. SASE has not only taught me to grow professionally by fully funding conferences, they taught me to grow as a board member as I learned leadership qualities from each and every person. I learned about diligence, passion, love, and friendship. SASE is my support, my teacher, and my community. I hope to give back to SASE what they have given to me, and to continuously keep learning from them.

WHAT/WHERE DO YOU WANT SASE TO BE BY THE END OF YOUR TERM?

I would wish that, at the end of my term, SASE would have the opportunity to host in person events again. SASE has grown a lot despite it being online,



but online events had limitations such as the difficulty of creating interpersonal relationships and decreased cultural events due to restrictions on sharing foods. SASE grew immensely in our professional and outreach pillars, but we saw difficulty in our cultural pillars. At the end of my term, I hope to maintain our professional growth and company contacts while also being able to grow our cultural goals from the previous year: encouraging collaborations with pan-Asian student organizations to represent underrepresented Asian communities. I also hope to maintain our connections with the Hmong College Prep Academy through SASE Jr. and to give them more tangible experiences to help enhance their applications for college. Some of our professional development plans involve funding SASE Labs to expand upon their workshops (a new initiative from this year) to be more interactive and engaging. Some ideas include a mechanical keyboard building workshop, a PC building workshop, etc. that would be completely funded by SASE. I believe that Diane and I were able to grow SASE as much as possible despite it being online, but we see so much potential as we transition back to in person. Being online taught us the value of connections across national and regional SASE chapters. Thus, it led us to hosting the Midwest Virtual Networking Event, an event that I had the pleasure of leading with a team that included chapters all over the Midwest region. We were able to have seven companies collaborate with us in this Networking event and had over 75 attendees. I believe that if we were given the chance, we have the ability to host the Midwest Regional Conference at UMN. Finally, I also just wish that our general members have their own personal professional and cultural growth through SASE along with a passion to teach and show others.

