

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Greetings Facilities Management Team,

I am incredibly proud of our FM team for their welcoming and accepting values of everyone within our department and at CSU. May is a month to celebrate Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. It began in 1979 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week, taking place the first week of May. The week-long celebration lasted until 1990 when Congress passed a law designating the whole month to [Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) Heritage](#) awareness. May was chosen because of the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States in May 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad in May 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants who often took on the most dangerous and difficult labor.

Today, Asian Americans face discrimination and hate crimes due to xenophobic narratives and fear fueled by the pandemic. Please review [these resources](#) about reporting hate crimes, supporting Asian American businesses and organizations, and addressing Coronavirus racism, as well as mental health support information. With the rise in hate crimes toward AAPI people, I think it's important for communities to continue talking about our diversity of experiences and backgrounds. I was inspired by the Women's History Month stories that members of our team shared and would like to do something similar.



My AAPI ties are through my mother, Anita Satterly, who was Filipino. I take great pride that both my parents encouraged my siblings and I to embrace our Filipino heritage. My life continues to be influenced by and made richer as I learn more and experience Filipino history, culture, food and values.

Filipinos take pride in their families. Whether you are part of the immediate family or a distant relative, you are treated as family. Even my parents' closest friends were considered family. As a result, I had many aunts and uncles because this was how we addressed both relatives and my parent's friends. A connection to my heritage is a map of the **Philippine Islands, home to over 7,000 islands**. This particular map was hand-drawn by one of my mother's uncles in the 1930s, and is proudly displayed in our home.

Growing up I enjoyed a variety of Filipino and Asian dishes my mother prepared. Philippine cuisine is rich in its bold flavor, evolved from mixed cuisine of Spanish, Chinese, and American influences. Some of my favorites are Adobo, Pansit, and Lumpia. **Adobo** is marinated meat (chicken or

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pork) in vinegar and spices. **Pansit** is a noodle dish influenced heavily by the Chinese. **Lumpia** is the Filipino version of the Chinese spring roll. My mother and her friends often prepared large amounts of lumpia to sell for fund raising, easily selling out and generating money to support community events and scholarships. **Fried Rice** with bold Filipino flavoring is a dish I learned to prepare, and still do; it brings back fond memories of my mother's cooking.

During my youth, I learned about both dance and music through participation in the Filipino Association of Galveston, Texas. **Tinikling** is the national dance of the Philippines, and is a traditional folk dance which originates from the Spanish colonial era. The dance involves two people beating, tapping, and sliding bamboo poles on the ground and against each other in coordination with one or more dancers who step over and in between the poles in a dance—similar to jump rope. As a teenager, I worked one end of the two bamboo poles while dancers weaved among the moving poles. [Watch this video](#) of the UCLA student organization performing the tinikling. (The blindfolded moves at 5:05 are impressive).

As a child I collected football trading cards. My father drew my attention to a particular card—that of NFL Quarterback **Roman Gabriel**. He is notable for being the **first NFL quarterback of Filipino-American descent**. A two-time collegiate All-American and an academic All-American, he was a role model who I could proudly look up to, excelling in academics and sports. At 6 ft. 5 inches and 220 pounds, Gabriel was the tallest quarterback in NFL history when he started playing. An NFL Most Valuable Player, he was considered by many fans to have been one of the best players at that position during his career.

In 1994 the Institute of Texan Cultures recognized my mother as an influential Texan of Filipino descent. Captain Anita Perdiz Satterly became a chief nurse and regional administrator for the U.S. Public Health Service. Following my mother's lead, I continue to share my Filipino heritage with my children—and now with our FM community.

Thank you for allowing me to share,



Tom Satterly, P.E.
Associate Vice President for Facilities Management



Pictured here is my daughter, Mariana, and I at the Institute in San Antonio, Texas with an image of my mother in the background.

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