

Pan-Asian American Community House

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Greetings from PAACH!

Welcome to the second annual issue of the Pan-Asian American Community House's Summer newsletter! In November 2005, PAACH celebrated its Fifth Year Anniversary, welcoming back to campus alumni, former staff, current students, current staff, friends—everyone who has been a part of our success. We welcomed home over 50 alumni to the celebration, held on campus in Houston Hall. In addition, PAACH's first Director, Dr. Karen Su was in attendance, flying in from Chicago to be a part of the evening. Along with Karen, former Director Dr. Ajay Nair and former staff members Yen Ling Shek and Dharma Naik also returned to share the evening. The evening was a culmination of numerous hours of planning, overseen by PAACH's Office Coordinator, Mrs. Kusum Soin. Kusum worked with students Brian Redondo

(C'05), Pamela Orozco (W/N'08), and Haijing Qiu (C'07) to plan a memorable evening for all. The night began with a welcome from Associate Vice Provost Terry Corn, whose constant support of PAACH and all the cultural centers at Penn help us to thrive. The evening was filled with speeches from those who helped to establish PAACH at Penn, including Ms. Hoa Duong (C'01), one of the students most passionate and involved in helping to bring about PAACH. She told the tale of how we got our name—"PAACH" sounded like "patch", and this center was seen as a way in which to help patch up a quilt of diversity on our campus. Dr. Rosane Rocher and Mr. Joseph Sun were presented "Friends of PAACH" awards for their continual support of PAACH's mission. A slideshow of our programs, events, speakers,

guests, and open houses, reminded many alumni of their younger days at Penn, and performances by Penn Masala (who also performed at PAACH's grand opening in 2000) and a skit by the "PAACH Regulars" (finished with a rousing rendition of "Build me up, Buttercup") helped to bring levity and entertainment to the evening. The night ended with a toast by Karen Su and Kusum Soin as we all toasted and vowed to come together in 2010 to celebrate PAACH's tenth year.



(L to R): Karen Su, June Chu, Yen Ling Shek, Ajay Nair, Kusum Soin, and Dharma Naik

PAACH Award Honorees

PAACH Awards were presented at PAACH's first Annual Senior Send-off barbecue held at the Greenfield Intercultural Center on April 24th. Senior awards went to Mehreen Hossain (W'06) and Wesley Nakamura (C'06). The Community Involvement

Award was presented to James Lin (C'06) and the Bengali Student Association. Ms. Eleanor Hing Fay, from PAACH's Advisory Board and Penn's Corporate and Foundation Relations Department was the recipient of the Dr. Rosane Rocher Award

and Wilson Tong (C'09) and Artina Shiekh (C'08) were presented with the PAACH Rising Leader Award. The South Asia Society was named the Outstanding Student Organization in this, their 25th Year at Penn.



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Special points of interest:

- PAACH's Fifth Anniversary Celebrated in November 2005
- South Asia Society Celebrates 25 Years at Penn
- Asian Pacific Student Coalition works to build from the "inside-out"
- Shiella Cervantes (C'04) joins PAACH as Associate Director
- Join us for Asian Pacific American Heritage Week (APAHW): October 30-November 5, 2006

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What is the Asian Pacific Student Coalition? By Jun Li C'07

The Asian Pacific Student Coalition (APSC) exists as a unifying alliance of twenty APIA student groups on campus. Over the past 11 years, we have served to represent the



interests and causes of the APIA community to the University administration. We have also functioned to promote and celebrate the richness of the Asian Pacific American culture, facilitate communication between student groups, advocate for PAACH and Asian American Studies (ASAM), and provide a forum for issues of student concern.

As we entered the 2006 term this past December, our eight board members had big dreams for the coalition, which were only

made possible by the successes of our predecessors. Adopting our Chair's (Mana Nakagawa, College '07) motto of working "from the inside out," we hoped to approach this year with an attitude of building internally to make changes externally. The goals we set for our term include strengthening the current liaison system, developing a more coherent Asian American alumni network, and increasing awareness of resources for our constituencies.

<http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~apsc>

Internal and External State of APSC By Jun Li C'07

Internal: With an "inside - out" approach, we place a strong emphasis on the coalition deciding as a whole as to what direction APSC would take this year. We started out with an informal "Meet & Greet," a gathering of constituent members, APSC representatives, and the APSC board, to create a forum for collaborations to develop out of friendships. We promoted the use of our newly revamped website (<http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~apsc>) as an online resource center where our constituencies could keep themselves updated about each others' activities, as well as the general welfare of the coalition, and be linked to relevant university resources. The Conference for Achievement Through Asian Pacific Undergraduate Leadership Training (CATAPULT), our January leadership retreat co-sponsored with PAACH, provided the space where we, as a coalition, discussed our vision for APSC after an inspiring day of meeting Hoa Duong C'01, one of the students instrumental in the founding of PAACH. Throughout the year, along with collaborative events such as "Iron Chef" co-hosted by the Korean Student Association (KSA), Chinese Student Association (CSA) and the Japanese Student Association, our constituents continued to put on successful

annual cultural shows including: The Vietnamese Student Association's "Dynasty", Penn Philippine Association's "The Remix", KSA's "GI Cho", CSA's "The Little Red Book", Penn Hawaii Club's Luau, Penn Taiwanese Society's "Tom", and South Asia Society's 25th Anniversary, to name just a few. To celebrate our successful year together, we gathered our constituent groups and held a "Potluck at the Beach", one of the first of its kind for APSC.

External: As an advocate for our student groups, PAACH, and Asian American Studies (ASAM), APSC continues to make progress in its involvement with university affairs. Past key events include the Provost Presentation in early February, where six issues were addressed: facilities (cultural resource centers), increased funding for each Center for student programming, technology support, targeted collaborative funds, central development support, and staff and administrative resources for each Center. Following this presentation, Provost Daniels personally toured the ARCH building, which houses three of our cultural resource centers on campus, and propelled ARCH renovations as a priority on the University's agenda for campus expansion and development. In mid-March, APSC applied for one of the five

Advocacy for our student groups, PAACH, and ASAM

University Council seats for mis/underrepresented student groups, identifying a mental health concern among the APIA community among other issues, and received a seat for the 2006-2007 school year. To close the semester, APSC, together with UMOJA, Latino Coalition, United Minorities Council, and Lambda Alliance, delivered a presentation to the Council of Undergraduate Deans regarding the need to increase diversity in the academic experience.



APSC Chair Mana Nakagawa

Student Perspectives By Wilson Tong C'09

I feel honored and privileged to have been awarded the PAACH 2006 Rising Leader Award. I remember attending the Fifth-Year Anniversary Celebration of PAACH earlier this school year in a packed Bodek Lounge and realizing the tremendous, positive impact that PAACH has on APIA undergraduates at Penn. Now only a rising sophomore, I know that hearing the raw stories from PAACH's founders of the center's evolution from idealistic preoccupation to tangible reality was undoubtedly inspiring. Indeed, I believe that the passion, devotion and enthusiasm of PAACH's initial dreamers continue to embolden APIAs on cam-

pus through not only PAACH's physical existence (soon-to-be significantly renovated), but also its plethora of academic, cultural, political, service and leadership programming and opportunities. As a participant in PAACH's programming, I can personally attest to the invaluable nature of such initiatives as PEER, APALI and APAHW. These programs contributed significantly to my freshman year, assisting my transition to Penn and giving me the support necessary to achieve success in academics and extracurricular leadership, as well as to foster new relationships with classmates, staff and faculty. Most importantly, I believe that PAACH's pro-



grams have provided me with a heightened awareness and better understanding of APIA issues. By further being introduced to the complexities of APIA identity, I am now able to better define and shape my own personal identity and aspirations as a second-generation Chinese American within the APIA community and in the broader society.

South Asia Society Celebrates 25 Years at Penn By Swathi Bonda W'08

This past April, the South Asia Society was proud to celebrate the silver anniversary of their founding. To commemorate this milestone, SAS organized a series of events from March 30th to April 2nd including: a kickoff party, outdoor cultural fair or "mela," community banquet and (of course) the traditional spring cultural program. The mela featured booths sponsored by South Asian partner organiza-

tions and performances by emerging South Asian groups. The banquet was a chance for everyone to reflect on SAS's growth from its humble beginnings. The evening's highlights included speeches by past board members as well as a video montage of past SAS shows. The cultural program, entitled "Ab Tak..25," had a record number of participants and included acts that not only represented the

South Asian culture of today, but also included traditional and retro themes. All in all, the SAS 25th anniversary celebrations were met with great success and demonstrated how much the organization had evolved as well as the incredible potential for future growth.

For more information about SAS alumni programs, please contact sasboard@email.com. Information about our organization can be found at www.sasboard.org

PAACH Welcomes New Associate Director, Shiella Cervantes C'04



Shiella Cervantes is a proud Penn alumnae, having graduated with a major in Anthropology and a minor in Asian American Studies. After personally going through PAACH's programs, such as APALI and APAHW, and having been involved in several APIA organizations on campus including the Penn Philippine Association and Oracle Senior Society, she is very excited to come back

to the center. As Associate Director, she works with and advises PAACH programs (APALI, PEER, APAHW, CATA-PULT) as well as individual students and student organizations. She has had the privilege of witnessing PAACH's growth and development since the beginning and is looking forward to being a part of its promising future. In addition to APIA related issues, Shiella's other interests include **not** going to the gym and supporting the arts, especially independent music and movies.

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Work Study Students:
Marianne Mondt (C'08), Luis Chia (C'07),
Haijing Qiu (C'07) & Nina Wong (C'07)

Notes from this year...

In brief...the Asian Pacific American Leadership Initiative (APALI), facilitated by Wesley Nakamura (C'06) and Mehreen Hossain (W'06), continued strong, empowering a new group of APIA leaders on our campus. We welcome Luis Chia (C'07) and Artina Shiekh (C'08) as the facilitators for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007. The Promoting Enriching Experiences and Relationships (PEER) Mentoring Program continued to evolve as well, under the direction of Afsheen Ali (W'07) and Johnny Wang (W'06), adding a community service component to the program's scope. PEER remains the only mentoring program campus specifically geared towards freshman who are interested in APIA identity and concerns on

Penn's campus and will be overseen in Fall 2006-Spring 2007 by Afsheen Ali and Elaine Khoong (C'07). Luis Chia (C'07) and Peggy Leung (C'08) were named McNair Scholars, a program for first generation college students who are tracking for their doctorate degrees. Wesley Nakamura (C'06) was recipient of the UPAAN Senior Award. In Fall 2005, the Asian Pacific American Heritage Week (APAHW) 2005 Committee and PAACH welcomed actor B.D. Wong (TV's Law and Order) to campus as our Keynote Speaker for our celebration of culture. Acclaimed Korean American author, Chang-rae Lee ("Native Son" and "Aloft") was also a part of the APAHW lineup. APAHW 2005's Charity Gala

raised over \$1300 for SOS Boat People to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. In Spring 2006, PAACH and the APAHW 2006 committee welcomed Korean American author Helie Lee ("Still Life with Rice") to campus, to discuss her documentary "Macho Like Me", which chronicled the time she spent living her life as a man and the challenges faced by an Asian American man.



University of Pennsylvania Asian Alumni Network (UPAAN)

Penn Alum!

Check out UPAAN!

Did you know that there is an alumni organization just for YOU? Join UPAAN—the University of Pennsyl-

vania's Asian Alumni Network. Like PAACH, UPAAN is five years old and your participation is critical to its success. PAACH and UPAAN work collaboratively to ensure that alumni are aware of

events in their area designed to create a network of APIA colleagues, mentors and friends. For more information, please check their website at: www.upaan.org or contact PAACH to get connected!

Alumni Spotlight: Gizelle Gopez C'05

Gizelle Gopez (C'05) currently resides in Stamford, Connecticut, working for the non-profit disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization, AmeriCares, as an International Associate for the Asia-Pacific region. She assists in the design, management, and evaluation of long-term on-going healthcare programs with in-field healthcare partners in Bangladesh,

Cambodia, China, North Korea, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Gizelle hopes to reconnect with Penn's APIA student groups to collaborate on how Asian Americans can help to proactively educate, advocate and address need in overlooked international Asian communities. Gizelle graduated with a double degree in Political Science and Urban

Studies with a minor in Asian American Studies. As an active member of the Penn APIA community, she was involved with Penn Philippine Association, PEER, APALI, Oracle and Sphinx (Honor Societies) and many other groups. Gizelle was the recipient of the 2005 UPAAN Senior Award as well as the 2005 PAACH Senior Award.



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<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/paach/Home/>