



# Pan-Asian American Community House

## Hello from PAACH!

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### Learn more about PAACH!

- Celebrate our Fifth Year Anniversary with us!
- Join us for Homecoming Weekend Brunch on November 6, 10:30am. RSVP to kusums@pobox.upenn.edu

As you may know, PAACH will celebrate a milestone this Fall—in November 2005 we will celebrate our Fifth Year Anniversary. We will be holding a brunch and round table discussion during Homecoming (November 6) and hope you can join us to talk about PAACH's future and also how you might be able to contribute to our growth through your activism. We continue to work with colleagues across campus to ensure that PAACH has a place in undergraduate life programming.

Our signature programs—APALI (Asian Pacific American Leadership Initiative) and PEER (Promoting Enriching Experiences and Relationships)—

remain strong and have continued to receive support from the Provost's Diversity Fund. We also continue with CATAPULT, held in the spring for newly elected officers of various organizations on campus. This past year Penn also hosted the ECAASU (East Coast Asian American Student Union) conference, which brought over 800 APIA (and non-APIA) students to campus. We continue to work closely with the APSC (Asian Pacific Student Coalition), supporting their goal of creating a unified APIA voice on campus. Again we are fortunate to be working with such dynamic student leaders who are working to create tangible change on campus.

If you are ever in town please stop by to visit us—we welcome you back to your PAACH family with open arms and would love to get an update from you!



Alida Meghji (College '05) and Matt Tsai (College '05): 2004-2005 APALI Facilitators

### In Brief...

Gizelle Gopez (College '05) received the UPAAN Senior Award...Lulu Liu (College/Wharton '05) was awarded the James Brister Society Senior Award...The South Asia Society and Club Singapore held successful fund-raiser events to benefit Tsunami Relief...In Fall 2004 PAACH sponsored a lecture/discussion with Srimati Kamala, Director of the Gandhi Memorial in Washington, D.C...In Spring 2005 the Korean Students Association, APSC, and PAACH invited Hot 97's Miss Info to discuss the Tsunami Song Incident...PAACH Advisory Board member, Aileen Kyung Kim, worked with PAACH to conduct a Career Services Workshop to discuss career options outside of medicine, law, and finance...Victoria Tung (College '02) named Executive Director of Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in Washington, DC...PAACH's Advisory Board pledged \$935 as a show of their commitment to programming at PAACH...do you have news? Email and update us for the next issue!

### PAACH "Meet and Greet" Events in your neighborhood!

As part of the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life (VPUL), the four cultural resource centers have embarked on a new collaborative project to further our commitment to supporting alumni of color. A "Meet and Greet" event was held in October 2004 in Philadelphia, where alumni were invited to meet the staff, students, and alumni of the cultural centers while also learning about the programming at each center. In April 2005 a second "Meet and Greet" was held at the Penn Club in New York City, where the Cultural Resource Center/VPUL video was premiered (<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/video.html>). PAACH's own Brian Redondo (College '05) can be heard talking about how PAACH has been a part of his Penn career. Further events are planned for the upcoming year—in October 2005 we are planning to be in Washington, D.C. and in November 2005 there are tentative plans for "Meet and Greet" events in California. If we do not have your current updated contact information please forward it to us so we can make sure you are invited when we visit your neighborhood.

## APALI

APALI is in its fourth year of existence and it has grown in leaps and bounds. Many of you may even have participated in it as a student at Penn. APALI is a program designed to foster leadership skills and exposure to Asian Pacific American (APA) issues among students at Penn. By drawing together students with a variety

of interests, this program ultimately creates a stronger community at Penn as well as cultivates leaders for Penn and beyond. Topics covered this year included: racial profiling of APA's post 9-11, public speaking skills, community and coalition building and gender issues to name a few.

Wesley Nakamura (College '06)

and Mehreen Hossain (Wharton '06) will serve as the APALI facilitators for the new academic year. In its four year span APALI has reached 148 students as well as provided leadership opportunities for 12 seniors to facilitate sessions.



APALI Fall 2004

## PEER Mentoring

The PEER Mentoring Program is an initiative developed by PAACH to meet the needs of incoming freshmen. PEER's mission is to provide incoming freshmen the skills and tools necessary for future leadership initiatives on Penn's campus. Sophomores, juniors and seniors are selected to participate as mentors, and incoming freshman are self-selected to participate as mentees. Mentors must go through an application and inter-

view process while mentees submit an application to participate once they have been admitted to Penn.

PEER focuses on the academic, social, emotional and intellectual growth of students, with particular emphasis on: adjusting to the University of Pennsylvania and college life, promoting mental and emotional health, strengthening leadership skills, raising awareness of group dynamics and

leadership styles, and cultivating a strong APA community at Penn.

PEER has held many events including a field day, ice cream social, volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House and attending First Fridays in the City.

PEER is a critical program serving to create a sense of community at the very start.

Leadership,  
mentoring and  
community at  
Penn

## CATAPULT

In Spring 2005, PAACH facilitated the Conference on Achievement Through Asian Pacific Undergraduate Leadership Training (CATAPULT). CATAPULT is a day long training for board members of organizations affiliated with PAACH and was held this year on campus at the LGBT Carriage House. We see CATAPULT as a means to create dialogue between various groups on campus whose core goal is to support the APIA community at Penn.

Kusum Soin (PAACH Office Coordinator) began the day with an ice breaker (it was a Saturday morning, after all!), June Chu (PAACH Director) and Dharma Naik (PAACH Associate Director) facilitated a "Jeopardy" game to discuss APA history nationally and at Penn. APSC Chair Nina Wong (College '07) and Vice Chair Wesley Nakamura (College '06) facilitated a session on collaborations between groups as well

as leadership concerns for the respective organizations.

Board members from the Chinese Students Association, Bengali Student Association, Taiwanese Students Association, Korean Students Association, Japanese Students Association, alpha Kappa Delta Phi, Asian Student Union, Penn Philippine Association, and the Vietnamese Student Association were among some of the attendees.

## PAACH Awards

PAACH Awards were presented at the Senior Banquet held at the Inn at Penn on April 25th. Senior awards went to Brian Redondo and Gizelle Gopez. The Commu-

nity Involvement Award was presented to Fong Wa Chung and the Bengali Students Association. Dharma Naik was presented with the Dr. Rosane Rocher Award and the Penn

Philippine Association was named the Outstanding Student Organization. Nina Wong and Mana Nakagawa were presented with the Rising Leader Award.

## ECAASU

In the Spring of 2004, Penn bid against Yale University, the University of CT, and Drexel University to successfully win the bid to host the ECAASU Conference. PAACH staff worked from Fall 2003-Spring 2005 to support and advise the ECAASU committees. The spring and summer of 2004 were busy recruiting students to join the planning committee and things were fully under way by the end of the summer. Brian Redondo '05 and Karen Kim '05 served as the Executive Co-Chairs of ECAASU 2005 among other countless individuals including, faculty, staff and community members who devoted their time, energy and ideas to ensuring the success of ECAASU. Behind the scenes at ECAASU were a myriad of students: Wesley Nakamura '06, James Lin '06 and Megha Narayan '05 headed the Programming Committee, Liya Wang '05 and Zeyen Wu '05 oversaw the Finance Committee, Matt Tsai '05 headed the Entertainment Committee, Terry Shu '06 oversaw Logistics, Nina Wong '07 headed External Affairs, Frank Chu '06 oversaw Volunteers, and Anjali Kulkarni '05, Rohini Khanna '05 and Puneet Verma '05 oversaw Networking.

Co-sponsors helped to make the

event a success and the fundraising committee was supported by many of Penn's Offices including the Vice Provost for University Life, Asian American Studies, the Dean's Office, Tangible Change, and PAACH, as well as external donors.

ECAASU was held the weekend of February 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 on Penn's campus with an attendance of 850 plus students and facilitators. The theme of the conference was "Impact: Our own making" with the track themes of awareness, tangible change and personal empowerment. Friday night was host to a student talent showcase, followed by an energizing evening of professional performers which included Blue Scholars, Penn Masala, the 101 Project, comedian Alladin Ullah and a special performance by The Pacifics on Saturday night at the Trocadero. Ms. Christina Lagdameo of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) in Washington, DC served as the morning plenary speaker, followed by a riveting performance by the spoken word group Yellow Rage. Ms. Su-

chin Pak of MTV Fame served as the conference Keynote speaker. Saturday's workshops brought back alumni who helped with facilitating (including Julia Lee '04, Dana Nakano '04, Clarence Tong '04, Shiella Cerventes '04, Phorllie Hong '03, Jason Chan '02, Franklin Shen, Eugena Oh '02, and Victoria Tung '02). Workshop topics included: "Biculturalism", "APAs in mainstream media", "APA Responses to Stereotypes", "Justice for APA/Filipino Veterans", "Queer API Women and Identity", "South Asian American Education", "Using the Internet to Advocate for Change", and "Yellow Journalism" to name just a few.

All in all it was an invigorating, tiring and bonding experience for all involved and who attended, and really put Penn on the map for APA activism and community building on the national scene.

For more information see [www.ecaasuatpenn.org](http://www.ecaasuatpenn.org).



*ECAASU Co-Chairs  
Karen Kim and Brian  
Redondo*

**ECAASU at Penn  
2005**

**Impact: Our  
Own Making**

## Penn Asian Alumni Network

Did you know that there is an alumni organization just for YOU? Join UPAAN—the University of Pennsylvania's Asian Alumni Network. UPAAN is in its infancy (compared to the other Diversity Alliance Alumni groups) and your

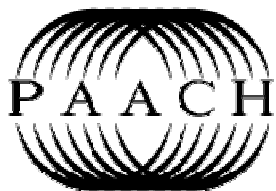
participation is critical to its success. PAACH and UPAAN work collaboratively to ensure that alumni are aware of events in their area designed to create a network of APIA colleagues, mentors and friends. UPAAN's website

includes updated information about alumni events in various parts of the country as well as updated job listings.

For more information, please check their website at: [www.upaan.org](http://www.upaan.org).



*Gizelle Gopez (College '05), recipient of UPAAN's Senior Award with Kusum Soin and Dr. Rosane Roher.*



## Who opens the PAACH Doors every day?

*June Y. Chu, Director*

Hello! I am a graduate of the University of California, Davis, where I completed my Ph.D. in Social (Cultural) Psychology. At Davis, my research focused on the mental well-being of Asian American populations and I am particularly glad to be a part of PAACH because it allows me to work with the APIA population to support the personal success of undergrads at Penn. In addition to my duties at PAACH, I also

serve on President Gutmann's Council on Affirmative Action, the University of Pennsylvania's Student Invention Services Team, was appointed Chair of the Scholarship Committee for the Women of Color Program and will teach in Asian American Studies during the Spring '06 semester. I am an animal loving vegetarian and consider myself a Californian (although I was born in Connecticut). I am a second-

generation Chinese American and take great pride in the successes of my immigrant parents and my younger brother Patrick. One of the joys in my life is our family dog Puck, who is a mini-dachshund and made quite a number of friends when he visited PAACH this past winter. In addition to serving as PAACH Director I am a certified group exercise and spinning instructor and teach at Penn's Pottruck Gym.

*Dharma Naik, Associate Director*

Hello dear alumni! My name is Dharma Naik and I am a graduate of the College Student Personnel Program at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park. I was born and raised in England and moved to the U.S. (Maryland) in 1995. I am a proud Terp for Life, having attended UMD as an undergraduate also. I have also worked at American University in D.C. as an Admissions Counselor prior to matriculat-

ing in graduate school. I serve on PAACH's Advisory Board and have also taught in the ASAM Program at Penn. In my capacity as Associate Director I work with and advise PAACH programs (APALI, PEER, APAHW, CATA-PULT) as well as with individual students and student organizations affiliated with the Pan-Asian American community on campus. I have been with PAACH for 2 years now

and my research interests include the racial identity development of Asian American, particularly South Asian American college students. I have a broad background working in higher education. My other interests include reading books by Asian Pacific American, particularly South Asian authors, and anything related to Harry Potter or food!

Supporting the needs  
of Penn's Asian  
American and Pacific  
Islander communities

*Kusum Soin, Office Coordinator*

I am the oldest member of the PAACH family and I will celebrate my 5th year at PAACH this December along with the center. I work as the Office Coordinator and take care of the PAACH budget, planning of events and making sure that day to day operations go smoothly. I love working at PAACH and admire the students, and it is a second home to me.

I was born in India and am the oldest child in my family. Having lived in Kuwait for 10 years, I came to the United

States with my family during the Iraq/Kuwait war in the early 90s.

I have an Associates degree in Architecture and worked in India and Kuwait for 16 years. I have two daughters and a son. My eldest daughter and my husband are Penn alums, and my second daughter is a junior at Penn. My son is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Julia R Masterman School.

In my spare time I enjoy cooking and eating exotic food. I also like to watch movies and make jewelry that I sell on

weekends at craft shows. My entire family and I also love to travel.

I was the recipient of the Women of Color Faculty/Staff Award in 2005 and then appointed Chair of the Awards Committee for the Women of Color event for 2006. I also serve as the President of the Association of Indians in America, Philadelphia chapter outside of the work I do at PAACH.



*Nina Wong (College '07)  
and Wesley Nakamura  
(College '06), APSC*