

ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2004

Dedicated Educator Judy Yung

By Tami Hom

Judy Yung, a well-known American Studies professor and active AA/PI community member, is preparing to retire this spring. After working for ten years as a librarian developing Asian American studies and Asian language collections, Yung was offered a job at UCSC in the American Studies department teaching Asian American Studies in 1990. Upon her arrival, she created the Asian American Library Collection Endowment which funds the expansion of the AA/PI collection at McHenry Library. Yung recommends students to take advantage of this resource. Her comprehensive research on oral history, Chinese immigrants, and Chinese American women led to her publishing two books at UCSC and gaining a tenured position as a full-time professor.

During my second year, a friend persuaded me to add Yung's Intro to Asian American Studies, and after one lecture I was enthralled. Yung's extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for her work sparked my own curiosity about Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies, and she played a key role in nurturing this interest.

Even with busy office hours and an endless number of students who want to talk with her one on one, she will always make time to see everyone. This shows her unrelenting support and dedication to higher education in all forms.



Photo Courtesy of
www.ucsc.edu

Yung continues to provide encouragement to students. Through advising, supporting research interests, and mentoring student organizers, she teaches that passion is the key to a successful career. Yung wishes to remind students to give back as you take away, and never forget to stand up for your principles

Yung's extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for her work sparked my own curiosity about Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies...

in order to contribute to a positive social change. After retirement, Yung plans on staying in Santa Cruz to continue her research on Chinese women's history and work on a book biography of her husband, Ed Fung. She is eager to maintain contact with the campus community, but her inspirational presence will be missed.

In addition, students expressed what they have to say about their experiences with Judy Yung.

"Judy Yung is an educator dedicated to students and progressive education. She is an avid and active supporter of not only student involvement but also student-initiated projects, specifically the e2: engaging education class. Her support of this student-run

seminar helps to legitimate the kinds of work students do within the institution with regards to academics and activism. Judy Yung is one of those rare educators whose presence and support cultivate critically conscious and active students."

-Ethnic Student Organization Council (ESOC)

Yung continued on page 5

In this Issue...

Senior Quotes last words of wisdom 4

7 "BRAVE NEW WORLD"

3 Bone Marrow Drive
AA/PI Heritage Month pull o
Calendar of Events inside!

Fight for equality H.R. 333 2



Judy Yung:
Student
Quotes 5



H.R. 333 and the Fight for Equality

By Michael Lok

When a number of UCSC students attended the Asian Pacific American Awareness Conference (APAAC) down at UC Irvine last quarter, one of the workshops revolved around House Revolution 333. H.R. 333, a bill introduced by Congressman David Wu in January of 2003, is specifically designated for institutions of higher education that serve Asian American and Pacific Islanders, so that they can apply for special grants and assistance through the U.S. Department of Education.

Similar legislation has passed and benefited Serving Institutions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Native Hawaiians. How-

“Greater rates in higher education do not speak to the overall wellness of the group, nor can success be gauged by so few occurrences of social and economic stability.”

ever, why has the AAPI population been overlooked in this regard? Perhaps this is yet another example of how the “model minority” myth has a negative effect on the AAPI population. “Greater rates in higher education do not speak to the overall wellness of the group,” said by James Nguyen, National Co-Chairman for the National Asian American Student Conference (NAASCON), “nor can success be gauged by so few occurrences of social and economic stability.” Through this bill, it is only asked that the AAPI students receive the same chances as everyone else.

These goods and services provided through H.R. 333 are federally funded, and therefore would not be affected by the recent budget cuts occurring throughout the state. Universities eligible to apply for these grants are required to have a minimum 10% AAPI undergraduate population, plus minimum 50% student population that receive financial aid, get support through federal grants, and are on work-study. Given those criteria, UCSC qualifies as a AAPI Serving Institution, and the passage of H.R. 333 would benefit the AAPI student here.

Currently H.R. 333 is in the Education Subcommittee, and will hopefully be called to a vote by the whole House of Representatives soon. Unlike in the recent elections, this is a bill, which means it is not something citizens directly vote on. However, that does not mean that people do not have the ability to affect the outcome of

such federal legislation. As student advocates taking an active role in our education, we could contact our respective Congressmen, through phone calls, emails, letters, or even setting up appointments with the Congressmen or their staff-members. Our Representatives are required to read and respond to any such correspondence by their constituents, so receiving a hundred letters is not something that they could ignore.

Inspired in the idea of putting support behind the progress and passage of this bill, some of the UCSC students that attended APAAC are considering the possibility of initiating a letter writing campaign on campus, since H.R. 333 stands to benefit a good number of our AAPI students. As student organizers, this is seen as a chance to unite the AAPI community together behind a common goal.

If you are interested in possibly participating in the H.R. 333 letter writing campaign at UCSC, contact Michael Lok (MLok320@yahoo.com) and for more information about H.R. 333 itself, you can reference the NAASCON’s website (www.naascon.org). ■

Multicultural Festival

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**“Freedom Through
 Colorful Voices”**

**Saturday May 22nd
 at Quarry Amphitheatre**

Multicultural Festival is an annual event where ethnic students organizations gather to promote and celebrate multiple cultures. Last year’s performers were Ozomatli and Zion I, come see who performs this year. Come early and enjoy the festival.

Support MCF by purchasing fundraiser tickets, with these tickets you can win many prizes.

For more information:
ucscmcf2004@hotmail.com

Bone Marrow Drive

By Toune Saengsoury

Have you ever wonder if you can save a life? Well, you can! In Fall 2003, Mixed Ethnicities Student Headquarters worked with Lambda Phi Epsilon on a bone marrow drive. MESH held another bone marrow drive in March, registering 23 potential donors. Our goal is to get as many people we can to register because there is such a small percentage of Asian Americans (6%) and Mixed Race (2%) in-



Photo Courtesy of Toune Saengsoury

dividuals in the registry. And with this small percentage, many adults and children treated with leukemia will have a harder time to find a match and potential donor. MESH will keep holding a bone marrow drive to increase the percentages and chances every year. And we hope you'll come out. Thank you so much for those who came out to help register and those who are interested in this cause. If you would like to know more information about the bone marrow drive and want to help out next year, contact me, Toune at polukeko@yahoo.com. To find more info, go to www.mavinfoundation.org and www.aadp.org.

API Coalition Retreat Building Networks and Dialogues

By Joanne Tong

The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) had its first ever retreat on the first weekend of March. Although this event conflicted with another event, the Students of Color Conference at UCSD, thirty plus students from a diverse number of AA/PI organizations showed up. The all day retreat included a two part workshop that was co-facilitated by Nancy Cha, a Coordinator for Residential Education (CRE) at College Nine, and Audrey Kim who is a licensed psychologist at Counseling and Psychological Services.

APIC serves as a coalition for the multiple Asian American/Pacific Islander organizations and community members at UC Santa Cruz. We are still in the process of establishing this organization well into the UCSC community. APIC strives to provide a

safe space for dialogue among students, community members, faculty and staff. Through APIC, we hope that student organizations have the opportunity to provide support for one another, discuss common issues and work on collaborative events. This retreat was meant to bring the API community together to restructure our goals, to recognize our abilities and to reaffirm ourselves as student leaders.

The APIC retreat was an opportunity to build a strong network among student leaders and organizations, and to start friendships. The first part of the workshop asked us to reflect upon our self-identity. The second part helped us gain a better understanding of our place and our involvement with our organizations. As conscious students, we begin to recognize our abilities and our amount of commitments to our API communities. We cannot forget that we are students with academic workloads and we choose to take on responsibilities in our communities. The workshop prompted multiple group discussions and one on one dialogues. Group activities, as well, were all in effort to forge open communication in order to build a stronger API presence at UC Santa Cruz.



Photo Courtesy of Tami Hom



Class of 2004 Last Words of Wisdom

APISA & AA/PIRC presents...

Asian American/Pacific Islander Year-End Ceremony
June 11th 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm @ Music Recital Hall

For more information please contact AA/PIRC @
459-5349 or email aapirc@ucsc.edu.

Kio Tong-Ishikawa, Merrill, Business Management Economics & Asian American Studies



“My advice to all continuing students is to locate, create, and invest in your communities here at UCSC. Getting involved with CSA, JASA, AA/PIRC, InterVarsity, and CBF has blessed me with communities that have been the most influential and rewarding part of my college experience. Without them I would have returned to what was comfortable and missed out on gaining organizational and leadership skills, strengthening my faith, learning more about my culture and identity, and creating lifelong friendships. With that said, I encourage everyone to utilize their resources and invest in their communities.”

Cheryl Mendoza Lingbunan, Merrill, Biology

“I knew from the first day I arrived here that this was “my place.” I felt comfortable and cherished each moment. At the same time, I felt so excited, ‘cause I knew that the next moment would be just as great, if not better. I experienced ‘good times’ and ‘bad times’ during my frosh year...and I loved them all. This appreciation for life made me stay here at UCSC. I knew that no other campus would have contributed to my life like my moments at UCSC did.”



Robert T. Fukumoto, Stevenson, History and Politics



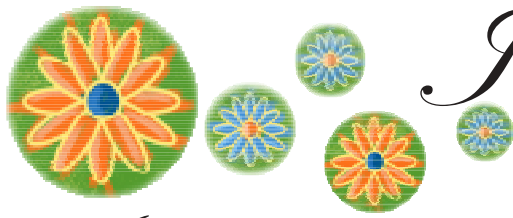
“One thing I would like to say about my experience here at UCSC is one of great engagement with both my fellow students and professors. My advice to the younger students is to take advantage of the fact that the professors here want to help you and get to know you both as a student and as a person. I hope that the current and future students of UCSC take advantage of the unique opportunities that this university offers to you because I have and it made my experience all the more richer.”

Elaine Kam, Crown, Business Management & Economics

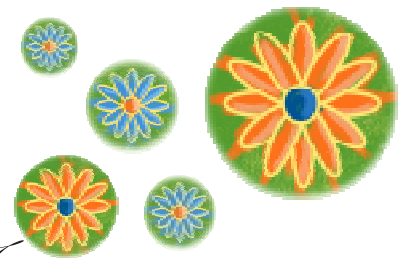
“I remembered my first day at UCSC. I was lost among the trees and feeling afraid that I’d be eaten by a mountain lion some day. However, getting involved in different communities (CSA, EOP, APIC, etc.) kept me here. There are so many opportunities that you wouldn’t know until you discover them. Don’t just sit in front of your computer in your dorm room. Come out, explore your horizons and make your college experience worthwhile!”



Yung continued from page 1



Judy Yung



"Judy's Oral History class has played an influential role in the direction I would like to take in the future. She was able to challenge my perception of history and has given me the tools to create substantial, relevant, and meaningful stories through personal testimonies. Without her assistance I would not have been able to find my niche in academics and bridge American Studies with Film. As my faculty advisor she has been very open and supportive. I would like to thank her for all her help and wish her the best of luck in the future."

-Mateo Reyes, 5th year, American Studies & Film & Digital Media major



Photo courtesy of www.ucsc.edu

"Judy has shared her time, experiences and insights to guide many students, including myself, to pursue projects that shape our own intellectual and socially active interests. She imparts a passion for and imprints the necessity of keeping oral history alive in communities, and has inspired the same in others. When I started the process of writing my senior thesis, Judy showed me where my research could really be of use. She remembers what I'm interested in doing post-graduation, and is a constant source of encouragement to pursue those paths."

-Marisa Louie, 4th year, American Studies & Environmental Studies major

Rhea A. Wenceslao, Oakes, Sociology

"The most influential thing that I gained from my college experience has been through my participation with student organizations. I will be forever grateful to all the folks in APISA, CUSN, and JASA, to name a few, for their friendship, leadership, and support. Shout out to Mi Sorita, thank you for everything! You're my tigger-riffic angel. I luv APISA foreva!"



Ammalinh Navasak, Cowell, Sociology

"Taking advantage of your experience in college isn't just about reading books and listening to lectures, but engaging in activities outside of class that lets you gain invaluable insight from those who surround you."



Joanne Tong, Cowell, Anthropology & History of Art and Visual Culture

"I am extremely thankful to have spent four years at a university with a beautiful campus and beautiful people. And I am eternally grateful to have been in the presence of so many great minds and empowering communities. My education and experiences at UC Santa Cruz have not only taught me to think critically and meaningfully, but have also opened my eyes and mind to a diverse number of issues beyond a conventional college education."



Clothing that Expresses Culture, Resistance, and Aesthetics

By Patrick Ngo

Clothing can be a powerful item. I personally use my clothing as a political statement, cultural preservation, individuality, and aesthetics. I wear this traditional Vietnamese outfit called Áo dài (pronounced roughly: ow yai). I haven't always worn this outfit but as I wear it today, it ultimately has multiple meanings for me. First of all, an Áo dài is a traditional Vietnamese outfit that was commonly dressed in the past. It is a long shirt that resembles a robe and is very similar to Chinese dresses during the Manchurian dynasty. It is commonly made out of silk and in bright colors such as blue, red, yellow, or green. I chose a more subtle color so I wouldn't stand out too much. The dress is a beautiful outfit but not many Vietnamese people, especially Vietnamese American males wear it.



Photo Courtesy of Patrick Ngo

The vast majority of Vietnamese people in the United States today, do not casually wear the traditional áo dài. Globalization and Western influence contributed in abandoning the tradition. Today, the outfit is reserved for special events like the Lunar New Year Festival, Buddhist ceremonies, and weddings. So now there is me, a Vietnamese American guy wearing áo dài casually around campus. One of the reasons why I like to wear áo dài is to preserve my Vietnamese culture. I want to let people know and remind other Vietnamese students of our culture. My outfit is a sort of educational tool when people ask or compliment me on my outfit. I get to explain and educate

them about Vietnamese traditions.

I don't know what everybody else thinks but I see beauty and aesthetics in wearing an áo dài. The outfit looks proper and does not look too formal. I had my áo dài made by an independent Vietnamese tailor. I specifically chose a type of fabric that was not silk and shiny so I can wear it casually. She was really curious to why I wanted to wear an áo dài. She asked if I was going to get married since Vietnamese men usually wear it for that occasion. I told her it's because I'm learning a Vietnamese musical instrument and I wanted to wear it while playing. In conclusion, I wear my áo dài to symbolically represent myself, my culture, and my resistance to the gender role of Vietnamese American men. ■

Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month Planning Committee

"Echoes of the past, empowering future voices."



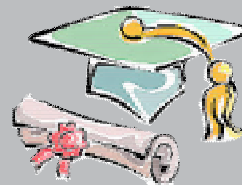
Meetings:
Every Monday
3:30 -5:00 pm @
Ethnic Resource Center's
Lounge

For more information contact
AA/PRIC at 459-5349 or aapirc@ucsc.edu

Asian American/Pacific Islander Year-End Ceremony Committee

Meetings:
Thursdays @ 6:30pm

Come help plan the event: entertainment, food, programming, publicity, MC, and much more!



Invites & Information are available on
AA/PIRC's website: www2.ucsc.edu/aapirc
or call 459-5349

“Brave New World” APAAC Conference at UCI

By Elaine Kam

On February 7, 2004, eighteen UCSC students attended the 19th Annual Asian Pacific American Awareness Conference (APAAC) organized by the Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA) at UC Irvine (UCI). This conference was established to promote cultural sensitivity and awareness of Asian American/Pacific Islanders (AA/PI) by staff and faculty on campus. Throughout the years, APAAC has become a student-run effort that promotes awareness, education, involvement, community, and unity through various workshops, presentations, speakers, and performances.

The conference started off with an inspiring speech by keynote speaker, Alvin Alvarez, UCI alum and co-founder of APAAC. In his speech, Alvarez mentioned the history and his experience of APAAC. He also presented his theory of “Psychology of Activism.” Alvarez showed that activism was a developmental process, and suggested it should not rule out the lives of students. Student activists need a balance in their lives and should create a different vision of themselves, and the world around them. He described activism as a life-long process which is like a marathon, and should not be a short spur in life as if a 100-yard dash. By this he meant, student leaders should not only focus on activism now, but prolong our spirit and influence more people throughout our life journey.

After Alvarez’s heartening speech, students attended various workshops, which covered issues regarding to identity, health, hate crimes, queer, and community building. Being interested in building a stronger AA/PI community in UCSC, one of the workshops I attended was the “APSA Alumni Panel: Organizing, Community Building, and Coalitions.” In this workshop, panelists shared challenges and experiences that they encountered when they were in APSA. It also provided a common

ground for students to speak out their concerns. A few UCSC students were also active participants in the dialogue.

Through conversations among UCI and UCSC students, we saw differences in the community and structure of student organizations between the two campuses, but both still face similar challenges and struggles. With an over 50% AA/PI population in UCI, there were still low attendance rates in student organized events. Comparatively, UCSC with a 19% growing AA/PI population. We also encountered student apathy from coming to events as well. In addition, both campuses were still searching for a more united student voice in order to educate the rest of the students about AA/PI issues and struggles.

This conference was a very worthwhile experience, it intrigued many of my thoughts to improve and strengthen the UCSC AA/PI community. As Alvin Alvarez asked, “How did you wake up [to activism] and how can you wake people up?” I remembered

how I woke up, and would like to give you a wake up call! Start engaging in your community, then you will find a different vision of yourself and the world around you. For more information on getting involved, please contact the Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center (AA/PIRC) at aapirc@ucsc.edu. ■



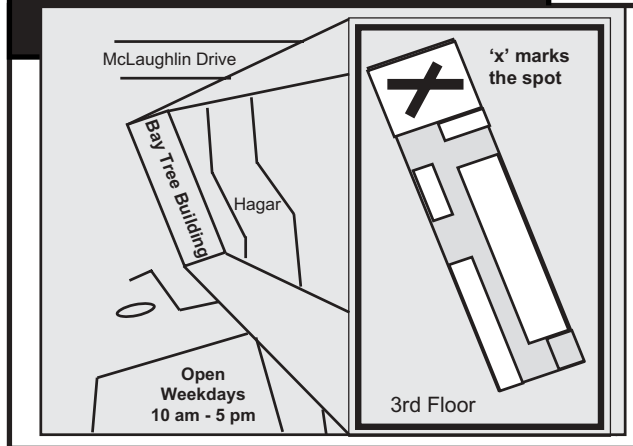
Photo Courtesy of Dickson Cheung

Motivation Conference

10th Annual
May 13th, 14th, 15th, 2004

Student initiated outreach program sponsored by APISA. If you would like to help plan, come to the meetings Wednesdays 7:30 at ERCs. To volunteer please contact APISA at apisa_ucsc@yahoo.com

Visit AA/PIRC at the Bay Tree Building.



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