

NEWSLETTER

Fall 1999 Premier Issue

Vol.1 No. 1

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Welcome!!

We would like to extend our hellos to all new and returning students. The Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center is very new to the UC Santa Cruz campus. Recently opened in April of 1999, we are on our way to getting some great programs going this year. With this quarterly newsletter we wish to inform you of people, places and programs available within the community. We hope that the resource center will be an important and useful place for you throughout the next school year.

-The AA/PI RC Team

a note from our director...

“Coming Full Circle”

by Nancy I. Kim, AA/PIRC Director

Well, I'm back. Back to my alma mater: home of alternative learning, avid recyclists, and the fighting banana slugs. Many years ago when I was a young undergraduate, my brother (a Kresge slug at the time) told me that if I licked a banana slug, I could taste the “banana.” Thank goodness I wasn't so gullible.

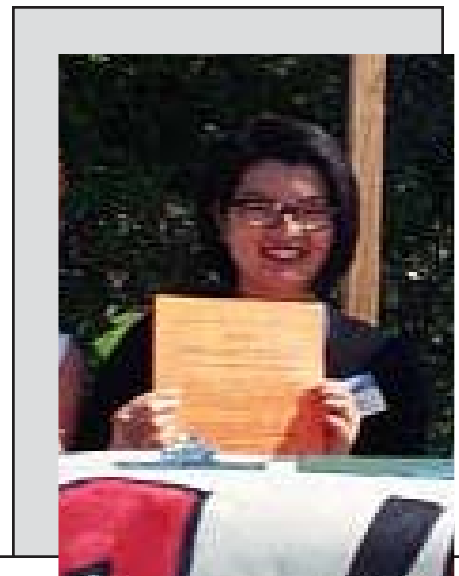
I was fortunate to have taken courses with excellent faculty in American Studies and Women's Studies, who taught me to question what I heard or read. These classes also exposed me to transformative education and critical pedagogy, their examples I incorporated into my philosophies and practices in student development programs.

My constant questioning, or critical thinking, further developed as I participated in democratic processes and building organizations. Beginning as the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Alliance representative for the Multi-Cultural Festival organizing committee, and ending with coordinating UCSC's first Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month through the Emerging Majority Leadership Training Program, I learned the significance of collectivity and coalition building.

With the education and experience I received from UC Santa Cruz, I obtained a job with Pomona College's Asian American Resource Center as its Coordinator and later became its Interim Director. I realized then that I needed more informed perspectives about Asian America and entered UCLA's Asian American Studies M.A. program. The past few years have given me both the practical experiences and theoretical knowledge of Asian American Studies, and I hope to bring my praxis perspective to my job as the new Director of the Asian American/Pacific Islander Resource Center (AA/PIRC).

My vision for the AA/PIRC is grand and practical. Ultimately, I would like to have this resource center as a place in which Asian American and Pacific Island students, and diverse members of the UCSC community, can congregate to discuss the pressing issues of the day, access resources, and gain leadership experiences

But, before we get there, we need to establish a foun-



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◦ But, before we get there, we need to establish a foundation among faculty, students, and staff. Within a year, I hope to establish an AA/PIRC support committee to define a collective vision and a five-year plan for the resource center.

Also within a year, I hope to establish a concrete working relationship with the other ethnic centers, as well as the Women's Center and the GLBT Resource Center. I genuinely believe that the success of any one of the Centers is tied to the success of all the Centers. I hope that sharing ideas, perspectives, and suggestions will help a process of empowerment for all Center Directors as well as their staff and students.

But more importantly, my goal for the first year is to establish an organizational culture among participating students that will be, as bell hooks stated, a "community of learners." I will learn from students as much as students will learn from each other and me. As Paulo Friere stated, "Through dialogue, reflecting together on what we know and don't know, we can then act critically to transform reality. "With ongoing discussions, we can define the changing needs of AA/PI students and work to meet those needs

In closing, I believe I've come full circle. I return to the school that taught me so much and sustained me throughout my administrator and graduate student experiences. I look forward to sharing my learning experiences, perspectives, and future with students, faculty, and staff of UC Santa Cruz.



WE'RE OPEN!

M-F 10am to 5pm

RESERVE THE AA/PIRC!

Events! Activities! Meetings!
Morning/Day/Evening!
Make Reservations @ the Center!

HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR THIS YEAR?

Come and Visit!
Stay and Kick it!
Located @ Crown College
(831) 459-5349

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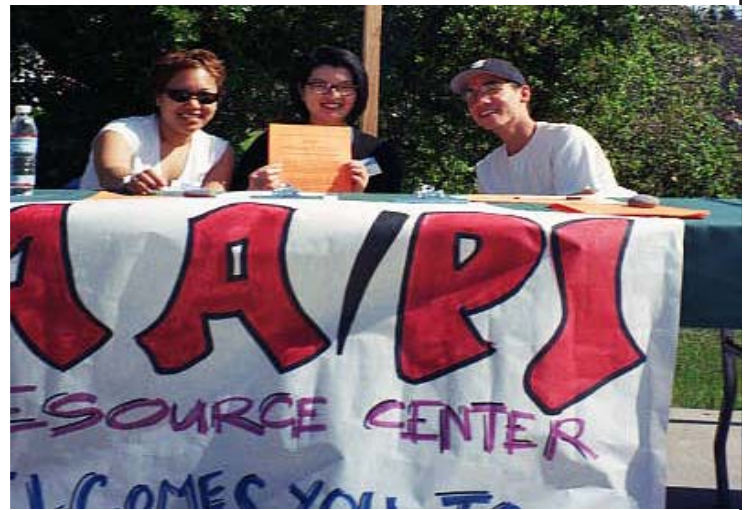
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Starting Line Up!

Who's Who at the Center!

Kimi S. Mojica, 3rd year Oakes student, American Studies Major and Education Minor, Bay Area (Richmond) Native waiting for the Santa Cruz sun to show itself. SOAR trooper and active member in Filipino Student Association. "It has been an amazing process seeing the AA/PI RC turn from ink on paper to an existing space proposed by students, working for students, and empowered by students. I'm honored to be part of this continuous process- its past, present, and future."

April M. Yeo, 2nd year student at Oakes College. Psychology/ American Studies double major, Legal Studies minor. Born and educated in the city of San Francisco, now learning to expand horizons in Santa Cruz. "I'm excited about working at the Center because I want to see a lot of things being done within the API community on campus. Now that I'm an active part of this vision, I'm looking forward to working with all the API organizations, along with the people in them, who have been making great things happen!"



Aram S. Collier, 3rd year, Film/History double major, captain of intramural softball team "Currently I am working on the AA/PIRC library and the AA/PIRC resource book, I'd welcome any suggestions on these projects or if you'd just like to come in to the center and chat I'd love that too."

SLUG ALUM SPOTLIGHT!

Glenn Omatsu
c/o 1969



There wasn't a lot to do this summer but loaf around Los Angeles trying to replace academia with healthy doses of Southern California smog. I needed mental stimulation. Nancy knew the bind I was in and fed me an assignment. I was to go and interview Glenn Omatsu, a member of the first graduating class at UC Santa Cruz. Needless to say, I found him to be a man of history in the API community. Glenn entered UC Santa Cruz, in 1967, as a community college transfer. He chose Santa Cruz because a friend recommended the small and unique campus. As a psychology major at Stevenson College, Glenn's experience at UCSC became stepping stones for his future endeavors as a community activist. Presently, Glenn teaches Asian American Studies at Pasadena City College, California State University at Northridge, and UCLA. He authored several essays on Asian American activism and appears in The State of Asian America: Activism and Resistance in the 1990s. With fewer than seven other peers, Glenn formed the first API organization called the **Asian American Culture Association**. At that time, Glenn did not know that his harbinger efforts as an undergraduate would resonate in today's UCSC Asian Pacific Islander (API) community.

What was your most memorable moment at Santa Cruz?

The one which would have the most impact on me would be Ho Nguyen. At first he was a conservative student supporting the war. He then became pretty much the leader of the anti-war movement at Santa Cruz. I got to know him my first year on campus and I would say that he had a definite impact on me in a lot of positive ways. He should be honored in some way because if we are talking about the anti-war and student movement at Santa Cruz, he was the fundamental person in shaping it, both from the stand point politically and morally. During his senior year at Santa Cruz, he was drafted by the US army. He decided he would not serve and it left him with the options of either going to jail or leaving the country. So he decided to leave the country. He ended up in Europe. That's where I lost track of him.

How did attending UCSC affect your life?

*Santa Cruz is the first time I got involved in student activities. As a result of that, it had an impact on the things I get involved in now. **We were the first to start an API organization on campus.** We actually started two groups. The first group was called the Asian American Culture Association because we wanted to appeal to all Asian Americans, but at the same time we felt that some of the Asian Americans we interacted with were not that interested in a political group- that's why we initially formed a cultural interest group. But shortly there after we wanted to move to something higher. So we formed a political group. We named the group after ones at SFSU and UCB, the Asian American Political Association.*

Where did you receive support in forming and maintaining the API group?

*The students themselves gave support to other groups. The black students were very organized at that time so they did support different types of efforts that other communities of color were doing. The white radical students at that time were also supporting these efforts. There was also a publication back in those days called **Stevenson Libre**. It was basically a mimeographed free publication. It started off as a tradition at Santa Cruz where aside from the official campus newspaper you would have a number of underground non-censorship papers that students themselves would put together. The first Asian American Newsletter that came out of Santa Cruz came out of the **Stevenson Libre**. We addressed issues such as the Vietnam War and the need to support the Ethnic Studies Movement at SFSU and UCB and the need for Ethnic Studies at UC Santa Cruz.*

Among his campus activities, Glenn and other students and faculty tried to name the sixth college "Malcom X College." Glenn expressed that he had no idea his efforts would lead to the similar efforts taken on by current students. He wishes us luck and congratulates all the efforts and advancements of the API community. It was such a pleasure to meet Glenn and gain a historical perspective on activism at UC Santa Cruz.

Fall into AA/PIRC Events

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September

- 9/22 Wednesday - AA/PIRC New Student Reception @the Crown College Dining Hall (1:30pm); OPERS Fall Festival @ East Field (3:30pm)
- 9/24 Friday - EOP & Students of Color Orientation Faculty & Student Dinner @ Stevenson College Dining Hall (5:30pm - 8:00pm)
- 9/25 Saturday - Early Orientation (continued) Academic Excellence Orientation Program @ Stevenson College Dining Hall (9:30am - 5:00)

October

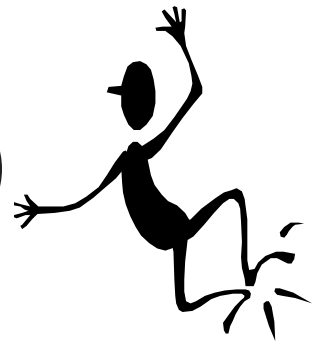
- 10/13 Wednesday - AA/PIRC Open House @ AA/PIRC (4-6pm). Come to see the Center! Refreshments will be provided.
- 10/15 Friday - TGIF! Thank Goodness It's Faculty! First of a series of faculty brown-bag luncheons. Get to know your AA/PI Faculty -- Featuring Prof. Judy Yung @ AA/PIRC (12pm)
- 10/21 Thursday - Garret Hongo featured poet. @ Kresge Seminar Room. Co-sponsored by Creative Writing & Literature Department (time tba)
- 10/23 Saturday - AA/PIRC Leadership Retreat with AA/PI student organizations
- 10/29 Friday - TGIFaculty! Second brown-bag luncheon with Prof. Karen Yamashita @ AA/PIRC (12pm)

November

- 11/4 Thursday - Valerie Soe: film screening and guest lecture, in collaboration w/ Prof. Valerie Soe's AMST 127G class
- 11/12 Friday - Comedy Night: Bay Area stand-up comic showcase (8pm @ Merrill Dining Hall)
- 11/18 Thursday - Sesshu Foster featured poet @ Kresge Seminar Room co-sponsored by Creative Writing & Literature Dept.
- TBA- Film maker Spencer Nakasako



For more information on events, please email AAPIRC@cats.ucsc.edu or call 459-5349.



Name our newsletter!
If you have any creative ideas for a title let us know.

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SIGHTING!!

The AA/PI Resource Center

Has Landed at UCSC!

do something with this page
please

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