

# AARCCConnections

August 2006

Volume 2, Issue 1

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*Celebrate the beginning of school by joining us at:*

## AARCC's 2nd annual ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Thursday, September 7th

2:00 p.m.

Outdoor Circle West of Taft Hall

(rain location: Latino Cultural Center, Lecture Center B)



**\*Get to know other students**

**\*Learn about Asian American student organizations**

**\*Meet the AARCC staff**

*Ice Cream Catered by Village Creamery*

*Co-sponsored by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Asian Americans*

**For more information, contact Corinne Kodama at [ckodama@uic.edu](mailto:ckodama@uic.edu) or 312-413-9653.**

## Welcome Back!

Welcome to all new students, staff, and faculty and greetings to everyone returning to campus. We hope to see you at the Ice Cream Social or at another AARCC event during the year. AARCCConnections will bring you news about AARCC, related activities, and significant people on campus and in the community. Here are some highlights from our summer:

- AARCC staff attended the National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education conference here in Chicago. Both Director Karen Su and Associate Director Corinne Kodama also presented workshops.
- Assistant to the Director Elvin Chan was honored by the Leadership Center for Asian Pacific Americans' Community Leadership Program as a founder. UIC staff Angela Ebreo and students Heather DeGuia and April Oh graduated from the CLP this year.
- Sent our first mailing to all incoming Asian American freshmen and transfer students to raise awareness about AARCC.
- David Shin, recent UIC graduate and AARCC Advisory Board member, won the 2006 National Association of Asian American Professionals Chicago Asian American Heritage Month Essay Contest! The purpose of the 2006 NAAAP Essay Contest was to recognize outstanding Asian American college students reflecting on their "Asian American Inspiration." His prize-winning essay was awarded \$1000!



Best wishes for a wonderful year!

-Karen Su, AARCC Director

## UIC Asian American Students in Washington D.C.!

This past year, two UIC students participated in prestigious internships sponsored by the Asian Pacific Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) in Washington D.C. , learning about policy making and issues that face Asian Americans around the country. Here they share some of their experiences:

### Rommel Calderwood, Junior:



I conducted my internship this past spring semester working with Ruby Moy, the senior advisor at APAICS. I created and completed various projects related to the APAICS Gala Dinner which included gathering information on various API officials around the U.S. and information on past APAICS Fellows. I also worked on the summer internship applications. I created and designed a pamphlet for the attendees, which comprised of the biographies of the honorary guests, the various programs for the night, the performances, and the leadership academy.

Working and living in Washington, D.C. definitely changed my perception and outlook on life in so many ways. First off, I realized that a career in nursing or any other healthcare-related profession did not suit me. The epiphany I had made me realize that I would prefer a path related to public policy and immigration issues. I'm taking a serious initiative by interning this fall at the National Immigrant Justice Center, volunteering at the Korean American Women In Need's Legal & Advocacy Program, and enrolling in the

History of Public Policy course at UIC.

My temporary stay in Washington, D.C. was beyond amazing. I realized that by taking the initiative I can go beyond what is given to me. Not only did I intern at APAICS, but I had the opportunity to teach English to Ethiopian immigrants, work closely with military personnel at the Department of the Navy, shadow at the National Institutes of Health, meet with Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta, and visit interesting cities on the East Coast. Another important lesson I learned from my internship in Washington, D.C. was discovering the motivation to go beyond my comfort zone. My internship encouraged me to follow through with Volunteers in Asia and spend my summer teaching English at Hue University in Vietnam.

"...

### Heather DeGuia, Alumnae (2006):



I applied to the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) internship program and was placed in the Office of Congressman David Wu. A couple of years ago, I worked on campus to gather support for what was then H.R. 333, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize grants for institutions of higher education serving Asian American and Pacific Islanders, which was introduced by Congressman Wu. As an intern, I participated in meetings regarding the same bill (now H.R. 2616), and witnessed the legislative process firsthand.

I attended Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus meetings where I learned more about current issues such as the Voting Rights Act and immigration, and built bridges at events with the Tri-Caucus. Meetings with various members of Congress, including Congresswoman Bordallo (Guam), Congressman David Wu (OR),

Congressman Mike Honda (CA), Congressman Jim McDermott (WA), Congressman David Reichert (WA), Senator Daniel Akaka (HI), Secretary Norman Mineta, and Secretary Elaine Chao were some of the highlights of my summer.

Alongside the meetings and events, each week there was a brownbag luncheon that covered APIA issues, the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership, and happy hours to network with APIA professionals and interns from all over the country. As an APAICS intern crew, we bonded by visiting museums and indulging in D.C. nightlife. I appreciated that each of us were from all over the country, shared our different perspectives, recognized what unified us, and developed good friendships along the way.

The APAICS internship surpassed my expectations of simply learning more about the political process. I am thankful for being granted the opportunity to foster growth within myself and would highly recommend students to apply in the future. APAICS rewarded me with solid networks and friends, a deeper understanding of the American government, and the inspiration to be more active in politics by striving for a career in public service, running for office, and the sheer importance of staying active. More than anything, I am reminded that apathy is not an option and continuing to fight for change in society to rectify injustices and ensure equality for the future is not only our duty, but is what will lead us closer to liberty and justice for all.

**For more information on APAICS and their internship program, visit [www.apaics.org](http://www.apaics.org).**

## Introducing the Asian American Peer Mentor Program!

This fall, AARCC is coordinating an Asian American Peer Mentor Program for incoming undergraduate students. This program is designed to help ease the transition to UIC by connecting students to campus resources, providing workshops on relevant topics, and helping students get to know each other.



This year we have 13 Asian American Peer Mentors who are returning UIC students. Over the summer 32 new freshmen and transfer students signed up for the program. Peer Mentors and new students will meet weekly to discuss issues, build community, and learn about campus. In addition, students will attend social, cultural, and educational programs sponsored by AARCC.

The Asian American Peer Mentor Program was developed partly in response to the 2004 UIC Asian American Undergraduate Survey (sponsored by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Asian Americans), which showed that less than 25% of Asian American students had peer mentors or role models on campus. We hope that this program will help to develop these types of relationships which are important to college success.

So far we have planned workshops on Relationships with Parents and also on Stress Management, as well as a trip to see the Stir-Friday Night comedy troupe. For more information on the Asian American Peer Mentor Program, contact Corinne Kodama at 312-413-9653 or ckodama@uic.edu.



### New Asian American Faculty: Kevin Kumashiro

**Dr. Kevin Kumashiro is a new Associate Professor in the College of Education. We took a few minutes to get to know him:**

#### **Why were you interested in coming to UIC?**

I had been wanting to get back into teaching, and UIC had everything that I was looking for--from the leadership among the faculty to the activism among the students. Plus, it's Chicago!

#### **How did you get into the field of education?**

I remember drawing a self-portrait in elementary school with a caption that I was going to grow up to be a teacher. I don't know why--probably because my mom was a teacher--but I always wanted to go into education. After college, I taught in schools for a few years, then went to graduate school and taught in colleges for a few years. I've spent the past few years in the human and civil rights department of the National Education Association in Washington, DC.

#### **What are your research and teaching interests?**

My research is in the field of "anti-oppressive education," which looks at how to teach (and prepare teachers to teach) in ways that challenge oppression and advance social justice. I am also interested in education issues concerning Asian American and Pacific Islander students.

#### **What classes are you teaching this year?**

In the fall, I'll teach an introductory undergraduate course on urban education. I'm not sure about the spring.

#### **What do you think about the lack of Asian American K-12 teachers?**

Currently, Asian Americans make up 4% of the U.S. student population, but only 1% of teachers. In the next few years, schools across the country will be hiring over 1 million new teachers. This is a great opportunity to get Asian American voices "at the table!"

#### **You recently co-authored a national report addressing the Model Minority stereotype. How do you think this stereotype is detrimental to Asian Americans?**

The "model minority" stereotype masks the diversity among Asian Americans by suggesting that we're all succeeding in schools and society. This makes it more difficult to recognize and serve those AA groups that are not succeeding; it makes it easier for AA students to believe that something is wrong with them if they don't fit the stereotype; and it pits AAs against other people of color with the implication that, "if they can make it, so can you," thus denying that structural forms of racism exist in schools. Although it may seem complimentary, the stereotype has harmful implications.

#### **You've lived in several very different places in the U.S. (HI, CA, WI, DC), what have you learned from these different places?**

I've learned that I don't do well in cold weather. Help!

#### **Is there anything else you would like us to know about you and/or your work?**

I can't wait to join the UIC community. Peace!

# August 2006

## Schedule of Events

- **Aug. 26: Welcome Party for Chinese Students.** 4:45p.m.-9p.m., SCE #329 (Cardinal Room) Sponsored by: International Student Friendship and Chinese Students and Scholars Association. For more info, contact [ccsa.pages.uic.edu](mailto:ccsa.pages.uic.edu).
- **August 27: First Peer Mentor Program Meeting!** 1:30 p.m. at Taft Hall (before Freshman Convocation).
- **Aug. 30: AAIV Welcome BBQ.** 10:30-3:00 p.m. SEO Field. Sponsored by Asian American Intersarsity. For more info, contact [pkim7@uic.edu](mailto:pkim7@uic.edu).
- **Aug. 31: AAIV large group meeting and Chinatown Outing.** 5 p.m., SCE #605. Contact [pkim7@uic.edu](mailto:pkim7@uic.edu).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Asian American Leaders Retreat	11 Asian American Leaders Retreat	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Welcome for Chinese Students
27 Mentor Program Meeting!	28 1st Day of Classes!	29	30 AAIV BBQ!	31 AAIV 1st Large Group Mtg/ Chinatown		

## Asian American Student Leaders Retreat



On August 10-11, twenty-three Asian American students from 9 UIC organizations attended the 2nd annual Asian American Student Leaders Retreat sponsored by AARCC. They spent two days getting to know each other, learning about each other's organizations, and developing leadership skills.

The highlight of the retreat was the outdoor teams course. For almost 5 hours students had to solve problems and physical challenges, the most exciting

being the scaling of a 12-foot wall!

This retreat is the first activity of the 2006-07 Asian American Student Organizations Council, made up of leaders from Asian American organizations at UIC. They will be meeting throughout the year to share ideas, discuss issues, and collaborate on events.

If your organization would like to join the council, please contact Phillip Ozaki at 312-413-9569 or [pozaki2@uic.edu](mailto:pozaki2@uic.edu).



# September 2006

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## Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Labor Day	4	5 aKDPhi Rush Information	6 AASIA BBQ	7 AARCC Ice Cream Social!	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Night Vision	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Diversity Career Day!	22	23
24 Chinatown Health Fair	25	26 Relationships with Parents	27	28	29	30

## Meet the new AARCC Student Staff!

This summer we hired our new student staff for the 2006-2007. We expanded the number of positions in order to better carry out AARCC's programs and activities:

**Winnie** Chan is our graduate assistant, who will be helping with the Peer Mentor Program in the fall, and will T.A. the Introduction to Asian American Studies class in the spring. She will also be working on various academic initiatives throughout the year.

**Alexandra** Nam is returning to work for AARCC for a 2nd year. She will be working on special projects, including a new Leadership Series project to start spring 2007.

**Phillip** Ozaki has been working for AARCC over the summer doing various projects including the Leadership Retreat and Resource Book. For the upcoming year he will continue to work with the Asian American Leaders Council, as well as outreach to student organizations and publicity.

**Joyce** Yin will be working on publications such as AARCCConnections (so it may look different next time you read this) and the Asian American Student Resource Handbook.

**Rommel** Calderwood will be working on outreach to student organizations and publicity, as well as projects related to connecting with Chicagoland Asian American communities.

Stop by the AARCC sometime to get to know us!

- **Sept. 5: alpha Kappa Delta Phi sorority rush information session:** 3 pm, SCE Prairie Room. For more info, contact sryu5@uic.edu.
- **Sept. 6: AASIA BBQ.** 4 pm, SEO Field. Sponsored by Asian American Students in Alliance. Contact jmerca4@uic.edu.
- **Sept. 7: AARCC 2nd annual Ice Cream Social!** Join us to kick off the new year, learn more about AARCC and student organizations. Free gourmet ice cream catered by Village Creamery! 2-4 p.m., Outside circle west of Taft Hall (rain location: Latino Cultural Center, Lecture Center B).
- **Sept. 14: Night Vision** featuring indie-folk rock singer Thao Nguyen and performances by UIC Asian American student organizations like Filipinos in Alliance and alpha Kappa Delta Phi. 6 p.m. Illinois Room. Sponsored by the Asian American Coalition Committee. For more info contact bjohns3@uic.edu.
- **Sept. 21: Diversity Career Day!** The largest career fair of the year—bring resumes and dress professionally! 10am-2pm, UIC Pavilion. Sponsored by UIC Career Services, 312-996-2300. or www.uic.edu/depts/OCS.
- **Sept. 24: Chinatown Health Fair,** Free Health Screenings with Chinatown Residents, translators needed! 1-5 p.m., 2141 S. Tan Court, Chinatown. Co-sponsored by Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association and Chinese American Service League. For more info [contact\\_cjung2@uic.edu](mailto:contact_cjung2@uic.edu).
- **Sept. 26th: Relationships With Parents.** How do you relate to your parents while a college student? Learn about generation gaps, communication, and getting along! 4 p.m., location TBA. Sponsored by AARCC. For more info, contact wchan8@uic.edu.

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## Do YOU have a copy of the 2006-07 Asian American Student Resource Handbook?

The 2006-07 edition of the Asian American Student Resource Handbook is now available! This 60-page book contains a wealth of useful information about Asian American resources on campus, including AARCC, Asian and Asian American Studies courses, Asian American student organizations, as well as local and national community organizations. This book was generously co-sponsored by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Asian Americans.

**Pick up your copy today at the AARCC (Taft Hall 101).** For more information, contact Corinne Kodama at 312-413-9653 or [ckodama@uic.edu](mailto:ckodama@uic.edu).