

Our Mission

OCA is a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

To fulfill its mission, OCA has established the following goals:

- + To advocate for social justice, equal opportunity and fair treatment;
- + To promote civic participation, education, and leadership;
- + To advance coalitions and community building; and
- + To foster cultural heritage.

Founded in 1973 as the Organization of Chinese Americans, OCA aims to embrace the hopes and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

OCA is engaged in organizing its over 80 chapters and affiliates across the nation to develop both leadership and community involvement. OCA chapters and our organizational and college affiliates are establishing strong local programs in all parts of the country.

OCA's base in Washington, D.C. gives the national office an effective vantage point for monitoring legislation and policy issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans. In addition, OCA is able to build national support and to work in coalition with other national groups around issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans.

OCA takes no collective position on the politics of any foreign country, but instead focuses on the welfare and civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States.

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Message from the President

Ken Lee | OCA National President

It seems as though it was just yesterday since we wrapped up the 2009 National Convention on August 9, and here it is, autumn, and we have exciting new upcoming events happening within OCA.

First off, I'd like to reflect on this year's Convention, "A Call to Action: Empowering Asian Pacific American Voices," and share with you what a tremendous pleasure it was to attend Convention as your National President. We hosted the convention in my hometown of San Francisco, and the City did not disappoint! It was so wonderful to be able to host one our largest turnouts ever just a few blocks away from San Francisco's thriving Chinatown. And of course, the events that took place during the Convention did not disappoint. I've received so much positive feedback about the receptions, panels, seminars and the gala. I was told the City Hall reception hosted by the local community featuring local Asian chefs was "awesome," and that hearing Mayor Newsom speak about the historical past was inspiring. Having the first Chinese elected congress woman address our convention attendees was a great honor.

Many Convention attendees mentioned that they enjoyed the various tracks and the speakers were informative and interesting. My personal favorite part of Convention was the Angel Island Immigration Station tour. It's so important for Asian Pacific Americans to know their history, and while it was a grim reflection of the past, it was also a positive reminder of the obstacles we have overcome.

Speaking of overcoming obstacles, hopefully by now you have heard that on September 15, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a Resolution acknowledging the historic role of San Francisco's government in advancing the policies of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Resolution also calls

for encouraging the learning of history as well as celebration of the contributions of Chinese Americans. OCA commends Mayor Newsom and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for acknowledging the past injustice thrown on Chinese Americans, and we proudly look forward to a future where we can erase any prejudices or imperceptions of APAs.

As a person with a corporate background, it gives me great pleasure to announce the upcoming 2009 OCA National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards, which recognize corporate excellence and community service, on October 23 at the W Hotel in Washington, D.C. As a past recipient of the Corporate Achievement Award (in 1997, to be exact), I believe I can safely say that this award is important to showcasing the contributions of APAs in the corporate sector, and I hope you will attend this great event. We will also be launching two new emerging programs during this time, the young professionals group called Bamboo: Build, Breakthrough and Believe, and the DC chapter of Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP), which pairs APA professional with leaders and mentors. The OCA National Center will be happy to give you more information about these exciting programs.

I have enjoyed an eye-opening summer filled with camaraderie, organizing and advocacy, and I look forward to seeing you in the fall. Thank you for empowering YOUR voice. ■



Message from the Executive Director

George Wu | OCA Executive Director

Throughout this year's National Convention in San Francisco, I was energized by the stories OCA Convention participants shared with me. Collectively, these stories demonstrate how OCA has brought communities together for more than 36 years. The stories of our 2009 Unsung Heroes illustrate this very point.

We have members like Anna Wong, of OCA-Wisconsin, who has been a member of OCA-WI for over 20 years and is currently serving on the board as Communication Chair. Without proper communication, OCA could not continue to thrive. Others excel at fundraising, like Benjamin Yeung of OCA-San Mateo. He is Chair of Events and Fundraising and has planned events such as "Health Care Issues in the APA Community."

It's also important to be organized and think outside of the box at OCA, that's why we have George Yin of OCA-Greater Los Angeles. He was the driving force behind organizing an artist reception with a renowned painter from China. He also organized "Summer Relief", an event to raise money for relief efforts for the survivors of the Myanmar and China disasters.

And, of course, OCA would be nowhere without those who chair our membership events, like Ian Lim of OCA-Dallas/Fort Worth, who worked hard to ensure the success of OCA-DFW's New Year Banquet, a major fundraising event for the chapter, and also Joan Jia, of OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley, who is a current chapter board member who volunteers at every chapter event.

Knowing how hard so many members work to host local events, fundraise, and advance the mission of OCA, makes me proud to be part of the OCA family. Whether you are a former intern, a chapter member or a supporter, I hope to hear you OCA story soon.

I encourage you to let the National Center know what you and your community are doing, and to share your stories.

Cheers! ■



Message from the Editor

Mia Youhne | Vice President of Communications

Greetings from Seoul, Korea!

It is officially fall, and as we are putting together the final last touches of this fall issue of IMAGE, it is truly amazing how time flies. In less than three months, we will be celebrating the year 2010.

I must say that I am quite excited about this issue of IMAGE. The reason is because in this issue, we celebrate 20 years of the OCA Internship program. As a former intern myself, I always find it quite exciting to highlight who our past interns are, where they are located, and where they are in their careers. During the 2009 Convention held last August, the Internship Alumni Summit Forum took place. It was great to meet all of the interns and create a network support for former, current, and incoming interns. For this issue, we showcase and share with you our OCA former interns from the past 20 years. We would like to thank all those who participated in this celebration.

In this issue, we also highlight the 2009 OCA National Convention which took place in one of my favorite cities, San Francisco, California. I always love going to the Bay, but this time, it was even more special, memorable, and double the fun. I recall writing something like this a year ago in my editorial about Convention, but when I'm at an OCA Convention, it hits me. What hits me? Why I am part of this organization. It is always inspiring and a great joy to meet fellow advocates, colleagues, and friends at OCA Conventions.

I would like to applaud the co-chairs of the 2009 Convention: Claudine Cheng and Sherman Tang, the San Francisco, chapter, and the surrounding California chapters who helped organize and put this fabulous event together. As the past co-chair of the Las Vegas convention, I truly understand the hard work and dedication that goes into putting it all together. I especially would like to take this time to acknowledge and thank the young professionals of the San Francisco chapter and surrounding California chapters who helped organize this event and make it into a reality. I was amazed by the energy and the partnership between the chapters and members. I was especially amazed by the young professionals, students, interns, and all those who made everything go smoothly. When you can escort nearly 1,000 people from the second floor of the ballroom to the main ballroom on the first floor for the gala event without disturbing a wedding, you said it all! For those of you who were at the gala dinner, you know what I am talking about!

If you missed this year's convention, do not worry! Mark your calendars for the 2010 OCA National Convention in Houston, Texas, June 17-20, 2010. We hope to see you next year in Houston.

Grow. Lead. Succeed. ■

2009 Summer Internship Class



ALEXANDER TSAO is a senior at the University of Missouri studying Journalism, Strategic Communications. He was placed in the Environmental Protection Agency – Office of Human Resources and the Office of Environmental Information.

ANDREW CHANG recently graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He was placed at the Department of Transportation – Policy and Quality Control Division.

ANGELA LAM is a senior at Tufts University studying International Relations and Asian Studies. She interned at Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote.

BRIAN CHIU is a senior at the University of California, Los Angeles studying International Development Studies. He was placed at the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development.

CAMDEN LEE is a junior at the University of Maryland, College Park studying Physics with a minor in Asian

American Studies. He interned at the OCA National Center.

CASPAR WANG is a senior at Rutgers University - New Brunswick studying Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering. He was placed at the Federal Aviation Administration – Air Traffic Organization.

CATALINA YANG is a senior at California State University, Sacramento studying Government. She interned at the Office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui.

CHRISTINA CHIN is a junior at the University of Michigan majoring in Organizational Studies. She interned at the OCA National Center.

CHRISTINE TRUONG is a junior at Old Dominion University studying Business Management. She was placed at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund.

CINDY DINH is a junior at Rice University majoring in Sociology and Health Policy Studies. She interned at Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum.

CYNTHIA VUONG recently graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Asian American Studies. She interned at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – Office of Employment Opportunity.

ELISA YU is a senior at Harvard University studying Government with a minor in East Asian Studies. She was placed at the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.

HELEN LEI recently graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies and Asian American Studies. She interned at the Office of Congresswoman Laura Richardson.

JASON WU recently graduated from Vassar College with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Chinese. He was placed at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission - Office of Research, Information and Planning.

JENNIFER WONG is a senior at Vassar College studying Political Science and Japanese. She was placed at the Department of Justice - Voting Rights Section.

JOYCE YIN recently graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Gender and Women's Studies and a minor in Sociology. She interned at the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium.

JUAN SERAFICA is a junior at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas studying Early Childhood Education. He was placed at the National Education Association.

MANISHA PADI is a senior at Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying Economics and Mathematics. She interned at Booz Allen Hamilton.

MINH DANG is a senior at Cleveland State University studying Chemical Engineering. He was placed at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

MINHCHAU DINH is a sophomore at the University of the Pacific studying Geology and Economics. She interned at the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.

PAM SRAN is a junior at the University of California, San Diego studying Political Science. She interned at the Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

RAYMOND FLORES is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania studying Economics. He was placed at the Office of Management and Budget.

ROHAN GROVER is a junior at the University of Pennsylvania studying Economics and Urban Studies. He was placed at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs.

SHERWIN LI is a sophomore at Cornell University studying Computer Science and Operations Research. He interned at the OCA National Center.

STEPHANIE TANNY is a senior at Colorado State University studying Ethnic studies and Sociology. She interned at the OCA National Center.

TARA VANG is a senior at University of California, Davis studying Community and Regional Development. She was placed at the Department of Veteran Affairs – Construction and Facilities Management.

THU NGUYEN is a junior at Cornell University studying Urban and Regional studies and Africana Studies. She was placed at the NAACP.

TIFFANY CHEN is a senior at Columbia University studying Political Science and East Asian Studies. She interned at the Department of Justice - Voting Rights Section.

WILLIAM XU is a senior at Rochester Institute of Technology studying Packaging Science. He was placed at the DC Mayor's Office, Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

Apply now for the 2010 JACL/OCA Leadership Conference!

You can be one of the 15 OCA members selected to join 15 JACL (Japanese American Citizens League) members and spend four intensive days in Washington, DC to learn about the political process. You will have the opportunity to meet members of Congress, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Administration officials, government agencies, as well as with OCA's and JACL's colleagues in the Washington, DC social justice community. Develop your skills in media and message training, working with a 501(c) 3, and learn how to better communicate with your Representative's office and coalition building. You will have a chance to share about your local projects and build new relationships. Past participants have described their experience as an inspiration to be a stronger leader in the APA community.

OCA members are strongly encouraged to apply to participate in the conference. In the past, it has proven to be extremely helpful to members in realizing how OCA chapters can most effectively work with OCA National on issues important to the APA community. The next conference will take place in March of 2009. To learn more about the conference, contact the National Office or go to www.oceanational.org. ■

JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

OCA Mentoring Asian American Professionals Program

Iimay Ho | OCA Program Associate

OCA is proud to offer its new mentorship program to three different sites this year. The Mentoring Asian American Professionals (MAAP) program, sponsored by the OCA/UPS Mentorship Initiative, has already launched successfully in Atlanta and the Greater San Francisco area. The third cycle of the program will kick off on October 23 in Washington, DC.

“With the generous support of UPS, OCA has created an innovative and successful mentorship program that helps Asian American professionals develop their leadership skills, build a team of supportive mentors, and advance their careers,” said OCA National President Ken Lee.

The goal of MAAP is to cultivate the next generation of Asian Pacific American professionals through mentoring, skills building, and networking. MAAP is a three-month program that pairs Asian American professionals with experienced leaders in their fields. The program includes four one-on-one mentoring meetings structured around professional development topics, as well as three group convenings. Also, as part of the mentoring process, mentees create a personal strategic plan to identify ways to achieve their personal and professional goals.

“This program highlights the need for mentors early on in your career and having many mentors through out your career. Many of us don’t realize the importance of mentors until it is too late,” said Ken Lee.

The initial run of the MAAP program in Atlanta had a total of 36 participants. UPS, State Farm, and Georgia Power all donated space to use for the group convenings. When the cycle ended in August, almost all of the participants said they’d like

to continue meeting with their mentor or mentee. Mentees said that expanding their networks, improving their communication skills, clarifying their goals, and receiving advice and honest feedback from their mentors were some of the most valuable experiences they gained from the program.

“We gained new members through the MAAP program and increased the visibility of OCA-Georgia. The program has given our chapter a great opportunity to connect with Asian American professionals in Atlanta and build a stronger relationship with UPS,” said OCA-Georgia chapter president Norman Chu.

The MAAP program moved on to its second location in September with a total of 16 participants representing a variety of different fields. USPS hosted the orientation, and has generously offered space for the next two convenings. The orientation was well-attended, and the participants expressed excitement about the start of the program.

“OCA-San Francisco Bay is excited about the launch of the MAAP program in the Bay Area. As a mentor and facilitator, I look forward to helping to make this cycle a success,” said OCA-San Francisco Bay Vice President Clifford Yee.

The third and final cycle of this year will kickoff in Washington, DC on October 23 before Corporate Achievement Awards.

Anyone interested in learning more about the program should contact Iimay Ho at iho@ocanational.org. ■

The goal of MAAP is to cultivate the next generation of Asian Pacific American professionals through mentoring, skills building, and networking. MAAP is a three-month program that pairs Asian American professionals with experienced leaders in their fields.

OCA Serves: APAs Helping Others

Pei-Un Yee | OCA Senior Program Manager

OCA launched its first ever OCA Serves service day on September 11, 2009. OCA Serves is a project in which OCA has designated two days in the year for Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) to give back to their community. OCA, along with other large state and national organizations, is committed to expanding service opportunities in their communities by mobilizing their constituencies in support of service and planning a Day of Action event. The two OCA Serves days OCA selected are September 11th and January 19th to commemorate 9/11 and Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday.

All the chapter activities are brought together with an assigned theme for each service day. For the launch of OCA Serves, OCA chapters participated in a nationwide food drive in the days leading up to September 11. Chapter leaders and members volunteered their time to either give or serve food to those in need. The response from our members was astounding and all their work went to an incredibly good cause. Each chapter gave back to their communities in different ways.

OCA-Central Illinois conducted a monetary contribution drive to benefit the Midwest Food Bank which would go towards the purchase of food and gas for food distribution. The chapter was able to raise over \$100 dollars in donations.

OCA-Utah organized a service project at the Utah Food Bank, the largest food bank in the Greater Salt Lake area. A total of 31 people with ages ranging from 10 to 72 attended their service event. They were able to pack over 8,000 food items into 350 boxes which were uniquely decorated by local school children.

OCA-Greater Washington DC collected non-perishable food for the Manna Food Center known for providing food for many needy people in Montgomery County, MD through its various programs. The chapter delivered over 180 pounds of food in total and approximately \$100 in cash donations.

OCA-Georgia worked in coalition with the Chinese Culture School and the Chinese School of Atlanta to collect canned goods, dry goods and personal toiletries to donate to the Pan Asian Commutation Services (CPACS) and Tzu Chi Foundation.

OCA-Colorado chapter members volunteered hours to serve food at the Denver Rescue Mission.



OCA-Utah, winners of the chapter participants’ drawing, stands proudly with their items. Utah won one free trip to the October Corporate Achievement Awards in Washington, DC.

OCA-New Jersey collected non-perishable food at their annual summer picnic. Everybody who attended the picnic was asked to donate a food item for the Center for Food Action in Englewood, New Jersey. With over 75 people in attendance, the chapter was able to collect 12 bags of food for donation.

OCA-Greater Houston helped sponsor the Unity Talent Show, an event that allows Asian-American organizations at the University of Houston to come together and showcase their talents. This annual event was a forum for the chapter’s Service Day to collect cans for the local food bank. OCA-GH’s college affiliates at Rice University (Vietnamese Students Association) and the South Texas College of Law Asian Pacific American Law Students Association also collected cans at their September events to donate along with the items collected by the chapter.

OCA is proud of all its chapters for the effort they put in to collect every item and donation for this past service day. Chapters have always taken the time to give back to their communities and OCA Serves provides an opportunity to bring all their activities together and show our efforts on a national level. Siu Lin Santee, president of the OCA-Utah chapter put it succinctly saying, “It was fun, easy, filled an important need in our community, and left us all with a greater sense of accomplishment and team spirit. What more could you ask for?” ■

Perspective on the New Bamboo Program: Build, Breakthrough & Believe

Victoria J. Rumsey | OCA Development Manager

Bamboo, the new aspiring young professionals program came to flourish in late spring 2009, just as I began my position at OCA. I was happy to see that there was a program OCA was developing that focused on capturing aspiring young professionals. Being a young professional myself, I was happy to be working on a program that not only other APAs my own age would benefit from, but a program I could benefit from as well.

When you look at the programs that OCA offers; the scholarship program, internship program, and mentorship it only seemed fitting to add another piece that would bridge the general age range and the youth of OCA. Bamboo possesses vital opportunities for aspiring APA professionals within OCA to connect with not only each other, but poses an opportunity for other APAs to get involved with OCA.

The goal of Bamboo is to engage APA aspiring professionals in networking, professional development, and mentoring. OCA has been lucky to partner with Yum! Brands to help grow this program, as a presenting sponsor of Bamboo. The Bamboo team has been working side by side with Richard Rugnao, Senior Manager Government Relations and Global Diversity for Yum! Brands. He is also an active BAC member.

In April, a few of the staff members including myself were in Atlanta for the OCA National Board meeting. We had a chance to attend EMERGE, a program that was developed for Hispanic emerging professionals. It was a great event for us to attend, we met some great people and it truly helped us get some insight on how we wanted to create the program for Bamboo.

With the support of the Executive Council and the Business Advisory Council, Bamboo was born (literally). Since late last spring, we have created a name, crafted a logo, set an agenda, created a Twitter and Facebook account, created a scholarship, and coordinated an amazing panel of speakers! OCA has been blessed with great talent and people have verbally expressed to me how proud they are to be part of Bamboo. It will be exciting to hear their stories and see the roads they have taken and (are still on) to get them where they are now.

For me, it has been what seems as a long road in building this program, roughly six months of careful planning, but Bamboo will continue to grow and OCA will continue building on to the wonderful program that it has established! OCA is excited and proud

to launch the program during the Corporate Achievement Awards at the end of October in Washington, DC. What will be next in store for Bamboo? Wait and see!

More information about Bamboo:

Build, Breakthrough, Believe is the three-word mantra of the 'Bamboo' program and will be used as building blocks for the event agenda. The workshops topics will range from personal branding to corporate success tactics and strategies.

'Bamboo' will be held at the W Hotel, DC on October 23 with a kick-off reception taking place Thursday, October 22. Participating speakers

Bamboo
Build. Breakthrough. Believe

will include; Sandi Karrmann, Yum! International Chief People Officer, Richard Lui, News Anchor for HLN, Wong Fu Productions, and Lisa Lee, Publisher for Hyphen Magazine.

Co-sponsors include: Anheuser-Busch, Kraft, Southwest Airline and State Farm. ■

Convention 2009

A Call to Action: Empowering Asian Pacific American Voices

Sarah Smith Nester | OCA Communications Manager

More than 1,000 OCA members and friends came to celebrate the 36th OCA Convention in San Francisco last Aug 6-9. The event, which was hosted by the OCA-San Francisco chapter with support from other Northern California chapters (Sacramento, East Bay, San Mateo, and Silicon Valley) who were on-hand throughout the planning process. The event took place at the historic Westin St. Francis in downtown San Francisco, with the theme A Call to Action: Empowering Asian Pacific American Voices.

Photos by Frank Jang



Thursday August 6

The OCA Convention officially began on Aug. 6, with the Chapter Advancement Track, College Leadership Training, and Youth Leadership Training kicking the morning off.

The Business Advisory Council (BAC) explored new initiatives during the BAC Luncheon and Meeting at the Wells Fargo Headquarters, which followed with a National Board/BAC Reception where our National Board networked with the BAC.

That evening, OCA hosted the Welcome Reception to pay tribute to the legacy of APA veterans. American Legion Post #384, known as Cathay Post performed the moving National Anthem and flag ceremony. Richard Lui, an anchor at HLN was the emcee. Maj. Gen. Eldon Reguda gave the address and various musical performers kept the crowd entertained during the reception.

Friday August 7

The morning started off with a bang with the Opening Plenary Session: Empowering Our Voices and Defining Our Future. Speakers discussed: What's the future of

leadership for our community? What about electing the first APA President: who, when and how? Assemblyman Warren Furutani, Founding President of the Glide Foundation Janice Mirikitani, Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles Jadine Nielson, White House Director of Public Liaison Tina Tchen were the impressive panelists for this session.

Convention guests could also mingle about the Exhibits Hall/Career Fair which provided major corporations, government agencies, local community businesses and community organizations an opportunity to recruit as well as showcase their products, services and programs.

The Youth Recognition Luncheon recognized the Summer Internship Class of 2009, thanked our many sponsors for their commitment to education, and celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Internship Program. Mia Mingus, a member of Spark Reproductive Justice Now, gave a speech about being a queer, disabled APA adoptee working for women's rights. It was also a special day for former OCA National President and Executive Director Michael Lin, who received a special award during the luncheon for his service to OCA and the Internship Program. That evening,





guests made their way over to the Community Reception at San Francisco's City Hall, which featured elected and appointed APA officials such as Congresswoman Judy Chu and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. The Asian Chefs Association catered the event with a plethora of foods from the Philippines to Japan.

Saturday August 8

Saturday started off by working on improving our health at the Community Health Fair. The State of Asian Pacific America Summit focused on how the economic and political impact of the 2010 Census makes achieving a complete count one of the most important issues facing APAs. The high-caliber speakers were: IW Group Chairman Bill Imada, Ditas Katague of Census 2010, Thomas L. Mesenbourg, Jr, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Census Bureau, Executive Director of Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) Vincent Pan and Adrienne Pon, of the SF Mayor's Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs.

The Chapter Awards Luncheon was, as always, a fun-filled event where chapters came together to recognize their achievements. OCA was proud to announce the OCA-New York chapter as the Chapter of the Year for their hard work and efforts.

Finally, it was time for folks to get dressed in their fines for the Gala Awards Banquet. OCA presented their Unsung Heroes and UPS Gold Mountain winners and announced Kraft Foods, Inc as this year's Corporate Partner of the Year. OCA was thrilled to award the Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award to Congressman Mike Honda, and APA historians Phil Choy and Him Mark Lai (posthumous). These men are all leaders to the APA community for their efforts in civil rights. The Pioneer Awards were presented to acclaimed fashion designer Anna Sui, and Youtube founder Steve Chen, two people who have had success well beyond their years. It was an awesome way to end the evening!

Sunday August 9

For OCA National Board members and staff, Convention did not end, even after the National Board meeting. The Angel Island Immigration Station Tour and Picnic was an exciting yet somber event to pay witness to those who passed through Angel Island, particularly Asian Americans who came to this country only to face discrimination and imprisonment. OCA members reflected on what it means to be an American, and what it means to truly Empower our Voices. ■

New York Wins OCA Chapter of the Year

Every year, guests of the Convention anticipate finding out who will receive Chapter Excellence Awards at the Chapter Awards Luncheon. This year, the 2009 winner of Chapter of the Year was presented to OCA-New York.

Vice President of Chapter Development, Duy Nguyen, said, "The OCA-NY chapter excelled in all areas of advocacy, communications, projects/programs, economic development and membership. The leadership of the chapter's board is crucial to the betterment of the local area. Congratulations to Vicki Shu and the rest of the board for a job well-done!"

Duy and a Chapter Awards committee selected the awardees based on their application. ■

OCA-NY



Unsung Heroes Recognized for their Work Behind the Scenes

Each year, OCA awards several special people who are highly motivated members who volunteer their time to work behind the scenes and let others take the credit. OCA believes it is important to honor those who don't always receive the spotlight, but have continuously put their hearts into keeping OCA alive. The 2009 Unsung Heroes are:

Anna Wong (OCA-Wisconsin)

Benjamin Yeung (OCA-San Mateo)

George Yin (OCA-Greater Los Angeles)

Ian C. Lim (OCA-Dallas/Fort Worth)

Joan S. Jia (OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley)

Chapter of the Year

- 1st Place – New York
- 2nd Place – New Jersey
- 3rd Place – Central Illinois

5 Star Award

- Greater Los Angeles
- Greater Houston

Rising Star

- San Mateo

Advocacy

- Greater Sacramento

Communications

- Greater Los Angeles

Economic Development

- New Jersey

Programs and Projects

- Westchester & Hudson Valley

Local Community Involvement

- Long Island

Membership

- Utah

2009 Corporate Partner of the Year Award Goes To Kraft

Victoria Rumsey | OCA Development Manager

To OCA, Kraft is more than just the "brands you know and trust." Kraft is about commitment to diversity in the corporate sphere. Kraft is not only committed to putting food on tables of our families, but also to developing programs and initiatives that support Asian Pacific Americans in the workplace.

As a global business, Kraft Foods has been recognized as a leader in advancing diversity and fostering an inclusive culture. Kraft's dedication and support of OCA, the OCA mission and the Asian Pacific American Community it what makes Kraft OCA's 2009 Corporate Partner of the Year.

Kraft has been one of the most valued supporters of the OCA National Convention and the National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards for over a decade. Kraft has not only sponsored OCA events, but they have also been an integral part of the Business Advisory Council (BAC) which provides critical support for OCA's programming. Kraft has also been an important partner on the community level, and has more recently participated on the leadership panel for one of OCA's Chicago chapters.

Kraft received the 2009 Corporate Partner Award at the OCA Gala Awards Banquet on Saturday, August 8 at the Westin St. Francis in San Francisco. This was Kraft's first time accepting the award. Michael Hsu, president, Grocery Kraft Foods North America accepted the award on behalf of the company. He is also a 2009 Corporate Achievement Awards Recipient and will be honored on Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Awards Banquet in Washington, DC.

"Kraft Foods is a proud supporter of OCA's mission of social justice and equal opportunity. As a global corporate leader, it's critical that the cultural diversity of our consumers is reflected in our workforce and that we help build stronger communities," said Irene Rosenfeld, chief executive officer of Kraft.

OCA's Corporate Partner of the also contributes to OCA in other meaningful ways. Through their respective corporate and community foundations, OCA's corporate partners have supported worthwhile endeavors such as scholarship and internship programs, leadership development for youth, special outreach and education programs, and various innovative community projects.

OCA is pleased to recognize Kraft for their continued support and commitment to the mission of embracing the hopes and aspirations of APAs. ■



Michael Hsu accepts the award for Kraft at the 2009 Gala Awards Banquet. He is standing with David Lin, Rogene Gee Calvert and Bernie Collins of the BAC, and also National President Ken Lee.

Highlighting Photos from OCA Members

Photo by Camden Lee



Photo by Bryan Tam



Photo by Yao Lee



Photo by Tom Eng

OCA Nationals received photos from several members, affiliates and interns who captured the 2009 Convention in their own way. Here are just some of the photos that were submitted.

Photo by OCA-Long Island



Photo by Bryan Tam

20th Anniversary of Interns OCA Former Interns: 20 Years of Where Are They Now?

Mia Youhne | OCA VP of Communications

OCA Nationals reached out to the former interns to get a sample of profiles featuring information on where our interns are, and what they are doing. Thanks to all who responded, OCA is very proud of your many accomplishments.



Yen Ling Shek - Class of 1997

Placement during your internship at OCA: National Office

Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how? The relationships I built in the internship helped me with my leadership activities when I returned to campus, putting on conferences, inviting speakers. I continued to draw from those relationships when I entered my career as a student affairs professional.

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? I learned a lot about APA issues on a national level and the importance of having policy advocates. It helped me to connect with people on a regional and national level. A large number of those relationships I still have today on both personal and professional levels.

Where are you now? Los Angeles, CA

What are you doing now? 2nd year doctoral student in Higher Education and Organizational Change at UCLA

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? I attended the 2009 Convention. The convention was a great opportunity to see the impact of the OCA internship program on so many people. I had a great time reconnecting with people. The most memorable thing for me was doing the facilitator training for APIA-U. I am thankful for the opportunity to continue working with college students on a national level through OCA.



Camden Lee - Class of 2009

Placement during your internship at OCA: OCA National Center

Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how? It gave me valuable experience in my field of study - Asian American Studies.

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? The internship not only showed me the how I could get involved in the APA community, but also the influence the APA community has on not only the local level, but also the national level. I also met many amazing people and made a lot of good friends.

Where are you now? Washington, DC metro area

What are you doing now? In school at the University of Maryland finishing up my undergraduate degree.

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? I attended convention in 2009 as an intern working at convention. It was a stressful experience, but I did learn a lot and gained experience both planning and running a large event.

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Marivic Tolentino - Class of 2003

Placement during your internship at OCA: Congresswoman Susan Davis

Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how? Yes, my placement allowed me to understand the inner workings of a federal public office, from managing constituents to creating policy, I was able to gain first-hand experience that has helped advance my career today.

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? My internship was an amazing experience. Besides spending the summer in our country's capital, it was a great experience to be a part of an internship class for an organization that values Asian Pacific American Heritage and invests in the awareness APAs in main stream society. I truly value my experience as an OCA intern and take with me a deeper appreciation for my culture, my heritage and my identity as an Asian American woman.

Where are you now? San Francisco, CA

What are you doing now? I am an Enterprise Business Development Representative for a company in the high-tech industry.

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? I've attended two OCA Conventions, the first in Hawaii (2003) and the second in San Francisco (2009). The most memorable convention I attended was Hawaii. That year I was an intern volunteer for the event with my class. We worked rigorously to organize the event and there were many late nights at the OCA office - together we pulled off a great convention where we also created some great videos to share with the convention guests, OCA members and corporate sponsors.



Clifford Yee - Class of 2001

Placement during your internship at OCA: National Office

Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how? Yes. My placement increased my knowledge about many issues affecting the larger APA community and led me to want to continue my involvement at the local level and to educate my peers about these issues. During this time, we were also trying to coordinate a California-wide APA student coalition, and my involvement further developed my facilitation and organization development skills.

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? I became educated on the many challenges that the diverse APA community faces in regards to immigration, health care reform, education, etc. Upon completion of the internship, I returned to UC Santa Cruz to educate my peers about these challenges and was energized about them more involved in the APA community. Through this transition, I became involved with the OCA - San Francisco Bay Chapter, became involved in the APA community in Michigan while completing my MSW at the University of Michigan, and continue to advocate for the APA community through providing culturally competent health care services within my job at Asian Health Services; getting involved with the planning committee for the 2009 OCA National Convention in San Francisco, and recently being elected as the Vice President of the OCA - San Francisco Bay Chapter.

Where are you now? San Francisco, CA

What are you doing now? I work at Asian Health Services, which is a comprehensive community health center located in Oakland, CA. I am the Youth Program Coordinator where my program focuses on providing free and confidential, comprehensive reproductive health services to teens. I supervise health educators, manage a weekly teen clinic and school based health center at Oakland High School, oversee our Peer Leaders program, and coordinate our grants.

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? I attended the 2009 Convention in San Francisco. I thought it was a very successful Convention where we were able to honor the APA veterans, host a City Hall reception which included many APA - elected officials including Congresswoman Judy Chu and State Controller John Chiang; and honor our awardees in front of hundreds at the annual Gala. Having the National Convention in San Francisco is special because it was also a great opportunity to bring in new community members to become involved with OCA and was a great opportunity for the East Bay, Greater Sacramento, and San Mateo and Silicon Valley chapters of OCA to work together on the planning committee to ensure a quality convention. The most memorable moment of the 2009 National Convention for me was going to Angel Island, where my grandfather was detained before he was allowed to immigrate to the United States. I recall being very exhausted from assisting with the Convention the previous 3 days, but was excited to visit the newly renovated Immigration Station, particularly at a time when California was announcing state parks to be closed. The best part for me, as a participant and planning committee member, was interacting with everyone and seeing their smiles as they departed the ferry and boarded the buses back to the hotel.



Pam Sran - Class of 2009

Placement during your internship at OCA: Office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how? This internship helped me to decide what I wanted to do after I graduated from the University of California, San Diego. Before I wasn't sure what path to take, whether to take a year off, or continue my education. Now I am 100 percent sure that I want to go to Law School and become an advocate for API's.

Where are you now? La Jolla, California

What are you doing now? I am currently a junior at the University of California, San Diego.

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? I attended the 2009 Convention. It was an amazing opportunity to meet amazing APA community leaders and to learn about the issues we face today, and what we, as students, can do to help. My most memorable moment was escorting Congress member Mike Honda to the stage so that he could accept his award! It was amazing to meet such an amazing leader in our community. He stands for hope, change, and prosperity! He is my role model and someone I hope to be like in the future!

Elizabeth Yu - Class of 2002

Placement during your internship at OCA: Congresswoman Shelley Berkley's office

Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how? Although my career is not in politics or social reform, my placement has always been a positive point of conversation in interviews.

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? My internship has led me to a greater awareness of political issues impacting APAs and the need to represent our often underrepresented group. OCA helps break the stereotypes of being a "silent minority." I have come to embrace my heritage even more and have a greater appreciation for the Asian Americans before me, who have blazed a path for younger generations.

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Where are you now? Las Vegas

What are you doing now? I work as a Financial Institutions Division Examiner for the State of Nevada

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? Yes! The 2002 Salt Lake City convention and the 2003 Boston Convention. Both were a ton of fun! It was great to see APAs come together and celebrate the achievements of other APAs.



Andrew Chang Class of 2009

Placement during your internship at OCA: Department of Transportation (DOT)

Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how? Yes, being placed at the Department of Transportation gave me an exposure to a federal agency work environment and lifestyle, as well as the entailing responsibilities. Being placed at such a high level of bureaucracy within DC makes me want to come back to DC later in the future to work on issues affecting the community and society. The experience gained also translated into tangibles for classroom discussion for graduate school.

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? The internship reaffirmed my desire to pursue a career concerning APA issues in the community and in society. I recently graduated with an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering, and am now pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Affairs, thus the internship served as a bridge from engineering to political science and community involvement. Because of the OCA internship process, I am more knowledgeable about APA issues and resources, possess a better sense of DC bureaucracy, and understand better the mechanics of how the federal government is involved with the public community. I hope to use the knowledge and experiences gained from the internship to educate and empower others, whether it is my family, friends, classmates, or citizens in my local community.

Where are you now? Gainesville, FL

What are you doing now? University of Florida, 1st Year MA in Public Affairs Graduate Student

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? I enjoyed the host setting of San Francisco, and the 2009 Convention was well put on. Everything went smoothly for the most part, and I enjoyed meeting many local Californian politicians and activists. The most memorable part was working with an amazing group of fellow 2009 OCA interns, as well as the OCA National and local chapter staff, meeting other college students from the state of California during College Day, and hearing motivational and informative speeches from local politicians and APA activists (i.e. California Assemblymember Warren T. Furutani).

Shan O-Yuan - Class of 2000

Placement during your internship at OCA: Congresswomen Shelly Berkley

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? As one tries to articulate himself, ultimately, one tries answer some very basic question about self, society, and the relationship that between self and society. OCA created a platform for me to articulate my voice, meeting others who are going

through similar journeys, and participate in a movement that that challenges the status quo and furthers the cause of equality and justice. During my internship, the friendship and discussion that resulted from it still impacts me today, reminding me that my heritage is not a curse, but a blessing; my rights is also my corresponding duty; and my involvement will make an impact.

Where are you now? Beijing, China

What are you doing now? General Manager of an Interior Design & Engineering Firm, Infinity Interiors

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? I attended the 2000 Convention in Atlanta and the 2001 Convention in Seattle.

Viva Mogi - Class of 2007

Placement during your internship at OCA: GMS/APIASF

Did your placement help you in your career and if so, how? It gave me a greater understanding on what is needed and expected in our current high school youth. I feel my experience at GMS gave me a stronger reason to continue to advocate for quality equal education for all.

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? The OCA internship provided me a strong network of dedicated and passionate APA college students who all strive for social justice and equality. It also allowed me to step outside of the box and explore the world deeper than what was taught to us in the textbooks. The DC experience strongly impacted my decision to continue with my current career path. Lastly, the OCA internship gave me lifelong friends whom I admire and miss so much!

Where are you now? San Francisco, CA

What are you doing now? Lead Pre-K Teacher at a private non-profit preschool in SF

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? Well, since I was on the 2009 Planning Committee with a great group of members, I thought it was awesome! I thought the Honoring the Veterans was a great event. It was amazing to see so many Veterans come together and be recognized. It's not often where they are given a space to be put on the spotlight.



Franklin M. Kang - Class of 1994

Placement during your internship at OCA: OCA National Office

In 200 words or less, how would you say your internship impacted who you are today? Working for OCA, in particular with former Executive Directors Daphne Kwok and Christine Chen, reaffirmed my commitment to public service professionally and personally. I know that my obligation to the nation and community is part of my daily life, and I convey these obligations to my sons.

Where are you now? San Francisco, CA.

What are you doing now? Administrative Judge, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board

Have you ever attended an OCA Convention? If so, what year? What did you think about it, and what was most memorable? I attended the 2009 Convention, and it was great to see that OCA remains alive, strong, and engaged, although I thought the logistics at the hotel could have been better. It was memorable seeing everyone again, and meeting the new leadership.