

## **New Alumni Board President** *APA's Michael Wong*

During the Spring Alumni Senate Weekend, Michael Wong '96, Chairman of the APA of ND Board, was selected by the Notre Dame Alumni Board of Directors to serve as President-elect of the Alumni Board from 2009 to 2010, and subsequently President from 2010 to 2011. Michael will be the first Asian Pacific alumnus to hold this leadership position and will assume the top ND Alumni position on July 1, 2010. The Alumni Board represents over 123,000 alumni around the world and more than 260 clubs. Michael comes from a family of Domers, including father Ronald '53, uncle Justin '59, and siblings Gregory '91 and Diane '93.

## **2009 APA Mini-Reunion** *Notre Dame vs. Nevada*

Mark your calendars for September 5, 2009, when the Asian Pacific Alumni of Notre Dame will host its annual mini-reunion, in conjunction with the Black, Hispanic, and Native American Alumni of Notre Dame, and the Notre Dame Alumni Association. We anticipate a great turnout as APA from all over the country and different class years, reuniting and reminiscing before heading into the stadium to watch the Fighting Irish open the season with a victory. Proceeds from the tickets sold at the mini-reunion go to support the APA of ND Scholarship and the Kenneth Kwak Scholarship for Asian Studies. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

## **2009 Asian Film Festival and Asian American Film Festival**



Notre Dame's annual Asian Film Festival was held February 27-28. The Asian Pacific Alumni was one of the co-sponsors. Films shown included *West 32nd*, starring John Cho (*Harold & Kumar*) and Grace Park (*Battlestar Galactica*). ND alumnus Edward Song '06 worked on the production as "assistant to the director." Additionally, another film festival devoted exclusively to the Asian American experience was initiated this year by

senior Thanh Le. The Multicultural Student Programs and Services financed the event, held January 22-25.



### **SensAsians**

*by Jean Nguyen '09 & Hui Hung '10*

Founded in 2006, SensAsians is a team of Asian American girls bonded through a desire to play Bookstore Basketball. While the desire to win is strong, the friendships that are built are more important. Be Smart, Be Sweet, Be SensAsianal!

**Message from the Chairperson**  
*Michael Wong, '96*



It's just another first down run up the middle for a 5-yard gain. Not a first down yet, but a position that Charlie Weis loves:

demonstrated success, building momentum, with lots of options to pick up another first down or maybe take it to the house. Since the APA's last newsletter six months ago, as is often the case, our mission has been advanced with a solid run up the middle. Nothing fancy, but with a lot of hard work, it's going exactly as planned. We're not dancing in the end zone yet, but we're getting close -- really close.

With University leaders' commitments and the efforts of numerous Minority Alumni Network volunteers, we continue to make significant strides in undergraduate admissions. We continue to change the face of Notre Dame and to dispel the notion that our University is just a "white school." In 2009, 1,401 Asian Pacific (AP) prospective students applied to ND; the most ever. Also a new record, 448 were admitted (32% of the APs that applied). Though the final numbers aren't in, we also hope to see

positive results in this year's confirmation rate.

Another first, the APA of ND also awarded two Asian Studies scholarships this spring. Two very worthy, impressive Asian Pacific seniors received the Ken Kwak Scholarship in Asian Studies. Both were nominated by their respective Asian Studies professors. Though the award sizes are currently only \$500 each, the APA of ND continues to fundraise, and with your assistance, we hope to increase the annual awards to \$2,000.

We've also seen strides at the national alumni level, as the first Asian Pacific Domer was elected President-Elect of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. This and other leadership positions across the Notre Dame Clubs are being filled with outstanding Asian Pacific alumni and alumnae, a trend that is sure to continue.

We are in a great position to capitalize on all the hard work that has gotten us this far. Thank you for your support to date. Now, it's just about pushing it over the goal line, and with your help, we will.

God Bless and Go Irish!

Michael Wong, ND '96  
Chairman, APA of ND

**Who is Father Joe?**

*by Yi Fang, JD '11*

For Chinese students, Father Joseph Carey, CSC, is the "grandpa" - they look to him as part of their own family out of love and respect. Each student has a different story to tell. But one thing stays the same: Father Joe is a great friend of ND Chinese students!



## Class of 2009 Asian Pacific Degree Recipients

### Business Graduate Degrees:

Agarwal, Dipesh M.  
 Albano, Jonathan R.  
 Bhasin, Chetan S.  
 Bhutta, Parag B.  
 Bitong, Benjamin Mark D.  
 Cai, Xian  
 Campbell, Uyen T.  
 Go, Mark-Steven T.  
 Han, Boram  
 Haran, Narayanan  
 Hom, Eva M.  
 Kothari, Ami  
 Kwak, Bona  
 Li, Xiao  
 Lin, Chih-Wei A.  
 Lin, Peter A.  
 Liu, Irene  
 Pascal, Kenneth D.  
 Patel, Kevin N.  
 Sakaya, Daniel E.  
 Samikkannu, Jason P.  
 Santos, Rodegar T.  
 Shah, Munir D.  
 Shen, Dan  
 Sohail, Mohammad  
 Sun, Yan  
 Wang, Feifei  
 Whitmer, David H.  
 Wilkinson, Candis M.  
 Yu, Honglian  
 Zhang, Chuyi  
 Zhang, Ti

### Law Degrees:

Ansari, Sarah S.  
 Antani, Manish S.  
 Cuaycong, Amethyst R.  
 Kim, David G.  
 Kim, Hyejean Jessica  
 Lee, HakSoo S.  
 Lee, Sang Yup  
 Nguyen, Michael D.  
 Ogaki, Remu  
 Patel, Samir H.  
 Patil, Gauri A.  
 So, Anthony Y.  
 Yee, Jonathan H.  
 Yoo, Sungjin

### Graduate Degrees:

Anderson, Sonja G.  
 Bains, Kiran  
 Bui, Peter J.  
 Chen, Allen  
 Jiang, Hua  
 Kapadia, Jill A.  
 Kim, Richard T.  
 Li, Yong  
 Xu, Dan

### Undergraduate Degrees:

Ahmed, Nazur A.  
 Ahuja, Karun R.  
 Almario, Joyce F.  
 Anantharaman, Karuna P.  
 Aslekar, Apurva M.  
 Bautista, Jonah D.  
 Beyersdorf, Brian C.  
 Booth, Margaret E.  
 Briggs, Jason T.  
 Brito, Tara E.  
 Brown, William J.  
 Castonguay, Christopher J.  
 Chan, Serena T.  
 Chang, Paige B.  
 Chao, Grace  
 Chiu, ChingChe J.  
 Choi, Steven K.  
 Chu, Korey G.  
 Chun, Nare  
 Cortez, Zyra C.  
 Crosby, Elizabeth K.  
 Dai, Zhibin  
 Dang, Jennifer H.  
 Datar, Jonathan A.  
 de Leon, Mayene D.  
 Deendyal, Vikash A.  
 DeLorenzo, Daniel A.  
 Doan, Victoria  
 Donovan, Rachel M.  
 Eng, Stephanie R.  
 Entz, Joshua K.  
 Evangelista, Calvin G.  
 Fernandes, Jessica-Lynn M.  
 Fernando, Joseph J.  
 Frost, Brandon R.  
 Gamboa, Lauren M.  
 Guerrero, Lisa M.  
 Guzman, Christian T.  
 Hahm, Julian K.  
 Han, Janet M.  
 Hanson, Max A.  
 Harintho, Diana S.  
 Hashmi, Sohaib Z.  
 Hemhauser, Lynn  
 Hira, Diva M.  
 Huang, Chi Z.  
 Hung, Kuo-Wei  
 Hung, Leslie A.  
 Izumo, Ashlyn K.  
 Jackson, Heather E.  
 Jia, Xiaonan  
 Jimenez, Francesca C.  
 Jorge, Maria Victoria M.  
 Jose, Rupa  
 Kamatkar, Nachiket G.  
 Kang, Jennifer S.  
 Kierulf, Adrian P.  
 Knutson, Andrew K.  
 Kobylarczyk, Martin T.  
 Kocab, Andrew J.  
 Koley, Leeah R.  
 Kuo, Kenneth  
 Kwan, Natassia  
 Ladao, David D.  
 Lam, Sharon  
 Lan, Brian Y.  
 Le, Thanh D.  
 Le, VyVy T.  
 Lee, Brian H.  
 Lee, David  
 Lee, Jane J.  
 Lee, Jessica H.  
 Lee, Kathy J.

Lee, Linda  
 Lee, Terence J.  
 Lee, Thomas H.  
 Lee, Velvet  
 Lennon, Mary Catherine  
 Lerma, Michael D.  
 Liu, Evan M.  
 Ma, Shao Bo  
 MacMichael, Marla W.  
 Mallin, Sean M.  
 McGill, Daniel J.  
 Meier, Scott J.  
 Meyer, Chelsea K.  
 Montgomery, Taylor K.  
 Moore, Alexander W.  
 Nakatsukasa, Luke K.  
 Napierski, Matthew J.  
 Nathan, Rachel A.  
 Nesbitt, Teresa A.  
 Nguyen, Jean N.  
 Nguyen, Jonathan M.  
 Nguyen, Lillian  
 Nguyen, Quyen T.  
 Nguyen, Stephanie T.  
 Nguyen, Thuy Vy-Cynthia H.  
 Nguyen-Vu, Thien-An  
 Nott, Adrienne M.  
 Pangilinan, Angelica R.  
 Patel, Jemini  
 Pereira, Shanna A.  
 Pham, Anh-Minh  
 Pham, Hy G.  
 Pham, Maria L.  
 Popelka, Valerie A.  
 Prawdzik, Kevin E.  
 Qian, Julie Y.  
 Rini, Christine J.  
 Robertson, Casey M.  
 Rodulfa, Jason B.  
 Runkle, Joseph M.  
 Saito, Eric K.  
 Santos, Giancarlo E.  
 Sargent, Hajime S.  
 Savino, Ryan K.  
 Shaffer, Kristina M.  
 Sheahan, Andrew R.  
 Simmons, Ryan C.  
 Snediker, Thomas J.  
 Snyder, Sarah H.  
 Sullivan, Diane  
 Sutton, Angela M.  
 Sweeney, Patrick T.  
 Thomson, John R.  
 Toyama, Michael P.  
 Tran, Carson  
 Tsai, Joseph  
 Tumbaga, Tiffani M.  
 Verdeyen, Michael J.  
 Vig, Vatika  
 Vinalon, Conrad H.  
 Waldenberger, Ami L.  
 Wang, Justin J.  
 Ward, Timothy J.  
 Wilczek, Laura A.  
 Williams, Christopher J.  
 Wong, Margaret M.  
 Wu, Anna  
 Yamaguchi, Nicole R.  
 Yim, Robin Y.  
 Yip, Brian Y.  
 Ymalay, Gabriel R.  
 Young, Patrick W.  
 Yuen, Melissa A.

## Scholarship Winners

*Tej Mudigonda*

*Brandon Frost and Janet Han*



The annual APA of ND Scholarship, which provides money and/or books to a high achieving Asian Pacific student, is awarded to

junior, Tej Mudigonda, of Hoboken, NJ, who is majoring in Science-Preprofessional and Sociology.

Following his freshman year, Tej spent an eight-week internship in Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns Summer Service Learning Program. He has served as the St. Edward's Hall Diversity Commissioner and Vice President, has been on the Dean's List his entire college career, is an academic tutor and pre-med mentor, and is an Honor Student and in the High Achievers Program.

This year, the APA of ND established the Kenneth H.S. Kwak Scholarship for Asian Studies, named after a past chairman of the APA of ND who was an avid proponent of promoting the Asian Studies Program. The award goes to a student who has shown a profound interest in Notre Dame's Asian Studies Program, excelled in the classroom, and intends to use what was learned in Asian Studies in life after graduation. In this initial year, through the generosity of Mr. Glenn Woo, we are able to grant two \$500 awards. Seniors Brandon Frost and Janet Han are our recipients.

Brandon, of Honolulu, is majoring in History and Japanese. He has spent a

significant amount of time analyzing the effects of the various forms of communication on the Japanese community, its culture, and its ethic. He has taken courses in



Chinese, Korean, and Japanese. He twice studied in Japan and has worked on a Summer Service Project in Bangkok, Thailand. Upon graduation,

Brandon intends to attend graduate school in East Asian Languages and Cultures, with the hope of becoming a college level educator.

Janet, from Los Angeles, is majoring in Film and Chinese, and has spent much of her four years at Notre Dame helping to develop some



aspects of the University's Asian Studies Program. When she arrived at Notre Dame, she was disappointed with the opportunities she had in the Asian Studies field, particularly in Korean and Chinese. She took it upon herself with some fellow students to establish a nascent program in these two disciplines.

She is fluent in Korean and has a working verbal knowledge of Mandarin Chinese and Mongolian. Her goal after graduation "is to build bridges between the Asian and Hollywood film industries in order to collaborate talents and forces to form a more dynamic film industry."

## Chinese Consuls Visit Campus Scholarships Presented

On October 31, the Midwest Chinese Consul General, Huang Ping, and the Consul for Education, Yuan Ji, visited ND and met with Fr. Jenkins. Mr. Huang hopes to develop a relationship for future collaboration with Chinese universities. Mr. Huang had lunch with professors, researchers, and administrators from China. As a result of the visit, in January, Mr. Yuan informed Notre Dame of a newly created scholarship for our students:

*"I am pleased to announce that after careful considerations, the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Chicago will offer your university one Chinese Government Scholarship for the academic year 2009/2010. The Chinese Consulate General in Chicago values very much your university's commitment to Chinese Studies and equally appreciates its continued effort to strengthen ties with China. We hope that the scholarship will provide a new opportunity for students of your University to learn more about China. The Chinese Government Scholarship program is designed to sponsor international students to pursue studies at one of the designated Chinese colleges and universities."*

Prof. Liangyan Ge of the East Asian Languages and Cultures coordinated the selection of the scholarship recipients, along with Dian Murray and others. John Inoh Choe and Mitchell Griffin were selected for the full scholarship, covering tuition, accommodation, medical insurance, and monthly living allowance for the Spring 2010 semester.

## Volunteering in China

**Gregory Lim, '08, Distinguished Asian-Pacific Student 2008**



*I teach at the Yanji International Cooperation Technical School, where the Salesians of Don Bosco from South Korea are allowed, so long as they do not identify themselves as clergy or proselytize. Each of the past 8 years, at least one Notre Dame alumnus has served here. My students have brought so much joy to my heart. They have taught me patience. They have touched me by how they persevere despite their life struggles. Most importantly, they have taught me how to love more deeply. The Salesian missionaries share Jesus' love everyday with the Chinese solely through acts of kindness, bringing new light to the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words only when necessary."*

## Student Recruitment Goals

During the Spring Board meeting in March, the APA of ND board hosted a lunch for 28 Asian Pacific high school seniors who were invited by the Admissions Office to visit campus. Board members shared their backgrounds with the students and answered students' questions, in order to enlighten the students about the benefits of attending Notre Dame for Asian Americans. This direct interaction has a clear impact on the rate of students opting to attend ND and ultimately reach a 40% yield.

## **New Board Member Perspective**

### ***Ryan Morita '06, Regional Director - Hawaii***

Undoubtedly, joining the APA in 2008 has been a very positive and rewarding experience! For me, what really matters most about being a Director are the personal connections and the difference I've been able to make. Since joining the APA in March 2008, I've had the privilege of doing both! I have met great, passionate Domers and I have worked with them to help increase cultural diversity for our Irish Ohana ("family"). This opportunity to re-connect to the University, come back to campus twice a year, visit the Grotto, and give back to the ND community have also been extremely rewarding.

Three events have really stood out for me this past year. The first being, ND's Hawaii Bowl participation. The atmosphere was absolutely fun, exciting, and mad, topped off with an electric finish for the team's 48-21 dismantling of the home team. As for a diversity event, we held a movie night in conjunction with the Honolulu Academy of Arts during its Jewish Film festival, inviting ND alumni to view the movie "Noodle." On the community service front, we recently completed a service project helping Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii during its annual Teddy Bear Drive for family shelters, children's hospitals, and other agencies. Amazingly, PCAH set a new Guinness Book World Record by collecting over 10,100 stuffed animals.

Looking forward, I'm continuously excited about the new things we'll be able to accomplish, friends made, and "records" broken. Much Aloha and best wishes to you all!

## **Welcome New Board Members**

The APA Board welcomes two new and three re-elected board members, following our annual elections.

**We also thank the outgoing board members for their invaluable service and countless contributions to the APA of ND over the past years:**

- \* Regina Corpuz, Young Alumni**
- \* Tammy Hui, Washington D.C.**
- \* Ashok Tripathi, Los Angeles**

The re-elected board members are:

- \* Zoraida Radona, Secretary**
- \* Jacki Rey-Hipolito, Alumni Relations**
- \* Brian McLaughlin, Communications**

We welcome the following newly elected board members.

### ***Vineeta Gupta MD, JD, LL.M '04*** ***Regional Director – Washington, D.C.***

Dr. Vineeta Gupta is the Program Officer, South Asia at The Global Fund for Children. Prior to this, she founded Stop HIV/AIDS in India Initiative. She has twenty two years of experience as a grassroots human rights activist and community organizer in India and the U.S.. Vineeta has consulted UNAIDS, Global AIDS Alliance, Global Action for Children, International Commission of Jurists, and Global Campaign for Microbicides. Her work has been acknowledged by many national and international organizations such as National Human Rights Commission of India, People's Union for Civil Liberties, Amnesty International, Physicians for

Human Rights, and the Chief Justices of India. She received the "Rotary Service to Humanity Award 2001." Vineeta spoke at the Mendoza College of Business, on "Quality Healthcare in Developing Countries: Sustainability, The New Imperative" and at Law School, on "HIV/AIDS in India: Local and Global Dimensions." She is on the DC ND Women's Leadership Committee.

**Michael Lee, '06**  
**Regional Director – Los Angeles**

Michael Lee has a degree from Notre Dame in Marketing and Minor in Mandarin Chinese. Currently, he is working as a Media Associate at MediaVest in Los Angeles. As a student, Michael was in the Asian American Association, while also being a supporting member of the Filipino-American Student Organization, Korean Student Association, and Hawaii Club. As the Social Commissioner of AAA from 2003-2004 and an active member all four years, he assisted with the organization and execution of the Fall Freshman retreat, Asian Allure, and InFocus. Michael remains active in his local community as a tutor through School on Wheels and a volunteer with the Child Life program at the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Michael looks forward to serving the APA community of Notre Dame, including alumni, current students as well as future generations of Domers.

**Club News - North Florida and Hawaii**

The ND Club of North Florida hosted an Asia Pacific Lunch on April 16. Also, Coach Weiss visited on June 1 to recognize the club's Outstanding "C" Club honor.

Lester Goo, '72, Hawaii Club president, ran the Honolulu Marathon December 14. Shown with VP Harrison Chung.



**Catching Up**  
**News from APA**

Emily Liu, '94 after 3 dedicated years of working on *The Trouble with Romance*, is very pleased to announce that the feature film she produced and acted in will be distributed by Warner Bros via On-Demand/Pay-Per-View.

Maggie Jaramilla Phe, '96, is a Deputy Attorney General for California, living in South Pasadena with her husband, Peter, and children, Isaac and Chloe.

Michelle Wong Delacruz, '96, resides and works as a Physical Therapist in Oahu, HI. She and her husband, Gary, recently celebrated their daughter Mari's first birthday.

Melissa Yim Wilson, '97, resides in Oahu, HI and is working for Kamehameha Schools. She and her husband, Scott ('97), live in Kaneohe with their children, Makoa and Lilinoe.

Jamie Chan-Ortega, '97, resides in Whittier, CA with her husband, Macho, and son, Naho. Jamie is an acupuncturist and business owner of Oasis Healing Arts.

Jennifer Leo, '96, resides in New York and is working for the United Nations.

**Stay in touch. Let your friends know the latest news in your life. Send your updates to [mclaff9@earthlink.net](mailto:mclaff9@earthlink.net) for inclusion in the next APA Review.**



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***APA Review***  
*Asian Pacific Alumni Newsletter*

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News items, photos, comments, and suggestions from alumni are welcome. Please send to:

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