Welcome to AFSA

The Asian Faculty and Staff Association (AFSA) at UWM was founded in 2002. The purpose of this organization is to bring together people of Asian heritage on this campus to acknowledge and celebrate diverse Asian cultures. AFSA proudly recognizes the growing number of Asian faculty and staff at UWM and encourages everyone to actively get involved and network with each other. AFSA is led by a steering committee, comprised of UWM staff and faculty (see bottom of next page for a list of committee members). For more information about AFSA, please visit www4.uwm.edu/afsa.

AFSA Award Program

The 2012-13 AFSA Award Program, now administered through the UWM Foundation, recognizes outstanding Asian students at UWM for their academic excellence, leadership skills, and commitment/contribution to the community. All faculty and staff are encouraged to nominate eligible Asian students for the award. The deadline for submitting applications for the 2012-13 awards is March 16, 2012. Awards will be announced on April 3, 2012. A copy of the award brochure can be found at www4.uwm.edu/afsa.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Asian Employee Network at the MillerCoors in December 2011 and faculty and staff donations, we will be able to award at least two achievement awards at $500 each for the 2012-13 program. For a tax-deductible contribution to this program, please make check payable to “AFSA Award Program” and mail to Linda Huang at Bolton 187. You may also give to the Program through UWM Gives. For more information, please contact Linda at lhuang@uwm.edu.

2011-12 AFSA Award Recipients

Two $500 achievement were given to Balaji Polepalli Ramesh (Ph.D Student Medical Informatics) and Sue Her (Undergraduate Student majoring in Criminal Justice) Nicholas Hartlep (Ph.D. Candidate – Urban Education and Social Foundations of Education) and Kun Lu (Ph.D Candidate School of Information Studies) were each given a $100 honorary award. We congratulate them on their academic excellence, leadership skills, and service to the community, and wish them continued educational success. When asked what the award meant to them, three recipients wrote:

“As a senior graduating in May 2012, I look forward to the next stage in my life. As I look back, the AFSA Award enabled me to focus on my internship with the City of Milwaukee Homeland Security office. It also allowed me to spend my time to volunteer to help the Milwaukee Hmong New Year Planning Consortium plan the 2012 Hmong Milwaukee New Year. I am proud to be able to give back to my community. I thank the wonderful faculty and staff who have helped me even though they did not know me. Thank you for all who made the AFSA Award possible.”

Sue Her

“My AFSA Award helped me be able to write and progress toward degree completion. I am now a Ph.D. Candidate and will be defending my dissertation on the "model minority" stereotype shortly. The AFSA Award I received is incredibly special to me due in part that it was granted to me on behalf of the Asian Faculty and Staff Association, a body that supports the dreams and aspirations of Asian Americans here on UW-Milwaukee's campus. I am proud to be a Korean American and also a 2012 AFSA Award recipient.”

Nicholas D. Hartlep

“The award encourages us to contribute to promote awareness of Asian culture. It helped to enhance my work and study.”

Kun Lu
New Asian Faculty and Staff Members

AFSA welcomes the following new faculty and staff to UWM:

Rakesh Babu, Assistant Professor, UMW Libraries; Gerald F. Casel, Visiting Assistant Professor, Peck School of Arts; Philip Chang, Assistant Professor, Physics; Woo Jin Chang, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering; Greetta Cherayil, Lecturer, Nursing; Young Cho, Assistant Professor, Public Health; Jeeyae Choi, Assistant Professor, Nursing; Yan Fang, Assistant Professor, Public Health; Sze-Chuan Goh, Assistant Professor, Economics; Weon Shik Han, Assistant Professor, Geological Sciences; Weiming Ke, Associate Researcher/Statistician, Nursing; Satish Nambisan, Professor, Business Management; Rashmi Prasad, Assistant Professor, Health Informatics and Administration; Marie Huynh, Inform Process Consultant, Letters & Science; Faru R. Shah, Assistant Professor, Political Science; Nuananong Seal, Assistant Professor, Nursing; Hong Tao, Assistant Professor, Nursing; Vipavee Thongpriwan, Assistant Professor, Nursing; Xuezia Wang, Assistant Professor, Public Health; Zengwant Xu, Assistant Professor, Geography; Suyong Yi, Associate Lecturer, Letters & Science; Hyejin Yoon, Assistant Professor, Geography.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

2011-12 continues to be an exemplary year for UWM’s Asian faculty and staff. Below is a partial list of achievements submitted by faculty and staff members.

Grants

Swarnjit Arora, Economics: “Enforcement and Media Campaign: Zero in Wisconsin - A vision We Can Live With” ($70,000) funded by WI Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Safety; "Impact of Milwaukee Brewers on Local Economy," ($15,000) funded by Milwaukee Brewers Inc through Mueller Communications.

Winson Chu, History: American Council of Learned Societies Early Career Postdoctoral Fellowship in East European Studies (July to December 2011).

Rashmi Prasad, Health Informatics and Administration: “NSF Computing Research Infrastructure subaward ($62,000) for conducting research towards enhancing the linguistic annotations of discourse relations in the Penn Discourse Treebank”.

Kalyani Rai & Elvira Asuncion, Continuing Education: “Refugee Education and Integration Service Center Initiative” ($80,500) funded in 2010-2011 & 2011-2012 by the WI DPI Refugee School Impact Grant; “Family Resource Network for Refugee Education and Integration Program” ($150,000) funded by the WI Children's Trust Fund in 2011-2012, renewable for 5 years.

Kalyani Rai & Pa Vang, Continuing Education: “MAGIC: Linking Teacher Training to Student Performance” ($1.5 Million five year grant, 2007-2012) ($220,634.00 - 2011-2012 5th year funding) funded by US Department of Education, English Language Acquisition, and National Professional Development.

Judith B. and Burton P. Resnick received Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (January to August, 2012).


Devarati Syam, Continuing Education: “WI Gear Up Grant” ($40,000; five year grant, 2007-2012; renewed for another year; 6th year 2012-2013); “UWM Professional Development Grant” ($1,600) to do a presentation on embedded programming at Native American Schools at the American Evaluation & Research Association conference in Vancouver, Canada.

Pa Vang, Continuing Education: “Sib Paj Taub Domestic Violence” ($13,000) funded by the WI Department of Children & Families.

Tammie Xiong, Continuing Education: “UWM Professional Development Grant” ($3,400) for CUCD Department training.

Hong Yu, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science: The PI of two NIH R01s with a combined fund of $3.55 million.

Publications

Kuang-chi Chang, Sociology:


Rina Ghose, Geography and Urban Studies:


Nan Kim, History:


Rina Kundu, Art and Design:


Rashmi Prasad, Health Informatics and Administration:


Pradeep K. Rohatgi, Materials Engineering:


Changshan Wu, Geography:


Leadership, Professional Service and Awards


Rashmi Prasad, Health Informatics and Administration: Journal Editorial Board, Language Resources and Evaluation, 2010-present; Program Committee, Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), International Conference on Natural Language Generation (INLG), European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (EACL), International Conference on Natural Language Processing (ICON), International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC).


Nan Kim, History: Steering Committee for the Alliance of Scholars Concerned About Korea (ASCK).

Chia Youyee Vang, History: Board President of the Hmong American Peace Academy, a charter school serving nearly 900 Hmong American students in Milwaukee.

Hong Yu, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science: Internationally recognized researcher and featured in Science, BioInform, and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. She has published three book chapters, over 70 journal and conference papers, and serves on the Editorial Board of Journal of Biomedical Informatics.

Nuananong Seal, Nursing: Spoke at Phuet Phon Hospital in Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand about “Nursing Diagnosis and Documentation: E-Health Record" on December 30, 2011.

Southeast Asian-American Student Services (2011) received a UW System Board of Regents Diversity Award of $5,000 in recognition for Institution/Unit Excellence in professional development for under-represented populations.

A complete list of grants, publications, awards, and leadership is available on the website of UWM Asian Faculty and Staff Association: https://www4.uwm.edu/afsa/