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 and acknowledges and celebrates the 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 composed of staff and faculty (see bottom of next page for a list of committee members).

Become an AFSA member today! Get involved and help this young organization thrive and flourish. For additional information about AFSA, visit www.uwm.edu/Org/afsa.

The Scholarship Program

The AFSA Scholarship Program recognizes outstanding Asian students at UWM for their academic excellence, leadership skills, their commitment and contribution to the Asian community. Two $500 scholarships are awarded to an undergraduate and a graduate student.

These scholarships were awarded for the second time in spring 2005. The award recipients are Vinthany Souvannarath and Laty Keopouangsy. We congratulate them on their excellent records and wish them continued success. AFSA encourages all faculty and staff to nominate eligible Asian students for the scholarship. For more information, please contact Hur-Li Lee at hurli@uwm.edu.

New Asian Faculty and Staff Members

AFSA welcomes the following new faculty and staff to UWM:
- Jae-II Chai, Adjunct Professor, Music
- Prasanta Chakravarty, Lecturer, English
- Jian Chen, Assistant Professor, Chemistry
- Yue Cui, Associate Lecturer, Foreign Language & Linguistics
- Shaoqin Gong, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering
- Susan Hahn, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Philosophy
- Megumi Hemann, Adjunct Professor, Music
- Tae Youn Kim, Clinical Assistant Professor, Nursing
- Praveen Krishnamurti, Information Process Consultant, Ctr for Urban Initiatives & Research
- Zong-Ming Li, Associate Professor, Human Movement
- Qian Liao, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering
- Irfan Manzoor, Senior Lecturer, Industrial & Systems Engineering
- Dee Piziak, Adjunct Instructor, Business Administration
- Marie Savundranayagam, Assistant Professor, Social Work
- Guangwu Xu, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
- Jian Zhao, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering & Mechanics

Brown Bag Seminar Series

The AFSA Seminar Series will be held again in 2005-06. If you are interested in presenting on your research, travels, or expertise, please contact Professor Swarnjit Arora at x6617 or e-mail him at ssa2@uwm.edu.
Once again, it gives us great pleasure to recognize and honor many Asian faculty and staff who have excelled in teaching, research, services, and securing grant funding from highly regarded agencies. Our congratulations to Associate Professor Grace La, School of Architecture and Urban Planning, for receiving the Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award. Kudos to Caterina Sukup, an accountant-journey in L&S, for winning the Represented Classified Staff Outstanding Service Award.

Associate Professor Anoop K. Dhingra, Mechanical Engineering, and Professor Tarun R. Naik, Civil Engineering and Mechanics, are the recipients of the UW System Applied Research Grant for 2004-05. Assistant Professor Prasenjit Guptasarma, Physics, was the recipient of the prestigious CAREER award from NSF. He also received a second research grant, an ONR senior faculty fellowship, the Graduate Research Committee award, and research funding from the industry. In addition, Associate Professor and Graduate Chair Yehua Dennis Wei, Geography, received the Outstanding Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation of China.

The Metals and Materials Society, which is the premier national and international society in Materials, is holding a Rohatgi Honorary Symposium on March 12 -16, 2006 in San Antonio, TX to recognize the discovery of Cast Metal Matrix Composites by Professor Pradeep Rohatgi forty years ago. Over fifty speakers from all over the world will be presenting their work on Cast Metal Matrix Composites, which was inspired by Professor Rohatgi’s original discovery.

Professor Sunwoong (Sunny) Kim of Economics Department is selected as one of the outstanding international scholars to participate in the Fulbright New century Scholars Program, "Higher Education in the 21st Century: Global Challenge and National Response," on May 5, 2005. Aneesh Aneesh, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Global Studies, is the winner of the 2004-05 grant from the MacArthur Foundation for his project, "The Global Twenty-Four Hour Economy: Crisis Potential for Technologically Integrated Labor." Professor Zhong-Ren Peng was recently elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, and is a recipient of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee.

The School of Information Studies' Asian faculty garnered quite a few grants this past year. For example: Assistant Professor Wooseob Jeong received a 2005 American Library Association Diversity Research Grant for "Touchable Online Braille Generator"; Associate Professor Hong (Iris) Xie received the 2005 National Leadership Grants for Libraries, Research and Demonstration for "Designing Interactive Help Mechanisms for Novice Users of Digital Libraries"; Assistant Professor Xiangming Mu also received a 2005 National Leadership Grants for Libraries, Research and Demonstration for "Interactive Virtual Reference: Model, System, and Pilot User Study"; Associate Professor Jin Zhang secured another 2005 National Leadership Grants for Libraries, Research and Demonstration for "Modeling Web Searching Behaviors and Designing New Effective Interactions for Digital Libraries"; and Associate Professor Hur-Li Lee was awarded the 2005 Librarians for the 21st Century Grant for "Diversity in the Organization of Information and its Technology."

Professor Emeritus Abbas Hamdani, well known to the UWM scholars for well over 31 years, is an expert on Middle Eastern History and Medieval Islamic Civilization. Retirement has not diminished Professor Hamdani's energy and enthusiasm for teaching, and he continues to lead a very busy life. He conducts numerous seminars on Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies around the U.S., and is the expert to whom the media turns to whenever there is a conflict in the Middle East.

UWM Libraries Assistant Director Vanaja Menon has been appointed to two national committees of the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA) section of the American Library Association: the Leadership Development Committee and the Library Operations and Management of Services Committee. She has actively participated in LAMA and Association of Colleges and Research Libraries’ panel discussions and conference planning.

The UWM Graduate School Report lists 14 Asian faculty in "Top Researchers - Extramural Research Funding, Fiscal Year 2000-01 through 2004-05." They are, in alphabetic order, Swarnjit S. Arora, Arun Garg, Tien-Chien Jen, Jay Lee, Lian Li, Tarun Naik, Krishna Pillai, Kanti Prasad, Kalyani Rai, Pradeep Rohatgi, Umesh Saxena, Dexan Xie, David Yu, and Jun Zhang. We are proud of you!

Best wishes to all of you for your continued success!

2005 Steering Committee at your service: Swarnjit Arora, Adrian Chan, Linda Huang, C. J. Kim, Alice Kuramoto, Sue Lamborn, Hur-Li Lee, Gwat-Yong Lie, Vanaja Menon (Co-Chair), Zhong-Ren Peng (Co-Chair), Kalyani Rai, Channy Rasavong, Raji Swaminathan, and Hanh Quang Trinh.