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 2009-10 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 2009-10 awards is April 17, 2009. A copy of the award brochure can be found at www4.uwm.edu/afsa/AFSA-scholarship08-09.pdf.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Asian Employee Network at the MillerCoors in December 2008, we will be able to award at least two achievement awards at $500 each for the 2009-10 program. We are truly appreciative of this donation, and sincerely hope that the partnership will continue in the future.

For a tax deductible contribution to this program, please send a check payable to “AFSA Award Program” and send it to Linda Huang at Bolton 187. UWM Foundation will then mail you a receipt. For questions, please contact Linda at lhuang@uwm.edu. A huge thank-you to those who have contributed to this program thus far!

2008-09 AFSA Award Recipients

Two achievement award ($500 each) and two honorary award ($150 each) recipients were selected for the 2008-09 program. We congratulate them on their academic excellence, leadership skills, and service to the community, and wish them continued educational success. Included below are brief excerpts from their application essays...

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

Mr. Long Chang, Senior, Architecture, School of Architecture and Urban Planning

“...I am part of the first-generation Hmong-American students to attend college... I know that with hard work and dedication, I can become successful in the architecture field...This AFSA Scholarship will help me greatly in my dream of becoming an architect. I will then use my architecture skills and knowledge to improve the community, especially designing for the Hmong families that dream of building their dream home...I will commit myself to the Hmong community...so that I can make a positive impact to the future of the Hmong...”

Mr. Barjinder Singh, Doctoral Student, Management Science, Lubar Sch. of Business

“Born in Sikh family in Punjab, India...I sustain inherent traits of hard work, perseverance, cooperation and service that have stood me in good stead not only in academics but also in real life situations...giving me a well-rounded personality...I have always been a staunch believer that giving and contributing to the society is a very important responsibility of every individual and is also a source of a great pleasure and satisfaction...I firmly believe that along with professional and academic laurels, it is equally important to serve and give back to the community...”
2008-09 Steering Committee at your service: Swarnjit Arora, Patricia Goeman (co-chair), Linda Huang, Sue Lamborn, Hur-Li Lee, Gwat-Yong Lie, Vincent Lieu, Channy Rasavong, Hanh Quang Trinh (co-chair), and Pa Mua-Xiong.

Asian Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

2008-09 continues to be an exemplary year for UWM’s Asian faculty and staff.

Junhong Chen and Prasenjit Guptasarma were selected to receive the Graduate School/UWM Foundation Research Award. Nan Kim was chosen as a Fellow of Center for 21st Century, and K.E. Supriya was elected as a Secretary and Executive Committee Board Member of the prestigious Division of the National Communication Association.

On the grant front, Asian faculty and staff played a leading role. Kalyani Rai received over $1.65 millions in grants from the Department of Education and various other organizations. Romila Singh and Nadya Fouad received a NSF grant of $500,000. Qian Liao, along with Harvey Bootsma, also received a NSF grant of $380,000. Swarnjit Arora received $108,500 from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Greater Milwaukee Survey. Changshan Wu received $71,262 from the NSF and Urban Population Center. Devarati Syam received $48,000 from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction–evaluating Gear Up Program. Grants were also awarded to Natalie Reinbold ($47,439 for the Life Impact Expansion Project), Linda Huang ($24,500 for the Guaranteed 4.0 Program) and Pa Vang ($12,000 for the Butterera Intervention Program), as well as to Woonsup Choi and Cindy Petrites.

Numerous research publications were reported by Asian faculty and staff. Iris Xie published, “Interactive Information Retrieval in Digital Environments.” Marie Savundranayagam, K.E. Supriya, Woonsup Choi and Changshan Wu also reported publications of the journal articles. A number of faculty served as Editors or on the Editorial Boards of the Journal.

All in all it has been a great year.

HONORARY AWARD WINNERS

Ms. Yun-Ting Hung, Doctoral Student, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education

“…As a previous teacher in Taiwan, I have the patience and knowledge about teaching young children Chinese cultural and language; thus, I provided free tutoring lessons for those who want to learn Chinese, especially young learners. I believe it is one way to contribute my professional knowledge to our local community…”

Mr. Peng Yu, Master’s Student, Journalism and Mass Communication, College of Letters and Science

“…I began my UWM graduate career in 2005…and am now working on my second master’s degree…[A] substantial portion of my community commitment comes from my public service…to increase the awareness of Chinese community and also to strengthen the bond between Chinese people and people from other communities…”

Pyong Choi came to the United States in 1971 from South Korea. She has worked for UWM Restaurant Operations as a Food Service Manager since August 5, 1991. Her dedication to and support of AFSA, since its inception, have been demonstrated through her willingness to provide AFSA receptions with amazing Asian appetizers and hosting the AFSA Scholarship Luncheons in previous years.

At the Scholarship Luncheons, Pyong would present a food preparation demonstration, lunch, and recipes for our guests. The collaboration among UWM Restaurant Operations, Pyong, and AFSA has helped raise funds for our Asian students. Because she has always gone above and beyond for the organization, AFSA nominated her for an Employee Development Award in fall 2008, and was honored at an awards ceremony on December 12, 2008. Provost and Vice Chancellor Rita Cheng presented the award.

We would like to take this opportunity to, once again, thank and recognize Pyong Choi and the UWM Restaurant Operations for their ongoing support and commitment to the AFSA.

AFSA Nominated Pyong Choi for an Award

Ms. Yun-Ting Hung, Doctoral Student, Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education

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