United Asian American Organizations is a coalition comprised of 30+ Asian/Pacific Islander American student groups on campus. We take the lead in advocating major issues on campus that affect the broad spectrum of people in our community while also providing an outlet to our community to voice their opinions. We also serve as the communications “glue” for the hundreds of events that our organizations sponsor annually.

This year UAAO is trying to reach out to the community more and that means you. We want to have bigger, better, and more substantive programs that really fulfill the needs of our community, fostering an environment of a united front. So where does all of this start? It starts with catering to the needs of the community. In everything we do we have the power to choose what kind of outcome we want. We want to create a sense of solidarity among our community which starts with, of course, you.

So, Class of ’12, now that you have gotten the basic gist of what UAAO is as an organization and what its function is on campus, we’re going to talk a little bit about why we’re a part of UAAO and why we think it’s so vital to be involved...

“The right of Third World People to self determination is a central part of the world-wide conflict against imperialism. That principle is as important to Berkeley as it is to the revolutionary struggle for the peoples in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Flowing from that principle, THIRD WORLD PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DEMANDS, THEIR OWN STRATEGIES AND THEIR OWN TACTICS.”

-Third World Liberation Front Leaflet -1969

This quote is an example of the collective power that organized students, especially Third World (students of color), can exert on a system that is built to maintain current racist power structures. The students at UC Berkeley struck in late January of 1969, and two months later won the creation of the Department of Ethnic Studies. In 1971, East Wind, the organization which successfully fought for more than a decade for A/PIA Studies on our campus, formed at the University of Michigan. For us, UAAO is an organization that will continue this legacy of successful student organizing and activism, and this legacy of social change. We believe that of all the organizations on campus, UAAO is one that can best foster one’s own Asian/Pacific Islander American identity, learn how to identify with the community on the whole, and empower that community to fulfill its potential and right to self determination. “Rights are not given; they must be won” and we cannot allow ourselves to fall into the complacency afforded us by this technologically over-stimulated world we live in. There are still mountains to climb, battles to be fought, and rights to be won and defended. We joined UAAO because we believe that we can only achieve these goals if we are true to ourselves and our history and stand together. College is the best four years of your life, they say, so make the most of them and in the meantime change the world.

Congratulations and welcome again! We hope to see you at our weekly general meetings, Wednesday from 6-7:30 at the YK Lounge in South Quad!!

-Your ’08-’09 UAAO Co-Chairs
Ravi Bodepudi & Laura Misumi
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PROACTIVE

FRESHMAN

FESTIFALL
Located on the Diag, Festifall is the perfect place to find out about the extracurriculars on campus and to meet people who share your interests.

MICHIGAN FOOTBALL GAMES
If not for the game, then go for the marching band and the hotdog guy--this is the ultimate Michigan experience!

A HOCKEY GAME
Even if you don’t like hockey, you have to experience one of the best examples of fan participation in college sports. Crass student section chants, moose dances, teddy bear tosses and nachos make a hockey game a definite essential.

NEWMAN LS&A ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER
As a freshman, make sure to drop in and talk to your advisor and start building that relationship as you’ll need an advisor on your side throughout your college career.

HALF.COM/AMAZON.COM/FROOGLE ON GOOGLE
If you're not sure that buying an expensive new textbook is worth it, then check out these websites (or others like it) for used textbooks on the marketplace.

MICHIGAN HOODIE
Rep your school loud and proud by wearing your glorious maize Michigan hoodie, which should be one of many items of Michigan gear you’ll be sporting throughout the year.

BACKPACK
Save a back, wear a pack. Don’t underestimate just how many books you’ll have for the semester.

APAO
In the ground floor of Angell Hall, the Peer Academic Advising Office is another great alternative for general academic advising, and you can hear it from students who know and have experienced it all themselves.

SWEETLAND WRITING CENTER
If you need your papers looked over and you don’t want to pay someone, this is an excellent resource. They also offer free one-on-one tutoring to make sure you pass your freshman writing seminar with flying colors.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR FREE BLUE BOOKS
Besides saving you that pocketful of change, they also have bagels on Wednesdays!

ITCS CENTER
Laptop not working? Can’t figure out how to use Photoshop in the Fishbowl? Call on the ITCS Center (which is also located in the fishbowl) for all your technical difficulties.

ESSENTIAL PLACES

ESSENTIAL WEBSITES

ESSENTIAL RANDOMS

ESSENTIAL EVENTS

ESSENTIAL BLOGS
MAIZE PAGES
http://www.umich.edu/maizepgs/
This is a great resource to find out what student organizations we have on campus, especially if you missed Festifall, and it also has links to further contact and general information about each organization.

MGOBLUE.COM
The best site for all the latest updates on your champion Wolverines (Go BLUE!) and all the dates, times and locations for the various sporting events you might want to check out.

UMICH.EDU
Clearly an obvious choice, here you can find all the latest University of Michigan news and links to descriptions of academic departments, all the course guides, email, schedule of exciting UM events, the student employment office, as well as a directory feature.

CCRB/NCRB/IMSB
Depending on where you live on campus, one or the other of these work-out facilities is a great option in the fight to stave off the freshmen-15.

FLIPFLOPS
Michigan highly recommends that you bring flip-flops for the bathrooms in the dorms. Trust us, you’ll need these for bathrooms both in and out of the dorms.

SHOWER/SOAP CADDY
No one likes having to carry a bunch of toiletries to and from the bathroom while trying to hold up a towel and not drop the bar of soap all over the place...Please...use a shower caddy.

UHS
When in doubt, go to UHS. Not only do they have general health clinics, they also have a travel clinic that can dispense advice for those looking to travel abroad as well as all the required immunizations. (As well as several other kinds of clinics and a Health Promotion and Community Relations office, where you can get tested for HIV and get free condoms.)

VILLAGE APOTHECARY
Located on South University Ave, this convenient store and pharmacy is a good option, if UHS is too far away from where you live, to pick up prescriptions and any over-the-counter drugs you might need.

MPLANNER
Stay on top of things and stay balanced by using an organizer for your daily life.

MCARD
This little piece of plastic is essential for your use of Entree Plus, cafeteria meals, the recreation centers, loaning books for the library, and so much more!

RATEMYPROFESSORS.COM
A little nervous about what your professors will be like? Look up their student feedback on this website to make a more informed decision about taking their class.

HALF.COM/AMAZON.COM/FROOGLE ON GOOGLE
If you’re not sure that buying an expensive new textbook is worth it, then check out these websites (or others like it) for used textbooks on the marketplace.

STUDENT BOOK EXCHANGE
Used books for the students, from the students hosted once every semester. Look out for their flyers so you don’t miss the event!

ESSENTIALS
proud by wearing your glorious which should be one of many items sporting throughout the year.

Don’t underestimate just how the semester.

ESSENTIAL HEALTH/HYGIENE

ESSENTIAL MONEY SAVERS

CLASS ESSENTIALS

ESSENTIAL RANdomS
CAMPUS RESOURCES

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES (UHS)
The UHS provides medical services, most of which are covered by your tuition.
www.uhs.umich.edu

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)
CAPS offers a variety of services aimed at helping students resolve personal difficulties and acquire the skills, attitudes, and knowledge that will enable them to take full advantage of their experiences.
www.umich.edu/~caps

SPECTRUM CENTER (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AFFAIRS)
The Spectrum Center offers education, information, and advocacy services.
www.spectrumcenter.umich.edu

INTERGROUP RELATIONS (IGR)
IGR consists of programs offering facilitated discussions about gender, race, sexual orientation, social class, national origin, and other social identities.
www.igr.umich.edu

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP
SAL provides resources and information to help you make the most of your extracurricular experience.
www.lso.umich.edu

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICAN STUDIES (A/PIA Studies)
A/PIA Studies covers history, literature, politics, and culture.
www.lsa.umich.edu/ac/apia

THE CAREER CENTER
The Career Center can help you with resumes, cover letters, internships, and job searches.
www.careercenter.umich.edu

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES (OAMI)
OAMI is responsible for administering a variety of educational multicultural programs for the University.
www.umich.edu/~oami

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID
www.finaid.umich.edu

OFFICE OF MULTI-ETHNIC STUDENT AFFAIRS (MESA) AND WILLIAM MONROE TROTTER MULTICULTURAL CENTER
MESA offers support for multicultural organizations.
www.mesa.umich.edu

MINORITY PEER ADVISOR (MPA)
Residence Hall Advisor for minority students.
www.housing.umich.edu/info/mpa.html

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (SSD)
SSD offers resources and support for students with physical disabilities as well as mental health conditions.
www.umich.edu/~sswd

GINSBERG CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES & LEARNING
The Ginsberg Center offers resources for all things related to service and service learning.
www.umich.edu/~mserve

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND AWARENESS CENTER (SAPAC)
Professional staffs provide academic, legal, medical and housing advocacy for students around issues of sexual assault and violence.
www.umich.edu/~sapac
Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri’s second collection of short stories explores the secrets, joys, and sorrows at the heart of family life. “Lahiri’s finely drawn prose makes [Unaccustomed Earth] feel less like reading and more like peering into the most raw, intimate moments of people’s lives.”—Marie Claire

“One of the most masterful cartoonists of his generation, 32-year-old Adrian Tomine’s Shortcomings centers on Asian-American protagonist Ben Tanaka, a lonely, socially constricted man, longing to make a connection and spinning in the purgatory between youth and adulthood... equal parts poignant, hilarious, and sad.”

--The Village Voice

“From movie stars, musicians, and skate-boarders to toys, technology, and history, Giant Robot magazine covers cool aspects of Asian and Asian-American pop culture. Paving the way for less knowledgeable media outlets, Giant Robot put the spotlight on Chow Yun Fat, Jackie Chan, and Jet Li years before they were in mainstream America’s vocabulary. GR’s historical pieces on the Yellow Power Movement, footbinding, Asian-American gangsters, and other savory topics have been cited by both academics and journalists.” (giantrobot.com)

“When Korean American filmmaker Grace Lee was growing up in Missouri, she was the only Grace Lee she knew. Once she left the Midwest however, everyone she met seemed to know ‘another Grace Lee.’ But why did they assume that all Grace Lees were reserved, dutiful, piano-playing overachievers? The filmmaker plunges into a highly unscientific investigation into all those Grace Lees who break the mold -- from a fiery social activist to a rebel who tried to burn down her high school. With wit and charm, “The Grace Lee Project” puts a hilarious spin on the eternal question, ‘What’s in a name?’” (gracelee.net)
PLACES TO GO

SHOPS

**MIDDLE EARTH**  
1209 S. University Ave.  
734-769-1488

Grab your comics, board games, graphic novels, t-shirts, and other fun products at this awesome store which regularly holds events to showcase local artists.

**VAULT OF MIDNIGHT**  
219 S. Main St.  
734-998-1413

Whether it’s their catchy t-shirts, handcrafted jewelry, or their wide assortment of gifts, you’ll always walk into this store seeing something new and different.

CINEMAS

**MICHIGAN THEATER**  
603 E. Liberty St.  
734-668-TIME

**STATE THEATER**  
233 S. State St.  
734-761-8667

MUSEUMS

**ANN ARBOR HANDS-ON MUSEUM**  
220 E. Ann St.  
734-995-5439

Enjoy this museum’s informal environment while you visit its nine galleries which contain more than 250 interactive exhibits.

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM OF ART (OFF-SITE)**  
1301 S. University Ave.  
734-763-UMMA

Although temporarily off-site, you won’t want to miss-out on seeing this museum’s gallery space which is primarily devoted to film, video, and photography.

CLUBS

**NECTO**  
516 E. Liberty St.  
734-994-5835

**STUDIO 4**  
314 S. Fourth Ave.  
734-302-3687

RECREATION

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN NICHOLS ARBORETUM**  
1610 Washington Hgts.  
734-647-7600

**YOST ICE ARENA**  
1000 S. State St.  
734-764-4600
## Things to Eat

### Korean
- **Kang's**
  - 1327 S. University Ave.
  - 734-761-1327
  - $$

### Japanese
- **RICH J.C.**
  - 1313 S. University Ave.
  - 734-769-2288
  - $$

### Chinese
- **University Cafe**
  - 621 Church St.
  - 734-662-7162
  - $$

### Thai
- **No Thai!**
  - 1317 S. University Ave.
  - 734-222-8080
  - $$

### Indian
- **Earthen Jar**
  - 311 S. Fifth Ave.
  - 734-327-9464
  - $

### Vietnamese
- **Saigon Garden**
  - 1220 S. University Ave.
  - 734-747-7006
  - $$

### Miscellaneous
- **Za's**
  - 615 E. University Ave.
  - 734-555-1211
  - $

- **Pizza House**
  - 618 Church St.
  - 734-995-5095
  - $$

- **Buffalo Wild Wings**
  - 205 S. State St.
  - 734-997-9143
  - $$
WHAT IS THE A/PIA STUDIES PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADS?

Through our teaching, we strive to highlight the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans to American history and life, to understand contemporary conditions and struggles of A/PIA communities, and to examine contemporary literary and cultural production. Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies has a deep history in community-based service and knowledge production, hence many of our courses incorporate service learning components. Many of our courses also fulfill LS&A distribution requirements as well as the Race & Ethnicity requirement [and the Interdisciplinary requirement].

-From the A/PIA Studies Program website: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/ac/apia/undergrad

“The A/PIA Studies Program not only helped me find the historical, social, and political aspects of my Asian American identity, but also HOW to find it. I feel that this is one of THE most valuable lessons that I learned throughout college: to develop the habit of questioning why things are the way they are and applying historical contexts whenever I could.

The A/PIA Studies faculty helped me...by pushing me to be more critical inside and outside of the classroom. The articles, books, and movies that we were assigned were truly eye-opening and were a sort of “gateway experience” that led me to take a second look at Asian American representation in other media. If you want to develop a stronger mind and a few personal skills while contributing to the community, you can't go wrong with any of the classes offered by the A/PIA Studies Program. You'll learn a lot about yourself, meet a lot of interesting and amazing people, and never look back.”

-CHRIS CHOI | LS&A Alum
A/PIA Studies Minor 2008
APA101 Co-Coordinator ’07-’08

IS THERE A PROFESSOR YOU WOULD RECOMMEND?

“I absolutely loved Professor Najita, first of all... Even though we were interpreting literature, and none of her students were nearly as schooled in the subject as she was, Prof Najita still cared about what we thought and our personal reactions to the works we read.

On a separate note, over the course of the class [Literature of Hawaii AC498], we [studied] a variety of literature and...media either by or about Pacific Islanders. It was interesting to see the similarities between the works despite the geographical boundaries...It gave a sense of unity to the A/PIA world at large.

A/PIA history and literature are able to tell stories and fill in parts of American history that gets neglected or overlooked by government-issued, probably white-written, USA propaganda. It could be said that the class helped validate minority writing to the majority of the students because it opened their eyes to their political amnesia.... I really do recommend the class because it can teach a lot about what A/PIA writing can give to A/PIAs and non-APIAs alike.”

-KATI LEBIODA | LS&A Class of ’11

WHAT CAN I GET OUT OF AN A/PIA STUDIES MINOR?

“As an A/PIA Studies minor, I discovered what it meant for me personally to be a responsible person, and how different factors and identities’ intersections affect discrimination and social movements...The A/PIA Studies program introduced me to activist works done around the country, and how service-learning is different from the traditional service-providing voluntarism. I took a class on the Asian American Movement, and that class really changed my life in the way that I became very aware of my privileges, and I’m constantly challenging myself of my own existing values.”

-C.C. SONG | LS&A Alum
A/PIA Studies Minor 2008
UAAO Co-Chair ’07-’08

“I didn’t get involved in the A/PIA community at large until my sophomore year, but I really wish I dove in when I first started college... A/PIA courses are some of the best gateways to mentorship and growth. You become a learner and a leader.

That’s right, the minor is fuckin’ sweet! (Haha, I’m not sure who will read this, but make sure you quote me verbatim.)”

-AISA VILLAROSA | LS&A Alum
A/PIA Studies Minor 2008
FASA Historian ’07-’08
TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND.

I was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. My parents are both local Japanese, all but one grandparent immigrated from Japan around the turn of the century. My maternal grandmother was born in Hawai‘i, so that makes me a sansei and a quarter. Sansei means “third generation.” My father’s family and part of my mother’s family worked on the sugar plantations. I am proud of having attended the public schools and been raised with an awareness of my working class background.

WHY IS A/PIA STUDIES SO IMPORTANT?

A/PIA Studies at U of M occupies a special place among Asian American Studies and ethnic studies programs in the nation. This is due to that “solidus,” the slash between the Asian and the Pacific Islander. We are one of the few, if not the only, programs nationwide to have been able to build a strong presence in Pacific Islander Studies and actively engage the relation between the Pacific Island side and the Asian American Studies side. This was largely due to the vision of Amy Ku‘uleialoha Stillman, the director who undertook the truly hard work of program-building and recruitment of faculty. Students taking courses in our program have the benefit of really having access to scholarly and teaching that most Asian American Studies programs can only dream about.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN?

College life is a brave new world. Expand your horizons, meet new people and make unlikely friends. Challenge yourself and take courses you might not think are related to your interests or concentration. You may be surprised at the sorts of connections you will find. You may discover a new interest or even better yet, a lifelong love for a subject or way of thinking.

HOW WILL WHAT STUDENTS LEARN IN AN A/PIA STUDIES CLASSROOM TRANSLATE INTO THE REAL WORLD?

Of all the many subjects one can delve into, learning about one’s identity, the history of one’s ethnic group, even of one’s family and relatives can be the most empowering and foundational experience. One begins to understand many things in the world because one understands how one has been positioned by history. Too often this is a history that has not been taught in our K-12 educational system. It’s sad that we have to wait so long to have the chance to learn about our past and ourselves. For many people who either do not take these courses or never attend college, this opportunity is not available. So, I would say, take advantage of the courses and scholars that are here for you.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO ON YOUR FREE TIME?

In my free time, I enjoy playing music, cooking, and spending time with my husband and newborn son.

PROFESSOR SUSAN NAJITA
WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN?

RAVI BODEPUDI UAAO Co-Chair: The fact that Michigan is so large ensures that you will find a group of people who have similar ideals, goals, and interests that you have but at the same time will challenge you to go outside of your comfort zone. Being such a large university, Michigan has an abundance of resources that if correctly used can help you achieve anything as an individual or as part of an organization.

WENDY WONG UAAO Service: The environment at UM is so well-rounded that literally anybody can adapt easily to it. You’ll find a wide span of smaller communities, from nude beach activists and the Jiu-Jitsu club to the Student Astronomical Society and United Asian American Organizations. I suppose the best part about it all is being able to participate in those communities you identify with and meeting and befriending those people you wouldn’t have even imagined having relationships with.

WHAT’S THE BEST ADVICE YOU COULD GIVE TO AN INCOMING STUDENT?

KEVIN YEE AAA Programming & Webmaster: GET OUT THERE! Meet new people, do new things....don’t be a bum and sit around all day, use the opportunities given to you. Join organizations that you are actually INTERESTED in and not because they sound good

RAYMOND CHIN UAAO Historian: Don’t be intimidated. Just give it some time and you too will be well-versed in the university atmosphere as well as find what you are passionate in. It also may not be until later on in your first, second, or maybe even in your third year where you find what you want to study or do, and I say that is PERFECTLY fine!

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO STUDY?

CLAIRE D’LOU VERGARA UAAO Advocacy: Hands down! The School of Social Work, Duderstadt, and classrooms in Haven and Tisch Hall. These are secret spots – nobody knows about these!

RAYMOND CHIN: The Fishbowl - although noisy and sometimes hard to find a seat, it is actually a decent place to socialize. Socializing isn’t necessarily bad if you need to ask people for help or work on a group activity.
WHAT A/PIA ISSUE DO YOU THINK IS IMPORTANT BUT IS NOT NATIONALLY ADDRESSED?

ARTHUR WANG UAAO External Relations: The devaluing effect of the English-only movement on Asian American languages and cultures. English’s de facto status as the language of the United States has created a climate that denigrates people who speak other languages, especially in public.

VERONICA GARCIA UAAO Internal Relations: Ethnic studies advocacy. Asian Americans have played an integral role in the formation of this country, but our role in history, as well as issues that affect us currently are too often overlooked. The year 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of Asian American Studies and 20 years later we can barely keep an ethnic studies department afloat at one of the most reputable universities in the country. It’s an embarrassment to a school that supposedly takes pride in promoting diversity and progressivism.

WHAT’S THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF PROMOTING CHANGE IN A COMMUNITY?

RACHAEL THOMPSON UAAO Communications: Building a strong base comprised of diverse individuals will help to spread and promote change within the community from different areas.

NIKKI ARORA SAAN Co-Chair: In order to promote change, you have to make changes in your personal life. Until you can show for yourself that you are willing to act differently toward certain issues or are strong enough to make a change in the community, only then will others be motivated to follow.

LAURA MISUMI UAAO Co-Chair: The most effective way to promote change in a community is to do it; to effect that change on a personal level so that other people can follow by example and also see how that change can impact their lives. There is strength inherent in a community united, and working to build those relationships is key to making real change.

FAVORITE HANG OUT SPOT?

VERONICA GARCIA UAAO Internal Relations: Anywhere where food is easily accessible.

WENDY WONG UAAO Service: The atriums of East Hall. There is comfortable seating, moderate noise, and awesome lighting—what more could one ask for?
When I was having lunch on the top of Mt. Chocorua in New Hampshire this summer, two greedy ants, like two vicious blood-sucking leeches climbing up and down my unfinished sandwich. They are too ignorant to know that buns, turkey, honey-mustard, cheese and jelly are not free commodities; they are not free public school system; they are not social welfares in black neighborhoods; they belong to me, my sandwich, carrots, apple and water. All of them belong to me. So I deport those two illegal intruders from my territory and mercilessly kill them with my unquestionable power and authority.

“Who are those ants? And who am I”

I don’t know the answer to such a complex question. I try to ask God, but it does not want to answer me, because I am an atheist and my cousin and I play Chinese chess the last time we went to church ten years ago.

So I ask the mountain right across from my blurring sight. The mountain seems to be old and firm, and somehow wise. I may have offended his intelligence and age.

I hate ants. They are all over me now, on the top of my red Coca Cola can, on the surface of my transparent lunch zipper bag, between my bare toes, even on my crumbled journal pages. They are unlawful intruders. They are fucking everywhere, in nail salons, in doughnut shops, in hospitals, in engineering companies, in restaurant dishwashing room, taking over UCLA, taking over American colleges, taking over all of our jobs... It is a fucking invasion.

God suddenly speaks to me from the opaque sky. “You selfish son of a bitch. Could you leave just a bit of cheese for the ants to provide them a decent family dinner? To get them through another cold, cold Christmas night.”
FALL RETREAT

The Fall Retreat is a two day, one night event provided for free to participants and held off-campus. Also, there's free food! It takes place early in the year and is a great way to meet others in the A/PIA community on campus; to bond with new and familiar faces; and to participate in workshops related to leadership, identity, and UAAO. Whether you know people in UAAO or not, the Fall Retreat is a great way to try things out, make new friends, and have a good time.

QUESTIONS?
Email our Programming Chair, Barbara Lau, at hclau@umich.edu.

UAAO ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

Don’t know where to go this spring break? Look no further because we’ve got the answer! Alternative Spring Break is a week long program that allows students to travel to various location around the country. Last year’s UAAO ASB group took a road trip to the Chicago area and worked with an organization called Asian Youth Services. Don’t be fooled by the name because AYS takes care of all people of color and races. Be inspired as AYS spends every resource it has to supply the kids with school supplies, uniforms, food, and a nice place to hang out and do homework.

You will get first hand experience dedicated to social action and community service. Get fired up with your fellow ASB members as you work towards a greater common goal of helping the community. Register and get ready to pack because it will be life changing!

INFORMATION
www.umich.edu/mserve/serve/asb.
QUESTIONS?
Email our Service Chair, Wendy Wong, at dubyas@umich.edu.

GENERATION APA

Since its debut in 1995, GenAPA has been one of the largest, student-run, Pan-Asian cultural shows in the nation! Last year, GenAPA has become both a cultural festival and show.

The day-long festival is comprised of student-run booths containing information, activities, and delicious food. The cultural show consistently attracts nearly 300 participants and a culturally diverse audience. This year GenAPA will be a part of MAASU spring conference, bringing in an even greater audience.

INFORMATION:
www.umich.edu/~uaao/genapa/.
QUESTIONS
Email our Programming Chair, Barbara Lau, at hclau@umich.edu.
MAASU

MAASU stands for the Midwest Asian American Student Union, a regional organization of A/PIA student organizations in the Midwest. Every spring, MAASU holds a conference – the University of Michigan will be hosting the coming 2009 Spring Conference. This is a great chance to network with students and student leaders from other universities over the course of a weekend, as well as develop and strengthen the community in the Midwest. It'll also line up with the GenAPA cultural show, making this an exciting weekend.

QUESTIONS?
Email our External Chair, Arthur Wang, at rthrwng@umich.edu.
MAASU Co-Chairs KT Takai at kstakai@umich.edu.
Carmen Loo at cloo@umich.edu.

A/PIA HERITAGE MONTH

Believe what you’re seeing because you guessed it, it’s an entire month dedicated to celebrating Asian/Pacific Islander Americans! What first started out as a week of recognition for A/PIAs back in May 1972 has exploded to a month long in 1992. We continue this tradition of celebrating cultural diversity by compiling a month’s long list of events to go to! At the UofM, due to the winter term ending in April, Heritage Month is celebrated at the beginning of March.

Heritage Month encourages community building by bringing members from all around campus together. So come, meet new people, and have fun at events such as skate nights, charity pageants, dances, benefit shows, conferences, forums, movie screenings, guest speakers, and much more. Make room in between studying because there are handfuls of events that will surely peak your interest!

QUESTIONS?
Email our Community Historian, Ray Chin, at raychin@umich.edu.
APA101 mentorship program is geared towards first year students making the transition into college life. Many of the previous first year students who were a part of the program have returned and are now mentors willing to pass on tips for college survival. With dedicated mentors, APA101 implements a “family” system where the first year students are grouped together with mentors of similar interests. It’s this bond between the mentees and the mentors that make for a lasting relationship that can’t be found anywhere else. There is no greater joy than to have family bonding whether it’s baking, having a picnic, going out to eat, or simply challenging another family to a friendly competition.

Not only is it an awesome mentorship program to get acquainted with people, but there are activities and workshops that promote freshman to think proactively about A/PIA issues. It’s the familiar setting combined with the A/PIA issues that we face that make the freshmen and the A/PIAs in the community strive to get involved.

INFORMATION
http://www.umich.edu/~uaao/apa101/
QUESTIONS?
Email our Internal Chair, Veronica Garcia at vmgarcia@umich.edu
APA 101 Co-Coordinators Bob Fan at bobfan@umich.edu
Helen Li at helenli@umich.edu
THERE’S NO DOUBT THAT THE FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE CAN BE STRESSFUL AND EVEN A LITTLE INTIMIDATING IN THE BEGINNING. WE SIT DOWN WITH PREVIOUS APA101 MENTEES AND SECOND YEAR STUDENTS LINDSEY TANAKA AND HELEN LI AS THEY SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE MAKING THE TRANSITION GOING INTO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

PROACTIVE: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO COME TO MICHIGAN?

LINDSEY: My dad, two of his three brothers, and his cousin all attended the University of Michigan, so I was born a Michigan Wolverine. That’s not to say legacy is all that matters. Ann Arbor is rich in tradition and full of spirit.

HELEN: Basically, Michigan has everything. I can go on and on about how I adore the campus, the town, the majors offered, the people, but it comes down to the fact that Michigan is this hugely well-rounded school just brimming with activities opportunities. I’ve found out that everything you get here is top notch because the students, staff and faculty all throw their hearts into whatever their doing.

PROACTIVE: WHAT ORGANIZATIONS WERE YOU A PART OF AND WHICH DO YOU PLAN ON GETTING INVOLVED IN?

LINDSEY: I was part of Pre-Med Club and APA 101 my freshman year. I definitely will continue to be a part of both throughout the next three years, but more so APA 101 because I found that experience to be more rewarding and fulfilling.

HELEN: This year, I’ve gotten involved in a few organizations in the A/PIA community, like APA101 (only the BEST incoming first-year mentorship program EVER), UAAO, WeCARE (a community service program basically trying to improve humanity), and UM’s Red Cross chapter. It’s only the beginning for me, and I plan to vigorously explore my opportunities this next year, perhaps dabbling in music or theater, or something else crazy and new.
PROACTIVE: HOW WAS THE TRANSITION INTO COLLEGE?

LINDSEY: I am from Seattle, WA, and I knew it would be really hard to say that first “Goodbye” to my parents. And, I knew classes would be a lot more demanding and fast-paced than high school ever was. But, most of all, I knew this was one thing I had been looking forward to all of my life; I was finally a Michigan Wolverine and a proud football season ticket holder. It helped, too, that I had a wonderful roommate. We had many of the same interests both inside and outside of the classroom, and we had a mutual, unspoken respect for each other. There were certain things she did that bothered me, but that’s the reality of human diversity. She and I lived in an all-women’s dorm (Barbour), and the quiet atmosphere that accompanies a women’s dorm mimics the only environment I can do homework in.

HELEN: Looking back, the transition wasn’t easy. There was so much to do and prioritize that I lost track of what my goals were and how to achieve a healthy balance in my first semester. It was hard because I thought it’d be very similar to high school (it’s not). The general transition problems-roommate, living away from home, etc-weren’t so much problems for me. Instead, it was being surrounded by so many people who seemed to know what they were doing and how to go about doing it. I wasn’t very confident my first semester, and that was the problem. You have to feel confident first and know that you have control over your life, and then act on that confidence and be driven and outgoing.

PROACTIVE: WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GO TO APA101 WEEKLY?

LINDSEY: When APA 101 first started, it was a way for me to force myself to take a break from studying and get at least 5 minutes of fresh air on the walk over from my dorm. The first meeting, we made our own ice cream sandwiches, and I love ice cream. So, appetite-wise, I didn’t have much choice but to go back for the second meeting. But, once I got to know people, the meetings turned into a weekly treat because we had all become like a family. We started to confide in each other.

HELEN: For the record, APA101 is the best thing at UM. End of story.

PROACTIVE: WHERE CAN WE FIND YOU ON THURSDAY NIGHT?

LINDSEY: Thursday night about 7pm, you can find me in South Quad in the Yuri Kochiyama Lounge chatting up the week’s gossip with various people. I like to laugh, so hopefully you will find me laughing. “The meetings are indescribable; I guess you’ll just have to come to one to find out.”

HELEN: If you want to hang out with me on Thursday night, you’re going to have tough luck finding me anywhere EXCEPT for in the YK Lounge in South Quad, west side, attending an oh-so-electrifying APA101 meeting with some of the best people on campus. Yes, yes, that’s where you’ll find me.

PROACTIVE: WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE AND WHY?

LINDSEY: Love and Basketball. It is one of very few movies about females playing basketball, and it sends a very good message. I also know almost all of the lines, so when I watch it, I feel as if I would make a better actress than Sanaa Lathan. And, because I know when the love scenes are, I know when to conveniently take a snack break.

HELEN: I LOVE this question. THE LORD OF THE RINGS!!! The artwork, the locations, the set design, costume design, everything—and it’s all created based on some descriptions in a book. I love the themes of friendship and honor and courage and camaraderie, and the sweeping, epic nature of the movies—wow, mindblowing.
With so much to offer, the University of Michigan has been home to thousands of students. Kids come from all over the globe in hopes of gaining a world class education and an experience second to none. As an international student coming to college in the states, I really didn’t know what to expect, but the one thing I knew I wanted was to make the most of my time here. Armed with a suitcase in hand, a phone number of a relative and an opportunistic persona, I set out to make my mark, one I would forever remember for the rest of my life.

Malcolm Gladwell once wrote about “How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference”. I never really took the time to think about what that really meant, but as a young freshman strolling through the Diag at 18, I was about to find out. A small flier, no more than 4x6, was handed to me during Festifall. I looked up, shook a hand and casually exchanged a few words with a tall goofy-looking fellow who told me to come check-out a few events. This marked the beginning of my affair with Lambda Phi Epsilon.

Greek life begins with rush. Rush is a period in which students are given the opportunity to learn a bit more about the organization. As a kid looking to take every opportunity that college threw at him, I made my decision to join Lambdas. In high school, I always had a tight knit group of friends which made the idea of a fraternity extremely appealing. I quickly learned at college that making friends was easy; however making time for those friends and vice versa was difficult. What made my high school experience so rewarding was that me and a small group of friends were able to experience everything together. It also helped that I went to high school in Hong Kong which made everything worthwhile. With hindsight and honesty, my decision to join Greek life was rather rash but nonetheless one I don’t regret.

Many Greeks will tell you that Greek life is what you make of it. How much effort one puts into an organization is roughly what one should get out of it. What separates Greek life from other organizations on campus is the nature of its membership. Greeks tend to be a lot closer with each other than members of other organizations. Greek life creates bonds and even tends to force members to become close with each other, which would not happen in other clubs on campus. The nature of calling someone a ‘brother’ or ‘sister’ signifies a very different relationship between individuals, almost resembling a family. Some would argue that friends should not be forced upon each other, but rather they should be chosen. I don’t disagree with this statement at all. I do agree that people should be able to pick their friends, but I also know that some of the best friends I have at this school developed from strangers I least expected to meet.

Perhaps the one aspect of Greek life I have been most adamant about is its ability to balance my life. I see Greek life as a mechanism by which I channel various aspects of my life into one organization. No other single organization on campus will offer you opportunities to pursue academic, athletic, musical and social interests. Whether it’s picking classes or getting help with homework, Greeks are always there to provide academic advice and help. Besides, I haven’t had to pay for a textbook in a while thanks to older brothers. Being a Greek, I have received some of the best career advice from like-minded older individuals who have been through it all. Whether you are looking to break into investment banking or looking to go to graduate school, you will always be able to find someone to offer you invaluable advice. In terms of athletics, Greeks usually hold their own sporting competitions. These sporting events can range from class tournaments to inter-fraternity competitions. There is always an abundance of sports for you to explore and people to enjoy them with. I mention musical interests as one aspect of Greek life because from my own experiences, I have met people with similar interests in playing the guitar. This of course goes for any other hobby that one would enjoy such as dancing, or fishing. Greeks usually put on shows, which act as philanthropy or fundraising events and offer opportunities to showcase your talents.

Finally, the one aspect of Greek life which resides at the center of attention is of course, its social aspect. From Busch Light to Beer Pong, Greeks have always unsurprisingly been stereotyped for being associated with partying. On any given game day Solo cups transform the front lawns of fraternity houses from green to red. However the other aspects of Greek social life are often overlooked. Machiavelli once said that “Men judge more by their eyes than by their hands, because everyone can see but few can feel”, this holds a cast of truth as most people only manage to see the dozens of parties held each year but never the smaller events which are closed off from the public. From movie nights to brotherhood dinners to bowling nights with a sister sorority, Greek life offers a range of social events and an opportunity to create a community.

When I was asked to write this article about my experiences with Greek life, I was poised with the question “How would college be different without it?” and “How is your org different to other Greek orgs on campus?” To be honest, I really don’t know what it would be like, who I would meet, or how different my life would be if I chose not to join Greek life. Though I was asked to write about “how my organization (Lambda Phi Epsilon) is unique”, I’ve refrained from doing so specifically because I believe that it really doesn’t matter. Whether a fraternity is small with 10 people or large with 120 should not matter as much as the common goal of finding brotherhood. A fraternity with 120 people may suit an individual looking to meet as many people as possible, but on the other hand, a fraternity of 10 might just be right for someone looking to develop much closer relationships. Should you eventually choose to decide to become a Greek, my one piece of advice I have to offer you is: “Don’t forget who your friends are”. It’s very easy to get sucked into Greek life, let it consume you and forget about everyone else. Greek life is meant to supplement your social life, not replace it. Make sure you make time to hangout with other friends who are not necessarily within your Greek circle. Join other clubs and take leadership roles in organizations beyond your fraternity/sorority. And finally, don’t take Greek life too seriously; you’ll never make it out alive.
I started thinking about sororities when I attended a University of Michigan orientation back in California. There, I met a very nice lady who'd graduated from Michigan not too long ago. She was happily engaged to her Michigan alum boyfriend and successfully found a job she rather enjoyed. During our conversation, she took out a photo album full of pictures from her years back in college. All the formal dinners and parties seemed so fun and a group of girls seemed just the thing for me to fit into Michigan, a school no one else from my district was going. When I went home, I got on the computer and started doing some research. Naturally, I confided in facebook and soon enough I was talking to girls from different organizations about what it meant to rush and what life as a sister was like. When first semester of freshman year finally came around, I was attending numerous rush events and meeting more people I could ever remember the names of. Life never felt so perfect.

Second semester rolled around and I was happily discussing living arrangements with my group of girls, in a relationship I thought would last, slowly getting used to the amounts of work I needed to do for class but still feeling something was missing. Even in high school, I was only involved in clubs my friends were in or applied for positions I knew I'd get. Luckily all my friends were pretty involved but I just never had the guts to push myself beyond the familiar so I decided to take a risk and pledge winter semester of 2007. After a seemingly endless semester and summer, I was finally starting my sophomore year as an official sister of Kappa Phi Lambda. It had been months of waiting and I was finally looking at rush from a sister's point of view. I was so excited for rush to start that when it finally came around to rushing and being a sister, I still didn't feel like I was getting involved as I would have liked.

Being in the art school, it’s hard enough registering for the required courses to graduate on time with a bachelor’s degree. If I had to invest so much time in Kappa and have trouble registering for classes due to the inconvenient class times available to art students, how could I possibly expect to get a career after I graduate? I didn’t even know what I wanted to do, in which direction I should turn or how to even start! When I got an email about an illustrator opportunity with a club called WeRead I was absolutely thrilled. Not only will this club allow me to work during my free time, it was related to my major in some way and would give me a good experience of what being an illustrator would be like. I went on ahead and applied but what else could I get involved in? Through Kappa, I became an advocate for UAAO, a coalition of over thirty organizations on the University of Michigan campus who meet every Wednesday to discuss Asian American issues. So I am learning and discussing with other people about the challenges faced by the APIA community but so what? I wanted to do something more. I wanted to be more involved. I wanted to be in the inner circle. These two activities still didn’t feel like enough so what other kind of leadership positions or programs could I sign up for? Plus, I might sound like a total health freak but what about exercise?

If I plan to be so involved on campus, I’m not going to have time to go to the gym so where can I find an activity where I can get involved and get exercise at the same time? Next thing I know, I was on the CSA rXn dance team, creative chair for the GENAPA Core 2008, enrolled in Joe Trumpey’s Field Sketching class, selected for a faculty-led paid internship in the New Orleans with GIEU and planning to go to Shanghai for yet another internship mid-July. Without a doubt, my second semester of sophomore year was busy, hectic, and stressful but I would never give it up for anything. With all the things I had already on my plate and more, I felt so accomplished. I helped bring back what had once been a huge annual APIA cultural show on campus, performed with both CSA rXn and Kappa Phi Lambda at the GENAPA cultural show, got into programs I never imagined I’d ever apply for and illustrated a book which I was later informed won the annual WeRead contest and will be published in the near future! With my new found passion, I am now social chair for CSA, an advocate to help get a NAPAWF chapter started on campus, and still looking into other positions and activities to join next year.

Reminiscing on this past year, I still can’t believe how much I managed to fit into what I had thought was an already incredibly booked schedule. As ironic as it may seem, I owe everything I did this past semester to Kappa. It is from being a Kappa where my relations with other organizations seeded. It is because of Kappa I got involved enough to gain the self confidence to do so much more and it was through Kappa I managed to get so many positions due to the multiple leadership opportunities it offered me within the organization itself. At the end of the day, all I can say is that life is always kind of crazy. We’re always going to be faced with situations where we will have a hard time finding a way around them but what makes us strong is that we try to do our best regardless. We are always trying to push ourselves past our limits to overcome our fears and take on new obstacles. Sometimes this may all seem too overwhelming, both physically and emotionally, but it is only by indulging ourselves into such madness do we receive the sweet sensation of our accomplishment.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SUPPORT AND FUNDING FOR PROACTIVE PROVIDED BY OAMI AND MESA

The Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives (OAMI) was created for and is dedicated to working collaboratively with external and campus constituencies to develop academic multicultural initiatives of students. Through this work, we support the University of Michigan’s ongoing efforts to build a diverse environment that supports all members of the campus community. The primary commitment of the Office is to students and is initiated through pre-college programs, academic enhancement initiatives, leadership development-resources, research, and campus programs.

The Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs (MESA) and Trotter Multi-cultural Center strive to improve the intercultural competence of all University of Michigan students by creating opportunities for meaningful cross-cultural interactions and learning. In addition, they support the racial and ethnic identity, development, and empowerment of African American, Asian/Pacific Islander American, Latino/a American, and Native American students as individuals, within and across communities. This focus fosters students’ sense of belonging and community at the University of Michigan. MESA and Trotter Multicultural Center are proud of their history of flexibility and creativity in providing services and program to meet student needs and campus climate concerns that have and will continue to emerge as our institution becomes increasingly diverse.

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