



Asian American Alumni
Association of Princeton

A4P Global Newsletter Sept. 1, 2012

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Contact Us

Interested in getting more involved with A4P? Have an idea for an event but don't know where to start? Have something you want us to publish in our next newsletter? For these inquiries and any other suggestions or comments you might have, email A4PMoChen@gmail.com

Your A4P

A4P Fall 2012 Newsletter

Dear Fellow Princetonian,

As we progress during the year of the Dragon, we hope that many of you were able to enjoy reunions, renew old friendships and form new ones and to continue those friendships either in person or using social media. We have a lineup of stories which we hope will interest and inspire.

We would like to say thank you! **Thank you** to the many graduate and undergraduate alumni who support A4P with financial and in-kind donations to make our annual reunions event, regional events, and website possible. Presently we do not charge membership fees and our only source of annual funding is from alumni donations. We also would like to thank every volunteer who has given his/her time to support A4P's effort to build a vibrant alumni community. Last but not least, we also would like to thank the Alumni Association for supporting A4P through allowing us to use their communication platform and including us in the Alumni Council. This year we are especially grateful for the Association's hosting of a dinner in San Francisco for A4P and for a grant to help A4P redesign its website.

The A4P **Annual in person meeting** on the Princeton campus will be held on Saturday, September 15th at Maclean house, 10am -12pm with lunch to be served afterwards. We welcome current and new volunteers to attend as we plan the coming year for A4P. Contact Mo Chen '80 (a4pmochen@gmail.com) for details.

Regional activities include survey results in the [San Francisco Bay Area](#) and recent events in [Taiwan](#), [NYC](#), and [Southern California](#).

Diwali, the festival of lights, is Nov. 13th. Already, plans are in the works in New Jersey and Southern California. Use this as a catalyst to start your own A4P event.

Mentorship reminder. Get involved by joining A4P's mentorship program. Fill out the [form](#) by Friday, Sept. 14th in order to match with an Undergraduate [mentee](#).

Officers

- Chair - Mo Chen '80
- Vice-Chair- Rika Nakazawa '95
- Treasurer - Debbie Yu '86
- Secretary - Douglas Chin '83

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- Y.S. Chi '83
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- Arka Mukherjee *95
- Venkat Lakshmi *96
- Joyce Chen Shueh '96
- April Chou '96
- Pei-Ting S. Chou *05
- Jessica Wey '07
- Sisi Chen '09

We'd like to share a recent story from the Alumni Schools Committee (**ASC**) which we hope will tune your [heart](#) (as in the song ol'Nassau).

Related to the above story is a reprint, with permission, of James Wei's (Emeritus Dean of the School of Engineering) "Making it in America". Please share and [enjoy](#).

A4P would like to shine an alumni spotlight on a pioneer in Asian-American studies. Some perspective and a recognition of:[Franklin Odo '61](#) in this year of the entering freshmen class of '16.

The University will be sponsoring a [LGBT](#) Conference on campus in April 2013. Mark your calendars.

If you have a story that you think would be of interest to the general membership or news you'd like to share about either yourself or fellow alums, contact us. If you have an idea for an event but just don't where to start or what to do, please email Mo Chen '80 (A4PMoChen@gmail.com) and she and the A4P regions can lend their advice and experience for a successful event. It could be as simple as getting together for coffee or organizing a dinner. It does not have to be elaborate or frequent. Our goal is to provide avenues for networking and socializing among all Tigers.

Until next time, three cheers.

In [Orange](#) and Black,

The Officers and Governors of A4P.

- **Unsubscribe**

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[Regional Activities - San Francisco Bay Area Survey](#)

Chris Loh '86 reports on the Bay Area survey...

Bay Area team implemented Survey Monkey to query local alum's interests in future events.

- [Survey](#) (links to a slideshow) sent to 452 alums on 7/24/2012
- 51 alums have responded.

7 questions were asked.

- Results of 6 questions attached.
- Last question asked for volunteers. (5 alums responded positively)

Our plan is to incorporate final findings into an exciting program of multiple events during the next 12 months.

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[Regional Activities - Taiwan](#)

Reported by Pei-Ting S Chou *05

Thanks for your great support . The vision statement collected has enriched the formal intro of A4P on that day. The A4P business cards also were distributed among alumni. Here are the photos taken on June 30th with some honorable guests from Princeton (see below). Some would be good memo for the photo gallery at A4P website. Last, thank Mo a lot for your great attention and suggestions! And Alumni in Taiwan are indeed happy to see such connection and the great guests from Princeton University.

Wish all a great summer~

Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Pei-Ting S *05 (pictured with Emeritus Professor Wen Fong)*



[Link to Slideshow](#)

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[Regional Activities - NYC](#)

Mo Chen '80 reports:

PANYC and A4P jointly organized a visit to see Terracotta Warriors at Discovery Times Square on July 24th. Turnout was great. We had graduate and undergraduate alumni from the Class of 1974 to the Class of 2011 come with their family and friends. Forty-six people attended. Most were NYC residents but a few came from NJ and a couple came from Mount Vernon, NY. We are grateful to Sara McCalpin '82, President of China Institute of America, for helping us get discount tickets to attend the exhibit. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Brian Biegen '04 President of PANYC, Mo Chen '80 Chair of A4P, Kristin Epstein '97, PA3 President, Debra Yu '86 Treasurer of A4P



[A4P Terracotta Slideshow](#)

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[Regional Activities - NYC 2](#)

Alex Shih '11 led a NYC event on a summer weekend in August. He reports:

On August 18th, members of A4P met for a ferry ride from Manhattan to a food flea market in Brooklyn. Nine people (including one eight month old) were at the event to enjoy a beautiful NYC day and some of the best food New York City has to offer. Several attendees were new to New York City and it was a great way for Princeton alumni and family to connect. Stay tuned for another A4P NYC event in October, and feel free to email ashih@alumni if you have any suggestions!

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[Regional Activities - Southern California](#)

Reported by Doug Chin '83:

15 total, 8 alumni (Neal '62, Miles '03, Claudia '82, Karen '74, Michele '12, James '71, Mimi '79, Doug '83).

August 25, 2012. As I was driving to the event on L.A.'s "Miracle Mile", I turned on the radio and lo and behold, Mimi was the DJ that morning. After her work shift, Mimi led us on an excellent tour, with assistant Amanda to help with logistics. We visited a few alternate broadcast rooms, saw the layout of the offices and technical areas, and listened to Mimi as she detailed her recollections of WPRB, other Princetonians in the radio business, and her own personal experiences as a professional disc jockey. We had some good banter with the "on-air" DJ (whose name is Andy, Mimi was done with her shift for the day) as he alternated between talking with us and talking on the mic for broadcast. Much discussion ensued regarding the changing and downsizing of radio as we used to know it. Most of the alumni attendees were radio people or had interest in radio. I was glad my kids enjoyed seeing something different. I consider it a privilege for them to visit a radio station and this is one of the benefits of organizing these events. The radio station generously gave us a goodie bag and a T-shirt. Many thanks to Mimi and TheSoundLA!

[Link to Slideshow](#)



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[A4P - AASA - Mentorship Program](#)

We're looking for volunteer mentors! A4P invites you to become an alumni mentor to members of Princeton's Asian American Students Association (AASA).

The A4P-AASA mentoring program gives alumni a chance to share their expertise and experience with current students looking for academic, career, or life advice. We hope that by establishing this link between our alumni and student organization, we will also strengthen Princeton's Asian American community.

To volunteer to become a mentor, please fill out the brief form to help

us learn more about your mentorship preferences. It will only take a minute! Please fill out the form by **Friday, Sep 14**. We aim to match mentors with mentees during mid-late September and have the official program kick-off Oct 1, 2012.

Link to form: [A4P Mentor Form](#)

Questions? Please contact Kevin Wong '05 at a4pmentoring@gmail.com

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[ASC and Prospective Student Choosing between Princeton and MIT](#)

When you were a high school senior, do you remember choosing between Princeton and another college? Was it the location, the department ranking, the students, or the financial aid package that finally tipped the decision? When did you first see the campus? Maybe it was on the first day of freshman week? Many of us remember the personal contact with someone at the University, whether it was an alumni, a professor, an administrator, or a current student. One admit, Shirley Yang, was debating between MIT and Princeton, and was undecided prior to Princeton Preview. . Charlene Huang Olson '88, the ASC Chair in the Chicagoland area, contacted her college roommate Allie Liu '88, a physician in the San Diego area (who happened to be a graduate of New Trier, a Chicago-area high school), and asked her to speak with the future pre-med Chemistry or ChemE major. Thanks to an introduction via Mo Chen '80, there were also a number of on-campus chemistry and ChemE undergrads willing to connect with Shirley. Below is a letter from Shirley sharing the reasons for her final decision.

"Hi! I'm Shirley Yang, and I'm from the suburbs of Chicago. I was originally born in Beijing, China, and moved to the U.S. at the age of eight. I lived in Iowa for a few years before settling down by Hinsdale, IL. I am about to graduate from Hinsdale Central High School, where I've played violin in the orchestras, competed on the math and engineering teams, participated in a few clubs, and played varsity badminton. I'm currently involved in my local Chinese church, and I also have the cutest three-year-old sister in the world.

I'm extremely excited to be going to Princeton next year. Sometimes, I still can't believe that I will soon be living on one of the most beautiful campuses and interacting with an incredibly talented faculty and student body. In fact, those were two of my reasons for picking Princeton over my other choices, mainly MIT. While the academics at both schools are excellent, I know I'll get a more well-rounded education at Princeton with its focus on the liberal arts. I want to be in a more diverse environment and meet people with a wider range of interests. While I'm personally interested in engineering, I'm not certain that it's going to be my career, and Princeton offers more opportunities in other areas of study. It was a tough choice to make, but I got a lot of help from my parents and my friends at either college. I also talked to many Princeton alums at the Admitted Student Reception in Chicago, and their love for the school and their closeness with each other really convinced me that Princeton is the right choice. I don't doubt my decision one bit.

Currently, I plan on studying chemistry or chemical engineering. I want to try things out first and see what I like. I'm interested in being a premed, but I won't limit myself

to it. I'm going to keep an open mind and explore all the different possibilities offered by Princeton. In terms of activities, I plan on doing something completely different from what I did in high school: I want to do something new. I want to learn to dance and join a dance crew. I want to play a new sport (Ultimate Frisbee? crew?) and join the team. I'm so excited by all the different organizations and clubs that I can be involved in; I know I will find my own special place at Princeton."



Congratulations Shirley Yang '16 for choosing the best place of all. Thanks to Charlene Huang Olson '88, Chair, Alumni Schools Committee Greater Chicagoland Area, for asking the question, enlisting the help of alumni, and bringing us all back.

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[James Wei - Making it in America - Difference between the Princeton Engineer and the MIT Engineer](#)

Please read this Chemical Engineer's view of Princeton versus MIT. Distributed with permission from the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (located in Los Angeles Chinatown). Feel free to forward or share.

Making it in America

By James Wei

- Asian American Engineer of the year 2007.
- Emeritus Dean of Engineering and Applied Science, Princeton University.

When I first came to the US in 1949, my goal was to get a good engineering education and return to China to work, according to the tradition of that time. I received a bachelor degree in chemical engineering at Georgia Tech in three years, followed by a masters and a doctors degrees at MIT in three more years. There was little pressure on me to learn how to make it in America. I found lots of time to build theatrical sets for the student theater and did my minor in Fine Arts at Harvard. But my plan to return in 1955 ran into a roadblock when the State Department informed me I could not leave the U.S. since the Korean War was on, and my knowledge of engineering could be of use to the enemy. It never occurred to me that this rule could be challenged, so I got an entry research job at the Mobil Oil Company, and waited for the rules to change. In the mean time, my research in reaction kinetics and catalysis was going very well, and I was winning awards and recognition. But I still had very low expectations of what I could achieve in the US, as I have heard the expression often “this guy does not have a Chinaman’s chance”, so I was content to do a good job in the lab and get a good pay check.

...

more at:

<http://a4psocal.blogspot.com/2012/05/making-it-in-america-james-wei.html>

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[Alumni Spotlight: Franklin Odo '61](#)

Cultural stewardship for Asian Pacific American (APA) collections is something that Franklin Odo knows more than just a little about. The recently retired founding director of the Smithsonian’s Asian Pacific American Program, which was established in 1997, has spent his 40-year career developing curricula and collections around this theme.

“I defected from Asian Studies in 1969,” quipped Odo, who recently delivered the keynote address for the Library’s celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. That year, Odo was “knee-deep in trying to figure out an Asian American studies curriculum at UCLA.”

.more from the 2010 article:

<http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/1006/odo.html>

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[Campus - 2013 LGBT Alumni Conference](#)

We have exciting news!

Princeton University is planning an April 11-13, 2013, conference for LGBT and allied alumni. This three-day campus celebration will include presentations by alumni, senior administrators, faculty and students; networking opportunities; and social events. It's sure to be a fun gathering!

Leading up to the conference, the University is also planning focus group conversations in DC, Los Angeles, New York, Princeton, San Francisco, Seattle, and possibly other cities. To learn more about the conference and the focus groups, [we'd like to encourage you](#) to sign up at <http://alumni.princeton.edu/LGBT>

If you have an idea for a theme or a workshop, please send it over to David Mejias '98 - dmejias@princeton.edu – one of the event organizers.

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To learn more about A4P, please visit us at <http://www.a4princeton.org/>

The mission of the Asian American Alumni Association of Princeton (A4P) is to support the community of Princeton alumni in advancing Asian-American and Asian issues in student life, University affairs, personal and professional development, and community service.

Tigernet. From time to time we may post event information for non- Princeton related organizations on the **Asian Alumni Forum** discussion list on TigerNet. Please sign up at www.alumni.princeton.edu if you haven't already.

A4P Addlist Instructions: If you know an alumnus/a who is not receiving the A4P email newsletters and would like to be added to the list, email: name, affiliation (i.e. class of 2001), email address to Doug Chin '83 at a4psocal@gmail.com, cc: Mo Chen '80 at a4pmochen@gmail.com and put in the subject line: "**A4P Addlist**". We will verify requestors and include them in future emails. Please make sure the alumnus/a is not already receiving the emails before submitting a request. Thank you.

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