USC Asian Pacific American Student Services
2012-2013 Annual Report

Prepared by:
Mary Ho, Director, maryho@usc.edu
Jonathan Wang, Assistant Director, wangjona@usc.edu
Jeymi Choi, Program Coordinators, jeymich@usc.edu

With assistance by:
Viet Bui, Graduate Assistant
Christina Chu, Information Specialist
Director’s Letter

Academic year 2012-2013 has been exciting, rewarding, and challenging serving as the Director for Asian Pacific American Student Services (APASS). APASS is one of the first of its kind when it was established 31 years ago. The student activism that took place from Scott Lee, Karen Wong and Michael Matsuda lead the way for the creation of APASS with its first director, J.D. Hokoyama. Irene Hirano, Edwin Hiroto, Kenneth Kasamatsu, Alan Kumamoto, Dennis Kunisaki, and Frank Kwan from the Asian Pacific American Support Group (APASG) helped to further establish resources for APASS. The longest serving director, Jeff Murakami, established critical programs that still thrive in APASS today. The history and legacy that APASS holds made it such a privilege to take on this role. It has been rewarding getting to know our stakeholders, which include students, faculty, Student Affairs partners, alumni, and community-based organizations. Furthermore, it's been wonderful to be part of the Trojan family. The Trojan family and the Trojan pride are strongly embedded in the USC culture.

This was also a year of staff transition. Replacing two amazing leaders, Dr. Sumun Pendakur and Jade Agua, Jonathan Wang was hired in August 2012 to serve as the Assistant Director and I was hired in October 2012. The staff transition served as an opportunity for new possibilities. In her 5th year, Jeymi Choi continues to serve in her capacity as the Office Manager and Program Coordinator. It has been great being part of this wonderful team of committed Student Affairs practitioners.

We are excited to produce our first Asian Pacific American Student Services Annual Report for our stakeholders. The primary goal of this report is to share the well-established programs and services that we offer to the students and community in and outside of USC. The APASS Annual Report provides highlights of the last 31 years in APASS's rich history; our personnel and financial resources required to support APASS; our stakeholders; a profile of the Asian Pacific American freshmen class from the last four years; our partnerships and collaborations; highlights from our assessments and what we are looking forward to in the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Ho
Director
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Front Cover Photos (top to bottom): New office décor; CIRCLE Retreat 2012; DESI Project’s From Mesa or Oak Creek; Connections! Kickoff Mixer

Back Cover Photos (top to bottom): New office décor; PULE 2nd Annual High School Summit; CIRCLE Retreat 2012; ASB Hawaii
Mission

A. USC Division of Student Affairs Mission

The central mission of the University of Southern California (USC) is the development of human beings and society as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the human mind and spirit.

Student Affairs is devoted to creating an integrated learning experience that helps students reach their educational, personal, and professional aspirations. We help create a campus community where students are prepared to contribute to a changing world.

http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/

B. APASS Mission

USC Asian Pacific American Student Services (APASS) is a multifaceted department focused on the education, engagement, and empowerment of students.

APASS has a two-fold mission: to facilitate Asian Pacific American participation, dialogue, community-building, and empowerment, while at the same time, to serve as a source of cross-cultural educational programming for the entire campus.

APASS programs include orientation, leadership development, service-learning and community immersion, career and peer mentoring, cross-cultural and educational programs, academic collaborations, and individual and collective advocacy.

We understand the distinctive needs among the different ethnicities within our Asian Pacific American community, and we succeed in deriving strength from our diversity. We believe in a pan-Asian Pacific American identity that is rooted in the Civil Rights Movement, and continues to grow in the transnational sphere.

http://usc.edu/apass
APASS History  By Jeff Murakami, edited

February 1982

J.D. Hokoyama becomes the first director of the newly created Asian Pacific American Student Services (APASS) Department.

As various ethnic organizations began to emerge at the University of Southern California, many Asian Pacific American (APA) students began to carve a place of their own on campus. Under the leadership of Michael Matsuda, Scott Lee, Karen Wong, and with the assistance of USC staff psychologist Dr. Sarah Miyahira, these students organized meetings with university administrators and staged public demonstrations to demand more cultural recognition on campus.

1982

The Asian Pacific American Support Group (APASG) is established and chartered.

Hokoyama faced many challenges, including only being employed half time, operating on an non-existent budget, and working from a glorified broom closet in the Student Union building. Undaunted, he faced this challenges with the help of the Asian Pacific American Support Group (APASG) to help support the department and raise scholarships. Due to the efforts of APASG leaders and alumni such as Irene Hirano, Edwin Hiroto, Kenneth Kasamatsu Alan Kumamoto, Dennis Kunisaki, and Frank Kwan, APASS began to develop its roots among the APA population on campus and in the community.
1982-1987

**APASS’ early developmental period.**

Due to the efforts of Hokoyama and the APASG, the University agreed to employ Hokoyama full-time, provide some support staff, including administrative assistants Denise Kurushima and later Donna Maeda, and move into a larger office in Student Union 407.

1987

**Yeo-Ishikawa succeeds Hokoyama as director of APASS.**

Following Hokoyama was Jeanne Yeo-Ishikawa, who arrived from the East Coast in August 1987. She faced many of the same problems as Hokoyama – including no programming budget – but with the support of the APASG and administrative assistant Lana Chin, Yeo-Ishikawa not only kept popular events such as the scholarship dinner, but added programs such as Career and Professional Development workshops and the 'Ohana Club, a group of USC faculty and staff from Hawai‘i.

1990

**Jeff Murakami becomes the fourth APASS director.**

In June 1989, APASS welcomed Yoon Hee Kim as its new director. However, after Kim joined Los Angeles’ mayor Tom Bradley’s staff in early 1990, APASS Interim Administrative Assistant Jeff Murakami became the department’s fourth director. Assisting Murakami was administrative assistant Nerissa Moijca, followed by Juliet Kim in 1992.
1991

APASS and APASG welcome Steven Sample, the new USC president.

Despite USC's dire budget situation in the early 1990's, APASS persevered and established its flagship career mentoring program now known as Connections! In addition, with the help of the APASG and the Asian and Pacific Faculty and Staff Network, APASS hosted a major reception in 1991 to welcome new USC president Steven Sample.

1992

APASS face challenging times.

Despite protests from students, alumni, and staff, USC moved forward to reorganize the culturally based student service offices, including APASS, into the “Office for Academic and Cultural Services” (OACS) on April 27, 1992. The OACS model struggled from the very beginning, and with the eruption of the LA Civil Unrest, USC bowed to pressure and dissolved the office.

1994

APASS continues to grow as a department.

With the support of new Vice President of Student Affairs Michael L. Jackson, APASS developed the assistant director position, as well as a department secretary. Andrea Nguyen, APASS’ Administrative Assistant, assumed the role of the first assistant director, and over time, the department secretary position became the office manager position with Marann Solidum, Jamie Kim, Arlene Fader, Mark Orne, Naomi Suwa, Laurie Kawakami, and now Jeymi Choi filling the role over the years.

APA Alumni population grows.

In response to USC’s massive, growing APA alumni population, APASS, through the APASG, increased alumni activities, including a 1997 scholarship gala that featured both President Sample and former Annenberg School for Communication Dean Geoffrey Cowan. APASS also launches the PEER mentoring program.
1998

**APASS and APASG begin conversing with the USC General Alumni Association.**

As alumni activity continued to increase, by 1998 it became clear that APASS could not adequately serve both students and alumni with its current resources. APASS responded to this dilemma by beginning a conversation with USC General Alumni Association about creating a new unit to serve APA alumni. Nearly three years later, the Asian Pacific Alumni Association was created, allowing APASS to hire its first assistant director dedicated solely to student programs: Yoshiko Matsui.

2007

**Sumun Pendakur becomes director and Jade Aqua joins APASS.**

In 2004, Yoshiko Matsui was succeeded by Sumun Pendakur, who in 2007 later assumed the role of APASS Director. Under Pendakur, APASS added transnational dialogue programs, an Asian Pacific American career development curriculum, and additional service learning opportunities, such as the Alternative Spring Break trip to Manzanar National Historic site. Jade Agua joined the team in 2007, and from 2007 – 2012 she served as the department’s Assistant Director.
Today

Mary Ho and Jonathan Wang join APASS as director and Assistant Director.

Following Agua’s departure, Jonathan Wang joined APASS in August 2012 as the new Assistant Director. Later, in October 2012, Mary Ho assumed the role of Director. Today, APASS features established programs in mentoring, orientation, and leadership development. APASS continues to advocate for a rich and complex educational vision, and strong partnerships within USC and the wider APA student community.
APASS Staff Structure

The APASS staff includes two Full-Time Employment, one Part-Time Employment at 60%, one graduate assistant, six information specialist, nine program coordinators and eight teacher’s assistants.

The current professional staff includes Mary Ho, Director, Jonathan Wang, Assistant Director; and Jeymi Choi, Office Manager and Program Coordinator.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Staff Salary and Student Wage Budget

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<th>Budget</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff (Salary and Benefits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Staff Wages</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
<td>$215,735</td>
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</tbody>
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Staff Salary and Student Wage Budget

- **Staff**: $190,873
- **Student**: $24,862

Legend:
- **Staff**
- **Student**
Stakeholders

Stakeholders are a vital part of the APASS community. We serve and collaborate with five primary communities of stakeholders. The stakeholders include (A) Students, (B) Division of Student Affairs, (C) Faculty, (D) Alumni and (E) Community-based organizations.

(A) Students are our primary stakeholder. Our signature programs serve students of Asian Pacific American descent as well as a range of programs that are opened to students of all backgrounds. We provide programs in identity development, leadership, service learning, social justice and cross-cultural dialogue. We are a resource and support space for students. On the new APASS website, we added a student profile to showcase our student leadership.

(B) The Division of Student Affairs is a stakeholder through collaboration, resources and education. We align our mission and goals with the larger divisional goals. We strive to educate the division on issues surrounding our Asian Pacific American students; we build partnerships through collaboration; and we share resources to better serve our student population.

(C) Faculty are an important stakeholder in the division. We are able to pair the curricular with the co-curricular and give students a more well-rounded college experience. They also serve as an academic resource for APASS. On the new APASS website, we added faculty/staff highlight in order to showcase the faculty partnership.

(D) Alumni are stakeholders that we build through time. We foster relationships through the Connections! alumni career mentoring program. APASS alumni have historically been an important community to APASS. We strive to continue to build alumni relationships and recognize them for their commitment to the Asian Pacific American community. In order to meet APASS’s alumni needs, the Asian Pacific Alumni Association (APAA) will be an institutional partner for the Connections! program starting Fall 2013. We added alumni profile to our APASS website to showcase our committed alumni.

(E) Community-based organizations have played a vital role throughout APASS history. It is important for APASS to work with community-based organizations in the greater Los Angeles area. They serve as a resource as well as provide educational and career developmental opportunities for the students. Together in Empowerment (TiE), the community-based internship program, enables students to gain experience in areas such as advocacy, organizing, development and civic engagement. Aside from TiE, community-based organizations are involved in CIRCLE, Connections!, and other educational programs.
2012 Incoming Student Demographics

APASS collects disaggregated Asian Pacific American (APA) student data from Admissions on a yearly basis. The data collected allows APASS to recognize and educate the community on the subgroups and diversity that exist in APA population at USC. Below is the breakdown for the 2012-2013 incoming cohort.

Other Facts and Figures

- USC admitted a total of 4,697 incoming students in the Fall (3021 are freshman, 1658 are transfer)
- 27% of incoming students identify as APA (1,246 total)
- About 23% of incoming APAs are first generation college students
- Approximately 30% of APAs will receive Pell Grants (federal need-based grants)
- Over 75% of incoming APAs are from California.
- Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians are not included in the total APA numbers in the official USC release of facts and figures. Instead they are classified under “Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians”.
- APASS served an estimated 12% of the 4,100 total self-identified undergraduate APA population.
2009-2012 Incoming Student Demographics

APASS collects incoming student demographics on a yearly basis from Admissions to inform us on how to serve the incoming class; to share the diversity of the Asian Pacific American (APA) population and to track APA population trends at USC. Below is a comparison of the last four incoming student cohorts.
Programs

APASS programs include our Signature Programs: PEER, CIRCLE and Connections!; Service-Learning Programs: ASB Hawai‘i and ASB Manzanar, and Community Programs: APA Student Welcome, Asian Pacific Graduation, APASS/Friday Download, DESI Project, PULE and Project Remix. The diversity of programs includes mentoring opportunities, leadership development, cross-cultural dialogue, social justice education, cultural empowerment and community building.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operations and Programs Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations:</td>
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<td>Programs:</td>
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<td>Total Fiscal Budget:</td>
<td>$29,258.00</td>
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Operations and Programs Budget

- Operations: 10%
- Programs: 90%
Signature Programs

**PEER: First Year Mentoring**

**Stakeholder:** Students  
**Student Coordinator:** Cecilia Chung  
**Mentors:** 32  
**Mentees:** 53

The PEER (Positive Experiences, Enriching Relationships) first-year mentoring program is now in its 18th year supporting the transition of freshmen and first-year APA students to USC. The PEER program has continued with its community building model to incorporate a holistic approach in supporting first-year students. Mentors and mentees are matched based on interests and majors. Mentoring relationships are year-long and require weekly check-in with the PEER coordinator and an APASS staff member. In partnership with Student Counseling Services, mentors are formally trained in counseling skills, crisis intervention, risky behavior, social adjustment, academic support, and other areas important to a successful first-year experience. Mentors are trained to be culturally sensitive to the needs of APA students, especially the tendency for APAs to not actively seek help from professional services (i.e. counseling, academic advising, etc.). PEER collaborates throughout the year with various campus and community resources in themed workshops for mentees. These workshops focus on academic success, campus involvement, career exploration, and healthy behaviors.
CIRCLE: Leadership Development Series

**Stakeholders:** Students, Community-Based  
**Student Coordinators:** Kevin Liu and Michelle Pang  
**Student Teacher Assistants:** Anh Cao, Jeff Wang, Milton Cheng, Tori Hirata, Janet Lee, Jennifer Mo, Diana Pereda and Tien Quach  
**Student Participants:** 60  
**Facilitators:** 4

In its 24th year, CIRCLE (Critical Issues in Race, Class, and Leadership Education) leadership development program focuses on supporting Asian Pacific American students in their identity and leadership development. This is a 7 week non-credit course which ends with an overnight weekend retreat. Participants explore their personal identities and their role in the larger community. Each session focuses on a specific aspect of the Asian Pacific American experience and TAs help frame each issue for students. Sessions included various activities, discussion, and guest presenters. Participants travel off site one week to visit a local community organization and to learn about how they work with the surrounding community. Each session also includes a staff or graduate student facilitator that supports and assists with the session. This year’s two facilitators were from APASS, one was an academic advisor in the School of Architecture, and one was a graduate student from the Masters of Post-Secondary Administration program. Facilitators provide the critical role of supporting the sessions and guiding them through difficult discussions and dialogues.
CONNECTIONS!: APA Career Mentoring

**Stakeholders:** Students and Alumni  
**Student Coordinators:** Sarah Chang and Dianne Chen  
**Alumni Mentor:** 42  
**Mentees:** 48

In its 22nd year, Connections! Career Alumni Mentoring continues to pair Asian American and Pacific Islander undergraduates with alumni professionals in constructive mentoring relationships, focusing on career exploration and development. The program offers a mentoring relationship that is cognizant of the specific challenges and opportunities Asian Pacific Americans encounter in the workplace, complemented by skill-building workshops and community engagement opportunities over the course of the academic year. The program is coordinated by a student coordinator and assistant coordinator. In the Spring, Asian Pacific Alumni Association (APAA) was announced as an official co-sponsorship of Connections! The inaugural Connections! Spring mixer, in collaboration APAA and with support from the Asian Pacific American Student Assembly (APASA) took place in April.
Service Learning Programs

ASB Manzanar

**Stakeholder:** Students  
**Students:** 6  
**Staff:** 1

In its 8th year, a group of select students participate in the Alternative Spring Break to the Manzanar historical site for 2 nights and 3 days. Manzanar was a Japanese Internment camp during WWII. The students team up with the National Park Service and spend 2 days volunteering with the rangers to participate in service work for 4-6 hours a day. The volunteer educates the students on a part of history endured by Japanese Americans during their internment in Manzanar. The students have nightly group discussions and reflections to understand the impact of internment in Asian Pacific American history. The program also includes a pre-trip discussion, readings, a visit to Japanese American National Museum and a post-trip discussion in Little Tokyo.

ASB Hawai’i

**Stakeholder:** Students  
**Staff:** 1  
**Students:** 19

For 5 years, the Asian Pacific American Student Services department, in cooperation with the Pacific Islands Institute, has taken a group of undergraduate and graduate students to Hawai’i. This 6-day alternative spring break provides students the opportunity to explore the rich history and culture of native Hawaiian culture. The service-learning trip highlights an often overshadowed minority within the larger Asian and Pacific Islander community. In 2013, with increased demand from a diverse group of students, APASS nearly tripled participation – sending 19 students to O’ahu. The students were from various backgrounds that represented
the diversity of USC, including: international students, graduate students, and students of varying ethnicities. Service includes restoring native river beds in Waimea Valley; maintaining taro fields at the University of Hawaii, Manoa; and building a retaining wall at a historic fish pond.

**TiE (Together in Empowerment)**

**Stakeholder:** Students, Community-Based Organizations

**Student Interns:** 13

**Community-Based Organizations:** 9

(API Equality-LA, Asian Pacific American Legal Center renamed Asian American Advancing Justice, Chinatown Service Center, Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center, Filipino American Services Group, Inc., Little Tokyo Service Center, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse and Thai Community Development Center)

Together in Empowerment (TiE) is a community internship program that was developed in 2008. TiE partners up with non-profit community-based organizations (CBO’s) in the APA community of Los Angeles and offers internships for USC students. Through this internship experience, students will gain insight into the APA community and build skills in: funding and development, policy and advocacy, and outreach and organizing. In 2008, the program started with 7 interns placed in 6 different CBO’s and currently it has grown to 13 interns placed in 9 CBO’s. In the last 5 years, we have almost doubled the amount of interns matched. We received 28 student applications and 12 non-profit organization applications, which made for a very competitive process. The internships last between 3-5 months and have stipends of $250 and $500. The $250 stipend is covered by APASS while the $500 is split between the CBO and APASS.
Community Programs

APA Student Welcome (Project Remix: New Student Symposium)

**Stakeholders:** Students, Community-Based Organizations

**Student Welcome Advisors:** 32  **Participants:** 100

In order to promote an environment of collaboration, Asian Pacific American Student Services, the Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs, El Centro Chicano, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center hosted a student welcome orientation for incoming students of color. Project Remix: New Student Symposium featured numerous events and workshops for students. Student Welcome Advisors (SWAs) served as the “orientation leaders” for the event. SWAs were recruited in the Spring of 2013, and trained in a one-day leadership training before the event. SWAs were trained in understanding cultural specific first-year transition issues. Project Remix: New Student Symposium was attended by over 100 freshmen and first-year transfer students. Students responded positively to each portion of the event, and found that the workshops helped support their transition into USC.

Asian Pacific Graduation

**Stakeholder:** Students  **Estimated Attendance:** 430  **Graduates:** 150

In its 6th year, Asian Pacific Graduate Celebration is a collaboration with Asian Pacific Alumni Association (APAA), Asian Pacific American Student Assembly (APASA) and APASS. The mission of the celebration is to create an intimate celebration with family and friends to honor graduates. The program included a keynote speaker, performances, and student speeches. This year, Phil Yu, Asian American activist and blogger from Angry Asian Man, served as the keynote speaker. The celebration honored both undergraduate seniors and graduate students. There was a growth in participation this year that can be attributable to an increase in participation from International students and graduate students as well as the popularity of Phil Yu, the keynote speaker.
**DESI Project**

**Stakeholder:** Students and Community-Based Organizations  
**Student Coordinator:** Anjlie Gupta  
**Total program attendance:** 145

DESI Project started in 2005 providing various programs that advocate and foster dialogue around South Asian students and issues surrounding the South Asian community. The programs this year included *From Mesa to Oak Creek: Where are we now?, Jhalaks: An exploration of South Asian Art, USC Make An Impact: Civic Engagement* and the documentary on the *Gulabi Gang, Pink Saris*. This year reflected a record number of attendance.

**PULE**

**Stakeholder:** Students and Community-Based Organizations  
**Student Coordinators:** Mace Porotesano, Lauren Salas-Mating and Danny Naha-Ve’evalu  
**Graduate Field Interns:** Mace Porotesano and Gerry Medina  
**Volunteer Mentors:** Diana Pereda and Denessa Moore

The Pacific Islander-focused initiative, PULE (pronounced PU-LAY, meaning “leader” in several Oceanic languages) started in Spring 2010 with the goals of providing a safe space for the PI community; encouraging PI and non-PI students to engage in cross-cultural discussions and service projects; building a pipeline project to increase recruitment and admission of Pacific Islander youth to USC. 2 student coordinators, 2 graduate field interns and 2 volunteer mentors served as mentors for 16 Jordan High School students to meet the goal of college pipeline. The other initiative this year was the 2nd Annual Pacific Islander Youth Summit. The mission is to bring together Pacific Islander middle and high school students and their families for cultural workshops, panels, and presentations to motivate, inspire, and inform about college opportunities, leadership and cultural empowerment.
APASS/Friday Download

Stakeholder: Students  
Student Coordinators: Nicole Jabson (Fall), Tanya Edmilao (Spring)  
Average attendance: 5

APASS/Friday Download is a weekly program that started in Fall 2012. APASS Download offers a space for weekly discussion at the APASS office on a variety of contemporary Asian Pacific American issues. The program differs from other APASS programs in that it is a “drop in” program. This program is designed to engage students without high commitment. APASS Download took place during one hour sessions each week for the Fall and Spring semester. The program was originally titled Friday Download, but with the program time shifting to Wednesdays in the Spring, it was renamed to APASS Download. 1 student coordinator in the Fall and 1 student coordinator in the Spring were selected to coordinate and facilitate the program. This program allowed them to develop their leadership skills. The program organized a total of 20 sessions, with one offsite visit to Little Tokyo.

Project Remix

Stakeholder: Students  
Average attendance: 25

Project Remix is an award-winning program that started in 2008 in order to create a space for multiracial students to engage in cross-cultural programs. Project Remix is a collaborative initiative between Asian Pacific American Student Services, Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs (CBCSA) and El Centro Chicano. This year the programs included “We Are Ethnic Studies” which focused on the state of Ethnic Studies as well as a discussion on the racial context behind skin color in the program, “Colorism” and a dialogue on cultural centers in the program, “Cultural Specific Centers – Legacy and the Future”.
Programs and Beyond

APASS prides itself on being a department that builds strong program collaborations and partnerships as well as providing services and resources throughout the decades to enhance and impact the student experience.

**Student Organizations:**
Asian Pacific American Student Assembly (APASA) > Educational programs: *Asian Pacific Americans in the CIA* and *An Evening with Tara Hara*
Student Coalition for Asian Pacific Empowerment (SCAPE) > Facilitators: SCAPE leadership retreat

**Student Affairs Departments:**
Black Cultural Center and Student Affairs > Program partnership: Project Remix
Career Center > Educational programs: *Asian Pacific Americans in the CIA* and *An Evening with Tara Hara*
El Centro Chicano > Program partnership: Project Remix
LGBT Resource Center > Program collaboration: API Queer Story
Residential Education > Presentation: Resident Advisor Training
Student Counseling Center > Program partnership: PEER

**University Partners:**
American Studies and Ethnicity > Program co-sponsorship: Transnationalism and Vietnamese Studies and Vision and Voices: Troubled Ocean, Filmmakers Image
Asian Pacific Alumni Association > Program partnership: Asian Pacific Graduation Orientation Programs > Program contribution: Exploring Identities workshops
Undergraduate Admission > Program co-sponsor: Pacific Islander Youth Summit
Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs > Field Internship: Advised 5 PASA graduate students
Assessment & Highlights

APASS assesses learning outcomes specific to a program and to the mission and goals of the department. The use of assessment is critical in informing us on how to improve our programs and services. We want to mention a few highlights that made 2012-2013 a stand-out year.

Highlights from our program assessments:

- **PEER**: 95% credited academic support as an **invaluable benefit** of the mentor-mentee relationship. 82% of mentees **attended at least one peer workshop** offered this past academic year.
- **Connections!**: 73% of the mentees were **satisfied or highly satisfied** with their relationship with their mentors. Both mentors and mentees continue to praise the structure of the program.
- **CIRCLE**: 70% **strongly agreed** they gained the most knowledge about their identity and are able to critically analyzed their identity. 87% are readily able to **identify three historical moment** in Asian Pacific American history.
- **DESI**: 90% of program attendees **agree or strongly agree** that they have been provided with knowledge on how they can advocate and support South Asian students, and the South Asian community
- **PULE**: **Over 95%** of the students from the Pacific Islander Youth Summit either **agree** or **strongly agree** that PULE had a positive impact on their interest in higher education, development of their leadership skills, and reflection on their cultural identity.
- **ASB Hawaii**: **19 students** were selected to attend. A **three-fold growth** from the previous year.
- **TiE (Together in Empowerment)**: **13 students** were placed in 9 community-based organizations. **5 new community-based organizations** participated this year.
- **Asian Pacific Graduation**: **150 graduates** who participated and over **400 guests** attended. The participation rate nearly doubled.
- **Specific population assessments** to understand and better serve South Asian students at USC and International Asian students who participated in APASS.

Additional Highlights:

- APASS was recognized as **Department of the Year** in 2013, received an award for the **Project Remix: New Student Symposium**, and Viet Bui received **Graduate Assistant-of-the-year** for his hard-work and dedication.
- **Rod Nakamoto**, immediate past-President of the Asian Pacific Alumni Association donated **$10,000** to be evenly distributed for programs the next four years.

For detailed program assessments, please visit our website: www.usc.edu/apass.
Future

This is an exciting time for APASS as we enter our third decade serving the USC community. Our rich history of innovative programs will continue. We look forward to building new and continuing partnerships to advance the education, empowerment and engagement for Asian Pacific American students and for all students. In addition, we look forward to thinking outside of the box as our students are becoming more diverse with changing needs.

The use of assessment will continue to be an important part of APASS. We continue to improve our assessments to better serve the diverse student body in our programs, services and resources. As indicated from our assessments, the programs continue to thrive, in particular our service-learning program to Hawaii, our community-based internship program TiE, and the increasing program attendance for DESI projects and Asian Pacific Graduation. Friday Download/APASS Download will be the only program that will not continue next year due to low participation.

Academic year 2013-2014 will bring forth new partnerships with Career Center in our TiE program and with Asian Pacific Alumni Association in our Connections! program. We also look forward to working with Kaya Press and American Studies and Ethnicity on educational programs. In addition, we will work in collaboration with the Office of Religious Life to develop opportunities to connect with South Asian students and continue to find creative ways to welcome the growing number of International Asian students in our programs. We will foster new and nurture existing collaborations with our stakeholders to expand our reach inside and outside USC.

We have a commitment to provide creative opportunities for our students. Financial resources are limited and restrict our ability to grow as a department. We are committed to finding additional resources to better serve our students and community. If you are interested in donating, please visit our new APASS website www.usc.edu/apass and donate at http://sait.usc.edu/apass/inner.asp?ItemID=31.
Special thanks to our continued supporters and advocates:

APASS Founder’s Group:
J.D. Hokoyama
Kenneth Kasamatsu
Alan Kumamoto
Scott Lee
Karen Wong

Rod Nakamoto, for his generous gift to APASS
Mary Ho, Director
Jonathan Wang, Assistant Director
Jeymi Choi, Program Coordinator
Viet Bui, Graduate Assistant

www.usc.edu/apass