Greetings Dartmouth Community!

Much of what OPAL accomplished this term is due to the work of many talented and giving people collaborating. OPAL is thankful for our exceptional student interns, colleagues, faculty partners and engaged alums. Here are but a few highlights of these efforts:

- OPAL applied a gift from the class of 2001 to a Fall 2012 pilot mentoring program coordinated via the Office of Latino/a Advising.
- OUTreach Peer Mentors partnered with the Greek Leadership Council to develop a New Member Education curriculum to build cultural intelligence across our affiliated organizations.
- The Black Hair Care Project was re-imagined and re-launched and the Women’s Forum continued to grow its impact.
- PAC refurbished its ROBO resource room and the International Program partnered with the NAP and FYSEP to coordinate a collaborative new student summer orientation.
- The NAP launched a national program, College Knowledge, and a public, on-line mechanism to report experiences of bias and harassment was created.
- We worked with Residential Life to experiment with peer-led community dialogues across all First Year residential communities and I-CC initiated a review of peer institutions to explore residential housing practices.

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Interested in learning more or want to see your content included in the next newsletter? Blitz Pluralism.and.Leadership.Office@dartmouth.edu or erin.e.klein.13@dartmouth.edu
Pan Asian Community: A Successful Fall and Looking Forward

From your OPAL Advisor, Aeriel Anderson

The Pan Asian Community has had a fantastic fall 2012 term! Let’s take a quick look back at some of our major programs and accomplishments:

• In collaboration with International Student Programs, PAC co-hosted Dartmouth’s very first 9/11 remembrance event in September.
• Working closely with trailblazing student leaders, PAC advocated for the establishment and formal COSO recognition of PAWI, Dartmouth’s Pan Asian Wellness Initiative.
• Dedicated to advancing Pan Asian student organizations, PAC coordinated a budget workshop with COSO Advisor, Anna Hall, to share tips and strategies for successfully navigating COSO’s funding process.
• Centering on Dartmouth’s “Year of the Arts,” PAC hosted, “The Arts in Asian America” a dynamic Community Dinner and Showcase bringing together students, faculty, staff, and community members around the intersections of artistic expression and identity exploration. This amazing capstone event featured student panelists, special guest artists from The Hop, a variety of student performance groups, and invaluable community dinner and dialogue.

Recognizing the importance of alumni connections, PAC collaborated with DAPAAA (Dartmouth Asian Pacific American Alumni Association) on a career dinner and Homecoming mixer.

• Committed to providing space for authentic dialogue between Pan Asian women, PAC hosted an AASPIRE (Asian American Sisters Pride Integrity Respect Empowerment) dinner where students and faculty came together to address the very real and pressing issue of reconciling career aspirations with cultural and familial influences.
• In addition to these community-wide programs, our 20+ Pan Asian student organizations hosted a number of other great events: DAO’s dinner discussions, KSA’s weekend Korean school, Students of Hong Kong karaoke events, Milan’s Lazeez Food Festival, Dartmouth Chinese Culture Society’s Legacies Night Market, and China Care and VSA fundraisers... just to name a few!

And these final weeks were no less exceptional. PAC hosted three more awesome events this term:

Building on momentum from the Fall Community Dinner, PAC hosted two exciting end-of-term events featuring Asian American hiphop artist DANakaDAN (from afterschool-special). On Monday, November 12 there was a dinner and dialogue on the the intersections of race, gender, and performance at 6pm in Fahey Lounge. On Tuesday, November 13 Dan put on a FREE last day of classes performance at Saran Underground East; doors opened at 7pm and the show started at 7:30pm.

Lastly, the PAC interns have been working tirelessly all term to redecorate and revitalized the Pan Asian Community Resource Room. The space finally re-opened on with a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, November 14 at and light refreshments at 104 Robinson Hall.

We have had a vibrant, fun, and full fall term and PAC is just getting started! Without a doubt this is going to be a monumental year for our community. Here is a short list of some of the exciting things coming up...

• The launch of a new Pan Asian Student Advising (PASA) website in January 2013
• PAC’s winter leadership retreat for Org Presidents and PAC Reps
• A new campaign to advance and strengthen Dartmouth’s Asian American Studies Program
• AASPIRE’s brown bag lunch and dialogue series for Asian & Asian American Women
• Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) in May 2013

For more information about these opportunities or questions about other ways to get involved, contact Aeriel Anderson at aeriel.a.anderson@dartmouth.edu
Alum Spotlight Hoi Ning Ngai ‘00: Asking and Knowing Why

When students are choosing which classes to take, I believe that they should know why. Why do they want this particular class? What are they hoping to get out of it? Whether they’re taking a class to engage a renowned professor, to fulfill a distributive requirement, to explore an academic interest, or to balance their course load, I believe that students should be self-reflective enough to know why.

Too often I run into students who will shrug and say one or more of the following: “Uhhh…” “Why not?” “Isn’t this what everyone else is taking?” “My mom/dad/friend/roommate/high school guidance counselor told me to.” “I don’t know what else to take.” “I really don’t care. I just want something easy.” There’s so little thought put into the process, as if each class wasn’t worth almost $5000 in tuition.

One of the things that I regretted most about my time at Dartmouth was that I didn’t have anyone ask me why I was doing what I was doing. I ambled along for almost four years, mindlessly pre-med, preferring too much structure over too much freedom, and following a pre-existing path without realizing that it wasn’t mine – and that I wasn’t enjoying myself.

I missed out on the chance to become fluent in French, study abroad in Europe, take classes that I really wanted to take, and experience the breadth of a liberal arts education. To this day, my heart sinks a little, knowing that I chose chemistry and physics over Jewish studies and theater. Not because I didn’t have amazing science classes, but because my heart simply wasn’t into science.

As an academic advisor, I hope I’m empowering students to make decisions that are personal and meaningful, and that come out of thought and reflection. Whether they’re making choices about what classes to take, what organizations to join, or what next steps to pursue, I hope they’re asking themselves why – and coming up with answers that make sense.

Hoi Ning Ngai, PHD is the Associate Director of Academic Affairs & Advising at The Wharton School, Undergraduate Division at the University of Pennsylvania.

Greetings, cont’d from cover

• The Men’s Project led the White Ribbon Campaign and hosted one of the largest “Men of Dartmouth” panels on record.
• OPAL staff and interns facilitated a Summer 2012 DPP session, a Fall 2012 DPP session and our Winter 2013 DPP session is scheduled for 2.2.13.

In January, a working group for the LGBTQQIA Affinity House will come together and we will host the Consortium of High Achievement and Success (CHAS) on January 18th. As we look to Winter 2013, OPAL will be working with our partners to develop campus-wide inter-group dialogues and an institute for emerging leaders. We are very happy with the work done this fall and are very excited for the coming term.

In Gratitude,
The OPAL Staff

Student Spotlight Yoo Jung Kim ‘14: The Need for Asian American Studies

What is Asian American? According to Merriam Webster, “Asian American” is an American of Asian descent. It seems pretty straightforward enough, but we also need to remember that Asia itself is an arbitrarily defined sociopolitical landmark, a demarcation with no stringent basis in reality.

As such, the term “Asian American” is also a shortcut for compartmentalizing a diverse array of people based on an arbitrary landmark. The label encompasses a great degree of cultures and languages with disparate histories. Yet it persists through institutionalized categorizations such as census reports and college applications.

A singular, stereotypical Asian-American identity is largely imaginary. Yet the myth of the Asian-American stereotypes persists through both external influences, such as the media, as well as its internal acceptance by those who consider themselves Asian Americans.

Currently, Asian American representation in popular media is all but absent. In addition, various Asian thought, such as culture, medical systems, philosophy and traditional rituals are collectively separated, exoticized, marginalized and considered backwards to Western modernity. While external factors do facilitate social and cultural segregation of Asian culture, the need to express the legitimacy of their own cultures causes Asian Americans to collectively identify as such.

These external and internal powers both collaborate and compete to provide various multilayered and tenuous definitions of what it means to be Asian American and blur the line between authentic and inauthentic expressions of Asian American identities.

As Asian Americans take on more visible roles in American society, there must be greater efforts to foster mainstream understanding of what Asian Americans are. One of the most important steps that Dartmouth can take to encourage better Asian American representation is through implementation of an Asian American Studies (AAST). AAST is an academic discipline through which the experiences of people of Asian American descent through the lens of history, culture, and politics. Unlike the currently existing AMES curriculum, AAST would specifically concern itself with the affairs of Asian Americans. Dartmouth has offered these types of courses sporadically through the years, usually associated with ENGL or HIST departments.

However, offering an independent AAST curriculum would allow greater representation of Asian American culture in our overall course selection and dispel many of the incorrect notions of what Asian Americans are and what Asian Americans are not.
Pan Asian Community Dinner celebrates the *The Arts in Asian America*

On Monday, Nov. 5th, the Pan Asian Community gathered for a successful community dinner on “The Arts in Asian America!” Students, staff, faculty, and administrators listened to an extraordinary panel of student artists, Toan Do, Shivani Bhatia, and Ayda Ramadan, speak on their experiences as Asian American artists. Additionally, two comedians from Pakistan, Danish Ali and Ali Gul Pir, shared their experiences as professional artists. The dinner included an intimate table discussion as well as engaging performances by Shivani Bhatia, Vandana, Raaz, Dartmouth Chinese Dance Troupe, and Taal. The event allowed many people in the Pan Asian Community to think about the intersections of race and artistic expression.

**PAC Re-vamps Online Presence**

This term, PAC has continued to push our online presence through social media. We hope that these resources not only inform students in our community, but also provide opportunities for engagement.

**PAC on Facebook** PAC is striving to use its Facebook not only as a communication hub, but also as an open forum for discussion about identity and issues related to the community. We frequently post articles that describe movements within the community, and our Facebook members engage with these pieces.

Be sure to “Like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/Dartmouth-PAC and contribute to the dialog!

**PAC on Wordpress** We have recently moved our Wordpress to another location (sites.dartmouth.com/PAC) to take advantage of new, user-friendly templates that allow for a more visual experience. It still contains similar content as the pervious version: providing PAC event announcements for PAC organizations as well as alumni introduction events and career opportunities for those interested in Asia or are of Asian descent.

**PAC Website Revamp** PAC is currently exploring options for creating a website to host the static content about our community, and provide more content about the PAC community. Be on the lookout for our website launch sometime Winter 2013! *By Kevin Xiao ’13*

**DANakaDAN visits Dartmouth for dinner, discussion and concert**

On Monday, November 12th, DANakaDAN joined Dartmouth students in a conversation about the intersection of race and gender. DANakaDAN is the frontman of after-schoolspecial. The event was of special interest to students interested in discussing racialized gender performance or curious about career in music.

The dialogue answered questions such as: In what ways do gender and racial identity intersect? How does artistic performance facilitate gender expression? What does it mean to be an Asian male rapper? DANakaDAN also held a concert in Sarner Underground on Tuesday, November 13th at 7:30.

DANakaDAN’s visit was hosted by the Center of Women and Gender, OPAL, Pan Asian Community, and the Korean Student Association.

**DAPAAA Homecoming Mixer takes place Saturday at EBAs**

It’s no secret that Dartmouth is a great place to be, and alumni, whether working, studying or pursuing other interests in Hanover or visiting from out of town, came together for food and conversation at EBAs during Homecoming Weekend. It was great to see alumni, staff, and undergraduates mingling during an event that exemplified the strength of the Dartmouth community. I feel privileged to serve as a representative for DAPAAA, an organization that is helping to maintain those Dartmouth connections long past the undergraduate days.

For more information about DAPAAA, email “dapaaa@alum.dartmouth.org” or see the following link: http://www.dartmouth.org/affiliated/dapaaa/index.html

*By Justin Kim ’10, Hanover Regional Co-Coordinator*
Free summer program for first year students interested in medical and dental professions

Applications are now open for the SMDEP program! If you are interested, apply EARLY in the process, as it has a rolling admissions policy and places are usually full by the application deadline.

Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) is a FREE (full tuition, housing, and meals) six-week summer academic enrichment program that offers freshman and sophomore college students intensive and personalized medical and dental school preparation. The SMDEP program chooses students representing a wide range of economic, cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity.

2012-2013 SMDEP Application opens NOVEMBER 1, 2012, for the 2013 summer session!

Contact Sarah Berger for more information at Sarah. Berger@dartmouth.edu or in 10/11 Parkhurst.

Students Arturo Warner ’13 and Frankie Herrera ’13 reflect on Diversity Recruitment Program at Harvard

“Oh, my God! Brown people! Are you applying?! APPLY! COME HERE! COME HERE!” These are the exact first words we heard from one enthusiastic doctoral student early on the morning of October 26. That day was the Diversity Recruitment Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and we were excited to hear what the school was about. We decided to attend this program because HGSE offers the opportunity to explore problems in the educational field at an institution that we knew would challenge us. However, we weren’t quite sure about what these challenges would look like or what they would be and this program seemed like the perfect opportunity to learn more about the degree options available at HGSE.

The program consisted of panels and breakout sessions that covered the different academic degree programs, tracks and resources available as students at HGSE. While the administrative and faculty panels painted the usual perfect picture (much how Dartmouth pitches our campus in admissions pamphlets), we learned the most from the current students. During the day, we took advantage of the few minority students available and learned about how first-generation minority students fare in the Harvard environment.

One important conversation took place over lunch. Both students were current doctoral students (one in the Doctorate of Education program, another in the Doctorate of Educational Leadership program). For lunch we walked over to Felipe’s Taqueria, where we learned about their personal and professional backgrounds as well as their current research. We were excited to hear that one of the students decided to come back to academia because starting three charter schools “was just not enough anymore.” The other student told us how much research she was doing. This was one of the most interesting points we took away because just minutes before, we were hearing about Harvard’s “nexus of practice, policy and research.” However, the reality was that while this nexus could certainly be a reality, it was also incredibly easy to avoid the “practice” and “policy” components in the program.

Our final conversation reunited us with the enthusiastic doctoral student that greeted us in the morning and a friend of hers, a master’s candidate. We spent the end of the program at a student reception and we were able –indeed STRONGLY ENCOURAGED by the students themselves- to ask candid, honest questions about the campus and the school. Our biggest concern was that we would not find other students like ourselves; students from minority, low-income, working-class backgrounds. However, we found students that had successfully made the transition into HGSE. They provided an honest, insider’s perspective about their day-to-day problems and experiences while also highlighting the benefits of attending HGSE. Through these conversations we also realized how few men of color are actually at HGSE. All the efforts HGSE went through to recruit us demonstrated to us that our experiences were not only valuable but “in high demand,” to quote a professor.

In the end, we were both convinced to apply. We left HGSE feeling confident about this decision because we knew we would be able to carve out our own space, if accepted. We were excited to know that our experiences were not only validated but highly valued at an institution of such historical prominence.
AASPIRE Dinner a success

On Friday, November 9, women across the Pan-Asian community joined together for the termly AASPIRE (Asian American Sisters Pride, Integrity, Respect, and Empowerment) dinner to discuss cultural and familial influences on their career choices. Panelists Jane Lu ’13, Shelly Sood ’11 GSM ’15, and Religion Professor Reiko Ohnuma shared their journeys through academia and the experiences that shaped their eventual career choices. Undergraduate participants then came together for small group discussions about the perceived legitimacy of both “traditional” and “non-traditional” career options within the Pan-Asian community as well as their reconciling of personal academic passions with parental expectations. Faculty and staff members from OPAL, Career Services, and Counseling Services helped to facilitate the event. Overall, the AASPIRE dinner was a huge success—we can’t wait for more dinner and dialogue with pan-Asian women undergraduates next term!

By Alice Liou ’13

BUTA presents “Talk: Tunes & Thoughts”

The Black Underground Theater Associated held a performance of “Talk: Tunes and Thoughts” in the Top of the Hop on Wednesday, October 24th to a full audience. The performance was based on Carl Rux’s play “Talk” and directed by Olivia Scott and Jelisa Grant. Throughout the performance, various student musical performances and poetry excerpts were featured, including solos by Nathaniel Graves, Xavier Curry and Nkenna Ibeakanma. The performance concluded with an Open Mic night for students to perform. The event was open to the general Dartmouth community and considered a great evening by those in attendance.

For more information on BUTA, contact Black.Underground@dartmouth.edu

BADA celebrates 40 years as an organization over Homecoming

The Black Alumni of Dartmouth Association (BADA) hosted a fun filled weekend of events beginning the Thursday of Homecoming. BADA is an organization that works to help black students gain equal access to the Dartmouth experience and also connects black students and alumni with one another socially and professionally. One of the highlights of the weekend for students was “Beyond by Major: Conversation with BADA Alums.” The event featured a wide array of alumni and allowed students to discuss everything from majors to career opportunities.
The Center For Women And Gender ends 2012 strong

**Founder of Dartmouth Women’s Resource Center wins National Award**

The Center for Women and Gender as well as OPAL would like to again congratulate Judith White, former founder of the Women’s Resource Center at Dartmouth College and current President of Higher Education Resource Services (HERS), on her winning of the National Women’s Studies Founder Award. Dr. White was presented the award at the National Women’s Studies Association conference this past week. She was nominated by the Center for Women and Gender, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Mary Childers- former CWG Director and current Dartmouth College Ombudsperson, and Dr. Richard Wright- former Dartmouth College President.

Though Dr. White could not be there to accept the award, she had this to say about her achievement, “I am thrilled by the recognition from NWSA and the Women’s Centers Committee. Both have been important to my development as a feminist and a leader in higher education. Especially in the 1970’s and 1980’s when I was doing early change agent work. Those years helped me set standards for my activity since and prepared the way for what I have been able to accomplish. Being honored for the founding of the Dartmouth Women’s Resource Center-now Center for Women and Gender-by women who are carrying on that mission is the more than I could have imagined in those early days. It would have been an especially sweet way to mark the connection with my current work-following the Founding Director of HERS! 

**First Men’s Project Fellow Announced**

The Center for Women and Gender is pleased to announce our first Men’s Project Fellow: Fermin Liu Ku! During the interim, Fermin will be working with two organizations:

- Youth on Fire is a branch of Cambridge Cares AIDS that works with teenagers and young adults from the age of 14 to 24 who are homeless and street-involved.
- Gay Men’s Domestic Violence Project that cares for male identified and survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence.

Through his work with these two agencies, both located in the Boston Cambridge area, Fermin hopes to broaden his understanding of what types of work social service based non-profits do and how he can incorporate these goals into his academics here at Dartmouth College. Because his role at Youth on Fire will be primarily individual case work, and his role at the Gay Men’s Domestic Violence Project will be larger scale social media efforts, Fermin will get a diverse education in addition to being able to assist in communities for which he feels passionately about.

The Center for Women and Gender hopes to offer an interim fellowship each year, for more information contact CWG Director Jessica Jennrich at jessica.l.jennrich@dartmouth.edu

**Love Your Body Day a success**

Love Your Body Day took place on November 8th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in Paganucci Lounge. Sponsored by Eating Disorder Peer Advisors (EDPA), Love Your Body Day is a national celebration to promote healthy body image. It encourages us to be confident, unashamed and proud of our bodies and to make choices based on health and happiness instead of a preoccupation with our appearances. Along with T-shirt decorating, EDPA also offered a raffle and various free prizes.

The Center for Women and Gender also participated in Dartmouth’s Love Your Body Day, along with additional co-sponsors including AKA, A Phi, EKT, KD, KKG, Active Minds, Panarchy & Panhell. Many sponsors had booths with activities of their own.

Students flowed in throughout the two hour fair.

Bridget Lynn ’15 shares with participants the joys of food

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Students flowed in throughout the two hour fair.
Term Highlights From Your OPAL Interns

I was really excited to work with student groups on the Words of Wisdom event and brainstorm ways to make the first-year experience as rewarding, multi-dimensional, and navigable as possible.

Hannah ‘13

Listening to the amazing student panelists speak at the Pan Asian Community Dinner/Showcase.

Students enjoying discussions the PAC Community dinner November 5th

Sophia ’15

I loved getting to know different people through “Words of Wisdom: What I wish I knew as a First Year Woman.” It was a lot of work but definitely paid off!

DPP Interns

My favorite event definitely has to be the fall DPP retreat - a whole Saturday full of good conversation, good food, and fantastic people. (Honorable mention awarded to the one OPAL Intern lunch that featured Karlos Santos-Coy’s incredible homemade pasta!)

Gina ’14

My favorite part of 12F was learning so much about my peers at the DPP Fall Experience.

Bobby ‘14

PAC Interns

My favorite event of the term was the dinner Women’s Forum cohosted with Women of Color Collective that featured Dean Johnson as a speaker. Not only was Dean Johnson’s reflection on her role in upholding affirmative action enlightening, but it was also great to have so many OPAL staff members in attendance.

Ashley ’13

For the International Student Mentors program it would definitely have to be the international students orientation.

Pavel, ‘13

My favorite event was the dinner at Dean Johnson’s house because we got to share with her some of the real work OPAL does.

Ashley ’13

Definitely Coming Out Stories!

Aaron ’14

LGBTQ Interns

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Erin ’13

Communications Intern

Erin ’13

Huan ’13

The highlight of fall 2012 term for PAC was our community dinner on Nov.5. We had a great turnout and special guest performers from the HOP came to speak about their experience as Pakistani comedians.

Ayda ’13

My favorite event was the dinner at Dean Johnson’s house because we got to share with her some of the real work OPAL does.

Ashley ’13

Definitely Coming Out Stories!

Aaron ’14

LGBTQ Interns

International Students Mentor Program Intern
Name: Huan He
Year: 2013
Hometown: West Lafayette, Indiana
Major: English Literature w/ conc. in Cultural Studies
Role in OPAL: Pan Asian Community Intern

1. The inside scoop: What’s your favorite campus secret?
My favorite dish in the Upper Valley is the Jjamppong at Yama Restaurant. It’s one spicy noodle dish that is perfect for cold winters!

2. Who is your favorite class or faculty/staff member and why?
My favorite professor at Dartmouth has been Professor Woon-Ping Chin. I did my Presidential Scholars research with her after I took her class on Asian Performance traditions. She’s always ready to lend an ear and loves teaching because of the students. I can talk to her about anything, whether it’s about post-graduation careers or pop culture.

3. What has been a formative Dartmouth Experience for you?
Participating in the Diversity Peer Program was an eye-opening experience for me my sophomore summer. I went on a weekend retreat with students from various other slices of Dartmouth’s community. The focus of the retreat was on reflection and action. We shared stories of our honest Dartmouth experience and discussed different ways to implement change on campus. The program was so refreshing because of the passion and energy that was so clearly visible at the retreat. Also, it helped carry me through my jaded junior year by providing me with a positive outlook on Dartmouth.

4. What advice do you have to ‘16s?
To the 16’s: You should really get to know the absolutely incredible professors we have at this school. I spent most of my freshman year not really invested in my professors (I basically just focused on my classes so I would do well grade-wise). But it wasn’t until my sophomore year when I started developing mentorship relationships with professors. As an English Literature major, I can speak to how amazing the professors are in the department. Not only are they forefront scholars in their respective fields, but also they all invest in creating insightful and inspiring classes for the students.

5. What’s your role in OPAL? What drives you to do the work you do?
I am one of the PAC Interns (along with Ayda Ramadan ’13) working with Aeriel Anderson on various projects within the Pan Asian Community. Whether it is planning the community dinner or facilitating dialogue relating to issues within the Pan Asian Community, I always love the opportunity to meet new people. I came from a high school in Nebraska with a small Asian American population, so I made it a mission to be involved in a culture-based community when I came to Dartmouth. I have also found that my involvement in cultural issues has seeped into my academic focus within my major. The Pan Asian Community has been a constant source of inspiration, strength, and stability for me, and I am so grateful to be a PAC Intern this year!

Interested in learning more or want to see your content included in the next newsletter?
Blitz Pluralism.and.Leadership.Office@dartmouth.edu or erin.e.klein.13@dartmouth.edu
And look out for the NEW OPAL LOGO TO PREMIERE IN JANUARY!