In light of the budget cuts facing the University, last month, the SAPAAC Board sent a letter to President Hennessy to document the A3C's pivotal role as a resource for alumni and to strongly encourage the University to maintain its support for this most important institution in our community. (See Page 4) Alumni have told us that this issue is important to them, and the Board will continue to address and update you as this situation unfolds.

In this time of unprecedented economic challenges, if you are making a donation to Stanford University, please consider expressing your support and commitment to the A3C and its programs by designating your contribution to the Asian American Activities Center. Directions on how to designate your contribution appear to the right.

Contribute to the A3C

- Visit the Stanford Giving page: http://giving.stanford.edu/giving/home?indexredir=r
- Click on the lower right corner "Make a Gift Now" link
- On the next page, select "other" under the "school or group to which you wish to make a gift."
- Then click continue
- On the next page under "further designation," click on "other designation"
- Then in the "Special Instructions/Other Designation" box below enter "Asian American Activities Center."

Inside This Edition...

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- SAPAAC Board Letter to President Hennessy Supporting the A3C, Reprinted on Page 4
Leading Matters San Francisco

On May 9, 2009, SAPAAC members attended Leading Matters at Moscone Center in San Francisco. It was the largest Leading Matters event thus far, with over 1600 participants. Board Directors Kathryn Chow Han and Sandy Yuen represented SAPAAC. For more information and to register for future Leading Matters events, visit http://leadingmatters.stanford.edu.

EVENT CALENDAR

June 13       AA Senior Graduation Banquet
               Nominations open for SAPAAC’s Senior Award

July          SAPAAC Board Elections
               Nominations due July 20
               Visit Sapaac.org for more info

Oct. 22-25    Reunion Homecoming
               SAPAAC Town Hall meeting,
               Evening Reception, and a special
               panel on the founding of Junipero
               (Okada) House, and the People’s
               Teahouse

Check the SAPAAC web site for the most current information on these and other events.

Shahid Buttar Honored with SAPAAC Alumni Award

On May 7, 2009, the A3C sponsored the annual Asian American Awards banquet. Each year, SAPAAC gives the Alumni Award to a prominent alum who stands out above his peers for his contributions to the Stanford community, as well as to the Asian American community at large, through service and leadership.

This year’s Alumni Award went to Shahid Buttar. Shahid graduated in 2003 from Stanford Law School after having received his undergraduate degree from Loyola University Chicago. Shahid is currently the Executive Director of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee, a nation-wide network promoting the restoration of freedoms ensured by the Constitution. He also co-chairs the Rule of Law Institute, a non-profit organization supporting international efforts to defend and restore the Rule of Law. He previously served in the Foreign Service of the U.S. State Department. He has organized groundbreaking litigation seeking marriage equality for same-sex couples and represented the reform community in a successful appeal challenging federal campaign finance regulations. Known as a civil rights lawyer, non-profit leader, hip-hop MC, independent columnist, grassroots organizer, singer and poet, he has also founded several grassroots groups across the country including the Stanford Spoken Word Collective (2002) and the DC Resistance Media Collective (2005).
Panel and Dedication Slated for Reunion 2009

SAPAAC has organized events to facilitate alumni and current students getting together during Stanford's annual reunion, and next year we will be continuing this tradition. Last fall, over forty returning alums and their families met for food, fun, and the chance to re-establish old ties or make new ones. One of the alums, Dan Kojiro ('74), was inspired to organize another mini-reunion for those who were involved with Junipero, JRA, or the People's Teahouse for his upcoming 35th reunion next fall.

The early 1970s witnessed the beginnings of a number of Stanford Asian American institutions: Junipero (now Okada), the People's Teahouse, Asian American Studies courses, and JRA (Junipero Recreation/Ringer's Association). In addition, 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of AASA.

We could use your help for two events planned for Sunday, October 25, during Reunion 2009: a panel of alums involved in the founding of these important Stanford Asian American institutions, and the dedication of a plaque and compiling materials memorializing the Teahouse. Please search your memories (and attics) for any names, historical documents, or other items that can help us reconstruct these beginnings.

Questions? Leads? Memories to share? Please contact Dan Kojiro (dankojiro@sbcglobal.net) or Ron Nakao (ronbo313@stanfordalumni.org).

Join a SAPAAC Committee

The easiest, low-key way to get involved in SAPAAC is to join a committee. Contact the following Board members for more information, or simply visit our website at www.sapaac.org.

Advocacy & Issues:
Anu Menon, Sandy Yuen, Mae Lee

Membership & Outreach:
Bianca Ling, Maria Chow Zajac, Kathryn Chow Han, Rishi Mandal

Events:
Jonathan Chow, Ron Nakao

Volunteer Opportunities

- Help Plan an Event, or Host one. See our Calendar of Events.
- Join a Committee. Advocate for issues important to APA students and alums, or simply encourage other alums to join SAPAAC.
- Become an AIM Mentor. Reach out to undergrad APA's, give them support and advice, and be a role model.
- Become a Panel Speaker. Got a knack for public speaking? Or just want to discuss interesting APA issues?
President John Hennessy  
Office of the President  
Building 10  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305-2061  

April 1, 2009

Dear President Hennessy,

We, the members of the Board of the Stanford Asian Pacific American Alumni Club (SAPAAC), would like to convey our appreciation to you and your administration for the difficult decisions that must be made in this time of unprecedented financial challenges. We especially support Stanford University’s commitment to undergraduate diversity and equal opportunity by protecting student financial aid. We are grateful for your efforts.

We would like to express our support and commitment to the Asian American Activities Center (A3C) and its sister community resource centers. The A3C is vital and necessary as the primary resource for Asian American student affairs and the greater Stanford Asian American community. The A3C contributes to the academic mission of the university through its partnerships and collaborative work with faculty, departments and academic programs. Through programming and advising, the center is unique in its contribution to the multicultural education of all Stanford students and to the development of leaders able to navigate an increasingly diverse and complex global environment. The A3C staff have played a crucial role to build and sustain alumni connections to Stanford through their regular and often personalized outreach and communications. They are our principal connection to Stanford’s Asian American community.

A few of the many invaluable programs sponsored by the A3C that alumni have cited as important to sustaining their ties to Stanford are listed:

- Asian American Interactive Mentoring Program (AIM) program
- Annual Asian American Awards Ceremony
- Asian American Ph.D. Forum
- Reunion Homecoming Weekend events, including the Alumni Hall of Fame
- Admit Week programs, as well as “a friendly ear” for alumni parents

As we alums face economic challenges in our own work environments, we recognize the difficulty in balancing equitable cost cutting measures with the ability to nurture essential programs. In a recent meeting with SAPAAC members, Professor Al Camarillo shared that faculty searches to fill new positions in CCSRE have been frozen due to budget constraints. Given the inability to increase diversity through new CCSRE faculty billets, fostering existing essential programs such as those implemented by the A3C would be an important measure of Stanford’s continuing commitment to diversity in this current economic crisis.

As you face the difficult decisions that lie ahead, please consider the rich distinctive contributions in the work done through the Asian American Activities Center, its three sister community resource centers, and the importance of their continued effectiveness. We appreciate the opportunity to continue this discussion with you as events unfold.

Sincerely,

Ron Nakao  
SAPAAC Board President  
On behalf of the Board of the Stanford Asian Pacific American Alumni Club

Cc: Provost John Etchemendy, Vice Provost Greg Boardman
**Mission**

To promote and support the educational, professional, and social interest of Stanford Asian Pacific American (APA) alumni and the Stanford Community.

**Goals**

- To provide avenues for interaction for APA alumni,
- To keep members informed of APA affairs related to Stanford,
- To serve as role models for Stanford APA students,
- To inform the Stanford Administration of APA concerns and issues,
- To encourage hiring, promotion, and retention of APA faculty, and
- To serve the community.

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**About SAPAAC...**

**Call to Action:**

**Directing Your Donations to the A3C**

SAPAAC encourages Asian American alums to direct their giving to the Asian American Activities Center (A3C).

Why? If you simply give to the general fund, the University has the absolute discretion to determine how to spend your dollars. But if you give to the A3C, or specify that your gift is intended for the A3C, then your generous donation will be used in a way that directly and meaningfully benefits Asian American students and alums, such as funding programs for Stanford APA’s and other student services around campus.

So please help the A3C, and direct your donations to the [Asian American Activities Center](http://a3c.stanford.edu). See “Contribute to the A3C” on Page 1 for instructions.

For more info about donating directly to the A3C, contact the Advocacy & Issues Committee or email SAPAAC at sapaac@stanfordalumni.org. The Asian American Activities Center is online at [http://a3c.stanford.edu](http://a3c.stanford.edu).

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**New Members Wanted**

Do you know fellow Stanford APA alums who haven’t joined SAPAAC yet? Encourage them to join today! Send them to [www.SAPAAC.org/join.html](http://www.SAPAAC.org/join.html).

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**Submissions for Future Newsletters**

Got an interesting story for the SAPAAC Newsletter? Want to send us some photos of recent SAPAAC events? Planning an event of interest to Stanford APA students or alums? Let us know about it.

Submissions may be sent as plain text or email attachments to Kathryn Chow Han ’98 at katychow@stanfordalumni.org.