



"When the time is ripe for certain things, these things appear in different places in the manner of violets coming to light in the early spring."
— Farkas Bolyai



It's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month at CC



The Asian American Student Union [AASU] has teamed up with Students for the Awareness of South Asia [SASA] and Korean American Student Association [KASA] to host Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month at CC. Be sure to check out the exciting events in your Worner Box and page 2 of *The Lotus*. AASU, SASA, and KASA would like to thank CCSGA, the Admissions Office, and the Asian Studies Department for supporting their endeavors.



Don't forget to check out the bulletin board exhibit in Worner. AASU members worked hard to educate the campus about API Heritage month—which is officially held in May. Here, you will find information on the origins of API heritage month, campus events (which is opened to the public), and a load of other information. Please join us in celebrating Asian American culture!



Block 6 in Japan

Kristen Bukowski, Class of 2012, took Professor Joan Ericson's Block 6 "Gender and Culture in Japan" class. Here are a few pictures she took during the classes' excursions!

Read some student responses and see more pictures on page 3 ...



Budding spring cherry blossoms



Kristen in a kimono



(Above) Neal about to eat octopus on a stick










(Left) Jocelyn playing the koto

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Please see next page for calendar of upcoming events!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	March 2010		
	 <u>API Heritage Month</u> Japanese Internment Camp Speaker 7 p.m., Bemis		 Global Shanghai in 2010: Historical and Comparative Perspectives on a Futuristic Chinese City Lecture Sponsored by the Edith Gaylord Endowment for Pacific Area Studies. 5 p.m., Cornerstone Arts Center Screening Room			
	April 2010			1	2	3
				 <u>API Heritage Month</u> Mongolian Cultural Performances 7:30 p.m., Cornerstone  Asian Studies Thesis Presentations 2 p.m.-5 p.m., 1210 Wood Ave.		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			 <i>The Horse Boy</i> Film Sponsored by the Independent Film Society of Colorado, Rocky Mountain PBS, & the CC Film Union 6 p.m., Cornerstone Arts Center Screening Room	 <u>API Heritage Month</u> Bollywood Dance Workshop 5:30 p.m., Cossit		

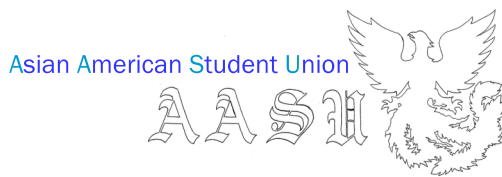
Also coming up next block... KASA's Korean Culture Show on May 1st, 2010 from 2-4 pm in Armstrong Theater, followed by dinner in Gates Common Room (Palmer)

CC's Got Talent Show Results

The 2nd Annual AASU Talent Show was hosted last block in Armstrong Hall. The show was lined up with many new and exciting talents.

The Lotus congratulates the following winners:

- GRAND PRIZE WINNER Saraiya Ruano
- 1ST RUNNER UP Matty Cartee
- 2ND RUNNER UP Aily Tran
- HONORABLE MENTION Denali Johnson



NOT Asian? • NOT American? • NOT a problem!!!

AASU, KASA, SASA, and MOSAIC Meeting Times:

Always welcoming new members...

Asian American Student Union (AASU)	Co-Chairs: Ádám Kóbori & Dominic Alvarado 1st/3rd Wednesdays - 6PM - Upstairs Worner
Korean American Student Association (KASA)	Co-Chairs: Ana Carriedo & Alex Song 1st/3rd Thursdays - 6PM - Upstairs Worner
Students for the Awareness of South Asia (SASA)	Co-Chairs: Anjali Desai & Katrina San Luis Tuesdays - 6:30PM - Glass House
Multi-Cultural Organization of Students & International Community (MOSAIC)	Co-Chairs: Mihi Joshi & Stephanie Coba Chavez Thursday - 7PM - Upstairs Worner

Block 6 in Japan continued...

Professor Joan Ericson actually took her "Culture & Gender in Japan" class to Japan! Here are some thoughts & pictures from two students who participated.



In the picture, left to right: Back: "Awesome-san," Me. Front: "Funny Drunk Guy," Diana Martinez.

Dominic: If nothing else, I would tell people to visit Japan just to meet the people and interact with them. While different areas of Japan were nice in their own ways, I feel that the bonds made and experiences shared are the things that stick with me the most, and the legendary hospitality of the Japanese truly shone through in my time there. The people of Japan were amazingly kind to us, and made every effort to make us feel welcome in their country,

which was truly something to behold. We were presented with more food than we could ever eat by our host families, offered food and drink from total strangers, and, in the case of a couple of our students, given an umbrella by a waiter when it started raining and they didn't have one. In particular, recalling "Awesome-san," the owner of a noodle shop in Tokyo, reminds me of how well we were treated there. He, like so many other Japanese we encountered, seemed to go out of his way to make us feel welcome and comfortable, and prompted many return visits. I will definitely be eating there the next time I'm in Japan, and hopefully he'll remember me as well as I remember him.



< This is a piece of the Memorial to the A-bomb in Hiroshima. In the background is the building over which the bomb went off, leaving

a couple of others within this area. You can also see the torch lit, between this monument and the building, which will stay lit until there are no more nuclear weapons in the world.

Skylyn: My time in Japan was astounding. It's wonderful to learn about another culture and experience the many different ways they go about completing normal everyday tasks. It is also important to learn about the shared history that Japan and America have, seeing it from the other side of the world. I hope to go back some day as there were many things that I would have liked to see but just didn't have time to.



This is a picture taken at the Tori gates in Kyoto.

Asian Studies Senior Thesis Reception

Seniors graduating with an Asian Studies degree will be presenting their senior thesis. Anais Gude, recipient of the spring 2009 Gaylord Prize for Independent Study, will also be presenting her research. Gude's research was briefly introduced in issue 2 of *The Lotus* earlier this year.

Thursday, April 1
1210 Wood Ave.
2PM-4PM

Schedule:

Rachael Clemons	2:20 - 2:40
Val Cranmer	2:40 - 3:00
Sara Becker	3:00 - 3:20
—	15 minute break
Lisa Ly	3:35 - 3:55
Tina Mitchell	3:55 - 4:15

Rachael Clemons

Sex, Luxury Goods, and Kabuki: Conspicuous Display in the Textile Arts of Genroku Japan

I'm analyzing *kosode* (the precursor to the Japanese *kimono*), and how they're a reflection of multiple factors-- popular culture, economic history, sumptuary laws, and whatnot. The Genroku period (about 1680-1730 AD) in Japan was most known for its flourishing literary culture--the rise of woodblock prints, as well as popular fiction. These materials are partly due to the merchant's rise in economic power. The Genroku period was also known for status competition between the merchants and the samurai--reflected through leisure pursuits, as well as luxury goods, which spawned the rise of popular fiction geared towards the middle and lower classes. These attitudes and literary culture are reflected in the fashion of *kosode* of the period.



Val Cranmer

Occidentalism: Japanese Perspectives of America from 1860-1871

My thesis is about Japanese perspectives of America from 1860-1871. I look at two missions to Japan, one occurring in 1860 under the Tokugawa shogunate and the Iwakura Mission from 1870 under Emperor Meiji. The first mission is looked at within the context of anti-Westernism and the *sonno-joi* ideology. The second mission was undertaken as an attempt to Westernize the country by directly taking elements of government from multiple countries. I also cover the transitional position between the two missions called the Meiji Restoration, as evidence that rhetoric changed about Western influences, yet remained the same throughout the years.

Sara Becker

Kecak: The Indispensable Tourist Dance and Its Role in Balinese Society

As an Asian Studies Major, Music minor I found Indonesian Music fascinating and was able to travel to Bali funded by a CC Venture Grant in order to do field work for my thesis. In my thesis, I have explored the following questions: what is Kecak's unique role in Balinese society, and how it serve as a form of boundary maintenance in Balinese performance arts? I will trace Kecak's historical origins from ancient roots, discuss variations of performances of Kecak in Bali, and finally explore modern recontextualizations of Kecak on and off the island of Bali.





Lisa Ly

Discovering Chinese in Chinese American Films: The Complexities of Hybrid Identities

My thesis will study the effects of diasporic movements on Chinese American identities through the use of a number of films and interviews with Chinese American involved with filmmaking and screening. I will attempt to answer the following questions: What influences the construction of cultural identity? How does diasporic movement impact notions of traditional Chinese culture? How does Chinese American identity differ by generation? How are Chinese Americans depicted in Chinese American directed films, and what messages so such films attempt to convey?

Tina Mitchell

Homosexuality in Japan: Changing Concepts of Sexual Behavior and Identity

My thesis is on the topic of homosexuality in Japan. In it I explore the shift that occurred in Japan during the Meiji period (1868-1912) in which homosexuality ceased to be seen as a behavior and became an identity. I am interested in the use of labels, the increasing push for people to define themselves, and the idea that “coming out” is an integral part of being a homosexual. Many Westerners (like myself before I began my research) look at gays in Japan, and when they see that most are not out of the closet, they assume that they are somehow less liberated, but I believe that though the government, media, and societal pressures have influenced the way homosexuals choose to live in Japan, it is not an issue of repression. In this paper, I look at the way in which homosexuality has been viewed historically, how it has been portrayed in the media over time, gay rights groups in Japan, and interviews from gay Japanese people and their choices about whether or not to come out.



Basement Bhangra in Boulder



By guest writer Kathleen Senn, Class of 2013

“Bhangra music—can’t refuse it!” These lyrics are part of the Basement Bhangra Anthem on DJ Rekha’s album, and I have to say from experience that this is entirely true. Last block, on the Tuesday before finals, the “Pop Music of South Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East” class went to a concert at CU Boulder. The featured guest that evening, DJ Rekha, mixes Bhangra music, which originated in the Punjabi region of India and eventually made its way to the US. She is remarkable as one of very, very few female DJs spinning Bhangra, and every time the Basement Bhangra night happens at Sounds of Brazil, the dance floor is packed. The Glenn Miller ballroom may be a very different venue, but the tension and excitement building as we waited for DJ Rekha definitely wasn’t.



Our group had become very fidgety after an hour of waiting for DJ Rekha’s performance. Then, the beat of the dhol began. For an hour, we danced wildly to the music blasting from the speakers next to the stage. Among the songs sampled, a remix of the famous song from *Slumdog Millionaire*, “Jai Ho,” was played, as well as the title track from the 2007 film “*Om Shanti Om*.” We returned to campus exhilarated and exhausted. What a way to begin Spring Break!



Spring Break at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

Student Delegates with the director Soopum Sohn of *Make Yourself at Home*. The film was in the Narrative Competition.



Lisa Ly, CC '10, received support from the Venture Grant Committee to attend the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF) as a Student Delegate for the Center of Asian American Media (CAAM). Ly was one of eight students selected to serve as bloggers for the festival. Read the Student Delegate blogs at: <http://festival.asianamericanmedia.org/2010/>

What is the Student Delegate Program? The program is aimed at engaging students (undergraduate and graduate) with Asian and Asian American cinema. The participants of the program were provided with exclusive access to films, discussion panels, and the parties. The first four days of the festival included up to ten movies total, a Q&A session with Aasif Mandvi from *The Daily Show*, an interactive workshop offering advice from Karen Chin (producer of *The Motel*) and Tamlyn Tomita (actress from *The Joy Luck Club*), and a coffee break forum with independent filmmakers Jason Tobin (also actor in



Better Luck Tomorrow), Brent Anbe, and J.P. Chan. After the four mandatory days, the delegates were free to attend any film showings.

The best of the festival stated Ly, "I had the opportunity to talk with filmmakers and really understand how identity plays a role in cinema." Ly is also writing an Asian Studies thesis on the topic of Chinese American hybrid identities as reflected in film. "I did not include any of the new information that I learned at the festival, but I can talk about it at the Asian Studies reception Thurs., April 1!"

In summary, "I traded a tan for the opportunity to sip champagne during brunch, rub elbows with filmmakers, party in a museum, but most importantly, enjoy Asian American cinema and engage in conversations with passionate people. Under the block plan and a double major, I never had the time to pursue other interests. This was a great opportunity for me to explore cinema academically outside of CC."



Student Delegates with Aasif Mandvi of *The Daily Show*

CC Students Attended “The Power of One: Colorado Asian American Leadership Conference”

Over spring break in Denver, Next Generation Voices, a group dedicated towards voicing Asian American ideals today, held a Colorado Asian American Student Leadership Conference entitled “The Power of One.” On Saturday, March 20th, 2010, high school and college students learned how to initiate action and the importance and power of unity. From group activities, guest speakers, and workshops, the future representatives of Asian Americans were taught effective tools of leadership and how to help erode stigmas of Asian Americans.

The issue of stereotypes and overcoming these still pertinent and detrimental perceptions was prevalent in many discussions among the youth. The way Asian Americans are portrayed in the media and perceived in society (the workplace, on the road for example) is inhibitive. In addition, much of Asian American culture and history is overlooked within American public education. Furthermore, the idea of a model minority proves detrimental to those actually in need. While many Asians are familiar with “The nail that sticks out gets pounded down,” America’s policy holds that, “The wheel that squeaks gets the oil.”

Many workshops focused on leadership skills such as resume writing or public speaking, but the most interesting I thought, dealt with social issues that Asian American youths are often hindered by.

In “Breaking Down the APA (Asian Pacific American) Gender Box” with Stephanie Tanny, students discussed *intersectionality*. This term describes how young Asian Americans are confronted with society’s expectations to conform to both Asian and American heterosexual models. In the American binary, women are supposed to be gentle and are expected to have more emotional characteristics. Men, on the other hand, are associated with more physical attributes like strength and muscle to signify their masculinity. If one fails to fit in any of these categorical boxes, they are marginalized. More importantly they lose the “essence” of what is deemed feminine or masculine and labeled derogatory terms of the opposite gender (i.e. dyke, bitch, sissy). Often Asian Americans are portrayed unfairly as more submissive and lower types of beings. For example, Asian women are thought to be exotic, submissive, and shy, while Asian men are deemed as effeminate and traditionalist. To talk about and spread the awareness of imposed gender binaries and their derivative characteristics helps tear down the boxes we are forced to fit in.



Denver Judge Kerry Hada was the first of many guest speaker at the conference

Another lecture with Cassandra Chanthavong “[Re]planting Our Roots” brought forth the idea that our generation needs to tell the stories of generations before, especially those of our grandparents and parents. The older generation, particularly refugees and victims of World War II/ Communist conflicts, often did not have the means to share their stories. Asian Americans need to realize their roots and understand the Asian part of their culture, as well as the American one to progress. American literature tends to disregard the story of Asian Americans and their contributions to America’s own tale. Ignoring pieces of history, however ugly, like the Southeast Asia 30 Year War, the Vietnam War, or Japanese internment camps, is disrespectful and detrimental to the Asian American youth in perceiving their history.

The last workshop I’d like to examine was led by Erin Yoshimura and entitled “Rise above the glass ceiling: Breaking down stereotypes.” Particularly startling about this lecture was the portrayals of Asian Americans and how it impacts us daily. For example, some Asian cultural groups share similar beliefs which are then incorrectly imposed on all Asian peoples. Certain tendencies that are not necessarily inherent to a few Asian cultures, such as self-criticism and humbling, placing other needs over self, avoidance of conflict, obligation to family and leaders, and the value of endurance are falsely labeled as Asian attributes. Even more damaging, they are believed to prove submissive behavior and enable others to take advantage of Asian Americans. Ms. Yoshimura herself described incidents where supposed Asian stereotypes were placed on her in the workplace. Another injurious aspect of stereotypes is the frequent use of attributing personal characteristics to one’s race.

In conjunction with CC’s Breaking Stereotypes Week and the ongoing Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, I would like to ask readers to keep some of these concerns in mind. Please talk about these issues and promote alternatives to negative receptions of Asian Americans.



Colorado College

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1.5 blocks
left !



Be sure to check this book out!

CC's Paul Maruyama recently published a book entitled *Escape from Manchuria*, which details his own father and two companions' mission to return 1.7 million stranded Japanese in Manchuria back to their homeland.

Here's the back cover description: "In the closing days of WWII, the Soviet Union attacked and occupied Japanese-controlled northern China, then called Manchuria. Immediately, misery and death from cold, hunger, disease, and brutality descended on the Japanese civilians at the hands of the Soviet Army and revenge-seeking mobs and bandits. Nearly 2,500 Japanese died daily. Three courageous men embarked on a secret mission and escaped to Japan to eventually bring about an end to the Manchurian nightmare. In a riveting story, a son of one of the three courageous men narrates to the Western readers a compelling tale of the rescue and repatriation of nearly 1.7 million Japanese that began almost a year after the surrender of Japan. The book describes the indispensable part that General Douglas MacArthur and his staff played in the repatriation and discloses the role played by the Catholic Church in Manchuria and Japan in assisting the three men to achieve success. The heroics of the three men have not been fully recognized, even in Japan, because they took on the mission of rescue as private citizens, without the consent or knowledge of the then-utterly helpless Japanese government."

Escape from Manchuria is currently available at iuniverse.com, amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and copies may be sold in the CC Bookstore soon.

