



Asian Pacific Coalition



Samahang Pilipino



Pacific Islands Student Association



The Vietnamese Student Union

AT UCLA

Contact: Uyen Hoang, Director of the Asian Pacific Coalition
308 Westwood Plaza
412 Kerckhoff Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095
(714) 489-1439

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RACIST FLIER SENT TO UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

On Wednesday, February 5, 2014, students were alerted of an anonymous document sent to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center containing what can only be described as a collage of sexist slurs and racial epithets against various groups of the UCLA community. The document evokes the imagery from Fall Quarter 2012, when a sign stating “asian women R Honkie white-boy worshipping Whores” was posted outside the UCLA Vietnamese Student Union Office.

Although we would like to believe that an incident like this is “isolated,” as stated by UCLA spokesperson Steve Ritea, we know that these incidents have been recurring year after year¹.

In 2011, Alexandra Wallace’s viral video, “Asians in the Library,” illustrated the toxicity present at the UCLA campus. Incidents in 2012 such as Danny Chen's Suicide², Professor Kieu-Linh Caroline Valverde's appeal against denied tenure at UC Davis³, the Asian Women R Bulletin Board vandalism at UCLA⁴, and the release of Richard Sander Report continue to illustrate the hostile campus climate at UCLA. The publication of the Pew Research Report in 2013

¹http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/29/ucla-racist-sexist-signs-asian-women-video_n_2212311.html?utm_hp_ref=college&ir=College

² <http://online.wsj.com/article/AP5364a28cc7fb4022a204193f61c6a7e2.html>

³ <http://www.theaggie.org/2012/11/01/asian-american-studies-professor-denied-tenure/>

⁴http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/29/ucla-racist-sexist-signs-asian-women-video_n_2212311.html?utm_hp_ref=college&ir=College

perpetuated false stereotypes of the model minority myth -- stereotypes that function to homogenize Asian Pacific Islanders and to ignore its diversity and the disparities that many groups experience. 2013 also included the release of the Moreno Report, which drew attention to the existence of faculty discrimination and the University's lack of an adequate system to handle cases of racial bias, including an incident where female Asian faculty were told, "I thought Asian women were supposed to be submissive." At a top-tier university that celebrates and lauds its diversity, comments like these from faculty are unacceptable.

These events reveal a disturbing trend among not only UCLA staff, faculty, and students, but the larger community as a whole. Many incidents continue to reinforce the misguided perception that Asian Pacific Islanders have 'achieved success' in the United States; a model for other 'less successful' minorities to follow. When viewing the increased enrollment of Asian Pacific Islanders in the UC since 1994, it seems clear that Asian Pacific Islanders have successfully gained access to higher education. However, simple statistics fail to reveal the continued low enrollment of Southeast Asians while also failing to account for the decreased admission rates for Asian Pacific Islanders as a whole⁵.

Popular reports, such as the aforementioned Pew Research Center study, portray only one narrative: that Asian Pacific Islanders are successful. While portrayals of success are not necessarily negative, they silence communities that do not fit the mold of the "successful" Asian Pacific Islander and invalidate their experience. For example, reports tend to conveniently leave out the fact that Asian Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing poverty population⁶ and that Southeast Asian and South Asian communities are subject to high racial profiling. By masking the struggles of Asian Pacific Islanders, mainstream media creates a racial hierarchy in which Asian Pacific Islanders are purportedly at the "top," dividing communities of color away from organizing effectively with each other.

Every year, at least one discriminatory and racially biased incident occurs, and many more go unreported. To allow these attacks to remain unaddressed, whether they are intended to hurt or draw attention, is to tacitly endorse the

⁵ http://www.nyu.edu/projects/care/docs/CARE-Brief-raceblind_v3TLKN-OAP.pdf

⁶ http://www.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=Multicultural_Support1&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=115281

marginalization of our community, to accept being painted as perpetual foreigners, and to allow for the exotification and objectification of women of color.

These racially biased incidents cannot continue.

Therefore, we call upon the President of the UC and the UCLA Chancellor to affirm their support for Asian Pacific Islander communities on campus. We demand culturally relevant and competent representation on all levels of faculty, staff, and administration; preservation and advancement of Ethnic Studies programs; and prioritization of programs and initiatives that support a truly inclusive campus.

We call upon other communities at UCLA and beyond to join us in solidarity in recognizing the ongoing challenges that students of color experience in higher education.

Signed,

Asian Pacific Coalition at UCLA

Pacific Islands Students Association at UCLA

Samahang Pilipino at UCLA

Vietnamese Student Union at UCLA

The undersigned communities are in solidarity with us.

Afrikan Student Union at UCLA

American Indian Student Association at UCLA

Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Undergraduate Association at UCLA

Asian American Resource Center (AARC) at Pomona College

Asian American Sponsor Program at Scripps College

Asian American Student Association at the University of Utah

Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association at UCLA

Asian Pacific American Student Assembly, University of Southern California

Asian Pacific American Student Development, University of California Berkeley

Asian Pacific American Students for Leadership (APASL), De Anza College

Asian Pacific Student Programs, University of California Riverside

Asian Pacific Student Services, Loyola Marymount University

Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (APASA), New York University

Asian Pacific Islander Social Worker Association, California State University, East Bay

Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance, University of California, Santa Barbara

ASUC Office of Senator Tan, University of California Berkeley

Asian Pacific Student Association, University of California, Irvine

Association of Chinese Americans at UCLA
Black Bruin Transfer Success at UCLA
Black Pre-Law Association at UCLA
BRIDGE: Pilipin@ Outreach and Retention, University of California, Davis
bridges (Multicultural Resource Center), University of California Berkeley
CalSERVE (Cal Students for Equal Rights and a Valid Education), University of California Berkeley
Chi Rho Omicron, Zeta Chapter, University of California, Davis
Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Student Association, University of California Berkeley
Engaging Education, University of California, Santa Barbara
hardboiled asian pacific american issues magazine, University of California Berkeley
Intercollegiate Vietnamese Student Association
Kapatirang Pilipino, University of California Santa Barbara
KAPWA, University of California Berkeley
Mid-Atlantic Union of Vietnamese Student Associations
Mga Kapatid, University of California, Davis
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/os de Aztlán, MEChA de UCLA
Muslim Students Association at UCLA
Nikkei Student Association at UCLA
Office of Senator Sevly Sngun, Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC), University of California Berkeley
Pakistani Student Association at UCLA
Pilipino Academic Student Services, University of California Berkeley
Pilipino Community Council, University of California Berkeley
RAZA Recruitment & Retention Center, University of California Berkeley
REACH! (Asian Pacific Islander Recruitment & Retention Center), University of California Berkeley
Student Coalition for Asian Pacific Empowerment, University of Southern California
Scripps Communities of Resources and Empowerment (SCORE), Intern Team
Southeast Asians Furthering Education, University of California, Davis
Southeast Asian Student Coalition, University of California, Berkeley
Southwest Union of Vietnamese Student Associations
The Indian Student Union at UCLA
The Indigenous Student Alliance at the Claremont Colleges
The West Coast Asian Pacific Student Union
Union of North American Vietnamese Student Associations
Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of the Midwest
United Khmer Students at UCLA
United Vietnamese Student Associations of Northern California
Undergraduate Student Association Council Academic Affairs Commission at UCLA
Undergraduate Student Association Council Office of the President at UCLA
UAW 2865
Vietnamese Student Association, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Vietnamese Student Association, California State University Fullerton
Vietnamese Student Association, California State University Long Beach
Vietnamese Student Association, California State University Northridge
Vietnamese Student Association, California State University San Diego
Vietnamese Student Association, Florida State University
Vietnamese Student Association, Golden West College
Vietnamese Student Association, Orange Coast College

Vietnamese Student Association, University of California, Berkeley
Vietnamese Student Association, University of California, Davis
Vietnamese Student Association, University of California, Irvine
Vietnamese Student Association, University of California, Riverside
Vietnamese Student Association, University of California, San Diego
Vietnamese Student Association, University of California, Santa Barbara
Vietnamese Student Association, University of New Orleans
Vietnamese Student Association, University of Southern California