



## APAMSA Winter Quarter Newsletter

February 2006

By Jeff Lai, 2005-2006 Internal

Communications Director

*Editor's Note: we've put this newsletter together to highlight the chapter reports from the 2004-2005 school year. Please submit your updated reports so that your school can be featured in our next newsletters.*

On behalf of the APAMSA National Board, welcome to the latest edition of the APAMSA Newsletter! It's been a while since we last wrote to you, and a lot has happened: President Bush switched his agenda from fixing Social Security to reforming the health care; *Netter's* came out with a new edition; and even more earth-shattering...Nick & Jessica broke up.

Regardless of how you mark the passing of time, one thing is for certain... your APAMSA has been busy addressing the health care challenges of the Asian American & Pacific Islander community. I want to take this moment to share with you some of the exciting APAMSA events that have been taking place around the country at the local, regional, and national level.

### Around The Horn: Local APAMSA Chapters

First, I'd like to give a long overdue welcome to our newest APAMSA chapters: **CCOM**, **NEOUCOM**, **Alabama**, and **Wisconsin**. **Duke** also reactivated their chapter, proving once again that dominating men's college basketball and promoting API activism can be done simultaneously. If clubs—new and old—are ever in need of new programming or fundraising ideas, take a look at the *APAMSA Chapter Handbook* on the APAMSA website.. Compared to

The *New England Journal of Medicine*, it's a quicker read.

Other chapters have been extremely active since our last update. We always like to hear about schools working together to plan big events together, and on that note, **Jefferson**, **Temple**, **PCOM**, **UPenn**, and **Drexel** did an outstanding job last year planning a Lunar New Year banquet which attracted over 200 people. Hopefully, this year's event was even more successful. The students at **Cornell** not only held a potluck for their Lunar New Year, they also held an event to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival last year. To mark the start of the academic year, schools from the Washington, D.C. area, including **Georgetown**, **Johns Hopkins**, **Maryland**, and **George Washington** held a festive BBQ to welcome the first years. Down in the Lone Star Republic, the students at **UT-Houston** and **Baylor** held a mixer at a local pub. And even if you don't have nearby schools to party with, you can always organize a potluck for just your chapter, like the students at **Medical University of Ohio** did.

To help promote cultural awareness, **Medical College of Georgia** put on a Chinese New Year celebration last year, and **USC** helped organize one of the largest Diwali Day celebrations in Los Angeles. Not to be outdone, chapter from **Medical College of Wisconsin** put on an impressive fashion show as part of their Culture Week. Promoting a different type of "culture," the students at **Albert Einstein** continued their tradition of hosting a beer-pong tournament for the entire first year class.

One of the strengths of APAMSA is its involvement in the community. All over the country, local chapters organized a variety of events to increase awareness of API health issues. One of the most popular activities last year was the bone marrow



drive, which was held seemingly everywhere: **Creighton, Drexel, LSU-Shreveport, MC Wisconsin, Penn State, Michigan, Cincinnati, UMDNJ (RWJ), UCLA, UIC, UMKC, USC, USF, USUHS, and UT-San Antonio.** It was good to see so many chapters respond to the pressing need for more minorities and API names in the bone marrow registry. Hepatitis B is another major API health care issue, and schools such as **UIC, UCLA, and USC** all held Hep B screenings last year. Other schools such as **Northwestern and Baylor** took part in holding community health fairs, and **Drexel** spiced theirs up by inviting a celebrity chef to demonstrate healthy cooking options. **USC** and **UCLA** reached out to medical professionals and hosted a broader minority health conference in Los Angeles this year. Over at **Baylor** and again at **Drexel**, the students are helping to deliver health care to the underserved at local Chinatown free clinics. Well done, chapters.

Other APAMSA chapters have been reaching out and helping to cultivate the next generation of medical professionals. **Kansas, Creighton, and MC Wisconsin** all offer pre-med tutoring and mentoring programs. In the D.C. area, the uniformed APAMSA members at **USUHS** created a program where they visit local high schools and offer motivational programs to help increase graduation rates. And in one of the most creative community service efforts of the year, **CCOM** helped organize a “Halloween Fest,” where over 600 costumed-children had a great time. You can guess for yourself how many of the kids wore scrubs as their costume.

Fundraising is always a challenge for local chapters, but last year’s group found some very creative ways to raise money to sponsor charities and future events. At

**CCOM**, they sold bubble shakes to the school. **Kansas** and **UMDNJ (RWJ)** were on the same wavelength, as each hosted a “Taste of Asia” dining event, where participants got to sample different Asian foods. Avoiding the kitchen altogether, the group at **LSU-Shreveport** raffled off a Valentine’s Day package last year, which included gift certificates to a popular sushi restaurant. The raffle idea was also popular at **MC Georgia**, where items donated from local businesses were part of the raffle prizes. Showing that medical students *do* have time to date, the **Vanderbilt** chapter held a Date Auction to raise money for the club. Other popular ideas included: making T-shirts at **UT-San Antonio**, selling carnations for the white coat ceremony at **South Florida**, and hosting a party at a downtown club, courtesy of **Boston University**. One of the most successful fundraising ideas came out of **UMDNJ (RWJ)**, where the students there held an annual Asian Cultural Show, which attracted over 250 attendees and helped raise hundreds of dollars for the Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund. Another successful and creative approach to fundraising was started by **Drexel**, where the APAMSA students make study guides and medical charts which are sold to the rest of campus. With these charts, Drexel has been able to raise thousands of dollars for their club and for charity. Simply awesome.

It’s also a good idea for chapters to focus on professional development and enrichment programs for its members. The medical Mandarin programs offered at **Drexel** and at **Cornell** help train APAMSA members to serve in immigrant communities where English is often a second language. Elsewhere, the APAMSA chapters at **Stanford** and at **CCOM** created mentor programs with physicians in the area.



**Albert Einstein** organized a Q&A-style physician panel, showcasing a number of medical specialties all in one night. Over in Toledo, MU Ohio held an acupuncture workshop to educate their members about traditional & integrative medicine. By the end of the event, over 30 students had acupuncture needles sticking out from their heads.

### An Update on Regional Conferences

APAMSA Regional Conferences are a great way to network and connect with other API medical students in the area. Some regions have already held their conferences for 2006. **Michigan** started the trend by hosting the Region V conference in January. **Arizona** followed in February with a Region VIII conference hosted in Tucson. Other regional conferences are coming up soon:

- *Region I: Boston University*, 4/8/06
- *Region II: Albert Einstein*, 5/7/06
- *Region III: Jefferson*, 4/14-4/15
- *Region VII: Stanford & UCSF*, 3/4/06

For the latest schedule, visit the APAMSA website. More importantly, kudos to all of the regional directors and conference chairs for their hard work at organizing these events. This is the most number of regional conferences ever. Keep up the momentum!

### APAMSA National Board Update: Promoting API Health Issues

A delegation made up of medical students and physicians from the APAMSA National Board will be presenting a panel discussion entitled, “*Teaching the ‘Model Minority’ of Medicine: A Look at Educational Issues of Asian Pacific American Medical Students,*” at the Asian American Studies Conference on March 25.

If you’re around the Atlanta area, stop by and say hello. The conference details can be found at <http://www.aaastudies.org/index.tpl>

### Reminder: Chapter Grants Due

Need money for a new program or event? Download an application for the *APAMSA Executive Committee Chapter Grant Program* at the APAMSA website. Due **March 1, 2006**.

### Reminder: Chapter Reports Due

Chapter officers, submit your bi-annual chapter report to showcase your club’s activities. The forms are available on the APAMSA website. Due **March 1, 2006**.

### Did You Know?

May is Asian Heritage Month.

### Get Ready!

for the 2006 APAMSA National Conference in October. It’s sponsored by **USUHS** and will be held in the Washington, D.C. area.

### Support Our Sponsors:

We’ve added sponsorship links to Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Orbitz on the APAMSA website. Each time you purchase an airline ticket or rent a car through these links, our sponsors donate money to APAMSA. These funds go back to local chapters in the form of grants and programming assistance.

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*Jeff Lai confesses that he hasn’t written a newsletter since his days of playing AYSO soccer in southern California. He can be reached at [icd@apamsa.org](mailto:icd@apamsa.org)*