

DENISON LEADERSHIP RETREAT EDITION

MAASU

Midwest Asian American Students Union

focus

Wright State University's Impressive APIA Environment

What is your organization currently working on for the upcoming semester?

We are working on increasing our ASA membership and fundraising for the ASA scholarship. The club annually gives out two \$250 scholarships for Asian students who exhibit good leadership skills.

What has been the most successful event in your organization's history?

We are very proud of the annual Asian Culture Night in which we have played a major role for the last 10 years at Wright State. The event is organized by the Asian/Hispanic/Native American Center. ASA members and other Wright State students model, dance, sing and emcee the event. This is an event where Asians come together to show their pride in the rich Asian heritage.

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What has been your organization's biggest problem so far?

Getting Asian students and even non-Asian students to be actively involved with the club and in other activities on campus. However, we are making good progress as we successfully recruit new members and nurture them to take on leadership roles within the club and eventually serve in leadership roles campus wide.

What steps have you taken to solve the problem?

A. We distribute timely announcement of the club's meetings to all the members ahead of time. After the meeting, we follow up with the Minutes so those who cannot come to the meetings are informed of what went on at the meetings.

B. We aggressively pursue our fundraising efforts for scholarships to give more than 2 awards per year. For Fall quarter, we are currently selling pies to raise funds. Prizes will be also given out to the members who sell the most pies.

ASA members are also more enticed coming to the meetings to hear about the awarding of ASA scholarships which they can apply for. But first, they have to be involved with the club to show

leadership skills.

C. We plan to send more students to attend the MAASU Spring Conference to network with peers and bond with one another.

D. We organize more social events (bowling nights, Taste a Restaurant, field trips, etc.) for members to bond with one another and to give them a sense of belonging. New members are also encouraged to study and to relax in the Asian/Hispanic/Native American Center, the official hangout of ASA.

E. We have pizzas and potlucks at our meetings.

We also play diversity games and provide an opportunity for our members to give us their input on how the club can meet their needs, either academically or socially.

Why did you decide to become a leader in your APIA community?

College is a place where students grow by learning inside and outside of the classroom. There are many opportunities for students to become well-rounded if they are focused and want to make a difference in showing that Asians can become good leaders in the APIA community and also in the mainstream, if given the opportunity.

Wright State University provides a nurturing environment for students to grow and excel in what they want to do. We are fortunate to be in such a nurturing environment where we learn and grow as leaders. It is very important for students to receive this kind of support in college, and in particular for minority students so they can show their potential to serve their community and give back to their community.

Wright State University

Location:
Dayton, OH

MRep:
TBD

APIA Org:
Asian Student Association

Website:
<http://www.wright.edu/studentorgs/asa>

Email:
wsu.asa@gmail.com

Member count:
100

Mizzou Looking Forward To Great Things



What is your organization currently working on for the upcoming semester?

Our AAA is currently in the process of planning several events for the next semester. Heritage Night will be one of our collective events hosted by all the APIA organizations on campus through which we hope to showcase an array of cultural foods, dances, and history that sometimes students don't have the opportunity to be exposed to.

One of our goals this year is establishing stronger relationships with other minority groups on campus and nearby schools through cosponsoring events and hosting mixers. We're working with the Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) for a cultural gala and in the works

with Saint Louis University cosponsoring the Filipino American Music Experience.

On top of all of this our biggest project spring semester will be Asian American Awareness Week in April.

What has been the most successful event in your organization's history?

Our most successful event is probably also the biggest project we have in the spring, and that is our Asian American Awareness Week. The planning for these seven days usually starts in the fall. It calls for an entire committee separate from AAA's e-board and sub-committees. It's a great week for us as a group to display what it's like being an Asian American and bring awareness through educating students on campus.

What has been your organization's biggest problem so far?

This year's AAA has started off well with an amazing group of very active freshmen. Although we have gained a large number

of new members, our main problem is bridging the gaps between former members and newer members so that we can create a closer-knit group.

What steps have you taken to solve the problem?

We plan to host more socials and teambuilding activities that will develop strong relationships with each member. We also plan on having a retreat that will expose a greater depth of connection in hopes of these events will support more friendships and allow members to get to know each other from a different standpoint than just a student.

Why did you decide to become a leader in your APIA community?

We decided to become leaders in the APIA community due to the need for representation on campus. Minorities, as many know, are often overlooked and unheard so it is up to us to make sure that voice gets noticed.

The term "Asian American" is in an importance stage where it is still being defined by us today. It is critical that we do our best

to break the barrier of race issues as being solely black and white and also be actively supporting the APIA movement.

University of Missouri (Mizzou)

Location:
Columbia, MO

MRep:
TBD

APIA Org:
Asian American Association

Website:
<http://students.missouri.edu/~aaa>

Email:
kha.ly@mizzou.edu

Member count:
N/A

Attention!

If you haven't registered your school for MAASU membership yet, now is the time to do it!

<http://www.maasu.org>



Leadership Retreat Schedule

Friday, November 2

- 5:30pm - 11:00pm : Registration/Check-in (*Slayter 2nd Floor*)
- 5:30pm - 9:00pm : Pizza Party & Games (*Slayter 4th Floor*)
- 9:30pm - 10:30pm : Yellow Rage (*Slayter 3rd Floor*)

Saturday, November 3

- 8:30am - 10:00am : Registration/Check-in/Continental Breakfast (*Slayter 2nd & 3rd Floors*)
- 9:30am - 10:00am : Opening Remarks (*Slayter Auditorium*)
- 10:30am - 11:20am : Session I (*Knapp Hall & Burton Morgan*)
- 11:30am - 12:20pm : Session II (*Knapp Hall & Burton Morgan*)
- 12:30pm - 1:00pm : Small Groups (*Knapp Hall & Burton Morgan*)
- 1:00pm - 2:20pm : Lunch (ECC, BOA & SC only: *Burton Morgan, Welsh Hills Room, 3rd Floor*)
- 2:30pm - 3:20pm : Session III & M-Rep Meeting (*Burton Morgan, Lecture Hall, Room 115*)
- 3:30pm - 4:00pm : Small Groups (*Knapp Hall & Burton Morgan*)
- 4:00pm - 6:00pm : BREAK
- 6:00pm - 7:45pm : Banquet (*Curtis Dining Hall, Veggie Room*)
- 8:00pm - 9:00pm : Keynote Speaker Nitasha Sharma (*Swasey Chapel*)

Sunday, November 4

- 10:00am - 12:00pm : Brunch/Closing Remarks
(ECC, BOA, LR & SC only: *Burton Morgan Welsh Hills Room*)

NOTE: *The schedule, especially times and rooms, are subject to change. Please refer to your registration material for the most up-to-date schedule.*

November MAASU Focus: Tedd Vanadilok, Advisor

What are some of your interests?

To stay active, I play on a men's ice hockey team in Chicago. Hockey is one of my biggest passions. I've also been a DJ since high school, but haven't been as active with music due to work. I still do a few gigs per year, like the Asian American formal at Northwestern and a few campus events. And I enjoy the culinary arts, too. I read a lot of cookbooks and, believe it or not, menus (print and online). I used to watch Food Network a lot, but not as much as I used to. It's actually one of the worst TV channels when it comes to diversity.

What is your favorite food?

Sushi! Italian food is a close

second.

Why did you decide to become a leader in your APIA community?

Two reasons. One is because of the strong affiliation I have with the APIA identity and experience. Growing up in a small, predominantly white farm town in Southern Illinois, I truly enjoyed the opportunities to explore my heritage and identity first at a diverse high school, then in college. Being able to interact with those who look, think, and behave like you is important to understanding who you are.

Second is because of the social justice issues we face as APIAs. I want to be a part of empowering leaders of all

sorts to improve the APIA experience in our country.

What is the most challenging thing about being a leader?

There are many challenges, so it's difficult to zero in on just one. But one challenge that I experience frequently is the difficulty of empowering others not only to be organized and meticulous with leading a group or cause but also to be a tireless worker who strives for long-term successes (not just immediate ones). I have one of those motivational pictures on my office wall that reads: "Excellence always endures...it remains long after cost is forgotten."

If you could take one thing with you to a deserted island what would it be?



If I can't choose a person, I would want a computer with wireless internet. And if I could have one more thing, it would be a rice cooker (and rice) so I can catch fish in the ocean and make sushi everyday! I guess I would need wasabi, soy sauce, and ginger. But then again, if you're on a deserted island, food is food. Just eat it!

Midwest Asian American Students Union Mission Statement

The Midwest Asian American Students Union (MAASU) strives to recognize the needs of the Asian Pacific Islanders American (APIA) community. The goals of MAASU are:

- *To assist schools with the establishment of APIA student organizations, APIA cultural centers and/or Asian American Studies Programs.*
- *To promote leadership among APIA students through programs including, but not limited to the Fall Leadership Retreat, Spring Conference and variety of other programming.*
- *To address the educational needs and rights of the APIA community and provide scholarship information for all APIA students.*
- *To develop and maintain a channel of communication for APIA student organizations in the Midwest through e-mails, newsletters and networking.*
- *To assist and encourage all APIA students to work toward social change by providing a forum for social consciousness.*
- *To unite all communities and strengthen the APIA community's stance against all forms of oppression.*

We're on the web!
<http://www.maasu.org/>

For all MReps,

Please email yus@purdue.edu the responses to the questions that we send out! We're always looking for interesting stories about APIA events at schools so let us know if you've got any! We look forward to hearing from you! Feel free to contact me with any questions or requests! Thanks!

Sisi Yu, Public Relations Chair
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