

# Asian Students Association

## *A Note from the ASA President*

*Karen Gau, Senior*

The Asian Students Association (ASA) is composed of over 80 members of different ethnic backgrounds who come together with similar goals of promoting Asian awareness and celebrating Asian cultures. These goals are attained through our educational, service, and social events to define what it means to be an Asian American. Our meetings (every other Thursday at 5:00PM in Room 205-206 Student Union) focus on teaching and promoting Asian cultures through programs, social activities, and open-group discussions. Our spring semester meetings will include an acupuncturist seminar, a cultural dinner, elections for next year's officers, and other interesting topics. There are also plenty of outside events planned for next semester including a ski retreat, the annual Baby Blue basketball tournament, a joint semiformal with the other Asian organizations, and the Asian American Heritage Week.

Aside from the distinct purposes of ASA, the organization provides two major "Lifelines" for its members and the surrounding community. ASA strives to build and advance these lifelines and relationships to further enhance the Asian community. Within the organization, the members develop valuable relationships between each other, resulting in long-lasting friendships and networking possibilities. This is evident with the number of members interacting outside of the organization. These individuals socialize, assist each other with academics, and depend on each other as friends. On a personal note, I can truly say ASA has been a positive experience in my college career. The organization has provided me with a way to meet several of my close friends and to build a significant network to assist me in the future. I hope everyone in the organization can experience the same and allow the organization to benefit them to the full potential.

ASA also provides "Lifelines" between the organization and the surrounding community, including the University. We exist as an learning channel to educate individuals about Asian cultures through service and cultural events such as the annual Journey Into Asia (JIA) and Asian American Heritage Week. JIA's main focus is to promote cultural awareness in appreciation of the diversity that exists within the Asian community. This year's JIA, "The Orient Express" clearly demonstrated the evolution of Asian cultures from the traditional to the contemporary style through the diverse performances. Asian American Heritage Week will be held in late February to promote Asian Awareness to the University. Each day of the week will consist of an activity or performance by an Asian organization. Currently, plans are on their way to bring in an influential speaker on Asian issues.

Everyone is invited to attend ASA's meetings and functions. Please visit our website at [www.unc.edu/students/organizations/asa](http://www.unc.edu/students/organizations/asa) for information on dates or contacts. I wish everyone only the best for the remainder of the semester and hope to see all of you at our functions. EW