

# Dropin' A Social Line

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ASA Social Chair*

From club parties at Treehouse to weekend getaways at the beach or mountains, ASA seeks to provide a variety of social opportunities for its members to meet new people and to bond, thus building a strong community. ASA social events are a great way to meet people within the Asian community at UNC and in the Triangle area, especially the parties at Treehouse, which have brought in party-goers from as far away as Charlotte. ASA has also collaborated with other Asian organizations on campus, such as the Vietnamese Students' Association (VSA), the Korean Student Association (KASA) and the Chinese Undergraduate Students' Association (CUSA) to bring together special events like the semi-formal dance held in the second semester. Additionally, members can take advantage of low group rates to experience a variety of activities with their friends, as many did at the annual beach trip at the beginning of the year and the ski trip in the beginning of the second semester. Through this variety of social opportunities, ASA seeks to enhance college life. EW

## SUSHI:

*Cynthia Rawling, Sophomore  
Co-President*

## The Japan Club

For months, Noriko Satake and I wondered why UNC-Chapel Hill did not have a Japan Club. Finally, we stopped talking and did something about it. Starting in late October, Noriko and I met every week to work on writing the Constitution, statement of purpose, university recognition application forms, and planning possible events. Finally on February 21, 2001 SUSHI (Society of Undergraduate Students with Interest in Japan) had its first meeting. A little over a month later on March 28, 2001 SUSHI had its first major event-an Ikebana (flower arrangement) seminar-our first annual cultural event. Mrs. Itsumi Yamamoto, a teacher of Ikebana for 10 years, volunteered her valuable teachings at the Ikebana Seminar. The 40 or so participants were made up of diverse group of different ages and ethnic backgrounds. After demonstrating the aesthetic "basic style," students made their own flower arrangements as Mrs. Yamamoto assisted and answered questions. Indeed, many students discovered an unexpected talent in Ikebana as their creative minds designed beautifully artistic flower arrangements. All left smiling and proud of their creation.

The purpose of this club is reflected in the purpose of this event. SUSHI is a student run organization at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which has been founded for the purpose of providing both Japanese and American students the opportunity to explore each other's cultures. Our objectives are to carry out cultural, social, and academic events to benefit all members. In order to fulfill our objectives and goals we adopted a DUAL-BENEFIT SYSTEM, where not only will American students learn about Japan but also Japanese students will learn about America. This makes student studying Japan and Japanese exchange students a vital part of the organization.

This flower arrangement seminar not only gave American students the opportunity to learn about a traditional Japanese form of art but also allowed Japanese students to acquire a new appreciation for the unique Japanese culture. Noriko Satake and I, as SUSHI's Co-Presidents, hope that next year's annual cultural event will be as successful, if not more so, than this year's event as SUSHI's success grows. EW