

# ECASU

@ Georgetown

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# 2003



“Hypnotized by the Hypnotize hip-hop dancers and two crazy nights,” was how sophomore Rick Liu of Georgetown University summarized the past weekend.

Georgetown University’s Gaston Hall was filled with cheers and noise as the “Asian-American Idol” competition among singers, dancers and musicians drew audiences of Asian American students Friday night.

“Asian American Idol,” the showcase featuring the talents of Asian-American students from colleges along the East Coast, was the main kickoff event for the East Coast Asian Students Union 2003 conference held at the university this past weekend.

The annual ECASU conference brings many Asian American students together to promote and examine Asian-American issues in our society and universities through a choice of workshops and guest speakers. ECASU’s main mission was to: build and strengthen Asian-American student organizations to serve the needs of students; promote unity of Asians through the understanding of the Asian experience in

America; pursue political, educational, economic and cultural equality; and strengthen relations between Asians and all peoples of color.

About 40 students from UNC-CH attended the two-day conference through a trip organized by the Asian Students Association here at UNC. Students attended the conference for different reasons.

Diana Suryakasuma, a sophomore studying graphic design and biology, attended the conference because she thought it would be an enlightening and fun experience. Issues important to her are perceptions of Asians in society and equal opportunity in the workplace. After attending one workshop, “What are you doing after college?: Asian-Americans and career choices,” Suryakasuma said she hoped that all the workshop sessions would be just as interesting and fun.

Some disagreed though. UNC Asian Students Association Co-President Ben Basilan thought that some parts of the conference were pointless. “I didn’t like the fact that I paid \$40 to go,” said Basilan because he thought the workshops were not so great.