



As a result of the hard work put in by the entire executive board, ASA has accomplished some truly amazing feats this year. Despite the heavy rainfall that seemed to fall only on ASA meeting days, including a visit by Hurricane Isabel, we still got off to a strong start, with a great turnout at the first general body meeting and ASA "picnic" in the Union. After a rousing game of Chubby Bunny at the picnic, I learned that my mouth was not made for cramming puffy marshmallows in it. Members got to know each

other better at the ASA beach trip in Myrtle Beach, where more than two-dozen people crammed into two adjacent condos, leading to a crazy and fun time for all. A few weeks later, ASA members participated in Project UNC, a service project sponsored by the Campus Y involving several campus organizations. Our mission: to weed a section of the woods surrounding UNC (I joked that the Campus Y gave ASA this project because the weeds were originally from Japan, and they were



holding us responsible for their presence). While only a few people left with poison ivy rashes on their legs, we all left with a great feeling in our hearts that we provided a service to the University community.

Then began the arduous task

of planning for Journey into Asia, ASA's annual cultural show. Manisone Phanthalack and Stacey Sy, ASA's cultural chairs, should be commended for the time and effort they put into creating one of the best Journeys ever. Our usual venue, the Great Hall of the student union, was under construction at the time, and they had to deal with putting on the show at the Morehead banquet hall. A show of this magnitude had never been put on inside the banquet hall, but the two cultural chairs pulled it off gracefully. The beauty pageant-themed show, entitled "Miss ASA: A Journey into the Beauty of Asia," featured various dance groups, both modern and cultural; instrumental and vocal musical performances; and of course, martial arts. To cap off an already amazing evening, comedian Dat Phan, from NBC's reality series Last Comic Standing gave a sidesplitting performance. Next year's executive board will have a hard time topping this year's Journey.

Almost immediately after Journey into Asia, preparations began for another service project, Adopt-A-Family. My high school back in Illinois had participated in a similar program, where each home-room would purchase holiday presents from a wish list for a needy family. Last year while I was service chair, ASA enthusiastically adopted a family who would not have had very many presents without our help. This year, ASA was joined by the freshmen class of Morehead scholars and an entire floor of Hinton James residence hall in adopting families. ASA will be challenged next term to expand this service project even further, to encourage even more groups to participate.

In order to do everything that ASA does, a lot of money is needed.