

Alumnae Student Relations Committee Report- Viji Nakka- Cammauf

International Students Tea: This was a new event for the ASR Committee. For years AAMC has wanted to connect with International Students and to raise their stature at Mills. This year we were successful in creating an event which was well received and enthusiastically attended. The total international student enrollment at Mills has dropped drastically over the years and consequently there are only 25 international students at Mills. So when we had 16 of them attend along with three faculty members we were elated! Several officers of the ASMC were at the Tea to welcome the students and let them know that their voices are important to ASMC as well.

The theme for the tea was *Some Enchanted Evening* and it was billed as a semi-formal event. The RAH was beautifully decorated with colorful paper lanterns. The tables had candles and flowers and tea was served in Mills silver tea set, a gift given to Susan Mills! There were international desserts and savories and students and faculty enjoyed the treats. The cost for the event was \$79.46

The evening began with Hawaiian instrument and songs performed by Macaiwa, a student from Mills. After Tea introductions followed with a few words from our ASR Committee members. Two questions were answered by each one present - First impressions on entering the USA and Mills. It made for a very engaging and meaningful evening.

The faculty really appreciated the event and wants to work closely with the AAMC to host other events and to engage international students on campus. We hope that this first of many events will raise awareness of international students and add richness to our campus life. We would like to work with the College to help increase the enrollment of International students at Mills.

Winter Grad Celebration: This year we moved the event back to the Student Union. The ASR Committee members and the BOG welcomed and registered students this year. Few new features were added to the program from the past to make it memorable and special. AAMC members lit candles and handed them to the graduating students in a symbolic gesture of welcoming them to the AAMC. One of the members of the ASR Committee donated the silver eucalyptus pins. The ASR Committee then pinned each student with the pins. Anita Aragon Bowers led in the singing of the song "Remember" with the AAMC members joining her in the singing, as the graduating students stood with lit candles in their hands. After the singing a single rose was presented to the students and thus the ceremony came to an end. There were fewer students than year but all who came deeply appreciated the celebration and expressed their thanks. The ASR Committee's cost for the events was \$838.62.

Upcoming events: December 12 Midnight breakfast

December 14th: Finals snack break 8-10pm in the Student Union. We will be distributing goodie bags to the students to help them get through the finals week.

Many thanks to the BOG members for their contributions and participation and the staff of Alumnae Relations for their support and partnership. I am blessed to work with the wonderful ASR committee members who give generously and participate wholeheartedly in each of these events !