

Alumnae Student Relations Committee Report

Members : Lynda Campfield, Bev Curwen, Michelle Balovich, Rebecca Freeman, Rose Lopez and Lilli Sahagun.

Viji Nakka- Cammauf - Chair

Spring has been a very busy time of the year with so many wonderful and exciting events at Mills. The ASR Committee has worked hard in fostering closer relationships with students and various student groups like the SAMEAPI (South Asian Middle Eastern Asian Pacific Islander) group and International students and Faculty.

April 10: The SAMEAPI group held a dinner celebrating the heritage of students and Founders prepared special food for those nights. The group showed the documentary called "It's a girl" which exposed the gendercide of girl babies. I was invited to be the speaker for the event following the film, and facilitated questions and discussion for the audience. The ASR Committee provided funds for the refreshments served at the event.

April 11: Phenomenal Women of Color. Thank you to the BOG and AOCC for the honor and recognition. The video of Little Flock, describing the life of the orphaned children in India was shown. It was great to have all but one of the Founding Board members at the dinner. It was wonderful to recall how Mills had played a significant role in shaping y life to the point of starting the home for children.

April 17: Take Back the Night. An event that provides a safe place for students to talk about their experience of sexual assault and to find resources. I was invited to speak at the event and to open in prayer. All who shared their experiences raised our awareness and commitment to speak out against such violence.

April 25: Pearl M Dinner: We had a wonderful evening with the class of 2013. There about students and guests. Dawna Williams and Rebecca Freeman were selected by the BOG to receive the Pearl M pins. The bios of the recipients and donors of the pins were read by the Bog and ASR Committee members and there was true celebration in the air. Anita Aragon Bowers led us in the singing "Remember " followed by the lantern procession to the pond by the Music Building where we sang "Fires of Wisdom " and then proceeded to the RAH for the champagne reception. Michelle Balovich and I toasted the students and Rebecca Freeman gave a toast to the ASR Committee and the AAMC for the evening. Lynda Campfield provided the champagne and sparkling cider and was a tireless bartender! Bev Curwen provided the much coveted chocolates to accompany the champagne. We placed the lanterns in the backyard of RAH where they glowed more beautifully as the evening grew dark. Thank you to all the BOG and ASR Committee members who helped make the Pearl M dinner a wonderful and memorable event for the students.

April 30: SAMEAPI Celebration Dinner. The ASR Committee members and Linda Jacques -Fissori were invited to the celebration dinner where we were recognized and honored for our support and interest in the SAMEAPI group. We were treated to graceful student dancers from Hawaii and Tahiti and enjoyed many ethnic foods.

International Students: the ASR Committee is earnestly seeking to connect with international students and faculty to support internationals on Mills campus and to help recruit internationals to Mills by providing better connection points. To that end Brinda Mehta (faculty member) and I met with Brain O Rourke to assess Mills commitment to increasing international student enrollment and to offer our services in the process. We were assured that this is indeed a priority for Mills and those we can expect to see growth in the following years.

May 3 : International students /faculty dinner at the faculty Lounge. The ASR Committee members provided a wonderful array of dishes from various countries. The paper lanterns and red lights made the room festive.

Following dinner, the graduating seniors shared about their time at Mills and their future plans. The Faculty advisors then spoke about the students describing their experience of working with and observations of the students. One of the advisors who were unable to attend sent a note that was read by Marge Nicholson. The ASR Committee members then pinned the graduating students with the Eucalyptus pins and shared words of wisdom. The evening concluded with a piano piece by Abby. The students and faculty lingered long after the dinner and expressed their gratitude to the ASR Committee and the AAMC for the dinner. The students had never experienced an event like this and were really moved. We hope that this and other events like will have a lasting impact on international students and draw more students to Mills. The ASR Committee is planning a welcome event for the students in the fall.

May 14: Finals Snack Distribution. The ASR Committee Members and Cynthia Guevara assembled 150 goodie bags for the students for distribution at the Student Union. Students began arriving at 9 pm and we were able to greet the students and offer them our best wishes for their finals along with the goody bags. The students and staff of OSA and Student Life were delighted to receive the goody bags and expressed appreciation for the partnership. Michelle Balovich and Bev Curwen with very generous contributions made the goody bags a real treat.

I am enormously grateful to be working with such dedicated women who make every event memorable and enjoyable by their generosity, compassion, and commitment.