ABOUT US:

Student Service Operation for Success aims to provide a full range of academic support services, counseling and cultural activities to promote success for Asian American and Pacific Islander students in college and career readiness at California State University, East Bay.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

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Dear SSOS students,

Happy Asian Pacific American Heritage Month! Student Service Operation for Success (SSOS) congratulates the graduating seniors who are the first of the family to receive the baccalaureate! SSOS also applaud those who continue their family’s tradition in valuing higher education. Cheer to all who take advantage of what we provide at SSOS so you can succeed in your classes and careers. Cheer to all who believe in yourselves! Bravo to the Pioneers!

Once upon a time, a group of unknown people traveled across vast land and ocean and recorded their stories in “Shang Hai Jing / Classis of Mountains and Seas.” It is an anthology of geographical, mineralogical, medical, botanical, zoological, and cultural accounts of the world dated approximately 400 B.C. For a very long time, scholars read the stories as Chinese mythology until mid-twentieth century, two American scholars compared the maps with their personal expeditions of the land across the Pacific from China and recorded their stories — Asian Pacific people had indeed traveled by sea to the Americas since 2000 B.C., yes, way before Columbus landed. Their stories become the challenge to the assumed American history. Inspired by the intellectual Odyssey of her father, the daughter continued her journey taken a modern scientific approach, the DNA studies; her story adds to the father’s story and provides data that shows the close phylogenetic relationships between the native Americans and the Asian Pacific ethnic groups. Yes, our Asian Pacific ancestors had been here in America a long time ago. You are here, in the United States of America.

SSOS encourages you, particularly the graduating seniors, to complete your U-story at CSUEB. Your stories will be recorded in the SSOS Year Book, will be shared with your peers, and will become the inspiration for the next generation SSOS. While many of you are “Setting Sail”, I like to buoy your spirit up by sharing Emily Dickinson’s poem:

Exultation is the going
Of an inland soul to sea, —
Past the houses, past the headlands,
Into deep eternity!
Bred as we, among the mountains,
Can the sailor understand
The divine intoxication
Of the first league out from land?

Dr. Meiling Wu, Professor
Director of SSOS Program
SSOS GRADUATES

SSOS Service Students Masters Degree Candidates:
* Ada Chan-Health Care Administration MS
* Gao Her-Social Work MSW
* Peter Lee-Social Work MSW
* Manpreet Singh-Social Work MSW

SSOS Service Students Bachelors Degree Candidates:
* Amiel-Gladys Cuevas-Biological Sciences BS
* Vincent Duong-Biochemistry BS
* Osafanmwen Edogun - Biochemistry BS
* Jiawei Geng– Business Administration BS
* Asma Gowher-Speech Pathology & Audiology BS
* Minh Ly-Hospitality and Tourism BS
* Kristy Nishikawa-Biological Sciences BS
* A Chiam Saelee-Political Science BA
* Shivneel Sen– Nursing BS
* Camille Toroba-Health Sciences BS
* Raymond Wu-Health Sciences BS
* Taishi Yamagata-International Studies BA

SSOS Mentees Bachelors Degree Candidates:
* Linda Ahmed-Psychology BA
* Jacqueline Ang-Health Sciences BS
* Mico Bargo-Health Sciences BS
* Pooja Bhasin-Health Sciences BS
* El Brown-Human Development BA
* Eun Mi Chang-Business Administration BS
* Derek Chen-Health Sciences BS
* Siu Hei Chim-Business Administration BS
* Vu Dang-Criminal Justice Administration BS
* Fernadinne Farin-Speech Pathology and Audiology BS
* Makaio Galaegac-Business Administration BS
* Geary Gao-Liberal Studies BA
* Mina Karim-Philosophy BA
* Jason Lal-Biological Sciences BS
SSOS GRADUATES

SSOS Mentees Bachelors Degree Candidates:

* Sheryl Lansangan-Biological Sciences BS
* Dung Le Ngo-Biological Sciences BS
* Huina Liang-Business Administration BS
* Melissa Lieu-Psychology BA
* Lupe Liku-Health Sciences BS
* Sheng Lor-Health Sciences BS
* Kevin Luu-Biological Sciences BS
* John Ly-Nursing BS
* Kristin Mudzinski-Health Sciences BS
* Jessica Ngo-Biological Sciences BS
* Lena Nguyen-Hospitality and Tourism BS
* Thuy Nguyen-Business Administration BS
* Margaret LanThanh Nguyen-Political Science BA
* Minh Nguyen-Business Administration BS
* Randy Nguyen-Industrial Engineering BS
* Vivian Prasad-Human Development BA
* David Quach-Art BA
* Koy Saelor-Psychology BA
* Kevin Sar-Political Science BA
* Randell Sayco-Kinesiology BS
* Alyssa Tarrant-Psychology BA
* Brittany Tavake-Health Sciences BS
* Leah Ughoc-Mathematics BS
* Minh Vo-Health Sciences BS
* TriDung Vo-Art BA
* Kim Phat Vo-Biological Sciences BS
* Elaine Wong-Biological Sciences BS
* Anjila Yusufi-Health Sciences BS
Hanan Awawoudeh graduated CSUEB with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology in Spring 2014. During her time at CSUEB, she was a part of the SSOS program as a peer mentor and college ambassador. Hanan worked closely with students in assisting them with college resources and registration processes. She also provided continuous support and encouragement to those students who needed assistance during their time at CSUEB. Hanan is grateful for the opportunity SSOS has given her as each student she has worked with touched her heart and made a positive impact on her personal and professional development. Many students came from different backgrounds while pursuing different academic as well as personal goals, so Hanan was able to learn and adapt on how to communicate effectively with different types of people. Moreover, Hanan learned the value of displaying great leadership skills through her students.

The SSOS program has taught Hanan the importance of hard work and teamwork. With the experience, support, and opportunity to develop and show her leadership skills to many of the SSOS students, she was ready to tackle the professional world. After graduation, Hanan started working at the Academy of Art University in their financial aid office. After two years of hard work, she works for the Office of Veterans Affair. She works closely with veterans and dependents of veterans who want to pursue a degree using their military benefits. Without prior experience from SSOS and learning how rewarding it is to work with students, Hanan believes that she would not have gotten the opportunity she has now. She is extremely fortunate and appreciative of being a part of the SSOS as well as the experiences she had with the SSOS family.
Are you…
* Attending Graduate School?
* Looking for Permanent Employment?
* Part-time Internship?

EDWARD BEANES IS…
AACE Career Counselor and Employment Readiness Liaison who assists students in identifying, exploring and preparing their education and career goals. We interviewed him and he gave us some great advice!!!

...Here’s what he recommended:
* Attend Career Workshops:
  ◦ Network! (regardless of major)
  ◦ Don’t be shy; visit all companies.
* Create LinkedIn Profile
  ◦ Opportunity to speak with Alumni and Employers
To become more competitive: watch Webinars to optimize LinkedIn use.

80% of all Employers review LinkedIn profiles

What are some effective job searching techniques?

He recommended that we VISIT:
Pioneer Jobs on CSUEB website
Indeed.com
www.usajobs.gov/studentsandgrads/

TIP: Join the National Association for your major!
WHAT ARE SOME SKILLS THAT EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR?

Edward told us that employers are looking for two general types of skills: soft skills and technical skills.

Soft skills: analytical; professional; prioritizing; cooperation; problem solving; leadership.

How to gain soft skills:
- Join clubs (ex: SSOS)
- Join organizations (ex: National Association of your major)
- Participate in community and campus events (ex: volunteer work; career fairs)

Technical skills: computer proficiency with Ms. Office and other software dependent upon major.

How to gain technical skills:
- Research: regular reading and writing

We asked... how to STAND OUT!

Know: specific requirements—modify resume accordingly (give specific examples!)

Pose: Challenging 1-3 questions—bring a FRESH approach!

Tip: Prepare for the next job interview:
Visit: csueastbay.edu/aace
Look for: Interview Stream Practice!

Graduate School Plans
Research: respective school sites or Occupational Outlook Handbook found online!

Sample Exams: Public Library; and online for free!

How to balance work and family?

Establish Boundaries: don’t bring work home!

Need to know: Environment of opportunity—what are the expectations? What is the culture of the company?
The Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) has been working for nearly 10 years providing resources to create opportunities for deserving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). While many people overlook the needs of AAPI students and mistakenly assume that all AAPI students are financially well-off and high-achieving academically, the truth is that many AAPI groups experience some of the lowest high school graduation and college degree attainment rates in America. Additionally, nearly half of AAPIs enrolled in higher education are attending community colleges.

APIASF is the largest provider of college scholarships for the AAPI students in the country. APIASF’s vision is to see all Asian American and Pacific Islanders have access to higher education and resources that cultivate their academic, personal and professional success regardless of their ethnicity, national origin or financial means. Their mission is to make a difference in the lives of AAPI students by providing them with resources that increase their access to higher education which serves as the foundation for their future success and contributions to a more vibrant America. The APIASF achieves their mission by providing scholarships to AAPI students, increasing awareness of AAPI education issues and challenges, and providing resources such as mentoring programs (APIASF Website).

**APIASF Recipients:**

Vu Nguyen is grateful for this scholarship and sees it as a blessing. He thanks SSOS for pointing him towards the APIASF Scholarship. He wants to use the money to relieve some financial burden by paying back some student loans and helping his family. Alex states that the money will help him finish school faster by alleviating the financial burden of taking summer classes. This will propel him to graduate sooner and continue his pursuit of a college degree. Alex’s advice for future APIASF applicants is not to give up and apply. He applied for other scholarships but failed to be awarded a scholarship until now. Alex encourages future applicants to ask for help and know that many people are willing to help.
Minh Ly has worked for the SSOS program as a mentor for more than a year. She has dedicated her time, and effort to help many of her mentees pursue their dreams and passion. During the interview, she expresses her joy and passion in winning this scholarship. She states, “This scholarship means a lot to me because it will assist me in furthering my education and helping my dreams come true. I am planning to apply for the MBA program, and this scholarship will help me with tuition as it is going to be very expensive.”

Sally To shared that this scholarship will allow her to pursue a college degree. This scholarship will alleviate the financial burden that plagues Sally and many college students. Also, it will relieve some stress for her family, because she will not have to take out loans like her other siblings. The APIASF scholarship will be used for her books, school supplies, and rent. Also, it is a catalyst for her to finish school strong and continue to medical school. Sally's advice for future APIASF scholarship applicants is to be honest about why you are seeking the scholarship, and to tell your story about your journey in higher education. She also recommend to talk to your peers because they have a lot of information about scholarships or tips on applying. I applied because I wanted a chance to let others know that I have worked really hard to get where I am today. A fellow colleague mentioned this scholarship to me.

Gina Yang was ecstatic to be a recipient of this competitive scholarship. She jumped at the opportunity when she was informed of the scholarship opportunity from SSOS and that she won. The scholarship will relieve the financial burden tremendously. She will be able to focus on her school work and not worry about being dropped because of not being able to afford the cost of her education. Gina’s advice for future APIASF scholarship applicants is to be honest, to accept yourself, and to share your struggles and triumphs. Celebrate all the failures and rewards because these moments made you who you are today.
Mai Cha writes, “This scholarship means so much to me. Getting this scholarship means that I do not have to find a second job or take out a second loan. When I decided that I was going to attend CSU East Bay, I was afraid that I would have to eventually transfer back home to Sac State because I wouldn’t be able to afford living in the Bay Area. But winning this scholarship has given me hope that I can win other scholarships and continue to further my education at East Bay. The money from this scholarship has definitely allowed me to purchase all of my books. I did not want to put a lot of stress on myself by juggling two jobs, student loans, academics, and club organizations. Applying for scholarships is one of the best options for me. It allows me to compete with other students to fund my education, but I can do it anytime I want. There is no fixed hour at which I have to apply.”

Amanda Vang was astonished and overwhelmed that she was a finalist and then became one of the winners of the APIASF scholarship. Being a first generation and low income student, the scholarship means everything to her. This scholarship has lifted a huge financial burden off her shoulders, and putting her much closer to her dreams of obtaining a college degree. Amanda’s advice for APIASF scholarship applicants is to have a plan, set goals, be involved, be yourself, and meet the deadlines. She plans to use this money to purchase textbooks, school supplies, and most importantly, pay for tuition. She heard about this scholarship through programs such as Student Services Operation for Success and Hmong Student Association.

Jennifer Nguyen writes, “This scholarship means the world to me. I feel very proud of myself for accomplishing so much and having others recognize me. This scholarship gives me the validation I need to continue my education and pursuing my career. This money will allow me to focus towards my education instead of always worrying about affording tuition or finding another job to support myself. All I have to do is finish my undergraduate degree here at East Bay. My advice for future applicants would be to start the application early and have someone review it before submitting it. Also, make sure to take time with the short questions/essay section and be honest! I plan on paying off my loans with this scholarship. I applied because I knew I needed the money to support myself. I never thought I would get this far and be a recipient of this scholarship. I just knew I had to try and put myself out there and hope for the best.”

The “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students Program is a large-scale international competition organized by Confucius Institute Headquarters. The contents of the competition include Chinese language proficiency, knowledge about China, Chinese cultural talents and comprehensive learning abilities. The Preliminary Contests of 2015 Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for World College/Secondary School Students in Northern California was held at San Francisco State University by Confucius Institute. 28 students from UC Berkeley, SF State, CSU East Bay, Diablo Valley College and Aragon High School competed in this year’s competition.

CSUEB’s Cesar Gonzalez won the Best Talent Award!

The 40th CLTAC Mandarin Speech Contest (April 26th, 2015)

The Chinese Language Teachers Association of California (CLTAC) is one of the largest and most influential regional Chinese teaching organizations in the world. In addition to other professional activities, CLTAC organizes an annual Mandarin Speech Contest and it boasts of a long history of 40 years. It has become an annual pageant of Chinese education in the region. The 40th Mandarin Speech Contest this year has 516 registered student contestants.

CSUEB’s Hisho Uemura won the First Place! of the College/University Intermediate Level

“I am a cultural exchange student from Funabashi city, which is the sister city of Hayward in Japan. I have been here since last fall quarter and have made a lot of not only students from around here but also students from other places. As an international student, I am fascinated with learning new interesting things on different societies, customs and cultures.

I recently attended the 40th annual CLTAC Mandarin Speech Contest at Lowell High School in San Francisco. I prepared and practiced a lot before the competition. I did my best on the stage and I won First Place! This contest experience will be one of many memories of studying in the United States. I truly learned a lot about Chinese language and culture through preparing and attending this speech contest.”

—Hisho Uemura

(From left to right): Cesar Gonzales, Hui-Tzu Lu, Dr. Meiling Wu, Hisho Uemura
India is a diverse country, home to many cultures, religions and languages. There are hundreds of languages spoken, of which only 22 are recognized by the Indian constitution; Hindi is the official language that links its citizens. There are many faiths that are practiced within India; however the most commonly followed are: Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism. There are similarities and differences across these cultures within India but one common denominator is the use of Henna.

Henna is a small tropic shrub called *Lawsonia Inermis*. Henna is widely used as a dye for hair, skin and fingernails. Henna is also used for herbal and Ayurvedic medicinal purposes.

The most common use of Henna in the Indian culture is tattooing hands and feet of the bride, most often including her female friends and family members. Henna tattoos vary from one culture to another in terms of symbolism of its use. The shapes, designs and color hold different significance for each culture. Examples of its symbolic representation include: fertility, love, luck, beauty and blessings. It is believed that the darker the stain, the more the bride will be loved by her husband. Another similar belief is that longevity of the stain represents the well treatment of the bride by her in-laws.

Another festival that takes place in the Indian culture is *Holi* also known as the spring festival or festival of colors. *Holi* is an ancient religious Hindu festival, but is now celebrated across cultures. It is popular in many parts of South Asia such as Nepal (India). The Holi Festival starts with the *Holika* bonfire on the night before Holi where people gather, sing, and dance. On the actual day of Holi, people chase others with colored dry powder and water color. This festival signifies the victory of food over evil; the arrival of spring and end of winter. This festival is meant for fun, to make friends, and to forgive others.
Those who classify themselves as Filipinos are from the Southeast Asian country of the Philippines near the Pacific Ocean. The Philippines consists of 7,107 islands and is divided up into three major divisions that include Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

In the Filipino culture, one of the common traditions is to eat food like rice, seafood, grilled meat, and vegetables on fresh banana leaves with using only the hands or kamayan (kah-mah-yay). Another common tradition is the tinkling (tee-nick-ling) dance, which consists of a certain rhythm pattern, where the dancers imitate tinikling birds by stepping in between and over a series of bamboo poles while the others hold these poles to create a beat or rhythm for the dancers to follow. This dance is usually partnered with stringed instrument music playing in the background.

The Philippines is the 3rd largest Catholic country in the world, where 80% of the population belong to this religion. This is due to the Spanish colonialism from the 16th century.

Additionally, a few popular methods of transportation include the jeepney (jeep-knee) and the motor tricycle. The jeepney was first used for transportation for battle weapons and soldiers during World War II, and the tricycles have advanced from a bicycle attached to a passenger carriage to a motorcycle with a passenger carriage.
Program SSOS: Student Service Operation for Success aims to provide a full range of academic support services, counseling and cultural activities to promote success for Asian American and Pacific Islander students in college and career readiness at California State University, East Bay.

See us on the web at http://www20.csueastbay.edu/academic/academic-support/ssos-aanapisi/

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* APIASF Scholarship Recipients
* TCB & CLTAC Contest Winners