Dear API KC Family,  
We hope that this message finds you in excellent health and spirits as the new school year is upon us. We trust that your summers were productive and restful and that you are fully ready to embrace a new school year with zest and zeal!  

We are delighted to share this fall newsletter with you. Contained within are highlights of our recent past, and announcements regarding our KC’s Mentoring and Shattering the Glass Ceiling Awards. Their names have been changed! We have been so fortunate to work with an outstanding team of individuals, without whom, we would not be able to lead.  

Speaking of outstanding individuals, we are privileged to be shadowed this year by our incoming KC co-chairs Karu Kozuma and Karlen Suga! We are excited to advance their leadership and feel very fortunate to have them on board. We know that they will continue to create a solid and stable team.  

We wish you all the best this fall.  

In Solidarity,  
Joy Hoffman and Lori Ideta  

APJKC Co-Chair  
Joy Hoffman  
Director of the Cultural Center  
Whittier College  
jhoffman@whittier.edu  

APJKC Co-Chair  
Lori Ideta  
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs  
University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu  
ideta@uhwo.hawaii.edu  

The 2008 Annual Meeting, March 8-12, Boston
APIKC YahooGroup shutting down

ATTENTION ALL APIKC YAHOOGROUP USERS
All emails have been moved to facilitate the official shutdown of the APIKC yahoogroup on July 15th. Please begin using our new email group hosted by NASPA as soon as possible:
apikc@listserv.naspa.org

If you encounter difficulties, have questions about these changes, or would like to add/change an email address feel free to contact the APIKC email list administrator, Dawn Lee Tu at dtlee@ucdavis.edu THANKS!

APIKC Awards at the Boston Conference

Outstanding Mentoring Award
As mentoring is key to our cultural context, we thought it only logical to award the 2008 APIKC Outstanding Mentoring Award to one of our KC’s founding members: Mr. Henry Gee, Vice President of Student Services at Rio Hondo College. Over the years that Mr. Gee served as the Dean of Student Affairs at Santa Ana College and during his tenure at years at Azusa Pacific University, Mr. Gee mentored countless API students, staff, and faculty. The legacy of his mentoring, both formal and informal, can best be summed up by a peek into any gathering of APIs – a quick poll of the group reveals that most, if not all, have been touched by Mr. Gee in some way. All have stories to tell about how Mr. Gee gave them career advice, introduced them to others, and brought them into the network of higher education. Congratulations Mr. Gee.

Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award
Dr. Hal Gin, retired from California State University, East Bay, was awarded the 2008 APIKC Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award for his tireless groundbreaking work on behalf of APIs across the nation. Dr. Gin was the firsts of many within higher education and within NASPA. Dr. Gin was one of the APIKC’s founding members and was responsible for its current success by establishing a strong foundation. Dr. Gin, humble to the core, will actively deny his great accomplishments. But, as an Asian administrator in higher education, during an era when the numbers of Asians on campus were small and our issues were truly invisible, Dr. Gin represented the APIKC in a stellar way. So profound are Dr. Gin’s accomplishments that Vice President Gee refers to Dr. Gin as his mentor. Congratulations Dr. Gin.

Very Involved Person (VIP) Award
Ms. Faith Kazmi, Assistant Director of the Women’s Center at Stanford University, is the recipient of the 2008 APIKC VIP Award. Ms. Kazmi currently serves the APIKC as the NASPA Region VI Representative. She was also one of the 2008 APPEX co-chairs/planners and the former Social and Networking Chair for the API KC during 2003-2005. Her service has been invaluable to the KC as she is more than willing to go “beyond the call” when her brilliance, facilitation skills, or organizational touches are needed. Additionally, her enthusiasm and smile are contagious and bring great energy to the KC. Congratulations Ms. Kazmi!

Ms. Karlen Suga, Admissions Counselor at Colorado State University, is the recipient of the 2008 APIKC VIP Award. Ms. Suga currently serves as co-chair of the Research and Scholarship Committee and incoming National Co-Chair of the APIKC. Ms. Suga reaches out to other APIs on her campus, and within her community, to ensure their success. As a University of Hawai’i alum, Ms. Suga also makes safe spaces for students from Hawai’i and the Pacific. As such, she is an invaluable member of the APIKC. We look forward to her national leadership in the coming year. Congratulations Ms. Suga!
New Names for Awards

NASPA has accepted our proposal to name the Shattering the Glass Ceiling Award after Doris Ching and the Outstanding Mentoring Award after Henry Gee. Next year at the 2009 annual meeting, we will have the honor of presenting "The Doris M. Ching Shattering the Glass Ceiling Award" and "The Henry Gee Outstanding Mentoring Award."

A Glance at the Boston Conference

After various email discussions had occurred, the leaderships of NASPA’s APIKC, ACPA’s APAN, and NCORE’s APINCORE decided to have a phone conversation about the level of inclusion for South Asians in our respective organizations and the prospect of South Asian administrators establishing their own KC in NASPA. On Monday, June 23rd the leadership had a 90 minute conversation, which served to be a good beginning to a very important issue about inclusion and how our organizations can meet the needs of our communities.

Some of the points discussed were:
  - Establishing a periodic, consistent connection between the three organization’s leaderships to continue to have dialogue on this issue and other future issues;
  - Creating venues for the general membership to weigh in on this issue, such as utilizing the former apikc yahoo account, which will be changed to a Pan Asian listserv that can be utilized by all three organizations;
  - Improving the ways our organizations meet the various needs of our communities by learning best practices from each other.

The participants walked away from the conversation with a commitment to continued work over both the short and long terms on this issue and other future issues. The immediate next steps include submitting minutes of the conversation to the general memberships and soliciting more opinions and thoughts.

Knowledge Nuggets

By Karu Kozuma, Ed.M., Senior Associate Director, Residential Programs, Columbia University

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By Raja G. Bhattar, M.Ed., Assistant Director of Diversity Affairs, University of Redlands

The API KC sponsored several sessions at the NASPA 2008 Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. One of these sessions was titled "A Rainbow from the East: A National Study Assessing the Perspectives and Needs of South
Asian Queer People on College Campuses” and presented by Pamela Roy (roypame1@msu.edu) and Raja Bhattar (Raja_Bhattar@redlands.edu). The presenters shared their recent qualitative study of South Asian Queer (SAQ) students, staff, faculty, and administrators at colleges and universities across the United States. The study was designed to examine how these identities (along with socio-economic status, religious/spiritual beliefs, gender and ethnic identity, etc) intersect in the development and experiences of SAQs on campus in their various roles.

South Asian Queer (SAQ) people are defined as those with familial and cultural roots in South Asia who identify as queer or other non-heterosexual identities. We, the researchers, conducted phone interviews with 24 participants using an assessment instrument we developed for this study. Fourteen states across the US were represented, with representation of public/private, ages ranging from 18-55, and representing all four forms of university constituents (students, staff, faculty and administrators). The majority of participants identified as female and of Indian ancestry.

Participants responded to several questions such as: What role does your gender play in defining your South Asian Queer identity? Do you identify with a specific form of religion? If so, what role do religion and/or spirituality play in your life? What, if any, encounters with racism have you experienced from the Queer community on campus? What, if any, encounters with heterosexism or homophobia have you experienced from people of color on campus? And have you ever felt the need to choose, prioritize or emphasize one identity over another identity?

Powerful responses of participants were presented along with practical steps that administrators can take to establish inclusive spaces on campus for this unique population. Some suggestions include increasing:
- Access to internet/resources/books, DVDs & other media addressing intersections of identity
- Programs to educate South Asian groups around sexual/gender inclusiveness
- Programs to educate LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex & Ally) groups around ethnic/cultural inclusiveness
- Cultural competency of counseling centers around SAQ issues
- Fellowships/scholarships for this particular population
- Non-US centric understanding/acknowledgement of “identities” & “coming out”
- Inclusiveness of Cultural/LGBTQIA centers

This topic is of relevance and importance to higher education because as more students come to campus as openly queer and from multiple racial/ethnic/social backgrounds, higher education professionals must be aware of current issues and trends that face this population. It is important to actively develop cross-campus partnerships and create avenues and environments of support for South Asian Queer students, staff, and faculty on college campuses. Study participants suggested that such institutional and individual support is crucial to their own well-being and success on campus.

The presenters are grateful to the APIKC and NASPA for supporting this research effort and all the participants for making this study possible. For more information of understanding the experiences of SAQs check out the following resources:

**SOUTH ASIAN QUEER RESOURCE LIST**

**Films:**
- Chutney Popcorn
- Fire
- Bend It Like Beckham
- Mango Soufflé
- Bollywood Dip
- East is East
- Mango Desire
- Dance Like Man
- Surviving Sabu
- Khush Refugees
- The Quilt
- Touch of Pink
- My Beautiful Launderette
- The Journey
- Paper Dolls
- Milind Soman Made Me Gay
- In the name of Allah
- Tomandote (Two For Tea)
- Tamanna.

**Books:**
- Desi Dykes and Divas: Alternative Sexualties in Popular Indian Cinema (Gayatri Gopinath)
- Babyji (Abha Dawesar)
- Impossible Desires: Queer Diaspora’s and South Asian Public Cultures (Gayatri Gopinath)
- Same-Sex Love in India (Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai)
- Cereus Blooms at Night (Shani Mootoo)
- The Invisibles: A Tale of Eunuchs in India (Zia Jaffrey)
- A Lotus of Another Color An Unfolding of the South Asian Gay and Lesbian Experiences (Rakesh Ratti)
- Funny Boy (Shyam Selvadurai)
- Balancing Two Worlds Asian American College Students Tell Their Life Stories (Garrod and Kilkenny)
Separate Journeys Short Stories by Contemporary Indian Women (Geeta Dharmarajan)

**Websites:**

- **Trikone** [http://www.trikone.org](http://www.trikone.org). Trikone is a registered non-profit organization for LGBT people of South Asian decent. Founded in 1986 in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is the oldest group of its kind.

- **Salga** [http://www.salgany.org/index2.htm](http://www.salgany.org/index2.htm) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization, serving the South Asian LGBT and Questioning community for the past 10 years. It is based in New York City, NY and has SAQ International resources.

- “The Khush Page” [http://www.sawnet.org/khush/#org](http://www.sawnet.org/khush/#org) has a list of organizations and literature that relates to South Asian Queer issues.

- **Equal Ground** [http://www.equal-ground.org](http://www.equal-ground.org) is a non profit organization seeking human/ political rights for LGBTIQ community of Sri Lanka.

- **Satrang** is a social, cultural and support organization for the South Asian LGBTIQQ community in Southern California. They recently conducted an assessment including the needs and experiences of the community you can access it at: [http://www.satrang.org/NeedsAssessmentReport.pdf](http://www.satrang.org/NeedsAssessmentReport.pdf). They also have a great website, resources of SAQ organizations.


**Articles:**


