

Semester in Review, Spring 2009

Compiled by Lynn Wang ('09 CASA President) on August 18, 2009

ROSTER OF BOARD MEMBERS

President	Lynn Wang (TD '11)
Vice President	Bing Luo (PC '11)
Secretary	Nicole Hui (TC '12)
Treasurer	Mike Zhan (SM '12)
Cultural Chair	Zach Liao (MC '12)
Political Chair	Tim Xu (BC '12)
Publicity Chair	Juliana Zhou (MC '12)
Community Chairs	Lisa Pan (CC '12)
	Amy Wu (PC '12)
Social Chairs	Daniel Ni (DC '12)
	Wendy Wang (CC '12)
Communications Chair	Sherwin Yu (MC '12)

Note: Board was expanded to include a co-Community Chair, co-Social chair, and Publicity Chair through an application and interview process.

SUMMARY: SPRING '09

CASA not only offers a platform for members to bond socially, but it also aims to promote Chinese American culture to the entire campus. Spring '09 was a very productive semester, as detailed by the events below.

TURNOVER BANQUET

The first CASA event, the annual Turnover Banquet, took place on Sunday, January 25th at the restaurant Royal Palace. With well over 40 attendees, the event was a great success. After the meal, the board showed a video clip as a tribute to the 2008 board. Gifts were then exchanged between new and old board members. Each 2008 board member received personalized mug with CASA pictures and decorations.

RED MADNESS, A CHINESE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

Following the first event closely was Red Madness, a Chinese New Year's celebration that CASA held in collaboration with the Chinese Undergraduate Students at Yale (CUSY) on Monday, January 26th in the Commons dining hall. The event had won \$2000 for finishing in second place in the UOFC Spring 5k Competition. With the funding, as well as an additional \$1000 from the AACC, CASA and CUSY rented out Commons for an evening, requested the STiR menu, bought Chinese snacks to distribute to passing students, purchased decorations to create a festive atmosphere, and invited a New York lion dance troupe, martial arts group, and Peking opera group to perform for the students. Attendance was superb. Most tables were crowded with students and the line for food stretched past the performance stage.

VALENTINE'S DAY FUNDRAISER

In preparation for Valentine's Day, CASA held a large strawberry fundraiser. Board members spent the week before Valentine's Day tabling throughout the dining halls to sell \$3 boxes of chocolate-covered strawberries containing three each. A total of 239 boxes were sold, generating \$687 of revenue. Five flats of strawberries (totaling over 1,000) were purchased for \$100 from Yale Produce through the Timothy Dwight dining staff, and all chocolate-dipping and gift wrapping procedures were completed on the night of February 13th. The finished packages were delivered on the morning of February 14th and the remaining strawberries sold at a discount during further tabling sessions. In short, this event was one of CASA's most successful fundraisers in history.

NOODLE NIGHT

On Saturday February 28th, CASA held Noodle Night for the first time to showcase four types of Chinese noodle-based cuisine to the student body. Board members spent Friday night and all of Saturday cooking a combination of Dan Dan Mian, Zha Jiang Mian, Ma Yi Shang Shu, and a vegetarian rice noodle dish. Over 60 people attended, with \$4 presale and \$5 general admission tickets generating \$281 of revenue.

CASPY AND SPRING CULTURE SHOW, "SCHOOL OF WOK"

The end of March and early April led to the traditionally two biggest events of the semester: CASPY and Culture Show. CASPY, held on Saturday, March 28, 2009, was yet again a great

success, with over 70 families and 90 big sibs attending. Culture Show was held the following Saturday, on April 4th. Titled "School of Wok," the two-hour medley of action, song, and dance followed the storyline of a young boy who enters a cooking competition to win a chance to meet Taiwanese pop star Jolin Tsai. Over 100 students filled Sudler Hall, and the show was well received by an enthusiastic audience. A successful application to the Sudler Fund provided the necessary financing.

SENIOR BANQUET

Wrapping up the semester was the CASA Senior Banquet on Friday, April 24th, at Zaroka. About fifteen seniors attended, and each received both a free meal and a gift bag with pictures and videos of past CASA events and culture shows. All expenses were paid for by CASA.

SMALL SOCIAL EVENTS

As outlined at the beginning of the semester, the new board intended to increase CASA's small events to promote greater internal cohesion. The spring semester realized these plans in the form of three events. The first was a cupcake study break on Thursday, February 12th. Members gathered in a dormitory room on Old Campus to eat cupcakes baked by the board while watching "The Office." The second was a movie screening of *Fearless*, starring Jet Li, on Thursday, April 9th. The last was a joint Bubble Tea info session held with the Korean American Students at Yale (KASY) on Monday, April 20th, during Bulldog Days. All three small events were well attended and served as a platform for social bonding between members.

SMALL POLITICAL EVENTS

Furthermore, CASA took the initiative to spearhead two innovative political events featuring Yale faculty members specializing in topics related to Chinese American culture and history. On Wednesday, February 11th, 2009, CASA held a dinner with Professor Daniel Tauss, lecturer on Chinese political philosophy. Over a dozen attendees came to the inaugural event. The success of the event encouraged CASA to organize a second dinner roundtable with Jonathan Spence, a former Yale professor on the history of modern China, on Wednesday, April 8th. Attendance was excellent, topping 25.

LOOKING AHEAD: FALL '09

TRADITIONAL EVENTS

After an innovative, successful spring semester, CASA has an exciting fall semester planned. Kicking off the new term will be a general meeting on Wednesday, September 9th, to give all members an overview of the fall calendar and a chance to sign up for activities. Freshman liaison elections, CASA family pairings, and a brand new CASAssins tournament will take place the following Wednesday on September 16th. These events will lead up to one of fall's biggest events, Family Olympics, on Saturday, October 3rd, in which families compete against each other in fun activities for the ultimate prize. As always, CASPY will take place on the first Saturday of November, the 7th.

NEW EVENTS

CASA is also finalizing plans to bring two Chinese American stars to campus. The first is a mid-October Master's Tea with Harry Wu, an author on Chinese political atrocities who spent most of his 20's in a Chinese labor camp. The second will feature a performance by Wong Fu Productions in early November. CASA expects that both events will draw large numbers of attendees.

At the semester's close, we plan to bring back CASA Idol, offering an opportunity for students to show off their talents.

FALL 2009 TENTATIVE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 9/5
Freshman BBQ with AA groups

Wednesday 9/9
First General Meeting

Friday 9/11
Freshman Liaison Ice Cream Social

Wednesday 9/16
Freshman Liaison Elections
Family Pairing
CASAssins Start

Friday 9/25
CASAssins finish

OCTOBER

Saturday 10/3 (Mid-Autumn Festival)
Family Olympics

Saturday 10/17
Brunch with Alumni

Friday 10/23
Harry Wu Master's Tea

NOVEMBER

Saturday 11/7
CASPY

Friday 11/13
Wong Fu Productions

Tuesday 11/17
CASA 2010 Board Elections

Friday 11/20
Harvard/Yale mixer

DECEMBER

Friday 12/4 (Reading period starts)
CASA Idol