Wong Fu Revolution!

After taking over YouTube, the trio faces its next biggest challenge — answering your questions. >> page 4

Life is an ‘invisible prison’ for many undocumented APA students. >> PAGE 3

In the game of chess, Hikaru Nakamura’s got game. Can you take him on? >> PAGE 5
Dreaming of a Brighter Future

Without comprehensive immigration reform, many young APA students are not eligible for financial aid or other basic services. They say the DREAM Act is the only way out of their 'invisible prison.'
If passed, the DREAM Act would provide a conditional path to citizenship for undocumented young people who were brought to the U.S. before the age of 16.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Twenty-nine-year-old Jong-Min said he lives in an invisible prison and has seen firsthand the limitations of being an undocumented citizen.

The Korean American cannot register to vote, obtain a driver’s license, work legally, receive financial aid or return to his home country.

Jong-Min said his family moved to Tennessee from South Korea on a visa when he was just one year old. The visa eventually expired, unbeknownst to him. Jong-Min, who wished to only be identified by his first name, found out at 17 that he was an “undocumented alien.”

“My story is about what happens after you receive all of that schooling,” Jong-Min said of being an undocumented citizen, who completed college. “This is for the other dreamers too. It’s not only for me it’s for them, too.”

The 29-year-old graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Tennessee. He graduated nearly six years ago and now does odd jobs to make a living. He works at his parent’s grocery store, at a flower shop and sometimes a pizza restaurant. The Korean American has dreams of one day becoming a federal judge.

Jong-Min is one of thousands of “dreamers” who stands to gain if the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors, or the DREAM Act, is passed by Congress this year. An estimated 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school each year, according to the National Immigration Law Center.

A similar act was first introduced to Congress in 2001, but failed to pass. The 2009 DREAM Act would provide a conditional path to citizenship for young people who were brought to the United States before the age of 16 as undocumented immigrants.

But some say the act would only reward lawbreakers.

“The absence of a benefit is not the same as a punishment,” said Ira Mehlman, national media director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, or FAIR. “Any time parents break the law it has consequences for their children. If I don’t pay my taxes and the IRS freezes my assets it’s going to affect my children.”

The Dreamers

Most supporters of the DREAM Act say without the legislation higher education for undocumented students is difficult, if not unattainable.

Undocumented students have limited options for college because they cannot receive financial aid or work legally.

Only a few states have passed legislation to offer in-state tuition for undocumented students. Those states include California, Texas, New York, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, among others.

“FAIR has opposed the DREAM Act as an amnesty for a large segment of the illegal population. It winds up rewarding people who broke the law,” Mehlman said. “You also have to remember we are dealing with a finite amount of money ... We are taking away resources for people who broke the laws.”

Opponents of the act say it is a massive give-away to finance illegal immigrants’ college education.

Others argue that the children of immigrants should not be punished. Most young undocumented students say they did not realize their citizenship status until after high school.

Twenty-year-old Wendy, who wished to only be identified by her first name, is a junior at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Japanese Latin American arrived in California at 13 from Peru, where she became concerned about the crime rate after being mugged.

“I was out in the street and this guy came over to me,” Wendy explained. “He took my money and my bicycle. I was scared because it happened firsthand to me. It was scary because he told me he had a gun.” Her family flew to the U.S. on a visitor’s visa, which eventually expired.

Wendy said people’s fear of immigration reform, like the DREAM Act, only limits the lives of others.

“If they are fearful it just means that they don’t really want other people to succeed and other people to be happy,” Wendy said, in a tear-choked voice. “There’s nothing to fear. If more people are in a better situation and more people can succeed, there’s going to be more opportunities for everyone.”

Wendy became involved with the DREAM Act after joining the Improving Dreams Equality Access and Success, or IDEAS. It was a group where Wendy finally felt free of the stigma of being an “illegal alien.”

Kent Wong, director of the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education, estimates that there are 700 undocumented students at UCLA. Most of the undocumented students in the U.S. are Asian and Latino. Forty percent are Asians.

“We are losing a generation of talented, committed, brilliant and young people who want to contribute to our society,” Wong said. “They find this cruel irony. They have done everything our society has asked them to do. They have excelled in school, yet because of their status they are barred from most of the opportunities.”

Jong-Min said his status has relegated him to the underground economy.

“I think I was 17 when I found out that I was undocumented. I couldn’t do this hospital program. I didn’t have proof of residency,” Jong-Min explained.

He became publicly involved in the DREAM Act after college, getting his photograph in the newspaper.

“My picture was in the paper and my mom got mad because she didn’t want people to notice her,” Jong-Min said. “When you’re Asian, you usually don’t talk about it. Maybe I want to change all that. This is obviously a huge problem with our community.”

Proponents of the DREAM Act believe President Barack Obama's support of immigration reform is a good sign.

Dreamers are optimistic with the promise of new DREAM Act co-sponsors such as Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo. and Rep. Melvin Watts, D-N.C. The Senate and House introduced the DREAM Act on March 26. Supporters of the legislation, like Jong-Min, hope legislators hear their stories.

The 29-year-old said his life is in limbo without comprehensive immigration reform.

"Being undocumented is like being in an invisible jail." — Jong-Min (pictured above), who found out at 17 that he was undocumented.

"Being undocumented is like being in an invisible jail." — Jong-Min (pictured above), who found out at 17 that he was undocumented.

The United We Dream Network will hold a ‘Back-to-School Campaign’ Sept. 23. For more information, visit www.ucnlc.org.
From Online Filmmakers to Entrepreneurs

Their online videos and fan base are exploding. Now "Wong Fu Productions' Philip Wang, Ted Fu and Wesley Chan answer the questions you've always wanted to know.

It seems like just yesterday that Philip Wang, Ted Fu and Wesley Chan were running around their University of California, San Diego campus with a video camera shooting "Yellow Fever," a 2006 short comedic take on interracial dating that took YouTube by storm and launched Wong Fu Productions. Blink and the men behind Wong Fu Productions are entrepreneurs. Since graduating from UCSD, they've built an impressive list of achievements, including a trip to the Cannes Film Festival to rub elbows with Hollywood's elite.

Philip, Ted and Wesley have succeeded in turning their passion for filmmaking into a thriving career. Along the way, they've been breaking down barriers for Asian Pacific Americans in the media one online video at a time. And now, they're sharing the wealth with other young APAs who have dreams of striking out on their own.

Fresh off of their successful International Secret Agent Concert, Philip, Ted and Wesley tackle questions submitted by you — JACL and APA youth — on topics ranging from filmmaking to identity. It's everything you wanted to know about Wong Fu Productions. And as always, the trio speaks with one united voice.

— Pacific Citizen Staff

How did the idea for Wong Fu Productions originate, and did you expect it to become as big as it is?
— Tomomi Amanaka, 19, La Jolla, Calif.

WONG FU PRODUCTIONS: We didn't really start Wong Fu Productions with a direct idea or intention in mind. We just started making videos for fun. This was in 2003, before YouTube, so when we finished a short or music video and wanted to share it with friends, we'd send them an actual file to download. This is how our first videos started to get passed around — strictly word of mouth. The fan base just grew very gradually. We never would have expected it'd be like it is now. We're definitely very grateful and a little lucky we started at a good time.

What is the message that you would like to convey through your films?
— Amy Shirzaki, 17, San Diego JACL

WFP: Each video has a different message, but overall, we just want to tell good stories in a good way. There's so many online videos out there, and we hope ours stand out not only because of the stories but also because of the quality. We're always trying to improve and learn more. We also try to have relatively positive themes and messages in our videos. There are so many bad influences out in the media, and we don't necessarily feel like we need to add to it. Haha.

What made you go into filmmaking when the industry is so difficult for APAs to break into? And what specifically about your ancestry influences your filmmaking?
— Michelle Hirose, 24, Venice-Culver JACL

WFP: We didn't really think about how hard the industry would be towards APAs when we started, because truthfully, we didn't know. We weren't exposed to that. Not 'til we got out here and saw and heard from our peers did we really understand the struggle. Luckily for us we have great supporters and fans, and we don't necessarily need to rely on what Hollywood will "give" us. We can take matters into our own hands.

In terms of how our ancestry influences our work, I'd say just the way we were brought up by our immigrant parents in a lifestyle that's "Asian American," which is reflected in our characters and the way we write stories. Though we do feel and hope that the emotions or humor we try to depict in our videos cross all racial borders.

What would you say is your greatest accomplishment as a group so far?
— Megan Sadake, 21, San Diego, Calif.

WFP: We are pretty proud that we were able to make our first feature-length film in our fourth year in college with just the three of us. Afterwards we took it on a 40-university, cross-continental tour. Also, going to the Cannes Film Festival for two of our short films last year was nice. Most recently, we're most proud of our feature on CNN's "Headline News." We had fans in Malaysia saying they saw us on TV at the airport.

How is your work on APAs influenced by mainstream pop culture, which is often divided into a black-white dichotomy?
— Jessica Kawamura, 24, Berkeley JACL

WFP: Our work is more influenced by our own lives and experiences than mainstream pop culture. I mean, we can appreciate good stuff that's out there, but we don't really look at it with race in mind. If something is good, beautiful or funny — we see it for what it is — not because it's white or black. In the same way, we hope people can see our work and not focus on the fact that we're Asian so this must be "Asian-y," but just that we're trying to do good work. We feel this is the best way to represent.

Wong Fu Productions has made several music videos. Are there any particular music video directors who have influenced your style?
— Todd Kushigemachi, 20, South Bay JACL

WFP: We can't say our music video catalogue is very extensive, so our style hasn't really been developed, but usually when we are planning out music videos, we definitely do research and bring up various videos and ask, "How can we do something like that?" Or "Let's make sure we DON'T do this." Haha. One thing we typically

See WONG FU/Page 16
No Fear Chess

Grand master chess player Hikaru Nakamura started playing the game as a child. He is now one of the top 16 players in the world.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Grand master Hikaru Nakamura has realized through playing professional chess for over a decade that some of life’s greatest lessons can be learned from one’s failures. "If you lose enough times and have the mindset to get better, then the fear of losing goes away," explained U.S. Chess Champion Nakamura over the phone from his home in Seattle, Wash. "Once you have the fear leave, you can get better."

And he did.

Nakamura, 21, started playing professional chess when he was seven. At 10 he was named chess "master," the youngest American to ever hold the title. Then at 15 years, one month and 27 days, he beat Bobby Fischer’s record as the youngest American grand master. Nakamura earned the title after winning the Bermuda International Chess Festival.

Grand master, or GM, is the highest title a chess player can earn. The designation is given to chess players who have international ratings of 2,500, among other requirements. Nakamura’s FIDE, or Federation Internationale Des Echecs, rating is 2,735 to date. But Nakamura did not always win.

"My very first tournament I lost all four games," Nakamura explained about playing chess as a child. "It made me angry." Nakamura’s parents removed him from the sport for about a year when he became increasingly frustrated with losing. After a respite, Nakamura hit the chess circuit again with greater success.

The Hapa chess player, who is half Japanese, proved his prowess in chess again this year when he won the U.S. Chess Championship for the second time. The first time he won was in 2005. And he is not slowing down any time soon.

It is perhaps no wonder that Nakamura has been called the "best blitz player," or fast-speed chess player. His chess schedule recently has been hectic and hurried, with trips to Germany and Japan. Nakamura said he is feeling the impact of his on-the-go itinerary.

"Yeah, I did get sick," Nakamura said, his voice noticeably hoarse during a phone call to the Pacific Citizen after returning home from traveling abroad. "It’s bound to happen. Sooner or later it’s bound to catch up with you."

"Usually it’s not that busy. From about the first week of May, I was more or less playing something with the exception of about a week. This one was definitely different from past summers."

American Chess Prodigy

Nakamura was born in Japan in 1987 to a Japanese father and a Caucasian mother. When Nakamura was born, his mother met his stepfather. His brother, Asuka, was once the best chess player in his age group.

"My brother started playing in kindergarten. He was very talented," Nakamura explained. "And through chess my mom met my stepfather."

His brother, Asuka, was once the best chess player in his age group.

Sunil Weeramantry, Nakamura’s stepfather, is also well known as one of the best scholastic chess coaches in the U.S. It was Nakamura’s experience going to chess tournaments with his stepfather and brother that first piqued his interest in the game.

At the 1994 U.S. Open in Concord, Calif. Nakamura played chess in the Skittles Room, an area with a series of chess tables. Soon Nakamura honed his talent and excelled past his stepfather and brother. But Nakamura’s focus on chess has had limitations.

"Having a girlfriend is kind of difficult," Nakamura said in response to a question about his love life. "The few times I’ve tried, my chess went down quickly. At some point, sooner or later I’ll probably get married."

Nakamura’s style of chess has been called, "aggressive and relentless." They are terms he does not refute. His chess personality is the exact opposite of how he tries to be outside of chess tournaments, said Nakamura.

"Playing chess, I’m very intense. I tend to be very anti-social," Nakamura explained. "I want to win and have no distraction. I remember there was a time when Roger Clemens said, ‘On the field these players are my enemies and off they’re my friends.’ That’s the sort of attitude I have."

It is an attitude that has paid off. Nakamura pocketed $40,000 for his win at the U.S. Chess Championship this year. Despite his recent success, Nakamura said there are pluses and minuses to chess.

"I would say on the plus side you get to travel so much. I’ve already seen more of the world than most people will see in their lifetime. It kind of opens your eyes to what the world is like," Nakamura said.

There are also drawbacks to traveling frequently. "When you travel so much you don’t have the opportunities to make friends who live in the same areas as you do," Nakamura told the PC. He is playing in the U.S. Chess League now, but will not compete "seriously" until October.

For now, the New York transplant is getting settled in his new home in Seattle. He drove four days across country from New York with his mother.

One day he hopes to go into finance like some of his other chess mates, taking the lessons he has learned from about 14 years of chess play.

"Getting to be a master at the age of 10, it sort of proves to yourself that you can do something if you want it bad enough."

At 15, Hikaru Nakamura beat Bobby Fischer’s record as the youngest American chess grand master.
Nikkei Identity Across the Americas

FOR YEARS, THE subject Nikkei identity has been a major topic addressed by youth. (Who am I?) Graduation from high school or college often means looking ahead. Those interested in their culture and heritage naturally lean on an East-West dimension — across the Pacific to Japan. But often I have suggested a North-South dimension. We are all Nikkei beyond our borders. It is refreshing to travel and listen to youth groups.

With Nikkei journalists in South America, the ice-breaking questions began with: a.) What's the population? b.) Who were the first Japanese immigrants? Then came stories of why. Often the tales held a similar vein — of Issei struggles as well as contributions toward nation. Among journalists, numbers can be in the ballpark, but here Akemi Kikumura-Yano's "Encyclopedia of Japanese Descendants in the Americas" (2002) is our source for population.

WHAT WE FOUND while visiting three countries was the historical aspects surrounding Nikkei identity:

Argentina — The first Japanese (Kimio Makino) arrived in 1886 aboard an English ship in Buenos Aires and prospered as a flower grower in Cordoba. More Japanese trudged over the snow-covered Andes from Peru and Bolivia in the 1910s. The plight of hundreds of Nikkei discriminated was startling. They demonstrated against Dictator Peron in the 1970s and 7,000 Nikkei marched to defend the Islas Malvinas (Falkland Islands) in 1982.

Japanese population (2006) is estimated at 23,000.

Brazil — In 1908, 783 Japanese immigrants landed at Santos and were dispatched to coffee plantations. Brazil's open immigration policy preceded families; 23 percent of the first group were married. The following decade, Japanese cleared virgin forests for railroad lines and stations into the interior and opened new plantations.

After our Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924, both Japan and Brazil subsidized Japanese immigration through 1935, when a new constitution shut down all immigration, foreign language press and schools. During World War II, many Brazilian Nisei fought in Italy breaching the Gothic Line. Japanese population is estimated at 1.75 million, the most in one nation outside Japan.

Canada — First Japanese in Canada (Manzo Naganuma) jumped ship in 1877, became a longshoreman in Gastown, Vancouver before opening a store in Victoria in 1890.

Japanese, Chinese and Asian Indians were welcomed at the turn of the century. It reached its apex in the race riot of 1907 in Vancouver, "sufficiently serious for Ottawa ... to restrict immigration, despite the terms of Anglo-Japanese trade treaty which allowed free entry of Japanese into Canada," as one learns from Ken Adachi's "The Enemy that Never Was" (1991).

One Issei editor came to light. When publisher Yasushi Yarnakazi of the Taikoku Nippo saw pictures of the white mob fleeing from banzai-shouting Japanese, who fought back during the 1907 race riot, he regarded the Japanese in Canada as different from those in the homeland — more independent and free-thinking.

Yarnakazi in 1915 appealed to young men to organize a Japanese Volunteer Corps to serve in the Canadian Army "for the betterment of all Japanese in Canada and for world peace." Roy Ito summarizes in his book, "We Went to War" (1984) that 174 Japanese Canadians — all naturalized citizens — were sent to France. Fifty four were killed in action. 12 came back unharmed; the rest suffered injuries. Names of the 54 are engraved at the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Vancouver.

The WWII evacuation was similar (only more severe, many argue), though the numbers were not: 21,000 in Canada versus 110,000 in the U.S.


Comparison of lives and experiences in the Americas shows how Nikkei identity can be a vibrant study and perhaps lead to a career, if not avocation.

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.
Recognizing the Brightest Young Leaders

The tradition of National JACL Scholarships and Awards Program began in 1946. This year, 24 JACLers were recognized.

National JACL recently announced the recipients of its 2009 scholarship program. This year JACL awarded 24 scholarships totaling $59,000.

On behalf of National JACL, Scholarship Committee Chair Carol Kawamoto expressed her appreciation to the Chicago Chapter, and committee of Pacific Northwest District chapters for their assistance with the 2009 national scholarship program.

Chicago Chapter volunteers who evaluated the freshman applications were: Ron Yoshino (chair), Pat Harada, Joyce Morimoto, Lisa Sakai, Pat Yuzawa-Rubin and Ellie Olin.

The PNW Committee evaluated the undergraduate, graduate, law, creative and performing arts and financial aid applications. They were: Joy Misako St. Germain, Seattle Chapter volunteer and chair; Sheldon Arakaki, JACL vice president of general operations and Lake Washington Chapter president; and Kayomi Wada, Puyallup Valley Chapter volunteer.

JACL thanks them for their time and effort. The assessment process was challenging because so many talented students submitted high-quality applications.

We hope all of the applicants successfully complete their academic pursuits and achieve their career goals.

Below are excerpts from the winning essays. Some address the question: "What would you do to make the JACL more relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans?"

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ’09 WINNERS
**FRESHMAN AWARDS**

**Henry & Chiyo Kuwashara Memorial Scholarship**

Michael Jeffrey Loy  
Portland Chapter  
Harvey Mudd College

"As the band watched the eyes of internees light up during our performance, we dedicated our music to their strength, perseverance and spirit of 'ganbatte.' By listening to the stories of my grandparents, researching Japanese history, participating in Asian community events and connecting with young and old through music and song, the relevance of JACL became real to me as I gained a greater sense of identity, heritage and purpose. Recognizing that my ancestors' sacrifices resulted in the freedom and liberty that we enjoy today, I am committed to keeping the spirit of the Minidoka Swing Band alive as an embodiment of their enduring spirit and as a reminder to my generation and future generations that the bridge to civil liberties and democratic ideals must never be crossed by intolerance and injustice."

**Shigeki ‘Shake’ Ushio Memorial Leadership Scholarship**

Justin Kyoto Batcheller  
Diablo Valley Chapter  
University of California, Berkeley

"Change is the trendy mantra of the day. JACL needs to embrace this challenge, by encouraging students with small grants to start clubs on their campuses to raise awareness of social injustices, and have the students give back to their community by doing service projects together. I think giving students an opportunity to serve others instead of their own self-interests is vital to developing one's character. My favorite quote is from 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' when Atticus Finch tells Scout, 'If you just learn a single trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.' JACL can offer students the chance to engage in activities together, not just understanding Asian Americans, but people of all races and their cultures."

**Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship**

Kristina Megumi Kihara Hart  
Sacramento Chapter  
University of California, Berkeley

"But my generation today cannot only rely on family stories to stay identified with its Asian heritage. So, in order to continue to preserve Japanese cultural heritage in my generation of Asian Americans, JACL must be promoted in a way that appeals to those my age. Today is a completely media driven society, and most of the younger generation heavily relies on this source to communicate, stay informed, and interact with the world. One of the most accessible sources of media is the internet; JACL could use sites such as YouTube.com, Facebook.com, and Twitter.com as conduits to promote its mission and get information to the younger generation heavily relies on this source." 

"First, create literature for parents and kids about being Hapa. One of the biggest problems for multiracial children is that even their parents don't understand their identity struggle. Parents need information about what their Hapa children may experience such as how to explain their multiple races or ethnicities and how to balance them. Kids need material about how they can create their own identities. It is important that this material is applicable to many age groups; the younger a child feels comfortable with their multiple races or ethnicities and how to balance them."

**Mitsuyuki Yonemura Memorial Scholarship**

Lisa Doi  
Chicago Chapter  
University of Pennsylvania

"What do Apple iPods, Walgreens' 24 hour services, and flies all have in common? They are everywhere. Apple iPod's vibrant billboards are in every major city while their commercials permeate the digital airwaves to dominate commercial times. Walgreens has expanded to emulate the "neighborhood pharmacy feel" while remaining a large corporation. Flies? That is self-explanatory. The three also have incredible ease of access — Walgreens thrives on being convenient. The three have aesthetically pleasing designs. Look closely at a fly's wings and you will see nature's work. Consequently, it is not surprising that all three are very successful in the modern world when they have excellent publicity, product placement, and product design. The same ideas can be applied to the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) through a multifaceted, technology-based program to promote relevancy to and increase involvement of the younger generation of Americans."

Justin Batcheller (center) balanced academics with football at Campolindo High.
Chromatic identity, the better. Second, promote projects such as Kip Fulbeck's 'Part Asian, 100% Hapa.' This exhibit and book, which I saw at the Japanese American National Museum a few years ago, helps to bring the concept of a mixed race into the mainstream. Finally, and most importantly, create forums for Hapa children to get together and discuss what it means to be Hapa.

This gathering can foster discussion of what it means to be Hapa and where we fit in the Japanese American community and outside of it.

**Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship**

David Fukunaga
Portland Chapter
Willamette University

"I'm not really sure what I would do to make the JACL more relevant to Asian American youth. However, one thing that really stands out to me is the name, 'Japanese American Citizens League.' The name implies ethnic exclusiveness, even though this is not a requirement. Also, this prompt asks about Asian American community and out

**Mas & Majiu Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship**

Alisha T. Green
Portland Chapter
Willamette University

"For the past two years, I have been a member of a JACL youth group called Unite People. We are a group of high school students from all over the Portland area, who are all interested in not only fighting social injustice directed toward Japanese Americans, but to all social and ethnic groups throughout Oregon. As it says in our group's mission statement, we strive to "secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people and we frequently participate in the development of understanding between all social and ethnic groups." As a group, we take part in various Asian American events held throughout Oregon where we educate others on the discrimination Asian Americans have faced; we frequently volunteer in the Asian American community; we are involved in a larger youth group that brings together youth of different ethnic groups; and we study about Japanese American Civil Rights issues, specifically during the time of the Second World War. Through our group's work, we have helped to fight discrimination against all ethnic and social groups and little by little are working to help make our community a better place to live."

**Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship**

Caroline Shizuko Chao
Berkeley Chapter
University of Pennsylvania

"Community service is required by most high schools, and many students enjoy giving back to their community. In order to create bonds between each other and the JACL mission, the JACL could organize group trips to volunteer at various Asian non-profit organizations such as Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, Kinochi, and the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California. Also, the JACL could organize students to volunteer to work on the campaigns of Asian American candidates or elected officials. With the recent election of President Obama, many youth, including many Asian Americans, have a renewed interest in politics, and if they knew more about Asian American candidates and issues that affect the Asian American community, they may be more likely to get involved in JACL."

**Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship**

Sydney M. Shiroysama
Sequoia Chapter
University of California, Los Angeles

"Being a member of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, I am often surrounded by older Japanese Americans. I love to attend Sunday services mostly because of the people there. I believe that JACL can achieve youth involvement in a similar way that our temple has — by finding a balance between educational opportunities, and fun activities with friends, such as game nights or socials, and opportunities to learn, such as multi-generational activities where children bond with the senior citizens and become comfortable enough to share stories and learn from each other."
MEMORIAL UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Matthew Teshima
Chicago Chapter
University of Notre Dame

I recognize the recruitment of young, active members as necessary for the organization’s survival. Though young, this generation of Asian Americans should be given all the resources necessary for the organization’s Chicago Chapter membership as necessary for the organization’s mission. I am interested in using my skills to serve the Japanese American community, specifically Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. As a fourth generation Japanese American, I am also eager to reconnect with my heritage. I am also interested in studying and practicing traditional and contemporary Japanese architecture. I would love the opportunity to bridge the architectural worlds of Japan and the United States. Beyond architecture I also intend to remain committed to the Japanese American community.”

Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Nobuko R. Kodama Fong Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

University of California, Los Angeles

Upon the completion of my studies at UCLA, I intend to pursue a career in architecture and urban design. Drawing upon my studies in Japanese and Asian American Studies, and my experience within the Nikkei Student Union, I am interested in using my skills to serve the Japanese American community, specifically Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. As a fourth generation Japanese American, I am also eager to reconnect with my heritage. I am also interested in studying and practicing traditional and contemporary Japanese architecture. I would love the opportunity to bridge the architectural worlds of Japan and the United States. Beyond architecture I also intend to remain committed to the Japanese American community.”

Peter Yamamura
Lake Washington Chapter
University of Washington, Seattle

As a member of the younger generation of Asian Americans, I am grateful for the opportunities always presented in front of me. Growing up I kept busy playing four sports a year, going to piano lessons, attending church events, and of course, working hard in school. Filling in the rest of my time with friends created a really hectic schedule. But after passing through early adolescence and maturing into my teenage years, a lot of these activities that kept me busy quickly faded away. I had to focus on certain activities in hopes of not spreading myself too thin. A theme I have continued to live by is best summed up by the word ‘fun.’ In the case of JACL, make it fun and they will come! I am going to focus on three principles to help make JACL ‘fun.’ The first principle we must implement is leadership. Students must strive to become better leaders in the Japanese American community as well as in their respective communities, and JACL programs must play a contributing role in helping youth become better leaders. The second principle we must implement is community. A main reason why I joined JACL was to find a Japanese American community. Students who are Japanese American will be interested in their Japanese American community if they see activities and programs they enjoy. The third principle we must implement is social. Youth need an outlet to relieve stress and have a good time. JACL should function to provide this for its youth. Tie these all together, and I think we would have a ‘fun’ and more relevant JACL. Lastly, it is important to recognize that for the youth programs to be successful, the current JACL leaders must believe in the youth and be willing to strive for these principles.”

Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Nate has always been a Pacific Citizen

We wish to express our appreciation to the JACL

Jane Randall
Nate Imai

Congratulations 2009 national scholarship winners!

— Intermountain District Council JACL

Congratulations to all 2009 scholarship winners!

Northern California, Western Nevada, Pacific District Council

www.jacl-ncwnp.org
Mallory Matsumoto
Stockton Chapter
Cornell University

"In order to draw more young people to the organization, the JACL should undertake a program of education that is focused on raising awareness among youth of the continued discrimination that many Americans face. There exists among the younger generation the misguided assumption that discrimination has been formally desegregated for the current United States: schools have undertaken a program of desegregation created by Executive Order 9066 following the events of September 11, 2001, seems to have died down. However, instances of bigotry and bias, many of which unfortunately go unreported, still occur daily across the country in response to an individual's religious, ethnic, cultural, or gender background. Drawing attention to this current issue will heighten interest among younger Asian Americans in the JACL and its mission, once they realize that the organization is a very important voice within the American community."

Saburo Kido Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Makiko Newton

Portland Chapter
Pacific University

"My professional goal is to become a doctor, possibly specializing in family and general practice, and I have an interest in integrating my Japanese language skills with my career. Speaking two languages, Japanese and English, and engaging in community activities through JACL has given me a broader sense of the world and appreciation for diversity — an attribute that has further strengthened my passion for medicine. In such a diverse country like America, doctors must be culturally competent and be able to relate to patients coming from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. With the skill set that I have built on and will continue to develop in the years to come, I hope to provide the type of care that best addresses each patient's cultural needs. I want to be a doctor who truly understands the values and perspective of patients."

Saburo Kido Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Portland Chapter
Pacific University

"My professional goal is to become a doctor, possibly specializing in family and general practice, and I have an interest in integrating my Japanese language skills with my career. Speaking two languages, Japanese and English, and engaging in community activities through JACL has given me a broader sense of the world and appreciation for diversity — an attribute that has further strengthened my passion for medicine. In such a diverse country like America, doctors must be culturally competent and be able to relate to patients coming from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. With the skill set that I have built on and will continue to develop in the years to come, I hope to provide the type of care that best addresses each patient's cultural needs. I want to be a doctor who truly understands the values and perspective of patients."

Makiko Newton

PSW JACL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Natsumi Imai,
Venice-Culver Chapter

Christine Fukushima,
San Fernando Valley Chapter

Congrats to the 2009 JACL scholarship winners!

WWW.JACLPSW.ORG

PORTLAND JACL SUPPORTS OUR YOUTH

We're so proud of our National JACL scholarship winners!

MICHAEL LOY
Henry & Chiyoko Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

JUSTIN OTANI
Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Scholarship

ALISHA GREEN
Mas & Maju Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship

DAVID FUKUNAGA
Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

MARIKO NEWTON
Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations & best of luck!

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP ISSUE

SEPT. 18-OCT. 1, 2009

JACL MIDWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Brandon Mita, Chicago & Washington, D.C. chapters
winner of the Grace Akahata Memorial Scholarship

Lisa Doi, Chicago Chapter
winner of the Mitsuaki Yonemura Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Teshima, Chicago Chapter
winner of the Henry & Chiyoko Kuwahara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

University of Hartford, Connecticut

"My interest in the public and social service sector is in education. For the past eight years, I have been working as a teacher in the Hartford Public School District in Connecticut. Prior to teaching, I worked at the Institute for Community Research's National Teen Action Research Center, training youth in community-based action research projects in order to address issues in their communities. Hartford has one of the highest poverty rates in the U.S. and highest drop out rates. I am committed to working in urban settings, and through my role as an educator, I am involved in many activities around the United States — Japan relations and human/civil rights. As an educator, the students are very aware of my pride in Japanese culture and being Japanese American. I try to use my experiences in Japan to provide opportunities for students in Connecticut to learn about Japanese culture. I also hope that as an educator, I am always raising awareness about human and civil rights, engaging students in activities and developing the skills and knowledge they need to advocate for issues of concern to them."

Minoru Yasui Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Eri Hashimoto-Martell
New England Chapter
Boston College

"I was first involved with my local JACL chapter (Eden Township, CA) as a child. I grew up playing basketball, participating in the annual Christmas program, doing mochitsuki in December, and running track in the..."
Reverend H. John Yamashita Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Patrick Tokuyama
San Francisco Chapter
University of California, San Francisco

I had the privilege of studying abroad in Japan five summers ago, which has been the most transforming experience of my life. It was my first time traveling to Japan without my parents as a means to communicate. The immersion into Japanese society required Japanese to be spoken everywhere, all the time, to communicate, unlike the classroom or with my parents. I greatly improved on my communication skills and picked up some useful slang. By the time I was to return to America, I felt very comfortable exploring Japan independently and became more educated and aware of my ethnic background, which I value much more than I had before I left. I was one of the many people who lost their ethnic identity or chose to ignore it. Being raised in a predominantly white community, going to a university where half the student body was Asian was strange. My trip to Japan helped to strengthen my sense of ethnic identity; this is one of the main reasons I ended up establishing the Japanese American Health Professional Student Association at University of California, San Francisco. I hope to continue some type of international work for the rest of my life, and feel fortunate that I am in the health care field since it will enable me to work face-to-face with people from all over the world and make a positive difference in their lives."

Abe and Esther Hagiwara Student Aid Award

Miki Tomaru
New York Chapter
Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University

"My interest is psychology in Japan. More specifically, I am interested in raising awareness of psychological issues in the Japanese community. Growing up, I believe that I was lacking in resources in terms of mental health. I feel that the Japanese community, as a whole, is not familiar with and does not focus enough on mental health issues. I hope to pursue a career in which my training in school (clinical child psychology) will be applied to both the American and Japanese populations. I believe that my fluency in Japanese and my understanding of the Japanese culture will benefit me while working with a multi-cultural population."

LAW AWARDS

Grace Andow Memorial Scholarship

Brandon Mita
Chicago and Washington, D.C. Chapters

"I have developed a strong personal interest in both the language and culture in Japan. I lived..."
PACIFIC CITIZEN
SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP ISSUE
SEPT. 18-2009

and worked in Japan for four years. During that time, I learned about and experienced many of the cultural differences between mainland Japan, Okinawa and the United States. These experiences have led me to pursue an interest in Japanese and U.S. relations. This summer I plan to continue to develop this interest by spending a few weeks interning at a Japanese law firm in Tokyo that practices in maritime and international business law. I also have an interest in human rights and civil rights work. During my first year in law school, I have been a member of the Protective Order Project. The Protective Order Project helps battered women and other people obtain protective orders. I am also planning to use part of my summer to do a legal internship in Thailand where I will work on a variety of human rights issues."

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Creative Arts Scholarship

Hatsumi Yoshida
New York Chapter
State University of New York, Geneseo

PERFORMING ARTS AWARD

Aiko Susanna Tashiro
Hiratsuka Memorial Scholarship

Alexander Honjiyo
Lake Washington Chapter
Georgetown University

"I have been very active in the Asian Club at Preston High School (Bronx, New York), and have used every opportunity to share my Japanese heritage by sharing my talent for origami. I have used origami to make decorations for the National Honor Society induction dinners. I taught origami to the freshmen I mentored as junior ambassador last year and found it a good way to make new friends. I believe the people at my school have a greater respect and appreciation for Japanese arts and culture through my efforts. I have also worked hard to be a good leader by running for office and making positive contributions to the life of the school. Even though Asians are a very small minority at Preston, I want to show that we have something unique and valuable to contribute."

"What I hope to accomplish as a JACL member is to create additional opportunities for youth involvement in the organization while at the same time bringing more people into the League. I see this as vital elements in keeping the JACL relevant and current in today's changing world. As part of this effort to add interest in the JACL, I would like to help educate students about the Japanese American Citizens League — its vision and mission. Without an understanding about what the JACL is and what it does, there won't be any motivation for the next generation to get involved. So a goal of mine is to use my experience and the knowledge that I've gained from holding leadership positions in other organizations like the National Honor Society, International Thespians, and the Washington Association of Student Councils to make the JACL more attractive to the younger generation."

CONGRATULATIONS!

MICHAEL NISHIDA

From the board of the SAN FERNANDO JACL

CONGRATULATIONS!

MOLLY SERIZAWA

From the board of the SAN FERNANDO JACL

Hatsumi, Hats off to you! We're so proud of you!

Love,
Gerri & Peter

congrats on the scholarship, brandon!
now hurry up and graduate already.
we're waiting for our free legal advice!

love,
mom, dad, scott, and lane
Objects of Memory Community Collection Day

The JACL and the National Japanese American Historical Society will be digitally photographing objects of memory from the internment. Bring your historic documents and photos to these meetings:

Salinas Valley JACL
Sat., Sept 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church
536 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, CA
Contact: Myra Malaga
831/582-9548

Placer Country JACL
Sat., Sept 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Placer Buddhist Temple
3192 Boyington Road
Pennryn, CA
Contact: David Uruhue
530/682-9548

San Francisco JACL
Sat., Oct 3, 11 a.m-2 p.m.
JACL Headquarters
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA
Contact: Greg Marutani
415/641-1697

Midwest

Screening: 'Most Honorable Son'
MINNESOTA
Oct. 11, 2-4 p.m.
Minnesota History Center
3M Auditorium
The Twin Cities JACL presents a Bill Kubota documentary that details the life of Ben Kuroki, the first JA war hero.

Northern Calif.

Showing: 'White on Rice'
SAN JOSE, CA
Sept. 18-20
Camera 12 Theaters in
downtown San Jose
The San Jose JACL is sponsoring the showing of Dave Boyle’s latest film. Support the chapter’s youth programs by printing out the movie donation coupon online at www.sanjosejac.org.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL
75th Anniversary
Sun., Oct. 4
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Seascapes Golf Club Banquet Room
610 Clubhouse Dr
Aptos, CA 95003
The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL event will include guest speakers and a buffet lunch. $35 per person.
For info: Bobbi Jo Palmer, 831/840-5436 or Marcia Hashimoto, 831/722-6859, hashi79@sbcglobal.net

8th Annual Community Recognition Dinner
SAN JOSE, CA
Sat., Oct. 17, 5:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn
1740 North 1st St.
San Jose, 95112
Cost: $80 per person
"Continuing Commitment to Community" is the theme for the San Jose JACL's Recognition Dinner.
For tickets/info: 408/295-1250, sanjosejac@sbcglobal.net

Sequoia JACL Forum
PALO ALTO, CA
Sat., Oct. 17, 2 p.m.

Advertise:
‘Go SEE DO’ is a free limited listing for PC readers. Not all event submissions are listed. Don’t see your event here? Find out how to get a guaranteed listing. Contact the PC.: (800) 966-6157

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For any questions, contact the Credit Union for more details.

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JACL Credit Union offers incredible Home Equity Loan rates

Need to consolidate your debt? Maybe you are planning to remodel your home? JACL Credit Union has an incredible offer on a Home Equity Loan.

You can access your Home Equity Line of Credit by check, over the phone, or come into the branch.

With a National JACL Credit Union Home Equity Line of Credit you can pay for a wedding, college tuition, or payoff your credit cards.

Visit our website to see which loan would be the best for you. View our current rates and apply online today!

For any questions, contact the Credit Union for more details.

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TRIBUTE

DEAN YOSHIMASA ISHII
May 29, 1933 - August 22, 2009

Dean Y. Ishii, 76, passed away Saturday, August 22, 2009, at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. He was born on May 29, 1933, in Kapaa, Hawaii to Dean and Masako Ishii. Dean was the oldest of four children in the family. Dean spent his youth growing up in Kapaa and attended Kauai High and Mid-Pacific Institute. He attended the University of Hawaii for two years and then finished his undergraduate degree at the University of Southern California. He completed dental school at USC and then was drafted into the U.S. Army Dental Corp. where he served for two years in Ft. Ord, CA. During his tour at Ft. Ord, the ocean stimulated his fishing and healthy aspirations which inspired him to begin his career here. While opening his dental practice in Seaside, he also served in the U.S. Army Reserve for four years. He maintained his Seaside dental practice for 40+ years before becoming the founder and CEO of DVI Properties, Inc.

Known to some friends as “Fishii Ishii”, he loved all aspects of fishing from promoting fishing derbies at Lake El Estero to fishing on his boat in the Monterey Bay. If he wasnt fishing, he could usually be found at the “library” aka satellite horse racing at the Monterey Turf Club. He also spent time supporting various local youth sports groups and looked forward to watching the Bronco World Series every summer. He was an active member and past president of the Seaside Rotary club and must proud of his 25+ years of perfect attendance. Also, he was an active member of the Carmel River Steelhead Assn. and Japanese Americans Citizens League. Dean is survived by his mother, Masako Ishii, wife, Masami Ishii, children, Dean Ishii (Carolyn) of Mead, WA, Linda Ishii (Janice) of Salinas, CA, Galen Ishii (Sylvia) of Monterey, CA, and Joy Ishii of San Diego, CA; grandchildren Derek & Marissa, Kristy & Brian, Sean & Grace; sister Pauline Yasagawara (Rudy) of Kailua, HI, brothers Lloyd Ishii (Linda) of Seaside, CA, and Robert Ishii (Diane) of El Segundo, CA.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Dean was held on Saturday, August 29, 2009, at El Estero Presbyterian Church in Monterey.

TRIBUTE

HATSUO (ABE) TAKECHI
December 17, 1910 - August 24, 2009

Mrs. Hatsuko (Abe) Takechi passed away on August 24 at age 98. A Nisei born in Stockton, CA, she lived most of her life on Bacon Island. Memorial services will be held on Sat., Sept. 26, 2:00 p.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Stockton.

IN MEMORIAM

All locations are in California except as noted.

Arakawa, Wally “Barney”, 82
July 29, Ewa Beach, Oahu, HI. Born in Haiku, Maui, HI. Retired owner of Barney's Burger House & Catering.

Hayakawa, Donald T., 76
Sept. 5, Winter Park, FL. An Army veteran. He is survived by his daughters, Donna (Ken) Brokop, Karen Fisher; stepson Milton (Bonnie) Reidhead, grandchildren.

Inouye, Robert Kazuo, 77

Kanda, Samuel, I., 92
Sept. 8, Keene'sburg, CO. A WWII veteran. Survived by wife, Rose, son, Richard (Dianne) Kanda, daughter Kathryn Sue (Lawrence) Williams, 2 gc, 2 ggc.

Kaneko, Jack Takaharu, 84
Sept. 6, Keauu, HI. A machine shop owner and Army veteran. Born in Kona, HI. Survived by brothers

Danny, Larry, Mike, Gilbert, Richard; sisters Doris Arakaki, Helen Uejo.

Kawagoe, Gilbert Soyo, 64
Aug. 21, Milliani, HI. Retired Local 625 ironworker and Army veteran. Survived by his wife, Doris L., brother Jerry G., sisters Eleanor S. Kim, Shirley F. Kurosu.

Konda, Roy J., D.D.S., 90
Aug. 21, Malene, WI. Practiced dentistry in Ontario, OR for 48 years. Was interned at Tule Lake, CA during WWII.

Kuwahara, Kenneth Kenji, 84
Aug. 27, Honolulu, HI. Retired photographic Army veteran. Survived by his wife, Carol, brother Takashi, sisters Alice Shimogawa, Dorothy Sakai, Kimiko Okutani

Matsumoto, Takashi, 88
Sept. 10, La Mirada, CA. He is survived by his wife, Lillian, daughter Sharon Ishida; sisters Aiko Nakahara, Shirley Uegui, Florence Yamauchi; 2 gc.

Mizabo, Tohru, 87

Muramatsu, Joichi, 89
Sept. 3, Hilo, HI. U.S. Postal supervisor.

Murakawa, Noriko, 95
Sept. 7, Ontario, OR. Born Noriko Takechi passed away on August 24 at age 98. A Nisei born in Stockton, CA, she lived most of her life on Bacon Island. Memorial services will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009, at El Estero Presbyterian Church in Monterey.

morikawa, Moriko, 95
Sept. 7, Ontario, OR. Born Noriko Nakao in Ammon, ID, married Harry Morikawa and moved to the Oregon Slope where they farmed and raised their family. She was a member of the Snake River JACL chapter.

Otobe, Richard Mitsu, 88

Uchida, Isamu “Sam”, 89
Sept. 5, Ontario, OR. Worked on a "row crop" farm in Chino, Michigan during WWII. Was a lifelong member and a former VP of the Snake River JACL chapter.
WONG FU
(Continued from page 4)

try to do is always have some sense of story in our videos. We feel like that makes it more
memorable and meaningful to the audience. Wes really likes Michel Gondry’s music video
work. Philip has been a fan of Hype
Williams.

Do you guys have day jobs? Do you ever
think you'll be making films/music as a full­
time gig? — Jason Yu, 25, Philadelphia, PA

WFP: Wong Fu Productions is our full­
time job. We also have a successful T-shirt
brand that we run ourselves (www.areyou­
aniceguy.com). We’re invited to speak and
screen our films at universities around the
country — over 50 in the past three years —
and we’re preparing to start our next feature­
length film. Planning, producing, writing and
editing short films and other online content
add up to far more than 40 hours a week. It’s
our lives.

If you could work with any actor or actress
for one of your future projects, who would it
be and why? — Stacy Iwasa, 22, San Diego
JACL

WFP: For some reason we’ve always
thought Natalie Portman was just awesome
and would be so fun to work with. But really,
we’re not even at that point yet to think about
which Hollywood actors to use. We’re still
often using our friends, but that’s sometimes
the most fun. Recently we’ve had David Choi,
Happyslip, and KevJumba in our projects,
who to us, are the A-listers of the online
world, so we’ve been extremely honored to
work with them.

Being at the forefront of APA new media, do
you plan to build an APA movement around
key community issues (i.e. comprehensive
immigration reform, access to health,
addressing incidents of hate, building inclusion
of the LGBT community)? — Craig Ishii, 24,
JACL PSW regional director

WFP: We are fully aware of our influence
on the APA community, especially the
younger ones. With this in mind, we mainly
focus on inspiring and fostering their creative
sides, and hopefully without even them
knowing, we can empower them to do some­
thing grand in this world (without being afraid
of racial issues).

More than before though, we are highlight­
ing many APA issues that we feel would fit
our brand and image. One could say we’re not
political enough, but at the same time, we’re
still developing our own identities and opin­
ions about this world, so we’re figuring our­
selves out before preaching to others.

How do you think you are representing
APAs? Do you think of this while you’re mak­
ing your films, and if so, what APA issues are
you thinking about? — Kene Kubo, 23, West
Los Angeles JACL

WFP: We definitely think about how our
work reflects APAs. It’s daunting sometimes
knowing that our work is on this very pub­
lic and vulnerable pedestal (or chopping
block) and it does affect the content we
create. We definitely don’t feel as “free” as
we did before because we know so many
people (with so many different opinions)
are watching.

While we may not bring up APA issues in
our work, we are not afraid to show that we
are Asian. This is an issue in itself that we
believe we’re tackling head on. We want to
show that APAs are just normal people, and
shouldn’t be stereotyped in the media and
should have proper representation. We don’t
all do martial arts or have accents. We have
stories that most everyone can relate to as
human beings. We really want to show that
our work and voice should and can be seen
colorblind. The same way African Americans
can now be accepted in the mainstream with­
out a second guess, that’s what we hope will
someday be the case for APAs.

On the Web
www.wongfuproductions.com
www.areyouaniceguy.com

The University of California, Berkeley
will honor Japanese American students whose
attendance at UC Berkeley in 1942 was
disrupted by

EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

Honorary degrees
will be presented to former students or
a family representative.

December Commencement Exercises
Sunday, December 13, 2009
UC Berkeley Campus

Former students and their families are asked to
contact the University to receive an invitation.
Please call 510.643.6493 or e-mail
hwd@berkeley.edu.