

January 14, 2014

Issue I

Governing Board



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Presidents' Message

For over the past year, the Wellesley Asian Alumnae Alliance (W3A) has been working to build the organizational infrastructure of the Wellesley Alumnae Association's first Asian-affinity special interest group. Through the diligent and supportive work of our Founding and Nominating Committees, and the recent efforts of our newly elected Governing board, we have successfully ushered W3A into a new stage of growth.

This short newsletter marks the first official publication of W3A and is one of many channels we will use to communicate with the greater Alumnae community in the future.

To the over 700 alumnae who participated in the Alumnae Engagement Survey, and to those of you who participated in the elections, we thank you for your early interest and hope you continue to share your feedback. For all others, we welcome you to join us for what will be a wonderful year ahead!

Yours,

Connie Yee '11 and Jessica Chin '11, Co-Presidents W3A

Send us an email!

Wellesley3A@gmail.com

Alumna Spotlight: Vickie Nam



Wellesley Year: 1997

Major: Psychology

Meet Vickie Nam, W3A Founding

Committee member and current Alumnae and Cultural Insights VP.

Vickie's career in magazine journalism includes positions at *Teen People* magazine and AsianAvenue.com. In 2002, Vickie received the "Vision Award" by the Japanese American Citizens League. She earned a doctorate in psychology from UC Santa Cruz and currently is a lecturer at CSU Monterey Bay. Vickie serves on the advisory board member of LA-based WriteGirl and developed an annual workshop series at UC Santa Cruz that combines media, literature, and creative process painting.

How did you get involved in magazine journalism?

After my first year of college, I got an internship working as a Metro Desk Reporter at *The Democrat & Chronicle*, the daily newspaper in Rochester, NY (my hometown). That was my first official journalism gig, which later opened doors to other opportunities. In my junior year, I applied for the American Society of Magazine Editors (ASME) Internship Program and upon being accepted was assigned to work in the editorial department at *Seventeen Magazine*. Living and working in New York City that summer changed my life. I later became executive editor of an alternative, advertising-free "renegade" magazine written by and for teen girls called *Blue Jean Magazine*. Working with a Teen Editorial Board of politically and socially progressive young women expanded my scope and I quickly discovered my passion for developing journalistic outlets that empowered youth and provided them the ability to speak out and be heard. This led to a position at Time Inc.'s then newly launched *Teen People Magazine*, where I was the News Team Editor. My job was to recruit 35 aspiring teen journalists nationwide to report on a range of topics from fashion trends to human-interest stories. Retrospectively, I recognize that the late 90s was an exciting time to be in journalism. By 2000, I "jumped ship" like many others who were being carried up and away from traditional media. AsianAvenue.com (published by Community Connect, Inc.) and short-lived, LA-based interactive network VOXXY were companies I later worked for that were groundbreaking and represented some of the earliest niche social media outlets. **Cont'd on next page.**

Check us out on online!



Did you know?

This year marks the first year that Wellesley College is offering an Asian American Studies minor. The five-course minor is housed under the American Studies program, and allows students to count courses from East Asian and South Asian Studies, as well as American Studies, History, Psychology, Religion, and many other departments.

On-campus student group WAA, has been advocating for the recognition of an Asian American Studies at Wellesley since 1994.

Check WAA out on [Facebook](#)



Are you still working in journalism?

A couple of years after HarperCollins Publishers released *YELL-Oh Girls! Emerging Voices Explore Culture, Identity, and Growing Up Asian American*, an anthology I compiled and edited of writings by Asian American young women, I decided to go back to school. I felt like there was a lot yet for me to learn; specifically, I was interested in ethnic identity development, life stories, and mother-daughter relationships. I graduated with an M.S. in developmental psychology and a Ph.D. in social psychology from UC Santa Cruz. During that time, I met an extraordinary feminist activist-scholar who later became my mentor, Dr. Aaronette M. White. I completed my dissertation research which focused on Asian Pacific Islander American women's mother-daughter experiences; specifically, it explored the situated knowledge that these women constructed from exploring their matrilineal heritage. Incidentally, my former adviser and long-time mentor from Wellesley, Dr. Elena Tajima Creef, was at my defense. Having Elena on my committee was a testament to the lasting ties formed at Wellesley, and the enduring impact that many Wellesley professors have on their students' lives. Currently, I am a lecturer at CSU Monterey Bay where I teach Introduction to Psychology and Senior Capstone.

Any wise words of advice for new grads looking to pursue a career in magazine journalism? And academia?

The saying "experience is knowledge" comes to mind. Although most people in the business are well aware of Wellesley's reputation for producing renowned journalists (Cokie Roberts, Diane Sawyer, Lynn Sherr, Linda Wertheimer, to name a few), this affiliation will only take you so far. The reality is, Wellesley grads are up against applicants who have been "in training" in journalism programs at the undergraduate level. Experience and connections matter. Students interested in journalism should get as much "field experience" as early as possible. During my sophomore year at Wellesley, I became a stringer for *The Wellesley Townsman*, in addition to working for our campus paper, *The Wellesley News*. Internships are a must; for example, Wellesley juniors interested in breaking into the field should apply for the ASME Magazine Internship Program. All work experience should be clearly documented. Back in the day, I pasted clips into a leather portfolio. Today, a WordPress e-portfolio would probably be the way to go. Internships are a way to get into the industry -- to network with folks who can give them recommendations. Becoming a member of a professional organization that offers a mentoring program can transform one's early career. I was part of the Asian American Journalists Association. Your mentor will help you navigate both every day and unusual challenges. Additionally, programs that focus on personal growth and leadership development can also expand your skills and resources. I benefited greatly from being an Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute (APAWLI) Discovery Leadership Fellow. And this would be advice I'd give to most recent grads. In journalism and later in academia, I discovered that my success was, in large part, a product of having good people around me - mentors, allies, and advocates.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Some health challenges brought about a massive lifestyle change, requiring me to explore the world of dairy-free, gluten-free cooking. Two years ago, my diet was all over the place (kalbi, Loco Moco, pizza, oyster Po' Boys, fried chicken). Fast forward to the present, I'm cooking/baking with quinoa, almond and hemp milk, and Tinkyada pasta. Feeling great, though, and I'm grateful for my health! Another tidbit: I make jewelry and peddle my wares at Wallflower, a local boutique in Santa Cruz.

Thanks Vickie!

Interested in getting involved?

- **W3A is looking for a VP of Communications. For more information, email us at Wellesley3A@gmail.com**
- **The Programming Committee is looking for Regional Representatives major cities to help host local events. If interested, please contact Leah.Driska@gmail.com**