



PILIPINO ACADEMIC STUDENT SERVICES  
*Committed to the recruitment and retention of Pilipinos into higher education*

# PASS IT ON

Winter 2011 Edition

By Donna-Jo (DeeJay) Pepito and Jacqueline Lee

[pass.berkeley.edu](http://pass.berkeley.edu)

## Spring 2012 Events

**March 3rd**

Empowering Womyn of  
Color Conference

**March 4th**

Pre-Professional SHADOW  
Day

**March 6th**

biyuti Teach-Im

**March 8th**

Womyn's Committee Teach-In

**March 9th-11th**

GSAC Retreat

**March 17th**

bridges MC Shadow/Transfer  
Day

**March 26th-30th**

Southern California Outreach

**March 30th-April 1st**

Queer People of  
Color Conference

**April 19th-22nd**

Senior Weekend

**April 30th-May 4th**

bridges Study Jams

**May 15th-17th**

Transfer Weekend



Welcome to the Spring 2012 Semester from the External and Public Relations components! We are proud to bring you our second issue of PASS IT ON—our new bi-monthly community newsletter. Look out for our third issue to be released in May at the end of the academic year!

On behalf of PASS staff, we are definitely excited to embark on So-Cal Outreach this Spring Break, host our annual YM Shadow Days, and even more so eager to bring in a new generation of Golden Bears, the Class of 2016, during this year's Senior

Weekend. The Spring Semester is indeed a time of craziness with the multitude of Pilipino Community programming that takes place. But in recognition of the volume of events and programming that takes place during this semester, we chose to highlight the important role that retention plays in maintaining wellness for our first general meeting by having fun and informative activities geared towards raising awareness.

Attendees learned about the potential challenges that they may encounter this semester, ways to combat them, and how to utilize and recognize our support systems—as it is crucial to serve as support for one another. Throughout the meeting, staffers had discretely pulled various attendees out of the room and directed them to a different location where they engaged in dialogues about their own retention away from the larger group of participants. As the large group of attendees continued to participate in the workshops planned by staffers, very few of them noticed that their other friends and group mates had disappeared—proving that sometimes we all get caught up in our own busy lives, so much that we aren't aware of the issues that our friends and community members are facing and we forget to genuinely check-in with one another to make sure that our academic, health, and personal retention is where it needs to be.

In the spirit of our first general meeting's message, we would like to present you with this newsletter highlighting retention in its many forms, recognizing that while Spring is not only characterized by Recruitment programming, but also a time when Retention programming is crucial. We hope that you enjoy this issue and continue to stay connected with PASS! If you would like more frequent updates, please visit our website or connect with us via Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr (@ucbpass).

If you have any questions with how to get more involved with PASS, contact [pass.ext.relationships@gmail.com](mailto:pass.ext.relationships@gmail.com) or visit the PASS website at [pass.berkeley.edu](http://pass.berkeley.edu)

## Friends of PASS Banquet

By Klyde Flores

Flowers – check. Live music – check. Amazing dinner – check. Beautiful people – check.

It's not every day that PASS hosts a banquet inviting its alumni but on February 24, that's exactly what hap-

pened. The Friends of PASS Banquet invited graduates and affiliates of the Pilipino community to create an

environment that encourages meetings and networking. Both alumni and undergraduates were asked to fill out three business cards to distribute to each other. Once the event started and everyone was settled in, they were asked to stand up, dis-



perse, and collect business cards – to network!

Though the room was timid with participants shy during the first few moments, the loud chatter that ensued indicated that it was a networking success. Alumni were by cornered undergraduate students, with those in the center of the room captivating four to five students at a

time. Others engaged in one-on-one conversations, lost in their own worlds while talking about career paths and majors.

After twenty minutes of enthusiastic conversations, dinner was served. There's nothing quite like eggrolls, Pancit, fried fish, and Maha-Blanca for dessert to make the perfect Filipino meal. Once plates were cleared and stomachs were satisfied, the raffle began.

The Banquet's purpose is not only to create a chance for students and alumni to network but also to raise funds for Senior Weekend. Senior Weekend is an event in April that invites high school students accepted to Berkeley to fly to Cal and spend four days here for free. This opportunity is funded in part by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (OUA) to cover the cost of transportation such as flights and trains, as well as the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC). Unfortunately, not all students suited for Senior Weekend meet the criteria of being from such a school. That is where Friends of PASS comes in – the Banquet raises money via raffle tickets to fund Pilipino students with extraneous circumstances that would exempt them from Senior Weekend.

This year, the raffle prizes were gift cards, care-packages, a heated blanket, a kindle, and a camera. In competition for these prizes and in the spirit of giving, PASS raised over \$500 dollars! Go Bears!

## “UC Us Now!”: Prop 209 and Affirmative Action

By Maria Vallarta

In 1996, Proposition 209 passed in California, making affirmative action illegal. Race, sex, and ethnicity could no longer be considered in areas of public employment, public contracting, and public education. Since then, the number of students of color in higher education has decreased significantly.

However, due to a recent lawsuit, there is a possibility for Prop 209's repeal. On February 13, Prop 209 made its way to the Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals in San Francisco. On that day, several students of color rallied in front of the court-

house, showing their support for its repeal. In response, Chancellor Birgeneau released a statement stating that “racial disparities remain a reality in Californian society. The playing field will really only level when Prop 209 is repealed.”

Michigan's Proposal 2, which contained a similar ban on affirmative action, was declared unconstitutional by the federal court this past summer. Many students of color are hoping that California follows Michigan's example. In addition, another affirmative action case is making its way to the Supreme Court this year, where a white student has accused a university from denying her admission due to the color of her skin.

There is no denying that affirmative action has become

a hot—if not hotter—topic. The Court of Appeals has yet to reach a decision on Prop 209, and it is still too early to predict the outcome of the Supreme Court case.

So what can we do as students of color? As Pilipinos? As PASS? PASS was established in 1985, when Pilipinos were removed from status as a Student Affirmative Action target group. Since then, our numbers have decreased significantly and we have been fighting to retain our presence on campus. Regardless whether or not Prop 209 is repealed, PASS will continue to be committed to the recruitment and retention of Pilipinos into higher education. We will continue to fight for our presence on campus and ensure that a higher education is attainable for all Pilipino communities.



## My First PASS Retreat

By Raphael Bernabe

While buying the food for the retreat with Brian, I couldn't help but wonder about what would happen in the next two nights. The house was going to hold 30 people, all of whom identify with PASS. Two of the thirty were the facilitators, Rita Zhang and Patrick Pablo, "legendary" former members of the organization. I kept myself optimistic and what soon happened during my stay in Half Moon Bay far exceeded my expectations.

Inspired by quotes pasted on various faces of the house, we were led by Rita and Patrick to our first activity, the Marshmallow Challenge. After being split into small groups, we were asked to build the tallest possible structure in 10 minutes using spaghetti strands, painter's tape and one marshmallow. (It's a lot harder than it sounds.)

The last minute consisted of most groups rushing and hastily placing the marshmallow on top, causing many structures to

fall. The frustration we all experienced also came with a lesson. Rita and Patrick taught us that the best strategy was one used by kindergarteners: building several prototypes to find the best one.



My group, like the others, firmly believed that there was one sole answer. It turns out that acceptance of failure and some creativity can go a long way, something that can be applied to PASS programming in these changing years.

Rita and Patrick exposed us to many other workshops and activities that brought us closer to the missions and history of PASS as well as each other. On Saturday, we were asked to list our identities and discuss these with a partner. I

surprisingly found myself teary-eyed as I shared my story to Lorraine, who responded with so much support and sympathy. The atmosphere of the room was charged with emotion, making instant ties between the speaker and listener.

On Sunday, we threw balls of yarn across the living room coupled with an appreciative message, creating a colorful web. Everyone had something positive to say for any person that needed yarn. It was amazing that we got so close to our peers within such a short period of time.

Through laughter and tears, we all bonded as we cooked and cleaned

together, played Settlers of Catan and Apples to Apples, fit 5 people in a room meant for 2, sculpted human works of art, and shared personal stories that are typically reserved for the closest of friends.

In a span of three days, we all shared a space that is incredibly rare, one of complete vulnerability and acceptance. PASS General Retreat allowed me to explore myself and to learn from others. I now look forward to help shape the future of PASS with my newfound friends and mentors.





## Central California Outreach 2012: "Where the Wild Things Are"

By Louie Leiva

For the third year in a row, a group of 20 students representing PASS embarked on a journey through Central California, beginning in Bakersfield and ending in Sacramento outreaching and exploring "Where the Wild Things Are." I had the privilege of going on the trip and interviewing fellow outreachers Justine Velasquez about her experience.

### Why did you choose to go on the Central Cal Outreach trip?

**J:** I wanted to go on the Central Cal Outreach trip because I sort of had a personal pull, a call of duty almost. I didn't really have resources available to me about college when I was in high school. I genuinely did not want others to go through this process alone and uninformed. Hence my decision to go on the outreach trip.

### What was the typical Outreach day like?

**J:** Wake up very early. Eat breakfast while traveling and handling logis-

tics for the school we're heading to. Arrive at school. Go to classrooms and outreach. Inspire. Educate. Inform. Lunch. Go to classrooms again and outreach again. Inspire again. Educate again. Inform again. Go to designated housing for the night. De-brief. Chill. Sleep.

### What did you learn?

**J:** I learned that a little bit less than an hour is enough to change a life, as cheesy as that sounds. A little bit less than an hour is enough to give hope.

### Was there a defining moment from your outreach experience?

**J:** Oh yes. For the first school I went to (my very first outreach) was not a presentation, but a two-on-one conversation with Marie and one of the students. He talked about how he really messed up academically through-

out high school and he's been working his butt off to compensate for that. He looked at us, kind of expecting us to tell him that if he didn't have great,

consistent grades, he won't make it, but of course we said the contrary: that he had a chance as long as he wants it. And his face lit up. And he wrote in

his evaluation: "I learned that I still have a chance."

### Any advice for those considering going on So Cal Outreach?

**J:** Learn how to be a sponge, be absorbent. Because you'll learn so much during a week of outreach. And be flexible.

### Anything else you'd want to say about your experience?

**J:** Even though I've only done outreaching for a week, it has a special place in my heart.



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