

# AAARI Spotlight

June 2010

## Message from AAARI Executive Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As the 2009/2010 academic year comes to a close, we wish to thank all of those who helped AAARI accomplish so much. From the leadership of CUNY, to our wonderful board members, faculty, staff, students, and community leaders and members, thank you for your support.

We are looking forward to an exceptional 2010/2011 academic year in which Visting Tam Professors Paul Ong and Russell Leong will be joining us, and as we welcome our first graduate fellow at AAARI. We are looking forward to opportunities to work closely with all of you as we seek to facilitate, support and generate original research to inform and educate policymakers, legislators and the general public on issues of concern to the global Asian and Asian American communities.

Regards,



## Hunter Film & Media Professor Wins Platinum Remi Award at Film Festival



Hunter College/CUNY Film and Media Studies Assistant Professor Shanti Thakur has won the Platinum Remi Award for Experimental Film at the 43rd Worldfest Houston International Film Festival for her short film, "Sky People."

"Sky People" is a lyrical satire on class in New York City. Scientists discover that the farther you are from earth, the slower time passes and therefore, the longer you'll live. The story follows 21 different characters' race to be a "sky-person" - the elite one percent who live above the 13th floor.

The film was partially funded by a PSC-CUNY Research Award.

## Nela Shaik Receives 2010 Salk Award



Nela Shaik, a chemistry and biology major at Brooklyn College/CUNY, was awarded one of the eight Salk Scholarships annually bestowed by CUNY as a tribute to Dr. Jonas E. Salk, the 1934 City College alumnus who developed the polio vaccine in 1955.

Born in Hyderabad India, Shaik came to the United States in 2004 after finishing high school. Hailing from a family where her parents are in the teaching field and all her siblings are college graduates, Shaik is particularly proud of having received several accolades and awards, including the Arnold and Ruth T. Kaufman Memorial Undergraduate Chemistry Research Award (2007), and the Carl and Milton Blander (2009) scholarships.



## CUNY Conference on Taking the Lead in Leadership



**5/7/10** - Sponsored by the CUNY Diversity Grant, over 100+ people attended AAARI's conference on how the 2009 New York City Elections has shaped Asian American civic participation. Glenn Magpantay, Staff Attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, presented on the 2009 Election Exit Polls of Multi-lingual Voters in New York City. Morning and afternoon sessions discussed Coalition Building and Community Empowerment; and the Role of New Immigrants and the Charge of Elected Officials. Special speakers included New York City Comptroller John C. Liu; U.S. Congressmember Judy Chu; and Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

Missed the conference? Streaming video of the entire event is available online, [www.aaari.info/2010leadership.htm](http://www.aaari.info/2010leadership.htm)

## Welcoming Reception for Brooklyn College/CUNY President Dr. Karen Gould



**5/14/10** - AAARI along with members of the Brooklyn College Asian American community, including the Asian Studies Program (Minor), Study Abroad in China Program, and Office of Diversity and Equity Programs, hosted a reception to welcome Dr. Karen Gould, who was appointed the ninth, and first woman president of Brooklyn College in June 2009. Alice Wong, Community Liaison from the Office of the Brooklyn Borough President, presented President Gould with a proclamation on this special occasion during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

## Asian American / Asian Research Institute

### City University of New York

25 West 43rd Street, Room 1000

New York, NY 10036



#### About Us

Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) is a university-wide scholarly research and resource center that focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans.

CUNY enrolls over 40,000 Asian undergraduate and graduate students, and employs over 4,000 faculty and staff of Asian descent. AAARI serves as a bridge between CUNY and the Asian American community.

#### AAARI Board

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Hiroko Karan

##### Vice-Chair

Susan Wong

##### Treasurer

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Carol Huang

#### Members

Ngee-Pong Chang, Zhao Chen, Nehru E. Cherukupalli, Linda T. Chin, Loretta Chin, Jennifer Hayashida, Ravi Kalia, Nazrul Khandaker, Kiyoka Koizumi, Sambhavi Lakshminarayanan, Rohit Parikh, Vinit Parmar, Tansen Sen, Brian Schwartz, Frank Shih, Lene Skou, Betty Lee Sung, Kyoko Toyama & Victoria Ying

**Executive Director** Joyce Moy

**Program Coordinator** Antony Wong

**Staff** Minyi Chou, Shashi Khanna, Bark Qazi, William Tam & Zhu-Hui Wu

**Interns** Liming Wu & Sihan Wu

#### Upcoming Events

**May 28, 2010**

7th Annual CUNY Asian American Film Festival

**June 1, 2010**

Asian American Arts Alliance Town Hall

Co-sponsored Event

**June 17, 2010**

Asian American Women's Health Symposium: Rising to the Challenges of Being a Woman

Co-sponsored Event

**July 9, 2010**

Sunset Cinema Series

*Departures* (Japan)

**July 16, 2010**

Sunset Cinema Series

*Gran Torino* (U.S.)

**July 23, 2010**

Sunset Cinema Series

*Bend It Like Beckham* (U.K.)



**AAARI Co-Sponsored Event**  
**Asian American Women's Health Symposium**  
**June 17, 2010**

8:30AM - 5PM

25 West 43rd Street, 18th Floor  
between 5th & 6th Avenue, Manhattan

**Fee:** \$30 (General Public) | Free (Students)

The Symposium is designed to help community healthcare providers learn more about issues affecting Asian American women living in New York City. Topics will include suicide; cultural and communication differences within generations and youth discrimination. There will also be lively discussions focusing on pregnancy when diabetes, hepatitis B or HIV/AIDS is involved; health issues such as menopause, osteoporosis and lupus as well as a panel on what Asians may expect from President Obama's health care reform plan.

**URL:** [www.aaari.info/10-06-17Health.htm](http://www.aaari.info/10-06-17Health.htm)



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**Facebook Group:** AAARI-CUNY

**Twitter:** aaari