

Dartmouth College School of Undergraduate Arts and Sciences
Asian American Community Campus Report, Fall 2002

The following campus report summaries key facts about the Asian American community at Dartmouth College. It provides an opportunity to reflect critically at the progress Dartmouth has made by focusing on four primary areas: Asian American demographics, Asian American studies, Asian American support services, and college climate issues.

General information about Dartmouth College

Founded in 1769, Dartmouth College is a private, four-year, liberal arts coeducational undergraduate college with graduate schools of business, engineering and medicine and sixteen graduate programs in the arts and sciences. It is the nation's ninth oldest college and a member of the Ivy League. Originally a college for male students, Dartmouth has admitted women candidates for the baccalaureate degree since 1972.

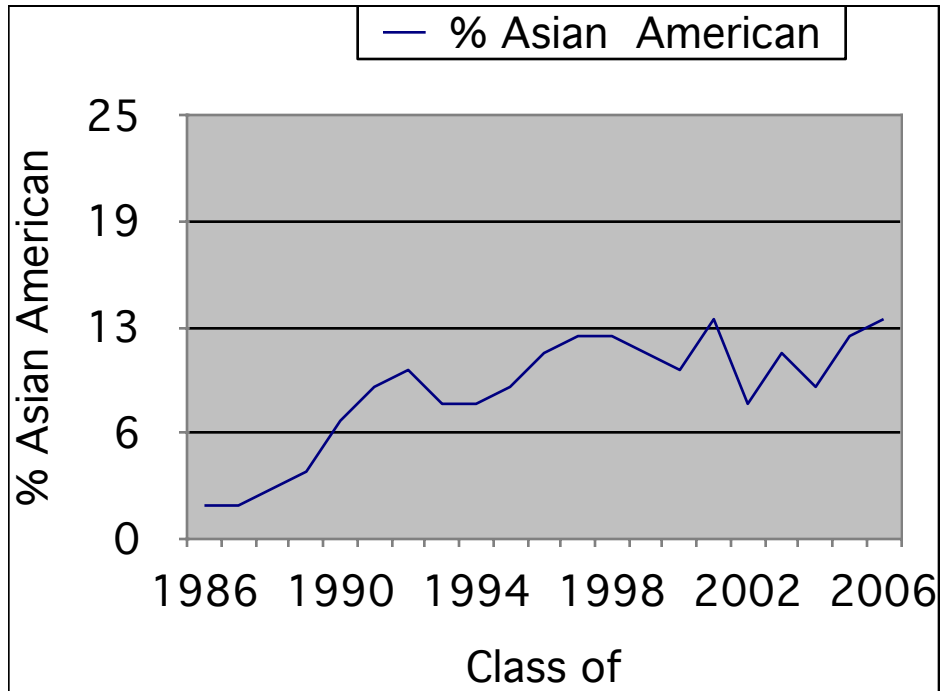
Currently, Dartmouth College consists of about 4,300 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students. Students of color comprise roughly 30% of the Dartmouth community with approximately 5% international students. The male to female ratio is 52:48. The Dartmouth faculty instruct 100% of the over 2,000 courses taught in 39 disciplines. The student to faculty ratio is 8.8:1.

Demographic Information

Status of Asian American Undergraduate Students-

Due to insufficient college records, it is unclear when the first Asian American male student graduated from Dartmouth but it is hypothesized to be sometime in the 1950's. In 1977, four Asian American women were members of the first four-year coeducation class to graduate. Based on records from the Registrar's Office, the enrollment numbers for Asian American students remained below 4% until the early 1990s. As demonstrated in Figure 1, the matriculation rate of Asian American students over the past decade has fluctuated, but has averaged 10% of the student population. For the past three years, the Admissions Office, the Advisor to Asian and Asian American students, and a student committee have developed and implemented Asian American recruitment strategies. This approach appears to be effective in more consistently increasing the number of Asian American students at Dartmouth.

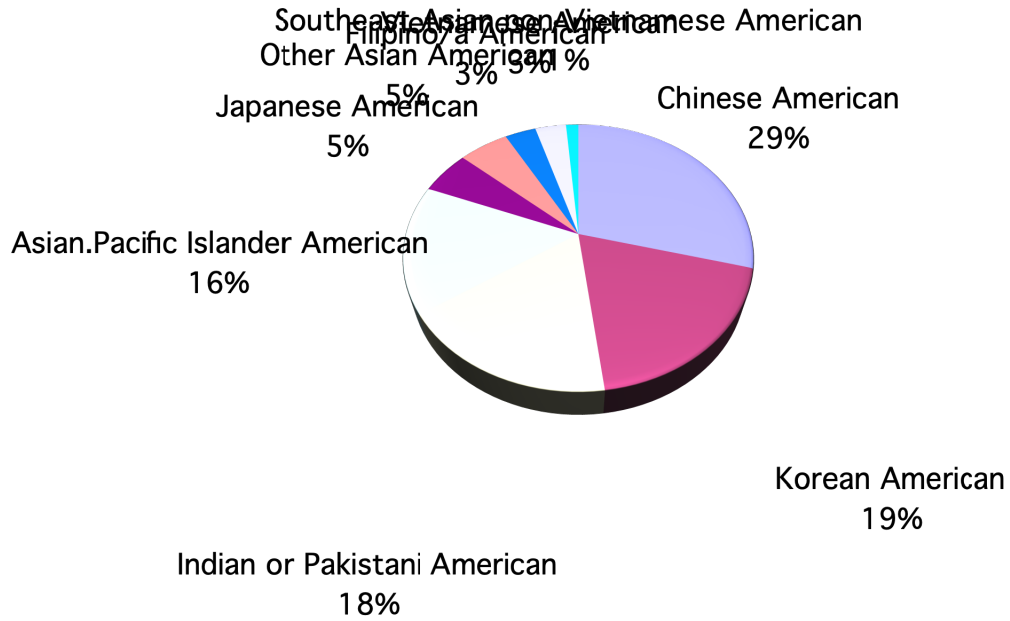
Figure 1: Percentage of Asian American Students at Dartmouth



Cultural Representation within the Asian American Community

While the number of Asian American student is growing, the large majority of students remain of Chinese, Korean or South Asian descent. The Asian American recruitment committee is currently developing strategies to diversify the cultural representation within the Asian American population at Dartmouth.

Figure 2: Cultural Breakdown of Dartmouth's Asian American Students in the Class of 2006



Asian American Student Retention Rate

Based on records collected by Dartmouth's Office of Institutional Research, the 6-year graduation rate of Asian American Dartmouth students has averaged 94.5% for the graduating classes of 1993 through 2000.

Status of Arts and Science Faculty

In October of 2001, the Arts and Sciences faculty consisted of 348 tenure-track and tenured faculty (35.3% were women and 11.5% were minorities). The Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office at Dartmouth College gathered the following statistics regarding Arts and Sciences faculty.

Year	Asian Faculty *	Total Faculty	% Asian *
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2001	15	348	4.3
1996	12	339	3.5
1991	3	319	0.9
1986	4	315	1.3

Year	Asian Tenured Faculty *	Total Tenured Faculty	% Asian *
2001	5	262	1.9
1996	3	237	1.3
1991	2	218	0.9
1986	1	210	0.5

Year	Asian Non-Tenured Faculty *	Total Non-Tenure Faculty	% Asian *
2001	10	86	11.6
1996	9	102	8.8
1991	1	101	1.0
1986	3	54	5.6

* Statistics include both Asian and Asian American faculty

Status of Exempt and Non-Exempt Staff

The Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office at Dartmouth College gathered the following statistics regarding college employees.

Year	Asian Employees *	Total Employees	% Asian *
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2001	93	3115	3.0
1996	37	2210	1.7
1991	27	2143	1.3
1986	10	1961	0.5

Year	Asian Exempt Employees *	Total Exempt Employees	% Asian *
2001	65	1282	5.1
1996	12	655	1.8
1991	9	555	1.6
1986	0	376	0.0

Exempt employees are salaried and are not compensated for over-time work.

Year	Asian Non-Exempt Employees *	Total Non- Exempt Employees	% Asian *
2001	27	1426	1.9
1996	19	1099	1.7
1991	14	1071	1.3
1086	7	1071	0.7

Non-exempt employees are paid hourly wages and are compensated for over-time work.

* This statistic includes both Asian and Asian American employees

Asian American Studies

Despite having Native American Studies, African and African American Studies, Latin American, Latino, & Caribbean Studies, and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies Programs, there remains no Asian American studies major or minor at Dartmouth.

Students have been advocating for the establishment of an Asian American Studies Program at Dartmouth since the 1990's. In spite of these efforts, the first Asian American studies course was not offered until 1997 and was taught by a visiting history professor, Vernon Takeshita. In response to student pressure, Professor Takeshita was offered a tenure track position in the History department in 1999. He currently teaches two Asian American studies courses titled, "Asian American History through World War II" and " The Asian American Movement: From 'Model Minority' to National Political Coalition". In 2001, visiting professor Woon Ping Chin accepted a three-year contract to teach two Asian American studies courses in the English department. In addition to these Asian American studies courses, there are several comparative and interdisciplinary courses taught in the English, Sociology, Geography, Drama, Women's and Gender Studies, and Comparative Literature departments that specifically include Asian American perspectives. Students are also able to further explore Asian American studies topics through independent studies research projects as well as fellowship programs and senior honor thesis projects.

Demand for expanding Asian American studies at Dartmouth has intensified over the past year. Students have become increasingly concerned that the academic efforts toward building Asian American studies at Dartmouth have been aimless and lacking sustained institutional commitment. Since all four of the Asian American studies courses offered are taught by non-tenure faculty, there is no guarantee they will be offered in the future. Beginning in the fall of 2001, students have begun to organize and develop events that promote and increase support for Asian American studies at Dartmouth. This has included meetings with faculty and administrators, bringing Evelyn Hu-DeHart to speak at Dartmouth, writing opinion articles in the school's newspaper as well as articles in *Main Street* (Dartmouth's Asian American magazine), gaining support from the Student Assembly, and holding various student forums discussing the academic value of Asian American studies. Due to these efforts, the Office of Asian and Asian American Advising has recently hired an Asian American studies paid intern to conduct research and chair the Asian American studies student subcommittee in order to expand Asian American studies at Dartmouth. Some recent college events have provided some reasons for optimism. This past September, Dartmouth's academic administration recently hosted the "Race Matters in the University in the 21st Century Conference". Holding this large and high profile conference at Dartmouth indicates that there is some support and motivation within the administration to expand and strengthen ethnic studies within the Dartmouth curriculum. In addition, Dartmouth's Leslie Center for the Humanities and the English Department will be hosting an Asian American Literature Festival at Dartmouth in May of 2003.

Asian American Specific Student Resources

Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students

After several years of proactive student efforts, a half time position specifically designed to support Asian American students was finally created at Dartmouth. In the

fall of 1999, Nora Yasumura was hired as the first "Asian Pacific American Programming Liaison" at Dartmouth. In the summer of 2000, as a result of the college's Student Life Initiative, this position became permanently full time and the title was changed from "Programming Liaison" to "Assistant Dean of Student Life and Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students". It was felt that this new title better reflected the wide range of important roles and responsibilities inherent in the position.

The Assistant Dean of Student Life and Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students develops initiatives that support the personal, social/cultural, and educational experiences of Asian and Asian American students. In addition, the Advisor works with the entire campus to raise awareness of the benefits and challenges of living in a pluralistic community. This work is accomplished through six specific areas of responsibility: advising, mentoring, programming, advocacy, consultation, and administration.

Pluralism and Leadership Team

The Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students works both independently and collaboratively with the Pluralism and Leadership team in an effort to provide support for historically marginalized populations at Dartmouth as well as universalizing the understanding and appreciation for diversity at Dartmouth. This team approach encourages coalition building and collaborative efforts designed to impact meaningful institutional change, as well as support student's multiple and intersecting identities. Under the direction of the Dean of Student Life, the Pluralism and Leadership team consists of the following positions:

Associate Dean of Student Life for Pluralism and Leadership (Team Supervisor)

Assistant Dean of Student Life/Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students

Assistant Dean of Student Life/Advisor to Black Students

Assistant Dean of Student Life/Advisor to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Students

Assistant Dean of Student Life/Advisor to Latino/a Students

Director of the Center for Women and Gender

Director of the Native American Program

Asian Related Student Organizations

Dartmouth's thriving Asian related student organizations serve as an important resource to students of Asian descent. As the Asian American student population has grown, so have the efforts of the Asian American student groups who celebrate, support and raise awareness of Pan Asian experiences, languages, cultures, religions and political issues.

Dartmouth's first Asian American student organization was formed in 1975. In the late 1980's there were only five Asian related student groups. Since that time, the number of Asian related student groups has grown to twenty-three.

AASPIRE (Asian/Asian American Women's Group)	International Student Association (ISA)
Al-Nur (Muslim)	Korean American Student Association (KASA)
Asian Christian Fellowship (ACF)	Main Street (Asian American Magazine)
Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)	Milan (South Asian/South Asian American)
Dartmouth Asian Organization (DAO)	MOSAIC (Multi-Racial/Cultural)
Dartmouth Chinese Culture Society (DCCS)	Pan Asian Council (Asian/Asian American Umbrella Student Group)
Dartmouth Chinese Dance Troupe	People of Color (Race, Culture, and Sexual Orientation)
Dartmouth Japan Society (DJS)	Shanti (Hindu)
Diversity Peer Program (DPP)	Students for a Free Tibet
Far Off Broadway (Asian American Acting Troupe)	Vietnamese Culture Association (VCA)
Filipino/a Cultural Organization	Women of Color Collective (WCC)
Hokupa'a (Hawaiian Club)	

Pan Asian Council

The Pan Asian Council (PAC) serves as an umbrella organization to all of the Asian related student groups listed above. PAC is a proactive organization dedicated to setting goals and creating initiatives that are central to the Pan Asian community at Dartmouth, as well as raising awareness of Asian and Asian American issues throughout the college. PAC helps to increase communication and collaboration among its members and serve as a liaison between the Pan Asian community and other communities at Dartmouth. The Pan Asian Council is chaired by student interns and guided by the Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students.

Pan Asian Advisory Board

The Pan Asian Advisory Board is made up of selected faculty and staff who have demonstrated a commitment to assisting and nurturing the Pan Asian student community. This group provides important feedback that contributes to the strategies and goals implemented by the Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students. During the month of May, the Pan Asian Advisory Board also honors student accomplishments within the Pan Asian community by presenting the Pan Asian Student Awards.

Dartmouth Asian Pacific American Alumni Association (DAPAAA)

Established in 1998, DAPAAA's mission is to foster community among the Asian Pacific American alumni/ae community of the College in order to further the intellectual, social, cultural and educational well-being of the Asian Pacific American alumni/ae and undergraduate students. Alumni/ae volunteers participate in a mentoring program designed to help Asian American juniors and seniors with career and post-graduate guidance. In addition they also assist with recruiting Asian American prospective students to Dartmouth.

College Climate Issues

Current Issues Survey (1998)

The Current Issues Survey conducted during the winter of 1998 provides some insight into how students of Asian descent feel about their environment at Dartmouth. When Asian students were asked to rate how easy or hard it is to feel comfortable at Dartmouth: 21% indicated easy, 54% fairly easy, 21% fairly difficult and 3% very difficult. An additional question asked students to indicate whether or not there was racial conflict on campus. 24% of Whites, 33% of Asians, and 67% of Blacks stated that they believed that racial conflicts exist at Dartmouth.

Social Life Survey (2001)

The 2001 Social Life Survey provides some insight as to how students of Asian descent spend their group participation at Dartmouth. This survey asked individuals to share typical activities in which they participated for an hour or more per week during the fall term of 2000.

Type of Group	Asian *	White	Black
Athletic	3%	30%	13%
CFS (Greek system)	29%	43%	15%
Religious	29%	28%	54%
Cultural	57%	5%	71%
Performance Arts	14%	22%	41%

* statistics reflect both Asian and Asian American students

The Social Life Survey also asked students to rate the quality of their overall social life. 68% of students of Asian descent rated it good or excellent, as compared to 70% of White and 40% of Black students.

Anti-Asian Incidents

Currently, Dartmouth College does not consolidate data related to hate incidents at Dartmouth. However, based on informal student reports to the Advisor to Asian and Asian American Students, it is known that Anti-Asian bias incidents do occasionally occur on campus. In 2001, the Dean of the College assembled an administrative subcommittee designed to develop strategies to prevent and address bias incidents that occur at Dartmouth. A comprehensive protocol and plan is in development and will include early detection, documentation, safety nets, and support services that address and prevent acts of intolerance.

Sexual Assault Incidents

In 1996, the Coordinator of the Sexual Abuse Awareness Program (SAAP) at Dartmouth began collecting demographic data based on race. The reports of sexual abuse ranged from rape to unwanted sexual contact. Since Asian/Asian American women comprised roughly 12% of the undergraduate women at Dartmouth these statistics reflected a disproportionately high percentage and generated serious concern.

In 9/96-8/97, Asian/Asian American women reported 40% of the cases.

In 9/97-9/98, Asian/Asian American women reported 37% of the cases.

In 9/98-8/99, Asian/Asian American women reported 30% of the cases.

During the winter of 2000, the Pan Asian Council's Sexual Assault Committee was formed, consisting of students and administrators. This committee developed strategies designed to increase awareness and prevent further incidents from occurring. Some of their achievements included increasing the number of trained Asian American Sexual Assault Peer Advisors (SAPA), circulating a sexual assault prevent resource sheet within the Asian American community during heavy party weekends (i.e. homecoming, winter carnival), and developing student programs that increased awareness of this concern. Events included a documentary series on Asian American women issues (including films on Asian American women stereotypes in the media) and an Asian American women's health series. *Last year's statistics indicate that Asian/Asian American women reported 7% of the cases of alleged sexual assault at Dartmouth.*

Student Burden to Raise Awareness

Students of color at Dartmouth have historically carried the additional burden of raising awareness and educating others regarding cultural and racial issues. Over the past four years, with the assistance of the Student Life Initiative, Dartmouth has taken significant steps to provide institutional resources that ease this responsibility from these students. The Pluralism and Leadership team listed above as well as the new Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity are just two additional administrative resources that are developing comprehensive plans that universalize diversity and enable all students to become more culturally literate and versatile. In addition, these offices are developing partnerships with other key departments (i.e. residential life) as well as campus academic centers, in order to increase wide spread dialogue and improved awareness on diversity issues.

Cultural Inclusiveness

For the past three years, the Asian American community at Dartmouth has worked to become a more inclusive and welcoming community to the various different Asian related cultural groups represented at Dartmouth. Historically, based on the larger proportion of Korean and Chinese American students, the Asian American community has primarily focused on East Asian American issues. In recent years, the Asian American community has broadened its focus by better including and supporting

Filipino/a, South Asian, and Southeast Asian American students as well as multiracial and Asian adopted students.

Sexual Orientation

Pan Asian community at Dartmouth has begun to examine its' heterosexual assumptions and biases. Starting in 2001, students formed a new group called "People of Color". This organization explores the intersection between race, culture and sexual orientation. Despite these efforts, gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) students of Asian descent continue to experience isolation and invisibility at Dartmouth. More college recognition as well as additional resources and support in this area continue to be needed.

Socioeconomic Issues

In 2001-02, 44% of Asian Americans received Dartmouth scholarship assistance. This is compared with 39.1% for the overall student body. Financial constraints provide additional barriers and burdens for Asian American students. Many Asian American students work one or more jobs to remain on campus. In addition, some need to also assist with family financial needs.

Cultural and Racial Identity Exploration

Developmentally, many Asian American students begin or continue to explore their cultural and racial identity during college. For these students, it is critical that there are safe and affirming spaces on campus for them to gather information, as well as share about themselves and learn from others. The Advisor to Asian and Asian American students has helped to organize several small and intimate programs that have assisted with this process. In addition, students are able to seek assistance from their upperclass peers by participating in the First Year Pan Asian Mentoring Program. Finally, Dartmouth has recently provided a small Pan Asian resource room, where students can informally gather to celebrate and affirm the Asian American experience.

For more information regarding the above information, please contact Nora Yasumura, Assistant Dean of Student Life and Advisor to Asian American Students
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