



THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE TEACHERS

July 2015

今天的教師培養明天的夢想

The dreams of tomorrow are shaped by the teachers of today...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Following is the speech given at TACT's annual scholarship dinner.

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 46th annual scholarship dinner of the Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT). Thank you for joining us at this new venue. We would like to thank Sutro Elementary School for letting us use their yard for parking to relieve some of the parking stress.

TACT was founded in 1969 based on the principles of:

- Providing students the opportunity for academic excellence
- Participating in educational policy-making
- Advocating for educational access and equity, and
- Promoting professional growth in the teacher community

Here are some highlights of this year:

Last fall, in September, TACT had a kickoff at Sunset Elementary School where Dr. Luis Valentino, the keynote speaker, presented the District's 2025 Vision. We had one of the most successful kickoff events in recent years. Educators, community members, and district administrators had a frank and engaging discussion on a variety of topics including the implementation of STEAM and the different language pathways.

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MODIFIED LAU ACTION PLAN FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

On June 23rd, the San Francisco Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the Lau Modified Consent Decree (MCD). In the months of April and May, district staff held a number of meetings with community stakeholders to review the proposed MCD. Christina Wong, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, met with members of TACT on May 22nd.

This would be the second time that SFUSD and Lau plaintiffs are seeking to modify the original Lau Consent Decree which was adopted in 1976 following the Supreme Court's ruling in favor of approximately 1,800 Chinese parents who initiated a lawsuit against the San Francisco School Unified District in 1970 claiming that the district violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 because it did not provide support services to non-English speaking students to help them access core curriculum.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, July 3, 2015**
 - [OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates National Convention](#)
- Monday-Tuesday, August 3-4, 2015**
 - [China Now Teachers Workshop](#)
- Wednesday, September 30, 2015**
 - [Deadline for the China Now Lesson Plan Contest](#)

APIA WOMEN: BREAKING HISTORY

By Jeannie Woo, AAS Dept @ SFSU/TACT Curriculum Committee

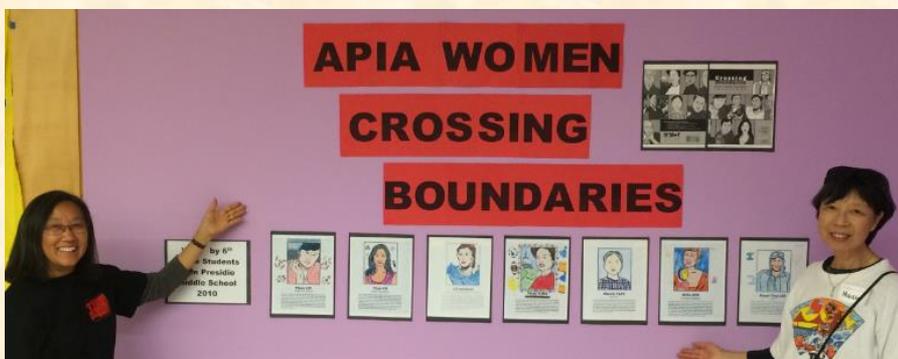
Saturday, May 16 started out as a cloudy morning but the sun eventually peeked out drawing in children, parents, and community members to the “APIA Women: Breaking History” event for Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Heritage Month. With over 200 attendees there were 27 SFSU, Asian American Students Department (AAS) Dept. students and TACT curriculum committee members assisting each participant at the various activity tables. The APIA female astronaut activity was one of the most popular with a constant flow of adults and children making their customized space walker while the “Crossing Boundaries” origami bookmark making drew in the readers. There were 32 colored images of APIA Women of Past and Present on the “Wall of Fame” while children and adults tested their knowledge at the Jeopardy game and APIA Map of Stars. Many took advantage of the opportunity to look at the diverse selection of APIA books on display and grab the APIA Recommended Reading List while some of the younger children chose Mamie Tape or Thuy Vu at the coloring table. The first 50 children were given goody bags to take home and many more participated in the “Passport” where if 3 of the 10 activities were stamped completed on their passport they would be able to select another prize. There was so much positive energy and laughter in the air from both the volunteers, who went above and beyond to help, and the participants who indicated their enjoyment by staying longer and sometimes completing up to 5 activities! One student volunteer said it best,

“Overall, the event was super fun and provided the young kids something to do on a Saturday that expanded their minds! I would love to help out again next time or any event you would need assistance with.”

But one of the best moments was when a 4-year-old boy, one of the few to complete all 10 activities, was about to leave and his grandparents thanked us and asked if we were going to have this again next year. Overall the 3rd Annual AAS Dept./TACT APIA Month Event was a huge success and thank you to all the community members and teachers that came by. Thank you to the SF Public Library on this collaboration and a big thank you to Roland Norona, our Student Assistant, who provided the detailed administrative support and made all the activities possible. We look forward to the 4th annual event and hope to see you all there.



Students, Faculty from San Francisco State, TACT Members



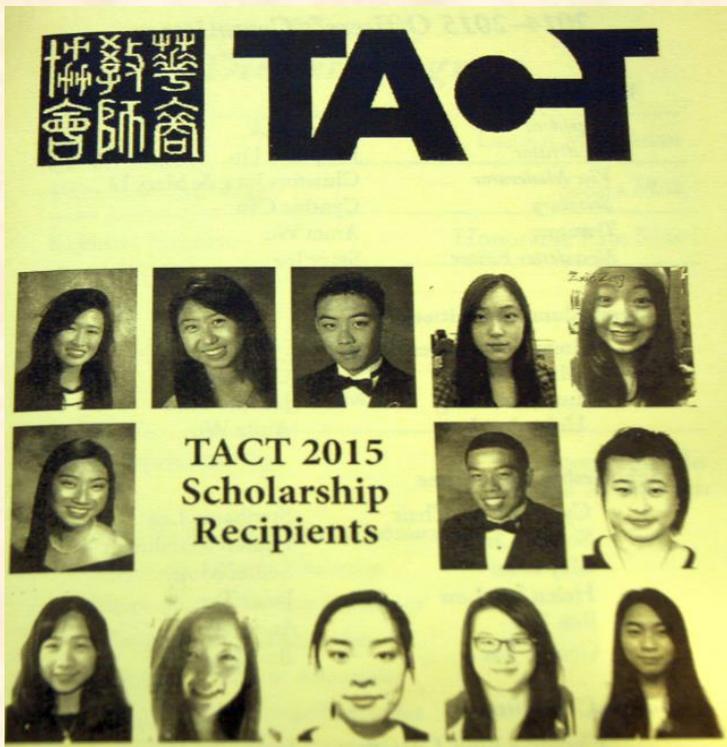
Anita Wu and Maisie Dea



The “Astronaut” Table

TACT SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

TACT celebrated its 46th anniversary on April 24th at Tong Palace. The venue was a relocation after many years with the Four Seas Restaurant. The 10 course dinner was well attended by 250 people who were entertained by Maria Yip's second graders from Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary School. Participants included Supervisor Eric Mar (keynote speaker), Board of Education members, Katy Tang (retiree presentation) and Emily Murase (President), State Assemblyman David Chiu, members from the Superintendent's office, Multilingual Pathways Department, UESF, SF Black Alliance of Educators, administrators, teachers, and scholarship recipients and their families. Retirees honored included Tony Lee from Lowell, Jannie Wong from Sutro, and Winnie Fung from Noriega Children's Center. Thanks to generous donors along with dinner and raffle sales, TACT was able to award scholarships to 13 very deserving high school seniors. The dinner ended with a bang when Cherry Tam's raffle ticket was drawn for a week in Hawaii trip and Wally Toy's raffle ticket was drawn for a week in Las Vegas. We look forward to celebrating our 47th anniversary next year at a bigger location.



This year's program cover celebrating TACT's scholarship winners!



All Smiles: Herb and Donna Chan welcome Paula Niland, District Librarian.



Show-stopping entertainment provided by 2nd graders from Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary School.



Celebrating our retirees: (L-R): Lauren Marshman, Assemblyman David Chiu, Tony Lee (Lowell H.S.), Winnie Fung (Noriega Children's Center), Jannie Wong (Sutro Elementary), Supervisor Katy Tang.

PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE TACT SCHOLARSHIP DINNER



2015 TACT Scholarship Recipients



Supervisor Katy Tang with her former teachers from Lowell High School

Spring Valley Elementary School Contingent: Lily Lee, Irene Collier, Lonnie Chin, Selina Mok, Erica Mac Ko, Jennifer Man, John MacDevitt



Eugene Wing and fellow Galileo H.S. colleagues

TACT'S SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SHARE THEIR REFLECTIONS ON HOME

In our March newsletter, we asked our 2013 & 2014 TACT scholarship winners, "What part of college has been the biggest challenge for you?" This month, our scholars dig deep to answer the question, "What do you miss about home?"

FOOD IS THE WAY TO THEIR HEARTS

Shining Yu (2014 Scholar/U.C. San Diego) breaks it down this way, she misses all her family and friends, but mostly she misses her mom's cooking, especially the soup! Meanwhile, *Michelle Kong (2014 Scholar/Trinity University)* misses the food of San Francisco. She adds, that "ever since she arrived in Texas, she has been eating mostly fast food." She craves being able to have good Thai food at 3:00am! *Xiuying Li Yu (2014 Scholar/U.C. Berkeley)* shares that what she misses most about home is the homemade food! She misses coming home to a smell of homemade Chinese food! "Even the Chinese food restaurants nearby here are nothing compared to my grandparents' cooking!" boasts Xiuying.

FAMILY MATTERS

Xiaofan Wu (2014 Scholar/Wellesley) misses all her friends from high school, but especially misses her parents. For *James Huang (2014 Scholar/U.C. Santa Cruz)*, family is always tugging on his heartstrings. James shares that this is the first time he has ever left his family, and he misses them a lot, especially his sister who is in the third year of high school. A few weeks ago, his sister asked him how to apply for the SAT Subject Test online. James started to worry because during the summer, he had reminded her to read some books about the SAT, but she did not take it seriously. James worries whether she is prepared, whether she knows how to go to the test center, and whether she is doing well at school. James views the SAT score as one of the most important parts to apply to college and adds, "I hope she can do well on the test and take it seriously." Spoken like a true big brother!

NEW REALITIES ABOUND

Cecilia Young (2013 Scholar) not only misses her friends, and her parents (especially their cooking), but shares that "as each year passes by, I get closer and closer to the reality of having to find a career that I feel passionately about for the rest of my life. That's a lot of pressure."

THEY'VE LEFT THEIR HEARTS IN SAN FRANCISCO!

Nathaniel Ng (2014 Scholar/U.C. Santa Cruz) is excited to return home for the weekends because of how much he has missed the home cooked meals, privacy (of the living situation), and the sense of community and place. Nathaniel was able to plan a bike building project, all the way in Santa Cruz, through the support of friends and family. Nathaniel is humbled by the moral and mental support he has at home and hopes to recreate a similar, but better atmosphere in Santa Cruz! *Vanessa Li (2014 Scholar/U.C. Berkeley)* misses a lot about home. In college, Vanessa shares that it is sometimes hard to build strong friendships with the people she meets since she is not with them all the time. Thus, she misses having a group of close friends and having her family around all the time. She also misses the food since the cafeteria food can get repetitive. Last, Vanessa misses the city of San Francisco, in general, and not until she left did she realize how much there is to do here. Vanessa sums it up this way, "I would say I miss *everything* about home!"

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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In January, approximately 100 teachers participated in TACT's annual profession development workshop called Teachers Teaching Teachers. Teachers from Lakeshore School, Garfield School and Francisco Middle School shared Lunar New Year activities. Professors from San Francisco State University shared a research unit on Asian Pacific Islander Americans that was aligned to the Common Core.

We also invited Ruthanne Lum McCunn, a local author who once was a teacher with SFUSD to speak about the research behind her book, The Chinese Yankee. Our curriculum committee shared and gave out books by Asian American authors. The feedback we received from the workshop was overwhelmingly positive and we hope to offer more professional development opportunities to teachers in the future. For those of you who would like to participate in developing curriculum around Asian Americans, we encourage you to join our curriculum committee and share your ideas at www.tactsf.org

Also in January, TACT rolls out the scholarship program. Our scholarship committee works diligently to select graduating seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and commitment to community service and leadership, and who aspire to career goals in education, human services, and communications.

This year we are able to award 13 scholarships. Each of the recipients is getting \$2000 for their college expense. A huge portion of our scholarship fund is supported by a handful of donors many of whom are retired educators, community leaders and business entities.

And for the first time, this year we have someone who donated 2 scholarships. Ms. Sophia Yang, a San Francisco businesswoman who is the founder of advanced electronic computers, inc. came through and generously donated 2 scholarships when we told her about the outstanding youths we have this year. Ms. Yang was a parent at a school I used to work at and it's been an honor and pleasure getting to know her in the past few years.

If you would like to read more about our scholarship donors, please see the acknowledgments in our dinner program. By joining us tonight, you are also supporting and helping fund our scholarships for our recipients. We thank you.

While the school is coming to a close, I must announce that the most exciting thing about TACT this year has yet to come. TACT will be donating The Chinese Yankee, Ruthanne Lum McCunn's book about a Chinese boy's experience during the Civil War era, to all middle, high and charter school libraries, which we hope to present to the board on May 26th. We hope students in San Francisco will learn more about this part of Chinese American History. This book donation is made possible due to the generosity of Ruthanne, the author. We are very grateful.

In closing, it's been my pleasure to serve as the president of TACT for the past two years. I want to thank all the committee members who spent numerous hours making everything happen in TACT. All our events turned out to be so awesome because of your dedication. I want to thank all of you again for coming and hope you will continue to support our scholarship program and join us in all our future events.

MODIFIED LAU ACTION PLAN FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The district and Lau plaintiffs jointly submitted the Lau Action Plan which outlined EL services and processes in 2008. The current MCD seeks to update and further define services for ELs and their families. Some key modifications of the proposed MCD include but are not limited to:

- Identification and Placement (established timelines for CELDT administration and parent notification; evaluation of Dual Immersion program ratios)
- English Language Development (acknowledging new ELD Standards, Common Core State Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards);
- Procedures to “significantly alter” or eliminate one or more existing instructional pathways or services due to changing demographics and needs
- Special Education (providing clear descriptions for SST and IEP processes of EL students and including explicit language for both SPED and ELD services for ELs with IEPs)
- Reclassification of ELs (outlining the reclassification process as well as a 2 year monitoring time for reclassified students)
- Parent Outreach & Involvement (defining “major languages” and getting essential information translated within the next 3 years; recording how parents would like to receive their information)
- Sunset Provision (anticipating full compliance of the consent decree by 2018-19)

TACT members provided a number of comments. Some of which emphasized:

- the importance for SFUSD to provide sufficient resources and personnel to ensure that the various language programs and services for ELs inside and outside of the classroom are feasible and successful
- a review of the current and/or future primary language assessment used to assess incoming newcomers
- the monitoring and consistent implementation of Dual Language Immersion programs as they continue from elementary school to high school.
- a need to include teacher input and feedback on the implementation of services
- a detailed description of the make-up, timeline and duties of the new Internal Oversight Committee (IOC) which will oversee the district’s implementation of this MCD
- clarification and language for continued monitoring of EL services after 2018-19

On June 22, Ms. Wong contacted TACT with the following, “Thank you again for providing comments to the draft of the Lau Modified Consent Decree (MCD). The process of gathering comments was incredibly valuable to staff as we continue to provide services to English Learners. While we were not able to include every suggestion, we did include a number of ideas into the latest draft of the Lau MCD and whatever we could not include, we will be referring the comment to the appropriate district department.”

We appreciate that SFUSD is reaching out to TACT regarding the upcoming Modified Consent Decree and would like to assist the Lau plaintiffs and SFUSD in their ongoing efforts to define and implement support services towards the common goal of successfully educating English Learners.