Hi folks and welcome to the Spring 2015 Edition of PASS It On! We have a lot in store for you all this issue! First we'll open with PASS Development Day and the PASO Spring Welcome Mixer so you can get a glimpse of the intern class of spring 2015. Then we'll take a look at one of the biggest programs we had in the spring: The PASS 30th Anniversary Gala. Spearheaded by the Internal Component, this celebration had nearly 200 attendees - from students to interns to PASS’t staffs, we even have articles spotlighting two special alumni who came out to the Gala! The Gala was an event of reconnecting and celebration and recognizing what keeps us rooted and thriving and what PASS means to all of us. This issue will also recap PASS General Retreat, and more of what went down with the Recruitment Component such as YM SHADOW Days, Central Cal Outreach that took place over spring break, and Senior Weekend, the program that brings out newly admitted golden bears here to Berkeley for a weekend of critical dialogue, workshops, and connecting. We will also take a look at the Retention Component and go over what happened at GSAC Retreat, the FHIAD Decal, PASOC Through the Years, and for the first time ever PASS It On will be featuring Pil-Grad! Finally, we'll end this issue by introducing PASS 31. This was a big semester for PASS, and an even bigger year. We want to say thank you to everyone who’s been part of the journey and to welcome anyone who has joined us along the way. Our work doesn’t stop here.

Happy Reading Everyone!
PASO Spring Mixer

Welcome

Marycon Jiro
Freshman

Pass Development Day

PDD was a lot of fun! We got to make a sandwich for another person and meet all the other interns. An interesting part of PDD was learning about different aspects of PASS history. After PDD I was pumped to start the spring year. I was also excited to find out who my staffer was! Jackie is great and I'm glad I got to know her and my co, Kim, through PASS.

Hello Community!

Pass Development Day

smile
The Pilipino Academic Student Services 30th Anniversary Gala “Rooted and Thriving” was a pivotal moment in PASS’ history and a milestone not only for PASS now, but for everyone involved in PASS before and in the future. For 30 years, PASS had undergone many changes but has continued to stay grounded in its purpose to overcome institutional barriers and empower our communities to thrive. The Gala was a celebration of that accomplishment and the struggles to come that we hope to surpass as well. PASS 30 Gala was not only a celebration of our 30 years of service and commitment to community, but also a fundraiser for our programs such as Transfer Weekend, and Senior Weekend - two events that bring newly admitted underrepresented students of color to the UC Berkeley campus to experience and explore Cal while getting an introduction to the resources and community that they have on campus, and Ba-gong Daan Sikapin Paraan Scholarship - a scholarship for AB 540 students - we raffled off prizes that helped raise money for these different programs. The 30th Gala had nearly 200 attendees from the community, on-campus and off-campus partners, and it brought back around 70 PASS alumni including 2 of our three founders: Alex Esclamado & Dean Ilogan. We have our alumni spotlight on Alex & another critical PASS alumni, Tracy Buenavista who took the time to share with us their reflections and thoughts about the Gala...
ALEX ESLAMADO

DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNAL DIVISION OF UNISON BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

The PASS 30th Anniversary Gala was a wonderful homecoming for me, having been living abroad for so many years and only recently returning to the US. Now thirty years after PASS’s foundation, I was very proud to witness the growth and evolution of the organization. When we planted the seed back in 1985, it was encouraging to see how the successive PASS teams have built their piece of the organization growing it to what has become a very strong and far-reaching group. I could not have been more pleased with the evolution of the organization.

Yet, as some things change, others stay exactly the same. The heart of the volunteers we saw and the energy that we witnessed reminded me of the launch year: different people, same energy and enthusiasm! And I am sure that as long as we continue in the same way, others with the same energy levels, optimism, creativity, and desire for service will position themselves for the future.

Congratulations to all current and former PASS staffers! What a great legacy to be building for our community!!

TRACY BUENAVISTA

PROFESSOR IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTH RIDGE

My undergraduate experience in PASS and bridges had a direct impact on my decision to pursue a career in higher education. At a professor in Asian American Studies at California State University, Northridge, I continue to learn from the lessons I learned from the activist practices of the student groups I was a part of at UC Berkeley. Whereas I would normally use such a space to make political commentary on the continued lack of access to quality, culturally-relevant, and community-responsive education for Filipina/os in the U.S., instead I want to share some highlights I experienced at the PASS 30th Anniversary Gala:

1) The enumeration of staff cohorts. Back in my day, we would make reference to “PASS Staff, 1999-2000.” Today this same staff would be known as “PASS Staff 15,” to indicate the 15th staff cohort of PASS. I felt old trying to figure out the enumeration method, but it was a great mental exercise and the longevity of the organization reflects the continued significance of the work to recruit and retain Pilipina/os in higher education.

2) Meeting Pilipina/o students from working class backgrounds. While I would have to do the research to figure out the socioeconomic diversity of Pilipina/os at Cal, I met many students and alumni who spoke of issues of access and retention as it related to their lack of material resources. I do not think the class gap has diminished within the Pilipina/o community, but I do believe that PASS continues to nurture an environment conducive to validating students from working class backgrounds.

3) Reunion. I sat with dear friends: Cynthia Manuel Shah, who was a freshman when I was a senior, and Monica Santos Quintana, my old college roommate. I texted and exchanged pictures with Phil Dimapig, who perhaps possesses the best memory of the organization among everyone I know. But I also had the opportunity to think about and miss folks who could not attend, including Dr. Gretchenjan Lacato Gaviro, Garrick Macatangay, and Perry Allegre, all of whom were freshmen interns with me. These colleagues continue to well represent our communities in fields such as counseling, education, business, medicine, and entertainment.

4) Evolving programs and services. While the number of PASS staff members continues to be large and the student burnout persistent, I learned that the RRC has attempted to address the diverse issues faced by the U.S. Pilipina/o student community: The work to institutionalize Pilipino Studies, recruitment and retention support for undocumented students, graduate school preparation and resources, and cross-racial and ethnic solidarity building. Contemporary PASS staff can learn from the past in regards to organizing principles, but each successive staff cohort needs to reframe the wheel to address the changing social, political, and economic issues faced by Pilipina/os in the diaspora.

In attending the PASS 30th Anniversary Gala, my spirit was rejuvenated and my commitment to serve Pilipina/os and students was reaffirmed. I hope that others who have been impacted by PASS continue their work post-graduation, in whatever capacity.

One of the most meaningful experiences that I had this semester as an intern for the Youth Mentorship component was having the opportunity to help coordinate and participate in our semester YM Shadow Days, or YM Shadow. Intended to expose elementary and middle school students to higher education, YM Shadow reaffirmed my passion for wanting to mentor others to bring them to their fullest potential.

YM Shadow helped teach the importance of college through interactive and ‘kid-friendly’ activities that young children could relate to. Having the opportunity to ‘buddy up’ with older Kuyas and Ates provided these kids with meaningful and6

contextual support. Rather than discouraging kids from applying to college because ‘it was too hard,’ YM Shadow promoted the opposite notion: anyone can go to college, and it was necessary to stay motivated at an early age to better position themselves for the future.

As an immigrant student who did not have any family support upon arriving to the United States, I struggled finding the proper motivation and resources to excel and succeed in school. Because of this, I was able to relate with these kids on a more personal level, and had a conviction to really take on a ‘big brother’ role to make them feel more at home here at Cal.

I really enjoyed playing and talking to the kids as if they were truly my younger siblings: we talked about sports, crushes, food, and play games to further promote a sense of personal belonging. Not to say that I was not nosy. I intentionally did this because once I hit a topic a student was really passionate about, they opened up and became really close to me, which allowed me to connect with them more as a sibling rather than a teacher or supervisor.

During the first YM Shadow this semester, I planned and conducted a workshop with Kuya Brandon about traditional Pilipino attire. We made the kids create their own versions of ‘barongs’ and ‘Maria Clara dresses’ with tissue, colored paper, and tape. Not only did we teach kids more about their own culture, but we also fostered their soft skills, such as communication, teamwork and qualitative analysis.

I had so much fun that day. I think it was because I felt like I was living a dream that I did not have the chance to experience. But fortunately with the help of everyone involved, we gave those kids that opportunity.

Bradley Afroilan juniour

Leche Friends

Miguel Elizaga junior

INTERNS
This semester, one of our programs was the Spring 2015 PASS General Retreat. In terms of planning this retreat, the Exec Cr3w split up logistical responsibilities and prepped for a retreat that fully catered to its participants. While our staffer already had the main logistics down such as booking a house/location, allocating certain staff members to drive, etc., we as interns split the tasks of grouping people in cars, coming up with a "menu" and making a Costco run for it, etc. No matter the task, it was always fun working with each other.

The retreat itself was a success. The entire component attended the retreat. I feel as though it was an eye-opening and reflective weekend, not only for us but for all the participants of the retreat. The weekend really encompassed a perfect balance of growth, enlightenment, fun and friendship.

One of the most memorable experiences with PASS would be my first YM Shadow Day for the 3rd-5th graders. Seeing the bright and energetic smiles of the students reminded me of the excitement I felt when I was a participant in Galing Bata back in the days. The group I was in was one of the most energetic group of students I have known! I remember having one student who would always run ahead of the group, and another student who was full of character. It was an exhausting day, but worthwhile to know that these children are going home with stories spent with their ates and kuyas in UC Berkeley. As a child, it was these stories that helped with the conversation of higher education between my mom and I. I hope that it is through these annual day trips that continue to inspire the students to someday matriculate to higher education. YM Shadow Days continue to inspire me to keep moving forward and to stay positive through difficult times.
I initially joined PASS with the intention to bond more with Rico and Rayanne as a SHADOW intern, but what I got was so much more. I finally found a community that rooted me to Cal and offered me a space to grow in ways I would have never foresaw when I came to Cal two years ago. Coming to Cal, I was out of my element since only one other student from my high school came to this school with me, and I was away from home. I tried joining clubs in hopes of finding an anchor but only ended up regretting not going to UCLA. However, this last semester has been rewarding in terms of the relationships formed and the ones I want to continue to foster whether it be my PAAmily, my SHADOW co-interns, or the friends I have been lucky enough to make at the space.

There were two notable moments where I found my passion for SHADOW. The first was when Rae and Ricco shared SHADOW’s hxstory with the interns. Learning SHADOW’s hxstory put the work I did into a more holistic perspective in terms of Prop. 209, SP-1 & SP-2, Affirmative Action, the Unequal Opportunity Race Video, and Filipino Empowerment Day. The SHADOW days where we held campus tours and students panels were of renewed meaning and significance for me. Especially like the tours because of the free flow of dialogue between the students and me. The second was Spring SHADOW weekend. Seeing Spring SHADOW weekend go well was amazing since all the work nights, phone banks, mentor and mentee pairings were of fruition. At the time, getting to know the students beyond the two hours usually assigned for SHADOW days offered so much more insight into their lives. Their unfamiliarity with college and the process to attaining it resonated within me because I had the same exact problem navigating college applications and financial aid with my mother who was just confused as I was and sometimes even more so. From these two moments, I developed a personal connection to SHADOW and a strong passion for PASS because of the community I was welcomed in and for the impact we make.

Paolo Joaquin

I’ll be honest with you all. I did not know what to expect from PASS when I was applying for an internship. I was not involved with PASS until this spring semester. I did not even know that an organization like PASS existed at UC Berkeley. Little did I know that PASS would have such a powerful impact on my life.

The life of an Outreach intern was busy but rewarding. To put it into perspective, it took months of rigorous planning for almost a week of outreaching. It took a lot of patience to book schools and deal with college counselors’ busy schedules. There was also the dreadful fact that I was going to give up spring break to present to high school students. However I was able to accept it and move on to executing a successful outreach.

I have never given an outreach presentation before. I remember feeling self-conscious during my first presentation at Delano High School. Nonetheless my feelings changed when I started to give information about different colleges. I started to feel more confident with my abilities and knowledge. By the end of the day, I did not even need the cheat sheet to give a complete presentation. After the presentations, I talked to one of my staffers, Nirvana, about how giving outreach presentations is like an addiction.

I do not regret any moment. I enjoyed giving presentations as well as impacting the lives of students in a positive way. While the recruitment of students is the main goal of outreach, it is important to acknowledge the fact that it also includes retention. Throughout the semester I was able to learn more about the hxstory of Pilipin@s-Americans and more about my personal identity as one. I learned that it is important to know more about myself so that I can help others succeed in higher education.

The trip made me realize the reality that Pilipin@s face when going into higher education. PASS as a whole uncovered many barriers of Pilipin@s in higher education that I would never have known.

This semester, I feel that I have grown exponentially due to my involvement in the Pil community. I have learned a lot from the PASS staff as well as from other people in the community. As the year is coming to a close, I can wholeheartedly say that my involvement in PASS is something I do not regret. I met many people and found a community whom I can call my family.

Bryan Bui

SOPHOMORE | SHADOW INTERN

Paolo Joaquin

FRESHMEN | OUTREACH INTERN
Filipinx history, identity, and decolonization

Excerpts from Tumblr posts

Adrian Peneyra

“Empowerment through identity is a great thing. We are a people, like many others, have faced oppression and discrimination. We have come out stronger and more resilient. We have the power to make a difference in ourselves and in the society we live in.

Just as Jeff Duncan-Andrade said, students become empowered when they learn their history. They have agency, they have the power to change how they view themselves and how society views them.”

Emira Ramirez

“Meeting Professor Choy for the first time was a pleasure and enlightening experience. Knowing that she’s the first tenured Filipina professor and head of the Ethnic Studies Department gave me hope in the strength of our Pilipin@ community. That we are being recognized and heard. That we are not “hidden” people erased by western colonialism. Our numbers are the largest immigrating group in California, so why don’t we have a Pilipin@ Studies in the UCs, and especially here at Cal— the number one public university in the nation?”

Daryl Cristobal

“Every year, selected admitted students to the University of California, Berkeley are given the opportunity to attend Senior Weekend, a four-day, three-night stay here at this fine institution, where they get the whole Cal Experience before making that critical decision on what college to send their Statement of Intent to Register, also known as SIR before the May 1st deadline. Being involved in this process since January 2015, it was exciting to see this whole weekend evolve through intense planning and facilitation. For me, this was my first Senior Weekend and I was looking forward to seeing how it all played out. Due to unfortunate circumstances, I was unable to attend my own Senior Weekend a year ago, but seeing everyone put in the time and effort to make this event happen inspired me and made me excited for the admitted seniors who get to experience this weekend hands-on. I decided to become involved in the planning process of Senior Weekend because it is through events like this one that inspires students to continue on with higher education. Many students who are invited to Senior Weekend do not have sufficient resources to aid them through their education and Senior Weekend provides that alternative resource and experience by giving them a taste of what higher education is like if they choose to pursue it. It is our goal that as mentors to these students, we encourage them to SIR to this fine institution because of the many opportunities to thrive and succeed here, but more importantly, we aim to shed light on the value of higher education and what our Filipino community strives for every day, that is our commitment to being true to ourselves and to everyone else no matter where you end up. Senior Weekend 2015 was an unforgettable experience, for many have formed new friendships and memories, but it is through our commitment to being of resource to students from our communities that keeps me rooted and thriving. Knowing that these students have left the Weekend with a clearer picture of what Cal is like and seeing their eyes glisten when they remark, “I will be SIRing here to Cal and I am so excited to be here again” makes me cringe in delight. It is through these experiences that have defined my first year here at Cal and I am ecstatic for more opportunities to become proactively involved with our community.”
What started out as ideas on a blank computer screen turned into a successful event as this semester’s PASOC staff did an amazing job with their final event of the year: PASOC Through the Years. It took a combined effort from this year’s class coordinators, Marvin Baclig and Dominique Acosta as well as their spring semester staffers to bring everything together. Given everything that was happening: prepping and or taking finals, projects, and the event only having a small budget, the PASOC team did a great job making it all happen.

PASOC Through the Years is not only a celebration of the history of this component, but a celebration for all members of every component that make up PASS of UC Berkeley. Everyone was invited to this event: current staff, interns, former staff, really anyone who has been involved in the work that PASS is doing for the Filipino/Filipin@ students. It was a morning full of cheerful conversation and wonderful pictures as everyone was treated to filipino cuisine and a photo booth, where everyone partook in wacky pictures with their friends. Not only was it a time of enjoyment, but also a time for reflection: some members were able to share their experiences of working with PASS. From each perspective, one thing was constant: being apart of PASS enhances the years you spend at Cal because of all the connections, friends and benefits that this retention center has to offer.

Even Though I was only an intern for the spring semester, I felt that being in PASOC and more importantly PASS helped my first year experience more worthwhile. As a group, we were able to accomplish a lot and also make time for bonding. Our usual meetings were fun and productive. At times we be off track, but regardless, we completed what needed to be done. And when our group had bonding time, everyone was engaged and cheerful for each other’s company. And though I’m speaking about my own experience being in the PASOC component, other components also echoed this sense of family. PASS is not only a place when students can get help to navigate through their college years, but also a space to meet friends, share stories, and learn about your roots as a Filipino/Filipin@ student.

Marlowe Macaranas
FRESHMNX | PASOC INTERN

This semester, I had the honor of being a part of the Gender and Sexuality Awareness Component (GSAC) with Justine Velazquez and Redjan Quarto. Throughout this Spring term, we had weekly component meetings and have put together pinay spaces, biyuti meetings, and GSAC retreat. The pinay space is geared toward individuals who identify as Queer Pilipin@s. It has proved as invaluable for them to talk about sexual desires and sex that face. Justine Velazquez’s workshop, “Self-Care,” allowed us to analyze the tensions in our body and soul, and seek relaxation. John Perez’s workshop, “Sex Positivity,” created a space to talk about sexual desires and sex that is consensual. In addition to workshops, we visited the beach to rejuvenate and had a townhall, in which we discussed issues facing our community. The end of our trip consisted of both written and blind affirmations. In a blind affirmation, the facilitator says something like, “Hug somebody who touched your heart this weekend” or “Hug somebody whose story resonated with your own.” This activity really made me realize how strong of an impact these fellow community members made on me. As a senior, it hurts me to say goodbye, but it also brings me great joy that I got to know these lovely people. I love the work I have been able to contribute as part of GSAC, and I hope that these spaces can continue to be made so others can feel the sense of community I have felt.

Jaydienne Fontejon
SENIOR | GSAC INTERN
Congratulations class of 2015!

Unlike the other PASS internship experiences I have had, being a Director of Retention intern entailed most of the work to be done after the school year had ended. During the course of the semester, aside from keeping the retention corner stocked with supplies such as green books and scantrons, we spent most of our time planning for Pil Grad. For us interns, the planning process was actually mostly hands-off. Aly understood that the end of the year is academically challenging, and she made it clear that she wanted us to focus on our own retention. I really appreciate that sentiment because sometimes I forget that I am first and foremost a student at this university (thanks Aly for helping me realize that!).

After school ended, the day finally came: Pil Grad was upon us. I took on the role of VOC, or volunteer organizing committee, which means that I was there to make sure the event would run smoothly from start to finish. One of my favorite parts was seeing the volunteers construct a balloon arch in the span of about thirty minutes, and it turned out great! To be honest, the day ended up actually being very stressful. But no matter how much worry or concern I had on my mind, I could tell that all the hard work that Aly, the senior planning committee, and us interns put into this process paid off as the crowd full of friends and families seemed to enjoy the event.

Perhaps my true favorite thing about Pil Grad is the reason behind why we have one in the first place. Graduating from UC Berkeley is no easy feat, especially for people of color. The event celebrates years of hard work, from taking tests, writing essays, doing research projects, and much more. Reading through the program and watching the seniors walk across the stage to thank those who have helping them through their college career makes me see how much each and every one of them have accomplished in such a short time. Their successes inspire me to not just survive college, but thrive through this journey and be the best that I can be.

Jerrold Acdan
Sophomore | AD retention intern
Introducing...

PASS STAFF 31

CONGRATULATIONS

FROM FAR LEFT, COUNTERCLOCKWISE:

Brandon Basa
YM Co-coordinator

Fran Caruncho
YM Co-coordinator

Edgar Yap
AD Internal Affairs

Erica Pineda
Outreach Co-coordinator

Angelica Patricio
Outreach Co-coordinator

Marinella Bohol
Advocacy Coordinator

Nikki Acosta
AD Retention

Redjan Quarto
Shadow Coordinator

Johannah Perez
Pasoc Coordinator

Marvin Badlig
Finance Coordinator

Niko Martinez
AD Recruitment

Marycon Jiro
External Relations Coordinator

Jan Bautista
Executive Director

END OF THE YEAR
Banquet

Puno

Puno

Introducing...

END OF THE YEAR
Banquet

Puno

Introducing...

END OF THE YEAR
Banquet

Puno
Special thanks to...

EXTERNAL RELATIONS Jackie C., Marycon J., and Kim P.
PASS STAFF 30 and all who contributed to PASS it On!

Pilipino Academic Student Services is committed to the recruitment and retention of Pilipin@s into higher education.

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