



# ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S COALITION (AAWC)

301-05 N. 9th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 / Tel: 215 922 0654 / www.aawc.us

*The Asian American Women's Coalition (AAWC) is a multicultural group dedicated to the concerns of all Asian American women. The AAWC mission is to promote the advancement of Asian American women through leadership and mutual support*

"Phoenix" artwork by Sabrina Soong

## The Asian American Women's Coalition

Quarterly NEWSLETTER

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## HIGH SCHOOL "SMARTIES" ATTEND AAWC'S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO COLLEGE LIFE

*"I got a lot of information about college..."* Feedback from a "Smarties" participant

Seventy five high school seniors from various Philadelphia area schools participated in the "Survival Guide to College Life for Smarties" organized by AAWC. The seminar held at the Winnet Student Life Building of the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP), was aimed at preparing graduating high school students for the challenges of college life.

**Margaret Chin**, AAWC president, welcomed the students and gave a brief overview of the day's event. **Michael Robinson**, Assistant Regional Director of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), started the program with a talk on "Financial Aid: A Part of Your Education and Career Path". After the plenary session, the students had the choice of attending any of the following break-out sessions:

The first concurrent session featured the following topics:

- "Financial Banking Information", with **Lisa Folks**, Vice President of PNC Bank;
- "Safety on Campus", with **Eileen Bradley**, Temple University Campus Security; and
- "How to Seek Support and Help", with **Daravann Yi**, CCP Counselor.

Topics during the second session were the following:

- "Strategies for Academic Success", with **Shannon O'Brien**, Academic Advisor of Temple University;
- "Dual Admission", with **Sandra Gonzalez-Torres**, CCP Director;
- "Dual Enrollment", with **Patricia Hecht**, CCP Coordinator; and
- "How to Seek Support and Help", with **Dr. Annette Molyneux**, Assistant Dean of Drexel University.

Based on the participants' evaluation, 53% strongly agreed and 41% agreed that the program was beneficial to them and that they learned more than they expected. A majority of participants agreed that the speakers were excellent.

The seminar for "smarties" was organized by AAWC's program committee, chaired by **Carol Wong**, and was made possible through the support of the Powell Family Foundation and the Community College of Philadelphia.



AAWC founder Cecilia Yep (standing far right) helps register participants for the "Smarties" Seminar



PHEAA Asst. Regional Director Michael Robinson poses with AAWC program chair Carol Wong (L) and AAWC president Margaret Chin (R)



Participants during one of the plenary break-out sessions

## AAWC HOSTS CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY AT METHODIST HOSPITAL

The Asian American Women's Coalition held its annual Holiday Party for children at the Methodist Hospital in South Philadelphia on December 6. This special holiday event is a yearly AAWC tradition since 1990.



Fifty one children from the Indonesian Organization, Lao Family Community Organization, Philadelphia Burmese Baptist Church, Chinese Christian Church and Center, and the Methodist Hospital attended this year's Holiday Party. The children sang Christmas carols, danced, listened to the Christmas ghost story telling by **Jennifer Chang** of the Free Library of Philadelphia, posed for picture with **Santa Claus**, and enjoyed the magic tricks and balloon figures made by **C.C. the Clown**.

The children also created their own Christmas decors at the arts and crafts table manned by AAWC Advisory Board member **Florence Jung** and other AAWC volunteers. Each child received a bag of goodies and toys, as well as their own photograph with Santa Claus, courtesy of AAWC.



AAWC's Holiday Party Committee, chaired by **Margaret Yee**, organized the event, bought and gift-wrapped toys, and provided the entertainment for the children. As co-



sponsor for the event, Methodist Hospital provided the space, decorations, and lunch for the children. **Diane Pirolo**, Vice President of Community Relations of Methodist Hospital, helped AAWC entertain the children.

### THE 2009 AAWC BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

**Yvonne Chang**

*Dear Friends,*

*As this year comes to a close, I take this opportunity to thank our members, officers, board members, donors and supporters who made possible the strides we have achieved in 2008. Through your assistance, AAWC has continued to promote the advancement of Asian women through college scholarships, mentoring, and seminars.*

*I look forward to your continuing support in 2009. As an initial activity for the coming year, I am pleased to announce that AAWC will be holding a seminar on "Survival Guide to Financial Security" with our annual membership meeting on February 28, 2009. More details about this event will be posted soon, please save the date and join us in this exciting and timely event.*

*On behalf of AAWC, I wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and a blessed New Year!*

*Margaret Chin  
AAWC President*