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OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

A Message from the Director

Dear Community Members:

My name is David Do, and I am excited to be working for you as the new director of the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA). As the son of Vietnamese refugees, as a Ward 1 resident and community organizer, and as an education advocate, I know firsthand the importance of inclusion, civic engagement, and community outreach.

- As Director, I will make sure to include underrepresented Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) networks such as young professionals and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals at the OAPIA decision-making table. OAPIA will develop initiatives and programs that includes all AAPI residents.
- Not only is my experience rooted in engaging people of all backgrounds, I will also develop strong connections and creative solutions that will benefit the AAPI community. I will ensure strong inter-agency and community support through OAPIA initiatives that impact and benefit District residents.
- I will listen to and continue the strong relationships with the rich and diverse AAPI organizations and community groups in the District. And I will work to ensure that previously unreached AAPI District residents and businesses have access to OAPIA programs and services.



Join me as we begin a fresh start and move forward together, building bridges between the District's AAPI community and all Washingtonians.

Warm regards,

David Do
Director, DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

OAPIA in the Community

OAPIA Visits DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Centers



The Wilson Aquatic Center offers a main pool, leisure pools, and aquatic fitness opportunities, and is free for DC residents of all ages.

OAPIA attended a site tour of Raymond Recreation Center, Wilson Aquatic Center, and Columbia Heights Community Center on Thursday, January 22, 2015. These facilities are a part of the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and offer playgrounds, fields, gyms, pools, fitness, and access to computers for the public. Most programs, activities, and facilities are free for DC residents of all ages.

DPR also offers Summer Camps consisting of swimming, field trips, creative activities, and new experiences in the District of Columbia. The 2015 Summer Camp season will offer four sessions from June 22, 2015 through August 14, 2015. Additionally, DPR has already opened the Reduced Rate Pre-Qualification Period for DC residents. The goal of the pre-qualification period is to assist residents with completing their reduced rate applications in advance, so that applicants can be prepared when camp registration opens on February 23, 2015. For more information, please visit [here](#).

Mayor Muriel Bowser and OAPIA Attends the 26th Annual Korean American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC) Scholarship Award Banquet



Mayor Muriel Bowser addresses the audience at the 26th annual KAGRO-DC Scholarship Award Banquet.



KAGRO-DC President Yo Sup Lee presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to OAPIA Director David Do.

Mayor Muriel Bowser and OAPIA Director Do, in addition to other District government officials,

attended the 26th annual Korean American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC) Scholarship Award Banquet on January 25, 2015. KAGRO-DC presented a Certificate of Appreciation to OAPIA Director Do to recognize and appreciate OAPIA for its support in the community.

KAGRO-DC was established to help address common needs and problems experienced in the retail business industry among the Korean American business community. In addition, KAGRO-DC has distributed over \$300,000 in scholarships to over 300 youth through the past 26 years. This year, KAGRO-DC awarded 10 scholarships to District students.

Mayor Muriel Bowser Announces Director for Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

(WASHINGTON, DC) - On January 25, 2015, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced David Do as the Director of the District's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA). The announcement came at the 26th Annual Korean-American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC) Scholarship Award Banquet at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family.

Do is a seasoned community advocate, a champion for neighborhood engagement, and committed to education issues. Do, who previously served in the administrations of Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Mayor Vincent C. Gray, also worked with various community-based organizations to promote capital improvement grants during his tenure at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED).

"David is a passionate leader who is committed to improving the quality of life for the residents of the District of Columbia," said Mayor Bowser. "I welcome David's enthusiasm and am delighted to have him join our team. David will be instrumental in working with the AAPI community on behalf of my Administration to deliver a fresh start for the District's residents."

"I am excited to be appointed by Mayor Bowser to lead the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs," said Do. "I will bring my experience and deep understanding of various community groups and stakeholders in Washington, DC to my new role. My focus will be on making sure that the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has a strong advocate and voice within the District."

As Director, Do's goal will be to move forward together by continuing to build bridges between the District's AAPI community and all Washingtonians. Do will lead OAPIA in its mission to improve the quality of life for District AAPIs through advocacy and engagement. Do will advise the Mayor, the Council, and District agencies on the views, needs, and concerns of the AAPI community, provide recommendations on District programs and initiatives affecting the AAPI community, and help to coordinate programs and initiatives within District government that promote the overall welfare of the AAPI community.

KAGRO-DC is an advocacy organization dedicated to furthering the interests of Korean American business owners in the District. Since 1987, KAGRO-DC has awarded over \$300,000 to more than 300 DC local students through the Annual Scholarship Award Banquet.

For the press release in English, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese, please visit [here](#). For Director Do's biography, please visit [here](#).

OAPIA News

OAPIA Welcomes Spring Interns

Zhouyuan Dou is an undergraduate junior from Renmin University of China, where she studies law and business



Zhouyuan Dou

management. With the support from a government scholarship from the People's Republic of China, Zhouyuan is currently attending the University of California, Davis as an exchange student for one year. This quarter, she is interning in Washington, DC as a participant in the University of California Washington Center (UCDC) internship program. Zhouyuan has previously interned on-campus at her home university, gaining immeasurable experience along the way.

As a saying goes in China, "read a million books, travel a million miles." Not only does she value academic success, Zhouyuan is also passionate about traveling and exploring cultures and nature. She also enjoys being involved in all kinds of international communication activities and has developed a good sense of how to get along with people from different backgrounds, especially those from Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

With a Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Dispute Resolution and a minor in Theatre from Salisbury University, Megan L. Rosario is ready to explore opportunities available to her in DC. Megan is currently at OAPIA as an OCA winter intern, and hopes to promote awareness of AAPI culture and issues, while cultivating her identity, and encouraging community involvement. She is also interested in learning more about human resources, creative approaches, and social interactive environments.

Megan's fondest memories growing up were as a participant in the Ilocano Society of America (ISA) Miss Teen Philippines-America 2006 pageant during high school, and while studying theater in Rome, Italy during college. Additionally, Megan is known for her passions in fashion, writing, travel, music, and the performing arts, which all continue to inspire her. She thrives in networking, communications, and is a DC foodie at heart. She is proud to call the DC-Maryland-Virginia area her home, having been born and raised in Montgomery County.



Megan Rosario

As a member of the Chaoxianzu, Korean ethnicity in China, Changyu Jin was born in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture in Northeast China. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics as a freshman at Georgetown University. Changyu has a strong passion of promoting positive changes for minority groups in the community. As a high school student in Shanghai, China, he served co-hosted an election that enabled the entire student body to practice the democratic right to vote. In college, Changyu plays an active role in the Professional Development Initiative within the Asian American Student Association; this opportunity allows him to engage AAPI Georgetown University alumni.



Changyu Jin

Changyu dedicates much of his free time participating in sports, including intramural basketball games at Georgetown University. He marvels at how a common passion for sports can bring individuals of all backgrounds together. Changyu is outgoing, and would love to meet different people from the AAPI community to share stories, find common interests, and offer them the best help using his capabilities.

Spotlight: Korean American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC)



The Korean American Grocers Association of Washington, DC (KAGRO-DC) is an advocacy organization for Korean American business owners in the Greater Washington, DC area. KAGRO-DC was established to help address the common needs and problems experienced in the retail business industry among the Korean American business community. Additionally, KAGRO-DC awards scholarships to local DC area high school students during their annual scholarship award banquet; this year there were 10 award recipients.

KAGRO-DC was founded in October 1987, as a chapter included within KAGRO, a global organization dedicated in furthering the interests of the grocers and food distributors of Korean descent around the world. The main purpose of KAGRO is to assist Korean American retailers in adapting to American culture, lifestyles, and business. KAGRO functions are a vital role as information exchange and clearinghouse on matters concerning business, legislation, and on legal and regulatory issues essential to the successful operation of a retail enterprise.

For more information on [KAGRO-DC](#) and [KAGRO](#), please visit [here](#).

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month



Issues like cervical cancer, human papillomavirus (HPV) disease, and early detection are brought to women's awareness and how they can protect themselves. Getting Pap tests, HPV vaccines, and annual visits can prevent cancer and deaths. Approximately 79 million Americans have HPV, and many don't even know. The month of January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month presents an important opportunity to promote this health maintenance education to women.

Nationally, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women often have low screening rates and therefore increase their chance for cancer. Local resources and programs such as the National Cervical Cancer Coalition (NCCC), federal government Health Finder, and Project Women Into Staying Healthy (WISH) can help provide information or services for women to remain in good health.

For more information or resources concerning Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, please visit:

- [DC Department of Health \(DOH\): Breast and Cervical Cancer Program - Project Wish](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\): HealthFinder.gov](#)
- [National Cervical Cancer Coalition \(NCCC\)](#)

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