Asian club not segregationist

The Asian-American Association at Ohio State was formed for people of Asian ancestry, but anyone who is interested may join. "We are a non-segregationist group," said club president Dan Wong. "Our goal is to provide better understanding of our heritages, ourselves, our roles in American society and the Asian community."

ONE OF THE group's functions is to collect information on services and activities for Asians in Columbus.

The group's service project, called the Asian Children's Workshop, brings children together who are in grades one through five for activities or perhaps a visit to the zoo.

Many Asians in the midwestern United States live scattered through the suburbs, and their children rarely have the opportunity to interact with others who share a common heritage.

FOR MEMBERS there are discussion groups, talk may range "from oriental stereotypes to women's lib," Wong said.

The group hopes to invite Dr. Lucy Huay, sociologist from the University of Illinois, to discuss her studies on first and second generation Asians living in the United States.

Wong explained there is often a vast cultural gap between Asian parents who grew up on the homeland and their children who grow up in the United States.

OTHER GROUP activities include a cooking group which gathers to learn how to make various Chinese, Japanese and Filipino dishes.

Wong says the group is open to suggestions and ideas from new members and they begin their second year as a club.

Anyone interested is invited to stop by Ohio Union 325 for information on membership and group activities already planned.
Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to acknowledge a new student organization on campus. It is called Asian American Association. The reason I am giving notice of our organization, is to enlist your aid and knowledge in developing Asian American Association into an integral part of University life for Asian Americans, as well as for the campus community. Enclosed is our constitution justifying the forming of the organization, and the objectives for it.

However, one problem that faces this organization is the psychological attitude towards one another as Asian Americans. Practically everyone of us has grown up socially with little contact with other Asian Americans. No substantial Asian American community exist in what I call middle America, only the coastal cities gain recognition. Because of this lack of communication, there exist a subtle discriminatory nature towards other fellow Asian Americans. Hopefully the organization can remedy this at the University level of education, since there is a large number of Asian American students.

Presently, as for what you can do to help the organization, I do not know as of yet where to begin. I would like to keep the lines of communication open with you though. For now, I hope upon receiving this letter, you will respond in writing, giving me some idea about your department and what it does. Then later, I would like to meet with you and discuss the Asian American Association. I appreciate your time and thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Moderator

S. Joe Yee

SJY/mk
cc: Enclosed is a copy of names also receiving this letter.
Errata - Also enclosed is our newsletter.

J. Carroll Notestine - University Development Group
William McAlvany - University Development Group
Judith Martin - University Development
Herman J. Peters - Special Services
John T. Bonner - Educational Services
John T. Mount - Dean of University College
Charles Williams - Student Development and Programs
Harold Emerson - President of OSU
Edward Houlton - Secretary of the Board of Trustees
Madison Scott - Affirmative Action Program
Albert Kuhn - Academic Affairs
George W. Baughman - Special Projects
Richard H. Armitage - Student Services
John P. Nelson - Residence and Dining Halls
Richard Zimmerman - Budget and Resources Planning
Judith Nashburn - University Budget
Jim Trainer - Finance office, Student Organizations
CONSTITUTION

A. Name of the organization:
Asian American Association

B. Purpose of the organization:

Justification:

The American society is composed of many ethnic cultures which have for the most part assimilated into the cultural tradition of America. However, each has had to sacrifice aspects of its own culture to exist in the new environment whose ideals differ greatly from those of the parental society. The Blacks, Indians, Asians, and other cultures have been integrated into a larger group. This process has resulted in the evolution of subcultures of individuals who greatly differ from those who were not born in this country. These subcultures, by merging with one another, have united to form a main thread which is called the American society.

The Asian population, like others, no longer retains its cultural quintessence. The Asian American has become an individual caught between ancestral values and American values. In areas where there are no large groups of Asians, there is a high likelihood of forgetting one's heritage because of the more dominant culture. Also, one will lose their self-identity with other Asian Americans since there is little or no contact.

In this particular geographical area, Asian Americans need to realize that not only are they Americans, but that they are also individuals with an Asian heritage. There is a need to investigate and understand one's heritage in America. One cannot and should not escape from one's past. But for many Asian Americans, the distance between their own values and ideals and those of their ancestors may be too great, precluding any learning, communication, and understanding. However, it is felt that although Asian Americans are citizens, they must develop within this country by facing the adversity of society and begin by setting new values and ideals consistent with our dual cultures.

To date, there is no organization in this area capable of giving Asian Americans the opportunity to explore, to learn, to socialize, and to develop themselves. Asian organizations in this area, because they have their own set of values, are not geared for the Asian American population resulting in a definite lack of communication between the cultural spheres. Thus, for reasons stemming from our dual cultures, this organization would fulfill the needs of Asian Americans by promoting intra- and inter-cultural awareness, understanding, and friendship.
E. Duties of the Core members:

a) Leadership - CORE members must take the responsibility of stimulating, motivating, and leading the organization because the CORE is the governing body of the organization for that particular administration.

b) Communications - A vital function of any controlling body is communication to the other members. The CORE must develop channels of communication such as phone calls, newsletters, other media, etc. which will inform members and other interested individuals of organizational actions and activities.

c) Programs (Activities, Special Projects, Athletics, Social Functions, etc.) -

The CORE should encourage and aid other members to develop projects, programs, etc. which will lead the organization toward realization of its objectives. They must also initiate their own programs both immediate and long-range which they feel will benefit the organization.

d) Coordination of Organization Activities - In order to provide for efficient use of resources and talents and in order to avoid duplication, this responsibility of the CORE will be to coordinate activities initiated by other members. The CORE will support and communicate to all members the possible projects in which segments of the organization wish to engage.

F. Specific Duties:

a) Duties of the Moderator:
1. Moderator is in charge of preparing the agenda prior to each meeting
2. Moderator is in charge of chairing each meeting
3. Moderator is in charge of coordinating the various club activities by:
   a) seeing that the club goals are being fulfilled
   b) insuring the continuance of current activities
   c) reviewing the progress of the various activities
4. Moderator may bring to a CORE review any inadequate performance of activity leaders
5. In an emergency situation, the moderator has:
   a) the vested authority to make any decisions of a non-monetary nature
   b) to make decisions on expenditures only with the treasurer's approval
   c) all above such transactions will be valid only after subsequent CORE approval at the next CORE meeting
6. Moderator must effect the smooth transfer of club records between administrations
7. Moderator is in charge of informing the club advisor of the Association's progress
8. Moderator will be the official representative of the Asian-American Association
THE FILIPINO WOMAN

(An excerpt taken from a research article compiled by Asian American Studies Center at UCD. Material taken from Woman Enough by Carmen G. Nakpil, Vibal Publishing Company.)

To assume an abstraction and call it "the Filipino Woman" is, I realize, a dangerous thing to do. Sooner or later, some busybody with his nose in statistics will bring up the exact percentage of the nine million Filipino women who do not measure up, or who will prove, by just being what they are, that my generalizations have villified, venerated, apologized or merely been hasty.

To start with, I shall try to answer the question every man first asks of any woman: what does she look like? The Filipino woman (like the Filipino male) travelling abroad is always being taken for a Chinese, a Siamese, an Indonesian, an Indian, a Mexican or a South American.

An indeed, the Filipino's looks are so heterogenous (due to reduce her polygenetic ancestry) that is seems rash to reduce her physical characteristics to some common denominator. Like the beautiful Chinese bride, whom tall men found willowy, short men found petite, stout men thought pleasingly rounded and thin men preciously spare, the Filipino is so various in her appearance that she seems to give to each according to his need.

Chinese men find in her eyes the necessary upstart; the Japanese think her correctly small; the Indonesians and other Malays note happily that her skin echoes the gleed orange of theirs; the people of the Near East insist that she has the dark-eyed seductiveness of their own women; the Latin trace her sanguine grace to their own blood; and the white Anglo-Saxon, like that first chronicler of the Filipino woman, the 16th-century Pigafetta, comforts himself by saying that "she is almost as large and white as our girls."

Thus, far from being unique and distinctive, Filipino beauty is a subtle compound of Malay, Chinese, Spanish strains flavored by a half a dozen others and characterized by a peculiar and pervasive softness of feature and figure. In comparison with her, native-born Filipinos find European women beefy, American women mannish and other Asiatic women to flat-featured.

This variuousness is not only physical. Her psyche is just as complicated. For the Filipino is a woman with a past—a long, unburied, polychromatic, delicious past which is forever returning to color her days. (continue on page 3)
There have been three men in her life; her Asian ancestor, the Spanish friar, and the American, and like Chekhov's Darlington, she echoes all the men she has known in her person. Our knowledge of the pre-Spanish Filipino is necessarily limited to the uncertain testimony—characteristically tongue-tied about women—of the Chinese chronicles. Women then seemed to enjoy with men an easy equality which was based not on condescension, but on genuine respect. Although, historically, it would be inaccurate to go so far as to maintain, as many writers like Rizal and Craig have, that amazonian princesses like Urduja and autocratic matriarchs like Sina once ruled over Filipinos (Urduja has now been proved to be Indo-Chinese and Sina, Javanese) the dignity of the early Filipino which these pretty tales of displaces queen seek to symbolize was nonetheless solid and substantial reality.

HAVE YOU TRIED A CHINESE LOVER?
(First in a series of four installments published by Ronnie Ebenstein and Michele Spirn in Cosmopolitan, 1972.)

You know you like Chinese food. You're just discovering Chinese art. Why not experiment with a Chinese man?

A famous silent-screen star celebrated as much for her love affairs as her beauty, once remarked: "Men? I've had them all...the Latinas, the Frenchmen with the bedroom eyes, the silent Swedes. . .but you know who was best? My Chinese houseboy!"

What the actress and other women are now discovering is that the Chinese male has had a two-thousand-year start at mastering the arts of love. While St. Paul was condemning women (the vile temptresses) and counseling pious abstinence, Orientals were enthusiastically exploring eroticism. The Chinese have traditionally considered sex the highest art form and raise their children to be successful in love just as American children are encouraged to be successful at football or skiing.

(continue on page 4)

Volleyball: Anyone?

How about badminton, ping pong, swimming, callisthenics, etc. You can enjoy these facilities at Pomerene Gymnasium (next to Mirror Lake) every Friday evenings from 7:00pm until 11:00pm. These facilities are available to you because you are paying for them through your school fees. Almost half of those using these facilities are Asians.

Volleyball: There is always one net for beginner-intermediate coed players, playing just for fun and exercise. Another net is sometimes put up for intermediate/advance individuals who wish to take their frustrations out with super spikes and serves. (Tang Lee is always on the latter court)

Ping Pong: Seven tables are set up for all ranges of skills. You might have to bring a paddle but regular players usually have a spare paddle and can lend it to you. (Bill Hu is always there)

Badminton: Two courts are available. Sometimes they are replaced by volleyball net if no one is using them.

Swimming: Free time with shower facilities for both men and women. Diving board and distance swimming lanes are available.

Exercise Room: There is a contraption that develops all parts of the body. Benches and weight lifting equipment are there too.

Dance Room: Primarily for modern dance individuals or people who likes to stretch and move with music.
CORE Administration

Moderator, Joe Yee..............299-9375
Editor, Dave Wang..............299-2212
Treasurer, Mei Ting Lee........299-5203
Secretary, Maybelle Kwan......239-0901

Social
Chairperson, Ken Yee...........424-5890
Office phone....................422-6287

Office hours...Monday 12 to 5
              Tuesday 10 to 12,
              2 to 5
              Wednesday 12 to 5
              Thursday 12 to 1,
              3 to 5
              Friday 12 to 5

Evening hours...Varies

(continued from page 4)

Hall. Mrs. Kawakami heard about A.A.A. through Bill Lum and wanted to meet a few of its members. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet and talk with her. She has expressed an interest in sharing a past experience with A.A.A. This experience dealt with her relocation into a concentration camp in Topaz, Utah during World War II. So I hope you will be there this Sunday, February 23, 1975 at 6:00pm. Below is a map showing directions to Tang’s house.

```
    N
 11th  
10th  
9th
Main Ave
North St
Highland St
```
Arrow indicates one way.

COMMENT

This publication is intended for its members. The purpose is to enlighten their interests about themselves and to keep them informed about club activities. Any Asian Americans or interested persons, who never heard of our club, feel free to drop on over to our office.

HELP!!

OUR SLANTED VIEW and A.A.A. need YOU...
Typists
Contributing articles
Staff personnel
Leaders

Most of all, people who care that the organization SURVIVES.

If you do give a damn come to our office in the Ohio Union room 325 or call 422-6287 in the afternoons.

LOVE YOUR WOMAN OR MAN?

Put an ad in this paper and tell her so! It's only a dime - 10¢.

Yes, a thin dime will buy that certain person a spot professing your LOVE throughout eternity!
It's cheaper than a hamburger and a movie.
Come on Bob, buy a spot!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

MART W.

FROM

JOE

????????????????????????????YEAR OLD?

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

WANTED - Females for cooperative living with male. Share house, rent, utilities, private room. Call 299-9375 ask for Joe.

CORRECTION

An error was made concerning the name of a new organization on campus. It is not USCFA as it reads but USCPFA - U.S.- China's People Friendship Association.
Project uncovers Asian-Americans campus concerns

The Ohio State Lantern

2-7-85

An OSU professor's study of Asian-Americans on campus indicates many of them are dissatisfied with life at Ohio State.

Many cases of discrimination have been brought out by a research project by Daniel Lee, assistant professor of social work.

The one year research project was funded by an Affirmative Action $6,000 grant in 1983, he said. Lee said he requested the grant because of his interest in the population on campus.

This was the first comprehensive study of Asian-Americans at OSU, Lee said.

The research consisted of 500 mailed questionnaires and interviews with Asian-American students. Sixty-five students, 44 faculty and eight staff members responded to the surveys, Lee said.

Lee presented the results of the study Jan. 25 to Frank W. Hale, Jr., vice provost for the Office of Minority Affairs, Russell Spillman, vice provost for student affairs, and also to Asian-American students.

The Asian Advisory committee will meet within the next two weeks to prepare recommendations from the study for the Office of Minority Affairs to review, Lee said.

"I hope that at least we get a student office and coordinator," he said. "There would be no reason for the report if they would not do anything about it."

While many Asian-Americans do not like being minorities, they have to accept the fact that they are considered minorities in the U.S., Lee said, pointing out in 1980, 3.5 million Asian-Americans lived in the United States.

Ohio has about 50,000 Asian-Americans, the 12th largest number of Asian-Americans in the nation, Lee said.

The number of Asian-Americans is increasing more than any other minority in the United States. Asian-American enrollment at OSU has been steadily rising over the past five years.

Despite this fact, Lee said the students have many concerns and problems. Four key concerns Lee pointed out are: alienation, misidentification, mystification and lack of collection among the Asian-Americans on campus.

The survey found that over half of the Asian-Americans polled said they have thought about leaving because of feeling alienated and lonely, Lee said, although he did not have the statistics on the number which have actually left the university.

The study also found that 25.8 percent of the Asian-American faculty felt uncomfortable about their environment, he said.

The first concern, alienation, is a result of being discriminated against, Lee said. Asian-Americans have sociological and psychological pressures which cause high stress and distance from other students.

Asian-American students suffer from academic pressures. They have stress from the stereotype that "all Asians are smart" and also from high family expectations, Lee said.

They also encounter misidentification problems. The survey showed about 55 percent of the Asian-Americans, who are U.S. citizens, were misidentified as international students, who are not U.S. citizens. Lee said this is a very sensitive point for many Asian-American students.

Although many Asian-Americans have lived in the U.S. for many years, they feel they are still treated as visitors, Lee said.

"One student came into my room in tears because people kept asking her when she was returning to her country," Lee said. "She said that she didn't feel like she fit in even though she had lived here for years, he added.

Tuck Saul, a psychologist in the Counseling and Consultation Service, said a common student complaint is "no matter how long I'm in the U.S., it is still like I'm not a part of the community."

Lee said mystification is the third concern with many of the students who are often excluded from groups and organizations on campus. He said the students should have an Asian-American office on campus where students can socialize and study.

This point is also part of the fourth concern — lack of collection. "There is no anchoring place for Asian-Americans on campus," Lee said, "although the blacks and hispanics have their own offices."

Along with these four points, Lee said Asian-Americans often have more pressures than other students.

For example, about 75 percent of the Asian-American students are without financial aid, he said.

Along with little financial support, they also receive little counseling.

Less than one percent of the Asian-Americans receive counseling, said Saul, adding even though the students have pressures, they are very apprehensive about receiving counseling.

He said this is because the Asians "don't often share their troubles with society. Everyone thinks they are okay."

Marie Shieh, a sophomore from Columbus is treasurer of the Asian American Association, a student organization with about 30 members.

She said the group has not been active recently because students are not participating. Shieh said Asian students concentrate on studies and do not make time to socialize.

Improvements Asian-Americans want at OSU include:

* A central office for Asian-American students.
* An Asian-American studies class at OSU.
* More Asian-Americans in the student government.
* More use of financial aid by Asian-Americans, because only 3.8 percent receive it now.
* A full-time Asian-American staff member in the Office of Minority Affairs.
Number of Asian Americans in the Last Five Years at OSU

Statistics from Addie Bey, OSU statistician

1980: 497
1981: 586
1982: 707
1983: 802
1984: 882
Asian-American enrollment increasing

By Etsuko Motoki
Lantern staff writer

Steady increases in the number of Asian-American students at Ohio State have made them the university's fastest growing minority, according to Lester Morrow, director of Research Development Support, Office of Minority Affairs.

The number of Asian-American students enrolled has more than doubled in the past six years from 497 in 1980 to 1,113 in 1986. The numbers include Pacific islanders and Hawaiians.

"It is difficult to make an interpretation from those figures," Morrow said. "However, certainly the Asian-American population is a fast-growing minority on campus."

Asian-American students who are United States citizens now make up more than two percent of the total university enrollment, which includes undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, Morrow said.

"The increase of number of Asian-American students at this university is not the isolated case," Morrow said. This is a national trend, he said.

One cause of the Asian-American population increase is vigorous pursuit of the university's affirmative action policy, Morrow said.

The Presidential Task Force for recruitment and retention of minority students has also played a role in the enrollment jump, Morrow said. The university not only supports minority enrollment, but also tries to ensure that minority students graduate, he said.

"This policy certainly is one of the many factors which account for this increase of Asian-American students," said James Mager, director of the Admissions Office.

Based on admissions for the autumn, 1987 freshman class, the number of Asian-American students enrolled is still increasing. Mager said he expects the trend to continue for freshman class enrollments.

The new selective admissions policy, introduced by the Admissions Office, went into effect for the autumn, 1987 enrollment.

This new policy may favor Asian-American students because of their strength in the natural sciences and mathematics, Morrow said. "We have to wait for two or three years to see the impact of this new selective admissions policy," he said.

Other schools, like Stanford University in California, have begun to experience dramatic increases in Asian-American students majoring in science and mathematics.

However, at Ohio State, "there is no reason for special concern for the increase of
Asian Americans look for support
OSU lacks programs, group says

By LISA BUCHANAN
Lantern staff writer

Asian Americans feel left out and ignored by Ohio State, said Charles Chang, president of the Asian American Association on campus.

"There is no meaningful support for Asians because the university feels that there aren't any problems," Chang said.

"All of the support is going for the blacks," he said. "The university is not aware of the needs of Asians.

Chang said Asian Americans lack a support system to help them fit in with the university. They need counseling and support through student organizations and programs, he added.

"Some Asians become Americanized and lose all their Asian culture and split from both parents and culture," he said. "It's an added dimension to the generation gap.

Daniel Lee, associate professor in the college of social work, said "there are very serious problems because there is a lot of inequality of how the university deals with various groups." Lee said the problem is worse for Asian Americans than other minorities because "the university has traditionally been more responsive to black and Hispanic groups because they complained more loudly. That's what we're trying to do."

Richard Hollingsworth, acting dean of the Office of Student Life, said while the Asian situation is not a major problem on campus, more resources need to be found to support them.

"We need to listen to the students," he said. "If they feel left out or alienated we can't ignore that. We listen to the students and help them help themselves.

Students need to get the university's attention to get funding, he said.

"It's reasonable to expect that students want to improve the quality of their life and it's reasonable to expect them to submit a proposal," Hollingsworth said. "In terms of direct support, Asians receive less money than any other minority and that's what we're working on."

The University Registrar's Office said 4.2 percent of the university is made up of blacks, 2.1 percent are Asians and Pacific Islanders, 9 percent are Hispanic, and .01 are American Indians. Eighty-two and a half percent of the university is white and the remaining 5.5 percent did not list their race.

Myles Brand, provost, said the main minority problem on campus relates to black students. Therefore, he said the majority of the funding is channeled to black programs.

He said the amount of money each race receives is not relevant to the issue.

"You can't hide the fact that different groups have different needs or else we're just spending money without purpose," he said.

He said the most important point is if the university is providing adequate support for each group.

"Money is proportional to the needs, money is not proportional to the number of students," he said.

Chang pointed out that there is no full-time person coordinating the affairs of the Asian students on campus.

Hollingsworth agreed that this was a problem and 'said his office is in the process of appointing someone to the position.

Chang said the only reason the university has made even this small gesture is because the Asian American group petitioned the university for funding.

Most of their requests were turned down, he said.

Daniel Chow, a professor in the law college, was one of the two faculty members who drafted the petition to get more funding. He said the Asians were asking for $100,000 and said considering the significance of the problem, this was not a large amount.

"OSU allocated money to just barely cover a year's salary with an office, without a telephone," Chow said.

Hollingsworth said the university is looking into additional funding for Asian Americans.
Actors try to dispel Asian stereotypes

By Sherry Li
Lantern arts reporter

Confucius says: "Not all Asians are Dragon Ladies or Charlie Chans."

This is the message a Californian-based acting group is taking to the stage at 8 p.m. Oct. 28 at Thurber Theater in Drake Union.

The Association of Asian/Pacific American Artists, a cultural awareness organization, will be performing for the first time in the Midwest. The production, "AAPAA Yours", is a satire on Asian stereotypes.

"AAPAA Yours" includes songs, dances and sketches created by the cast and Alvin Ing, and performed by professional artists. The troupe is trying to dispel the negative Asian stereotypes portrayed by the mass media.

"The review is used to bring out these stereotypes with humor and taste," said Alvin Ing, AAPAA director/producer. "We're just people like anyone else," he said.

The association was founded in 1976 in Los Angeles to advocate a realistic and responsible media image of Asians. It is a nonprofit, educational and cultural organization intended to create a more realistic portrayal of Asian Pacific Americans.

Another of its aims is to get equal opportunities in the entertainment industry for Asian Pacific Americans.

The troupe was invited by Ohio State's Asian American Association.

"AAA's intention is to dispel stereotypes at O.S.U. as part of the Asian American culture series," said Erika Seo, president of Ohio State's Asian American Association.

Admission will be $2 for students, $5 for adults, and free for Asian American Association members.
OSU proposes to add Vietnamese language

By Lynn D'Anniballe
Lantern staff writer

The Asian-American student task force at Ohio State recently completed a report proposing the addition of the Vietnamese language to Ohio State's East Asian Language and Literature Department.

Christine Chen, president of USG, projected that the Vietnamese population in Columbus alone has increased 100 percent, and it is necessary to address these people's needs.

Felicisima Serafica, chairwoman of the Asian-American student organization and head of the Asian-American student task force, said although the idea is just a proposal for now, it should be a top priority of the administration.

Serafica notes there is a big difference between the East Asian culture, which is as part of Ohio State's curriculum, and the Vietnamese culture.

"By making the proposal to the provost, I think the university is showing a need of meeting the Asian-American students' needs," Serafica said.

While many other programs are being cut, Serafica said this program should be considered because there are many ways it can be implemented without any great cost.

Jim Miller, director of the USG's Multi-Cultural Affairs, is showing his support for the addition to the curriculum by generating literature and petitions.

Miller is accepting signatures for petitions at both the USG and Student Services Offices and will go out for signatures beginning in the fall.

Miller said one of the biggest problems is Americans get a glimpse of the Vietnamese through war stories such as "China Beach" and "Platoon" that only show the American views.

"There is so much more to the Vietnamese culture other than the war," Miller said.

Miller also said Americans have a responsibility to the large number of Vietnamese who came to America after the war.

Eva Nguyen, ex-president of the Vietnamese-American Student Organization, and a present member, said a lot of people really don't know what happened in Vietnam, and any awareness given to the culture will help decrease any reservations against the Vietnamese people.

Nguyen said the Vietnam War is still affecting people today and the Vietnamese language will help give insight to this culture.
Family ties help students reduce stress

By Karen Adler
Lantern staff writer

Life for incoming college freshmen can be confusing and scary, but the second annual Asian American Brothers and Sisters Program is making an effort to alleviate some of the stress.

The goal of the program is to help first quarter Asian American students adjust to life on campus, said Rebecca Nelson, assistant director of retention for the Office of Minority Affairs and AABS coordinator.

The AABS program is co-sponsored by the OSU Asian American Association student organization and the Office of Minority Affairs Retention Services.

The purpose of the program is to help freshman get acquainted with available resources at Ohio State, Nelson said.

The criteria used to match older and younger students were major, ethnicity, gender, involvement in activities and organizations and their hobbies and interests, Nelson said.

About 140 students were placed into groups of five or six based on information from forms previously filled out by the participants, said Mel Paulino, AABS Student Coordinator.

“Students might feel hesitant, intimidated or embarrassed to ask for help,” Nelson said. “We hope to provide new students with a comfort level with other people so that they can get basic questions about university life answered.”

“I think (the program) is good because it’s my first time here and I met a lot of new people,” said Trinh Phung, a freshman majoring in pharmacy. “I enjoyed myself because the people are really nice and friendly.”

Big brothers and sisters are expected to check-in three times a quarter and attend two events with their little siblings, said Holly Mark, AABS student coordinator.

Little brothers and sisters are expected to ask questions and demonstrate a commitment to the group.

“A family atmosphere is good,” said Anand Nilakantan, a sophomore majoring in microbiology. “I want the little sibs to feel comfortable at Ohio State, and I hope they don’t get lost academically.”

Nelson said that though they will continue to promote social events for the groups, there is an equal stress on academics and tutoring opportunities.

Participants will be contacted throughout the year about events that are coming up. The success of the relationships will be checked at these quarterly events through evaluation forms.

Nelson said the emphasis on being Asian American and how that plays into the AABS program depends on the student.

“You’re a student first,” Nelson said. “But there is a certain comfort level in getting to know students who are like you.”