

Welcome, thank you for joining all of us tonight, to celebrate a very successful and memorable year. Tonight is a special evening, one I look forward to each year, because, during the year, I'm usually so busy running around, trying to make sure your successes will be

John Yokoyama

- from outer space when I first met Johnny
- a style of his own, distinct way of talking; walking, interacting - just plain way of BEING
- knows all his students - name, major, life goals, → whether they have a boyfriend or not
- outstanding -
- busts his butt to develop friendships w/ students, helping to make the transition from home to college a little easier for new incoming students
- fall term - learned he was going to every Asian affiliated student group meeting → found out he decided to take off the term from classes -

### OUTSTANDING SERVICE

The first awards I would like to present go to students who have shown extraordinary amounts of time, commitment, and energy throughout the year, to make various Asian student programs the successes that they were. It's amazing that these students put in as much time and effort as they did, because no one got paid for it! And I'm sure there were some academic grades that suffered a little because of this devotion they gave to APASO, too.

But without their commitment and dedication to seeing things through, many programs would not have been as successful as they were.

CERTIFICATES -- READ what they say and present them:

Okay, now I'd like to recognize some extra special people who put in extraordinary amounts of time and effort this year. They went "beyond the call of duty" and without their dedication and commitment to APASO and to APA programming, APASO would not have been able to accomplish all that it did this year. Rarely does someone go up to one of them to say "thanks, thanks for all the hard work you put into making this a really fun and memorable experience for me". Their efforts should not go unnoticed, and so therefore, I'd like to recognize four special individuals tonite who will receive the "Outstanding Service" Award for 1991-92.

The first award goes to a person who, as a freshman last year, took it upon himself to get involved right away and became one of APASO's executive officers. This year, he took on all the responsibilities of becoming one of the Co-Presidents of APASO, which was no small feat, considering the fact that he juggled this commitment with his ROTC leadership position, working up to ten hours to pay for school, and somewhere in all of these activities, STUDY and make good grades.

When I first started working with him, I was always amazed that he was a "drill captain" for ROTC while at the same time, he managed to be LATE to ALL our meetings together. I always thought I was yelling at him, because he would always approach me with this pathetic look on his face of "Oh God, what is it NOW?" and like he was scared I was going to hit him. Then, I learned that this was just his natural way to approaching people in general -- no, I'm just kidding, Dan.

During this year, I have had the pleasure of watching Dan grow, into a very strong student leader who understands what it takes to get the job done. And he's usually the one that's scrambling at the last minute to get that job done. He's going on to become an RA next year, so I'm really gonna miss him and his "puppy dog" faces.

Please join me in recognizing Dan Potts as one of the recipients of the Outstanding Service Award for 1991-92.

The next Outstanding Service Award goes to an individual who held a very important position in APASO. Without him and his meticulous thoroughness in making sure the necessary paperwork was done, APASO would not have been able to put on all of its numerous events. He was always on the ball, making sure things were being taken care of, always cautiously advising how much APASO was spending, and he knew where every single cent was going. To all those Congressmen who have been having trouble balancing their checkbooks -- this is the man for the job!

There is no question in my mind, that if it wasn't for this person, the big conference we put on last April would never have happened. He was my right-hand man, giving me daily calls, asking me: "Maggie, did you do get that contract back yet? Did you order the food yet? Did you mail the airplane tickets yet?" Conference planning is so overwhelming at times, that it's hard to think straight because you have a millions things that have to be done that very minute. But, Brian was great, he kept me on task, helping me prioritize and making sure that things got done.

Being treasurer is a thankless job, sometimes, because people don't realize how much paperwork you need to fill out just to order a couple of cans of pop. And he's done an extraordinary job this year, keeping those tight books balanced.

For these reasons, as well as many more, I'd like to present the Outstanding Service Award to Brian Moy for all the hard work he's put in this year.

The third Outstanding Service Award goes to a very special person who's going to be a great ambassador some day. She has a talent for welcoming new people to meetings, and she is always so upbeat and cheerful. She has the great ability to motivate, inspiring people to do the most cumbersome tasks like cleaning up after a meeting or dance, or signing up to serve as a committee member for a particular program. She has this infectious spirit of enthusiasm and energy -- and she's always trying to get others involved -- guaranteeing that "It'll be REALLY fun, REALLY."

This year, she also achieved a very important goal she set out to accomplish for APASO at the beginning of the year. When she was elected Programming Chair for this year, she really wanted to see more international students, such as herself, become part of the APASO family. She organized and facilitated an excellent workshop during the Conference about the experiences and perspectives of international students. And from this, I think everyone came away from it, with a much better understanding and appreciation for the global world in which we all must live and recognize the importance of brotherhood and sisterhood amongst all cultures.

Please join me in recognizing NorHaily Hussein as a recipient of the Outstanding Service Award for 1991-92.

The last recipient of the Outstanding Award goes to a freshman, who EVERYONE knew OR knew about by the end of fall term. He was this "Stranger from the Big City", from New York City. I remember that when I first met him, I was really intimidated by him, because he had this "tough homeboy" look about him, a look that said "Don't talk me, leave me alone and I won't hurt you." Well, I'm really glad that I got over my inhibitions about meeting him. After talking with him and working with him for a couple of days, I realized that he was one of the neatest people I'd ever met, and that BOY -- if you wanted the latest scoop from the APASO grapevine, Audie was the one who had it.

Rarely have I run across a person with as much raw and untapped artistic talent as Audie, AND someone with so little awareness of how GOOD he really is. He was blessed with the ability to have a sharp creative mind and skilled hands. And so long as he doesn't feel like he's got a deadline to make, he comes up with some pretty impressive and amazing artistic creations.

Let me tell you, he worked his butt off during the conference. Every other day, I'd be calling him, "Ah, Audie, could you draw me up another flyer? Ah, What was that? -- When do I need it? Ah, by 5:00 TODAY?" And he'd always come through. Now, that's what I call: commitment.

Please help me thank Audie Umali for all his time, energy, and effort all of our eyes have enjoyed this year.

OUTSTANDING MINORITY AIDE AWARD

OUTSTANDING FRESHMAN

This next award is given to the student, who as a freshman, has made his/her name a regular "APASO grapevine" name, and someone who has displayed outstanding, remarkable and truly admirable amounts of energy, enthusiasm and effort.

This award is one of my personal favorites because I have the opportunity of watching students, who came into the University, wide-eyed, innocent and a little unsure of themselves, become and blossom into strong and powerful student leaders who really make an impact at Michigan State.

This year, this award goes to an individual, who, at the very beginning of the year, came up to me asking for a job I had open in the Office of Minority Student Affairs. He didn't look at me the entire time we spoke, just at his shoes, and I thought, "Wow, this guy is really shy - I wonder if he will be able to tolerate the craziness of my office." Boy, they say your first impression of someone sticks with you forever. Well, my first impression of this person lasted maybe a day or two.

Not only did I get a chance to see this person in action working at the office, I also got to see him take charge of becoming the new Community Affairs Officer for APASO, diligently attending Student Council meetings, and always providing them with sharp insights and perspectives on various issues.

I have rarely had the chance to tell him how much I admire him. As a freshman, as a budding student leader, and as a great human being. He's usually on the other end of one of my bad days and bad moods at the office. And I just want to say "thanks" for letting me treat him like my little brother. He's had to endure lots of harassing and joking, but we never meant any of it.



Known for his quick wit, for his ever-present positive attitude, for his daring haircuts, for his exacting impersonations of people, and for his delusionary obsession with Kristi Yamaguchi ... would you please help me recognize, Gil de las Alas as the recipient of the 1991-92 Outstanding APA Freshman Award.

#### OUTSTANDING APA ADVOCATE

MA:AWARDS91:OUTSTAND.FRS

I left this award for the last, because not only is it a very important award, it goes to a particularly important and special person. Boy, this is really hard, because she will never know how much I'm going to miss her. During her three years at MSU, transferring here in her sophomore year, I think I've learned more from her than she'll say she's learned from me.

To tell you about the endless number of achievements and awards she has been given, it would take all evening. But, to tell you how much she has done for others, and how much of an impact she has made on students, faculty and administrators and Michigan State University as a whole, can be summed up in just a few words: She is compassionate, dedicated beyond belief, admirable and "visionary." She'll tell you herself that she's always known that she wanted to affect the world in a way to make things just a little better, and I really believe she has done so, here during her three short years at M.S.U. And it is without a doubt that she will continue to "make a difference" as he ventures on into the

greater outside world. She just can't help it - she was a natural born leader, and she possesses something that some leaders tend to forget once they reach the top: She always leads with her heart. She is always aware of how others may be feeling, what others might be thinking - but may not have the courage to do what needs to be done - and what needs to be said.

She is a very rare individual. Regardless of whether she is acting as the student liaison for the Board of Trustees, as the Co-President of APASO, as the older sister for a lost freshman, or as minority representative for all racial ethnic students, she is always honest, always sincere, and always coming right from here (from her heart). The dedication and commitment she has shown to APA students and to racial ethnic students at large are tremendous and truly awesome. Her ability to articulate the diverse perspectives of many and to ensure that those voices which are drowned out by the louder are heard is \_\_\_\_\_. She can get a stubborn administrator to yield through her powers of astute and keen persuasion, and by her amazing ability to analyze a situation to her advantage. And she also had the courage and "chutzpah" to "tell it like it is" when no one else is willing to. She has taught many a lesson, always serving as a strong role model to her peers - breaking stereotypes of the quiet, mild-mannered Asian American.

Through her many talents, the APA students, APASO, CORES and MSU at large, has become a better place to live, work and grow up at. Tonight, I'd like to say "thank you" to her, for all that she's

done, for all of us. She'll never know how much we'll all miss her guiding presence, her ways of calming and her great courage to risk a little bit of herself in order for others to gain much more.

Please join me in recognizing Connie Rose Tingson for outstanding  
APA Student Advocate for 1991-92.

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