



The mission of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) is to empower Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Americans in civic and public affairs through education, active participation, and leadership development.

## **APAPA New York Chapter 2016 Summer Interns**

Brian Tong  
Nanxi Zhou  
Kevin Han  
Teresa Wang  
Xuedo Yu  
Elizabeth Shieh  
Eric Lin  
Keith Chen  
Jiayong Mai  
Raymond He  
Kevin Liu  
NingAn Liu

## Attended NY Governor Andrew Cuomo's Bill Signing Ceremony



## Interns Co-organized the 2016 API Career Fair



On August 6, APAPA New York Chapter interns co-organized the 2016 API Career Fair. Thousands of college students and young professionals waited on line to attend the event. Our interns worked hard to invite nearly 40 employers. They reached out to numerous employers and handled all of the behind-the-scenes details and logistical concerns that the career fair attendees are, by and large, unaware of. Congratulations to the 2016 interns for a successful event.

The event was organized such that employers offered on-site recruitment and provided information job-seekers. The US Marine Corps, the US Navy, the NY Police Department, the FDNY, NY District Attorney's Office, and many other New York City departments were among the many firms and government departments that attended the fair.

Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez and some other elected officials visited the fair and shared her views. She encouraged the employers to keep providing opportunities to the Asian-American community.

We at the APAPA New York Chapter pledge to endeavor toward increasing civic participation among Asian-American groups. Only through active participation can Asian-American communities improve social conditions and create political and educational opportunities for all members of the Asian-American community.

Justin Yu  
Michelle Wang





*Certificate of Special  
Congressional Recognition*

*Presented to  
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association  
Centers Plan for Healthy Living 2016 API Annual Career Fair  
in recognition of outstanding and invaluable  
service to the community.*

*August 6, 2016*

DATE

*Robert M. Velazquez*  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

## New York Chapter Alumni

### Thank you, APAPA



My name is Shelley Wu and I am a junior at Fordham University. I am a double major in American Studies and Political Science on the Pre-Law track. In the summer of 2015, I had the privilege of interning at the Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs Association New York Chapter. APAPA New York's college internship program has provided me with an amazing learning experience that I would have never received elsewhere. APAPA has taught me the importance of civic engagement, political participation, and community service. I am grateful for the many opportunities that APAPA has provided me, including an internship with State Senator Daniel Squadron's office and a volunteer position on a political campaign. Through these positive experiences, I have learned so much more about public policy, business, and professionalism. In addition, I have built strong friendships and relationships with my fellow interns, coworkers, and coordinators. After the APAPA internship program concluded, State Senator Daniel Squadron invited me back to the office to work part time as an Assistant Community Liaison. Without APAPA, I could have never had this valuable opportunity, and I am truly grateful for the doors that this organization has opened for me. Because of APAPA's dedication to empowering Asian American youths, I have become a better citizen who actively participates in politics and community service. Thank you APAPA, for being a wonderful nonprofit organization that truly works to advance the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

### Thank you, APAPA



My name is Anna Chan. Last winter, I participated in a medical service trip to Honduras, a country in which residents do not have adequate healthcare, living conditions, and clean water. We set up a clinic for three different communities, saw about 300 patients in total, and provided them with free medical care, dental care and proper medications. Many lives were saved, including a young premature baby and a teenager girl who was electrocuted. It was an extremely empowering and heartwarming experience to be able to provide public service to members of a community who really needed it. I am grateful that I was given opportunities to participate in activities where I was able to learn and grow as a person while helping those in need. APAPA provided a platform through which I was able to assume an active role in the local community and learn about how non-profits and local politics function.

2016 API ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ALUMNI CONFERENCE



## Thank you APAPA ! Thank you VNA!

Last week, the APAPA Interns of the New York Chapter were able to attend the 2016 API Annual International Leadership Alumni Conference at UC Berkeley California. We were very fortunate to meet the other Chapters throughout the country and even college students from Chinese Universities. After spending the first day touring the surrounding neighborhood including the main campus of UC Berkeley, we spent the second day listening to speeches given to us by CC Yin, Regina Yin, and Sandy Chau. After their inspirational speeches about diligence and perseverance, we started our workshops. For these workshops, all members attending the conference were randomly assigned to a group in order to provide a natural networking habitat. The workshops held by Chirag Menon and Matthew Woolsey taught us important fundamental lessons such as the qualities of leadership, professional etiquette, and optimizing teamwork.

After these workshops, we were given the opportunity to speak personally with 22 mentors from across the world. Instead of using this opportunity to learn more about how to find good jobs, I used it to clarify my path and find my true passion. After this session, everyone relaxed in a carnival hosted by this program and enjoyed many events such as photo booths and other carnival games.

On the final day, something unexpected happened. During the mentor workshops, the NYC Chapter was able to meet Mr. Nelson Huang and he generously offered us a trip to San Francisco. We gratefully accepted this invitation and visited San Francisco the following day. It was an especially euphoric experience for me as I was able to experience a completely different environment and community.

We would like to thank all the leaders and sponsors for this trip, especially C.C. Yin, Regina Yin, and Sandy Chau for making this opportunity possible for everyone. We learned many important skills that will help us in our career path. We would also like to thank Nelson Huang for treating us on a trip to San Francisco. We, the APAPA NY Chapter, will forever keep these memories in our hearts.

*--- Xuedong Yu*

Overall, the 2016 API Annual International Leadership Alumni Conference was a huge success. The interns from the New York APAPA chapter all learned a lot and will treasure this experience for years to come.

*--- Raymond He*



# APAPA New York Chapter 2016 Summer Interns

## *Our Messages To You*





My name is **Kevin Liu**, I am a dual major in biomedical engineering and pre-med at Binghamton University. Entering into this internship, I was excited to be placed in the office of New York State Senator Daniel Squadron. Squadron is a democratic state senator who has fought for many of the values that I deeply believe in, showing support by voting and sponsoring bills that prevent the use of antimicrobial agents (antibiotics) in farm animals, and language to prevent dark money from being donated to election campaigns. I became invested in learning

about every policy I come across, and through self-motivated research, learned so much about the world we live in. The reason antibiotics are used in farm animals when no sign of illness are present is because it has been scientifically proven to make farm animals fatter. The issue is that the massive amounts of antibiotic exposure leads to the rise of superbugs – antibiotic resistant bacteria that is untreatable with modern antibiotics. Dark money in politics is also an issue of great importance, as wealthy contributors can buy political influence anonymously while lobbyists write legislation for the elected officials to push behind the scenes. The interests that are reflected in turn are not that of the people, but those of the corporations. Although it is a small step towards the larger issue of money in politics and Citizens United, I applaud senator Squadron’s hard work to push progressive values toward a future we can believe in.

During my time as an intern, I learned many important skills and obtained valuable experiences working errands about and around the office. I spent some days assigning constituent contacts and filing the constituent emails according to issues that needed to be addressed. Bluebird is the database system the senate uses to organize all the emails, which include functions to sort by codes (levels 1,2 and 3), mass email constituents, and find contact information. I had a blast reading about the many bills that were proposed and what people thought about them, especially if the emails were written by the constituent themselves and not automated responses. Learning about all the different bills proposed opened my eyes to the issues that impact everyday people and made me a more informed person. Many emails were in support for Airbnb and home-sharing in general, requesting that we oppose legislation that would treat home-sharing as a hotel business. There were some emails that I disagreed with, such as the “support fantasy sports” emails. Most of the emails were from automated mailing systems, so I assume the people who signed had very little knowledge of the actual legislation. Fantasy sports turned out to be online gambling with a cosmetic skin coat of sports teams. The issue is similar to what happened with the “fantasy league” for League of Legends, where legislation was introduced to tax and regulate these online gambling casinos.

A large part of my internship was dedicated towards saving the Brooklyn Bridge Pop-up Pool located on Pier 2 in Brooklyn. The history of this pool was that in 2012, the board of the Brooklyn Bridge Park decided on plans to build a permanent pool for the park. They needed to gather up funds in order to construct the permanent pool, so they planned to open up a seasonal “Pop-up pool” as a temporary solution for five years as they make plans for the permanent pool. Five years later, the plans for the permanent pool are still not realized and the Pop-up pool has gained a place in the local community. Unfortunately, 2016 will be the last year scheduled for the Pop-up pool to open. Together with the interns of the Squadron Squad, with the guidance of Eric Mayo and Robert Young, we were tasked to save the Pop-up pool by a

coalition of over 30 neighborhood parents. We were sent to the pool to collect surveys and petition signatures from parents at the pool, and over the course of 4 weeks, collected over 180 surveys and 350 petition signatures. Together, we created a report detailing the importance of the Pop-up pool to the residents of Brooklyn and as an invaluable asset to Brooklyn Bridge Park.

I would like to thank everyone at the office, Eric, Hedy, Eamon and Daniel Squadron for the experience working there. I would also like to extend my thanks Justin, Michelle, and all the interns at APAPA. Thank you for this amazing summer!



Hello everyone, my name is **Xuedong Yu** and I am an intern at the APAPA chapter of New York. I am a rising junior at Stony Brook University and I currently major in Information Systems. My position in this internship is a program coordinator for the APAPA New York Chapter and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York where I worked with my fellow coordinators to prepare and host many events such as Friday's workshop, press conferences, street festivals, and our biggest summer event, the 2016 Centers Plan for Healthy Living API Career Fair. This internship is my first internship and will definitely be

a very unique experience in my life. Not only did I learn managerial skills, I also had the opportunity to learn more about my culture and interact with people from my home country.

I have never fully understood the duties of a program coordinator nor held any office positions and this internship has helped me raise a strong foundation for my career in that field. We were given the task of organizing the Career Fair from scratch and it was up to us to realize the event. Our priorities were of course, to find companies and organizations to attend this event and we had to do so through many tedious emails, phone calls, and personal ventures. The first skill I learned was the art of writing a professional email. My supervisor, Joan Huang, laid out a basic outline for writing to other organizations which is to start off with a greeting such as "I hope everything is going well in your office", then listing the problem, what I request, and finally, a thankful concluding sentence. The next skill that I learned was talking through phone calls. Naturally, over the course of these phone calls, I was able to gradually smoothen out my speech pattern and improve my confidence. Lastly and perhaps most importantly, I learned that taking the initiative is the key to success. Writing these emails and just waiting for a reply will get you nowhere; you have to keep following up these email addresses until you get a clear answer. I realized this lesson and started sending out follow up emails, making follow up phone calls very frequently, and even went out in person to reach out to organizations. This lesson played a major role in securing many companies because it is not just a method like the previous 2 lessons, but a principle.

While the previous experiences were acquirable from most internships, APAPA offered me something that is truly unique: a close environment with the Asian community. Although I was born in China, I immigrated to the United States when I was 5 years old and have grown up in a

non-Asian community ever since. I have built my social life around other cultures and the only Asian friends that I have are all American Asians. I also chose not to actively seek out interactions with Chinese people because of my lack of confidence in speaking Chinese as I have also stopped learning Chinese since my immigration. Luckily, this internship forced me upon a group of Chinese speaking individuals and from there, I was able to learn more about my culture and even learn more Chinese. Every day I would learn a few new words, from both my interns through conversation, and through my parents, through the magazines I received from the office. This greatly helped boost my confidence when speaking Chinese and I was able to apply it directly as the career fair came closer. During the final few weeks, all the interns started handing out flyers on the streets and we of course, used mostly Chinese to communicate with the people of Chinatown and Flushing New York. I still have much to learn and I will continue to do so, slowly but surely.

I came into this internship only expecting to acquire basic office experience but instead, I acquired something much more: a connection with a familiar community that I will try to build onto. Thank you APAPA for helping me create a bond with the Asian community and helping me prepare for my future careers.



My name is **Raymond He** and I am a rising sophomore at Johns Hopkins University double majoring in environmental engineering and applied math & statistics. This summer, I had the honor of working as a program coordinator for the APAPA New York Chapter and Junior Chamber of Commerce of New York. Over the past few weeks, I have mainly been focusing on preparing the Chamber's second annual API Career Fair. This is the largest job fair in New York's Chinatown area and we expect to attract over 2,000 prospective job seekers. Our team also reached out to and confirmed over 40 different employers for this event. My role in this mainly consisted of making phone calls and sending emails to coordinate everything. In other words, this internship really helped me develop my communication skills by teaching me how to state my ideas clearly, concisely, and politely. Midway through the internship, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York also recruited an extensive number of high school interns and volunteers outside of the APAPA program to help plan out its events. As senior peers with a few weeks of experience under our belt, the college interns from APAPA were expected to guide the high schoolers and teach them to take over after we left to be here in California today. Thus, another aspect of communication that I learned from this internship was how to mentor my peers and keep them focused on the task at hand. I am especially grateful that I got to experience the challenges of working in an office both as a junior member and as a more senior counselor on the team. These two perspectives really helped me understand how to conduct myself in the workplace so that everyone was satisfied with my work. Finally, I appreciate the fact that no two days were exactly alike during this internship. This kept me on my toes and taught me how to adapt to different situations no matter what happened. Looking back on this internship, I realize that I didn't really know what to expect at first. As an engineering student, I knew that there was obviously not much technical knowledge that I could gain from this internship. However, I am very glad that I took the chance to stay on this internship because of all the interpersonal skills it gave me that I could never develop in a

hardcore STEM work environment or in the classroom. The customer service and communication skills that I learned in this internship make me much more than just another cog in the engineering machine and I am grateful for that. Through this internship, I have come to see that merely knowing all the technical engineering details is insufficient for success. One must also know how to navigate interpersonal relations and the governmental system to thrive in today's economy, no matter what trade they practice. Last, but not least, I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to meet my co-workers, who are all amazing individuals whom I may not have had the chance to meet otherwise. I look forward to working with them in the future and giving back to APAPA for this opportunity in the future.



My name is Teresa Wang and I'm a rising sophomore at New York University. I am currently a Liberal Arts major, but I hope to transfer into Social and Cultural Analysis or East Asian Studies by the end of my Sophomore year. This summer, I had the privilege to intern at Congresswoman Grace Meng's office while attending APAPA's weekly Friday workshops. Both experiences have provided me with insight on what it means to be an Asian American in America and how I should hold myself accountable for being the next role model for the younger generation.

I started my first week as a college intern at APAPA's headquarters in Chinatown. All twelve of the college interns were given the chance to experience the responsibilities of a Program Coordinator before going to our assigned politician's office. At the headquarters, I managed to create long lasting friendships with my fellow interns within the first week. After the first week was over, I longed for Fridays to come in hopes of learning and sharing my experiences with all of the staff and interns at APAPA.

Having spent most of my summer at Congresswoman Grace Meng's office, I learned a lot about how government offices are run and gained a better understanding of how elected officials tend to the needs of his or her district. I've also come to better understand immigration laws and how Chinese immigrants are largely effected by the language barrier present in American society. Over the past few decades, there may have been a major increase in ESL and English translation programs, but many constituents that have come to me for help were unaware of such programs and did not know where they could go to get the help they need. Having to handle numerous cases involving Chinese-speaking constituents allowed me to practice Mandarin and even learn a few political phrases in Chinese. During quieter hours, I would browse New York Times more than I've browsed any newspaper in my entire life and read more about American politics and current events from around the world.

The staff and the interns at Congresswoman Meng's office were also incredibly nice and welcoming. Over the last six weeks, they have taught me how to be patient and understanding when speaking with constituents, and how to put the matters of our constituents before everything else. Congresswoman Meng has also taught me how to love the community that we live in just as much as we love our own children and family.

I've met some really amazing and diverse people at Congresswoman Meng's office including a life-long friend from Singapore, a soon-to-be marine, many future-politicians, and Congresswoman Meng herself, who was just elected this week as DNC's Vice Chairwoman.

After an amazing summer, the only things I might want to change about my experience is probably the logistics of APAPA. There were times where I felt that weekly workshops were disorganized or that there were misunderstandings and a difference in instruction between advisors of the program, but I loved it nonetheless and would not hesitate to recommend this program to my fellow peers.

I am extremely thankful towards APAPA, Justin Yu, Michelle Wang, Congresswoman Grace Meng, Sandra Ung and all the staff and interns at both APAPA and Congresswoman Grace Meng's office for allowing me to experience what I have this summer. This internship has opened many doors for me including a possible career path and passion in Politics that I've never considered before and ultimately, a love for learning and helping my community.

Thank you all and have a great summer!

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Hi, my name is Keith Chen and I am currently a senior at Baruch College majoring in Finance. I am currently 21 years old and through APAPA, I was able to intern for Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District serving parts of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. This internship opened my eyes to something that I didn't really cherish it until I saw others fighting to be in my position. It really made me realize how lucky I am to be born in America as an American citizen because working in the office exposed me to many cases dealing with immigration. Some of the constituents have been waiting for years trying to bring family members to America, trying to gain citizenship or permanent residency, and it really affects families in negative ways when a mother is in American alone while her husband and kids are in China waiting for their chance to finally come over.

As an intern for Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, my colleague Eric and I worked on mainly immigration cases and housing cases, and helped out the amazing community Liaisons that worked there, Jianhang Xiao and Iris Quinones. As our supervisors, they guided us through the internship and really invested themselves in my colleague and I. We were lucky enough to have supervisors that really cared and believed in us and allowed us to work independently. Going into this internship, I had no idea what I was in for. It was honestly an experience I will almost never forget because the joy I saw in constituents faces when we were able to help them was enough to keep us motivated through the 8 weeks. Growing up in Chinatown, I was always a little more fortunate than others and by helping constituents, I can finally pay my dues to the community that helped shape me in the man I am today. I would like to thank Michelle Wang, our wonderful NY APAPA Chapter President for everything she has done for us

throughout the 8 weeks, Justin Yu for his constant motivation, pep talks and advice, and Jianhang Xiao and Iris Quinones for being amazing supervisors and helping me grow as an individual.



My name is Yi-Yun (Elizabeth) Shieh. I am a senior at New York City College of Technology, majoring in Communication Design, and focusing in Graphic Design. This summer, I want to have work experience, and found out about this great opportunity at APAPA. I am working as a program coordinator for the APAPA NY Chapter and CCCNY. Over the past few weeks, I have been focusing on the Chamber's second annual API Career Fair. The API Career Fair is one of the largest fairs in Greater New York City that hold in Chinatown and this year, we are expecting more than 2,000 job seekers. Our team has not only find all the companies based on our memories or knowledge, but also reached out to and confirmed over 40 different employers for this event. My role was mainly focus on designing flyers and help designing the billboard poster with the collaboration of Centers Plan's design team. Besides that, I had also contact the workshop speakers to schedule Friday workshops for interns. By designing the flyers and billboard poster let me improve my design skill and learn some pros and cons for the billboard poster. By contacting the workshop speakers, I have built up my conversation over the phone skills.

Overall during this internship, I have improved my communication skills by learning how to write letters in clearly, concisely, and politely. Midway through the internship, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce has recruited a number of high school interns and volunteers which we are expected to guide them as we have been here couple weeks earlier than them. Also, after August 6th, or for most of the college interns who are going to California, we expected to hand over our job tasks to them. By guiding through college and high school interns, since I came in few days before college intern, I have guided them for a few days, and this really helps me boost up my leadership skill. I really learn a lot during this internship. By doing tasks differently each day, I learned a lot in this internship. I was not expecting to learn these many in the beginning of the internship. It is an honor for me to work with my co-workers who are really wonderful individuals in the office. I would not have met them if I did not take this opportunity.



My name is NingAn Liu. I am a junior from Baruch College and my major is accounting. I am honored to be a summer intern at APAPA and to be assigned as a program coordinator in the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NY. During my internship in the office, I have learned a lot about professionalism, leadership, and communication skills.

This internship offered me many great opportunities and experiences that I have never had before. I got the chance to witness the Governor signing bills and listen to many public speeches by powerful people.

During this internship, we had many fascinating and inspirational workshops every Friday with astounding people such as successful businessmen and leaders from non-profit

organizations. They shared their personal experiences with us which beneficial for my career path and my personal life. We also went to visit many non-profit organizations such as the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and the Chinatown Manpower Project in the Chinese American community. They raised my interest about public affairs and gave me a better understanding about the Chinese American community.

One of the most important things I learned from this internship is how to organize an event. We organized the *Huaguang Silver Reward Ceremony*, the *Taiwan Tourism Festival* and the *API Career Fair* during this internship. Our main job in office is to organize the second annual API Career Fair. While preparing for the events, I learned how to send emails and make phone calls clearly and professionally. Additionally, I have learned how to promote our events efficiently. We advertised our events on both websites and newspapers and sent out flyers to different organizations and people on the street. After the events, we evaluated the performance of the event and collected feedbacks in order to improve. From the experience of organizing these events, I will allocate my time and resources in better ways when I plan for future events.

During this internship, I had many chances to meet and interact with different kinds of people. I made appointments with the workshop speakers, introduced the Career Fair to people on the street when I sent out flyers, and contacted with many companies and organizations to invite them to attend our events. I also guided the high school interns in our office to do their works. I used to be very shy when speaking with people and these experiences are really helpful for me in improving my communication skills.

I made good friendships with my fellow coordinators and high school interns. We helped each other accomplish our goals and organize successful events. My supervisors are very nice and they taught me a lot. I learned a lot from Justin, Michelle and Joan. Not only did they teach me about how to work well but they also gave me lots of advice about my life. I am very happy to work with such talented and passionate people in the office.

I would like to thank everyone at APAPA and Chinese Chamber of Commerce of NY. Thank you for giving me the remarkable and memorable internship experience this summer!



My name is Eric Lin, and I am a second year student at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. I study computer science and I double minor in economics and finance. I hope to one day work at either a venture capital firm or a big Silicon Valley company such as Google or Microsoft.

This summer, I interned at the office of Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez. Going into this job, I expected it to be a monotonous, same old same old 9 to 5 office job. However, I quickly learned that there was rarely two similar days at the office. I had the privilege of being born in the United States. During this internship, I was able to look at the world from a point of an immigrant. Many people in our office

were refugees or asylees from China whose life goal was to obtain a US Permanent Resident card before obtaining their citizenships. Their dreams in life are to obtain a US passport; the bigger dreams are for their children to fulfill. I also got a deeper look into the US Immigration System and how it put so many people at disadvantage. For example, one lady applied to immigrate her brother and his family to the United States. The family waited 15 years only to see her brother die, thereby invalidating their entire application. The family will need to reapply and most likely wait another 15 full years. After working at the Congresswoman's office, for the first time I felt compassion towards immigrants who were fighting for their opportunity in America. I also developed a greater sense of appreciation for being born in America. As flawed as this country is, we should be happy that we were born in this country. Our parents saved us from the hardship that they had to go through themselves.

The workshop experience was also extremely gratifying as well. I grew up on the waterfront in the Lower East Side. I've spent a countless amount of time in Chinatown yet I have never bothered to learn a single thing about the community. The only thing I knew about Chinatown was which restaurants were good and which restaurants to avoid. However, after this internship, I have a greater sense of appreciation for the people (such as Justin Yu) who keep Chinatown a thriving community. The workshops also helped me develop a sense of appreciation for leaders in Flushing, a neighborhood that is even more ethnically diverse than Flushing is. Before this internship, the only Chinatown organization I had heard of was the Chinese American Planning Council, or CPC. I had never heard of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the Flushing Chinese Business Association or the Lin Sing Association. I had never even heard of APAPA until my mom saw it in a newspaper and told me to apply to the internship program. Before this internship, I was painfully unaware of all the great leadership organizations in the community that are fighting to advance Asian Americans.

Overall, this internship taught me more about the community that I grew up in. In addition, it also taught me more about the struggles that new immigrants today face, something that I am lucky enough to never have to go through. I would like to thank Michelle and Justin for this amazing opportunity. I would also like to thank my supervisors at the Congresswoman's office, Iris and Jianhang, for the countless number of funny moments at work. I would also like to thank APAPA for the opportunity to spend an entire weekend in the Bay Area. This summer internship has truly been one of the most gratifying and enriching jobs I have ever worked.



My name is Jiayong Mai (Karen), studying in Baruch College, majoring in accounting and minoring in Economy. Towards the end of spring semester, I was looking for a plan for the summer. Not knowing what I was going to do, I saw a post on my friend's social media page about a non-profit organization named APAPA whom were recruiting summer interns. From that moment on, I felt as if I was destined to work with APAPA, everything happened so coincidentally. So I went for it and got the opportunity to become one of the program coordinator for APAPA NY Chapter and CCCNY.

As I was getting ready for the first day of work, I was pretty nervous and anxious because the majority of the interns are born in U.S. so, without say their English are much better compared to me for I was born in China. Luckily all the interns were really friendly and patient with me when it came to my English. We all enjoy working with our Chairman-Justin Yu. After the first couple weeks, the high school interns started working with The Chamber. Everyone acted like we are a family, not just regular colleagues. Working with the high school interns will make you that they are really just a child in the working field; they also reminded me of how I acted on my first job.

Midway into my internship I was assigned to work in the 22nd Lee Family Association National Convention of the U.S.A as a counselor by the New York Chapter Vice President of APAPA. He is also the president of Lee Family Association of New York. Gratefully, I got a chance to experience work with many different organizations and different kind of management structures. For example, in Chamber, Justin Yu is our highest leader; he just needs to give us our assignments and we will be held responsible to completing it. However, in Lee Family Association, there are many powerful people carrying huge title with all kinds of ideas. Meaning you will have to deal with many difficult people along the path and try your best to match all their expectations. At first adapting to the change of management was difficult but eventually it sunk in, and it got better.

If you set your mind to solving the problems out and not on how tough the situation is then at the end of the day you will feel relieved, you did not give up. Even though I have worked at many different offices before, working pass many different hardships; these were one of the toughest 8 weeks I ever had but at the same time it was one of the most experiential jobs ever. Even still, I know I can learn much more in the future. I was given the chance to work with various leaders, learned how to face to the people you do not like, practice management skills and leadership skill. We met with the governor and many political personnel. Learned to write news releases, built up a powerful social circle, organized events and helped the community grow into a stronger home for everyone. I am very grateful I was able to grow with APAPA internship program.



My name is Nanxi Zhou. I am a rising sophomore in St. John's University and my major is actuarial science. I immigrated to America in 2012. Like most immigrants, I faced various difficulties. The hardest one was the language barrier. I work diligently to improve my English. I joined the competition, took public speaking class, and tried to grab any opportunities where I can practice English. This summer I applied for APAPA New York Chapter 2016 Summer Internship Program and was lucky to get involved in it.

Entering into this internship, I was excited to be placed in the Public Advocate Letitia James's Office as an intake specialist. Public Advocate is a citywide elected position in New York City, which is first in line to succeed the Mayor. The office serves as a direct link between city government and the city residents, effectively acting as an ombudsman, or "watchdog," for New Yorkers and over the city agencies that compose the city government. As an intake specialist, I am exposed to the daily struggles of New Yorkers of all ethnicities and incomes. Constituents either call the Hotline or walk into our office and bring us their grievances about government agencies. I take their case and contact with the relevant agency. Through this process, I learned every agency and their policy that I encountered and obtained a chance to build and expand my social and professional network.

This internship is my first internship and brings me the most prized experience that I ever had. Through conversing with constituents and city government agencies, I practiced my English and learned how to communicate effectively and formally. The Friday Workshop is another great part of the internship. I had a chance to meet with Jenny Low, CPC board chairperson and vice chair at the New York State Democratic Party, Man-Li Lin, small business specialist at the New York District Office, Peter Tu, Director of the Flushing Chinese Business Association, and City Councilman Peter Koo. They all delivered very impressive speeches and gave me great advice for my future life. Jenny Low encouraged me to be active in politics as an Asian American. Man-Li Lin taught me to build a formal and attractive resume and the basic interview skills. Peter Tu mentioned me the importance of respecting the toil and sacrifice of one's elders to provide the best for their future generations. Peter Koo stressed the importance of hard work and cooperation with peers. Their words opened my eyes and inspired me to become a more active and engaged member of the New York City community.

I appreciate every speaker in Friday workshop and Justin, Michelle, and all the staff and fellow interns in APAPA. Thank you for the invaluable internship experience and an amazing summer!



Hello everyone, my name is Kevin Han and I intern at Councilman Peter Koo's office in Flushing, New York as well as the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Asian and Pacific Islander American Public Affairs organization. I am going to be a junior this fall semester at Stony Brook University studying Business. I am planning to pursue a career in advertising and commercials and hopefully branch out into the film industry and music videos. It is my dream to place more minorities on to the silver screen because I feel like by doing so it better represents the population of America and the

equality that it was built upon. Most of the time, people in other countries have a skewed idea of what America is like because they are fed with whitewashed roles and gender inequality in the movies of Hollywood especially if they have never been there before. That being said, I was especially interested in the APAPA internship because it was a way for me to help promote Asian- Americans, an underrepresented minority group in the United States. I think that in order to really represent a group of people, you have to go and understand that group of people first.

That is exactly what I experienced during my time at the office of Councilman Peter Koo. Dealing with constituents both in English and Mandarin, I learned a lot about the struggle and differences in quality of life for poor immigrants that came from third world countries like China. Questions about welfare, Medicaid and Medicare brought to my attention things I would never have experienced and learned about unless it happened to me personally or to my friends and family. Since I moved here with my family when I was four, I was the first person in my family to grow up in America which is entirely different from moving here as an adult. In addition to this, I was able to acquire several skills including office work and professional etiquette. Talking and interacting with peers in a professional setting is very different from doing so in a casual setting. Also, addressing constituents is an entirely different manner than talking to your friends as you want to provide support and empathize with a stranger. Office duties included running errands for my supervisors, attending events with the councilman and shadowing him, along with answering phone calls, filing and recording constituent cases and sending out emails/writing letters.

My overall experience with the internship was very satisfactory. Through the internship, I met a plethora of people, some who I am good friends with now. Looking back at the summer heat and our inner shouts of complaints (sometimes verbal) literally "in the heat of the moment", it all seems bittersweet because it is likely that I will never be able to bond with a group of amazing kids like I did in 33 Bowery St. That is why I would like to thank everyone I worked with, our wonderful supervisors Michelle, Joan and Justin who pushed us not because they hated us but because they believed we were capable of more and without that extra nudge some of us aren't able to realize that we have more potential than we thought existed inside us. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the staff of the Councilman's office who accepted me like family and helped me and supported me throughout my internship process. Thank you.



I am Brian Tong, a senior at Fordham University majoring in Urban Studies. I was born in Brooklyn, New York City to parents of Chinese Malaysian descent, and have lived in New York City all my life. My hobbies include cycling, traveling, rowing, urban exploring, and trying new food.

Since two years ago, I have volunteered at a local boathouse coordinating and administrating its high school rowing program. This summer, for a change, I worked with five other interns as a program coordinator for APAPA's New York Chapter and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York (CCCNY), a local business alliance committed to giving back to the local community by providing it with access to opportunity, social services, and other resources. These eight weeks working with APAPA and CCCNY have given me valuable

opportunities for personal development, specifically to learn more about the local Asian American community and its involvement in the political process, as well as to practice and improve the planning and administrative skills I have already developed as a leader of another program.

This internship has greatly my exposure to issues faced by the residents of Manhattan's Chinatown, a large component of the New York metropolitan area's Asian American population. For a population for which language barriers can pose significant impediments, agencies acting as community liaisons, like CCCNY, are especially important in hearing residents' complaints and getting them the attention of government officials who can enact change for the better.

Throughout these eight weeks, I have gained further experience in event planning. Though I have much experience in planning weekly rowing excursions, their scale is dwarfed by APAPA's and CCCNY's events, such as their annual career fair, which can draw over 2,000 job seekers to about 40 different employers in a given year. As I have learned, acute outreach and organizational skills are among many important skills to garner to plan events efficiently and effectively.

I have also utilized this opportunity interning with APAPA to practice my administrative skills. At the aforementioned boathouse, I typically oversee the weekly operations of a high school-age athletic program and have assumed the role of an administrator. Assigning duties, delegating tasks, and encouraging exemplary behavior are just a few of the things I do there and at CCCNY, where we program coordinator interns are put in charge of guiding high school-age interns. These skills do not always come naturally, so a means to hone them in, like this internship, is an opportunity greatly appreciated.

Looking back, I see this internship as a unique and invaluable medium for oneself to practice and improve on a plethora of skills regardless of one's college major. While the majors of the New York Chapter interns make up a diverse list--accounting, environmental engineering, and graphic design, among others--we all have found the weekly workshops, which consisted of a varied mix of discussion panels, lectures, and guided tours, immensely insightful and relevant to our career development. Much of the advice dispensed in these sessions may not be mentioned in neither classroom settings nor paid work environments, and for this exposure to such advice I am thankful to have applied for and have been a part of APAPA's 2016 internship program.



