

# Vassar Student Association Council

## Agenda for February 28, 2010

*Time: 7:00pm*

*Location: College Center 223*

“Only connect! That was the whole of her sermon. Only connect the prose and the passion, and both will be exalted, and human love will be seen at its height. Live in fragments no longer. Only connect...” –E.M. Forster

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance \_\_\_\_\_  
Operations
3. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of the Minutes from 2/14
  - b. \$500 from Collaboration to Vassar Greens
  - c. \$500 from Council Discretionary to Habitat
4. Special Guest
  - a. Dan Salton, Chair of the Judicial Board
5. Committee Report
  - a. Council for Alumni Student Advancement (CASA)
6. Allocation of \$650 from Speakers, Lecturers to Filmmakers \_\_\_\_\_ Finance
7. Allocation of \$3200 from Speakers, Lecturers to SASA \_\_\_\_\_ Finance
8. Allocation of \$3000 from Hosting to Mecha \_\_\_\_\_ Finance
9. Capital Budgeting \_\_\_\_\_ Finance
10. Open Discussion \_\_\_\_\_ Anyone
11. Adjourn

Fund Being Applied For: Speakers, Lecturers, and Panels Fund

VSA Organization: Vassar Filmmakers

Name of Applicant: Mike Wood

Applicant E-mail Address: [mike.wood.282@gmail.com](mailto:mike.wood.282@gmail.com)

Event Name: 16mm Film Screenings by Lou Sabini, Film Historian

Location of Event: To Be Determined

Date of Event: April 16th and April 17th, 2010

Description of Event:

Film Historian Lou Sabini will come to campus to screen 16mm prints from his collection of over 1000 films. He will screen three films on each of two days, April 16th and April 17th.

Benefit to Students:

Film students and any other interested students will have the opportunity to see original 16mm prints of films that may not exist in any other format. Seeing the content of these classic films will provide an educational benefit, and seeing them in their original 16mm form will be especially interesting for film students, who are typically familiar with 35mm prints in theaters and digital versions of films, but not older 16mm originals. Students will also have the opportunity to talk with Mr. Sabini and draw on his extensive knowledge of film.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Mr. Sabini will come to campus with his films and projectors and screen his films for a cost of \$500 a day. For two days of screenings, the entire event will cost \$1000 total.

Total Cost of Event: \$1000

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

The Vassar Filmmakers can contribute some funds from our regular budget to help pay for the event. Since this event is fairly expensive and came up recently, our contribution as a percentage of the cost would be somewhat reduced. We can contribute at least \$200 towards the cost of the event, but cannot contribute more than \$350, as we have only a limited portion of our yearly budget reserved for speakers and events, and have already paid for two speakers to come to campus solely from this portion of our budget. This is our most expensive speaker/event for which we will be applying to the Speaker Fund this year (we have not applied before; there is one other application we will be submitting). We would greatly appreciate the Fund's help in making this unique event happen.

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year – when relevant):

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Amount Requested: \$800

Finance Recommendation: \$650

Exec recommendation: \$650

Justification: Filmmakers pay \$350

Amount left in fund: \$13,185

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Fund Being Applied For: Speakers, Lecturers, and Panels Fund

VSA Organization: South Asian Students Alliance

Name of Applicant: Noor Aized Mir

Applicant E-mail Address: [nomir@vassar.edu](mailto:nomir@vassar.edu)

Event Name: Contours of Change: A Decade of Conflict in South Asia

Location of Event: College Center, AULA

Date of Event: March 25th– 27th

Description of Event:

This spring SASA is hosting a three-day event that will create a space within which the Vassar community can engage in a critical discussion of and reflection on the impact of conflict in South Asia over the past decade. This event consists primarily of lectures by regional experts from colleges and universities in the area, in addition to three film screenings followed by a talk by an Emmy-nominated producer and director, a dance performance by a student and a reading by a Vassar professor. There will be an interactive timeline in the College Center depicting conflict

over the past ten years. The event will end with a vigil in the AULA. The proposed schedule follows:

Thursday March 25th:

5:27 pm: dance

5:30 pm: Sri Lanka lecture

7 pm: Bangladesh film screening

Friday March 26th:

3:30–5 pm: Harvey lecture

5–6:30 pm: Nepal film screening

6:30–7:30: Kumar reading

Saturday March 27th:

2–3:30 pm: World Policy Institute lecture

3:30–5 pm: Nepal Human Rights Group lecture

5–6:30 pm: Barnard lecture

6:30 pm: Vigil

The list of speakers and autobiographies are as follow:

Amitava Kumar

Amitava Kumar is a writer and journalist born in Ara, Bihar; he grew up in the nearby town of Patna, famous for its corruption, crushing poverty and delicious mangoes. Currently, he is Professor of English at Vassar College.

Kumar is the author of *Husband of a Fanatic* (The New Press, 2005 and Penguin–India, 2004), *Bombay–London–New York* (Routledge and Penguin–India, 2002), and *Passport Photos* (University of California Press and Penguin–India, 2000). He has also written a book of poems, *No Tears for the N.R.I.* (Writers Workshop, Calcutta, 1996). The novel *Home Products* was published in early 2007 by Picador–India, and will appear in the US under the title *Nobody Does the Right Thing*. Earlier this year, Picador–India published his book *Evidence of Suspicion* which will be published by Duke University Press under the title, *A Foreigner Carrying in the Crook of His Arm a Tiny Bomb: A Writer's Report on the Global War on Terror*.

Sophia Harvey

Ms. Harvey holds a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. Her research interests include Singapore cultural studies, representations of trauma and memory in Cambodian, Indonesian, and Thai cinema, and the impact of new media on Southeast Asia's moving image culture. She teaches film history, contemporary Southeast Asian Cinemas, and seminars (such as, *The Cinema of Satyajit Ray*; and *Cyborg Cinema*). Ms. Harvey has published in the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, *Inter–Asia Cultural Studies*, and the *Journal of Chinese Cinemas*.

Anupama Rao

Professor Rao's research and teaching interests are in the history of anticolonialism; gender and sexuality studies; caste and race; historical anthropology, human rights, and social theory. She received her B. A. (Honors) from the University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. from the Interdepartmental Program in Anthropology and History at the University of Michigan. She currently serves as the President of the Society for the Advancement of the History of South Asia (SAHSA) of the American Historical Association; Director, project on "Liberalism and its Others" (Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference), Columbia University, and member of the South Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies (2010–2012).

Luna Ranjit

Luna Ranjit is the Executive Director of Adhikaar, an organization that promotes human rights and social justice in Nepali communities by:

- facilitating access to information and resources on immigration, health, workers' rights, and women's rights for immigrants, refugees, asylees, Nepali–Americans and others within the Nepali community;
- mobilizing members of the Nepali community to collectively advocate against social injustices and human rights abuses that affect our community;
- conducting policy research and advocacy, and providing capacity building assistance to Nepali human rights and social justice organizations.

Robert Koenig

Robert Koenig is an Emmy-nominated Producer and Director, directed the documentary "Returned: Child Soldiers of Nepal 's Maoist Army". Koenig has won numerous awards for his work on "Returned", including the 2008 Artivist Award for Child Advocacy. Over the past decade, Koenig has lived in Mongolia and Nepal where he produced and directed numerous documentaries focusing on human rights and child advocacy. Koenig's work has aired on PBS, ABC, CBS, and NBC stations throughout the country. Before founding his own production company, Adventure Production Pictures, Koenig worked as a producer and writer for several major market television stations. Koenig's visionary, artistic, and resourceful nature allow him to adapt and thrive in any environment. His talent and skill have earned him several national and regional awards for outstanding achievement.

Nimmi Gowrinathan

Ms. Gowrinathan is the Director of South Asia Programs for Operation USA, a Los Angeles-based international relief organization. She is responsible for monitoring and developing projects focused on post-disaster relief and long-term capacity-building. She currently manages Operation USA programs that address the impact of the 2004 Tsunami and the 2005 Earthquake in India, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. In this role, and as the chair of the Interaction Sri Lanka Working Group, she travels frequently to these regions and domestically has organized women's groups and worked directly with policymakers at the UN, and International Non-Governmental Organizations to facilitate a more effective and efficient response to humanitarian crises. Ms. Gowrinathan is also a PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of California Los Angeles, completing her dissertation "Why Women Rebel? State Repression and Female Participation in Sri Lanka".

"Made in Pakistan" is a 60 minute documentary that was motivated by Newsweek's cover story of October 29th, 2007 that declared Pakistan to be "The Most Dangerous Place in the World." The film documents the lives of four ordinary Pakistani citizens during military rule in an effort to break Western stereotypes about the country. "Made in Pakistan" is the first documentary ever to be released theatrically in Pakistan - released in Pakistan on July 31st, 2009.

Benefit to Students:

The benefit of this event is raising awareness about a region of the world that is consistently tied to global conflict; therefore, inter-national and inter-regional conflicts are often ignored and void of discussion. SASA realizes that this is an ambitious project, especially as it is our first time attempting a political event/discussion. However, we do believe that it is vital for the Vassar community to view South Asia as a hub for political conflict, revolutions and constantly changing ideologies-- a change from the stereotypically "entertainment" focused Bollywood-centered fascination with the area.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

All figures include honorariums + travel/accomodation/food expenses

1. Professor Asoka Banderage - Georgetown Public Policy Institute

-3/28-29

-\$900

2. Adhikaar Nepali Human Rights Group

-3/27

-\$600

3. Swadesh Rana - World Policy Institute

-3/27

-\$600

4. Professor Anupama Rao - Barnard

-3/27

-\$600

5. Bob Koenig - "Returned" Documentary Director

-3/26

-\$700

6. Nimmi Gowrinathan

- \$ 400

7. Extra funds...

-Media Resources Poster Fees \$10 x 20 = \$200

-Refreshments (Appetizers and Beverages) = \$100

8. Documentary

- Made in Pakistan" – Documentary

-3/25

-\$1500 (screening fee)

8. Total Requested: \$ 5600

Total Cost of Event: \$\$ 5600

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

Fundraising Efforts

-Tabling

-Ticket Sales from Diaspora Dinner

-T-shirt sales

-Chai and Mango Lassi Sales

-Henna Tattoos

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year – when relevant):

Vassar Community

Contacts from the South Asian Community in Poughkeepsie and the Hudson Valley

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Amount Requested: \$\$ 4300

Finance recommendation: \$3200

Exec recommendation: \$3200

Justification: Pay for 5 of 6 speakers + some money for food

Amount left in fund: \$13,185

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Fund Being Applied For: Collaboration Fund

VSA Organization: Vassar Greens

Name of Applicant: Laura Livingston

Applicant E-mail Address: [lalivingston@vassar.edu](mailto:lalivingston@vassar.edu)

Event Name: Lobby Day for climate change legislation

Location of Event: Washington D.C

Date of Event: March 25–6, 2010

Description of Event:

Students in Operation Donation and Vassar Greens will be going to Washington D.C. on March 25–26 to lobby senators for climate change legislation. Students will leave Vassar on Thursday, March 25 to travel to Washington D.C. On Friday, March 26 students will lobby senators from their home states to pass climate change legislation that requires firm reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and to ask for funding for international adaptation to climate change. After lobbying finishes on Friday afternoon, students will return to Vassar.

Benefit to Students:

Students will be exercising democracy as they meet with and deliver talking points to legislative aides who focus on climate change and environmental policy. Since students have personal meetings with the people who impact the nation's climate change policy, they will have the chance to answer questions about the direction they want action on climate change to progress and to ask questions about how national policymakers are going to enact legislation.

Furthermore, lobbying senators is an empowering experience that will encourage students to be more active in democratically pursuing political action on issues that concern them.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Travel – \$ 160 for rental car, \$500 for gas and tolls (for 6 cars to drive from Poughkeepsie to Washington D.C.), \$5 per person for Metro tickets/\$140 total (for travel from the place where we stay to the capitol buildings), \$800 total

Housing – \$5 per person, \$140 total

Food – \$20 per person per meal for meals, \$560

Total Cost of Event: \$\$1500

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

The Vassar Greens will pay for one fourth of the travel costs for a total of \$200.

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year – when relevant):

Clayton Masterman  
 Emily Hefter  
 Ling Hu  
 Anna Tweten  
 Cory Epstein  
 Julia Nethero  
 Ali Rosseti  
 Emily Sweeney  
 Jillian Guenther  
 Annie Cai  
 Danielle Falzon  
 Amanda Cheung  
 Lauren MacLean  
 Hannah Bober  
 Colin Bernatzky  
 Alison Mooradien  
 Molly Richard  
 Caitly Lamdin  
 Dana Cass  
 Vanessa Raditz  
 Melissa Krystal-Whittemore  
 Ethan Buckner  
 Carmen Angleton  
 Ian Kroll  
 Laura Livingston  
 Charlene Ren  
 Faye Faatin  
 Ani Kodahabashewa

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Operation Donation is the collaborating organization. They will contribute another fourth of the travel costs for a total of \$200.

Amount Requested: \$1100

Finance: \$500

Exec: \$500

Amount left in fund: \$6,696.16

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 Fund Being Applied For: Council Discretionary Fund

VSA Organization: Habitat for Humanity

Name of Applicant: Brooke Widman

Applicant E-mail Address: [brwidman@vassar.edu](mailto:brwidman@vassar.edu)

Event Name: Spring Break trip to Eustis, Florida

Location of Event: Eustis, Florida

Date of Event: 3/6/2010-3/14/2010

Description of Event:

Vassar's Habitat will be taking a group of 25 students down to Eustis, Florida for our annual Spring Break build.

Benefit to Students:

Involvement in the community and the rebuilding of underprivileged/low income areas

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Participants dues- \$3125.00

Meals not covered in costs- \$400.00

Gas-\$2000.00

Total Cost of Event: \$5525.00

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

\$125/participant to cover the \$3125 in dues

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year - when relevant):

still in decision process, but we've had enough people apply to fill the trip.

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

Amount Requested: \$\$500

Finance: \$500

Exec: \$500

Amount left in fund: \$6,591.32

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Fund Being Applied For: Hosting Fund

VSA Organization: MEChA

Name of Applicant: Jazmin Pichardo

Applicant E-mail Address: [japichardo@vassar.edu](mailto:japichardo@vassar.edu)

Event Name: Art as Resistance: Indigenous Arts and the Struggle for Equality

Location of Event: Vassar Campus, Rockefeller Hall

Date of Event: 03/26 -03/28

Description of Event:

The event is a mini three day conference that will discuss and explore indigenous art as a form of resistance. We plan to showcase various mediums from dance, to photography, to poetry, etc. and have artists and professors both perform discuss the political significance and importance of the art and how it shapes indigenous life and struggle. We will also be showing a film as a fundraiser to set up a scholarship.

Benefit to Students:

The event will bring attention to a form of activism and group of people that are usually overlooked and dismissed. Also the event plans to invite other schools as well as local Poughkeepsie residents thus strengthening Vassar's relationship with other colleges and the Poughkeepsie community at large.

Costs of the Event (Itemize and Be Specific):

Simon Sedillo (Filmmaker)- \$1500

Oscar Santillan (musician)- \$1500

Carole Brill (Speaker)- \$1300

Cliston Matias (Photographer)- \$1000

food- \$600

Advertising- \$300

Total Cost of Event: \$6,200

Current Funding Plan (How will you help PAY for this event):

Mecha will contribute financially from their respective budgets.

List of Attendees (First name, Last name, Class year - when relevant):

Simon Sedillo

Oscar Santillan

Carole Brill

Cliston Matias

Prof. McGlennen

Collaborating Organizations and HOW they are contributing:

American Culture and PL will contribute financially. LALS and Religion Dept. will assist with advertising, set up as well as contacting some of the speakers.

Amount Requested: \$5,000

Finance: \$4300

Exec: \$3000

Justification: Pay for the first two speakers, (American Culture will be contributing ~\$400

Amount left