

# CAPSC's Gift

By Edward Chen, Columbia University

In truth, there nothing quite like watching mothers (or grandmothers), wear the traditional, and quite sexy, "chi pao," strut across the stage and then very suggestively pause for the audience. Now, don't get me wrong, this is not the American Idol beauty, the superficial obsession with skin tone that floods our television and cable advertising. It is true beauty, beauty in the most profound sense. Mother's Day is their time to shine; for all their lives they have been working, cooking, cleaning, and whatever else it takes to raise a family. When have they ever had the time to be appreciated, to wear something nice and have people applaud, and finally, to be recognized? Yet, in those short 5 minutes, the spotlight of attention melts those layers of fatigue and tiresome hard labor. And then not even sunglasses can keep out the brilliant glare of their beauty.

For their service, these 5 minutes are the least we can throw at a debt as deep as the ocean floor. All we can do to dent this debt is a continuous outpour of unreserved appreciation, gratitude, love and respect. All we can do is acknowledge their impact on our lives and celebrate their presence. And what better form of commemoration is there than to put them on stage and to recognize their painstaking contributions, whether it is to family, friends, or the community at large? That is what Mother's Day is about, and that is what the Chinese American Parent-Student Council (CAPSC) strives to accomplish during its annual Mother's Day and Outstanding Honoree Celebration.

It is certainly true that, without CAPSC, all of us would not be gathered here today to toast motherhood, to give homage to that which has given us everything we have today and more. To that end, CAPSC, has in many ways already fulfilled the obligations under which it was founded: To Love, Nurture, Educate. But their commitment and dedication extends beyond celebrating maternity. Forged by selfless individuals of great strength and character, CAPSC has since its conception held steadfast to its constitution of unifying the Asian American community, cultivating our nation's youth for their role as future leaders, and providing parents and children with tools necessary to succeed in life. Through its workshops and events and its members' dedication and commitment, CAPSC has over its years continuously set the bar for excellence.

There is no greater honor than to be given a chance to thank the one person in our lives that has nurtured us, given to us, and dedicated their lives to help us achieve our dreams. Our mothers support and encouragement is what sustains us and we can only hope that we can impart on our children a small part of what our mothers did to us. I'd like to thank CAPSC for giving us this wonderful opportunity to honor the most important people in our lives.