

## Miss Taiwanese America 2011

- The perspective of a contestant -

**Teresa Chen**  
Editor

Some dream of standing in the spotlight on stage, dressed up in a beautiful gown, but I never thought that would be me.

I have never considered myself a pageant girl. In fact, I cringe at the thought of public speaking. However, I saw the opportunity to conquer my fears while representing the home I love so much, and signed myself up. A few weeks later, I found myself the youngest girl in a group of fourteen well-achieved women.

Our weekly rehearsals started on the first Saturday of June. We immediately began with posing lessons and hour long photo sessions. The following weeks were focused on perfecting our opening dance, self-introduction, Q & A, and other small but important details.

On the night of the pageant, I could feel the tension and nervousness in the air.

Surprisingly, however, I wasn't as nervous as I thought I'd be. I found myself encouraging the older girls when they stuttered on their speeches, reminding them to breathe before going on stage. When it was finally my turn, I recited my speech flawlessly, and gained roaring applause from the audience.

Though I was not able to earn a princess title, I feel like I was able to walk away with the biggest prize of all - pride and confidence. I went on stage and presented myself as the high school participant from Taiwan, and the audience loved me for who I am. I was able to conquer my fears of the spotlight and above all else, effectively communicate my love for my country.

The pageant gave me many experiences I would not have been able to have otherwise. I learned a lot about the history of Taiwan, and myself, through the entire process. I realized what it means to be a Taiwanese American, and how to

represent and even make an impact on the community. I also met new friends, and even though we are ages apart, we are all bonded by our amazing pageant experience.



**JIP Intern Teresa Chen on stage at the Miss Taiwanese American Pageant.**  
Photo courtesy of Walter Ho.

## ALL IN THE TIMING



**The TACL Scholarship Recipients and the Summer Political Interns gather around for a group picture during the Official Closing Ceremony. Parents of the recipients and interns huddle together to take pictures of their child for his/her success.**

**Vicky Wen**  
Editor

This is an overview of all the events that happened during the TACL-LA Celebration Luncheon broken down into time slots.

10:00 AM - The official opening of the TACL Luncheon.

The Master of Ceremonies, Ed Chen, begins the celebration luncheon with a few short words of appreciation. He summarizes today's events and introduces Norbert Shieh's short film.

10:05 AM - The Featured Film

Norbert Shieh is the director of today's featured film. It is called "Huan Dao," and is about a brother that comes home to Taiwan after spending seven years in the United States. He gets reunited with his younger brother, and the film explores their relationship and the overwhelming experience that the older brother feels as he comes back home.

10:30 AM - The Q&A Session

Norbert Shieh and Dr. Michi Fu stays after the film to answer any questions the audience has. Dr. Fu answers the more in-depth and psychological questions while Shieh answers the questions that deal with the movie, like story plot and setting. Former TACL political intern, Angela Lee moderates the session and keeps the Q&A flowing even when the audience does not have any questions.

12:00 PM - The Luncheon

A light lunch follows with food from Lee's Sandwiches, cookies, chips, and drinks. The audience members are allowed to mingle and chat while enjoying their short break and the sun.

1:00 PM - The TACL Scholarship Ceremony

Fifteen graduated seniors from local high schools are awarded the TACL Scholarship. Each individual is presented with a plaque by a different person and given time to give a brief summary of him or herself. The sponsors for the scholarship are the ones that presented the recipients their plaques. Cameras flash as parents run up to the front to take picture of his or her child.

1:45 PM - The TACL Summer Political Internship Closing Ceremony

The political interns are mostly college students who went to intern for various political figures in California, like the senators and representatives. They perform various jobs for their employer and receive a certificate or plaque of appreciation from their employer at the closing ceremony. The interns also show a PowerPoint of the laws that they had already advocated to their employer and the stance that they took.

2:30 PM - The Official Closing Ceremony

Ed Chen once again appears to thank the audience for coming. He wishes everyone a happy summer and closes the celebration luncheon.

## TAP 7th Annual Banquet Gala and Casino Night



**JIP Interns with LID Camp Counselors.**  
Photo courtesy of Nicole Lee.

**Vicki Chang**  
Editor

The Taiwanese American Professionals (TAP) 7th Annual Banquet Gala Casino Night, a night in celebration of the year's successes in various social, professional, community, and cultural events was held at the Downtown Los Angeles Cicada Restaurant on Saturday, August 20, 2011. As this night was filled with much community socializing, speeches, casino tables, and endless raffles and silent auctions, this commemorating night was definitely a memorable experience. The gathering of Taiwanese American networkers started off with

the introductions of many significant groups and individuals within the TAP community, some of which were Ben Ling, the Taiwanese American Citizens League (TACL) National President and Financial Advisor, John Chiang, a prominent California state control worker, and Thomas Shu, one of the founding members and board directors of The American Premium Tea Institute. There were also live performances from singer Ryan Huang and presentations by the TACL Leadership Identity Development (LID) camp counselors and members. As the night went on, ap members commented on the successes of flourishing events such as this year's volunteering at

Harvest Moon Festival, Taiwanese American Heritage Festival, Annual Lunar Banquet, the Taiwan Center Concert, the launching of the first ever FORMOSArt Exhibit, and the Taiwan Tea Gala. The "Ambassador of Taiwan Tea", Thomas Shu and Josephine Sun, another prominent instructor of tea workshops, even guided the TAP and TACL members to a cultural tea chant in which everyone actively participated.

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