

Meet Your New RAs: Wilson Chen and Sam Figueroa

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By John Miller

Starting this fall, there will be a number of new Resident Assistants living in SUNY Broome's Student Village. I spoke with two, Wilson Chen and Samantha Figueroa, to find out a bit more about who they are and what they hope to accomplish in their new positions.

Wilson went into great detail about how he will carry out his responsibilities as an RA and how he'll change SUNY Broome. An international student from China, Chen has some experience working with fellow students from his time as a high school class monitor and a member of the Student Community Union in his home country.



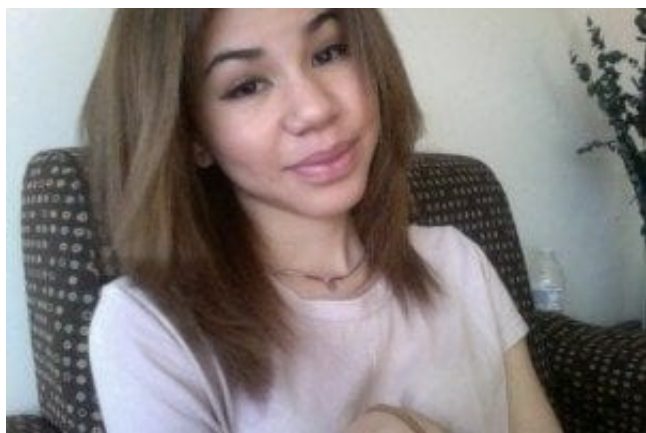
Wilson Chen

"As we all know, an RA provides leadership, assistance and support to the students living in the Student Village. As an international student, to be an RA is a great challenge for me," he said. "Although my English is not [too] good, I love to share the different culture and create a good relationship with others. I am outgoing, friendly, respectful and I am a fast learner."

The engineering science major said he hopes to serve as a good role model, and balance his own academic success with his job in the Student Village. He hopes to develop good relationships with the students in the Village, and help them with any issues that may arise.

“With more and more international students moving into the Student Village, I want to change the Student Village into a big family which everyone can share and learn [regardless of different cultures or languages],” he said.

Known as Sam, Figueroa hails from the Bronx and is majoring in paralegal studies.



Samantha Figueroa

“I feel like what makes me different from the other RAs is my level of understanding and patience,” she said. “Before being an RA, I was a regular resident who went through difficulties just like many of the other students. But I learned to overcome it all and keep a positive mindset, all while keeping my grades up.”

By drawing on her own experiences, Figueroa feels she can provide help and understanding to peers who are dealing with similar struggles. She hopes to inspire residents to become more involved in campus life and make the most of their college years.

“One thing I want other students to know about me is I’m an extremely down to earth person. Not just someone to be labeled as ‘The RA.’”

Keep yours peeled this fall for Wilson and Sam. If you have a problem or a question, they’ll give you all the help they can.

Writer John Miller is a SUNY Broome student.

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