

# CROSSCurrents

Annual Newsmagazine of the **UCLA** Asian American Studies Center

VOLUME 37  
2015

## PROFESSOR MARJORIE KAGAWA SINGER RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS, ESTABLISHES GEORGE AND LILY KAGAWA AWARD

With sincere gratitude for her service to campus and community, the Center announced the retirement of **Professor Marjorie Kagawa Singer**, after a twenty-five year career of research and teaching Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Island Studies, Nursing, and Public Health at UCLA.

Through her research, Professor Kagawa Singer has made significant contributions as an engaged and activist scholar. She has served as the Principal Investigator for Minority Training Program for Cancer Control, Associate Director of UCLA Lance Armstrong Center of Excellence for Cancer Survivorship and Co-Principal Investigator of the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research & Training (AANCART) Initiative, the first-ever national cancer prevention and control research initiative specifically targeting Asian Americans. She was most recently honored as the 2015 Fielding School of Public Health Dean's Distinguished Scholar and the 41st Annual Lester Breslow Distinguished Lecturer.



*Dr. Peter Singer and Professor Marjorie Kagawa Singer at the retirement celebration.  
(Credit: Jessica Thach)*

She has been a longtime leader and advocate of the Center's work as a member of its Faculty Advisory Committee. As Senior Editor for the Center's *aapi nexus Journal* from 2007-2012, she worked tirelessly to dismantle the barrier separating the academy and larger community, promote, and strengthen policy and applied-research on AANHPIs across the nation. Under her leadership and dedication, *aapi nexus* partnered with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to produce a special issue, "Forging the Future" which is arguably the most comprehensive publication to date on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI), demographic data trends, and federal policy -- including policy briefs on Civil Rights, Economic Development, Education, Health, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders by over fifty leading AANHPI scholars, applied-researchers, and community leaders from all over the United States.

The Center was also fortunate to work with Professor Kagawa Singer and **Professor Roshan Bastani** in collaboration with community-based organizations throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties and co-sponsor "Confluence of Culture and Science: Cancer in America's Asian Communities."

As Director of the Concurrent Degree between Community Health Sciences and Asian American Studies, Professor Kagawa Singer has nurtured generations of students who have become academic, professional and community leaders.

Professor Kagawa Singer earned a Masters in Nursing from the UCLA School of Nursing, as well as a Masters Degree and PhD in Anthropology from UCLA.

The Center is truly grateful for Professor Kagawa Singer's remarkable contributions that she has made to the lives of colleagues, students, and the field of AANHPI studies. At her retirement celebration on June 3rd at the UCLA Faculty Center, many of her colleagues, current and former students, friends, and family gathered to express their thanks for her passion and invaluable contributions to the fields of public health and AANHPI studies.

The Center is pleased to announce that Professor Kagawa Singer and her husband, **Dr. Peter Singer, M.D.**, established the **George and Lily Kagawa Award for Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Research** in honor of Professor Kagawa Singer's parents. The Kagawa Award will support UCLA undergraduate and graduate student research partnerships with community-based organizations in health-related areas. Given Professor Kagawa's tireless work to bridge campus and community, this award is a wonderful tribute not only to her parents' legacy, but also to her own longtime efforts to improve the lives of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Please join us in thanking Professor Kagawa Singer for her dedication and invaluable contributions to UCLA and beyond!

*Inscription on chair gifted to Professor Marjorie Kagawa Singer in appreciation of her work and dedication to UCLA.  
(Credit: Jessica Thach)*



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As the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, **CrossCurrents** keeps readers informed of Center activities, including academic programs, research projects, student achievements, and relevant university and community issues. **CrossCurrents** also covers important events and projects related to Asian American Studies and communities, but not directly sponsored by the Center.

For more information on **CrossCurrents**, please contact the editor.

## GIVING TO THE CENTER

If you wish to support the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, please visit our website ([www.aasc.ucla.edu](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu)) and click on "Donate" at the far right of the navigation bar. Your donation, regardless of amount, has a powerful impact on the research and educational activities that take place within the Center. We greatly value and appreciate your help in making our work possible.

Alumni and friends interested in making a gift to the Center by endowing a scholarship, supporting faculty research, making a planned gift or other major contribution, should contact:

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AASC Staff with FAC members and a student from the Asian American Studies MA program at the Spring Quarter 2015 Faculty Advisory Committee meeting.

From left to right: Mary Uyematsu Kao, Michelle Chip Chang, Arnold Pan, Thu-huong Nguyễn-võ, Barbra Ramos, Jerry Kang, Sarah Chong, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Valerie Matsumoto, Tritia Toyota, Lisa Kim Davis, Marjorie Kagawa Singer, David K. Yoo, Garrett Giffin, Betty Leung, Meg Thornton and Marjorie Lee.

(Credit: Tam Nguyen)

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## ALUMNUS ESTABLISHES THE HERBERT KAWAHARA FUND

The Center is pleased to announce the establishment of **The Herbert Kawahara Fund** to support research-related activities for UCLA students and faculty as well as community partners engaged in the preservation and promotion of Japanese American history and experience.

"I am very glad to help the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in its work to document and to tell the stories of Japanese Americans and their contributions to society," commented **Herbert Kawahara**. "And my hope is that students and many others will learn from our experiences."

Herbert Kawahara is an alumnus of UCLA, Class of 1951, who has long supported his alma mater through service and philanthropy. He is a retired president of the Pacific Stock Exchange, a position that capped his 32-year career in the investment brokerage business. Kawahara helped the campaign that resulted in the first endowed professorship at the Center, **The Alumni and Friends of Japanese American Ancestry Endowed**



*Herbert Kawahara at the Center's Annual Awards Reception in 2013.  
(Credit: Tam Nguyen)*

**Chair**, currently held by **Professor Renee Tajima-Peña**. In addition, Kawahara has supported the Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies, the College of Letters and Science, and the Geffen School of Medicine and served on various committees of the UCLA Foundation, including a term as president (2004-06).

"We are grateful for the generosity and support from Mr. Kawahara," stated Center Director, **David K. Yoo**. "His gift builds upon the pioneering work that he and other Japanese American alumni began decades ago, and enables the Asian American Studies Center to extend further its considerable strengths in Japanese American studies for current and future generations of students and faculty members."

## JERRY KANG APPOINTED AS VC OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Center is proud to announce **Professor Jerry Kang** of the UCLA School of Law was appointed the inaugural **Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)** in July. Kang serves as a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and is the **Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo Endowed Chair in Korean American Studies and Law**.

Kang's appointment comes after an extensive national search and is a response to student, faculty, and staff demands for more accountability and action by administration in the face of the current campus climate. In the last few years, the Moreno report exposed discrimination and bias experienced by UCLA faculty, students have faced instances of racism, such as the "Asians in the Library" video rant and the sign posted outside the Vietnamese Student Union office, and a sexist and racist flyer sent to the Center.



*Jerry Kang at the Asian American Studies Department's 10th Anniversary Celebration  
(Credit: Barbara Ramos)*

Already his position has called for a response to accusations of blackface at a fraternity party. On October 8th, he attended the #BlackLivesMatter rally on October 8th, re-affirming his goal "to see if academic talk can be translated to actual talk" and asserting that working on these instances are not just about investigating intent, but also the impact and meaning of the actions. He stated "you have to own the consequences of choices."

Under his office's mission "Build equity, for all," Kang is actively working to address campus concerns. He has launched CrossCheck, an online space where he shares commentary, articles and media to help build understanding of and towards equity. You can stay up to date with the news and information from the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and read Cross-Check online at <http://equity.ucla.edu>.

## CENTER, IAC CELEBRATE 45TH ANNIVERSARY



*Elsie Uyematsu Ojima and Morgan Chu sharing the stage at the 45th Anniversary event.  
(Credit: Adona Photography)*

On May 20th, supporters of the **Institute of American Cultures (IAC)** and the four ethnic studies research centers came together for a special evening marking forty-five years of ethnic studies at UCLA. Since 1969, the IAC and the Centers

have fostered and advanced scholarship and research at UCLA.

The evening's program, emceed by **Professor Tritia Toyota**, brought together several of the early founders and staff members. **Morgan Chu** and **Elsie Uyematsu Osajima** both spoke during the main panel. **Helen Chu** also shared her memories and insight from those days as well.

The event sparked the idea for a new project to capture oral histories of the IAC and the Centers' beginnings. Thank you to everyone who attended and the Center looks forward to celebrating many more milestones with you all!



*Tritia Toyota, Marjorie Lee, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Renee Tajima-Peña, Helen Chu, Morgan Chu, David Yoo, Valerie Matsumoto, and Tam Nguyen.  
(Credit: Adona Photography)*

## PROFESSOR WILLIAM “BILL” OUCHI RETIRES



Bill Ouchi

After thirty-six years of research and teaching management and organization design, **Professor William “Bill” Ouchi** has retired from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

The Center is grateful for Professor Ouchi’s support throughout the years. He has served on the Center’s faculty advisory committee for over twenty years and on

the *aapi nexus Journal* editorial board for over ten years, as well as provided guidance for our early public policy initiatives. In these roles, he has been a strong advocate for the growth of the Center and has facilitated and fostered collaborations with many community-based organizations, museums and elected officials.

Ouchi’s leadership and commitment to teaching, education, and civic activism has been well-recognized. He received UCLA’s outstanding teaching award and served as Associate Dean at the Anderson School. In 2006, the Los Angeles Unified School District named a public charter school after him and his wife - the Alliance William & Carol Ouchi High School. From 1993 to 1995, he served as advisor and chief of staff to then Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan. At UCLA, he founded and continues to serve on the board for Riordan Programs, which works with inner-city Los Angeles high school and college students.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Professor Ouchi received his BA at Williams College, his MBA at Stanford University, and his PhD in Business Administration at the University of Chicago. A best-selling author, Ouchi’s recent research centers on discovering new ways to organize urban public school systems to improve student achievement.

After retirement, Dr. Ouchi was appointed to serve in the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) as Associate Director of the DGSOM CTSI (Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute) and as Co-Director of the CTSI Health Innovation Board. The Center wishes him the best in his new role!



Shirley Hune

The **Shirley Hune Inter-Ethnic/Inter-Racial Studies Award** provides \$2,500 “to support research by UCLA doctoral students that places special emphasis on the complexity and dynamics of intergroup relations as presented in our historical past and present.” Administered by the Institute of American Cultures, the award is the result of a new gift by **Dr.**

**Shirley Hune**, professor emerita in urban planning at UCLA, who also chaired the Executive Committee of the Institute of American Cultures (1993-2007) and served as Associate Dean in the Graduate Division (1992-2007).

## REMEMBERING GRACE LEE BOGGS

On October 5, 2015, the Center joined Asian American and social justice communities in mourning the loss of revolutionary scholar activist **Grace Lee Boggs** at the age of 100. Known for her bold theories in advancing social movements at the intersections of black radical thought, labor, civil rights, environmental justice, feminism, and praxis, she inspired generations of students and activists.

In 1998, the Center had the honor of co-hosting the conference, “Serve the People: Asian American Community Activism,” featuring Grace Lee Boggs along with legendary activists **Yuri Kochiyama**, **Bill Gallegos**, and **Leon Watson** in a plenary panel entitled, “Interracial Unity and the Struggle for Liberation”.

The Center Press was also fortunate to publish a few of her powerful works in *Asian Americans on War and Peace* and *Amerasia Journal* (Issue 25:2 “Crossing the Color Line: The



Grace Lee Boggs (left), with Yuri Kochiyama and Nobuko Miyamoto at the Serve the People Conference at UCLA in 1998.

(Photo courtesy of UCLA AASC)

End of the 20th Century” and Issue 26:3 “Across the Colorline 2001”). **Jennifer Jung Hee Choi** also profiled her in the article “At the Margins of the Asian American Political Experience: The Life of Grace Lee Boggs” in *Amerasia Journal* 25:2.

In June 2013, the Center, through the generosity of the **Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowed Fund in Social Justice and Immigration Studies**, co-sponsored the community event “Grace Lee Boggs: A Conversation on Revolution,” which allowed Grace Lee Boggs to travel to Los Angeles and share insights on the direction and future of activism, in particular how we think about revolution and evolution. Her teachings remain among the most significant studies of how we critically think about race relations, capitalism and revolution in America.

The Center is grateful to have been able to share and support the work of Grace Lee Boggs. May the impact of her teachings and activism be remembered for generations to come.

## DR. SHIRLEY HUNE ESTABLISHES INTER-ETHNIC, INTER-RACIAL STUDIES RESEARCH GRANT

The inaugural recipients for the award are **Brady Collins**, a doctoral candidate in urban planning, for the project titled “The Boundaries of Culture: Neighborhood Branding in Multi-Ethnic Los Angeles” and **Alessandra Williams**, doctoral student in world arts and culture, for “Choreographing Decolonized Labor: The Social Movements of Reality and Ananya Dance Theatre in the Americas.”

Applications for the 2016-2017 academic year are now open and can be assessed through the IAC research grant program. Proposals that will foster collaboration between the ethnic studies centers and/or between the centers and other campus units are especially encouraged. **Deadline is April 20, 2016.** Apply online at [http://iac.ucla.edu/fellowships\\_research.html](http://iac.ucla.edu/fellowships_research.html).



## FIRST LADY OF ASIAN AMERICAN POETRY JANICE MIRIKITANI RETURNS TO UCLA, ENCOURAGES 'PASSION FOR JUSTICE'

On January 15th, students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered to listen to poet and activist **Janice Mirikitani** share from her latest publication, ***Out of the Dust: New and Selected Poems*** (University of Hawaii Press 2014).

The Center was excited to welcome back Mirikitani to UCLA, where she received her bachelors degree and was a founding member of the sorority Theta Kappa Phi. Janice Mirikitani is recognized as the second poet laureate of San Francisco and the founding President of the Glide Memorial Foundation. Her family was incarcerated in Rohwer during World War II under Executive Order 9066.

Introduced by former *Amerasia Journal* editor **Russell Leong** as the "First Lady of Asian American poetry," Mirikitani read select pieces from her new book, including "Imperfect Enough," "Her Fault," and an excerpt from "Haiku for the De Young." Her passionate and strong voice brought her words to life and those in attendance, many of whom had never been to her previous readings, were excited to hear her share her work in person.

She openly shared personal anecdotes and opinions, including stories of pain, but also growth and triumph, with the audience. She spoke on how history and the different movements she has experienced, including those for civil rights and ethnic studies, have transformed her. Mirikitani encouraged audience members to "break our silence. Break our stereotypes."

When asked what she would want students to know about



Janice Mirikitani at her book talk for *Out of the Dust* at UCLA  
(Credit: Barbara Ramos)

her, Mirikitani replied, "I want the students to know how human I am. I'm vain - I am also humble but I really truly have a passion for justice. And I hope that if students embrace anything it would be that passion for justice. Not just for our community not just for their family member but for all of us - for the world."

After the talk, Janice Mirikitani signed copies of her book, which is part of the Center Press and University of Hawaii's joint series ***Intersections: Asian and Pacific American Transcultural Studies***. A display of many of her publications was put together by the Center's Library/Reading Room and those in attendance were encouraged to visit Glide's website ([www.glide.org](http://www.glide.org)) to purchase her other books and various anthologies.

## YUEN FONG AND LEW OY TOY FAMILY INTERNSHIP IN CHINESE AMERICAN STUDIES ESTABLISHED

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is pleased to announce the establishment of **The Yuen Fong and Lew Oy Toy Family Internship in Chinese American Studies**. Through the generosity of alumnus **Susan Toy Stern**, the Toy Family Internship will support an undergraduate student internship with the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) and the Chinese American Museum (CAM) on a rotating basis.

"I am pleased to establish this internship in honor of my parents. This internship is especially meaningful to me because it brings together family, community, and education," commented Susan Toy Stern. "I am glad to be able to give back to UCLA by helping current and future students as they learn about the legacies of the Chinese American community of Los Angeles and help us to preserve their history for future generations."

The internship will benefit UCLA students and enable the Center to extend its longstanding partnerships with leading Chinese American organizations within Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

"On behalf of CHSSC, I would like to thank Susan Toy Stern for her support and generosity," said **President Don Loo**. "The program will help stimulate undergraduate students to develop a greater interest and hopefully get involved in the community."

**Lucille Wang**, Executive Director of CAM, stated, "The Toy Family Internship will enable the Chinese American Museum to further its mission by working with UCLA students and for this gift, we are grateful."

The inaugural recipient of the Toy Family Internship was **Meisan Ly**, an undergraduate student majoring in Psychology. She interned this past summer at the CHSSC and worked on the

papers of Hiram Kwon, a Chinese immigration attorney. When she reflected on her experience at the Center's Annual Awards Reception, Ly called it the "beginning of her contribution to the Chinese American community" and shared how she gained not only knowledge, but a second family from this internship. The Center looks forward to welcoming more Toy Family interns in the future.



Cuong Ly, Yan Qian, Meisan Ly, Susan Toy Stern, Sherry Jiang, & Frank Toy  
(Credit: Emilie Tumale)

## PROFESSORS MARJORIE KAGAWA SINGER & DAVID K. YOO NAMED RECIPIENTS OF HOSHIDE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PRIZE



Marjorie Kagawa Singer and David Yoo at Kagawa Singer's Retirement Reception  
(Credit: Jessica Thach)

Congratulations to **Professors Marjorie Kagawa Singer and David K. Yoo**! They were chosen as the 2014-2015 recipients of the **C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA**.

Professor Kagawa Singer, who retired this year, is among the nation's leading Asian American scholars in Public Health. She has served as Senior Editor of *aapi nexus Journal*, is a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, and has served as the Director of the Concurrent Degree between Community Health Sciences and Asian American Studies (MPH/MA).

One student noted: "I have experienced first hand how Dr. Kagawa Singer has served as a mentor and a source of consistent support for countless students, including myself. She is also a tireless leader in UCLA diversity initiatives and teaches innovative classes that inspire and motivate students to conduct more effective community-based, interdisciplinary research." Another student reflected that: "I've gained the most practical knowledge in addressing health inequities in my own communities through her classes. Because she expects students to improve

the role of public health, she does an amazing job preparing students to embrace the chaos."

Professor Yoo's scholarship is in the area of Asian American history, having authored or edited 8 books (in print and forthcoming), including *Contentious Spirits: Religion in Korean American History, 1903-1945* (Stanford University Press, 2010). He is currently at work on two separate projects with Oxford University Press focusing on Asian American history. He has been a Senior Fulbright Scholar (Korea) and held fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, and the Huntington Library. Professor Yoo received his Ph.D. from Yale University.

At UCLA, Professor Yoo has developed courses in Asian American religious history, the history of the Asian American movement as well as community-based/service learning. One student commented: "He went above and beyond to be sure that his students were placed with community organizations that aligned with their interests. As my advisor and mentor, he continued to look out for my future career opportunities. He was passionate about the long and exciting history of the Asian American Movement and engaged students consistently around the issues that are still pervasive in our communities." Another student stated: "Despite the many roles he plays in the Asian American Studies Center, the Department, and in the community, he still makes himself available to helping his students, and always with a warm and welcoming attitude."

The late **C. Doris Hoshide**, Class of 1934, established the teaching prize to recognize an outstanding professor in Asian American Studies. She and her husband were longtime supporters of Asian American Studies at UCLA. The Hoshide Prize includes a one thousand dollar award.

## CINDY FAN IS VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT, ANNOUNCES NEW CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION



Cindy Fan

The Center congratulates **Professor Cindy Fan** on her appointment as **Vice Provost for International Studies and Global Engagement**! Since 2012, she has served as interim Vice Provost and has been a supportive long-time member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee.

Fan has taught at UCLA since 1989 and was instrumental in establishing the Asian American Studies Department, serving as one of the incipient Chairs. She is a professor of geography and Asian American studies and has also previously served as associate dean of the division of Social Sciences and chair of the East Asian Studies Interdepartmental Program. Fan is the recipient of a UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award, an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant and an American Council on Education fellowship.

In her work with the UCLA's international programs, she has made a study abroad initiative part of the Centennial Campaign for UCLA and worked on international partnerships. Fan has created global forums to engage constituents overseas.

She is a well-regarded expert on migration and Fan is frequent commentator for various media outlets including the *New York Times*, BBC, China Radio International, NPR, Tavis Smiley and Bloomberg News.

This fall, Fan announced the creation of the **Center for the Study of International Migration**, which builds upon and replaces the International Institute's Program on International Migration. Among the new center's affiliated faculty are AASC Chairholders **Professors Lane Hirabayashi** and **Min Zhou**, along with FAC members **Professors Hiroshi Motomura**, **Paul Ong**, **Ninez Ponce**, and **Robert Chao Romero**.



## ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATE STUDENT RESEARCH & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Center recognized several of the undergraduate and graduate students for their research and academic success during its **Annual Awards Reception** on October 24th. The event took place at the new Academic Advancement Programs (AAP) Learning Pavilion in Campbell Hall. Parents and friends of the honorees were on hand to cheer on and support them.

This year the Center also acknowledged the donors who generously established two new awards. **Assistant Director Melany De La Cruz Viesca** thanked **Professor Marjorie Kagawa Singer**, who was unable to attend, for establishing the **George and Lily Kagawa Scholarship** and alumnus **Susan Toy Stern** for the **Toy Family Internship**. **Meisan Ly**, the inaugural recipient of the internship, also spoke about her experience at the Chinese Historical Society. Faculty Advisory Committee members **Professors Ailee Moon** and **Lucy Burns** were on hand to announce the awards and to congratulate the awardees. As students came up to be recognized, they expressed their thanks and briefly shared more information about their papers or research with the audience.

Thank you to all who attended! The Center encourages students to visit our website ([www.aasc.ucla.edu/scholarships](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/scholarships)) and check out the many opportunities available. **Deadlines for next year's applications are February 22, 2016 for grants, fellowships, and scholarships, and February 26, 2016 for academic prizes.** The event photos shown here were taken by Asian American Studies MA student **Emilie Tumale**.

## LOIS TAKAHASHI TO SERVE AS INTERIM DEAN OF LUSKIN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Scott Waugh** announced the appointment of **Professor Lois Takahashi** as the interim dean of the Luskin School of Public Affairs. Takahashi, who teaches urban planning and Asian American studies, has been faculty at UCLA since 2001. She currently serves as the associate dean of research at Luskin and was formerly chair the urban planning department.

A member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, she served as chair from 2010-2013 and is currently the Associate Director of the University of California Asian American and Pacific Islander Policy Multicampus Research Program. Her recent research includes Southern California HIV testing, treatment, and care access, as well as the massage parlor industry in Los Angeles and New York City.

She received a PhD in urban planning from the University of Southern California, an MS in public management and policy/architecture from Carnegie Mellon University and an AB in architecture from UC Berkeley.



Lois Takahashi



Graduate awardees Victoria Calip Rodriguez, Mana Nayakawa, Brittany Morey, Andrew Nguyen Le, & Stephanie Chang with Professor Ailee Moon



Undergraduate awardees Michael Chang, Eric Yen Tang, Arsha Naveen Zakir, Jessica Thach, Tiffany Tran Guo, Meisan Ly, Diana Garcia, Rosalee Mouanoutoua, and April Lor with Professor Lucy Burns.



The audience at the Annual Awards Reception.

Photos on the right: 1) Stanley Lau and Rosalee Mouanoutoua; 2) Meg Thornton; 3) Victoria Calip Rodriguez and family; 4) Tiffany Tran Guo with her family; 5) Eric Yen Tang and his family; 6) Jessica Thach and Der Xiong.



## RACHEL LEE NAMED CENTER FOR STUDY OF WOMEN DIRECTOR



Rachel Lee

**Professor Rachel Lee**, who teaches for the departments of English and Gender Studies, was appointed Director of UCLA's Center for the Study of Women (CSW). Lee had served as CSW's Interim Director in 2012-2013 and prior to that as its Associate Director, where she lead "Life, (Un) Ltd," its multiyear research project that focused on how bioscience and biotechnology developments impact feminist studies.

Lee received her BA in English from Cornell University and her PhD in English Literature from UCLA. Since 1995, she has taught at UCLA and conducted research specializing in Asian American literature, performance culture, and studies of gender and sexuality. Lee is a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee.

Her most recent publication *The Exquisite Corpse of Asian America: Biopolitics, Biosociality, and Posthuman Ecologies* (New York University Press) was released in 2014 and she is the editor of *The Routledge Companion to Asian American and Pacific Islander Literature* (Routledge 2014).

## CENTER HOSTS BOOK TALKS FOR DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

The Center had the pleasure of featuring new publications by the Faculty Advisory Committee. This past year's talks provided space for the UCLA community to learn new ways of understanding the Asian American experience, as well as insights related to policy, history, media, and transnational relations.

**Hiroshi Motomura**, the Susan Westerberg Prager Professor of Law, shared his new book *Immigration Outside the Law* (Oxford University Press 2014) and how he came to write this book. He delves into the complexities of immigration and why debates around it are so contentious. The event on February 11th was co-sponsored by UCLA School of Law Office of the Dean, Critical Race Studies Program, David J. Epstein Program on Public Interest Law and Policy, and Immigration Law Society. *Immigration Outside the Law* won the Association of American Publishers 2015 Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE) Award in the Law and Legal Studies category.

On February 26th, students, faculty and staff gathered at the Young Research Library for a talk by **Professor Sean Metzger** with **Professor Grace Hong** as his discussant. His new book, *Chinese Looks: Fashion, Performance, Race* (Indiana University Press 2014), examines how the physical representation and adornment of the Chinese in theatrical and cultural performance reflects the changing American perceptions of China. Metzger

also shared some insight into his writing and editing process. His talk was co-sponsored by the Department of Theatre.

**Professor Rachel Lee** presented her book *The Exquisite Corpse of Asian America* (New York University Press 2014) on May 5th in the Powell Library East Rotunda. In conversation with English Department **Professor Allison Caruth**, Lee discussed how she came to write this book and how she worked to unpack the mental construct of "Asian American" and the idea of race in relation to the body. In her book, she engages with novels, poetry, theater, and new media and challenges readers to think more intersectionally. The event was co-sponsored by the Departments of English, Gender Studies, and Asian American Studies.

In *Unsettling India* (Duke University Press 2015), **Professor Purnima Mankekar** builds off over a decade of ethnographic fieldwork in New Delhi and the San Francisco Bay Area and tackles the sense of unsettlement and its place as an analytic to trace modes of belonging and not-belonging. Her May 15th book talk at the Young Research Library also featured **Professor Sherry Ortner** from the Department of Anthropology as her respondent. Her talk was co-sponsored by the Departments of Gender Studies and Asian American Studies.



At this year's book talks (from left to right): 1) Hiroshi Motomura; 2) Sean Metzger and Grace Hong; 3) Allison Caruth and Rachel Lee; and 4) Purnima Mankekar (center) and her family. (Credit: Barbra Ramos)

## FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CENTER STAFF NEWS

- **Professor Michelle Caswell** received the Waldo Gifford Leland Award from the Society of American Archivists for *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory, and the Photographic Record in Cambodia* (University of Wisconsin Press 2014).
- The UC Office of the President awarded a \$1.07 million grant to establish the Consortium for Black Studies in California. **Professor Grace Kyungwon Hong**, who authored the grant, will serve as co-investigator. She was also chosen for the 2014-15 Graduate Student Appreciation Award by the UCLA Asian American Studies MA students.
- **Professor Min Zhou** and UC Irvine **Professor Jennifer Lee** released the book *Asian American Achievement Paradox* (Russell Sage Foundation 2015).
- **Professor Victor Bascara** was honored as the 2015 Royal Morales Community Achievement Award from the UCLA Pilipino Alumni Association.
- **Professor Eunice Lee** was inducted a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.
- **Professor Renee Tajima-Peña** was the featured guest in the International Documentary Association's Conversation Series on November 16th.
- **Dr. Benjamin Woo** was chosen to serve on the Physician Advisory Board for the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association.
- **Professor Paul Ong** received the 2015 Western Political Science Association Best Paper Award on Asian Pacific Americans and Politics.
- This past summer, the Center bid farewell to **Office Manager Sarah Chong** as she left UCLA to pursue her artistic dreams. Our infinite thanks to Sarah for her hard work and dedication these last two years!
- Join the Center in welcoming back **Irene Suico Soriano** as our new Office Manager! An independent literary and film/video curator and poet, Irene is currently finishing her poetry manuscript. She is also very active in animal rights activism and founded the Bark & Purr Alliance Fund to advocate for geriatric and terminally ill shelter animals.



## OKURA COLLECTION PROCESSING COMPLETION & RECEPTION



Relatives of Patrick and Lily Okura attending the reception at UCLA.  
(Credit: Tam Nguyen)

The **K. Patrick and Lily A. Okura Collection** features donations of the rare papers, records, and primary documents of **Patrick and Lily Okura**, two Japanese Americans who dedicated their lives to mental health research, service, and social justice, especially for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. The collection also offers insights into the Okuras' personal history with Japanese American incarceration during World War II and their involvement with organizations like the Japanese American Citizens League.

Patrick Okura, who graduated from UCLA, occupied a strategic position for more than two decades as the executive assistant to Dr. Bertram S. Brown, the then director of the National Institute of Mental Health. In that role, Okura was able to promote financial support for the health and welfare needs of AAPI communities in a time when their issues were largely ignored. His staunch support of community-level organizations and programs fostered their continued efforts and increased

capacity to develop services dedicated to mental health, family, and youth.

The Center, along with the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation and UCLA Library Special Collections, hosted an inaugural reception for the collection on June 9th at the Young Research Library. The event welcomed the Okura family, close friends, and the Okura Foundation's board members to UCLA to celebrate the completion of the archival processing and cataloguing of the collection. Special guests in attendance included Okura Foundation Board members **Ford Kuramoto**, **Karen Ishizuka**, **Glen Komatsu**, **Bertram S. Brown**, and **Phil Hallen**. Family members were deeply moved to find the train manifests sending the family from the Santa Anita Assembly Center to the Jerome Detention Facility, as well as a photo of their father and all of his sons, in the collection.

Archival processing was made possible through the support and generosity of the **Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation**. Archival research and processing was led by Center librarian and archivist **Marjorie Lee**, with assistance provided by **Garrett Giffin**, **Krista Chavez**, and **Ann Matsushima Chiu**. Student assistants for the collection were **Khanh Hoang**, **Jason Lee**, **Meisan Ly**, **Hisa Tome**, and **Kim Yamasaki**. The digital registry and website were developed by **Tam Nguyen** and **Roel Bautista**.

The full Okura Collection will be made available for public use once the final cataloguing and repository transfer is completed by UCLA Library Special Collections. The public is encouraged to explore the contents of the collection electronically by accessing the registry through the Center's website (<http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/okura>).

## ASIAN AM STUDIES DEPARTMENT MARKS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Ten years ago the **Department of Asian American Studies** was established after efforts by the Center, the IAC, and affiliated faculty. In the years prior to that, beginning in 1976, the Center had lead the interdepartmental academic program of Asian American Studies, including the Masters degree program. The UCLA Asian American Studies MA program was the first of its kind in the nation when it was launched in 1977.



Department Chair Professor Jinqi Ling  
(Credit: Barbra Ramos)

On May 6th, the Center was pleased to help commemorate the 2004 founding of the department as they held their 10th Anniversary Celebration titled "Reflecting on Asian American Experiences Through Media."

After opening remarks from **Department Chair Professor Jinqi Ling** and **Center Director Professor David Yoo**, the program featured a keynote presentation by **Linda Trinh Vo**, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at UC Irvine and current President of the Association for Asian American Studies. **Professor Keith Camacho** moderated a

panel discussion with Bruin alumni **Julie Ha '94**, **Grace Borrero Moss '99**, **Robert Nakamura '75**, and **Steve Wong '96**. Each shared their unique perspectives on Asian Americans and the media: Ha is a contributing editor to *Koream Journal*; Moss is a manager of Entertainment Diversity Initiatives for NBC; Nakamura is Professor Emeritus for UCLA Asian American Studies and is a filmmaker who founded the Center for EthnoCommunications and Visual Communications; and Wong is a curator at the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles.

Many alumni of the program and supporters of Asian American Studies were in attendance, as well as current students currently in the Department's Masters, major, and minor programs.



Professor Keith Camacho, Grace Borrero Moss, Steve Wong, Julie Ha and Robert Nakamura.  
(Credit: Barbra Ramos)

## 2014-2015 NAKANISHI ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: BRITTANY MOREY AND JESSICA THACH

Nominations are accepted annually for the **Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies at UCLA**. The scholarships were established from an endowment to recognize faculty and students who embody the spirit, work, and contributions of former **Center Director and Professor Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi**. Congratulations to this year's recipients **Brittany Morey** and **Jessica Thach**!

Graduate student Brittany N. Morey received her BS in Biology, MPH from the Department of Community Health Sciences and is currently a PhD student at the Fielding School of Public Health. Morey's deep commitment to community through research, teaching, and activism was evident in her nomination. A community leader noted, "We need to recognize individuals who have such a great sense of how research should benefit community, and also how to interweave community in to the process of research." Through community-based participatory research with the Asian and Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance, Morey was instrumental in helping them collect needed data on the Tongan community's fear of safety in using a park near their church and successfully advocate for a walking trail at the park.

Her dissertation examines the neighborhood factors that may be related to risk for breast cancer among Asian American women. She also recently published her paper, "Environmental Justice for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles County" in the *Journal of Environmental Justice*. It was nominated for the Best Paper award for the Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus of the American Public Health Association. Morey used cutting edge geographical information systems



(GIS) techniques alongside statistical analysis.

Jessica Thach graduated in June 2015 with a BA in Asian American Studies and a Minor in Education. Thach is considered an exceptional student who is deeply committed to community through research and activism. When she served as Assistant Director and Student Project Director for Higher Opportunity Program for Education (HOPE) -- an after school academic enrichment and empowerment program for Southeast Asian students at San Gabriel High School -- she worked with Advancing Justice to develop youth participatory action re-



search through digital media. A community leader noted, "I knew that she had a passion for working towards educational equity and I witnessed her impact on the core group of HOPE students, many of whom went on to graduate high school and attend 4-year

universities as a result of her mentorship."

Thach has also greatly contributed to developing undergraduate service-learning courses at UCLA. Thach served as the liaison between HOPE and an Asian American and Pacific Islander Labor Issues class, in which UCLA students completed two projects for HOPE high school students in Westminster and San Gabriel Valley. Beyond the classroom, Thach has developed a strong background in community service and leadership, through working with several non-profit organizations such as Chinatown Community for Equitable Development (CCED) and East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC) in Oakland.

It is the pleasure of the Center to recognize Brittany N. Morey and Jessica Thach for their outstanding practical research, publications, teaching, training, and/or educational service to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

## 'TO REMEMBER' BREAKS SILENCE BETWEEN GENERATIONS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR



The event's three presenters: T.K. Lê, Thu-huong Nguyễn-võ, and Yến Lê-Espiritu.  
(Credit: Tam Nguyen)

The Center partnered with the Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association (VAALA) and the UCSD Ethnic Studies Department to host a community event at VAALA's space in Santa Ana on May 3rd. With 2015 marking forty years since the end of the Vietnam War, the event focused on

the affect and politics of memory particularly around Vietnamese American communities' history and experience of war. "To Remember: Invoking History in Memorials, the Photographic Image, and Poetry" featured UCSD **Professor Yến Lê-Espiritu** speaking on "Vietnamese Refugee Remembering and Remembrance," **Center Associate Director and Professor Thu-huong Nguyễn-võ** discussing "The Irreconcilable Past: Photographic

Memory as Historical Tragedy," and Asian American Studies MA student **T.K. Lê** reading from her collection of stories and poems called "The Labor of Longing."

The lectures and reading sparked audience engagement, as almost 100 attendees participated in an inter-generational and bilingual dialogue at the end of the program, addressing topics such as the silence between different generations and the need for Vietnamese to share their stories with each other and other communities.



Audience listening to the afternoon's presentations.  
(Credit: Barbra Ramos)



## CHU CHAIR PROFESSOR ROBERT TERANISHI APPOINTED TO EDUCATION SERVICES BOARD

**Professor Robert Teranishi** of the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies was appointed to the National Board of Education Services by President Barack Obama. He joins the 15-member body that will help govern the US Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Board members advise on research areas to be carried out by the National Center for Education Research and present recommendations for strengthening education research and IES funding.

Teranishi, who received his PhD in Higher Education and Social Change from UCLA in 2001, serves as AASC's inaugural **Morgan and Helen Chu Chair in Asian American Studies at UCLA** and is a leading researcher in access and equity for minority students, particularly Asian American and Pacific Islander populations. Teranishi currently serves as co-director of the Institute for Immigrant Children, Youth, and Families. He is also the recent recipient of the 2015 Bonita C. Jacobs award from the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students.

Professor Teranishi said he looks forward to working with IES and "improve the ways in which data can better inform the work of policy makers, practitioners, and the research community. It is an honor and privilege to serve in this role and inform the work of the Institute of Education Sciences."



David Yoo, Helen Chu, Robert Teranishi, and Morgan Chu at the IAC 45th Anniversary Celebration  
(Credit: Adona Photography)

## MACHINE DREAMS AT UCLA

On June 11 and 12, the Center helped host **Machine Dreams: A Symposium on Robots, Arts, and Difference** in the Royce Hall Humanities Conference Rooms. Co-organized by **Margaret Rhee, Professor Lucy Burns, and Neil Aitken** (USC), the two-day event was the manifestation of discussions and imaginings around robots, machines, humans, and the creation of difference.



**MACHINE DREAMS:**  
A Symposium on Robots,  
Arts, and Difference

Thursday kicked off the symposium with thought-provoking literary readings and performances by the co-organizers along with **Chiwon Choi, Takeo Rivera, Kenji Liu, Miyoko Conley, Saba Razvi**, and others. Friday presented critical views and interpretations of texts, as well as performances that further investigated humanity's robot and machine obsession in the light of arts and culture. A special keynote was presented by **Minsoo Kang**, author of *Sublime Dreams of Living Machines: The Automaton in the European Imagination* (Harvard University Press 2011).



Presenters and organizers at day two of Machine Dreams.  
(Photo courtesy of Margaret Rhee)

Co-sponsoring UCLA organizations were the Asian American Studies Department, English Department, Department of History, Center for the Study of Women, Digital Humanities Program and the Young Research Library.

## ALUMNI & COMMUNITY NEWS

- Asian American MA alum and actor **Randall Park** was honored as APA UCLA Alumnus of the Year and with the V3con Visibility Award! He also was the Asian American Studies Department commencement speaker in June.
- Economics alum **David Ryu** became the first Korean American and second Asian American elected to LA City Council.
- Mayor Eric Garcetti appointed alum **Joel Jacinto** to be a City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works commissioner.
- Education PhD alum **Allyson Tingtiano-Cubales** received the 2015 Association for Asian American Studies Engaged Scholar Award.
- Asian American MA alum **Jennifer Tseng** released her debut novel *Mayumi and the Sea of Happiness* (Europa Eds).
- Brandy Liên Worrall** read from her memoir *What Doesn't Kill Us* (Rabbit Fool Press 2014) at UCLA in April. Brandy is a Asian American MA alum and former *Amerasia* editor.
- Margaret Rhee**, the Center's 2014-2015 IAC Visiting Researcher, is now a Visiting Assistant Professor for University of Oregon's Department of Women's and Gender Studies.
- Dr. James Lai**, Asian American MA alum and co-editor of the *National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac*, was chosen as an APIAVote Research Fellow.
- Mai Yang Vang**, alum of the joint Asian American Studies MA and Masters of Public Health program, is adjunct faculty for California State University, Sacramento's Ethnic Studies.
- English and World Arts & Cultures alum **Kristina Wong** premiered her one-woman show *The Wong Street Journal*.
- Film alum and director **Justin Lin** was honored by adding his handprints at TCL Chinese Theatre's 88th Anniversary.
- The Asian American Studies Department hired Asian American MA student **T.K. Lê** as the new Office Manager and **Wendy Fujinami** as the Management Services Officer.

## ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER GRADUATE STUDENT GROUPS FOSTER NEEDED RELATIONSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Over the years, students have formed various groups and associations at UCLA to help provide each other with much-needed support, mentorship, and spaces to organize. Asian American and Pacific Islander graduate students from all disciplines continue this legacy today. The Center is thrilled to spotlight and provide information on a few of these groups on campus.

**The Asian American and Pacific Island Studies Graduate Student Association** is an informal organization that formed last year. The group seeks to bring together graduate students across disciplines and departments who are interested in Asian American and Pacific Island Studies through socials, research seminars, and paper presentations in a safe space. Last year, the group organized a panel on grant writing and provided feedback to students on their dissertation chapters and article drafts. They welcome MA and PhD students from any department. For more information, email **C. Aujean Lee** at [aujean@ucla.edu](mailto:aujean@ucla.edu).

The **Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association (AASGSA)** comprises of students pursuing masters degrees in Asian American Studies at UCLA. The association aims to protect and expand the field of Asian American studies as we continue to produce knowledge that is relevant to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. As Professor Glenn Omatsu has said, "Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies belong to students and our communities [...] These programs do not belong to faculty, and they are not owned by the university. These programs exist because four decades ago students and support-

ers from our communities fought to make them possible."

AASGSA had their 3rd annual Asian American Studies potluck on October 4th. It brought together undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni. Like their Facebook page to learn about new and upcoming events at <https://www.facebook.com/AASGSA/>. To get involved, contact **Kenny Chan** at [chan66@ucla.edu](mailto:chan66@ucla.edu) or **Laura Chow Reeve** at [lcreeve@ucla.edu](mailto:lcreeve@ucla.edu).

Founded in 2009, UCLA's **Graduate Coalition of the Native Pacific (GCNP)** has spent the last six years educating and advocating on behalf of the Pacific Islander population on campus and in the surrounding communities. GCNP has planned programming such as film screenings, conferences, and workshops on interdisciplinary topics affecting Pacific Islanders, ranging from empire to the environment. In addition to working with faculty and student groups such as their undergraduate counterpart the Pacific Islands Student Association (PISA), GCNP is also committed to maintaining ties with community groups.



*Panel on island epistemologies at the 2014 American Studies Association Conference with Kehaulani Vaughn, Joyce Pualani Warren, Rebekah Garrison, Alfred Peredo Flores, & Arizona State University Professor Rudy Guevarra  
(Photo courtesy of GCNP)*

Recently, GCNP members **Alfred Peredo Flores** and **Joyce Pualani Warren** have emphasized connections with surrounding universities and collaborated with fellow GCNP co-founder and UCLA alum **Kehaulani Vaughn** (now pursuing a PhD in Ethnic Studies at UCR) as well as crosstown colleague **Rebekah Garrison** (pursuing a PhD American Studies and Ethnicity at USC) in a spate of academic conferences, among them: the 2014 American Studies Association annual conference; the 2015 Cultural Studies Association annual conference; and the 2015 Indigenous and Decolonial Practices and Imaginaries Symposium at USC. To connect with GCNP, see their page on OrgSync.com.

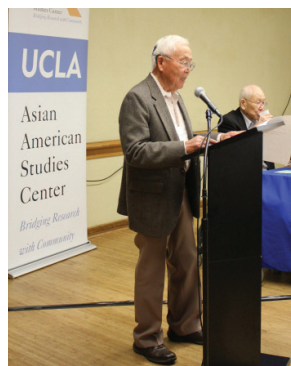


*Asian American Studies undergraduate and graduate students and alumni at the Asian American Studies potluck this year.  
(Photo courtesy of AASGSA)*

## SUYAMA PROJECT: STORIES OF JAPANESE AMERICAN RESISTANCE

On March 8th, the Center presented a special program for the **Suyama Project** at San Francisco's **Japanese Community and Cultural Center of Northern California (JCCCNC)**. More than 80 people attended and, similar to past Suyama events, it featured people who dissented or resisted internment. This one centered on the lives and perspectives of brothers **Mamoru "Mori" and Jim Tanimoto**, whose family was sent to the Tule Lake War Relocation Authority Camp. Mori and Jim recounted how they, along with another brother, refused to answer questions on the loyalty questionnaire issued by the US government during World War II and were rounded up and detained without charge alongside other Block 42 men. They were later released.

Their story is one of the many examples of Japanese American resistance. The Suyama Project is supported by an en-



*Jim and Mori Tanimoto at JCCCNC.  
(Credit: Barbara Ramos)*

dowment named after the late **Eji Suyama**, part of the 100th Bn/442nd RCT, who openly voiced opposition to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and penned letters to newspapers on the issue. Find out more through the project's website at <http://www.suyamaproject.org>.

Upcoming 2016 events will be at Seattle's **Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington** on March 12th and at the **Japanese American Museum of San Jose** on May 21st.



## REFRAMING THE ASIAN AMERICAN WEALTH NARRATIVE

Recently, several incidents in combination have demonstrated the need to give voice to the highly diverse and complex AAPI population's experiences, issues and needs in relation to wealth inequality. In 2013, Thomas Piketty's book *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* drew widespread attention to the growing wealth inequality around the world, but didn't mention how race influences the wealth divide in the United States. A recent New York Times article entitled, "The Asian Advantage" homogenized all Asians as high earners, highly educated and successful. This past October, California Governor Jerry Brown vetoed Assembly Bill AB-176, which would have created new statewide guidelines to collect disaggregated demographic data for California's diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander populations to help address health and education disparities. Through the generous funding provided by the **Ford Foundation's Building Economic Security over a Lifetime Initiative**, the Center has produced a series of publications to address the limitations of existing literature, disaggregated data and analysis on AAPIs and wealth. These publications include:

- The **aapi nexus Journal's** Fall 2015 special issue on wealth inequality presents new insights on AAPI communities, wealth inequality and financial security that can enrich the policy debates on tax policy reform, financial capability strategies for youth and immigrants, community college financial programs, social security, housing, small business, and additional asset-building issues.
- **Wealth Roller Coaster: Race, Place, and the Foreclosure Crisis in Los Angeles Report**, a case study exploring the impact of the housing boom and bust on a

neighborhood level as it relates to various racial groups within Los Angeles County.

- **The Complexity of Asian American Wealth: Ethnicity, Immigration and Within Group Disparities Report**, a report to better understand Asian American wealth and the current gaps in wealth.
- **The Color of Wealth in Los Angeles Report**, a joint publication of the Duke University Research Network for Racial and Ethnic Inequality, The New School Milano Graduate School of International Affairs and Management and Urban Policy, and UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The report utilizes data from the National Asset Scorecard for Communities of Color (NASCC), a new survey developed to supplement existing national data sets that collect data on household wealth in the United States, but rarely collect data that is disaggregated by race and ethnicity. The report will be released in collaboration with the Federal Reserve of San Francisco and Insight Center for Community Economic Development in Winter 2016.

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, wealth continues to be an important measure of financial security and opportunity. Existing research has largely documented the racial wealth gap between Blacks and Whites, but has failed to do so for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. New research and knowledge on AAPIs is needed more than ever, in order to create a more inclusive, fair, and comprehensive narrative about racial wealth inequality in America.

## AAPI NEXUS LAUNCH: 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

The Center Press in conjunction with the **Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)** launched the latest issue of our Center's policy journal, **aapi nexus** at the National Press Club in Washington DC on March 17, 2015. Guest edited by **Professors Marjorie Kagawa Singer and Ninez Ponce** (Fielding School of Public Health) and **Dr. Shao-Chee Sim** (Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, New York City) and ably edited by **Professor Paul Ong** (Senior Editor) and **Center Assistant Director Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** (Managing Editor), this issue focuses on the incredible work done by Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Federally Qualified Health Centers. Borne out of the civil rights movement, the community health center movement since 1965 has provided frontline care for many low income and communities of color, today serving some 23 million people in 1,200 sites. Those working at the community health centers as well as elected officials and staff members of federal agencies and

the White House all commented on the need for data to enable a continuing case to be made for the vital role that these centers play and have played for so many. It was a proud moment to reflect on this legacy, even as the need is ever present to deliver quality, culturally competent, and linguistically sensitive health care.

The launch event featured many of the issue's contributors as well as special guests **Dr. Karen DeSalvo**, Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; **Kiran Ahuja**, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and **Congresswomen Judy Chu and Grace Meng**.



At the launch in DC (from left to right): 1) Guest Editors Shao-Chee Sim, Marjorie Kagawa Singer, and Ninez Ponce with Melany De La Cruz-Viesca; 2) Marjorie Kagawa Singer with Paul Ong; and 3) Kiran Ahuja speaking at the event.

(Credit: Les Talusan/ AAPCHO)

## ASIAN AMERICAN ELECTORATE TO DOUBLE BY 2040

The UCLA Center for the Study of Inequality and Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) released a new study entitled **"The Future of Asian America in 2040."** It shows that the Asian American electorate will more than double from 5.8 million to 12.2 million over the next quarter century. This means that there will be an increase of more than 100 percent, which demonstrates how Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing electorates. In the report, Asian American is diversely defined, from solely Asian to multiracial Asian Americans with mixed backgrounds in terms of culture, ethnicity, nativity and other factors.

Read the full report and commentaries, including a few by Center staff and faculty, online at Center for the Study of Inequality (<http://luskin.ucla.edu/content/center-study-inequality>).

The report was co-authored by **Professor Paul Ong** of the Luskin School of Public Affairs and **Elena Ong**, who served as a consultant to APAICS.

## NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS

Three EthnoCommunications student films screened at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival in April: *#BlackPowerYellowPeril* by **Jenifer Logia**, *Enryo* by **Nanase Mori** and **Kara Hamamoto**, and *No Chickens, No Life* by **Jennifer Xiong**. The thirteenth edition of the film festival's popular meeting between Visual Communications' Armed With a Camera Fellowship and the **UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications** offered an unvarnished look at the stories that audiences rarely ever see on screen, directed by up-and-coming Asian American filmmakers. Back in its original home at the Aratani Theater in Little Tokyo, the screening drew an enthusiastic audience of five hundred people.

EthnoCommunications student and alumni films have also been screened at other festivals and through different media outlets. **Asiroh Cham's** *My Name is Asiroh* streamed on Xfinity Asia and was part of the 2015 International Southeast Asian Film Festival (I-SEA). **Rita Phetmixay**, a student in the joint Asian American Studies and Social Welfare MA program, had her film *Phetmixay Means Fighter* screen at the Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival in May. *Who is Park Joo Young*, a short film by **Beth Kopacz**, showed at the 2015 Seattle Asian American Film Festival. Both Cham and Kopacz are graduates of the Asian American Studies Masters program. For more information on the EthnoCommunications catalog of over 100 student films and to request use for classroom instruction, contact **Gena Hamamoto** at [ghamamoto@ucla.edu](mailto:ghamamoto@ucla.edu).



*EthnoCommunications students at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival*  
(Credit: Grace Chang)

## U.S. CENSUS RELEASES 2015 AANHPI STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

As an official U.S. Census Information Center, AASC released the latest statistical portrait of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander populations in the United States in May. The findings, produced as part of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, included:

- 19.4 million U.S. residents in 2013 who identified as Asian, either alone or in combination.
- 1.4 million U.S. residents in 2013 who were Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, either alone or in combination.
- 36.3 is the median age of the 2013 Asian alone population.
- 51.3 percent of the Asian alone population 25 and older who had a bachelor's degree or higher level of education, compared to 16 percent of the Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

More information can be found on the Center's website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/cic/stats2015.aspx>.

## NO MÁS BEBÉS PREMIERES, SCREENS AT FESTIVALS



*Women featured in No Más Bebés at the premiere with filmmakers Renee Tajima-Peña and Virginia Espino.*  
(Credit: Justin Baker)

**Center for EthnoCommunications Director and Professor Renee Tajima-Peña's** documentary *No Más Bebés* made its world premiere at the Los Angeles Film Festival this past June to a sold out audience. *No Más Bebés* is the story of immigrant mothers who sued county doctors, the state, and the U.S. government after they were prodded into sterilizations while giving birth at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center during the 1960s and 70s. Led by an intrepid, 26-year-old Chicana lawyer and armed with hospital records secretly gathered by a whistleblowing young doctor, the mothers faced public exposure and stood up to powerful institutions in the name of justice.

Several of the screenings featured Q&As with the filmmakers, as well as some of the women whose stories were featured in the documentary. The film continued to screen at festivals across the country, including the Ambulante Film Festival, the Austin Film Festival, and DOC NYC. It will screen on PBS's *Independent Lens* in January 2016. To learn more about the film, visit the documentary's website at <http://www.nomasbebes.com>.



## LATEST AMERASIA JOURNAL NEWS AND RELEASES

### 45 YEARS OF AMERASIA

This year marks 45 years of Amerasia! Some of the founders and early contributors gathered together in Hawai'i. Read a reflection on this occasion by **Professor and Director Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi** (pictured right with co-founder **Lowell Chun-Hoon**) on the Amerasia blog.



(Credit: Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi)

### EDITORIAL BOARD TRANSITIONS

2016 will usher in new members of the journal's editorial board. They are: **Tamara Ho** (UC Riverside), **Karen Nakamura** (Yale), **Oliver Wang** (California State University Long Beach), **Anna Guevarra** (University of Illinois at Chicago), **Kyle Keoni Ikeda** (University of Vermont), and **David Chang** (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities). Amerasia staff expresses their deepest appreciation to the following outgoing board members - **Yên Lê-Espiritu**, **Pyong Gap Min**, **Karen-Tei Yamashita**, **Valerie Matsumoto**, **Thu-hương Nguyễn-võ**, and **Renee Tajima-Peña**.

## REFLECTIONS ON "INDIGENOUS ASIAs" FROM AMERASIA GUEST EDITORS GREG DVORAK AND MIYUME TANJI

Working together as guest editors rewarded us with many surprises. Coming from our backgrounds in Pacific Islands Studies and Okinawan/Japanese histories, with our shared interest in demilitarization, we both gained a more nuanced appreciation of how "indigeneity" is defined and shaped across different contexts throughout Asia and Oceania. The idea of "indigenous peoples" within the specific minority politics of various parts of Asia are at times miles away from those of the transnational indigenous political activism that culminated in the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples' Rights. However, these concepts do influence each other in subtle but crucial ways. In retrospect, our special issue dealt with the tensions and strengths that emerge from the conversations between local and international movements for indigenous rights, between Okinawa, Taiwan, and the Philippines and counterparts across the Pacific in places as diverse as Aotearoa-New Zealand, the Hawaiian Islands, and North America.

We found that Okinawa was a site where convergence and divergence of these local and global discourses have urgent ramifications; for local protestors feel more strongly than ever the need to link up with transnational activism to advocate for indigenous peoples' rights, but they also wonder about their own historical challenges within Japan and their own colonized Ryukyu Kingdom. Since September of this year, Okinawa's governor has been pushing beyond the binary of US-Japan relations to appeal to the UN Human Rights Committee to oppose the new US Marine airfield construction in Henoko—defining it as a breach against the right of an indigenous people. This attempt seems to be creating some turmoil in Okinawan civil society, forcing a redefinition of it even means to be Okinawan. On one hand, discovering that the international definition of

### INDIGENOUS ASIAs

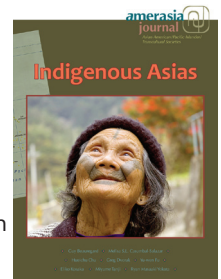
In Issue 41:1, guest editors, **Professors Greg Dvorak** (Hitotsubashi University) and **Miyume Tanji** (Australian National University) explore the concept of indigeneity within and beyond geographic and national boundaries, as well as ethnic identities within these frameworks. The issue engages local and global discussions of indigenous cultures and practices across the Pacific, including Hawai'i, Japan, the Philippines, and Taiwan, and offer more complex understandings of cultural identity.

### SPORT IN ASIAN AMERICA

Guest editors **Professors Rachael Joo** (Middlebury College) and **Sameer Pandya** (UC Santa Barbara) tackle the world of sport and the roles Asian Americans have played in it, from the basketball court and the skatepark, the golf course and the football field in issue 41:2. Inspired by the guest editors' call to engage how "Asian American sports inevitably involve questions about who constitutes Asian America and the political stakes involved in these ideas of community," the issue examines how race, gender, sexuality, religion, and class intersect in sports.

"indigenous people" was appropriate to the Okinawan predicament has been empowering, but the historical struggle against Japanese and US militarism and colonialism originated from many other factors beyond the framework of indigenous rights. In many ways Okinawa's overthrown Ryukyu Kingdom is similar to Hawai'i in this sense—a nation that has been subsumed within another rather than a displaced ethnic minority. In this sense, a more localized question arises about what would be the ideal form of autonomy or separation from the state. Regional internal discussion in Okinawa to do with identity and politics is rapidly changing at the moment, as a result of communicating with the transnational. Hopefully our special issue, albeit in English, has contributed to this conversation.

Since the publication of this Amerasia special issue, perhaps more questions have been raised than they have been answered, but we have been approached by a number of scholars who work in indigenous studies and who will be using these essays in their course teaching. We also heard from many scholars who work in the field of Ainu studies (including Ainu scholars themselves) who shared our regret that we had been unable to include those voices from indigenous Japan. They reassured us that they would love to be involved in future collaborations in regards to indigeneity, diaspora, and trans-regionality between Asia, Oceania, and America. We thank the wonderful scholars who contributed to this volume and hope that this special issue has sparked the initiative for all of us to work together again in the future with additional colleagues to produce more comprehensive studies and publications.



## 2015-2016 VISITING SCHOLARS

The Center is proud to be able to bring back three visiting scholars, **Dr. Akemi Kikumura-Yano**, **Dr. Jane Yamashiro**, and **Dr. Lindsey Sasaki**, and to welcome one new international scholar **Professor Chun Yang**.

UCLA alumnus Kikumura-Yano will be in her fourth year as a visiting scholar, as she makes progress on her novel about the life of a young female, post-World War II Sansei.

Yamashiro is completing the final stages of her manuscript on Japanese American experiences in Tokyo, scheduled to be published with Rutgers University Press in Fall/Winter 2016/2017. The book is tentatively titled *Constructing Japanese American identities in Japan: Transnationalism, Diaspora, and Ancestral Homeland Migration*.

Sasaki further pursues her interests in studying Latin American Asians who have migrated to Los Angeles. She is the Assistant Director of Study Abroad at Pomona College.

Yang holds a PhD in Comparative Literature and World Literature and teaches at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

## AASC'S IAC VISITING RESEARCHER: ISABELA QUINTANA

This year's Visiting Researcher is **Isabela Quintana** who comes to UCLA from New Mexico State University, where she is an Assistant Professor in History. Her research project is "Urban Borderlands: Neighborhoods and Nation in Chinese and Mexican Los Angeles, 1870s-1930s." Through her research she challenges the concepts of "borderlands" and "border-making" as she focuses on this new idea of "urban borderlands," wherein national borders are mapped into neighborhood spaces. She pays close attention to the lives of Mexican and Chinese residents of the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Chinatown and Sonoratown.

At the IAC Fall Forum, Quintana was recognized for her research and was featured in conversation with **Professor Valerie Matsumoto**. Quintana received her bachelors in Sociology from Oberlin College, her MA in history from University of Texas, Austin, and her PhD in history from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

## 2015-2016 AASC'S IAC GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

### FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS

#### GRACE KYUNGWON HONG

Faculty, Asian American Studies

TITLE: Transnational Solidarities: The Third World Women's Alliance (1971-1979)

#### SEAN METZGER

Faculty, Theater

TITLE: Ten Thousand Waves: Migration and Performance

#### ROBERT CHAO ROMERO

Faculty, Chicano Studies

TITLE: Being Mixed Race at UCLA

#### RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA

Faculty, Asian American Studies

TITLE: Building History 3.0

### GRADUATE/PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

#### TROY KEALI'I LAU

PhD Student, Education

TITLE: Pacific Islanders in College Football: Bridging the Gap between Access and Degree Attainment

### GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS

#### SUMIKO BRAUN

MA Student, Asian American Studies

TITLE: Cultivating Sovereignty: Disruptions of Post-Industrial Society through Native Hawaiian Resistance

#### MARIA CAMACHO

PhD Student, Education

TITLE: Postdoctoral Scholars at University of California: Constructing a Migrant Identity within the Workplace

#### BRADY COLLINS

PhD Student, Urban Planning

TITLE: The Boundaries of Culture: Neighborhood Branding in Multi-Ethnic Los Angeles

#### NINA FLORES

PhD Student, Urban Planning

TITLE: Redefining a Happy Ending: Rights for Massage Workers

#### IVUOMA ONYEADOR

PhD Student, Psychology

TITLE: Marginalized or Model Minority: Do Asian students' perceptions of ingroup status predict outgroup attitudes and intergroup contact?

#### VICTORIA RODRIGUEZ

PhD Student, Education

TITLE: The Achievement-Adjustment Paradox: Understanding the Academic Achievement and Psychosocial Adjustment of Filipino American Adolescents

#### PREETI SHARMA

PhD Student, Gender Studies

TITLE: Raising Eyebrows: Affective and Intimate Labor in Los Angeles' South Asian Threading Salons

#### JACOB THOMAS

PhD Student, Sociology

TITLE: To Over-stay or Return: Asian-American Nonimmigrant Visa Holder's Decisions under Immigration Control

#### TYKEYSHA THOMAS

PhD Student, Nursing

TITLE: The Lived Experiences and Health Impacts of Micro-aggressions on College Students

#### ALESSANDRA WILLIAMS

PhD Student, World Arts & Culture

TITLE: Choreographing Decolonized Labor: The Social Movements of REALITY and Ananya Dance Theatre in the Americas



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR



Asian Am MA alum Randall Park (2nd from the left) with Center staff Marjorie Lee, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca and Garrett Giffin at the APA UCLA Gala.  
(Photo courtesy of Melany De La Cruz-Viesca)



Some of the 1st and 2nd Year Asian American Studies Masters students at the start of 2015 Fall Quarter.  
(Photo courtesy of AASGSA)



Former Amerasia Journal Editor Russell Leong speaking at Janice Mirikitani's book talk for *Out of the Dust*.  
(Credit: Barbra Ramos)



UCLA alumni Florante Ibanez, Dawn Mabalon, Ryan Yokota, and Scott Kurashige with UCLA professor and Amerasia Journal Editor Keith Camacho at the 2015 Association for Asian American Studies Conference in Evanston, Illinois.  
(Photo courtesy of Florante Ibanez)

## THANKS FROM IAC VISITING RESEARCHER MARGARET RHEE



Margaret Rhee at *Machine Dreams*.  
(Credit: Barbra Ramos)

While many types of exchanges occur within the university setting, I want to begin by thanking my IAC mentors, **Professors King-Kok Cheung and Rachel Lee** for their formative mentorship during my AASC residence. Mentorship is an exchange that is often invisible, and yet so life changing, and I cannot thank

King-Kok and Rachel enough for their close and generous advisement. Their respective scholarship and pedagogical practice was deeply transformative to me intellectually, politically, and personally and I grew tremendously as a scholar and person. While at UCLA for only a year, I keep the blessed opportunity to work with King-Kok and Rachel close, as they serve as models of Asian American feminist mentorship.

There are many individuals within UCLA to whom I am indebted for the opportunity to learn with and from. At AASC, I was fortunate to work with staff such as **Mary Kao**, who served as a mentor and inspiration through her commitment to social change in the university setting and creative avenues. I have long admired **Arnold Pan's** editorial work and scholarship, and it was very meaningful to be at UCLA during his *Amerasia Journal* editorship. **Sarah Chong** always served as an informative person, particularly crucial at a new campus, and she inspired me not only by her leadership skills but her creative illustration skills as well! She later helped design the conference program for "Machine Dreams." Additionally, **Marjorie Lee** and **Barbra Ramos** were supportive presences for "Machine Dreams" and made the hallways of Campbell Hall a friendlier place.

As a newly minted PhD from UC Berkeley's Ethnic Studies, I was deeply fortunate to have my IAC fellows cohort, **Vanessa Tyson, Ernesto Chavez**, and **Matthew Hooley**, who were all full professors and were critical colleagues during this time. Additionally, I am thankful to **IAC Vice Provost Belinda Tucker** for her critical support and mentorship.

Through the Asian American Studies Department, I had the good fortune to connect with **Professors Keith Camacho, Purnima Mankekar, and Valerie Matsumoto**. I thank them for

their formative scholarship and kind support. I also thank graduate students **Phi Su, Steven Cong**, and **Lawrence Lan** for sharing their scholarship and research interests with me. In particular Steven served as an external reviewer for "Hacking the Black/White Binary," a special issue of *Ada: A Journal of Gender, Technology, and New Media* that I co-edited, and provided support and excellent comments on the issue.

In addition to my research, alongside help from Sarah Chong and Barbra Ramos, I co-organized a symposium entitled "Machine Dreams: Arts, Robots, and Difference" in the spring. The concept drew from my dissertation and in-progress monograph project, and I asked **Neil Aiken** (USC) and **Professor Lucy Burns** to organize it with me, as they have been interlocutors and expressed interest in organizing an event. I am grateful for the opportunity to work together on the conference, especially with Lucy's vital guidance, as it was truly an enriching experience.

Through my time at UCLA, I published an article with Rachel's tremendous help, entitled "Racial Recalibration: On Nam June Paik's K-456" in *Asian Diasporic Cultures and the Americas*. Through a study of Paik's robotic art, I articulate a theorization of the Asian American strategy of racial recalibration—a racial formation that occurs through aesthetic tinkering, hacking, and recreating with emergent technologies that re-wires racial knowledge of the Asian American as robot. I worked with King-Kok on my dissertation chapter, "Race, Robots, and the Inhuman," and it is forthcoming as an article in *The Barnard Scholar & Feminist Online's* Science and Technology Studies issue.

Returning to UCLA was very meaningful even if the campus still felt unfamiliar. As an undergraduate McNair scholar at USC, my primary research sites included AASC's Library/Reading Room and the Charles E. Young Library, where I examined *KoreAm Journal* for representations of same-sex sexuality. The undergraduate thesis was later published in *Amerasia Journal's* special issue on Asian Americans and same-sex marriage. I thank the wonderful faculty, staff, and students I was able to learn with and from. In crucial moments, during a year as a visitor, they made UCLA feel more like a home.

Margaret Rhee is currently a visiting assistant professor in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Oregon. Her chapbook of poems *Radio Heart, or How Robots Fall Out of Love* was recently released by *Finishing Line Press*.

# 2015-2016 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER GRANTS,

## 2015 ARATANI C.A.R.E. GRANT RECIPIENTS

### CALIFORNIA JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

PROJECT: Nikkei Community Internship  
UCLA SPONSOR: Teryn Hara

### GAME TRAIN LEARNING, INC.

PROJECT: Sawtelle Japanese American History  
UCLA SPONSOR: Renee Tajima-Peña

### INTERCOLLEGIATE NIKKEI COUNCIL

PROJECT: Becoming a Nikkei Professional  
UCLA SPONSOR: Nikkei Student Union

### JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER

PROJECT: Fiesta Matsuri  
UCLA SPONSOR: UCLA Nikkei Student Union

### JAPANESE INSTITUTE OF SAWTELLE

PROJECT: Japanese American Community Development Strategies  
UCLA SPONSOR: Paul Ong

### KIZUNA

PROJECT: Youth CAN Program  
UCLA SPONSOR: Renee Tajima-Peña

### LITTLE TOKYO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROJECT: Sei Fujii: A Man of Great Integrity - Book Project  
UCLA SPONSOR: Bill Watanabe

### NIKKEI STUDENT UNION

PROJECT: Nikkei Voices  
UCLA SPONSOR: Nikkei Student Union

### PACIFIC ASIAN CONSORTIUM IN EMPLOYMENT

PROJECT: Serve the People: An Exhibit  
UCLA SPONSOR: Warren Furutani

### TRACI AKEMI KIRIYAMA

PROJECT: Generations of War, Peace and Action  
UCLA SPONSOR: Glenn Omatsu

### TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION COALITION

PROJECT: Tuna Canyon Detention Station Outreach Project  
UCLA SPONSOR: Jean-Paul deGuzman

### UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES READING ROOM

PROJECT: Herzig Project  
UCLA SPONSOR: Asian American Studies Center

### WASEDA UNIVERSITY

PROJECT: A Collaborative Project to Utilize the JARP Collection Oral  
History Tapes at UCLA  
UCLA SPONSOR: Don Nakanishi

## GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANT

### Patrick and Lily Okura Faculty Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health



#### VICTORIA CALIP RODRIGUEZ

PhD Student, Education & Information Studies  
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Achievement-Adjustment  
Paradox: Understanding Academic Achievement &  
Psychosocial Adjustment of Filipino American Adolescents

## GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

### 21st Century Graduate Fellowship



#### BACH MAI DOLLY NGUYEN

PhD Student, Education & Information Studies  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Overcoming Academic Opportunity  
Gaps: Utilizing Disaggregated Data to Explore Asian Pacific  
American Academic Barriers

### Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship



#### BRITTANY N. MOREY

PhD Student, Public Health

### George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship



#### MANA HAYAKAWA

PhD Student, World Arts & Cultures  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Hostility and Hospitality:  
Choreographic Negotiations by Japanese American Dancers  
from 1930 to 1950

### Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship



#### ANDREW NGUYEN LE

PhD Student, Sociology  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Blurred Identities in the Caribbean

### Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship



#### SUE HUYNMI PARK

PhD Student, Sociology  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Raising Eyebrows: Affective and  
Intimate Labor in Los Angeles' South Asian Threading Salons

## GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC PRIZES

### Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize



#### ANDREW NGUYEN LE

PhD Student, Sociology  
PAPER TITLE: China Man! The International Migration of  
Undocumented Vietnamese Laborers to Trinidad & Tobago



# ACADEMIC PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

## Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans



### WENDSOR YAMASHITA

PHD Student, Gender Studies  
PAPER TITLE: The Manzanar National Historic Site: Pilgrimages, Land, and Settler Colonialism

## Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize



### LAWRENCE CY LAN

MA Student, Asian American Studies  
PAPER TITLE: An Organization's "Growing Pains": The Evolution of the Koreatown & Community Center in Los Angeles' Multiracial Koreatown

## Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture



### STEPHANIE CHANG

MA, Asian American Studies (2015)  
PAPER TITLE: "Racial "Affliction": (De)constructing Racial Formations through the Asian American Vampire Film."

## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

## 21st Century Undergraduate Scholarship



### DIANA G. GARCIA

MAJOR: Anthropology  
MINOR: Education Studies  
PAPER TITLE: At the End of China Alley in Hanford, California

## Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship



### MICHAEL CHANG

MAJORS: History; Asian American Studies  
PAPER TITLE: The Unprivileged Privilege

## Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship



### JESSICA THACH

MAJOR: Asian American Studies (2015)  
MINOR: Education  
PAPER TITLE: I Can't Live Without HOPE - Higher Opportunity Program for Education

## Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



### ARSHA NAVEEN ZAKIR

MAJOR: Pre-Economics

## Yuen Fong and Lew Oy Toy Family Internship in Chinese American Studies



### MEISAN LY

MAJOR: Psychology  
PAPER TITLE: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

## 21st Century Undergraduate Internship



### TIFFANY TRAN GUO

MAJORS: Gender Studies; Asian American Studies  
ESSAY TITLE: Homework  
INTERNSHIP SITE: Asian American Studies Center

## George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship



### ERIC YEN TANG

MAJOR: Art  
ESSAY TITLE: A New Consciousness of the Struggle for Identity and Japanese American History  
INTERNSHIP SITE: Japanese American National Museum

## ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

## Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize



### TIFFANY TRAN GUO

MAJORS: Gender Studies; Asian American Studies  
PAPER TITLE: For Undocumented Immigrants

## Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans



### JEAN AKEMI OKAMOTO

MAJOR: Communication Studies  
MINOR: Asian American Studies  
PAPER TITLE: Critical Vision from Behind Barbed Wire

## Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Undergraduate Prize



### ALVIN BUI

MAJORS: History; Asian American Studies (2015)  
MINOR: Asian Languages - Vietnamese  
PAPER TITLE: Vietnamese Americans and Affirmative Action

## Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize



### YEE VANG

MAJOR: Sociology  
MINOR: Education  
PAPER TITLE: Education of a Hmong Woman

## Stanley Kwok Lau & Dora Wong Lau Research Endowment in Chinese American History



### ROSALEE MOUANOUTOUA

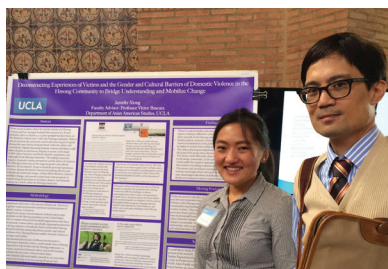
MAJOR: History  
PROJECT: Chinese In Los Angeles Mainstream Newspapers Article Database 1850-1900

## Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture



### APRIL LOR

MAJORS: World Arts & Cultures; Asian American Studies  
PAPER TITLE: Memory Work & Memory Making: Including Hmong Experiences and Narratives through Cultural Productions



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TWITTER: **@UCLAAASCPRESS**

INSTAGRAM: **@UCLAAASC**

From left to right: 1) Undergraduate Asian American Studies student Jennifer Xiong presenting at the Undergraduate Research Week with Professor Victor Bascara; 2) Public Works Commissioner Joel Jacinto, Tina Salonga-Bulchand from SIPA, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Johnny Itliong, Jerome Academia from Fil-Am Arts, and Philippine Consul General Leo M. Herrera-Lim at the Filipino American History Month Celebration at Los Angeles City Hall; 3) Chia Yen, Mary Uyematsu Kao, and Professor Tritia Toyota at Marjorie Kagawa Singer's Retirement Reception; 4) AASC Library/Reading Room staff: Garrett Giffin, Meisan Ly, Jason Cheung, and Marjorie Lee; 5) Asian American Studies MA students Rita Phetmixay, Marcie Lee, T.K. Lê, Stephanie Chang and Melissa Jamero at 'To Remember' at VAALA; 6) Urban Planning PhD student C. Aujean Lee, Gena Hamamoto, and Asian American Studies MA and Masters in Public Health alum Lindsay Gervacio.

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