

CROSSCURRENTS

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

VOLUME 38
2016

ALUMNI ESTABLISH THE HELEN AND MORGAN CHU ENDOWED DIRECTOR'S CHAIR OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

With a pledge of \$2 million to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, alumni **Morgan and Helen Chu** have given the largest gift on record for ethnic studies at UCLA. The establishment of **The Helen and Morgan Chu Endowed Director's Chair of the Asian American Studies Center** will endow the Center directorship and provide funding towards the Center's research initiatives, programs, and areas of greatest need.

"We are honored to continue our support of the Asian American Studies Center," commented Helen and Morgan Chu, "and hope that our gift will build upon the excellence of ethnic studies at UCLA and further advance the impact of research and activities to the benefit of our society and world."



Morgan and Helen Chu with 2013-2014 Chu Outstanding Scholar Award Winner Jeffrey Wong.
(Photo Credit: Barbara Ramos/AASC)

They have previously established an undergraduate student prize, which awards an Asian American student in any major who demonstrates an exemplary academic record during their freshman year, and the **Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies**, a term chair currently occupied by **Professor Robert Teranishi** in the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Infor-



Morgan and Helen Chu.
(Photo Courtesy: AASC)

The generosity of the Chus is a testament to their commitment to ethnic studies that dates back to their days as students when they helped found the Center. The Chu Endowed Director's Chair is the third major gift from the Chus to the Center. They have previ-

ously established an undergraduate student prize, which awards an Asian American student in any major who demonstrates an exemplary academic record during their freshman year, and the **Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies**, a term chair currently occupied by **Professor Robert Teranishi** in the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Infor-

mation Studies. Teranishi is the inaugural holder of the Chu Chair. "The visionary philanthropy of Helen and Morgan Chu has been and continues to be foundational for the Center and for ethnic studies at UCLA," said Institute of American Cultures **Vice Provost David K. Yoo**. "We are immensely grateful that this current gift builds on decades of their support that will help us for many years to come."

A leading intellectual property attorney, Morgan Chu is a recipient of the UCLA Medal (2007), the highest honor bestowed by the university. The Medal recognizes professional achievement as well as extraordinary contribution to one's community and to higher education. He received a BA, MA, and PhD from UCLA, a MSL from Yale, and a JD from Harvard. He has been named one of the "Top Ten Trial Lawyers" in the nation. Helen Chu served for many years as an elementary school teacher and, with her husband, has been involved in numerous philanthropic endeavors.

The Asian American Studies Center, established in 1969, is one of the four ethnic studies centers at UCLA that are housed in the Institute of American Cultures. The latest Chu gift joins eleven other distinguished endowed professorships and endowed research programs at the Center.



Helen Chu (right) with David Yoo at the 45th Anniversary of the Institute of American Cultures.
(Photo Credit: Adona Photography)



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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 <https://giving.ucla.edu/aasc>. 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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Members of Center Staff at Don Nakanishi's Celebration of Life in June 2016.

From left to right: Mary Uyematsu Kao, David K. Yoo, Betty Leung, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Irene Soriano, Garrett Giffin, Barbra Ramos, Meg Thornton, Arnold Pan, and Tam Nguyen.

(Photo Credit: AASC)

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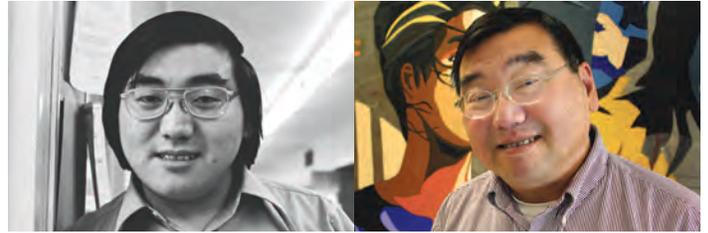
DIRECTOR EMERITUS DON NAKANISHI REMEMBERED BY UCLA COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Members of the UCLA community, as well as those in the Asian American, ethnic studies, and education spheres, were deeply saddened by the news of the passing of **Professor and Director Emeritus Dr. Don T. Nakanishi** on Monday, March 21, 2016 in Los Angeles. His contributions to Asian American Studies and ethnic studies were pioneering and far-reaching.

His impact was especially felt here at UCLA, where Nakanishi was a faculty member for 35 years. Starting in 1990, he led the Asian American Studies Center with distinction as its director until his retirement in 2010. Nakanishi co-founded *Amerasia Journal* in 1971, as well as *AAPI Nexus Journal*, and launched the *National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac*. His fight for tenure at UCLA was a watershed moment in higher education and has been used as a significant case study for multi-racial student-community mobilization. Whether through his mentorship of students and faculty or his steadfast advocacy for the field, he played an indispensable role in establishing Asian American Studies as a viable and relevant field of scholarship, teaching, community service, and public discourse.

His visionary influence extends far beyond this campus. Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Nakanishi attended Theodore Roosevelt High School and went on to study political science, earning a BA from Yale and a PhD from Harvard. He maintained strong connections wherever he went, from Yale to UCLA and even to Australia and Japan, where he also worked on supporting ethnic studies. Even with his remarkable career, Nakanishi, in his characteristic humility, always focused on his students and colleagues, as he was often the first to advocate for and to celebrate their accomplishments. Counted among his many former students are faculty at colleges and universities across the nation and world, award-winning writers and artists, and highly committed elected officials, community leaders and educators.

Professor Don Nakanishi was a prolific writer and highly influential teacher and scholar, who wrote over 100 books, articles, and reports. Professor Nakanishi received numerous awards such as the National Community Leadership Award from the Asian Pacific Institute for Congressional Studies (2007) and the prestigious Yale Medal from Yale University (2008). He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors. This was particularly meaningful as both his parents and older brother were among those Japanese Americans during World War II.



Don Nakanishi will be deeply missed, but his legacy lives on through all who had the privilege of benefitting from his support, encouragement, and friendship. Nakanishi is survived by his wife, **Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi**, who recently retired from the California State University system, and their son, **Thomas Nakanishi**, who completed his graduate studies in public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

The Center, along with the **Asian American Studies Department, Institute of American Cultures, and the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies**, hosted "**Don Nakanishi: A Celebration of Life**" on June 8th at the Faculty Center. In attendance were Don's wife, son and other family, former students and colleagues, Center staff from over the years, as well as friends and peers. The program opened with remarks from **Vice Chancellor Jerry Kang, then-Vice Provost Belinda Tucker, Professor Mitchell Chang, and then-Director David Yoo**. Featured speakers included **Professors Lane Hirabayashi, Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, Danny Solorzano, and Jennifer Yee, Vice Provost Cindy Fan, and the Honorable Judge Ernest Hiroshige**. They shared warm, touching and even intriguing stories of time spent with Don, as well as personally spoke of his impact on their lives and work. **Marsha and Tom Nakanishi** shared remarks at the end and presented **Renee Tajima-Peña** with this year's Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship.

After Nakanishi's death, there was an outpouring of support and remembrances from here in the US and abroad. He was also recognized with posthumous awards from the **Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)** and the **Pilipino Alumni Association at UCLA (PAA)**. PAA bestowed Nakanishi with the Royal Morales Community Achievement Award at their annual scholarship benefit on October 15th. On November 10th, MALDEF recognized him with the Excellence in Community Service Award at their gala.

If you would like to support Don Nakanishi's legacy, donate to the Nakanishi Award at <https://giving.ucla.edu/nakanishi>.



Robert Teranishi, Oiyun Poon and Danny Solorzano at the Celebration of Life.

(All Photos Credit/Courtesy: AASC)



Cas Tolentino, Jesse Quintat and Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi at the Celebration of Life.



Maneki-neko buttons given away in honor of Don. Art by Sarah Chong.



Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Tom Nakanishi, and Lisa Hasegawa at the MALDEF gala.

PROFESSOR DAVID K. YOO APPOINTED VICE PROVOST OF INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN CULTURES

Congratulations to **Professor K. David Yoo!** Yoo was appointed Vice Provost of the **Institute of American Cultures** (IAC), effective September 1st, 2016. The Asian American Studies Center is one of the four ethnic studies research centers under the administrative umbrella of the Institute of American Cultures.



Yoo will succeed **M. Belinda Tucker**, who has served as the institute's inaugural vice provost since 2011. Since his arrival at UCLA in 2010, Yoo has served as professor of Asian American studies and Director of the Asian American Studies Center. He is currently a member of the Academic Senate Committee on Development and a university-wide committee on community engagement. Yoo also serves on executive committees for the IAC and the University of California Asian American and Pacific Islander Policy Multicampus Research Program.

Previously, Professor David Yoo served on the faculty of Claremont McKenna College, where he chaired the history department, and the Claremont Colleges, where he served as chair of the Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies.

A social historian with a focus on the United States, Yoo has authored or edited seven books, including *Contentious Spirits: Religion in Korean American History, 1903-1945*, as well as numerous journal articles, most recently serving as lead editor of

MARJORIE KAGAWA SINGER SERVES AS INTERIM DIRECTOR

The Center is pleased to have **Dr. Marjorie Kagawa Singer** currently serving as its 2016-17 Interim Director.

Professor Emeritus Kagawa Singer concluded a twenty-five year career of research and teaching Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Island Studies and Public Health at UCLA in July 2015. Shortly afterwards, she was recalled by UCLA to serve as a Research Professor, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusions, and Chair of the Dean's Ad Hoc Diversity Committee for the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health.

An engaged and activist scholar, Kagawa Singer has been a longtime leader of the center's work as a member of its Faculty Advisory Committee, Senior Editor of *AAPJ Nexus Journal* (2007 to 2012), and director of the concurrent degree between Community Health Sciences and Asian American Studies.

Beyond UCLA, she has participated on numerous boards and committees at the local, state, and national level for cancer control and public health. Her research expands the traditional behavioral research paradigm to include cultural differences in the incidence and experience of cancer and other chronic diseases and to build the capacity of communities to reduce the unnecessary burden of disease in their communities through direct services and policy advocacy.

Dr. Kagawa Singer has a master's degree in nursing and master's and doctorate degrees in Anthropology from UCLA.

The Oxford Handbook of Asian American History.

Yoo has been a Senior Fulbright Scholar (Korea) and received fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, Huntington Library, and the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation. He is currently a member of the standing committee on ethnic studies for the American Studies Association and a series editor for the University of Illinois Press and the University of Hawaii Press. Yoo has also been active in the community, serving on the boards of the Little Tokyo Service Center and the Korean American Scholarship Foundation.

Professor Yoo received a BA magna cum laude in political science from Claremont McKenna College, an MDiv from Princeton Seminary, and MA, MPhil and PhD degrees in American studies and history from Yale University.

On Yoo's appointment, **Executive Vice Chancellor Scott Waugh** stated, "Chancellor Block and I are confident that the Institute of American Cultures will continue to thrive under David's capable leadership."

The Center is currently in the midst of the process to find Professor Yoo's replacement and its next director.

STAFF TRANSITIONS

This year the Center said good-bye to **Gena Hamamoto** and **Garrett Giffin**. Hamamoto, an Asian American Studies MA alum, worked as the EthnoCommunications Assistant Director for seven years. She spent countless hours mentoring students on their film projects and after working with EthnoComm founder **Bob Nakamura**, she helped transition **Renee Tajima-Peña** into the role of EthnoComm Director when the latter joined UCLA faculty in 2013. Garrett Giffin, an alum of UCLA's linguistics and paralegal programs, worked with the Reading Room/Library on several archival projects, including the K. Patrick and Lily A. Okura Collection and the Jack and Aiko Herzig Papers.

Janet Chen joins the Center Staff as the new Assistant Director of EthnoCommunications. Chen emigrated from Taiwan at an early age and grew up in Orange County. After earning a BA in Film Studies from UC Irvine, she worked at an international program at UCLA Extension. Later she worked in film production and became involved in community nonprofits and film festivals, such as Visual Communications and its Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, and Outfest. Before coming to the Asian American Studies Center, she worked for the Dean of UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, where she coordinated collaborative projects with EthnoCommunications. She is committed to building communities and supporting and exploring underrepresented groups and their stories.



David Yoo with Valerie Matsumoto and Oxford Handbook of Asian American History co-editor Eiichiro Azuma.

(Photo Credit: Lawrence Lan/ AASC)

REMEMBERING PROFESSOR EMERITUS PAUL TERASAKI

The Center sadly marked the passing of **Professor Emeritus Dr. Paul I. Terasaki** at the age of 86 on January 25, 2016 in Los Angeles. A pioneering medical scientist, Terasaki was a three-time UCLA alum, who went on to be a professor in the department of surgery for thirty years. His generosity to his alma mater took many forms, such as the Terasaki Life Sciences Building and the Paul I. and Hisako Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies. The Terasakis contributed to the Center through student scholarships and a key gift to establish the **Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowment in Social Justice and Immigration Studies**.

Born in 1929, Terasaki was a Los Angeles-native, raised in Boyle Heights. His father ran a successful cake shop in Little Tokyo before the family was forced to relocate during World War II. For three years, he was interned with his family and other Japanese Americans at the Gila River War Relocation Center in Arizona. After the war, the family moved to Chicago and returned to Los Angeles in the late 1940s. In 1948, Terasaki was admitted as a transfer student to UCLA and began his academic career, first with a bachelor's in preventive medicine and public health and finishing with master's and doctoral degrees in zoology.

Dr. Paul Terasaki is known for his work with transplant medicine. In 1964, he developed a test that matched organ transplant donors and recipients, which was adopted as the international

standard for tissue typing. His work also studied the humoral theory of transplant rejection. Even after his retirement from UCLA, he continued to study organ transplant rejection and failure with the creation of the Terasaki Foundation Laboratory.

Over the years, Terasaki published many books and over 900 scientific papers in transplantation and received several awards including the prestigious Medawar Prize, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of organ transplantation, and the UCLA Medal in 2012.

Dr. Paul Terasaki and his wife **Hisako**, whom he married in 1954, are well-known within the Japanese American community. The Terasakis have been actively involved and highly supportive of different organizations and institutions such as the Japanese American National Museum, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, and the U.S.-Japan Council.

Terasaki is survived by his wife; his four children, **Mark, Keith, Taiji, Emiko**; his 6 grandchildren; and his brother, **Richard**.



Paul Terasaki
(Photo Credit: Leslie Barton)

ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE FELLOWSHIP ESTABLISHED

This year the Center and the **Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA Luskin School** partnered to pilot a **UCLA Activist-in-Residence Program** for the 2017 Winter Quarter.

This program offers two different residencies. The **UCLA Asian American Studies Fellowship**, made possible through the **Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowment in Social Justice and Immigration Studies**, will support an individual who focuses on addressing social inequality in AAPI communities by participating in a variety of activities, including presentations, class visits, activist projects, and multimedia projects. The **Irvine Fellow on Urban Life**, funded by the **James Irvine Foundation**, brings scholar-activists to the Institute who will undertake social movement research and pedagogy directly concerned with equity at the urban scale.

These fellowships were established in recognition of the demanding work of social change and to provide leaders/activists with the time and space to recharge and to reflect upon a complex challenge facing their communities, while also allowing UCLA undergraduate students to develop or strengthen their own commitment to social justice. Each Resident Activist will receive a part-time UCLA appointment, a \$7500 stipend, and may receive up to \$2500 in research support.

Applications for the 2017 Winter Quarter closed on November 14, 2016. For more information on the Activist-in-Residence Program, visit the Center website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/news/activistresidence17.aspx>.

FACULTY SIGN ON TO STAND AGAINST HATE AND SUPPORT STUDENTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 2016 ELECTIONS

In the wake of a rise of harassment and hate crimes after the election of Donald Trump, various members of UCLA faculty, including **Professors Purnima Mankekar, Grace Hong, David Yoo, Lucy Burns, Shu-Mei Shih**, and other Center-affiliated faculty signed on to a letter pledging to "support and defend the most vulnerable among us." The statement also asserted that "as educators, we affirm UCLA's commitment to fostering an environment that is inclusive and respectful of diversity in all its forms - in our classrooms, our offices, on campus and beyond. We are prepared to defend and support our campus community as we protect our democracy." To view the statement, visit <https://uclafacultyunited.wordpress.com/>.

This was one of several actions being taken by the UCLA community to combat the fear and uncertainty around the new presidency. Another faculty petition in support of undocumented students called on administration to make UCLA a sanctuary campus and the heads of California's three systems of higher education (the University of California, California State University, and California Community Colleges) wrote a joint letter to Trump urging him to allow undocumented students to continue their education without fear of deportation. The University of California also issued its Statement of Principles in Support of Undocumented Members of the UC Community on November 30.

PROFESSOR GRACE HONG AWARDED 2015-2016 HOSHIDE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PRIZE

Congratulations to **Professor Grace Kyungwon Hong** of the Department of Asian American Studies and Gender Studies! She was chosen as the 2015-16 recipient of the **C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA.**

Hong is the author, most recently, of *Death Beyond Disavowal: The Impossible Politics of Difference*. She is also the author of *The Ruptures of American Capital: Women of Color Feminism and the Culture of Immigrant Labor* and the co-editor of *Strange Affinities: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Comparative Racialization*. She also co-edits the *Difference Incorporated* book series at the University of Minnesota Press. Professor Hong received her PhD in Literature from the University of California, San Diego as well as her BA and MA from UCLA.

As a teacher, Hong has developed courses in areas such as women of color feminism, Asian American culture, and theories of comparative racialization. A student in support of her nomination commented: "Not only has Professor Hong proven her support in my academics, but she has always been very understanding of my schedule, mental health, and physical health [...] The flexibility Professor Hong offered showed me that not only was she willing to push me academically, but she also understood the struggles of being a student."

One graduate student who has worked with Hong over a



Grace Hong with USC's Kara Keeling at the book talk for *Death Beyond Disavowal*.
(Photo Credit: Lawrence Lan/AASC)

number of years said, "I really appreciated Professor Hong's ability to make all of her students comfortable in the classroom, as well as giving all of us the space to talk and think -- no matter what our styles of learning were. It was in these spaces that my current dissertation project developed and I am forever grateful to Professor Hong's enthusiasm, knowledge, and care that has shaped my work."

Another graduate student stated: "She held us to high standards and expected all of us to meet them, demanding nothing less than our best because she saw our potential and what we could do, even before we knew it ourselves. She constantly pushed us beyond our intellectual limits, encouraged us to think critically, question the easy answers, and answer the difficult ones."

Professor Grace Hong has been active in the Asian American Studies Center since joining the UCLA faculty in addition to her service to the Departments of Asian American Studies and Gender Studies. She has often served on selection committees for student fellowships, scholarships and academic prizes. In March 2016, she conducted a graduate workshop to give students a behind the scenes understanding of the writing and publication process. This year, Hong was also recognized with the Faculty Career Commitment to Diversity DEI Award by the Academic Senate.

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.

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS

- **Professor Rachel Lee** is the winner of the Association of Asian American Studies 2016 Book Award for *Cultural Studies for The Exquisite Corpse of Asian America: Biopolitics, Biosociality, and Posthuman Ecologies*.
- **Professor Lois Takahashi** is the new President of the Association of Collegiate Schools and Planning.
- **Professor Robert Teranishi**, along with the ten other UCLA faculty, was chosen for *Education Week's* 2016 list of "Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings".
- **Professor Emeritus Robert "Bob" Nakamura** and UCLA alum **Karen Ishizuka** were honored as recipients of the inaugural Legacy Award at the Japanese American National Museum's Annual Gala Dinner.
- The American Education Research Association (AERA) selected **Professor Mitchell J. Chang** as a 2016 Fellow.
- **Professor Hiroshi Motomura** was one of the honorees at the Annual Dinner for the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.
- **Professor Randall Akee** was awarded one of the faculty seed grants for 2016-2017 from the Institute of Inequal-

ity and Democracy for his project "Income Inequality and Income Mobility for American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders."

- **Professor Min Zhou's** most recent book *The Asian American Paradox*, co-authored with Professor Jennifer Lee of UC Irvine, won the 2016 ASA Sociology of Education Section's Pierre Bourdieu Award for Outstanding Book, the Thomas and Znaniecki Book Award of ASA International Migration Section, and the ASA Asia and Asian American Section Book Award on Asian America.



Professors Lois Takahashi, Mitchell Chang, and Ninez Ponce



Professors Victor Bascara, Keith Camacho and Thu-Huong Nguyen-Vo

(Photos Credit: Barbra Ramos/AASC)

PROFESSOR RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA CHOSEN FOR NAKANISHI AWARD

The Center is pleased to recognize **Professor Renee Tajima-Peña** as the 2015-16 recipient of the **Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American Studies at UCLA!**

Professor Renee Tajima-Peña has provided extraordinary service and leadership for the UCLA campus, as Director of the **Center for EthnoCommunications** and as the holder of the **Alumni and Friends of Japanese American Ancestry Endowed Chair**, both housed at Center. An award-winning documentary filmmaker, Tajima-Peña has been an engaged scholar over the course of her entire career, emerging from the Asian American movement as one of its key storytellers, as reflected in her work on films like *Who Killed Vincent Chin* and the Sundance award-winning *My America...or Honk if You Love Buddha*. Her films have premiered at the Cannes, Sundance and Toronto film festivals, and she has received the Peabody Award, Dupont-Columbia Award, Alpert Award in the Arts, USA Broad Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She received her bachelor's degree cum laude from Harvard's Radcliffe College where she majored in East Asian Studies and Sociology. Using film, she has brought to life many stories that would not have seen the light of day, and through these stories, she has raised questions that speak powerfully to pressing social justice issues even as she has underscored the humanity and dignity of individuals and communities.

Professor Tajima-Peña holds an academic appointment with the Department of Asian American Studies, where she has been at the forefront of teaching and working with hundreds of students, many of whom carry on a tradition of arts and activism. One of the classes she teaches is EthnoCommunications: Creating Community Media, an intensive three-quarter series in which students develop, shoot and edit their own short social media documentaries. One of the nominators commented, "She is a teacher in the truest sense -- she provides the students with a context and framework, shares her knowledge that has been informed by decades of filmmaking experience, and then allows students the space to find their own voices to tell their stories."

Professor Renee Tajima-Peña has been a long-standing partner with many community-based organizations like Visual



David Yoo with Tajima-Peña, the Nakanishi family, and past Nakanishi Award winners. From left to right: David Yoo, Paul Ong, Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, Renee Tajima-Peña, Thomas Nakanishi, Keith Camacho, Jenny Chhea, and Sophia Cheng. (Photo Credit: AASC)

Communications and the Center for Asian American Media.

Tajima-Peña has truly strengthened community-university partnerships through her deep commitment to Asian American independent film, as an activist, writer and filmmaker.

We are honored to present this well-deserved recognition to Professor Renee Tajima-Peña for her outstanding contributions to social justice as an engaged scholar, teacher, and in providing service to the community. As one nominator shared, "On a personal level, Professor Tajima-Peña has been a wonderful mentor and role model, not only to me, but to countless other students and filmmakers. Her dedication to her work, to building EthnoCommunications, and to the community is unparalleled."

Through the generosity of UCLA faculty, students, staff, and alumni as well as community leaders, an endowment was established that honors the late **Professor Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi**, who served on the UCLA faculty for thirty-five years and who ably directed the Asian American Studies Center (1990-2010). The Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American Studies at UCLA includes a five thousand dollar award. The award rotates annually between faculty and students. The graduate and undergraduate student awards will be given during the 2016-2017 academic year.

CENTER RECEIVES GOLDEN SPIKE AWARD

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center was recognized with the **Golden Spike Award** by the **Chinese Historical Society of Southern California** (CHSSC). The Center was chosen alongside the California State University Northridge's Department of Asian American Studies, Chinatown Service Center, Friends of the Chinatown Library and the Los Angeles Firecracker Run Committee for being "the gateway" to Chinese American culture and community.

The award was presented at the Golden Spike Awards Luncheon "Stewards of Our History" on Saturday, August 27th at the Hilton Los Angeles/San Gabriel. On hand to accept the award were former director **Vice Provost David K. Yoo** and **Assistant Director Melany De La Cruz-Viesca**. Several of the Center's

staff, alumni, students and friends attended the luncheon. The event was co-emceed by former reporter **Faith Lee** and UCLA alum **Ed Lew**. The Center thanks its friends and colleagues at CHSSC for this incredible honor!



At the Golden Spike Awards Luncheon. From left to right, top row: Mary Uyematsu Kao, Justin Cadlaon, Elaine Lei, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Kenny Chan, Lawrence Lan, Meisan Ly. Bottom row: Tiffany Wang-Su Tran, David Yoo, Cindy K. Tran, Susan Toy Stern. (Photo Credit: AASC)

CENTER HOSTS TALKS WITH FACULTY AND SCHOLARS

This past year the Center was proud to be able to present and co-sponsor several interesting and engaging talks at UCLA. These included events on new publications by UC Santa Barbara's **erin Khuê Ninh** and **Sameer Pandya**, UCLA's **Grace Hong**, alum **Karen Ishizuka**, UC Berkeley's **Khatharya Um**, Stanford's **Gordon Chang**, and Drake University's **Kevin Lam**. The Center was also fortunate to co-host writer **R. Zamora Linmark** for the 20th anniversary publication of *Rolling the R's*, as well as UC President Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley **Lee Ann Wang** for her talk discussing the U-Visa as state violence against immigrant women.



Khatharya Um



Karen Ishizuka (center) with Diane Fujino and Bob Nakamura



R. Zamora Linmark



Purnima Mankekar with Sameer Pandya



Gordon Chang



erin Khuê Ninh speaking to students after her talk.

(Photos Credit: Barbra Ramos/AASC)

TOY FAMILY INTERNSHIP REFLECTIONS BY CINDY K. TRAN

With the help of the **Yuen Fong and Lew Oy Toy Family Internship**, I interned at the **Chinese American Museum** (CAM) this past summer. I was able to work in the Exhibitions/ Collections and Educations program under staff supervision. On the days that I didn't spend at the museum, I attended classes at UCLA on the history of Asian Americans and the Chinese American Experience. By utilizing my summer interning at CAM and taking these courses, I was able to apply knowledge gained in and outside of class to better understand how the two seemingly different entities are not so different but have similar intersecting histories. This gave me a much more holistic view of how Asian American studies can be a tool for community organizing.

Under the Exhibitions/Collections department, I worked closely with artifacts that have been donated to the museum. One was a scrapbook belonging to **David and Dara Soo Hoo**, who collected newspaper articles and pieces pertaining to the Chinese American community around the Southern California area. Working on this project gave me a chance to see a glimpse of the experiences that the Chinese American community encountered back then. How did the *LA Times* approach the Chinese American community? How did it compare to the newspaper outlets that were part of the Chinese American community?

I also worked on two other projects under the Educations department. One was the suitcase activity project that stems

from the *Journeys* exhibit. The project aims to encourage children to envision what decisions and choices they would have to make if they had to migrate to a new and foreign area and adopt it as their new home. My task was to update the suitcase activity to give children more options to choose from when engaging with the activity. The second project, in collaboration with one of the Getty interns, stemmed from

the *Origins* exhibit, which highlighted the birth and transformation of the Chinese American community in Southern California. The areas that we focused on were old Chinatown, new Chinatown, and Monterey Park. While working on this project, I recognized a lot of things that were happening in areas of Southern California to the Chinese American community were taught in my summer class. Learning about the history of post-1965 immigration helped me connect what I learned in class to the communities that

were affected by things that happened post-1965 when the immigration quotas that excluded Asians were lifted and how that affected Monterey Park to gradually transition from a white community to a now populated Chinese American community.

With these projects, I was able to utilize the knowledge from class to strengthen my understanding of the work I was doing at the museum and how majors relating to Ethnic studies can help us strengthen our communities, who have had histories of marginalization that still exist in the present day.

Cindy K. Tran is an undergraduate majoring in Gender Studies and minoring in Labor & Workplace Studies and Asian American Studies.



Cindy Tran with Susan Toy Stern and previous winner Meisan Ly.
(Photo Credit: Mary Kao/AASC)

CENTER HONORS STUDENTS AT ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION

The Center continued its annual tradition of recognizing graduate and undergraduate students at its **Annual Awards and Alumni Reception** on Monday, November 14th. The event took place at the James West Alumni Center on campus.

This year, the Center invited alum **Vy Nguyen**, Director of Special Projects at the Weingart Foundation, to speak and share her experiences at UCLA. Nguyen graduated with a degree in English Literature. While at UCLA, she served as Editor-in-Chief of Pacific Ties Magazine, was a member of CAPSA and USAC Academic Affairs Commission, and also worked in the Student and Community Projects unit at the Center. She shared her family's history as refugees from Vietnam and how Asian American studies and her mentors at UCLA, such as **Glenn Omatsu** and **Meg Thornton**, helped inform her activism and her career.

Students were presented with awards that acknowledged their hard work, research, and dedication. Faculty Advisory Committee members **Professors Grace Hong** and **Lucy Burns** were on hand to announce the awards and to congratulate them. As students received their reward, they expressed their thanks and briefly shared information about their papers or research with those in attendance. A reception, with food from Sansai, followed.

Thank you to all who joined us! The Center encourages students to check out the many opportunities available on our website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/scholarships>.

Deadlines for next year's applications are February 21, 2017 for grants, fellowships, and scholarships, and March 6, 2017 for academic prizes. For questions regarding these opportunities, please contact scp@aasc.ucla.edu.



Left: Graduate student awardees at the reception. From left to right: 1) Professor Grace Hong with Uyen Hoang, Nicole Ngaosi, Tracy Zhao, Frances Huynh, Christina Ayson, and C. Aujean Lee; 2) Professor Hong with Sumiko Braun and Sharon Tran; 3) Andrew Nguyen Le and Professor Min Zhou.

Below: Vy Nguyen and undergraduate awardees. From left to right: 1) Vy Nguyen speaking to the audience; 2) Professor Lucy Burns with Tiffany Wang-Su Tran, Jenny Huang, and Andrew Magat Lopez; 3) Professor Burns with Cindy K. Tran, Richie Hong, Jihwan Yoon, and Joshua Xiong.

(Photos Credit: Barbra Ramos/AASC)



ALUMNI AND COMMUNITY NEWS

- Former FAC member **Dr. Mitchell T. Maki** was named CEO of Go for Broke National Education Center.
- Alum **Dennis Ogawa** was honored as a Living Treasure of Hawai'i by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i.
- Alum, actor and civil rights activist **George Takei** donated his personal collection to the Japanese American National Museum. It is the museum's largest collection about any one individual.
- Asian American Studies alum **Ali Wong**, released her hit comedy special **Baby Cobra** on Netflix.
- Alum **Tadashi Nakamura's** documentary **Mele Murals**, won Best Documentary Film at the Guam Film Festival.
- Asian American Studies MA alum **Jeff Chang** released his new book **We Gon' Be Alright: Notes on Race and Segregation** in September.
- Congratulations to our fellow Bruins who received awards from the UCLA Alumni Association! Asian Americans

Advancing Justice-LA President **Stewart Kwoh** was recognized with the 2016 Community Service Award, actor **Randall Park** is the 2016 Edward A. Dickson Alumnus of the Year, and Asian Pacific Alumni President **Ed Lew** received the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award.

- Asian American Studies alum **Kassy A. Saepunh** was chosen for the 2016 NBCC Minority Fellowship Program-Youth, an \$8,000 counseling fellowship.
- **Mai Yang Vang**, alum of the joint Asian American Studies and Public Health MA program, was elected to the Sacramento School Board.
- History PhD alum **Alfred Peredo Flores** is now in a tenure-track faculty position at Riverside Community College.
- **Justin "Jazz" Kiang**, a graduate of the Asian American Studies major, was the undergraduate recipient of the 2015-2016 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awards.

OXFORD HANDBOOK OF ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY

The Center was part of two co-sponsored events to showcase the landmark publication of the *Oxford Handbook of Asian American History*, co-edited by **David K. Yoo** and **Eiichiro Azuma**. No other book has brought together so many specialists in Asian American and Pacific Islander history in one volume of more than twenty-five original essays.

On February 27, 2016, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the **Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West** hosted a conference with leading historians from southern California including a number of the contributors. The gather-

ing, held at the Huntington Library, featured current graduate students, recent PhD graduates, and more established scholars to learn about current research and to assess the field.

On April 24, 2016, **Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council** (A3PCON) along with **Chinese Historical Society of Southern California**, **Filipino American National Historical Society-LA Chapter**, **Little Tokyo Historical Society**, and the Center hosted a community-based event around the handbook at the A3PCON offices in downtown Los Angeles. A panel of contributors to the volume, **Keith Camacho** (UCLA), **Lon Kurashige** (USC), **Judy**

Wu (UC Irvine), and **David K. Yoo** (UCLA), spoke during the event. The panel discussion was especially significant in that it marked the first time that the three community historical societies came together for such an occasion.



Participants at the conference on the Oxford Handbook of Asian American History at the Huntington Library. (Photo Credit: Lawrence Lan/AASC)

SUYAMA PROJECT PROGRAMS IN SEATTLE AND SAN JOSE

On Saturday, March 12th, Center staff traveled to Seattle to present a special program for the **Suyama Project** at the **Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington**. The program featured **Frank Abe**, **Roger Daniels**, and **Barbara Takei**. Historian Roger Daniels spoke on what happened to Japanese American soldiers serving in the US military after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Barbara Takei, an independent writer/researcher and chief financial officer of the Tule Lake Committee, showed a short video of **Tokio Yamane**, a leader at the Tule Lake Segregation Center who had been tortured and beaten, and also shared how the US government tied any form of protest as alleged "disloyalty" towards the government during World War II (WWII). Producer/director Frank Abe discussed **John Okada's** life and how it was woven into the author's well-known novel *No-No Boy*. **The George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair in Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community; Denzho: the Japanese American Legacy Project; American Ethnic Studies Department, University of Washington; and the Japanese American Citizens League - Seattle Chapter and Puyallup Valley Chapter** co-sponsored the event.

The Suyama Project also participated in the **San Jose Japantown FilmFest** on Sunday, May 22nd with a panel discussion at the **Japanese American Museum of San Jose** following the sold-out and standing room-only screening of **Konrad Aderer's** *Resistance at Tule Lake*. The panel featured filmmaker Aderer alongside Tule Lake "No-No" and renunciant **Hiroshi Kashiwagi**, Tule Lake draft resister **Jimi Yamaichi**, and UCLA's **David K. Yoo**.

Kashiwagi shared that he hadn't become a dissident overnight--it was years of racist treatment by the U.S. government that first prompted him to refuse to answer the controversial

loyalty questionnaire and then to renounce his U.S. citizenship out of anger. Yamaichi shared that the racist treatment his older brother had received as a soldier at Fort Riley influenced his decision to become a draft resister. His brother had been among the Japanese American soldiers marched into a hangar at gunpoint by their fellow Caucasian soldiers so that President Roosevelt could tour the grounds.

Resistance at Tule Lake is a documentary that seeks to share the story of the Tule Lake Segregation Center and first-hand accounts of the men and women who resisted incarceration. The film is being produced as a theatrical feature, as well as an hour-long public television broadcast. To learn more, visit <http://www.resistanceattulelake.com>.

The Suyama Project aims to preserve and share the history of Japanese American resistance during WWII. The Suyama Project is supported by an endowment named after the late **Eji Suyama**, part of the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, who openly voiced opposition to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and penned letters to newspapers on the issue. To find out more about the project, visit the Suyama website at <http://www.suyamaproject.org>.



Denzho's Tom Ikeda (far left) and UCLA's David K. Yoo (far right) with featured speakers Barbara Takei, Frank Abe, and Roger Daniels at the Suyama Project event in Seattle on March 12th. (Photo Credit: Martha Nakagawa/AASC)

UCLA CELEBRATES RELEASE OF JACK AND AIKO HERZIG PAPERS ON WORLD WAR II INCARCERATION OF JAPANESE AMERICANS

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is pleased to announce that the public can now access the **Jack and Aiko Herzig Papers** through UCLA Library Special Collections in the Charles E. Young Research Library. The Herzig Papers serves to enhance public knowledge about the unjust, forced exclusion, evacuation, and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, Americans from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, and Japanese Latin Americans during World War II (WWII).

“Community activists and researchers **Jack and Aiko Herzig** played a pivotal role in the World War II Japanese American redress movement through their historical research at archives and libraries across the nation,” said Center librarian and archivist **Marjorie Lee**.

Prompted initially by questions regarding the traumatic WWII experiences she and her family experienced, **Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga** broadened and expanded her research scope beyond the personal. She discovered important ‘smoking gun’ evidence that challenged the government’s justification of incarceration. The Herzigs’ primary research efforts, as captured through the collection, aided in redress for thousands of Americans illegally incarcerated during WWII, notably with the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC); the Supreme Court *coram nobis* litigation cases of Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu; the National Council for Japanese American Redress class action lawsuit, William Hohri et al., v. USA; and with eligibility verification of individuals from the Nikkei community for both redress compensation and the legislative letter of formal apology.

An inaugural public program reception for the Herzig Papers was held at UCLA on October 26, 2016, where a standing room-only crowd of family, researchers, community, and students celebrated the availability of the rich repository of materials. The launch event was hosted by the Center, **UCLA Library Special Collections**, and the **Dr. Sanbo and Kazuko Sakaguchi Research Fund in Japanese American Studies** and featured activ-



(Photo Credit: Barbra Ramos/AASC)



Marjorie Lee and Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga with Barbara Takei
(Photo Credit: Barbra Ramos/AASC)

ist and researcher **Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga**, pictured left, in conversation with **Professor Valerie Matsumoto**.

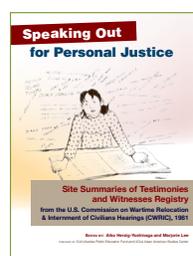
An overview of the Herzig papers, its arrangement, and how to access its materials is conveniently available on the Center’s web

resource portal at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/herzig451/>. Materials can be requested for on-site viewing at the Ahmanson-Murphy Reading Room at the Charles E. Young Research Library. To make research visits in advance, please contact UCLA Library Special Collections at 310/825.4988.

Processing and cataloging of this archival collection was funded, in part, by a grant from the **U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program**. Additional funding was provided by the **Eji Suyama, 100th Bn/442nd RCT Draftees, No-Nos, Draft Resisters and Renunciants Archival Collection Endowment (Suyama Endowment); George and Sakaye Aratani Community Advancement Research Endowment; Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowment for Social Justice and Immigration Studies; Dr. Sanbo and Kazuko Sakaguchi Research**

Fund in Japanese American Studies; and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Friends of the Library/RR Herzig Archival Collection Project. Throughout the stages of archival sorting, processing, and arrangement, Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga offered guidance on special subjects to the Center’s archival research and processing staff including **Martha Nakagawa, Garrett Giffin, Tam Nguyen, Ann Matsushima Chiu, Marjorie Lee**, and numerous student assistants.

The Center also received support, in part, for earlier processing and cataloging phases of the CWRIC materials from the **Civil Liberties Public Education Fund** and the Suyama Endowment, which culminated in the Center’s 2011 publication release of **Speaking Out for Personal Justice (SOPJ)**, co-edited by Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga and Marjorie Lee. A milestone resource and reference guide to the 789 oral testimonies presented before



the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians at 20 hearing sessions in nine cities across the United States between July and November 1981, *SOPJ* contains the site summaries of testimonies as well as a complete registry of witnesses (with corresponding transcript page numbers), whose complete testimonies can be read in the public hearing transcripts found in the Herzig Papers. *SOPJ* is available for purchase through the Center Press. For more information, visit the website <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress>.

Speaking Out for Personal Justice, in conjunction with the Herzig Papers, are significant markers to understanding a profound social movement for justice by Japanese Americans against their wartime incarceration and offer keen insights for all Americans regarding constitutionality and accountability. The Center encourages all those interested in social justice and history to access these valuable resources and materials.

FROM A WEEK OF SERVICE-LEARNING TO A LIFE-LONG PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE BY JAMES HUYNH

My politicization into radical activism and community organizing started with my involvement in the **Alternative Spring Breaks (ASB)** program at Stanford University. ASB, housed at the Haas Center for Public Service, is Stanford's largest student-led public service program that exposes undergraduates and graduates to complex social issues through experiential learning, didactic discussions and readings, reflection, and immersion trips.

During my first year, I participated in the "Asian American Issues: From Identity to Action" (AAI) course and trip led by **Thanh D. Nguyen and Van Anh Tran**. Participating in this program pushed me to critically interrogate my identity as an Asian American. Nguyen and Tran's course essentially was my introduction to Asian American Studies (AAS). Learning about U.S. history through an ethnic studies lens shattered my understanding of the world; an understanding that was rooted in white, western, patriarchal, and hetero hegemony. This process of learning and reflecting on Asian American history, identity, and social and political movements mentally prepared me for the immersion trip that we would embark on.

Instead of going home for spring break, my cohort and I met with community-based organizations in the Bay Area and LA to learn about how folks were tackling contemporary social issues. To give a glimpse into that week, I learned about how oil refineries in Richmond were affecting residents' health, how workers in Chinatown - San Francisco mobilized to protest wage theft, and how Khmer students in Long Beach were helping to change their school's health policies. The candor with which community members displayed their emotional and political vulnerabilities humbled me. Their narratives and struggles continue to ground me as I strive to understand my positionality and role in the fight towards social justice.

After freshman year, I continued to be involved with ASB for the rest of my undergraduate career in various capacities: co-leader for the AAI course and trip, leader advisor for the activist-oriented courses and trips, and Executive Director. When I led the trip my sophomore year, we visited the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Department. Staff from the Center (shout out to Meg for remembering me!) and MA students spoke about their work and the importance of research and academia in the Asian American community. One of the biggest takeaways

that our group had from this visit was how small Stanford's AAS program was in comparison to UCLA's AASD. We questioned why our program had only a few tenured faculty members, and course listings that I could count off of one hand. Since I have graduated in 2015, Stanford has hired one additional tenure-track professor who is committed to the AAS program. This interaction planted a small seed in my mind about the possibility of attending UCLA in the future for my graduate studies.

ASB radically changed my academic and personal life trajectory. When I first came to Stanford, I wanted to be a neurosurgeon. However, my experiences with ASB - learning how to combine scholarly work with experiential learning to practice ethical and effective community engagement - shifted my passion towards one that is rooted in addressing systemic and institutional inequities. I knew that I still wanted to continue working in a health-related discipline, so that is when I discovered the field of public health. I also knew that the communities I wanted to work with are ones that I am a personal stakeholder of: Asian American, Vietnamese American, queer, and low-income.

While teaching English in Vietnam as a Fulbright Fellow last year, I realized that I wanted to go back to school to further my understanding and skill sets in order to better serve my communities. I thought back to that visit to UCLA from my sophomore year, and that is when I discovered the concurrent degree program for the MPH in Community Health Sciences and the MA in Asian American Studies. I saw this, and immediately thought, "Done deal! Dream program. I'm going." UCLA is the only institution, to my knowledge, that offers a dual degree program that allows students to explore this critical intersection of Public Health and Asian American Studies. For me, this was an institutional validation of my experiences and passion for wanting to improve the health equity of Asian Americans, especially immigrants like my own family.

So here I am, nine weeks into my first quarter and I am surviving. I am grateful to Stanford's Alternative Spring Breaks program for serving as my launchpad into a lifelong career of organizing and advocating with multicultural communities to achieve justice and health for all.

James Huynh is currently a MA student in the dual degree program of Community Health Sciences and Asian American Studies.

From left to right:
1) UCLA graduate students from Asian American Studies 200A, including James (with the green poster) at the American Indian Studies Center's Standing Rock Teach-In.

2) Some of the 1st & 2nd year Asian American Studies MA students at their cohort potluck.



(Photo Courtesy of Tiffany Wang-Su Tran)



(Photo Courtesy of Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association)

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS

After seven years of distinguished work, **Gena Hamamoto** left the position of Assistant Director at The Center for EthnoCommunications. In Spring 2016, **Janet Chen** took over the position. She looks forward to teaching students in the Creating Community Media course series and developing productions and programs under the guidance of **Director Renee Tajima-Peña**.

Recent EthnoComm productions and honors include:

- **"The Asian Americans"** is a public television documentary series in development by Renee Tajima-Peña and collaborators. Renee and Janet are also developing the exciting new interactive virtual reality component of the series.
- **Building History 3.0: Learning About Japanese American Incarceration Camps Through Minecraft** was originated by and designed for youth. It has an online, game-based curriculum that can be taught in a variety of settings, including schools, community and cultural institutions, and at home.
- **No Más Bebés**, a feature documentary by Renee Tajima-Peña, continues to screen in film festivals, conferences

and universities. It won the Eric Barnouw Award from the Organization of American Historians, the John E. O'Connor Film Award from the American Historical Association, and the Justice Award from the Los Angeles Center for Law & Justice.

- Renee was also honored this year as the Yvonne B. Burke Courage Award recipient at the 2016 John Anson Ford (JAF) Human Relations Awards and was named a "2016 L.A. Woman" by *Los Angeles Magazine*. To read more from the



Cover of the 2016 LA Woman Issue of Los Angeles Magazine, which features Tajima-Peña

issue, visit <http://www.lamag.com/lawomanarticle/>

- Two student films produced by EthnoCommunications: "Master of the Sky: The Life and Art of Sam Koji Hale" by **Sumiko Braun** and "Behind the Mask" by **Kristy Ishii** premiered publicly at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific American Film Festival 2016.
- Sumiko Braun's film also earned the Best Documentary Prize at the Asians on Film Festival.



In the Creating Community Media course series, students continue to tell their unique stories. The following films from Asian American Studies 142C were featured at the annual screening in June 2016:

"Muscles & Mascara" | Director: Michael Chang

The story of a female power-lifter who breaks social and gender norms in a male-dominated sport.

"Human Error: Namie City, Japan" | Director: Yoh Kawano

As the city prepares for its reopening in 2017 following the March 2011 disasters, questions remain about the consequences it will have for returning citizens.

"Jackie Finds Josh" | Directors: Jacqueline Martinez and Joshua Xiong

A couple faces issues with spirituality, namely Christianity and Shamanism.

"Crash Diets" | Director: Hyung Kim

A Korean American man's personal and cultural journey through crash diets.

"314 Ways to Blockbuster" | Director: Samantha Mallari

Film club members shed light on diversity in the entertainment business to "make it big."

"Un-American Dream" | Director: Nanor Wong

Sophie Frank is a Caucasian American citizen who loves Japanese culture and has the desire to move there.

"Cyber Cowboi" | Director: Maggie Zheng

An Asian American's exploration of gender fluidity and identity through the lens of cyborgs.

"Top Naach Dance" | Director: Nausheen Hafiz

Two American-born and raised Desi women who start an Indian dance company together called Top Naach.

"Home Cooking" | Director: Gibson Han

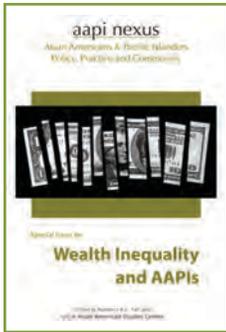
Learn how to make Pho and relive the Vietnamese-American journey guided by a Vietnamese mother.

Over 100 films like these can be checked out for educational use. For more info, please contact Assistant Director, Janet Chen at jchen@aasc.ucla.edu.

*Students from EthnoCommunications 142C Spring 2016 Class at their film screening.
(Photo courtesy of Janet Chen/Center for EthnoCommunications)*

NEWEST RELEASES FROM THE AAPI NEXUS JOURNAL

WEALTH INEQUALITY AND AAPIs



Guest edited by **Lisa Hasegawa** (National CAPACD) and **C. Aujean Lee** (UCLA), Special Issue 13:1-2 “Wealth Inequality and AAPIs” was released in partnership with the **National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development and the Ford Foundation** to give voice to the highly diverse and complex AAPI communities’ issues, concerns and priorities in relation to wealth inequality and financial security.

This issue was the first publication devoted entirely to an in-depth examination of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), Native Hawaiians, and wealth. The articles were organized into three themes: intersections of wealth and financial capability; housing and financial justice; and policy interventions and community-based responses. The papers present new insights that can enrich the policy debates on tax policy reform, financial capability, student loans, social security, retirement, housing, small business, and additional asset-building issues, especially how AAPIs relate to other communities of color. Now more than ever, it is important to include AAPIs in the development of a more inclusive, fair, and comprehensive narrative about racial inequality. The journal can now be downloaded at the following website: <http://www.uclajournals.org/toc/appc/13/1-2>.

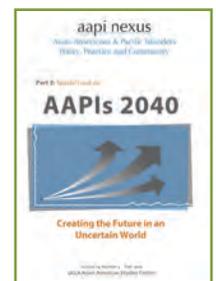
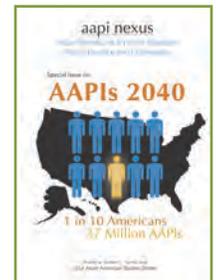
AAPIs 2040

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center, **UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies** and member organizations of the **National Council of Asian Pacific Americans** produced two publications to inform the President-Elect and transition team on issues important to the AAPI community.

Guest-edited by **S. Floyd Mori** and **Elena Ong**, the special “AAPIs 2040” issues contain essays by community leaders and scholars. Using population projections of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in 2040, these publications serve to inform policy makers at the local, state and federal level on the AAPI community and electorate and help develop and advocate for leadership and a policy trajectory that will serve as a foundation for AAPIs in America’s future.

The editors urge Donald Trump and other elected leaders to join AAPIs to protect the gains of the previous half century in civil and voting rights, nonracist immigration policies, women’s and LGBTQ rights, and ensure health care for all.

“AAPIs 2040” was made possible by **Eli Lilly and the Ford Foundation**. To view the contents or download the issue, visit: <http://www.uclajournals.org/toc/appc/14/1>.



THE COLOR OF WEALTH IN LOS ANGELES

“**The Color of Wealth in Los Angeles**” is the first report to compile detailed, disaggregated data on assets and debts among people of different races, ethnicities and countries of origin residing in the Los Angeles area. Researchers from **UCLA, Duke University and The New School**, with support from the **Ford Foundation, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development** produced and published the report. Although much of the inequality discourse has focused on income, wealth is a better indicator of economic well-being and metric for understanding economic inequality. Analysis of assets included savings and checking accounts, stocks, retirement accounts, houses and vehicles, while debts, included credit card debt, student loans, medical debt, mortgages and vehicle debt. The accumulation of wealth is more likely to ensure financial security and opportunity for American families in the future.

Racial and ethnic differences in wealth show the extreme vulnerability of some nonwhite households in Los Angeles. The authors estimate that the typical U.S.-born black or Mexican family, for example, has just 1 percent of the wealth of a typical white family in Los Angeles – or one cent for every dollar of wealth



held by the average white family in the metro area. Koreans hold 7 cents and Vietnamese possess 17 cents for every dollar of wealth owned by comparable white families. This report not only reveals a nuanced story of racial wealth differences in Los Angeles, but perhaps more importantly, it also explores the local nature of asset markets and what factors influence the wealth status of communities of color.

The report was released on March 10, 2016, at a launch event at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Los Angeles Branch, as well as many other events— U.S. Census Bureau Annual Census Information Center Conference, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy Funders Briefing, Opportunity Finance Network-Western Regional Meeting, Los Angeles Banker Community Reinvestment Act Roundtable, First 5 Los Angeles, 2016 CFED Assets Learning Conference Luncheon Plenary “Pennies on the Dollar: How Racial Wealth Inequality Fractures the Nation, and Why We Must Act” and Black American Political Association of California Statewide Conference.

It was also featured in a Race and Wealth podcast with guests **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** and **Lillian Singh**. To listen to the podcast, visit <http://bit.ly/rwla16>.

To access the report, visit <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/besol>.

LATEST AMERASIA JOURNAL NEWS AND RELEASES

PASSING OF DON NAKANISHI

As *Amerasia* marked its 45 years of existence, we were saddened by the news of the passing of one of our founders, **Don Nakanishi**. His contributions to *Amerasia* over this years are innumerable and we hope that we can continue his legacy for decades to come. To read more about Don's passing, see pg 3.

EDITORIAL BOARD TRANSITIONS

Under Editor **Keith Camacho's** tenure, *Amerasia* will welcome new editorial board members in 2017. They are: **Judy Tzu-Chun Wu** (UC Irvine), **Wadie Said** (University of Southern Carolina), **Chau Trinh-Shevrin** (New York University School of Medicine). *Amerasia* is extremely grateful to the contributions of outgoing board members **Khyati Joshi, Jim Lee, and Gary Pak!**

EMMA GEE EDITORIAL INTERNSHIP

This year the Center was pleased to announce the establishment of the **Emma Gee Editorial Internship** with *Amerasia*. The internship is named after **Ms. Emma Gee**, one of the Center's early staff members who helped both *Amerasia Journal* and other editorial projects. Ms. Gee served as lead editor for the seminal volume, *Counterpoint: Perspectives on Asian America*, published by the Center Press in 1976. The inaugural Emma Gee editorial Intern is **Tracy Zhao**, an MA student in Asian American

Studies. She will be working with the staff on the journal's book review section.

OPEN ISSUE 41:3

This issue commemorated the journal's 45th anniversary, with a graphic history of the journal's covers and *Amerasia's* founding publisher and long-time UCLA Asian American Studies Center **Director Don T. Nakanishi** offering his reflections on how far the journal has come over the past 45 years. In the tradition of the journal, this issue also highlighted Asian American activism, with a tribute to **Grace Lee Boggs** by **Glenn K. Omatsu** and a forum on the scandal over poet **Michael Derrick Hudson's** use of the Chinese penname **Yi-Fen Chou**.

CARCERAL STATES

In Issue 42:1, guest editors, **Professors Karen J. Leong and Myla Vicenti Carpio** (Arizona State University) examine the convergence of Asian and Indigenous communities as subjects of the carceral state in the United States and Canada, paying particular attention to Japanese ancestry incarceration during World War II and the dispossession of Native American lands. For those interested in using "Carceral States" for a class, the Teacher's Guide for this issue, as well as many more, are available for free online at our website.

"INTERGENERATIONAL COLLABORATIONS" AND ADVICE TO GRADUATE STUDENTS

Issue 42:2 "Intergenerational Collaborations" marked a departure from *Amerasia's* previous works by bringing together graduate student scholarship and faculty mentorship—two foundational components of the field of Asian American Studies. The issue was devoted exclusively to graduate student work, and the guest editors paired graduate student authors with senior scholars who provided guidance during the revision process. Guest editors **Professors Yéñ Lê-Espiritu** (UC San Diego) and **Cathy Schlund-Vials** (University of Connecticut) sought to foster such intergenerational connections to increase both access for and representation of graduate students within the pages of the field's leading interdisciplinary journal.

The issue featured new perspectives that sought out complex and under-explored intersections and featured graduate student contributors **Lina Chhun, Michelle Huang, Michael Schulze-Oechtering, Lawrence Lan, Se Hwa Lee, Melissa Phruksachart, Danielle Seid, and Jael Vizcarra**.

We asked Jael and her senior scholar mentor **Professor Lisa Park** for their advice to graduate students seeking to publish a journal article and here is what they shared with us:



Producing a journal article takes more work than simply sitting down to write an analysis of a particular historical process, theme, or topic. By the time I sat down to write my article, I had presented preliminary work at two different national conferences. This allowed me to discuss my main argument with an interdisciplinary audience and get feedback about my paper's narrative structure. Addi-

*tionally, I also sent out my work in progress to a research group in my university comprised of junior and senior academics in my field. The opportunity to share my work with different audiences greatly shaped the organization of my article by helping me draft an essay that integrated observations from audiences familiar and unfamiliar with my field of research. By the time I responded to *Amerasia's* call for papers, I had been assembling my article for an academic year and already had a logical narrative structure and argument that would be clearly identifiable to reviewers. My biggest piece of advice to other graduate students is to begin teasing out ideas for articles at conferences and other interdisciplinary venues at your home university. If conference travel is not possible, I recommend reaching out to two or three people in your field asking them for feedback on your work in progress. Organizing a working group is one of the best ways to ensure mutual aid and willingness of others to participate in the writing process. Once your draft has been vetted by 2-3 people, I suggest sending out your article for review.*

- Jael Vizcarra, PhD Candidate, UC San Diego



My advice to graduate students is to keep at it and don't give up. I realize it sounds cliché but writing can be painful and tedious; and sometimes what sounds like a fantastic idea in your mind does not materialize as such in print. But, there is no way to know this until you try; which is why writing takes so much longer than it should.

It was a pleasure to work on this special issue because I learned something new and the best part of my job as faculty is to watch a bright, sharp student take a complex idea and produce a paper far better than I could.

- Professor Lisa Sun-Hee Park, UC Santa Barbara

TEACHING UNTOLD CIVIL RIGHTS BY ALUM CHUCK DIEP

I teach eighth grade history at a middle school in the San Gabriel Valley where I serve a student population that is predominantly Asian American. This past May, as a part of the **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM)** celebration, my students were afforded the opportunity to participate in an essay contest sponsored by **Advancing Justice - LA** and the office of **City Councilman David Ryu**. Utilizing the curriculum book **Untold Civil Rights Stories: Asian Americans Speak Out for Justice** published by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Advancing Justice - LA, my students engaged in the challenge of defining what it means to be Asian American.

My colleagues and I submitted nine student essays for award consideration. Two of my students, **Wendy and Yvonne**, were selected to receive the "Exceptional Merit Award" and each also won a \$50 scholarship. Along with this recognition, the two scholars and their families, were invited to attend an award ceremony at Los Angeles City Hall and APHAM's Pacific Bridge Concert. The scholars were presented with certificates by Councilman Ryu, met other



*Chuck Diep (far right) with his students and David Ryu
(Photo Courtesy of Chuck Diep)*

award recipients and enjoyed performances from Asian American artists **Awkwafina, Dumbfounded, Joseph Vincent, and Jhene Aiko** among others.

For my students, the two who receive recognition and those who did not, this was their first time examining Asian American identity and learning about Asian American history. It was a validating moment for students who have been forced to consume dominate western narratives. This experience, though brief, allowed my students to see and actively participate in Asian American empowerment in all facets; as scholars, activists, community builders, politicians, leaders, and artists. Most importantly, this experience gave my students a new appreciation for not only their Asian American identity but also their community and the history making -no matter how small- of their families. My student Wendy reflects, "This experience, of learning about Asian American civil rights leaders, writing the essay, and attending the ceremony taught me how important our history is, despite how minor we may feel. I learned to embrace our voices and that we have the power to change today's society for the better because our voices matter."

2016-2017 AASC'S IAC GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS

LUCY SAN PABLO BURNS

Asian American Studies
TITLE: The New Woman in Plays by Chinese women in Hawai'i

KEITH CAMACHO

Asian American Studies
TITLE: Sole!: Samoan Youth Rebellion in New Zealand and the United States

SEAN METZGER

Theater
TITLE: Seismic Shifts and Asian American Theater

ROBERT TERANISHI

Education
TITLE: Navigating Racial and Social Hierarchies Within the Postdoctoral Workforce

VISITING RESEARCHER/SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP

TANACHAI MARK PADOONGPATT

Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Las Vegas
TITLE: Thais That Bind: Food and the Making of Thai American Los Angeles

GRADUATE/PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

TAHSEEN SHAMS

PhD Student, Sociology
TITLE: The Homeland, the Hostland, and Beyond: Identity Formation Based on Global Geopolitical Contexts

GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS

CHRISTINA AYSON

MA Student, Asian American Studies
TITLE: M.O.B. and Perform

MICHAEL ISHIMOTO

PhD Student, Education
TITLE: No More Gaman: A Historical Ethnographic Study of Asian American Activism in Philadelphia

C. AUJEAN LEE

PhD Student, Urban Planning
TITLE: The Effects of Ethnic Neighborhoods and Resources on Housing Choice

TIFFANY LYTL

MA Student, Asian American Studies
TITLE: Knoum Kaun Khmer (I am Cambodian): An Exploration of Cambodian American-ness

ANGELA ROBINSON

PhD Student, Gender Studies
TITLE: Indigenous Sovereignty in Oceania: Affect, Performance, and Sociality

GITANJALI SINGH

PhD Student, Gender Studies
TITLE: Sikh Mothers and Daughters: Sexuality, Knowledge and the Metropolis Gender Studies

HEIDI TUASON

PhD Student, Community Health Sciences
TITLE: The Achievement-Adjustment Paradox: Understanding the Academic Achievement and Psychosocial Adjustment of Filipino American Adolescents

REFLECTIONS FROM IAC VISITING RESEARCHER ISABELA QUINTANA

It was a great honor and pleasure to have had the opportunity to spend the year at the AASC as an IAC Visiting Research Scholar. When I applied for the position, I was excited about the possibility of completing my book manuscript at one of the leading centers of Asian American Studies while working with **Valerie Matsu-moto**, whose ground-breaking work I knew, of course, from her writing and whose reputation for her commitment to mentorship I had only known through word of mouth. What I experienced at the AASC was all of that and much more.

From the moment I arrived at Campbell Hall I felt a warm and enthusiastic welcome. The activists, students, scholars, artists, and writers at the Center are not only nice people, but they are committed to community engagement in a way that prompted me to focus on why I became interested in Ethnic Studies in the first place. Community, they reminded me, is made through everyday interactions and sharing moments together, no matter how short or long—something I write about in my book and which is so often obscured by the grind of the academic career path. Over the year I shared meals and wonderful conversation with **Valerie, Melany, David, Belinda, Keith, and Robb Hernandez** (the IAC Scholar in Chicana/o Studies). **Mary** shared stories of campus activism and family while strolling around campus. I had many “hallway conversations” with **Arnold, Betty, Irene, Barbra, and Marjorie**. I got to hear about the amazing connections between activism and scholarship that graduate students were making and attended lunchtime panels where many shared sound bites of their current research that helped invigorate the questions I



*Isabela Quintana (right) with Lee Ann Wang during Wang's "Asian American Feminisms and the Re-Writing of Legal Voice."
(Photo credit: Barbra Ramos/AASC)*

was grappling with in my own work. In the long chunks of solitude that are required to write and revise a book manuscript, these moments of support, no matter how small, made the project of writing feel less isolating.

The mentorship and support of the IAC and the AASC allowed me the time and space to complete my book manuscript. I had the chance to share my work with others – faculty, graduate students, and staff members – whose questions and enthusiasm pushed me to articulate my project in ways that are clear and

encouraged me to continue asking the important questions. I was also able to participate in several conferences and to try my hat on as a “more advanced” scholar in commenting on graduate student work and chairing panels. Valerie very kindly read my entire manuscript draft and helped me to think about the narrative arc, which was a crucial turning point for my revisions. The generosity and encouragement of the folks at the IAC and the AASC over the year helped me to complete a draft of my manuscript and submit it to a university press for review at the beginning of the following fall. Most importantly my time at UCLA allowed me a chance to take a step back and reevaluate what I love and enjoy about the academic profession generally and about Ethnic Studies specifically, and to consider and imagine the creation of alternative, creative, and supportive intellectual spaces within institutions. Many thanks to everyone for taking me in as if I had been there all along.

Isabela Quintana is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Loyola Marymount University and her forthcoming book, tentatively titled, Urban Borderlands: Neighborhood and Nation in Chinese and Mexican Los Angeles, 1870s-1930s, is under review with UNC Press.

AASC'S 2016-2017 VISITING SCHOLARS & IAC RESEARCHER

The Center is proud to welcome alum **Professor Tina Yamano Nishida** and to also welcome back visiting scholar, **Dr. Lindsey Sasaki!** Dr. Tina Yamano Nishida is conducting cross- and inter-generational research on Japanese Americans and in particular, the relationship between the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and the redress movement. She holds a PhD in Comparative Education and BA in Sociology, both from UCLA. Dr. Lindsey Sasaki will continue to develop her research on Latin American Asians who have migrated to the Los Angeles area. She is currently the Assistant Director of Study Abroad at Pomona College in Claremont, CA. She received her PhD in International Education from New York University.

The Center also welcomes this year's IAC visiting researcher **Dr. Tanachai Mark Padoongpatt!** An ethnic studies scholar with a focus on Asian/Pacific Islander American studies and twentieth century United States history, he participated in the **IAC Fall Foun** on December 2nd and spoke with **Professor**

May Wang about his book project, sharing how his work examines food in relation to race and power. The still-unfinished book (under contract with University of California Press) explores the historical relationship between food and identity in post-World War II U.S., focusing specifically on Thai food and how and why it became central to Thai American community and identity formation in Los Angeles. The IAC fellowship provides him with the opportunity to return to Los Angeles and conduct interviews with Thais who owned Thai restaurants in the 1970s and '80s. He will draw on archival sources needed for revisions at the Los Angeles Harbor Department Historical Archives and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. An Assistant Professor in Interdisciplinary Degree Programs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, his research examines the history of race and ethnicity in American society, immigration, urban/suburban cultures, food, tourism, and sports. Padoongpatt received his PhD in American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California.

2016-2017 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AWARDS, GRANTS,

2016 ARATANI COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT RESEARCH ENDOWMENT (C.A.R.E.) GRANT RECIPIENTS

CALIFORNIA JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

PROJECT: Nikkei Community Internship

JAPANESE INSTITUTE OF SAWTELLE

PROJECT: Needs Assessment Study for the Near Term Future
Development of JIS

KIZUNA

PROJECT: Social Documentation Family Histories in Kizuna's Youth CAN

LITTLE TOKYO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROJECT: Sei Fujii: Issei Civil Rights Leader; A Legacy of JA Activism
from 1882-1954

LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER

PROJECT: South Bay JA Needs Assessment Study

MARTHA NAKAGAWA

PROJECT: Preserving Voices of Protest: Collecting Oral History Interviews
of WWII JA Dissidents

NICHI BEI FOUNDATION

PROJECT: Films of Remembrance

NIKKEI STUDENT UNION

PROJECT: 30th Annual Cultural Night

NIKKEI WOMEN LEGACY ASSOCIATION

PROJECT: The Keiro Remembrance Writing Project

WASEDA UNIVERSITY

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

2015-2016 FACULTY AWARDS

Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship

RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA

Asian American Studies

C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA

GRACE KYUNGWON HONG

Asian American Studies & Gender Studies

GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

21st Century Graduate Fellowship



LINA CHHUN

PhD Student, Gender Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: "Sometimes [U.S.] can make
mistake too...": Contested Memory, Narrative Silences, and
Cambodian/American Histories of Violence

21st Century Graduate Internship



NICOLE NGAOSI

MA Student, Asian American Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Asian Business Association Fellowship



SUE HYUNMI PARK

PhD Student, Sociology

Research Project: Entering and Showing Belonging: Koreans
in the Los Angeles Fashion Industry

Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Graduate Internship



UYEN PHUONG HOANG

MA Student, Asian American Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: Japanese Cultural & Community Center

George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship



WENDSOR YAMASHITA

PhD Student, Gender Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Thinking About the Future: Japanese
American Youth and Heteronormative Transfers of Memory

Pearl Wang Fellowship



TRACY ZHOU

MA Student, Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: The Intersectional Imagination and
Queer Asian American Organizing

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship



C. AUJEAN LEE

PhD Student, Urban Planning

RESEARCH PROJECT: Relationships between School
Districts, Asian Americans and Foreclosures

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship



CHRISTINA AYSON

MA Student, Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: MOB and Perform

For information on the Center's funding opportunities, visit <http://aasc.ucla.edu/scholarships>

ACADEMIC PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship



FRANCES HUYNH

MA Student, Asian American Studies & Public Health
RESEARCH PROJECT: Far East Plaza: Building a Healthy Chinatown

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



RICHIE HONG

MAJOR: Physiological Sciences

GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC PRIZES

Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize



SUMIKO R. BRAUN

MA Student, Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Situating the Twelve Percent: A Critical Filmic History of Samoan Diaspora in the U.S.

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship



JIHWAN YOON

MAJOR: Asian Studies
PAPER TITLE: Uchinaaguchi in Danger: Finding Hope for Revival

Lucie Cheng Prize



CATHLEEN KOZEN

PhD Student, Ethnic Studies, UC San Diego
PAPER TITLE: U.S. Empire and Japanese Latin American Critique: A Critical Re-Reading of 'Japanese American Internment' and its Redress

Yuen Fong & Lew Oy Toy Family Internship in Chinese American Studies



CINDY K. TRAN

MAJOR: Gender Studies
MINOR: Labor & Workplace Studies; Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP SITE: Chinese American Museum

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize



ANDREW NGUYEN LE

PhD Student, Sociology
PAPER TITLE: An Accidental Community? The Vietnamese Immigrants in Trinidad and Tobago

ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize



SHARON N. TRAN

PhD Student, English
PAPER TITLE: "She was pregnant, my child in her belly": Encountering Militarism's Lateral Ghosts

Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize



TIFFANY WANG-SU TRAN

MAJORS: Gender Studies; Asian American Studies (2016)
PAPER TITLE: Who are the boat people?

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture



SUMIKO R. BRAUN

MA Student, Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Re-Membering as Resistance: Combatting Colonial Amnesia in Kristiana Kahakauwila's This is Paradise

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



TIFFANY WANG-SU TRAN

MAJORS: Gender Studies; Asian American Studies (2016)
PAPER TITLE: What about the Japanese Peruvians?

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Undergraduate Prize



JENNY HUANG

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Labor & Workplace Studies; Education Studies
PAPER TITLE: History and Achievements of #Beyond the Stereotype.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

21st Century Undergraduate Internship



CINDY K. TRAN

MAJOR: Gender Studies
MINOR: Labor & Workplace Studies; Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Validating Experience Through Remembrance

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize



ANDREW MAGAT LOPEZ

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
CONCENTRATION: Pilipino Studies Concentration
PAPER TITLE: Education of a Hmong Woman

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship



JOSHUA XIONG

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Going Outside My Comfort Zone Through Community Service

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture



JENNY HUANG

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Labor & Workplace Studies; Education Studies
PAPER TITLE: The United States Empire Through Asian American Cultural Performances



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From left to right: 1) Community Health Sciences PhD student Heidi Tuason with UCLA Academic Counselor and alum Pia Palomo; 2) Graduating Center work study students Tiffany Wang-Su Tran, Clarra Lay, and Rosalee Mouanoutoua at their appreciation gathering at the end of the 2015-2016 academic year; 3) Immediate Past President of APA UCLA Ed Lew, Vice Chancellor Jerry Kang, and UCLA Alumni's Patricia Nguyen at Don Nakanishi's Celebration of Life; 4) Student Der Xiong asking a question at Sameer Pandya's book talk; 5) Publications Coordinator Mary Kao throwing the dice with alum and donor Stanley Lau and Center CAO Betty Leung watching; 6) Irene Hsu and alum David Chung with Assistant Director Melany De La Cruz-Viesca (center).

(Photos Credit: Barbra Ramos/ AASC)

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Asian American
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Bridging Research with Community

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