UCLA Registration Fees Rise 40%

"What happened to accessible education for all?"

By Alyssa Kang, Asian Pacific Coalition

(Editor's Note: Members of the Asian Pacific Coalition are joining other UCLA students to protest a 40 percent registration fee hike for undergraduates. In a speech delivered at a recent campus rally, Alyssa Kang analyzed the impact on Asian and Pacific Islander students.)

I would like to share with you today how a reg fee increase affects me as an Asian American. I come from a one-parent household. My mother and father separated when I was in second grade. So my mother has been supporting me ever since. She works very hard, and because of her efforts I am here today. Because of her sacrifice, I am able to attend a university such as UCLA. I am also receiving financial aid at this time, and have a part-time job.

If the reg fees are raised without an increase in financial aid, I and others like me will not be able to continue our education. We will not be able to afford it.

There are many Asian Pacific Americans who are in the same situation. We come from low-income families or from disadvantaged backgrounds. In contrast to media portrayals, Asians are not the model minority. We are not all rich and successful.

For example, the Samoan community has a 45 percent high school attrition rate, and only 7 percent of Samoans have college degrees. Filipinos at UCLA have a 50 percent retention rate, which means that one out of every two Filipino students will not graduate from this university. Not only is it important to get students into institutions of higher education, but the university must help them to stay in. UCLA does not have enough retention programs, and the existing ones aren't culturally sensitive to new Asian immigrants and refugees. It's difficult to keep track of the educational progress of Vietnamese, Cambodian and other Southeast Asian students at UCLA because they are put into the category of "Thai/Other Asian," just as Pacific Islanders are lumped together with Asians.

"We shouldn't be prevented from learning just because of socioeconomic reasons! Education is our right, an inalienable right for all. But when politicians raise the cost of education, it becomes a privilege for a few who can afford it."

Some Asians and Pacific Islanders are having a difficult time staying in school, and the increase in reg fees would exacerbate the problem.

What happened to accessible education for all? We shouldn't be prevented from learning just because of socioeconomic reasons! Education is our right, an inalienable right for all. But when politicians raise the cost of education, it becomes a privilege for a few who can afford it.

Pay $1000-plus a quarter to come to UCLA? I know I can't afford that. My mother can't afford that. And others receiving financial aid can't afford it either.

But we're facing more than just an issue of reg fee hikes. I think the reason why they are trying to oppress us in this way is because they feel they can get away with it. They are truly underestimating the power of the people, the power of the students. We need to show them that we have the strength and the support. We need to lobby and call our representatives and tell them what we want. They were elected to meet these needs, so let's hold them accountable.

We must be at the forefront of this struggle, and pave the way for others. The actions we take now will determine the future of our brothers and sisters, and the success of our children.

To paraphrase a statement made by a friend of mine—who is an old-time Asian Pacific Coalition member—"You don't task the permission of the KKK to stop racism, you just have to do it!" The same goes for this issue. You don't ask Pete Wilson to stop raising our reg fees; you just have to force him.

We must unite and work together on this issue. We must work together for self-determination, for our education, and for our future. Thank you.

(Alyssa Kang, a UCLA undergraduate, is a student assistant with the Asian American Studies Center and a community outreach coordinator for the Asian Pacific Coalition.)
1500 Attend "Opening Ceremony" at Royce Hall

Record Numbers Attend Educational Events
For 50th Anniversary of Japanese American Wartime Internment

"We have had a phenomenal response to all of our 50th activities," said Gann Matsuda, who is coordinating the 50th anniversary activities at the Center. According to Matsuda, an audience of over 1,500 attended the February 22 Opening Ceremony at Royce Hall, and more than a thousand enjoyed the February 29 Cultural Night of the UCLA Nikkei Student Union at Wadsworth Theater. The program featured an original play on the camp experience which was written, directed, and performed by NSU members.

On March 7, the Center in collaboration with the Law School and a number of major civil rights and community organizations, organized "Beyond Japanese American Redress: Civil Rights in the 1990s," which attracted over 700 participants. Featured speakers included Congressman Robert Matsui, CSUN Professor Rodolfo Acuña, and Stanford Professor Charles Lawrence.

More than six thousand people visited the UCLA Wight Art Gallery to see "Two Views of the Japanese American Internment," which featured two major exhibits of photographs of the concentration camp experience. The exhibit attracted wide media attention, including a special story in the Los Angeles Times.

Remembrance Fund Campaign Launched

As a lasting tribute to its year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Japanese American internment, a $500,000 fund-raising campaign has been launched to establish an endowment fund to support, in perpetuity, research, archival collection, and educational outreach programs relating to the historical and contemporary issues facing the Japanese in the United States. Thomas lino, a partner at Deloitte and Touche, and Vincent Okamoto, President of Pacific Heritage Bank, will serve as co-chairs of the Japanese American Remembrance Fund Committee.

According to Center Director Don Nakanishi, "This endowment fund will insure that UCLA remains as the nation's premier center for Japanese American Studies, and that the study of the Japanese American experience will continue to provide timely and timeless vantage points from which to understand American society."

On an annual basis, the Fund will provide undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and faculty research grants for scholarly and artistic projects on Japanese American Studies. It will also provide funds for the continued acquisition and cataloging of archival and library materials for the Japanese American Research Project Collection of the University Research Library and the Asian American Studies Center Reading Room, as well as major public and campus outreach programs focusing on major topics that deal with or are drawn from the past and present experiences of Japanese Americans.

For more information, please contact Marjorie Kim, University Relations, (310) 206-0698.

Special Thanks to Major Donors

The Asian American Studies Center expresses appreciation to the following major donors for 50th anniversary events:

Ahmanson Foundation ($10,000)
California Historical Society ($1,000)
Nathan Cummings Foundation ($50,000)
Rockefeller Foundation ($75,000)
UCLA Chancellor's Challenge Grant in the Arts and Humanities ($100,000)
Union Pacific Foundation ($5,000)
Professor James Lubben

Understanding the Impact of Aging on Our Lives

Why do some people age well and some poorly? What are the causes of alcohol abuse among the elderly? The answers are found in the numerous research studies on elderly people done by Professor James E. Lubben, Associate Professor of Social Welfare. His research, unlike other gerontological studies, is comparative, cross-cultural research focusing on Asians.

Why gerontology? Professor Lubben explains, “I wanted to enhance vitality in old age, . . . because seniors should overcome frailty.”

Why comparative studies on Asians? While working for his doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, he met Harry Kitano, his mentor. Professor Kitano was the one who encouraged Lubben’s research focus on Asian elderly groups.

Today, Kitano is a colleague in UCLA’s School of Social Welfare. Lubben is also chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center.

It might seem odd to people that a white professor is chair of the Center’s Faculty Advisory Committee. Born and raised in Iowa, Lubben had little contact with minorities, let alone Asians. However, Lubben is interested in numerous Asian American issues. His interests are apparent in his recently published articles: “Norms and Alcohol Consumption—Japanese in Japan, Hawaii and California” (1989); and “Cross-National Comparison of the Importance of Social Networks to Quality of Life in Old Age” (1991). The latter study involved random samples of persons 60 years and older in Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and Los Angeles.

Lubben acknowledges, “When you’re not studying your own culture, you have to be sensitive to the experiences of others.” He lamented the language and cultural barriers he experiences in working with other cultures.

To assist him in overcoming these barriers, Lubben carries out his research through teamwork. For instance, Iris Chi and Harry Kitano were the “collaborative team to bring expertise”—according to Lubben—for his recent study. Chi, who is with the Department of Social Work at Hong Kong University, speaks fluent Chinese, and knows the local culture very well.

“My main task is research methodologies— sampling, designing surveys, and doing the computer work,” Lubben emphasizes.

As for the significance of studies of the elderly, Lubben mentions that social isolation could lead to health risks such as alcohol abuse. With the ever-growing population of aging people, he hopes to find some behavioral factors that can alter lives and promote healthy behavior.

Lubben also hopes to expand his current research into the area of longitudinal studies with larger samples. His interests lie not only in gerontology, but also immigration, acculturation studies, and research about the significance of social networks for all population groups.

Aging should be everyone’s concern, but Lubben believes that research in the field is just beginning. “(We live in a) youth-oriented culture (despite) aging’s impact on our lives,” he notes.

(Namju Cho is an exchange student from Yonsei University studying at UCLA.)
Professor Geraldine Padilla

Promoting Health Care for Minority Communities

By David Y. Kim

In minority and disadvantaged communities, people are going to emergency rooms for health care. The emergency rooms of Harbor-UCLA and LA County General hospitals are packed with people who wait hours for service they should be getting elsewhere.

"That's not where they should be getting service for their back pain or for their arthritis, but that's where they go because that's the only place they know where they can go," explains Professor Geraldine V. Padilla.

Professor Padilla is Associate Dean of Research at UCLA School of Nursing and a member of the Asian American Studies Faculty Advisory Committee. Through her research, she is working to improve the quality of health care for people, especially those in minority and disadvantaged communities.

"I'm very interested in health care for the disadvantaged," she states. "The people living in poor and minority communities tend to be more susceptible to diseases than middle class white America." For instance, more African American women die of breast cancer than white women. Thus, what Professor Padilla would like to see are policy changes so that poor people could receive the necessary health care.

"You need health care clinics right in the communi-

Professor Robert Nakamura

Preserving a Community's Heritage and Culture

By Julie Ha

Film can preserve a people's heritage and culture, and make those aspects accessible to an audience, according to Professor Robert Nakamura.

The associate professor at UCLA's Department of Theatre, Film, and Television teaches advanced documentary and film production workshops. He helped found Visual Communications in Los Angeles, the first Asian American media center. In addition to teaching and serving on the Visual Communications board of directors, he has made numerous films and documentaries on the Asian American experience.

Although teaching at the graduate school level affords him the luxury of working on four or five different films at the same time, Nakamura commented, "If I had to make a choice between teaching and making films, I would choose filmmaking." Nakamura admitted that his prime motivation for entering the field of filmmaking is to document and depict Asian Americans. "Otherwise," he joked, "I would have become a lawyer, like my folks wanted me to."

Nakamura's own boyhood experiences in a World War II American concentration camp inspired his first documentary, Manzanar. "I was in Manzanar when I was six years old... (in the film), I wanted to capture those feelings as a child and now as an adult," Nakamura explained. "On the other hand, as a kid... I had some fond memories of the camp, in terms of the scenery and the things I did there. As an adult, I felt anger and frustration that this took place at all."

Nakamura went on to write and direct—along with Duane Kubo—the first feature-length film by and about Japanese Americans, Hata Hata: Reise the Banner. The award-winning movie, produced by Visual Communications, traced the life of a Japanese American immigrant from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Future projects for Nakamura include a documentary on Japanese American ancestry in Hawaii. He commented, "It's just fascinating to me to see how different the Japanese American experience in Hawaii was... (they) being the majority (there)." Nakamura is also working on a multi-screen video for the Japanese American National Museum. The video uses motion picture footage shot by Issei (first-generation Japanese Americans) in the 1920s.

Nakamura agrees that the target audience of these projects is primary Asian American. "I'm beginning to believe that this society is a racist society, and... a few big box-office films are not going to change the way people think, in terms of their attitude toward people who are different," he said. "I'm learning more and more about this, and the things I did there. As an adult, I felt anger and frustration that this took place at all."

Before being recruited by the School of Nursing at UCLA, Professor Padilla worked 17 years at the City of Hope Medical Center, where she served as the director of nursing.

She received a bachelor's degree in history at Assumption College in Manila, Philippines. Her master's degree was in psychology at [Aneo Jesuit School, also in Manila. She earned her Ph.D. in psychology at UCLA.
Faculty Advisory Committee

Professor Snehendu Kar

Studying Health Risks Across Cultures

By Kathryne Cho

"I wore a tie just for you!" exclaimed Professor Snehendu B. Kar.

The very charming and charismatic scholar is teaching "Introduction to Indo-American Experience" this Spring Quarter at UCLA through the Asian American Studies Center. The class is one of the first offered about Indian communities. Professor Kar is a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee.

"After Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese and Koreans, Indians are the largest Asian immigrant population in the U.S. But most people don't know that," declares Professor Kar.

As a specialist in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education in the UCLA School of Public Health, Professor Kar discovered that "Indian women have the highest suicide rate in this country." However, he laments, "since no statistics are available, no one really talks about this phenomenon."

Professor Kar was born and raised in Calcutta, India. He received his B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Psychology from the University of Calcutta, and obtained his masters and doctoral degrees at University of California, Berkeley.

Both in India and the United States, he has founded and headed a number of significant public health organizations. He is also a recipient of several awards, including the Ford Foundation Communication and Kellogg International fellowships.

Most recently, Professor Kar was invited to Brazil as a Fulbright Scholar. There he spent six months researching the "Immigration Experience and Quality of Life: A Comparative Study of Japanese and Koreans."

"Public health is the proper indicator of quality of life," he states. "Ask someone 'are you healthy?' Depending on their answer, you'll be able to determine their physical, social and mental state."

"Health hazards among Japanese, Koreans, Whites, and other ethnic groups in the U.S. differ significantly. In Brazil, similar differences in health exist among Japanese-Brazilians (Nipo-brasileiros) and "Paulistas" (residents of Sao Paulo). Theoretically, the distinctions are linked to culture, health-related beliefs, intentions, behaviors and social interactions," explains Professor Kar.

Since Los Angeles has the largest Korean population outside of Korea and Brazil has a large Japanese immigrant community, Professor Kar will conduct research in these two regions. In conjunction, staff from Tokyo, Sao Paulo and Seoul National universities will be working with him in determining "what, why and how" differences in health risks occur.

As a world traveler, Professor Kar has gained keen understanding of culture and ethnicity. Decorating his office are a Korean doll on the shelf, photographs of Africa on the walls, and other ethnic artifacts.

This multicultural perspective is also present in his course this spring. Although the course is called "Introduction to Indo-American Experience," it is not limited to Indian culture. The focus is cross-cultural; it compares and identifies issues arising from the contact involving Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Indian cultures.

As an Asian American student from Brazil, I welcome Professor Kar to the Center and urge interested students to visit his office. Who knows, maybe he'll be wearing a tie just for you!

(Kathryne Cho is a UCLA undergraduate.)

Center Sponsors New Classes in Asian American Studies

The Asian American Studies Center is offering three new classes during Spring Quarter.

"Special Problems in Performance Techniques: Exploring Asian American Theater" is taught by Nobu McCarthy of East-West Players.

"Introduction to Indo-American Experience" is taught by Professor Snehendu Kar with teaching assistant Subhish Patil.

And "Post-World War II Japanese American History" is a student-initiated course under sponsorship of Center Director Don Nakanishi.


Overwhelming Interest in Hawaii Summer Program

Interest in the special UCLA Asian American Studies class scheduled for Hawaii this summer has been overwhelming, according to Professor Jane Takahashi, co-instructor for the course.

The eight-unit course is co-sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the American Studies Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The course is entitled "Asian Pacific American Communities in Hawaii: Critical Issues Past and Present," and will run from June 22 to July 31. The course will feature lectures, field trips, and field studies internships in local Honolulu-based Asian Pacific community organizations. A special reception will be held at UCLA in Fall 1992 for students, their families, and special guests.

Professor Takahashi said that she received more than 200 inquiries from interested students and parents for the 25 slots reserved for students in the University of California system. Due to the enormous interest in the summer program, Professor Takahashi announced that the number of slots reserved for UC students was expanded to 30, and that students selected from the program represent nearly every UC campus.

Before traveling to Hawaii, each of the 50 students will begin a mini-research project comparing a mainland Asian Pacific community with a community in Hawaii.

Professor Takahashi also announced recipients of the two complete scholarships for UCLA students for the Hawaii summer program. The scholarships were awarded to two undergraduates Robin Dong and Quy Huong Arthur Bao. Robin Dong, a sophomore, grew up in Modesto, California, and is a staff writer for the Daily Bruin newspaper. Quy Huong Arthur Bao, born in Saigon, Vietnam, is a political science major, and a member of the Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee on campus.
The Asian American Studies Center is currently sponsoring a dozen research fellows under its Rockefeller Foundation American Generations Program. These fellowships include full and part-time grants, and summer and quarterly stipends. Head of the program is Russell C. Leong, coordinator of Resource Development and Publications at our Center.

**Susette Min**

**Korean American Women—“Caught between the Sheets”**

By Namju Cho

"Caught between the Sheets"—a live multimedia microcosm of the Korean American women's cultural experience and expression.

Before anything, the title of the exhibition needs to be explained. It is Korean American women who are "caught" by the roles historically constructed for them. "Caught where? In "between the sheets," referring to the sexual allusion of bedsheets, and how Korean American women perceive their sexuality. But "caught between the sheets" also refers to notebook papers—an academic allusion to the model minority stereotype of the passive and hard-working Korean American student. Finally, the image of "sheets" also refers to what covers the bad aspects of Korean culture, such as domestic violence and eating disorders, which are quite common today among Korean American women.

Susette Min, an Art History student at UCLA, is the principal investigator for this exhibition, sponsored by a Rockefeller fellowship. "No research has been done on Korean American women, and I think there are things misconstrued that need to be clarified," she explains. She plans to interview at least thirty Korean American women about their opinions on sexuality, assimilation, and roles.

**Professor Ailee Moon**

**Understanding Intergenerational Conflict**

By Julie Ha

Professor Ailee Moon of the School of Social Welfare at UCLA is currently conducting a study on intergenerational relations among Korean Americans in Los Angeles under the Rockefeller fellows program. Before coming to UCLA, Professor Moon taught for two years at the University of Minnesota.

"The reason I came to UCLA is that I became interested in Asian American issues," she states. "Research support and interest in these issues are much greater here (than in Minnesota)."

Professor Moon is now doing pathbreaking studies on the Korean American community. One study compares the perception of Korean elderly toward abuse with African American and Anglo American elderly. The study focuses on Korean elderly who live in high-rise apartments in downtown Los Angeles.

Professor Moon describes her research findings as "disturbing." "I found that Korean elderly—in comparison to African American and Anglo American elderly—are less sensitive to and more tolerant of abusive situations involving family members," she notes.

Professor Moon is also studying intergenerational relations between Korean American parents and adolescent children. "My research," she explains, "looks at value differences between the generations, family and social life, the acculturation issue, and how each group evaluates the other."

Her research involves one hundred families, in which the parents are first-generation immigrants, and the children are 1.5 generation or second-generation Korean Americans, ages 13 to 18.

Professor John Horton

**Monterey Park—A "Pacific Rim" City?**

By David Y. Kim

The influx of Asian immigrants, primarily Chinese, into Monterey Park has had an incredible impact on the city's economy and demographics, according to UCLA Sociology Professor John Horton.

Monterey Park, which was once predominantly Anglo, in 1990 had a population of 56 percent Asian, 21 percent Latino, 12 percent Anglo, and 1 percent African American and "other." Professor Horton has been studying Monterey Park since 1988, and in recent months his research has been supported by the Rockefeller fellowship program. "It's an interesting region, because there is so much change," he explains. When "newcomers" arrived, the established residents launched an anti-immigrant, or nativist, movement, he states. There were attempts to limit the rapid growth of Asian businesses, and some residents launched an "English-only" movement. These developments brought what Horton calls "ethic politics" into the city, which has included greater inter-ethnic cooperation among Asians and Latinos.

"I am fascinated by the possibility of building a multiracial society," says Horton. "Many of the people in Monterey Park, the newcomers especially, are redefining what 'assimilation' means to America. They are demanding their right to practice their own culture and language. Through the multicultural and international perspective, they are redefining what America is."

Professor Horton is currently writing a book on Monterey Park—"Pacific Rim City"—to be published this summer.
"Tomorrow Making": Asian Pacific Americans and Redistricting

continued from page 1

Board of Equalization districts. They submitted their proposal to Governor Wilson. The governor then vetoed the proposals. From his perspective, the legislature had drawn too many districts favoring Democrats. Because of this veto, the final redistricting was assigned to three retired California Supreme Court justices—otherwise known as the Special Masters.

My participation in the process began in September 1990. I was then a second-year graduate student at the Asian American Studies Center and working as a research assistant for the Center's Public Policy Project under Professor Paul Ong of the UCLA School of Architecture and Urban Planning and Dr. Tania Azores, a research associate in Asian American Studies.

On behalf of the Center, Professor Ong, Dr. Azores, Center Director Don Nakanishi, and I began meeting with community groups. I participated as a political/demographic consultant. My task was to aid groups in the very technical process of redistricting in Los Angeles County. Little did I know then that I would actually have a hand in physically redrawing the Los Angeles County political landscape.

In the fall of 1990, I began to assist CAPAFR (Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Reapportionment). Under the guidance of Dr. Azores and Professor Ong, I helped research and write nine pieces dealing with changing demographics and the redistricting process.

In December 1990, the coalition needed a mapmaker who could work with coalition members to redraw boundaries. I volunteered. Soon after, I became a technician providing data and resources to assist community leaders in redistricting. Through the graciousness of Professor Ong and his expertise in demographics, I learned the computerized method of redrawing boundaries.

Although inexperienced, I had overwhelming responsibilities. But I enjoyed everything. I held over fifteen workshops here at our Center for community organizations about redistricting. Community leaders would tell me their concerns, and I, in turn, would attempt to translate these concerns into maps. This process was difficult and time-consuming, because often people would have unrealistic expectations. My job, then, was to show them the political realities and to suggest alternatives. Often the number of alternatives would range from three to twenty different districts.

After several months of serving as a mapmaker, I wanted to do more. I wanted to educate the public about the very timely issue of redistricting. I am not a pushy person, but somebody had to get the word out. The districts that were being redrawn would remain that way until the year 2001. Thus, I began to write articles for community newspapers, to speak at community fundraisers, and attend meetings of organizations.

Through my work with community groups, I learned that participating organizations had one main goal: to prevent their communities from being fragmented into different districts. Historically, Asian Pacific communities have been split by redistricting, thus diluting their voting strength.

In the San Gabriel Valley, the focus of concern included the cities of Rosemead, Alhambra, San Gabriel, and Monterey Park. Asian Pacific community representatives wanted to have these cities kept together in one district, so that they could coordinate political activities.

For the South Bay, the areas of concern were the cities of Carson, Gardena, the northeastern part of Torrance—the area
known as the Los Angeles Strip—and the northwestern part of Long Beach. For the past ten years, Asian Pacific Islander community organizations within Carson, Gardena, and the northeastern part of Torrance have coordinated activities, even though they have been fragmented into different districts.

In the Downtown area, the attention focused on Koreatown, Filipinotown, Little Tokyo, and Chinatown. Asian Pacific community leaders hoped to put Koreatown and Filipinotown in one district, and Little Tokyo and Chinatown in another.

How did the Special Masters—the three retired California Supreme Court justices—respond to Asian Pacific community concerns? Although their rhetoric stressed equal treatment, when it came to the final drafting of districts, two of the three focus areas—the Southbay and Downtown—were fragmented across three to five separate districts.

For Downtown, Filipinotown was cut in half, while Koreatown and Little Tokyo were left intact within Assembly district 46. Assembly district 45 encompasses the remaining portion of Filipinotown, including Chinatown and the immediate area. Although somewhat fragmented, all four Asian communities are within Senate district 22. As for the Congressional lines, Little Tokyo and a portion of Filipinotown are in district 33, while Koreatown and Chinatown and a portion of Filipinotown are in district 50.

For the South Bay, Gardena was put into Assembly district 52. Torrance is in Assembly district 53. And Carson, the LA Strip, and the northwestern part of Long Beach are in Assembly district 55. For the Senate, district 28 encompasses Torrance, Carson, the LA Strip, and the northwestern part of Long Beach. As for Congressional lines, Torrance is in district 36, while the other communities—with the exception of Gardena, which is in district 35—are in district 37.

Of the three focus communities, the San Gabriel Valley area benefitted the most. The four target cities—Rosemead, Alhambra, San Gabriel, and Monterey Park—were placed in single districts. Thus, the possibility now exists for Asians to wield a strong swing vote in any district election for a State office. There is also the possibility that an Asian candidate could win an election through bloc voting.

Overall, despite the setbacks, the participation of Asian Pacific Americans in the redistricting process is a sign of political progress. First, 1991–92 marked the first time that Asian Pacific Americans have significantly taken part in redistricting. Second, due to our participation, Asian Pacific Americans are now perceived by others as political players in the process. And third, and most important, through our participation in redistricting, we have been able to create some districts with relatively high concentrations of Asian Pacific voters. This concentration of voting strength will mean that Asian Pacific Americans will be able to exert a great deal of influence on any political candidate running for office. Indeed, political progress means political influence and political strength. It also means breaking the cycle of political apathy and disenfranchisement of Asian Pacific Americans in U.S. politics.

Finally, another significant sign of our political progress is the active coalition-building we did with the African American and Latino communities. Through dozens of meetings, our communities tried to respond to each other’s concerns. I believe that our redistricting gains as Asian Pacific Americans occurred because of the support we received from African Americans and Latinos. Indeed, through coordination of efforts, we were able to prevent others from diluting each of our group’s voting power. From this positive lesson in coalition-building, I hope that Asian Pacific Americans will continue to work with other communities for the benefit of all.

Friday, February 14, 1992, was just another Valentine’s Day for most people. Historically, this day is a time when people express their love to others. It was on that fateful Friday that I received over sixty phone calls from community organizations in Southern California. They called with jubilation in their voices. They called to thank us for our participation in redistricting, and to express their appreciation to our Center for helping to redraw district lines.

Today, I write from atop Griffith Park observatory. Scanning the city below on this clear day, I wonder many wonders. I wonder if people from our communities will now get more involved in U.S. electoral politics. I wonder if people will now utilize this window of opportunity created by our work on redistricting to find and elect viable candidates that can respond to our communities’ growing needs. I realized that through our work on redistricting, the political landscape of Los Angeles County has changed. And knowing that I had a hand in this work made me feel wonderful.

Oh, by the way, this is not the end of the story. Now I have to help community groups work on redrawing lines for the 15 Los Angeles City Council districts. Wish me luck!
Nine First-Year Students Bring New Research Interests to Our Center

Nine first-year students in our Asian American Studies graduate program bring research interests in history, inter-ethnic relations, women's studies, and film and television to our Center. The students are well on their way to completing course requirements for their degrees, according to Center Director Don Nakanishi.

Students during their first year of graduate work took three classes on critical issues in Asian American Studies taught by Professors Edward Chang, Valerie Matsumoto, and Don Nakanishi.

Sung-Eun Cho is from Seoul, Korea, and did her undergraduate work in sociology at Ewha Women's University in Seoul. She is interested in studying racial conflict, women's issues, and labor relations. "I wanted to study at UCLA and I chose Asian American Studies because I'm interested in learning about Asian Americans, especially in Los Angeles, which is an ethnically diverse city," she states.

Suzanne Joyce Lee grew up in Mill Valley, California, and completed her undergraduate work at UC San Diego. For her M.A. thesis, she is interested in writing a screenplay about interracial family relationships. "I entered the M.A. program believing that it would provide me with a non-European perspective on history, literature, and society and that it would give me a unique experience," Suzanne explains.

Stacey Hirose grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Campbell, California, and is a graduate of Santa Clara University. At UCLA, she wants to study the experiences of Japanese American draft resisters and their families during World War II. Stacey came to our M.A. program because UCLA is the only school that offered a masters' degree in Asian American Studies. "I believe the program will offer me a chance to critically research and study Asian Americans, and—if anything—the opportunity to have free lunches," she says.

Scott Kurashige is from Culver City, California, and attended University of Pennsylvania as an undergraduate. He entered our M.A. program to study Asian Pacific American history, and community and political activism. For his thesis, he is interested in writing a case study of race relations between Southeast Asians and Whites in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Emily Porcincula Lawsin was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, and did her undergraduate work in English—Creative Writing and Asian American Studies at the University of Washington. She has also worked on the staff of Seattle's International Examiner newspaper. "I came to UCLA because Los Angeles has a large Filipino American community and because I believe that the M.A. program would provide me with a supportive community of scholars both in and outside the classroom," she states. Her thesis topic concerns Filipino immigrant women's biographical experiences, 1945–1965.
Kimberlee K. Mar was born and raised in Fresno, California, and obtained her A.B. from UC Davis in Sociology with an emphasis in the Legal Justice System and Ethnic Studies. At UCLA, her thesis relates to the controversy surrounding social studies textbooks developed by UCLA History Professor Gary Nash for use in kindergarten to eighth grade. “I am researching ways to not only improve the sections (in the textbooks) on Asian Pacific Americans, but to ultimately improve public perceptions about our community,” she explains.

Tony Osuni grew up in West Los Angeles, and completed his B.A. in Art at California State University, Northridge. According to Tony, he entered our masters program “to reeducate myself on the experiences of people of color. I hope to gain a greater insight about the power structure of society, to critique it, and to understand my position in it.” For his thesis, he will develop a community-based Japanese American “soul-food” cookbook, incorporating not only recipes but also analyzing their cultural and historical significance with the help of oral history, photography, and art work.

Samuel C. Tagatac grew up in Santa Barbara, California, and did his undergraduate work at San Francisco State University. He has also taught classes in Asian American Studies. A poet, he has published his writings in Asian American classics such as Aliteweeel and Asian American Authors. “I entered the M.A. program because I believe it is in the forefront of higher education—especially relating to research and ideology—and because the program has an established record of promoting networks between academia and community,” he states.

Graduate Student Speaks Out

“A Crime Against Humanity”:
Haitian Boat People Need Our Support!

By Scott Kurashige

Asian American historians frequently cite the “push-pull” factor as the force behind Asian immigration to the United States. Social, economic and political factors have combined to push Asians from their homelands. Seeking greater opportunities in America, Asians have often faced racial prejudice and discrimination. Moreover, Asian refugees have been completely uprooted from their homelands by military dictatorships (like the Khmer Rouge) and forced to escape as “boat people.”

Today, a military coup against the democratically elected government of Haiti has created a new group of “boat people.” Like Asian American immigrants and refugees, Haitians face unbearable conditions in their homeland and racism from the U.S. government. We need to understand the global forces of racism and imperialism that oppress both Asians and Haitians alike. Indeed, much of the inspiration for the Asian American Movement in its formative stages of the 1960s and 1970s came from the linking of our domestic struggle to that of Third World liberation movements.

Ever since its 19th century slave revolt led to its establishment as the first Black nation in the Americas, Haiti has served as an unriveting model of resistance to western domination. Fearing that the spirit of Haitian resistance would spread to people of color in the U.S., American policymakers repeatedly moved to suppress the Haitian people. For much of this century, the U.S. backed the hated Duvalier (“Papa Doc” and “Baby Doc”) regime characterized by corruption and repression.

The 1991 election of liberation theologian Jean Bertrand Aristide (who received 70 percent of the popular vote) marked an unprecedented victory for peace, justice and democracy in Haiti. Aristide’s presidency brought an end to rule by military force, and his progressive policies moved to alleviate suffering of the impoverished Haitian people. But in September 1991, those who had previously benefited from the graft and despotism orchestrated a military coup that ousted Aristide. Eyewitness reports state that Haitian citizens have been subjected to random outbreaks of gunfire with 2,000 already killed since the coup.

But, because defending democracy in Haiti does not serve the economic or political interests of American business or the Bush administration, Haiti is not at the forefront of the national conscious. Bush’s words denouncing the coup have been hollow as he has eased back economic sanctions in order to protect the profits of baseball manufacturers and other corporations. In response, the New York Times criticized Bush’s behavior as “shameful complicity with a murderous dictatorship.” Support for the Haitian people in no way compares to the support given to the Emir (read “feudal monarch”) of petroleum-rich Kuwait.

We need to expose the hypocritical American foreign policy that follows a right-wing agenda instead of the principle of self-determination for all people. We also need to expose the racist double-standard being used to deny Haitian refugees asylum in the U.S. Refugees from nations the U.S. ideologically opposes (like those poor ballet dancers who fled the former Soviet Bloc) have always been accepted with wide open arms. However, the Bush administration has cynically rejected Haitians by classifying them as “economic refugees.” The hypocrisy cannot be understated. After justifying his Persian Gulf massacre by reciting Amnesty International reports in college newspapers, Bush has turned a blind eye to the same organization’s reports documenting the repression, torture and murder of Haitian citizens.

The historical experience of Asian Pacific Americans provides not only an insight into understanding the plight of Haitians, but a responsibility to speak out against injustice. Like the Haitians, our community too has suffered from racist immigration and refugee policies. Furthermore, like the Haitians, significant portions of our community have been “boat people”—refugees forced to endure violence and malnutrition on dangerously overloaded vessels when seeking refuge from governmental armed forces.

About 20,000 refugees have already fled the violence in Haiti. As you read this, the U.S. Coast Guard is forcing Haitian “boat people” to do an about-face, thereby subjecting them to death and destruction in their shattered homeland. This is a crime against humanity. In the short run, we must call for temporary asylum for Haitian refugees. In the long run, we must stand in solidarity with Third World liberation movements and demand that Aristide and the Haitian people’s revolution be fully restored.

(Scott Kurashige is a graduate student in Asian American Studies.)
UCLA Students and Community Leaders Demand Asian Pacific Language Classes

The UCLA language curriculum is Eurocentric and failing to respond to the needs of new Asian Pacific communities in Los Angeles.

That was the message of community and student leaders at a forum sponsored by the Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee April 14 at the Morgan Press Center. The forum drew 125 people.

Speakers included Warren Furutani, President of the Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District; Marissa Castro, Director of the Speaker's Office of Asian Pacific Affairs in Los Angeles; Nghi Tran, Vietnamese community leader from Orange County; and UCLA undergraduate Toi Took Thongthiraj, a Thai-American.

The program was moderated by APLCC member Cynthia Dinh, and featured a fashion show of Indian, Filipina, Thai, and Vietnamese dress.

Students and community leaders are demanding the addition of Hindi, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese languages and culture classes to UCLA's curriculum.

According to student leaders, UCLA currently offers classes in more than 90 languages—but only recognizes three Asian Pacific languages: Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

According to APLCC member Bijal Vakil, the two-year struggle to reform the UCLA curriculum has reached a critical stage.

"By the end of this academic year, two task forces (studying UCLA's language curriculum) will make recommendations to the administration," he stated.

"Also, we (APLCC) have worked with the Center for Pacific Rim Studies to submit a proposal for experimental classes in the four languages for the coming academic year through the Office of Instructional Development. We want a favorable response," Vakil added.

The APLCC campaign has received the support of the following organizations: Chancellor's Community Advisory Commission, Graduate Students Association, Undergraduate Students Activities Council, Asian Pacific Alumni, Asian Pacific American Graduate Students Association, Asian American Studies Center, Asian Pacific Coalition, and Japanese American Citizens League.

For more information, call: Quynh Nguyen (Vietnamese), (310) 836-4752; Bijal Vakil (Indian), (310) 473-9168; Joy Soriano (Filipina), (310) 474-7823; Laphone Louplor (Thai), (310) 824-3455; Elia Ta'tse (Pacific Islander), (310) 479-1675.

Ethnic-specific data for the largest Asian Pacific communities in Los Angeles County will soon be available, according to Philip Okamoto of our Center's Public Policy Project.

Based on 1990 Census data, Okamoto has begun creating maps showing population distributions for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipina, Vietnamese, Indian, Samoan, and other Asian Pacific groups in the County.

Along with the maps, Okamoto is listing the "top ten" cities of geographical concentration for each of the Asian Pacific groups in Los Angeles County.

The maps and data will be especially helpful for community groups working on funding proposals or undertaking needs' assessments.

Those interested in Okamoto's maps and data should call him at the Public Policy Project of our Center, (310) 206-8889.

Center to Sponsor Five Summer Classes in Asian American Studies

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<td>121-857-119</td>
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* Closed classes; selections for the Hawaii internship programs have already been made.

For more information, call Sandra Shin, (310) 825-2974.
More Events Announced for 50th-Year Anniversary

More cultural and educational events relating to the 50th-year anniversary of the internment of Japanese Americans have been scheduled at UCLA, according to events coordinator Gann Matsuda.

A play by Wakako Yamauchi on the internment—"12-1-A"—in association with East West Players will be performed at the Ralph Freud Playhouse, Macgowan Hall, from November 10 to 15. The performance is sponsored by UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television and UCLA Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are $13 ($9 for students).

The National Exhibition of Art Produced in the Camps will be held at UCLA’s Wight Art Gallery from October 11 to December.

For more information about these events, call Gann Matsuda, (310) 206-2169.

UCLA Students Join in Pilgrimage to Manzanar

More than 1800 people—including busloads of UCLA students—attended the 23rd annual pilgrimage to Manzanar concentration camp on April 26.

The pilgrimage this year was part of educational events observing the 50th anniversary of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Among those traveling to Manzanar was UCLA freshman Paul Mukai, age 18. "I came here just to see what it was like," he told the Los Angeles Times. The pilgrimage, he said, made him feel closer to his mother by helping him understand this keystone experience in the lives of an entire generation of Japanese Americans.

Executive Order 9066 Catalogue Slated for Second Printing

The special limited edition of the catalogue, Executive Order 9066, has nearly sold out, but plans are underway for a second printing, according to Center Director Don Nakashishi.

The catalogue by Maisie and Richard Conrat features all of the photographs from the California Historical Society’s exhibit, which was recently shown at UCLA's Wight Art Gallery.

Originally published in 1972, the 120-page catalogue had been out of print for more than a decade. It was reprinted in February 1992 by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, with funds provided by the Ahmanson Foundation and the California Historical Society.

The book can be ordered from our Center for $12.00 plus $1.00 for postage and handling. California residents should add 7.25% sales tax, Los Angeles residents 8.25%. Checks should be made payable to "Regents of UC," and sent to: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024-1546.

New Bibliography Available on Japanese American Internment

The Asian American Studies Reading Room announces publication of a new bibliography on Japanese Americans.

"Japanese Americans during World War II: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Materials Available at UCLA," compiled by Brian Niiya, is now available.

The bibliography can be purchased for $7.00. For more information, call Brian Niiya or Marji Lee of the Reading Room, (310) 825-5043.

Abiko Family Papers Donated to UCLA

In conjunction with the Asian American Studies Center, the Department of Special Collections of the UCLA University Research Library hosted a reception April 9 honoring Mrs. Lily Abiko of San Francisco to express the university's gratitude for her donation of the Abiko Family Papers.

The Abiko family was a very prominent Japanese immigrant family in San Francisco. Abiko Kyutaro (1856-1936) was an Issei pioneer who immigrated to the United States in 1885. He was a successful businessman, newspaper publisher, a highly respected community leader, and was instrumental in establishing the Yamato and Cortez colonies—two Japanese agricultural settlements in Central California. He was longtime publisher of the Nichibei Shim bun (Japanese American News) of San Francisco, the most influential Japanese immigrant daily published from 1899 to 1942. As a community leader, Abiko was at the forefront in the Japanese immigrants' struggle against the anti-Japanese exclusion movement.

His wife, Abiko Yonako (1880-1944) was a native of Tokyo, and the daughter of Tsuda Sen and Hatsu. She married Abiko Kyutaro in 1909 and came to the United States in that year. As a graduate of a private Methodist mission school, the Peereses' School, and Tsuda College—founded by her sister—Mrs. Abiko was a highly educated Issei woman. After the death of her husband in 1936, she became publisher of the Nichibei Shim bun.

The Abiko Family Papers consist primarily of Mrs. Abiko's personal papers, including her diaries (1891-1944) and correspondence (approximately one thousand letters). The collection consists of 44 archival boxes and three over-size packets. The papers constitute a rich addition to UCLA's Japanese American Research Project Collection, already recognized as the finest collection of primary sources on Japanese immigrants and their American-born descendants.

UCLA Professor Yuji Ichikawa served as master of ceremonies for the April 9 reception at UCLA. At the reception, he personally thanked Mrs. Lily Abiko. He also expressed his appreciation to his research assistant, Eiichiro Azuma—a recent graduate of the Asian American Studies M.A. program—who ably assisted him in organizing, annotating, and compiling the official registry of the Abiko Family Papers.
Center Sponsors Pangarap Filipino American Writers’ Forums and New Literary Newsletter

By Russell C. Leong

Pangarap is a Tagalog term meaning “idealism,” or “dream-making.” Pangarap is also the title of a series of literary forums sponsored by the Asian American Studies Center.

Two Filipino American Literature forums have been planned: one at California State University, Long Beach, on Saturday, April 25; and a second at California State University, Hayward, Music and Business Building, on Saturday, May 23.

The May 23 Hayward forum will feature workshops on “Teaching Filipino American Literature” by Oscar Penaranda, Marilyn Alquizola, and Luis Syquia; and “Filipino American Writing and the California Consciousness” with Al Robles, Michelle Cruz Skinner, and Jeff Tagami.

The forums are free to the public, and are co-sponsored by PEF-WEST and the Rockefeller Humanities American Generations Program. The events are funded by the California Council for the Humanities.

The forums are intended to engage Californians and Asian American writers in a creative dialogue—with Filipino American writing featured as both subject and as catalyst in an imaginative quest for expression.

According to writer Paulino Lim, “Reading Filipino American writing requires a learned mind-set, aware of the subversive aspects of the literature of a people of a former colony, or that colony’s immigrants and settlers now overseas.”

Members of the forum planning committee include: Tania Azores, Research Associate from our Center; Linda Mabatot, Executive Director of Visual Communications; Herminia Meñez, Research Associate at UCLA in Folklore; Linda Nietes, Philippine Expressions Bookstore; N. V. M. Gonzalez, Professor Emeritus of English, California State University at Hayward; Paulino Lim, Professor of English, California State University at Long Beach; Enrique dela Cruz, Assistant Director of our Center; Russell Leong, editor of Amerasia Journal; Samuel Tagatac, writer; Oscar Penaranda, writer; Anna Alves, UCLA student and Samahang Pilipino representative; and Rhonda Ramiro, former UCLA student.

The forum assistant coordinator is M. G. Bertulfo, a UCLA undergraduate.

Campus coordinators for the two forums are Efren N. Padilla of California State University, Hayward; and Paulino Lim, California State University, Long Beach.

As part of the literature events, the Center announces publication of a new literary newsletter, Pangarap: Filipino American Literature Forum, volume one, number one.

This first issue, dedicated to literary writings on Filipino and Filipino Americans, contains poetry by Northern California poet Shirley Ancheta, and Los Angeles-based Carlos Angeles, essays by Emily Lawsin and Robert B. Ito on Philippine literature, and writings by folklorist Herminia Meñez and N. V. M. Gonzalez.

A prize-winning story of Rudolfo del Rosario Victoria highlights the issue.

The Pangarap Forum is, according to co-editor N. V. M. Gonzalez, “a sampler of what those of us—mga mapangarapin (dreamers) that we are at the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA—have been at these days, studying and writing and studying yet all the more what our heritage and presence are all about.”

Funded by the California Council for the Humanities, the first issue is available free of charge by writing to Publications, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3250 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1546. Please enclose two dollars for postage and handling.

For more information about the forums or the newsletter, call Russell Leong, (310) 206-2892; or M. G. Bertulfo, (310) 825-2968.

New Book of Short Stories by N. V. M. Gonzalez to be Published


Gonzalez is Professor Emeritus of English at California State University, Hayward.

He is currently a visiting Rockefeller Fellow in the Humanities at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

In 1990, the Cultural Center of the Philippines awarded him its literature prize, and the José Rizal Pro-Patria Award.

Professor N. V. M. Gonzalez (center) conducts a writing workshop for members of Pacific Asian American Women's Writers—West at UCLA in March 1992. Surrounding Professor Gonzalez are (left to right) Joyce Nako, Passion Cummings, Mari Sunaida, and Naomi Hirahara.
Mari Matsuda
Appointed to UCLA Law School Faculty

For the first time in its forty-year history, the UCLA Law School has granted tenure, or permanent faculty appointment, to an Asian American professor.

Mari Matsuda, an authority on civil rights, hate speech and hate crimes, has been named to a faculty post in the Law School.

Professor Matsuda has previously taught at University of Hawaii and Stanford. She is co-author of the forthcoming book, Words that Wound: Critical Race Theorists Consider the Problem of Hate Speech.

“The granting of tenure to Professor Matsuda in the UCLA Law School is truly historic,” said Don Nakanishi, Director of the Asian American Studies Center. “We hope that this appointment will encourage other law schools around the country to recruit Asian Pacific American candidates. And we hope that Asian Pacific American law students will consider teaching careers.”

A reception celebrating Professor Matsuda’s appointment was held at our Center on April 4.

UCLA Law Students
Launch New Journal

UCLA law students are launching a new publication, Asian American and Pacific Islands Law Journal. Subscriptions are $25 (10 for students).

The purpose of the journal is to create a forum that will address specific legal issues and social concerns facing Asian Pacific communities.

Staff of the journal consists of Anna Y. Park, editor-in-chief; Song Oh, managing editor; Teresa S. Han and Peter Hwang, associate editors; Enrique Gutierrez, business editor; and John Erick Dimalanta, executive editor.


Also featured are transcripts from the March 7 Civil Rights conference relating to the 50th-anniversary of the internment of Japanese Americans. For more information, contact: Asian American and Pacific Islands Law Journal, UCLA School of Law, Room 1429, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

Coordinating Our Center’s Publications

Members of the Resource Development and Publications (RDP) unit of the Asian American Studies Center handle all aspects of work around books, research journals, and newsmagazines issued from our Center.


The RDP work unit consists of coordinator Russell C. Leong, senior editor of Amerasia Journal, and head of the Center’s Rockefeller American Generations project; Jean Yip, business manager and head of distribution; Glenn Omatsu, associate editor of Amerasia Journal and editor of CrossCurrents; and Mary Kao, publications assistant for desktop production and design of Amerasia Journal.

Russell Leong, born in San Francisco Chinatown, describes himself as a “Cantonese cultural worker,” and a former member of the Kearny Street Writers Workshop in San Francisco. A poet and filmmaker, he recently completed an epic poem, “In the Country of Dreams & Dust.” He shares the following lines from the poem with the readers of CrossCurrents:

Rising, rising, rising
we migrants, mosquitoes, malcontents
do hereby defy the Qing Emperor . . .

Jean Yip was born in Rangoon, Burma, and during her early years lived in a few cities throughout China, picking up seven dialects. Except for a sojourn of five years in Sydney, Australia, she lived in Hong Kong from 1951 until immigrating to the United States in 1976. Jean loves music and books. She went to a conservatorium of music and majored in piano. She continues to enjoy playing music. Notwithstanding, what she most cherishes is having the experience of bringing up her three children.

Mary Kao is married, with two children—Malcolm, age 14, and Valerie, 11. She earned a B.A. in Pictorial Arts from UCLA in 1971. She has worked at our Center for the past five years, and is responsible for desktop publishing of Amerasia Journal. According to Mary, “my main creative output has been raising my children.”