The Newsletter of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Crosscurrents

Crosscurrents from the Crosscurrents Newsletter

Civil Liberties Grants

Center-Affiliated Scholars Win

$5 Million Civil Liberties Fund Provides Grants for Education and Research

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American Studies for Spring Quarter

Center Offers 23 Classes in Asian American Studies

Check out the Center's website: www.americanstudies.ucla.edu
Searching for Roots
in an Ethnic "Homeland"

A Recent UCLA Graduate Visits Korea and Transforms into a "Banana-of-a-New Type"

By Sarah Chee

Bananas are very expensive in Korea. They used to be incredibly expensive a few years ago. A friend of mine told me how he used to love bananas, but of course his family couldn't afford them in Korea. The first thing his family did when they came to the U.S. was go to the grocery store and buy a big bag of bananas. He said that he ate so many of them he felt sick and could not eat bananas for years afterward.

Banana has another meaning, as I'm sure many of you are aware. I know when I first moved to L.A. from Arizona I was called a "banana" almost everyday by other Asian Americans for the first year of high school. It means a person who is yellow on the outside and white on the inside. For years, I tried to get rid of the stigma attached to being a "banana." Particularly during my undergraduate years at UCLA, I went to great lengths to "look" more Korean, "act" more Korean, learn the Korean language and history, etc. I knew I finally succeeded — by becoming what I'll call a "lemon" (yellow on the outside, yellow on the inside) — when people in Korea thought I was a native Korean. It gave me great satisfaction. I felt like the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland — content and full of myself.

Having been in Korea for a two years now, I have come to realize that I can never be a true "lemon." In other words, I can never be a completely "native" Korean. And in a startling revelation, I realized that I don't want to be.

Recently, a few Korean Americans working in the human rights field in Korea met to talk about forming an informal group where "Kyopos" (Koreans living overseas) could meet and study and find out more information about the movement. We had all experienced similar feelings of isolation and repeated urgings to act more "Korean" and be more "Korean." We discussed a name for ourselves, and as a joke one person said, "How about 'Bananas'?” In my own heart, this was the somewhat painful but truthful realization that we can never rid ourselves of the "American" side of us, for better or worse. So that is what we are, the "bananas," and what was once a term of negativity and ostracization has now come to truly represent what we are.

For those who go "back" to your countries of ethnic origin, looking for your roots, remember that finding yourself is a state of mind. And most definitely a process. People are constantly changing, and we are only a sum of the experiences and influences that other people have had on our lives. Don't try to change for others. Look carefully within yourself, and if there is something that needs to be changed, change it. Don't let culture dictate who you are or who you should be.

(Sarah Chee is a recent graduate from UCLA, where she was chairperson of KAUSES (Korean American United Students for Education and Service) and a student assistant in the Student/Community Projects unit of the Asian American Studies Center. She is now working on international human rights issues in Korea.)

Center Honored for Achievements and Community Service

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center recently was honored for its achievements and service to the Asian Pacific community by the Asian American Architecs/Engineers Association at its 19th Annual Awards Banquet and by the Los Angeles chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans.

At the awards' banquets of both organizations, Center Director Don Nakanishi accepted the recognition on behalf of the Center.

"It was a privilege to accept the awards on behalf of the Center," said Nakanishi. "All of us, including the thousands of people who have helped develop the Center over its 28-year history, can share these honors."
Center Acquires Important Archive on Asian American Movement

The Asian American Studies Center has acquired an important archive documenting the beginnings of the Asian American Movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s and the birth of Asian American Studies.

Steve Louie of San Francisco has donated this archive to the Center. His collection consists of Asian American Movement newspapers, newsletters, pamphlets, posters, buttons, and other materials. The collection will eventually be microfilmed and made available to researchers studying the Asian American Movement.

In 1970, while an undergraduate at Occidental College in Los Angeles, Steve was one of a handful of students to win a prestigious Richter fellowship which enabled him to travel and research the early stages of the Asian American Movement. For the next year, he gathered materials from around the country, while participating in Movement activities in Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco.

Eventually, he settled in San Francisco where he worked for several years with the Wei Min She organization ("Serve the People" organization) in Chinatown and the U.S.-China Friendship Association.

He continued to collect materials through the late 1970s and then carefully preserved what he collected in his home.

Among materials in the Steve Louie Asian American Movement Collection are:
- A complete set of Wei Min newspapers, published in San Francisco in the early 1970s, representing one of the first Asian American Movement publications.
- The "first issues" of several other Asian American Movement publications, including Gidra of Los Angeles, Red Guard Community News of San Francisco, Getting Together of New York, Rodan of San Francisco, and New Dawn of San Francisco.
- A collection of student newsletters and course proposals from various campuses around the nation, documenting the birth of Asian American Studies in the late 1960s and early 1970s.
- Early newspapers of the Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA) from UC Berkeley, describing the Third World Liberation Front strikes at both UC Berkeley and San Francisco State College, which gave rise to the nation's first Asian American Studies programs.
- Newsletters and newspapers from high school organizing projects involving Asian American youth in San Francisco and Oakland in the early 1970s.
- A collection of buttons from Asian American Movement organizations and community struggles.

According to Louie, "These newspapers and other documents really give a sense of what the Movement was all about: it was a mass movement involving hundreds of people, not simply college students but also workers, prisoners, high school students, and community residents. It was a very political movement, linking community issues to international issues. I strongly believe that the legacy continues today in the continuing fight for justice. My hope is that by sharing this collection with young people today, I will be able to help them connect current struggles with past ones."

According to Center Director Don Nakanishi, the newly-acquired collection will serve as the basis for building a larger archive on the Asian American Movement. The Center, for example, has already acquired and begun cataloging materials relating to the anti-Marcos movement in the U.S. through the efforts of Assistant Director Enrique Dela Cruz.

"Although the Asian American Movement occurred less than three decades ago, it is 'distant history' for many students today who are nevertheless very interested in learning about it," said Center Director Don Nakanishi. "Steve's collection will enable students and researchers to see the primary documents from that time period. This is a very valuable archive, and we thank Steve for donating it to our Center."

Steve Louie to Teach UCLA Class in Spring

During Spring Quarter, Steve Louie will co-teach an undergraduate class at UCLA on "The Asian American Movement." The course will focus on the legacy of the Movement, linking past struggles to current ones, especially those involving students. Co-teaching the course with Louie is Glenn Omatsu of the Center's staff.

The two instructors have created a 216-page Reader consisting of photocopied pages of newspapers, newsletters, leaflets, and pamphlets drawn from Steve Louie's collection. The syllabus is on the Center's homepage (www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc).

By the conclusion of Spring Quarter, students taking this class will be expected to hold a community forum sharing what they have learned, especially with students from other campuses.
Expanding and Diversifying Our Center’s Curriculum

Professors Fan and Takeuchi Chart a New Course for Asian American Studies at UCLA

By Raul Ebio

Two professors from vastly different backgrounds will oversee the Asian American Studies Center’s curriculum and degree programs as we move into the next millennium.

Professor Cindy Fan of the Geography Department and Professor David Takeuchi of the Neuropsychiatric Institute will serve as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the Center’s Interdepartmental Program (IDP). Both are members of the Center’s Faculty Advisory Committee.

"Professors Fan and Takeuchi," said Public Health Professor Shenehdu Kar, who served as IDP chair for the past two years, "received unanimous and enthusiastic support from their colleagues in the IDP in being elected to lead our teaching program."

Center Director Don Nanakoshi, who served previously as IDP vice chair, added: "We are truly privileged to have two stellar scholars, who have a passion for undergraduate teaching and graduate training to be at the helm of our IDP. We're all looking forward to working closely with them."

The two new IDP leaders see their mission as stabilizing, expanding, and diversifying the curriculum in Asian American Studies, which currently consists of more than sixty undergraduate classes and a dozen graduate offerings, enrolling nearly 3,000 students annually. The Center currently has the nation’s only M.A. program in Asian American Studies, and offers one of the few undergraduate majors in the U.S. There are also hundreds of UCLA students who pursue a specialization/minor in Asian American Studies.

For Professors Fan and Takeuchi, the first order of business is to increase and stabilize IDP’s funding. "We should work toward a more permanent commitment from the University as far as our IDP," states Professor Fan. "We are really offering a lot of undergraduate classes, and the M.A. program is treasured by our students."

Professor Takeuchi adds, "We are very underfunded. A lot of resources from other Center activities, such as research, are now used to support our teaching program, and that should change. We need to convince the Administration to provide more resources."

The second order of business is to establish an institutional identity for the IDP. Professor Takeuchi observes, "[Asian American Studies] is at a stage right now where it’s still trying to find its place at UCLA. So, I think we need to solidify that base. We want to maintain the synergy between the IDP and the rest of the Center’s programs. That has worked really well. At the same time, the IDP should create its own identity."

Both professors share the desire to diversify course offerings. On the one hand, Asian American Studies classes should have a more global perspective, according to Professor Takeuchi. On the other hand, there should be more courses that encourage cross-cultural discourse. "I would support efforts towards more collaboration and intellectual exchange with other Ethnic Centers and Ethnic Studies Programs," states Professor Fan.

Professor Fan was born and raised in Hong Kong and chose Geography as her focus because “[Geography] was exciting to me; I felt like I was able to leap out of the classroom and out of Hong Kong to get to know other places, people, and cultures.”

Enduring the loss of her mother at a young age and dealing with her father’s absence due to his work on ships that took him away for months at a time, Professor Fan was raised by her granduncle. Early in life, she focused on education.

That emphasis led her to pursue a master’s degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and then brought her to Ohio State University. She still loves the Buckeyes and boasts of their spectacular, dramatic comeback victory against Arizona State University in the Rose Bowl this past January.

After her studies at OSU, Fan opted for a faculty position in the big city of Los Angeles. “I think UCLA has one of the best Geography programs in the country,” she declares.

Professor Fan, who currently serves as graduate adviser in the Geography Department, has several major interrelated areas of interest in teaching and research that focus on urban and regional development, social inequality, population movements, and ethnicity in the U.S. and China. A "rising star" in the field of Geography, she has used advanced spatial modeling techniques and quantitative methods to examine topics ranging from economic development..."
and migration in Guangdong Province, China, to ethnicity in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Professor Fan has been part of the Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee but wanted to participate in Center activities more intensely.

"My identity as an Asian American is becoming stronger and stronger. I care more than before about our community," she states.

"Professor Fan brings an extraordinary array of talents, interests, and life experiences to the Asian American Studies IDP," said Dr. Enrique Dela Cruz, the Center's Assistant Director and Curriculum Coordinator of the IDP. "She is well aware of the contemporary Asian and Pacific immigrant experience in multiethnic America, as well as the dynamic transnational linkages that are being forged between Asian American communities and Asian homelands. She will take the IDP in new and vibrant directions."

Professor David Takeuchi, the new IDP vice chair, was born and raised in Honolulu, whose population is about 70 percent Asian American. He earned his B.A. and M.A. in Sociology from the University of Hawaii but decided after his masters to "drop out of school" during the turbulent 60s and 70s to gain more "real world" education. He spent the next ten years doing research in community-based organizations and programs. He eventually went back to earn his Ph.D.

Although his academic training has been in Sociology, with an emphasis on education, his interest in health issues began toward the end of his studies. "I participated in a Native Hawaiian Health Project that changed my whole orientation toward what I wanted to do. Instead of focusing on education, I really got interested in issues of health," he recounts. "We had community people and scholars working together. It was a nice synergy focused on producing an important document which made recommendations to change health care for Native Hawaiians."

His interest in community issues continued with his participation in the Bruce Yamashita campaign for justice during the 1980s. Yamashita was discharged two days before graduating from Marines' Officers Candidate School. Had he graduated, he would have been given the rank of Captain.

Professor Takeuchi’s role in the landmark campaign was to participate in a research team that investigated the data on minorities in the military. It was the research team’s findings that helped to turn the tide in Yamashita’s favor.

Professor Takeuchi also sees his current work as making a connection with the community. He recently received a grant to investigate the mental health problems of Chinese Americans. He hopes the results of this study will provide insight into the kinds of services needed for the mentally ill. He also is investigating the effects of discrimination on Chinese and Filipino Americans. "I find [Mental Health] a very exciting field. People are beginning to appreciate looking at racial and cultural issues."

So, Professor Cindy Fan and Professor David Takeuchi come to our Center from vastly different backgrounds. However, with their shared commitment to Asian American Studies, they will be able to address the goals of stabilizing, expanding, and diversifying our Center's graduate and undergraduate curriculums.

Today, with a new Chancellor entering UCLA, our IDP heads have tremendous tasks before them. But if their past work is any indication, the teaching program in Asian American Studies is in very good hands.

(Raul Ebi is Assistant Coordinator of the Asian American Studies Center Reading Room and Library.)

Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee for 1996-97

Don Nakanishi, Director
Education
James Lubben, Chair
Social Welfare
Robert Nakamura, Associate Director
Film & Television
Pauline Agbayani-Siewert
Social Welfare
Emil Berkanovic
Public Health
Lucie Cheng
Sociology
King-Kok Cheung
English
Clara Chu
Library & Information Science
Cindy Fan
Geography
Nancy Harada
Medicine-GRECC
Wei-Yin Hu
Economics
Yuji Ichikawa
Asian American Studies/History
Marjorie Kagawa-Singer
Public Health
Jerry Kang
Law
Snehendra Kar
Public Health
Harry Kitano, Emeritus
Social Welfare
Vinay Lal
History
Jinxi Ling
English
David Wong Louie
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Mitchell Maki
Social Welfare
Takashi Makinodan
Medicine-GRECC
Valerie Matsumoto
History
Ailee Moon
Social Welfare
Kazu Nihira
Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Sciences
Paul Ong
Urban Planning
William Ouchi
Business
Geraldine Padilla
Nursing
Kyeyoung Park
Anthropology
Michael Salman
History
Shu-mei Shih
East Asian Languages & Cultures
David Takeuchi
Psychiatry
James Tong
Political Science
Cindy Yee-Bradbury
Psychology
Henry Yu
History
Min Zhou
Sociology
Today’s Student Assistants at Our Center Are Tomorrow’s Community Leaders

They answer the phones, type up envelopes, photocopy reports and letters, and serve as receptionists greeting visitors to the Asian American Studies Center. They’re our work-study students. They work as student assistants in the Center’s Main Office, the Reading Room, Student/Community Projects, and Publications Distribution Office.

These students work at our Center while taking a full load of classes. And — if history is indication — following their graduation from UCLA, they will join the ranks of leaders of the Asian American community in the fields of law, public policy, business, and advocacy.

The roster of past student assistants from the Asian American Studies Center reveals a cadre of highly talented individuals. Most credit their early association with Asian American Studies as helping them achieve later goals.

One former receptionist in the Center’s Main Office in the late 1980s — Nerissa Mogaja — currently is a program administrator for the Asian Pacific Health Care Venture in Los Angeles. Nerisa — as she was known back then — used to answer the phones and open the mail for the Center Director and Assistant Director. Today, she is helping to oversee the opening of a new major health clinic in Hollywood under auspices of the Asian Pacific Health Care Venture.

Matthew J. Endo, another former student assistant in the Center’s Main Office in the late 1980s, is currently pursuing a career in Japan as an executive in the corporate world. Matt works grueling 14-hour days five days a week, and then continues his work week by teaching English in his spare time.

A former student assistant in the Center’s Student/Community Projects unit — Mark Pulido — went on to become UCLA’s first Filipino American student body president. Today, he is completing a master’s degree in Public Policy from the University of Chicago. He is planning to return to Southern California to find a position that will enable him to use his leadership talents and his expertise relating to public policy.

Sarah Chee worked in the Student/Community Projects office as an undergraduate in the early 1990s. She also served as chairperson of KAUSES (Korean American United Students for Education and Service). Today, she is in Korea working on international human rights issues. Recently, she was chosen by a Korean organization to join a select group of people from around the world for a human rights training program in Geneva, Switzerland.

Two more recent student assistants are Maria V. Ventura and Lauren Seng. As undergraduates in the early 1990s, both worked for several years in the Center’s Main Office as receptionists. Through their association with Asian American Studies, both became active in campus organizations. Maria served as Director of UCLA’s powerful Asian Pacific Coalition. Currently, she works in the Asian American Studies Center as Curriculum Assistant. Lauren, who was a leader of CAPSA (Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action) as an undergraduate, is now completing her final year at UCLA Law School. She hopes to use her education in public interest law, helping new immigrants and low-income workers.

Today’s cadre of student assistants at our Center share the same talents and commitments as their predecessors. So, a word of advice to visitors to the Asian American Studies Center: the next time you see one of our student assistants answering a phone or asking how they can help you, please remember — you are meeting a future campus and community leader.

A profile of each of our Center’s current work-study student assistants follows. The profiles were provided by supervisors in their respective offices:

The Center’s Main Office at 3230 Campbell Hall is the workplace for five undergraduate student assistants. There, they work under a number of people, including Cathy Castor of Center Management. Cathy describes the five student assistants in the following ways:

Malcolm Kao is in his second year at UCLA. He is an undeclared major but specializing in Asian American Studies. He loves to write and also plays basketball in his spare time. Malcolm is the first “third generation” employee in our Center. His grandmother, Elsie Osajima, worked in Center Management for 20 years before her retirement; his mother, Mary Kao, currently works as production designer for Amerasia Journal.

Princeton Kim is a fourth-year student majoring in Political Science and History with a specialization in Business Administration.

Mindy Ko is a third-year Sociology major with a specialization in Asian American Studies. She is working at our Center to increase her knowledge about Asian American issues and community concerns. Currently, she is working with Susan Suh on the National Korean American Studies Conference.

Amy Luu is a second-year student majoring in Political Science and Asian American Studies. She is a leader of CAPSA (Concerned Asian Pacific American Students for Action). Recently she traveled to Sacramento with Asian Pacific American community leaders to defend immigrant rights against cutbacks proposed by politicians.
Informational Meeting on New Asian American Studies Major Draws Big Crowd

More than sixty undergraduates recently packed a meeting room for the First Annual Information Meeting for Asian American Studies. The meeting focused on undergraduates who are interested in majoring and minoring in the field.

According to Meg Malaya Thornton who coordinated the event, the meeting addressed career and graduate school opportunities for those majoring in Asian American Studies, scholarships, internship openings in Asian Pacific Islander communities, and counseling activities.

In addition, students learned about the new Asian American Studies undergraduate association as well as recent course additions for Spring Quarter.

Special guest speaker was Social Welfare Professor Mitch Maki, who teaches an undergraduate seminar in Asian American Studies on the Japanese American redress and reparations movement.

Professor Kyeyoung Park
Wins Russell Sage Foundation Fellowship

Professor Kyeyoung Park of Anthropology and Asian American Studies has just been selected for a prestigious Russell Sage Fellowship, and will be spending the 1997-98 academic year at the foundation’s headquarters in New York City completing her second book.

Professor Park’s first book — titled The Korean American Dream: Immigrants and Small Business in New York City — is an ethnographic study of Korean immigrants in Queens, New York, and will soon be published by Cornell University Press.

The Russell Sage Foundation supports social research as a means to improve social and living conditions in the U.S. In recent years, it has focused on the social conditions resulting from rapid economic restructuring with a particular emphasis on scholarship relating to workers, new immigrants, and ethnic and racial minorities.

Professor King-Kok Cheung Edits New Book on Asian American Literature

An Interethnic Companion to Asian American Literature, edited by King-Kok Cheung, has been published by Cambridge University Press. It is available in both hardback (ISBN 0521-44512-1) and paperback (0-521-44790-9).

Professor Cheung holds a joint appointment in the UCLA English Department and Asian American Studies.


The contributors to the new volume are Oscar V. Campomanes, King-Kok Cheung, Donald C. Goellnicht, N. V. M. Gonzalez, Ketu H. Katrak, Elaine H. Kim, Rachel C. Lee, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Jinqi Ling, Stephen H. Sumida, Monique Truong, Sauling Cynthia Wong, and Stan Yogi.
First-Year M.A. Students Address the "Politics of Representation"

This year’s entering class in the Asian American Studies Center’s masters degree program consists of 12 students with research interests focusing on literature, history, arts, film, and the humanities.

"With the exception of two social scientists, this group will examine the politics of representation through art and culture," said Graduate Advisor Enrique Dela Cruz.

During their first year in our M.A. program, students are taking a number of required courses, including the three-quarter graduate core sequence relating to Asian American history, contemporary issues, and research strategies taught by Professors Henry Yu, Kyeyoung Park, and Don Nakanishi, respectively.

A profile of each of our first-year graduate students follows:

Jennifer Lee Anderson was born and raised in Irvine, California, and received her B.A. in Ethnic Studies from UC San Diego in 1994. After graduation, she interned at California State University, Fullerton, and UC Irvine to help develop Asian American-related programs at both campuses. "With my strong personal and professional interest in Asian American Studies, I wanted to continue my education in a supportive, interdisciplinary program," she stated. "In the M.A. program, I've received a high level of faculty support so far and this will help me achieve my research goals and pursue my interests in both the academic and community realms." Jennifer’s research focuses on identity development of multiracial Asian Americans. She is also currently developing a project to study the intergenerational succession patterns of Asian American businesses.

Virginia Kay Calipusan Dumiao had a father who was in the U.S. Navy, so she was born in Virginia and lived in California, Hawaii, and Seattle. She graduated from Washington State University, where she was a founding member of the Filipino American Students Association and the Asian Pacific American Alumni Association. She worked as a volunteer with the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle, the Asian and Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center and the Filipino American National Historical Society. She also worked with Representative Velma Veloria on legislation relating to the "mail-order bride" industry. Kay is interested in documenting the history of the Filipino American community in Seattle, "Hopefully by using the information I learned in John Esaki’s video ethnography class here at UCLA." "With my educational background in business, I had thought that the corporate world was where I would be headed, but quickly realized that my interests and talents really did not lie in that arena," she stated. "I'm better suited for community issues. I am also interested in teaching."

Teresa Elacio Ejanda was born in the Presidio in San Francisco, raised in Vallejo, and graduated from Sonoma State University. Prior to entering our M.A. program, she worked on campaigns relating to Proposition 187 and Proposition 209 and was a community organizer for Filipinos for Affirmative Action. She also participated in the campaign to release Filipino overseas worker Sarah Balabagan from a United Arab Emirates prison. Her research interests center on Philippine and Filipino American history. "The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is the heart of Asian American Studies," she said. "It's where the research begins, and it's a clearinghouse for information. I plan to take full advantage of these resources."

Lynn Mie Itagaki was born in Honolulu but grew up in Palos Verdes in Southern California. She graduated from Harvard College in 1996 with a degree in English and American literature and wrote a senior thesis on Maxine Hong Kingston's 'Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book.' Currently, Lynn is researching Cynthia Kadohata's 'In the Heart of the Valley of Love' and "incorporating issues of postmodernist critical theory and the transnational/ diasporic condition" into the analysis. "I wanted to return to Los Angeles for graduate work because I feel this will provide a unique perspective on Asian American issues," said Lynn. "After all, L.A. is the quintessential postmodern city."

Leslie Ito was born and raised in Pasadena. She did her undergraduate work at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, where she was one of the founding sisters and co-chairs of the campus Asian American socio-political organization. Leslie was an intern with Visual Communications and the Japanese American National Museum, and is currently working part-time at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo. "I entered the M.A. program to get a strong understanding of Asian American issues," she stated. "I hope to use my knowledge to become an arts administrator. I believe that visual and performing arts are not only vital for Asian Pacific Islanders for cultural preservation but, more importantly, a tool for education." For her research thesis, she is studying Nisei women and the student relocation movement during the wartime internment.

Nancy Jin Kyung Kim was born in Korea but raised in Southern California as part of the "1.9 generation." She did her undergraduate work at UC Santa Cruz, where she was part of the "fighting Banana Slugs." She majored in American Studies with an Ethnic Studies emphasis; taught a student-directed seminar, "Building Coalitions Between African American and Korean American Communities"; and participated in APSU (Asian Pa-
cific Islander Student Union), California's statewide student network. Prior to entering our M.A. program, she worked as a student affairs officer at Pomona College's Asian American Resource Center. Her research centers on issues of leadership development of Asian American women in student of color coalitions. She plans to teach Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies and possibly pursue a career in administration in Student Affairs.

**Naoko Masuda** was born in Japan, grew up in Fukui, and did her undergraduate work in Tokyo. She came to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center to pursue graduate work “because there are so many good faculty members here and excellent research materials. I expect the program to offer me the opportunity to understand Asian American issues from an interdisciplinary approach.” Naoko's main research interests concern interethnic relations, especially between Japanese Americans and other minority groups.

**Derek Mateo** was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Palos Verdes. He completed a B.A. in Asian American Studies at UCLA in 1996. He is active with an Asian American theater troupe, “Lapu, the Coyote That Cares,” that he co-founded at UCLA. He has directed several performances for the group on the UCLA campus, which have attracted standing-room-only audiences of students. “I entered the M.A. program to better develop my knowledge of Asian American Studies and to further develop my interests in the area of Asian American film and television,” he said.

**Sean Mizuno** was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Alta Loma, which he describes as “a white, middle-class suburb in the San Berdo mountains.” He completed his undergraduate work at UC Santa Cruz. Sean is interested in research issues of educational reform, Japanese American history, and Asian American religion. “I entered the M.A. program to immerse myself in Asian American issues and issues, to surround myself with others who are passionate about the subject, and to learn how to best utilize the knowledge to serve our community,” Sean stated.

**Susan Nakaoka** was born in Los Angeles and grew up in the suburb of Montebello. She received her B.A. in Sociology and History from UCLA and worked as director of the Ramona Gardens community service center in Boyle Heights providing social services in public housing. “I think the M.A. program will allow me to study things I'm passionate about while giving me a base of knowledge in Asian American issues so that I can improve ethnic and racial relations on a broader scale than before,” she stated. Susan is the first student in our program to pursue a joint degree in Social Welfare. Her research interests center on studying the concentration camp experience through the perspectives of Nisei women who became activists. Susan is a single parent, the mother of one-and-a-half-year-old Grant. “Before applying to this program,” said Susan, “I was almost discouraged by reading through the past two years of graduate student biographies in CrossCurrents. All of the students seemed so much more capable and advanced academically than I was. Maybe some single parent will read my biography here and realize that they could be here, too!”

**Steve Yao-Chue Wong** was born in Los Angeles (according to him: September 20, 4670) and grew up in Santa Monica. He completed his undergraduate work at UCLA with a degree in Art and a specialization in Asian American Studies. Prior to entering the M.A. program, he produced art work addressing issues of race and ethnicity. He was also active in the garment workers' campaign for justice against garment retailer and manufacturer Jessica McClintock. “I entered the M.A. program because there is a lack of research about Asian Pacific Islander artists,” Steve stated. He is interested in researching “the relationship between multicultural artists who discuss issues of race, gender, and sexuality to mainstream arts institutions that ghettoize and marginalize them in their high art discourse.” He also wants to make art more accessible to the community. “Currently, I am a Fearless Vampire Killer pretending to be an academic and a 'patato,'” he added.

**Ellen D. Wu** was born in Indiana and holds a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in History from Indiana University. As an undergraduate, she was active with the Asian American Association and MAASU (Midwest Asian American Students Union) and was founder and first president of the first Asian American sorority in the Midwest, Kappa Gamma Delta. She has several research interests: naming preferences and patterns of Asian Americans, the Asian experience in the Midwest, Asian American “Greeks” organizations, and the Chinese American experience, including what she terms “the infamous ‘love boat’ (i.e., Chinese American youth tours to Taiwan).” She would also like to co-write an Asian American “choose your own adventure” book. “I consider myself a classic Generation X'er in that I'm never quite sure what I'm doing,” said Ellen. “The M.A. program here will hopefully provide me with a better understanding of my personal unknown as a stepping stone for a future Ph.D. program.”

**First-year Graduate Students, front row (from left to right):** Ellen Wu, Nancy Kim, Steve Wong, Leslie Ito; second row, Sean Mizuno, Kay Dumiao, Naoko Masuda, Teresa Ejanda; back row, Susan Nakaoka, Derek Mateo, Jennifer Lee Anderson, Lynn Itagaki.
UCLA and Community Groups Plan First Korean American Studies Conference for April 25-26

By Princeton Kim

Students' lives are dictated by the academic demands of a college career, the financial pressures of young adulthood, and extracurricular activities. We find it difficult to devote time and energy toward any type of community service or volunteer activity. Like many others, I try my best to just stay afloat — going to class, studying for midterms, working a job, and occasionally participating in a student organization or service activity. However, for the past six months, I have been fortunate to be a volunteer for a project which has molded community service, education, and career training into one.

My good fortune began when I approached Professor Don Nakanishi, Director of the Asian American Studies Center, about an independent study. He told me about the National Korean American Studies Conference (NKASC), which is sponsored by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center, Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA), and the Korean Youth and Community Center (KYCC). This conference is bringing together scholars and community leaders, on both a local and national level. Organizations such as Radio Korea, Korea Times, the National Association of Korean Americans (NACA), Korean American Journalists Association (KAJA) and Asian Pacific Network (APANET) are also sponsoring NKASC. This conference addresses such fundamental issues as improving race relations between Korean Americans and other ethnic/racial communities in the U.S., reviewing the impact of the 1992 L.A. civil unrest, and planning an effective program to promote economic stability, political empowerment, and social welfare.

Yet, as a student and a conference volunteer, I believe the issues that set NKASC apart from other Korean American conferences are the reasons underlying my involvement. NKASC will be a special opportunity for professors, students and community leaders to work together to identify common problems and discuss solutions involving Korean American Studies. By building the links between different sectors of the Korean American population, we are striving to create a solid foundation for leadership.

This project has taken a lot of time, effort, dedication and personal sacrifice. There have been times when the work seemed daunting and the pressures overwhelming. But from a student's point of view, I have learned to handle tasks which I never dreamed would be part of my college education. I have helped coordinate communication involving professors from almost every California campus. I have worked with community leaders from national organizations to organize press conferences. Students, like myself, are working day and night to make sure that every aspect of this conference is perfect. I have learned about creating web sites, setting up simultaneous transmission via the internet, carrying out publicity, and dealing with the rigors of organizing a workplan that spans nearly a year. I have learned to work with both ethnic and mainstream media — not merely as a student doing community service but as a young professional. In other words, I have been given the responsibility and have acquired many of the management, advertising and marketing skills which are impossible to learn in a classroom. These are the rewards that have kept me going, the rewards coming from hard work.

In addition, I have not only learned about myself, but about my own community. I witnessed first hand the lack of funding for community projects, the condition of housing projects in Los Angeles and the endless obstacles facing people striving for a better life. The most valuable lessons — and the most heartbreaking were the personal stories of community members. As the English language media coordinator for NKASC, I have heard stories of crippling financial loss, community anger, individual frustration, and seemingly hopeless despair following the 1992 L.A. unrest. Our conference will be a means for community members to voice these concerns. NKASC is a way that we can bring the Korean American community together.

I, like many others, believed the only damage from the 1992 Los Angeles unrest was the physical destruction in the inner-city. I, like many others, could see no lesson to be learned — no reason for hope. I knew absolutely nothing of the countless lives which were destroyed, as family businesses lay broken beneath piles of ash. I never would have imagined that such a destructive episode could bring a community together.

I have personally gained from my work with NKASC, and I know that academics and community members will find the invaluable rewards by attending this event. I encourage my peers, educators, and community leaders to attend.

(Princeton Kim is majoring in Political Science and History with a specialization in Business Administration.)

National Korean American Studies Conference

When: April 25-26, 1997

Where: Radisson-Wilshire Hotel in L. A. Koreatown

Registration

Student/Individual $30
Community Organization $50
Faculty/Business $75

NKASC, c/o KYCC
680 S. Wilton Place
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(213) 365-7400, ext. 114

Conference Coordinator Susan Suh (center) and UCLA student volunteers discuss conference arrangements.
UCLA to Host Pilipino Studies Conference May 2-3

"Pilipino Americans: Sharing Our Visions for the 21st Century" is the theme of the Third Annual Pilipino Studies Conference to be held May 2-3 at UCLA's Ackerman Union.

The UCLA host committee includes staff, graduate and undergraduate students from the Asian American Studies Center, Samahang Pilipino, Pilipino American Graduate Students Association, and Professors Pauline Agbayani-Siewert and Geraldine Padilla.

The conference will bring together scholars, researchers, professionals, students, artists, and community members from around the nation. The conference will feature academic papers, panel presentations, and musical, art, and creative forms of expression.

Last year's Pilipino Studies conference, held at UC Berkeley, examined the historical legacies of the 1896 Revolution for Pilipino Americans today.

"As we transition into the 21st century, we find the same conditions that shaped our communities a century ago continuing to pose challenges," said conference planner Annalissa Herbert.

"How are we as a community preparing to meet these challenges? In light of today's political climate, what strategies are we developing? This conference seeks to bring together the diverse voices within the academy and within the broader Pilipino American community to share and shape our visions for the next century."

Panel topics include the following:
• Public Policy: How does public policy form and transform our community? What is the impact of Proposition 209, Proposition 187, and immigration reform on our community?
• Community Building: What challenges arise from differences in perspectives between U.S.-born and foreign-born on nationalism, nationhood, and the meanings of community? How do we bridge the gaps (politics, ideology, racism, class, and gender and sexuality) within our community?
• Politics and Empowerment: Where have we been and where are we going? How do we encourage participation in U.S. electoral politics? How are we reshaping our political reality through grassroots efforts?
• Healthcare Issues: What are the health problems facing our community? How do we empower our health care professionals?
• Pilipino Family: How has the Pilipino family adapted to American society? What are the generational and intergenerational issues?
• Youth Issues: What are the visions that youth have for the 21st Century? How do we develop critical leadership among the youth in order to address community issues?
• Gender Issues: How are men and women's roles constructed within the Pilipino American community? How do we articulate and rearticulate Pilipino American feminisms? How are Pilipinas faring in the domestic and foreign workforce? How are Pilipino images constructed by non-Pilipinos?
• Educational and Curriculum Reform: How do we create a space for Pilipino Studies in K-12 and Postsecondary Education? How are Pilipinos being represented in education?
• Historical Perspectives: How do we retell Pilipino American history from our perspective? What strategies and resources can we tap to recapture our family and our community histories, to fill in the gaps in American history?
• Communications: Media, Journalism, and the Internet: What are the communication channels in our community? Can we create a common communication infrastructure?
• Sexuality: How do issues of sexuality intersect with issues of health, family, identity and culture?
• Arts, Literature, and Culture: How are Pilipinos expressing themselves through visual and performance art, literature, film, writing, music, dance? How are we defining and redefining Pilipino American culture for the 21st century? What indigenous art forms are we bringing or reclaiming from the Philippines and rearticulating as Pilipino American culture?

For more information, call Enrique Dela Cruz, Annalissa Herbert, Dawn Mabalon, Theresa Cenidzoa, Kay Dumiao, Teresa Ejanda, Maria V. Ventura, Meg Malpaya Thornton, or R. Bong Vergara of the Asian American Studies Center, (310) 825-2974.

Center Welcomes Visiting Fellows

Professor Mary Fukumoto of Peru and Hawaii civil rights leader William Hoshijo will serve as Visiting Fellows at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center this spring under the Japanese American Studies endowed academic chair.

The chair was established in the 1970s by UCLA Japanese American alumni and friends to promote research and teaching in Japanese American Studies.

Professor Fukumoto, a Japanese Peruvian Nisei, is an anthropologist at Universidad Catolica del Peru and serves as principal investigator for the Japanese-Peruvian Cultural Center's Commission for the 90th Anniversary of the Japanese Immigration to Peru.

She holds a bachelor's and master's degree from universities in Peru and a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin.

While at UCLA, she will give a lecture on the Japanese Peruvian community, President Alberto Fujimoto, and the current hostage crisis.

There are about 80,000 Peruvians of Japanese descent in a country of 24 million people. The Peruvian Nikkei are the second-largest Japanese population in Latin America, exceeding only by approximately one million Japanese Brazilians.

William Hoshijo is Executive Director of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. He is co-founder of Na Loio No Na Kanaka, a legal association serving the people of Hawaii.

He serves on the boards for the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, Interagency Council on Immigrant Services, Council on Language Policy and Planning, and The Early School, and is chair of the Hawaii Committee on Access to Justice.

He is a member of the Hawaii State Bar Association and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Davis, School of Law in 1982.

Vietnamese American Students Conference

“Breaking the Silence Empowering the Unheard Minority”

When: April 27, 1997
Where: UCLA
Information
An Le, (310) 233-5336
Deadline for Applications Is April 25

Center Offers 6 Asian American Studies Scholarships

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is now accepting applications for six scholarships. Deadline for applications is April 25. The six scholarships are:

**Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship (two $1,000 awards):** Awarded to continuing undergraduate students of any ethnicity who plan to register at UCLA in Fall 1997, Winter 1998, and Spring 1998. Criteria include academic record, commitment to service, and financial need. Essay topic: “In your experience, how does community service, on and off campus, enhance your university education?”

**Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Scholarship** (two $500 awards): Awarded to continuing undergraduate and graduate students of any ethnicity who plan to register at UCLA in Fall 1997, Winter 1998, and Spring 1998. Application must reflect student’s interest in labor studies and/or Pilipino American Studies, or campus and/or in the community. Criteria include academic record and volunteer activities on campus, in the community, or with labor organizations. Essay topic: “(1) List your main areas of study and any significant research or academic projects you have been involved in; (2) List any volunteer activities on campus, in the community, or with labor organizations, and briefly describe your role with each; (3) Describe your plans for the future, and how this scholarship might assist you in achieving these goals.”

**Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship** (one $1,000 award): Awarded to continuing undergraduate students of Japanese ancestry who plan to register at UCLA in Fall 1997, Winter 1998, and Spring 1998. Criteria include academic record, commitment to service, and financial need. Essay topic: “The Japanese American experience has many lessons to offer to people of all backgrounds in this country. What do you consider to be the most important lesson that should be shared with American society? Why?”

**George and Sakaye Aratani Community Fellowship** (one $3,000 award): Awarded to continuing students of Japanese ancestry. Fellowship recipient will be funded for a proposed internship with Keiro Nursing Home or Japanese American National Museum during Summer 1997. Students interested in public health, social welfare, gerontology, psychology, art history, and museum studies are especially encouraged to apply. Criteria are based on academic record. Essay topic: “Describe your background, interest and/or experience in working in a nursing home or a museum setting. Please indicate if you are bilingual and/or bicultural.”

**John Kubota Grant in Japanese American Studies** (one $1,500 award): Awarded to continuing undergraduate students of Japanese ancestry. Grant will subsidize a research or creative project related to Japanese American experience. Criteria include academic record and relevance and impact of research proposal. Essay topic: “Describe your project, including its key objectives and how it will be accomplished (e.g., plans, procedures, methodology, etc.) Explain how it will contribute to Japanese American Studies or the Japanese American community. Also provide a budget detailing expenses (travel, supplies, etc.).”

**Royal Morales Prize in Pilipino American Studies** (one $250 award): Awarded to continuing undergraduate student of any ethnicity who plans to register at UCLA in Fall 1997, Winter 1998, and Spring 1998. Application and paper must reflect student’s interest in Pilipino American Studies. Selection is based on undergraduate paper on Pilipino American history and/or experience. Papers can be written for any academic course at UCLA. Entries should be from five to 15 pages.

Applicants are required to fill out the general application form (available in office below) and financial need statement and submit an academic transcript. Five of the scholarships require one letter of recommendation, while the Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Scholarship requires two letters. Students need only submit one copy of the above materials, although each scholarship requires its own essay (except the Morales Prize).

Application forms are available at the Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546.

For more information, contact Meg Malpaya Thornton at UCLA, (310) 825-1006.

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Amerasia Journal Examines “Transnational” Identities

“Transnationalism, Media, and Asian Americans” is the theme of the most recent issue of *Amerasia Journal*. According to editor Russell Leong, the issue explores local, global and historical conditions that have shaped Asian American lives.

Professor Arif Dirlik, in the lead essay, examines how Pacific economies have changed the identities of Asian Americans during the past decade. Social scientists John Dombrink and John Song analyze a hostage-taking incident by Vietnamese youths in Sacramento by comparing mainstream media coverage to that of ethnic publications.

Studying the new communities of ethnic Chinese from various Asian nations, Joe Chung Fong looks at what he terms the emergence of the “post-1965 transnational press” in community formation. Researchers Yu-Wen Ying and Chua Chiem Chao present research on intergenerational conflict among the Yao or Iu Mein people from the highlands of Laos who settled in the United States. Revisiting 1903 Boston Chinatown, K. Scott Wong utilizes the *Boston Daily Globe* and the *Boston Herald* to contextualize the incident in relation to the subsequent 1905 Chinese boycott of American goods in China.

Robert Maeda in his article profiles poet Yone Noguchi, the father of renowned sculptor Isamu Noguchi. Katu Katrak comments on post-1965 South Asian writers writing in English; while Gene Ray Smith, a writer of Vietnamese and African American descent, shares a poem about the Vietnam war and its aftereffects on mixed-race couples.

The “transnational” issue of *Amerasia* is available for $10 from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles CA 90095-1546. For subscription information, call (310) 825-2968.
Los Angeles Filipino Americans Honor Dr. Enrique Dela Cruz for Community Service

Dr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Assistant Director of the Asian American Studies Center, was the 1996 recipient of the Bayanihan Community Service Award at the 24th Anniversary Awards Dinner of SIPA (Search to Involve Filipino Americans) in Los Angeles.

The award originates from the traditional Filipino value of mutual support, cooperation and community development and is bestowed on an individual who has dedicated time, energy, and expertise for the betterment of the Filipino American community.

Dr. Dela Cruz is vice president of Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education, serves in the National Council of Filipino Civil Rights Advocates, and has worked with others to defend affirmative action and immigrant rights. He is also a former administrator for the Pacific Asian Consortium on Employment.

For many years in the Los Angeles area, he helped lead the movement against the Marcos dictatorship and the fight to remove U.S. military bases from the Philippines.

"Dr. Dela Cruz is a well-known political activist, an educator, and an agitator for change," said one SIPA leader.

IAC Grants for 1995-96

The Institute of American Cultures (IAC) recently honored the following grant recipients for 1995-96 who are affiliated with the Asian American Studies Center:

Postdoctoral Fellow: John Esaki, community-based filmmaker.

Predoctoral Fellows: Julie G. Cho, MFA; Sojin Kim, Folklore & Mythology; Celine Parrenas, MFA.


Darryl Mar Hired as Center’s Publications Distribution Coordinator

Darryl Mar, a recent graduate of the M.A. program in Asian American Studies, has been hired as the new distribution coordinator for Center publications.

In his new post, Darryl handles all publications orders and subscriptions for Amerasia Journal.

He took the job to continue his long association with the Center, which has included various projects both on and off campus. "I feel that through this job I can continue to give something back to the Center," he stated.

Darryl grew up in Cerritos in Southern California and attended UC Irvine, where he was active with the Asian Pacific Student Alliance.

During the past two years, he has designed and painted six major murals depicting his musings on the postcolonial Asian Pacific American subject at UC Irvine, UC Riverside, Stanford University, San Francisco Chinatown, Los Angeles Koreatown, and on the wall outside the third floor office of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in Campbell Hall.

His M.A. thesis in Asian American Studies focused on the process of working with San Francisco Chinatown community representatives and organizations in designing a three-story mural on Chinese American history on the Ping Yuen housing project on the corner of Stockton Street and Pacific Avenue.

Recently, he was commissioned to design and paint another mural in San Francisco’s Tenderloin district later this spring.

This summer, he also plans to paint a series of small murals paying homage to the late Bruce Lee at several Los Angeles sites, including one at UCLA.

In the near future, he will also attend an Asian American youth conference at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, where he will talk about empowerment and how it relates to Asian Pacific Americans, especially in arts and media.

Eventually — motivated by his interest in the film, Blade Runner — Darryl hopes to pursue a career in the entertainment industry, working on computer-based special effects, both design and production.

"I love movies — all types," he said. "Especially sci-fi flicks."
American Journey: The Asian-American Experience

CD-ROM developed in conjunction with Primary Source Media is designed for college-age students; covers Asian American history and contemporary issues; includes audiovisual materials and primary documents.

Roots: An Asian American Reader $11.95 paper
Amy Tachiki, Eddie Wong, Franklin Odo, Buck Wong, eds.

Roots is about the 1960s and 70s — an historic document tracing the birth of new political consciousness and identity. 12th printing of this classic work.

Philip Vera Cruz: A Personal History $14.95 paper of Filipino Immigrants and the Farmworkers Movement
By Craig Scharlin & Lilia V. Villanueva

Philip Vera Cruz, former vice-president of the United Farm Workers union, embodies the story of the manong generation — the first wave of Filipino immigrants who came to the U.S. in the early 20th century.

Beyond Self-Interest: Asian Pacific Americans toward a Community of Justice; Policy Analysis of Affirmative Action $5 paper
By Jerry Yu, Gabriel Chin, Sumi Cho, and Frank Wu

Asian Pacific American Political Almanac 1995 & 1996 editions $10.00 each

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Other Publications

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History of the Okinawans in North America $25.00 cloth
By Hokubei Okinawa Club

Views from Within: The Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study $12.95 paper
Edited by Yuji Ichioka

A History Reclaimed: An Annotated Bibliography of Chinese Language Materials on the Chinese of America $25.00 cloth, $15.00 paper
By Him Mark Lai

Fading Footsteps of the Issei: An Annotated Check List of the Manuscript Holdings of the Japanese American Research Project Collection $24.95 paper
Compiled by Yasuo Sakata

Origins & Destinations: $25.00 paper
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14:2 Chinese Americans: rural and urban lives
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11:2 Korean immigrant women's history
11:1 Ethnic labor & health issues
10:1 Refugee settlement in Orange County
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8:1 Chinese of America
7:2 Hawai'i: new perspectives
7:1 Sikh family patterns
6:2 Class and race relations
5:2 Filipino labor union

Notice

Some of our publications are currently being reprinted, while other new works are scheduled to be issued in the near future. Contact our Business Manager before ordering the following:

Moving the Image: Independent Asian Pacific American Media Arts
Asian Pacific American Community Directory, 1997 edition
Executive Order 9066: The Internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans
Asian Pacific American Political Almanac, 1997 edition
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