Celebrating Our Past and Defining Our Future

By Jeffrey Cabusao

The following speech was delivered at the June 1999 UCLA Asian American Studies M.A. Commencement by Jeffrey Arellano Cabusao of the graduating class. He is now pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.

This morning should be a time of various celebrations — celebration of our accomplishments as graduate students in the field of Asian American Studies and celebration of the support we have received from our families, friends, and communities.

In these commencement exercises, we must also celebrate the past. On this morning we should be cognizant of our inheritance of a very rich legacy, a legacy of militant critical resistance. Asian American Studies emerged from the various struggles within the internal colonies, ghettos, barrios, and reservations of the late 1960s. To borrow the words of Professor Gary Okihiro, Asian American Studies was “forged in the fire of white supremacy and tempered in the water of resistance.” We must be compelled to return to the source of this legacy — especially those working-class communities that organized to open the doors of this university to people who look like us, to the people who desired to serve communities that have been historically oppressed and exploited.

We must think about the ways we can share and use the cultural capital we have acquired over the past two years. Think about where you were before this program. Where are you now? And, where are you going? What will you do?

When Audre Lorde spoke at the 1989 commencement exercises at Oberlin College in Ohio, she looked upon the graduating class and said (and I paraphrase): today I see your shining faces, but too often the light in your faces becomes dimmed and is wasted. We do not have time for despair, we do not have time for “burn out.” Look at tags on the backs of your shirts. Where are they made? Your walkmans and computers? Who are those Third World women and children exploited by transnational corporations to produce both the necessary and luxury materials of our everyday lives? I do not want you to feel guilty, for guilt gets you nowhere. You must nurture the light I see in your faces, and do responsible work wherever you find yourselves after today.

Sustaining commitment to social justice is the best way we can honor those who opened the doors for us and for future Asian Americanists.

Let me end with a few lines from a song on the soundtrack of my life: “Wake Up Everybody!” by Harold Melvin & The Bluenotes from 1975. These lines evoke for me — and I hope for you as well — the promise and optimism of this morning.

Wake up everybody, no more sleeping in bed.
No more backward thinking, time for thinking ahead.
There’s so much hatred, war, and poverty.

Wake up all the teachers, time to teach a new way.
Maybe then they’ll listen to what you have to say.
They’re the ones who’re coming up, and the world is in their hands.
When you teach the children, teach them the very best you can.

Wake up all the doctors, make the old people well.
They’re the ones who suffer, and catch all the hell.

They don’t have so very long, before their judgment day.
So won’t you make them happy, before they pass away.

Wake up all the builders, time to build a new land.
I know we can do it, if we all lend a hand.
The only thing we have to do is put it in our minds.
Surely things will work out, they do it every time.

The world won’t get no better, if we just let it be.
The world won’t get no better.
We’ve got to change it, yeah, just you and me.
The world is changed so very much, from what it used to be.
Fred T. Korematsu Collection Donated to UCLA Asian American Studies Center

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Department of Special Collections recently acquired the Fred T. Korematsu Litigation Collection, a landmark legal and civil rights archive.

In 1942, Korematsu was arrested and convicted for refusing to leave San Leandro and report to a concentration camp, along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans. In 1944, in the landmark case of Korematsu v. United States, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the decision to remove and imprison Japanese Americans during World War II.

In 1983, based on documents that were uncovered in the National Archives and other repositories by Professor Peter Irons and researcher Aiko Yoshinaga-Herzig, a petition for writ of coram nobis was filed in San Francisco by a team of largely Asian American attorneys. The petition alleged that government prosecutors suppressed, altered, and destroyed material evidence during its prosecution of Korematsu during the war. Two companion cases were filed on behalf of Gordon Hirabayashi in Seattle and Minoru Yasui in Portland.

Ultimately, the coram nobis petitions were granted, clearing these men’s criminal records. More significantly, the litigation aided the effort to bring public scrutiny to the events surrounding the World War II removal and imprisonment of 120,000 Japanese Americans, and undermined the continued precedent value of the Supreme Court decisions, long criticized as civil liberties disasters.

Fred Korematsu, now 80, has been recognized by organizations across the nation for his courageous stand. In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.

The Korematsu coram nobis team consisted of a number of renowned civil rights attorneys: Dale Minami, Lorraine Bannai, Don Tamaki, Karen Kai, Eric Yamamoto, Robert Rusty, Irons, Leigh-Ann Miyasato, Dennis Hayashi, and Edward Chen. It also had two remarkable researchers in Yoshinaga-Herzig and Jack Herzig.

In May 1999, the members of the Korematsu coram nobis litigation team, along with the Fred and Katherine Korematsu family, selected the Asian American Studies Center and the Young Research Library Department of Special Collections to permanently house, preserve, and make accessible an extraordinary collection of more than 20 boxes of personal litigation files, pleadings, legal research memoranda, internal correspondence, and relevant government documents pertaining to this historically significant legal case.

The collection will become part of UCLA’s Japanese American Research Project Collection, the largest and most significant archive on Japanese Americans in the world. The task of sorting and cataloging the collection was funded in large part by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Project of the California State Library.

“We are tremendously honored that Fred Korematsu and his family, as well as the members of his brilliant legal team, have selected our Center and the UCLA Library to permanently house their extraordinary collection,” said Professor Don Nakanishi, Director of the Asian American Studies Center. “I have always been in awe of the immense courage that Mr. Korematsu showed in challenging the constitutionality of the decision to forcibly remove and imprison 120,000 Japanese Americans. I also have been incredibly impressed with the first-rate historical research, outstanding lawyering, and unflinching commitment to freedom and social justice of the coram nobis team in gaining vindication for Mr. Korematsu after four decades. This collection is priceless.”

“It is a great honor that UCLA has been chosen to house this exceptional archive, which forms a unique record of a critical episode in American history,” said University Librarian Gloria Werner. “The remarkable materials in this collection complement our holdings in the Japanese-American Research Project Collection, which includes extensive documentation of the World War II internment camps, and will be accessible not only to UCLA faculty and students but also to scholars and interested individuals from across the country and around the world.”

The finding aid, or registry, of the Korematsu Collection will be available on-line at the award-winning Web site of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (at wwwacias.ucnrl.uc.edu), as well as the pioneering California Digital Library (at www.cdlibs.org), which is administered by the nine libraries of the UC system.

Plans are also being made to digitize and to place on-line some of the most important documents of the Korematsu collection so that researchers, students, attorneys, and other interested individuals will gain access to these materials anywhere around the globe.

“The lessons of the Korematsu, Hirabayashi, and Yasui cases are manifold. They are dramatic reminders to all of us of the fragility of our civil rights; indeed, even the United States Supreme Court failed to protect us in 1943 and 1944,” said Minami, the lead attorney in the coram nobis case. “These cases are also a testament to the courage of these three men who stood up and challenged the government orders during World War II; they made a difference by taking a stand. Finally, they are lessons of hope that by speaking out against discrimination wherever and whenever it occurs, we will preserve the legacy of civil rights for all Americans.”

“UCLA was selected to house the documents because of the Asian American Studies Center’s extraordinary reputation; the university’s already significant holdings relating to the Japanese American internment and redress; and the university’s commitment to make the collection an accessible, useful resource both through traditional and electronic media,” said Bannai, of Seattle, a member of the litigation team who has helped catalog the collection along with Marjorie Lee, the librarian of the Asian American Studies Center, and Elaine Kuo, a UCLA doctoral student in education.

A reception honoring Fred Korematsu and his legal team was held at UCLA Oct. 3. Among featured speakers were UCLA Professors Jerry Kang and Mitchell Maki. Kang is part of a group of law professors from across the nation who have put together a textbook and curriculum program to integrate the constitutional and public policy lessons and ramifications of the wartime experience and the redress movement into the curriculum of America’s law schools and public policy programs. Maki is the co-author with UCLA professor emeritus Harry H.L. Kitano and S. Megan Berthold of a new work on the Japanese American redress movement.

Co-sponsors of the event included the Asian Pacific American Bar Association; Asian Pacific American Women Lawyers Alliance; Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California; Japanese American Bar Association; Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California; Japanese American National Museum; Manzanar Committee; National Coalition for Redress and Reparations; Pacific Southwest District Japanese American Citizens League; UCLA Asian American Studies Graduate Students Association; UCLA Asian Pacific Alumni Association; UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition; the UCLA Asian Pacific Islander Law Students Association; and the UCLA Nikkei Student Union.
UCLA Faculty and Graduate Students Receive IAC Grants to Support Research

Dr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Assistant Director of the Asian American Studies Center, announced the following IAC research grants for UCLA faculty and graduate students for 1999-2000.

UCLA's Institute of American Cultures, in cooperation with the four Ethnic Studies Centers, offers grants to faculty and graduate students in support of research on Asian Americans, African Americans, American Indians, and Chicanas/os.

Faculty Grants

Professor Shu-mei Shih, Comparative Literature, "Visuality and Identity: Cultural Transactions Across the Chinese Pacific."

Professor Geraldine Padilla, Nursing, "Koreans in American and Health-Related Quality of Life."

Professor Min Zhou, Sociology, "How Community Matters for Children? Structural Supports and Constraints in Inner City Neighborhoods."

Professor Ailee Moon, Social Welfare, "A National Survey of Critical Issues in Asian American Communities."

Graduate Student Grants

Sue Kim, Ph.D. Program, Nursing, "Health Promoting Behavior among Immigrant Korean Women at Midlife: A Pilot Study."

Vivian Wong, MA Program, Film, "Carved Words, Etched Lives: Chinese Immigrants from Angel Island."


Stacey Y. Hirose, Ph.D. Program, History, "Consuming Cultures: Asian American Retail in Gardena, Crenshaw, and Monterey Park."

Victoria Namkung, MA Program, Asian American Studies, "Asian American Youth Culture in Los Angeles."


Predoctoral Fellowships

Karina Higa, Ph.D. Program, Art History, for a project interpreting Asian American artists and assessing the representations of Asian Americans in the popular media.

Lisa Michie Itagaki, MA Program, Asian American Studies, for a thesis examining "native" performance within the transnational, racialized spaces of the Polynesian Cultural Center, and the commercial luau in Hawaii.

Jun Okada, MA Program, Critical Studies, Film & Television, for a project examining Asian immigrants and Asians in the economy of the Hollywood film industry from the silent to the early sound era.

Hanh Quang Tran, MA Program in Film and Television, for a project exploring the effects of the war on an immigrant family separated between America and Vietnam.

New Class Documenting L.A. Ethnic Communities through Video

"EthnoCommunications I: Documenting Multietnic Communities" is a new course offered in Asian American Studies this fall in conjunction with the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications. The course is being taught by Professor Robert Nakamura and Jennifer Kim.

The new class is an introductory and preproduction course in EthnoCommunications — the field of documenting ethnic communities under-served by mainstream media.

This class provides undergraduates an overview and analysis of the uses, effects, and historical and practical consequences of documentary and new digital media as they relate to communities of color.

The new class will serve as a prerequisite for two other classes to be offered during the 1999-2000 academic year: "EthnoCommunications II: Video Workshop (Production)" and "EthnoCommunications III: Video Workshop (Advanced Projects)."

For more information, contact the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications at (310) 206-8889.

Professor David Yoo Named IAC Postdoctoral Fellow for 1999-2000

Historian David Yoo has been selected as the 1999-2000 recipient of an IAC postdoctoral fellowship in Asian American Studies at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. During the academic year, he will be undertaking research on a book manuscript, tentatively titled, "Defiant Spirit: Kilsoo Haan, the Politics of Community, and Korean American History."

During Fall Quarter at UCLA, he is teaching an oral history graduate class, "Asian American Research Methods."

Professor Yoo is a faculty member at Claremont-McKenna College in Pomona, California. He is a Ph.D. graduate of the American Studies Program at Yale University.

He is the editor of the new book, New Spiritual Homes: Religion and Asian Americans, co-published by UCLA Asian American Studies Press and University of Hawaii Press.

According to Russell Leong of UCLA Asian American Studies, "Professor Yoo’s book "investigates how religious traditions, movements, and institutions have been vital for Asian Americans, past and present. Through essays, expressive works, and resource materials, it reframes the religious landscape and brings into view the experiences of Asian Americans."

Professor Yuji Ichioha Invited to Teach at Tokyo University This Fall

Historian Yuji Ichioha, a founder of the field of Asian American Studies, was invited to teach at Tokyo University this fall.

The Tokyo University Graduate School of Arts and Science invited Professor Ichioha to teach courses in the American Studies Program on the Komaba campus of Tokyo University, including a graduate seminar on the history of the wartime internment of Japanese Americans and a lecture course for undergraduate seniors on Asian Americans in contemporary American society.

Professor Ichioha is a Research Associate of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Adjunct Associate Professor of History. He is the author of The Issei: The World of the First-Generation Japanese Immigrants, 1885-1924 and other pathbreaking research studies.
Asian American Studies Center Press Publishes *A Buried Past II*

**New Book Catalogs Research Materials on Japanese American History at UCLA Special Collections Library**

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center has published a new book, which documents the extensive historical archive of primary resource materials on Japanese immigration history and the Japanese American experience of the UCLA Japanese American Research Project (JARP) Collection. The archive, which was initiated in 1962, is the largest and most significant one on the Japanese American experience in the world.

UCLA historian Yuji Ichioka and doctoral student Elchiro Asuma compiled the 156-page work, *A Buried Past II: A Sequel to the Annotated Bibliography of the Japanese American Research Project Collection, 1973-1998*. It provides detailed descriptions of the personal and family papers, Japanese vernacular newspapers, organizational records, and other materials that have been added to the JARP Collection during the past 25 years. The development of the collection has been part of the research mission of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

According to Professor Don Nakanishi, the Director of the Asian American Studies Center, Professor Ichioka deserves full credit for developing the archive. “Professor Ichioka, who is clearly the preeminent scholar on Japanese immigration history, has provided extraordinary intellectual leadership, vision, and commitment to this wonderful collection. It will rank as one of the most enduring and influential scholarly achievements of the field of Asian American Studies.”

The materials of the JARP Collection, which are used continuously by researchers, students, writers, and interested members of the general public from across the nation and around the world, can be requested and viewed at UCLA’s Department of Special Collection, which is located at the Charles E. Young Research Library at the university. The collection has provided historical information for hundreds of scholarly and popular books, articles, dissertations, theses, films, and exhibits since its establishment in 1962.

The extensive collection, which has over 707 document boxes, over 500 oral history tapes and 23 record cartons, totaling 338 linear feet, is physically housed at the Southern Regional Library Facility (SRLF), an on-campus, state-of-the-art, 220,000 square feet shelving and storage structure. The stack core area of the SRLF is maintained at a constant temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and a relative humidity of 50% in order to create the best possible environment for preserving library and archival materials.

Among the over 100 personal and family papers in the JARP Collections are those of San Francisco community leaders Kyutaro and Yonako Abiko, labor activist Karl Yoneda, civil rights advocate Edison Uno, Isssei poet Akira Togawa, researcher Charles Kikuchi, Kibei writer Akira Fujita, and businessman Yoneo Arai.

A large collection of paintings and other art work which were created during the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans are also part of the JARP Collection. Many of these were used in a pioneering exhibit of concentration camp art entitled, “Views From Within,” which was developed by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Japanese American National Museum. Paintings by Estelle Ishigo, a Caucasian woman who was incarcerated during World War II with her Japanese American husband, were used in the Academy-award winning documentary, *Days of Waiting*, by Steven Okazaki.

In recent years, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has acquired other major archival collections, including those of the East-West Players, the oldest Asian American theater group in the United States; the extensive personal papers of New York human rights leader Yuri Kochiyama; the Hei Sop Chin and Hyung-ju Ahn collections on Korean Americans; the Curtis Choy Film and Video Collection; and the Asian American Movement Collection of Steve Louie of San Francisco.

*A Buried Past II* is available for $20.00 (plus shipping and handling of $3.00 for the first copy, and $1 for each additional copy) plus sales tax (8.25% Los Angeles County residents; 7.75% for California residents). Special bulk order prices also available. Make checks payable to the “UC Regents,” and send to UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. For more information, call (310) 825-2974, or contact distribution manager, Charles Ku (ku@ucla.edu).

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**Leong and Nakanishi Named Among Top 100 Influential Asian Americans by Magazine**

A magazine has named Don Nakanishi, Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, and Russell C. Leong, head of UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, as among the “100 Most Influential Asian Americans of the Decade.” The list is featured in the October/November 1999 issue of *A*.

Nakanishi and Leong were cited for their work as scholars in helping “Asian Americans stake out their rightful lay in the ivory tower” by building Asian American Studies. According to A, Nakanishi has not only trained countless future scholars, researchers, and community leaders, but has also contributed to over seventy books, articles and reports documenting the role of Asian Americans in U.S. political, educational and social institutions. “In recognition of his work on Japanese American internment,” states the magazine, “Nakanishi was tapped by President Clinton to serve on the board of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, an organization established by the hard-won 1988 Civil Liberties Act. In 1971, while still an undergraduate at Yale, Nakanishi co-founded *Amerasia Journal.*”

The magazine describes Leong, who has served as editor of *Amerasia Journal* for the past twenty years, as using his considerable skills as poet, editor, fiction writer and filmmaker “to ensure that the publication covers multiple aspects of Asian American life.” Under Leong’s editorship, *Amerasia* has become “the leading scholarly journal in the field of Asian American Studies.” In addition to his work as a scholar and editor, Leong is also a prize-winning writer. His first book of poetry, *The Country of Dreams and Dust*, garnered a prestigious PEN Josephine Miles Literary Award in 1993.
### Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee for 1999–2000

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<td>Robert Nakamura, Associate Director</td>
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<td>James Lubben, Chair Social Welfare</td>
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<td>Cindy Fan, IDP Chair Sociology</td>
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<td>Pauline Agbayani-Siewert Social Welfare</td>
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### Professor Pauline Agbayani-Siewert Receives “Purple Rose” Award

Social Welfare Professor Pauline Agbayani-Siewert of the Asian American Studies Faculty Advisory Committee recently received an award from Purple Rose, a world-wide organization committed to ending the international trafficking of women and violence toward women.

Professor Agbayani-Siewert received the award for her research in gender roles and violence.

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### Professors Maki and Kitano Co-Author New Work on Japanese American Redress

*Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress* is a new book written by UCLA Professors Mitchell Maki and Harry Kitano, and Megan Berthold. Professors Maki and Kitano are members of the Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee.

In 1988, Japanese Americans gained redress and reparations for their wartime internment with the passage of the Civil Liberties Act, which provided monetary payments, a public apology by the U.S. government, and the creation of a civil liberties educational fund. This book analyzes how a very small minority group in America was able to achieve this victory.

The book is divided into four sections: a theoretical section highlighting the dynamics that influence policy-making; a set of chapters providing historical background on Japanese Americans; a section examining Japanese American community mobilization, legislative efforts, and lawsuits leading to the passage of redress legislation; and a final section describing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

*Achieving the Impossible Dream* was published by University of Illinois Press.

Professor Maki is in the UCLA School of Public Policy and a contributor to the book, *Counseling Across Cultures*.

Professor Kitano is professor emeritus of Social Welfare and Sociology at UCLA and the author of *Japanese Americans: The Evolution of a Subculture* and other books and articles on race and ethnic relations.

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### Professor Min Zhou Receives Book Award

Professor Min Zhou, who holds a joint faculty position in the Department of Sociology and the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA, recently received the 1999 Thomas and Znaniecki Award for the best book published in the preceding two years, given by the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association at the association’s recently concluded convention.

Professor Zhou received this major book award for her pioneering study, *Growing Up American: How Vietnamese Children Adapt to Life in the United States* (co-authored with Carl Bankston), which was published by the Russell Sage Foundation of New York.

The book recounts the troubled, but ultimately successful passage of second-generation Vietnamese youths. The authors show that the key to success involves the family and the ethnic community, integrating children into a dense set of social relations.

Professor Zhou received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the State University of New York at Albany. She has published widely in research journals in Sociology and Asian American Studies, and has written a previous book about New York Chinatown entitled *Chinatown: The Socioeconomic Potential of an Urban Enclave*, which was published in 1992 by Temple University Press.

Aside from her research and teaching activities, Professor Zhou serves as the Vice Chair of the Interdepartmental Program in Asian American Studies at UCLA.
Professor Jinqi Ling Advances Asian American Literary Studies

By Cynthia Lee
UCLA Today

UCLA Professor Jinqi Ling’s passion for American literature flowered in the cultural awakening of post-Mao China when the nation, eager to embrace a new humanism, let down the “drawbridges” of its academic institutions to Western philosophy and existential literature.

Crossing over came an adventurous band of American professors in the late 1970s who introduced Ling and fellow graduate students at the Tianjin Normal University in Northern China to Western poets, writers and thinkers, such as Coleridge, Keats, Shelley, Freud, Kant, Hemingway and Fitzgerald.

Across that same drawbridge years later leading out of China came an earnest scholar, one of the first American-trained Chinese M.A. students in comparative literature from post-Mao China.

Today, he is an associate professor at UCLA, the first from China to receive tenure from the Department of English. On the faculty here since 1992, he holds a joint appointment in English and Asian American Studies and serves as the humanities book review editor for Amerasia Journal.


“Essentially, what I’ve tried to do is to assess the implications of what I see as the diminished status of history in contemporary Asian American cultural criticism and to suggest theoretical and practical alternatives,” he explained.

“It’s book is destined to become a classic in the field of Asian American literary analysis,” said Professor Don T. Nakanishi, Director of the Asian American Studies Center. “He is an extraordinary scholar.”

In 1997, Professor Ling was selected to receive the Dean’s Marshall Award in the Humanities, an award given to junior faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching or research.

Professor Ling had no idea the direction his studies would take when he left China for Washington State in 1987 to pursue a Ph.D. in American Studies.

“I came to Asian American Studies partly by historical accident, but also partly by historical inevitability,” he said, smiling. His initial perception of American literature was shaped by the likes of T.S. Eliot, Edgar Allan Poe and F. Scott Fitzgerald. “It was the formalistic training I received from my American adviser in China in the early 1980s,” he explained.

“In the immediate post-Mao China, Western formalism was embraced by a younger generation of critics as a kind of antidote to the excessively reductive tendency in Chinese literary criticism that has existed since the 1950s. My interest in Poe and American Modernism grew out of this context.”

But what he found at Washington State was a rich, interdisciplinary program that introduced him to less-heard voices and combined cultural theory with social analysis.

“This really complicated my view of American literature,” Professor Ling said. “And I broadened my understanding of American society and culture.”

Instead of literature that was detached from contemporary American society, he was writers who grappled head-on with issues of race, class and gender.

Today, Professor Ling is thrilled to be teaching at one of the leading universities in Asian American Studies, among students, Asians and non-Asians, who are very informed about cultural issues and electrify discussions with their perspectives.

Diversity and the multicultural environment serve faculty as well, he said. “My colleagues in the English department are genuinely interested in my field and are very generous in sharing with me their diverse intellectual interests. That means a lot to me.”

(Cynthia Lee is a writer for UCLA Today. This article is reprinted with permission of UCLA Today from the July 27, 1999 issue.)

Professor Takashi Makinodan Receives Major Award from Japanese Government

Professor Takashi Makinodan of the Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee recently was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Japanese government for his extraordinary contributions to Japanese Americans, including those who were victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings.

Professor Makinodan is a Professor of Medicine, and is the Director of the UCLA Medtep Program on Asian Pacific American Medical Research. He has received numerous awards for his research in gerontology and was a Visiting Professor at Beijing Medical University in 1988.

He also heads a support group to ensure that Japanese atomic bomb survivors in the U.S. receive annual free health examinations provided by Japanese radiation-related illness experts.

Professor Makinodan is on the board of directors of Keiro Services in Los Angeles, and is part of the board of governors of the Japanese American National Museum.
Masters Theses from the UCLA Asian American

Compiled by Marji Lee


Jeffrey Kin Wah Chang, “Lessons of Tolerance: Ethnicity, the Local and Affirmative Action in Hawai’i,” 1995

Ryun Ho Chang, “Korean Churches in Los Angeles Metropolis in Relation to Present Status and Future Prospects,” 1989


Mariquita Athena Davison, “Filipina Nurses — Voices of Struggle and Determination,” 1993


Giselle Lauren Fong, “The Asian Pacific Student Union (FPSU) and the 1987 March on Sacramento for Education,” 1993


Jing Qiu Fu, “Broken Portraits: The Dilemma of Chinese Student Leaders in the U.S. after the Tiananmen Square Incident,” 1991


Kyung Won Hong, “Interethnic and Interracial Relations in the Short Stories of Hisaye Yamamoto,” 1995


(Marji Lee is Coordinator of the UCLA Asian American Studies Reading Room and Library. She holds masters degrees in Asian American Studies and Library and Information Science.)
Studies Graduate Degree Program, 1978 – 1999


James Kyung-Jin Lee, “What Was Given, Given Over?: Competing Subjectivities in Myung Mi Kim’s ‘Into Such Assembly,’” 1995


Derrick Edwin Lim, “Learning from the Past: A Retrospective Look at the Choo Soo Lee Movement,” 1985


Lisa Michelle Mortimer, “Caught in the Cross Fire: The Nisei Week Eurasian Queen Controversy,” 1996


Sean Mizuno, “The Effects of Curriculum on Behavior of At-Risk Asian Pacific Islander Adolescents,” 1999


Tomoji Nishikawa, “Class Conflict and Linkage: Asian Nurses into the United States,” 1983


Michael Christopher Soo Hoo, “David Henry Hwang’s M. Butterfly: Subversive Text or ‘Orientalia for Intellectuists’” 1992

Judy P. Soo Hoo, “The Failure of Gender Transformations in Bharati Mukherjee,” 1992

Eugene Tashima, “Livingston Sansei: Rural Perspectives on Group Identity and Community,” 1985

Rapeephananok Malinee Thongthiraj, “Breaking Silences and Remaking the Self in Wanwadee Larsen’s Confessions of a Mail Order Bride,” 1995


Thomas Sakai Tsutsun, “Higher Educational Perspectives: Through the Narratives of Samoan College Students,” 1998


Teresa Kay Williams, “International Amercians: Third Culture Afroasian and Euroasian Americans in Japan,” 1989


Duncun Zheng, “Race and Gender Differences in Attitudes and Behaviors Related to Academic Achievement,” 1991


Asian American Studies Reading Room and Library does not have a copy of this thesis.

Beth Au Hired For JACL Regional Post

Beth Au, a graduate of the UCLA Asian American Studies masters degree program, was hired recently as Regional Director of the Pacific Southwest District Office of the JACL (Japanese American Citizens League). The JACL is the nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights organization, etc., etc.


Janette Kim Receives Leadership Internship

Janette Kim, a second-year student in the Asian American Studies M.A. program, was one of eight students chosen from throughout the U.S. for the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) summer internship program, “Leadership in Action.”

The program places interns with Asian Pacific American nonprofit organizations in the Los Angeles area. In addition, interns meet with community leaders and work on a group project.

For her internship, Janette was placed at the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium.
Asian American Studies Center Announces Student Scholarship and Fellowship Awards for 1999–2000

By Meg Malpaya Thornton

Union Bank of California Scholarship (two awards)

Gloriane Yi. Gloriane is a senior, majoring in English with a minor in Latin. Aside from being in the College of Letters and Sciences Honors Program as well as the Departmental Honors Program, Gloriane has also been on the Dean's List since December 1997. Among her many academic experiences, Gloriane has been a UCLA tutor in three different subjects and has participated in several research projects.

Gladys Nubla. Gladys is a senior with a double major in Asian American Studies and English. Gladys still finds time to volunteer with the UCLA Undergraduate English Association and with the local Filipino community, all the while maintaining a 3.8 GPA. Gladys’ research focuses on Filipina and Filipina American women’s literature. She has constructed a web site devoted to this topic. One of her professor writes, “Ms. Nubla is an exceptional individual, not just in terms of her academic record but in the wider sense of a young woman eager to link her undergraduate studies to bettering the world around her. Gladys distinguished herself through her acute observations on literature and through her earnest efforts to place her studies in the service of Filipinos and Filipino Americans — a group often underrepresented in Asian American Studies and minority literature in general.”

Asian Business Association Scholarship

Rod Sasis. Rod is a senior, double majoring in Asian American Studies and History. He is a co-founder and Director of the UCLA Filipino Undergraduate Law Students Association, as well as a project assistant for the Filipino Voter Empowerment Project (FilVote). Rod also interns with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and volunteers with the Pilipino Workers Center.

21st Century Undergraduate Scholarship

Rena Wong. Rena is going into her fourth year at UCLA with a double major in Asian American Studies and Political Science. Rena has participated in several research projects which examined the local Asian American community. One of her professors states, "Despite her youthful age, Rena’s comments exhibited a firm knowledge of community dynamics, urban politics and current issues." She goes on to say that, "I was particularly impressed by her written work that is already at graduate level."

Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshidge Scholarship

Ernest Yoshikawa. Ernest is a senior in Asian American Studies and American Literature in Culture. Through his Asian American Studies courses, he has explored his own identity and life experiences as a Japanese American. His paper explores the Japanese American value of ganan and the role of the U.S. Army 442nd battalion. He says: "In all life’s struggles, ganan is a guiding principle to never give up, no matter what the odds, to endure what you must and sacrifice what you must to reach the greater goal." He writes of the character, heroism, bravery and loyalty of the Japanese American Combat Team in World War II, despite their experiences with discrimination in the U.S. He states, "What the 442nd achieved was extraordinary, and what they achieved, they achieved through ganan."

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

Ohki Murai. Ohki is a junior majoring in Business Economics. Ohki identifies as a Shin-Issei, meaning first-generation Japanese in the U.S. after World War II. His papers entitled “Bilingual Education: Pros and Cons” and “Language as a Window to the Mind” reflect this experience. As a member of the Nikkei Student Union, Ohki was a volunteer tutor/mentor for CHAMP's (Casa Heiwa Assistance Mentorship Program). Ohki hopes to take his experiences at UCLA, and spend the next academic year studying abroad in Japan.

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship (five awards)

Jennifer Chang. Jennifer is currently a junior, with a double major in Political Science and Sociology, and a minor in Asian American Studies. Jennifer has been very active with the following organizations: Korean American Coalition, Korean American Youth Leadership program and conference, Southern California Korean College Students Association. Speaking about her community.
work, Jennifer writes, “My experience in community service has not only given me personal satisfaction in life, it has also enhanced my university education.” She hopes to continue her work in the community, specifically in the political arena, upon graduating from UCLA.

Tram Linh Ho. Tram is completing her third year as a double major in Asian American Studies and Political Science. Tram is very active on campus and in the community. She currently serves as the Financial Supports Commissioner for the UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council and is the Vietnamese Student Union Representative in the UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition. She also interned with the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium and is active with the Vietnamese Political Action Committee of Orange County. She feels that the relationship between students and the community is mutually beneficial. “In the community, I have completed several internships that have not only helped me to further my education; but I was able to educate my community as well.”

Clara Lee. Clara is a senior majoring in Political Science. Clara is very involved with UCLA Nikkei Student Union and in the community, particularly with CHAMPS (Casa Heiwa Assistance Mentorship Program). CHAMPS is an after-school tutoring and mentoring program for low-income children in the Little Tokyo section of downtown Los Angeles. Through this experience, Clara states, “I see how education is the key for these children to improve their lifestyles.”

Susan C. Lee. Susan is a double major in Asian American Studies and Psychology. Susan is very involved with UCLA Bruin Belles service association, UCLA Unicamp for the past four years, and Los Angeles Teamworks, a mentor program. Brian Short, Program Director of UCLA’s Unicamp, says that, “Not many are, and will ever be, as valuable an asset to community service at UCLA as Susan Lee has been during her academic tenure.”

Amy Phuong Si Luu. Amy is a double major in Asian American Studies and Psychology. Amy is involved with UCLA’s Pacific Ties newsmagazine, Asian Pacific Coalition and Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action. As the Community Outreach Coordinator for the UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition, Amy organized several Immigrant Rights and Empowerment workshops both on and off campus. She hopes to expand her learning experience by studying abroad this year in Hong Kong.

Noevir Scholarship (two awards)

Rochelle Ileto. Rochelle is double majoring in Asian American Studies and History. Rochelle is active with UCLA Chi Alpha Delta Sorority and Samahang Pilipino. She also serves as a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, delivering food to the elderly and homebound. Rochelle’s paper entitled “When the Impossible Turns Possible” examined the complex roles and issues that young Filipina American women face. Her future goals include a career in law, focusing specifically on the immigration rights of Asian Americans.

Chien-Fang Christy Lin. Christy is a double major in Asian American Studies and Political Science. Though Christy herself is not old enough to vote, she traveled to Sacramento with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center — where she’s an intern — to lobby legislators on behalf of Asian Pacific Americans and the new welfare reform laws. Christy is a participant in the UCLA Alumni Association Leadership Training Program and the Asian Pacific American Leadership Development Project of the Asian American Studies Center. This year will be a big one for Christy; she will be old enough to vote, and she will also be entering her senior year at UCLA.

George and Sakaye Aratani Community Fellowship

Larry Katata. Larry is completing his third year, and is an Asian American Studies major. Larry was a student in the Asian American Studies Leadership Development course taught by Sefa Aina. As president of the Nikkei Student Union, the Japanese American student organization at UCLA, Larry promoted the development of CHAMPS (Casa Heiwa Assistance Mentorship Program). Larry also finds time to showcase his talents as a performer artist with Lapu the Coyote that Cares, UCLA’s Asian American theater group.

Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship

Kei Nagao. Kei is a fourth-year student with a double major in Asian American Studies and Political Science. In her paper entitled “The Fighting Spirit,” Kei explores how the spirit of the Nikkei community has been continuously tested through the trials of fighting for justice after the World War II internment. She explores the critical role of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee in organizing a draft resistance movement to counteract the U.S. government’s violation of the civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry. Kei draws inspiration from the Heart Mountain resisters and writes, “The fighting spirit is still active in the community today as the Campaign for Justice seeks adequate redress and reparations for Japanese American. My hope is that the future generations continue the legacy of the resisters and keep the fighting spirit alive.”

Royal Morales Prize in Filipino American Studies

Gladys Nubla. Gladys is a fourth-year senior with a double major in Asian American Studies and English. She created a website titled “Filipina (American) Literature.” The site focuses on Filipina women’s writing in the United States and in the Philippines. She put in considerable time and effort to identify and compile information on Filipina writers. She states, “My goal is to get the word out...and publishing a site like this on the internet is a good way to do that. Like the truth, these women are out there.” It includes an introduction, bibliography, poetry, links, and other features. The website address is: http://www.ben2.ucla.edu/~ciao fun/FilipinaLiterature.htm.

21st Century Graduate Fellowship

Jennifer A. Yee. Jennifer is a Ph.D. student in the Graduate School of Education and Information Science. Her research focuses on “Mentoring as an implicit form of values-based education: organizational theory, culture and transformation; education, national and international policy; leadership and governance of institutions of higher education; equity and social justice; Asian American issues; student development; ethical and moral decision-making; creativity; consciousness; philosophy of being.”

Aratani Graduate Fellowship (two awards)

Eiichiro Azuma. Eiichiro is a Ph.D. student in History who is working on a dissertation examining the intricate relationships between Japanese immigrants in the United States and the Japanese state in the years from 1885 through the Pacific War. Eiichiro also works as a part-time Curator with the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

Amy Haruko Sueyoshi. Amy is a Ph.D. student in History who is examining San Francisco’s Japanese, Chinese, and Italian immigrants from 1900-1924 and their formation of masculine and feminine sexual identity to gain an understanding of both the formation of a first-generation American identity, as well as the interaction between immigrant and native-born communities. Amy has worked with several campus and community organizations such as the Lesbian Legacy Collection, Gay and Lesbian Center at the Village, Claremont College’s Asian American Mentorship Program, and the Asian Pacific Lesbian Bisexual Network.

(Meg Malaya Thornton is Coordinator of Student/Community Projects in the Asian American Studies Center.)
UCLA’s Asian Pacific Coalition Celebrates 24th Year of Diversity, Unity and Student Activism

Members of 1999-2000 UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition staff (from left to right): Nayon Kang, Women’s Programer; Stefanie Wong, Community Outreach Coordinator; Cory Jong, Internal Assistant Director; and Sohni Sarbuland, Programer.

Celebrating its 24th anniversary at UCLA, Asian Pacific Coalition is an umbrella organization comprised of over 20 student groups representing many different cultural heritages and community issues.

Founded in Fall of 1975, APC advocates for the needs and concerns of Asian Pacific Islander students, promoting education and empowerment as well as the development of student leadership skills.

In recent years, APC has worked on such issues as curriculum reform, with notable victories including the establishment of an undergraduate major in Asian American Studies and the implementation of Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi and Thai language classes. APC has also historically worked in coalition with other students of color on issues such as defending affirmative action and protecting the rights of new immigrants.

Also, APC has worked with community groups to fight for worker and immigrant rights.

APC also promotes awareness of many different Asian Pacific Islander cultures through programming, culminating with a month-long celebration in May of National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

APC member organizations are: Asian American Tutorial Project, Asian Pacific Health Corps, Association of Chinese Americans, Chinese Student Association, Concerned Asian Pacific Islander Students for Action, Hui O’Imlilo, Indian Student Union, Korean Cultural Awareness Group/Han Ool Lim, Korean Student Association, Korean Tutorial Project, Mahu, Nikkei Student Union, Pacific Islander Student Association, Sangam, Samahang Pilipino, Taiwanese American Union, Thai Snakom, United Cambodian Students, and Vietnamese Student Union.

Advisors for APC are Meg Thornton and Sefa Aina of the Asian American Studies Center and Melissa Veluz-Abraham of Center for Student Programming.

Asian Pacific Coalition Staff 1999-2000

Director: Phyllis Feng

Internal Assistant Director: Cory Jong

External Assistant Director: Tram Linh Ho

Financial Support Coordinator: David Wu

Programmer: Ajmal Sohni Sarbuland

Women’s Programmer: Nayon Kang

Community Outreach Coordinator: Stefanie Yuen Wong

Publicity: Tung Pham

Offices: 2240 Campbell Hall and 232 Kerckhoff Hall

Phone: (310) 825-7184

FAX: (310) 825-7698

Pioneer Journalist K.W. Lee Teaching Class at UCLA for Fall Quarter

Pioneer Korean immigrant journalist K.W. Lee is currently teaching a class on investigative journalism at UCLA.

Lee, age 71, is teaching “Investigative Journalism: Communities of Color” during Fall Quarter. The class is cross-listed under Asian American Studies and African American Studies.

In 1956, Lee came to the U.S. from Korea and worked for 40 years in newspapers, including the Sacramento Union, where he earned several awards for his investigative reporting. He also founded and edited Koreatown Weekly from 1979 to 1992 and served as editor for Korea Times weekly English edition from 1990 to 1992.

Currently, he serves as special projects adviser at KCRA-TV in Sacramento. He has also taught a class on investigative journalism at UC Davis.


In his essay, Lee ruminates on the fate of Korean Americans, seven years after the upheaval, and focuses on the sense of Hahn — the everlasting unquenched woe — which is part of the soul of modern Koreans, including those in the diaspora. He eloquently calls upon Korean Americans to “heal our scarred soul” and “liberate ourselves from our own existential Hahn and, in its place, help forge a new core value of community and civic culture in this nation of immigrants.”

Pacific Ties Newsmagazine Begins 23rd Year

Pacific Ties, UCLA’s student-produced Asian and Pacific Islander newsmagazine, is entering its 23rd year of publication under this year’s editor-in-chief Michelle Banta.

Published four times during the school year, Pacific Ties is the nation’s oldest Asian Pacific American student publication.

For subscription information, call Pacific Ties at (310) 825-1004.
Amerasia Journal Announces Three Path-breaking Issues for 1999

Issues Focus on “New Second-Generation of Asian Americans,” “Crossing the Color-Line at the End of the Twentieth Century,” and “South Asian American Activism”

Amerasia Journal, the nation’s oldest research journal in Asian American Studies, announces publication of three issues for 1999 on critical community topics.

“Secoming the Second Generation: Asian American Identity” (volume 25, number 1) is guest edited by Sociologist Pyong Gap Min of CUNY Queens College and Anthropologist KeyophYoung Park of UCLA. The issue addresses the “new” second-generation Asian Americans — the adolescents and young adult offspring of Asian immigrants who came to the U.S. after enactment of the 1965 Immigration Act.

According to the guest editors, until the mid-1980s, research on Asian Americans had exclusively focused on the immigrant generation. However, research on the second generation has gained momentum since the late 1980s when second-generation Asian American students began to compose a significant part of the student bodies in various colleges around the nation.

“Ethnic attachment or ethnic identity,” write Professors Park and Min, “is probably the most significant topic for understanding second-generation Asian Americans’ life experiences.”


The issue also includes the Annual Selected Bibliography on new research in Asian American Studies, compiled by Judy Soo Hoo of the UCLA Asian American Studies Reading Room and Library.

“Crossing the Color Line: The End of the Twentieth Century” is the theme of the recently published issue of Amerasia Journal (volume 25, number 2).

According to editor Russell Leong, the issue’s theme is taken from the famous quote by W.E.B. Dubois who in the early twentieth century identified the “problem of the color line” as the century’s main concern.

“As we reach the end of the twentieth century, what will the color line mean for us in terms of our thinking and our relations with people, and in terms of how we live and act?” Leong asks in his lead editorial for the issue.

Featured in the issue are an article by legal scholar Eric Yamamoto analyzing the impact of Japanese American redress for African American reparations, an article by Jennifer Jung Hee Chol exploring the life and ideas of veteran Chinese American activist Grace Lee Boggs, and an essay by long-time Korean American journalist K. W. Lee reflecting on the meaning of the 1992 Los Angeles Riot/Uprising for the development of community consciousness and conscience.

Also included in the issue an article by Jemin Bao examining Chinese-Thai transmigrants’ identity and gender relations in Thailand and the U.S.; an article by Dominika Ferens on Chinese immigrant writer Sui Sin Far (Edith Eaton); an interview with Asian American filmmaker Ann Kaneko covering her recent work Overstay on new immigrants working in Japan; an essay by Darrel Hamamoto on the Sixteenth Annual San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival; an article by Don Mar analyzing differences in Asian American earnings in California and Hawaii; an essay by Prosy Abarquez-Delacruz on the impact of western colonialism on Filipino consciousness; and a speech by Grace Lee Boggs on the tasks facing young Asian American activists today.

Forthcoming by the end of 1999 is a special issue on South Asian American activism (volume 25, number 3): “Satyagraha in America: The Political Culture of South Asian Americans.” The issue is guest edited by Professors Vijay Prashad of Trinity College and Biju Mathew of Rider College.

Among topics covered are the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, South Asian American youth culture, South Asian American women’s organizations, queer South Asian progressive activism, community and identity in post-1965 Indian immigrants, South Asian community organizing, and South Asian American electoral politics.


According to Amerasia editor, Russell C. Leong, the three issues for 1999 help to expand the research boundaries of Asian American Studies. “Within Asian American Studies,” he states, “the Amerasia Journal occupies a unique position as the interdisciplinary journal that has helped to strategize the intellectual discourse on Asian Americans for nearly three decades, reflecting the evolution and spaces of the field itself — political, discursive, designated, and transnational.”

Looking ahead to the next century, Leong believes that Asian Americans need to develop new “crossing strategies” to narrow the gap between public cultures and academic communities. “We must cross the lines of race, gender and class to form coalitions with those even more marginalized than we are — in international, national and local struggles for civil, religious, immigrant and workers’ rights.”

A one-year subscription (three issues) to Amerasia Journal is $35 for individuals and $55 for institutions. Single issues are priced at $13 plus $3 for postage. Make checks payable to “UC Regents” and send to: Publications, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546.

Also still available is the Amerasia Journal 1971-1997 Cumulative Article Index.

For more information, contact distribution manager Charles Ku at (310) 825-2974 or by e-mail (ku@ucla.edu).
The White Washing of Network Television Must End

By Daniel M. Mayeda

After studying prime time television programming from 1969 through 1977, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights concluded that racial and ethnic minorities are little more than “window dressing on the set.” Little has changed since then.

Children still most often associate white characters on television with wealth, education and achievement, while minority characters when they appear at all are often seen as breaking the law, struggling financially or “acting goofy” (Children Now, 1998). Ill-fated characters in prime time are disproportionately African American and Latino (Cultural Indicators Project, 1993, 1998). When they are not depicted in stereotyped ways, Asian Pacific Americans and Native Americans are generally invisible even when large numbers of them actually reside in the locales at which fictional television shows are set.

The result is television that denies the reality of the United States as an increasingly multiracial, multiethnic and multicultural society.

When these concerns were raised in the past, network executives usually acknowledged the problem and promised to do better in the future. Yet when the new 1999-2000 prime time network television schedule was announced, it was blindingly white. Not a single nonwhite leading character or theme could be found on any of the 26 new prime time television series that premiered on the four major networks.

This “whitewashed” network lineup is harmful because beliefs and attitudes are shaped by television. Those who are depicted in primary roles in television programming become worthy of attention and concern; those whom television ignores remain invisible and marginalized. Children Now found that children of all races overwhelmingly agree that it is important to see people of their own race on television because “it makes children of that race feel included” and “it provides role models.” For all of us, white or nonwhite, televised images affect our self-esteem, our aspirations and how others view us based on those images.

This season’s prime time schedule is particularly disturbing as it coincides with a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment and shocking incidents of vicious racial hate crimes. Because of its broad reach, network television has a unique potential to enlighten and unite us as a people. Not only have the networks forgone this opportunity to use the medium’s power for good; they also have neglected to pursue their own self interest by failing to exploit America’s diversity for its abundant creative possibilities and for the financial gain from expanded audiences. Instead, the networks have adopted, deliberately or unconsciously, a policy of cultural apartheid.

We, representing individuals and national and local organizations from diverse communities, with varying missions and disparate constituencies, call upon those in positions of power and influence in the television industry and in industries that advertise on television, to take decisive action to address and reverse the present picture of prime time television. We are developing a number of strategies for effecting this change, and we are united in demanding a dramatic alteration of the status quo.

First of all, we challenge the networks immediately to adopt policies ensuring that actors of color be sought out to play any role that is not of necessity racially or ethnically specific. Such policies should institutionalize the principle that this is not just a black or white issue, but that diversity is a value that embraces every color and background.

Second, we urge the networks to hire and promote more people who exemplify diversity and who are interested in integrating new perspectives in programming. This must take place at every level, from writers to programming executives, so that they will at least be in the pipeline for positions that can influence the make-up of programming. The goal of this reform should be to ensure that new programs are developed that include diverse stories and minority characters as leading players, so that people of color are not relegated only to guest or recurring roles.

Third, we ask advertisers to demand that the programs with which they associate their goods and services reflect America as it truly is — a land filled with diverse, vibrant and talented people of every hue, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical ability and culture. In general, television commercials already are more diverse than the programs with which they are broadcast, revealing that advertisers obviously see the value of appealing to all types of audiences.

Our demands are just and consistent with the television industry’s own enlightened self-interest. So long as prime time programming continues to be colorless, an increasingly diverse population will increasingly turn elsewhere for its entertainment. The status quo is both morally wrong and fiscally shortsighted.

We ask all right-minded people to join us in making their desire for richer, more colorful programming known to the television networks and to the corporations that sponsor network programming.

(Daniel M. Mayeda is a communications and entertainment attorney in Los Angeles. He is an alumnus of UCLA and UCLA Law School and is active with a number of groups, including Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) and East West Players.)

Los Angeles Asian American Theatre Group Presents New Play by Playwright Judy Soo Hoo

The Society of Heritage Performers (SHP) recently presented the world premiere of Judy Soo Hoo’s play “Texas” for a three-week limited run at the Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood.

“Texas” is the winner of the 1999 Yukon New Play Award at the Edward Albee Theatre Conference. It is described as a “dark and twisted comedy” about a young Asian American who comes to stay with two brothers in a trailer park on the flats of Texas. Playwright Judy Soo Hoo is a graduate of the UCLA Asian American Studies M.A. program.

SHP is a Los Angeles-based Asian American theatre company founded by veteran actor Soon-Tek Oh. Its mission is to “develop, create, promote and present edgy, compelling and impassioned works that bridge communities through truthful and entertaining artistry.”
Center Welcomes Charles Ku as New Publications Distribution Manager

Recent UCLA graduate and former student leader Charles Ku has been hired by the Asian American Studies Center as the new Publications Distribution Manager.

In his new post, he will oversee promotion, distribution and sales of publications for UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, including subscriptions for *Amerasia Journal*, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious research publication in Asian American Studies.

Charles graduated from UCLA in June 1999 where he majored in Communication Studies with a minor in Asian American Studies.

As an undergraduate, he served as Campus Events Commissioner for two years and with the Asian American Tutorial Project (AATP) for four years, including one year as Project Director. AATP recruits UCLA students to serve as tutors at Castellar Elementary School in Los Angeles Chinatown. He was also a writer for *Pacific Ties*, UCLA’s Asian Pacific Islander student-produced newsmagazine.

Charles said that he wants to work at the Asian American Studies Center “because I love UCLA — at an unhealthy level. I’m not exactly ready to move on in my life. As my Dad says, it’s better to not move on if you don’t know where you’re going. You can use the time to figure out where you want to go.”

Eventually, Charles would like to teach at the high school level. “Why high school?” he asks. “It’s because at elementary school, kids are too rambunctious; at junior high, they’re too preoccupied with puberty; at high school, it’s a good time to start kids thinking.”

Before coming to UCLA, Charles grew up in Danville in northern California, where his family was one of the first Chinese immigrant households in the area.

In his new post as Publications Distribution Manager, Charles replaces Darryl Mar, who has moved on with his life by finding his “dream job” in the field of computer animation.

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