

# CrossCurrents

Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

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## Asian American Studies IDP Becomes a Department

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UCLA welcomes a new department this Fall 2004: the Department of Asian American Studies. Since 1969 UCLA's Asian American Studies Center, which is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, has played a leadership role in developing the field of Asian American Studies in U.S. academia and has helped form the Asian American Studies Interdepartmental Degree Program (IDP), which has now transformed into the Department of Asian American Studies. The official establishment of the new department is the result of the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community supporters over the course of more than 10 years. The IDP's departmentalization proposal was reviewed by major committees of the Academic Senate and received overwhelming support and enthusiastic endorsement. The Executive Board of the Academic Senate voted in favor of departmentalization, and the Chancellor enthusiastically approved this truly historical move from IDP to Department in August 2004. There is now both a Center and Department of Asian American Studies at UCLA, working in a dynamic fashion.

Developing an Asian American Studies curriculum at UCLA was an important part of the mission for the Asian American Studies Center, which was founded in 1969 as an organized research unit (ORU). The initial goal of the Center was to "enrich the experience of the entire university by contributing to an understanding of the long neglected history, rich cultural heritage, and present position of Asian Americans in our society." In its inaugural year, the Center offered the first Asian American Studies course at UCLA, entitled "Orientals in America." The course reader for this class, which was subsequently published as *Roots: An Asian American Reader* (1971), was the principal textbook for introductory classes in Asian American Studies throughout the nation for over a decade.

The Asian American Studies Interdepartmental Degree Program was formally established within the College of Letters and Sciences in Fall 1976, offering the first graduate degree in Asian American Studies in the United States. Since then, the Asian American Studies IDP has been at the forefront of an emerging field of

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*—from the Center's founding mission statement, 1969*

interdisciplinary study in higher education and served as a national model for excellence in teaching and graduate training in this new field. Functioning like a department, the IDP developed the most multidisciplinary curriculum and faculty in the field of Asian American Studies nationally with a strong interest in encouraging students to pursue not only theoretical or creative projects and research, but also to relate them to the rapidly growing and diverse Asian Pacific American population in Southern California and across the country.

The new department is currently chaired by Min Zhou, professor of sociology and Asian American Studies, and supervised by a Faculty Advisory Committee consisting

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of 22 faculty members from 18 departments. A much larger faculty body—the Center’s faculty advisory committee consisting of more than 40 faculty across campus—has actively been involved in the IDP’s activities and its pursuit for departmentalization. It has offered a Master of Arts degree program along with two concurrent master’s degree programs (one with the Department of Community Health Sciences in the School of Public Health and the other with the Department of Social Welfare in the School of Public Policy and Social Research), a Bachelor of Arts degree program (since 1994), and an undergraduate Minor program (since 1998). Each year, the IDP has offered approximately 60 undergraduate and graduate courses with a total enrollment of over 2,000 students. During the 2003-2004 academic year, the MA program enrolled 25 students, approximately 160 undergraduate majors, and some 50 undergraduate minors. With the expected growth in UCLA’s undergraduate enrollment, where Asian American students are likely to be disproportionately represented, demands for Asian American Studies courses and research will be exceptionally high.

For the Asian American Studies faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community supporters, the establishment of a new department has long been overdue. “Our faculty and students believe that a departmental structure will allow us to see and think of Asian Americans as central, rather than marginal, actors at the university and in society and to recognize UCLA as the key player in an emerging interdisciplinary field,” says Prof. Zhou. “Departmentalization will enable the Asian American Studies program to overcome existing and future institutional constraints and to ensure that growing demands for teaching, research, and community service are better met.” Undergraduate student Michael Li states, “I would like to see this process serve as a giant stepping stone forward for the field of Ethnic Studies. . . . Departmentalization will have such gravity for the way that Ethnic Studies is perceived in the academic world and in the general population.”

The formation of a new department is also an opportunity to revisit the mission of Asian American Studies and for stakeholders in the field to examine what role and orientation they want the department to have. “Asian American Studies has always been about research, teaching and community service for the purpose of challenging old paradigms and creating social change,” says Center Assistant Director Dennis Arguelles. “Hopefully the new department will continue this tradition and remain actively engaged in the community.”

In celebration of the Center’s 35th anniversary and the IDP’s transformation into a department, the Center is holding a community reception to thank everyone who has been a supporter of the Center over the years. The event will be held on October 21, 2004 in downtown Los Angeles. Speakers include CA Assembly member Judy Chu, Monterey Park Mayor Michael Eng, UCLA Ph.D. candidate and journalist Tritia Toyota, SIPA Executive Director Joel Jacinto, CSUN Professor Teresa Williams-Leon, and others. For more information, call (310) 825-2974.

In addition to the community reception, the Center is hosting a variety of events during 2004-2005 to commemorate these historic occasions. On Saturday, October 16, 2004, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, the Center and *Amerasia Journal* are organizing an education symposium entitled, “Learn by Doing, Education Towards Humanization,” co-sponsored by California State University, Northridge. This event will showcase new teaching and learning methods developed by CSUN’s Center for Academic Preparedness and the Center. Activities and panels include interactive, hands-on approaches to creative liberatory teaching to bring together college and community, and how to change your ideas around learning, indigenous cultures, and community media and politics. Call (310) 825-2974 to RSVP for this event.

Finally, the Center is holding a special fundraiser dinner in March 2005. The theme for the dinner is “35 Years of the Asian American Studies Center: Education for Peace and Justice.” Proceeds will benefit scholarships, fellowships, and research grants for Asian American Studies students and faculty.

Keep checking the Center’s website, <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc>, for more updates on 35th Anniversary activities throughout the year. To receive information on the Center’s activities via email, become part of the Center’s mailing list at <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/change/resources.register.html>.

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*CrossCurrents*, the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, keeps readers abreast of current Center programs, including graduate and undergraduate programs, research projects, publications, faculty activities, student perspectives, relevant university and community issues, as well as programs not sponsored by the Center but in the province of Asian American Studies.

*CrossCurrents* is published twice yearly (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter) and distributed in the community by Center staff. It is also mailed free to all subscribers of *Amerasia Journal* and *AAPI Nexus*.

For information on how to submit articles, announcements, images, and so forth to *CrossCurrents*, contact the editor at [brandy22@ucla.edu](mailto:brandy22@ucla.edu)

For more information about activities and programs of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center: 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546; phone, (310) 825-2974.

Center website:  
<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc>

## Center Establishes Nation's First Endowed Chair on Japanese American Internment, Redress, and Community

The Center has established the first endowed academic chair to focus on the World War II internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans and their campaign to gain redress. The chair, which is the first of its kind in American higher education, was created with the generous donation of two internment survivors.

The GEORGE AND SAKAYE ARATANI CHAIR on the Japanese American Internment, Redress and Community also will focus on the decades-long campaign to gain redress and a national apology, which culminated with the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act. In addition, the chair will examine the historical and contemporary trends and issues facing the Japanese American population, and support research, teaching and professional service activities on these topics by existing or newly recruited UCLA faculty.

"The purpose of the chair is to ensure the World War II incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, as well as their subsequent efforts, will always be remembered, taught and written about for generations," George Aratani said. "There are many important lessons that Americans and other peoples can learn so that similar tragedies never happen again."

As a young man, George Aratani and his mother were forced to leave the family farm in the central California town of Guadalupe and enter the internment camp in Gila River, Arizona. His family lost everything they owned. Aratani went on to become the founder and chairman of Mikasa Dinnerware and Kenwood Electronics, two internationally recognized corporations. Over the years, George Aratani and his wife, Sakaye, who was interned in the Poston, Arizona camp, have made significant contributions to numerous nonprofit organizations and educational institutions.

"We are greatly honored that the Aratanis have endowed this academic chair," said Professor Don Nakanishi, director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. "It will ensure that the unjust removal and incarceration of thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II, as well as their extraordinary campaign to gain redress, will be taught to future generations of students at UCLA and will be the focus of continued research and public education by UCLA scholars for many years to come."

"We are also thrilled that this academic chair will support teaching, research and public service dealing with historical and contemporary trends and issues facing Japanese American communities," Nakanishi continued. "Clearly, the aftermath of 9/11 demonstrated the importance of learning and applying the lessons from the Japanese American experience to current and future situations."

George and Sakaye Aratani have supported the UCLA Asian American Studies Center for many years, and previously have

established endowments for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships and undergraduate community internships. They also have established endowments with UCLA's Center for Japanese Studies.

"George and Sakaye have supported many organizations in the community, and have taken active voluntary leadership roles to build and enhance these programs," Nakanishi said. "They have left an unmatched legacy of commitment and generosity."



George and Sakaye Aratani.

Annually, the chair holder will be expected to teach at least one undergraduate or graduate course on the Japanese American internment, redress and community, or one in which major emphasis is placed on the three topics to illuminate broader societal lessons and issues. He or she will be expected to organize or participate in a public educational program designed to share the history and lessons of Japanese American internment, redress and community with the general public.

The George and Sakaye Aratani Chair is the third endowed academic chair to be established at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The other two chairs were also the first of their kind. The Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo Chair for Korean American Studies was the first one dedicated to supporting Korean American Studies. The Chair in Japanese American Studies was established in the late 1970s by Japanese American alumni and friends of UCLA to promote Japanese American Studies. It was the first academic chair on Asian American Studies in all of American higher education.

The latter chair was first held by the late Harry Kitano, a professor of social welfare and sociology and a pioneer in the social scientific study of Japanese Americans and other minority populations in the United States. The chair is currently held by Robert Nakamura, a professor of film and Asian American Studies and a renowned filmmaker who has produced award-winning documentaries on Japanese Americans and other Asian Pacific Americans for more than three decades.



Center Director Don Nakanishi with George Aratani at the UCLA Graduate Division Doctoral Hooding Ceremony, where Aratani was awarded the prestigious UCLA Medal. For the complete story, visit <http://www.ssc.ucla.edu/change/medalaratani.html>.



## The UCLA Chinese American Studies Initiative

by Russell C. Leong

In 2004, the Center announced the formal launching of the "Chinese American Studies Initiative." This initiative will support the expansion of teaching, research, and curriculum development on the Chinese American experience, with a goal of ensuring a place for Chinese and Taiwanese American Studies at UCLA.

Founded in 1969, the Center is recognized as the best educational institution in the U.S. for teaching, research, publications and community programs on Asian Americans. Its undergraduate and MA programs draw Chinese scholars and students from around the world, including the United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, Canada, South, Central, and Latin Americas, Australia, Europe, and the U.S.

The initiative can make all the difference in a student's ability to realize her or his dreams. The initiative can support the work of a distinguished faculty scholar and build crucial research areas in Chinese American and Taiwanese American Studies. Also, the comparative experiences of Chinese who live outside China can be documented for coming generations.

Today's Chinese Americans are around 2.7 million, and most live in California and New York. Taiwanese Americans are less than 150,000, and the majority live in California, Washington, and New York. Statistics, however, only give a superficial view of a population; they do not reveal the histories, experiences, and cultures of communities. The diversity within the Chinese and the Taiwanese communities is immense. "Chinese American" also includes communities of ethnic Chinese descent in the U.S. from North, South, Central, and Latin Americas, South and Southeast Asia, the PRC, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, Europe, and Africa.

To support the Chinese American Studies Initiative, send your name, address, telephone number, and email address, along with your check made payable to "UCLA Foundation (Fund #612430)" to: UCLA Foundation, Chinese American Studies Fund, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546.

There are also giving opportunities to honor a family or friend by establishing a scholarship or fund in their name. When you choose to support the UCLA Chinese American Studies Initiative, you choose to embark on a partnership with one of the world's greatest academic and research institutions.

For more information, contact Center Director Don Nakanishi at [dtm@ucla.edu](mailto:dtm@ucla.edu). Center Staff members Marjorie Lee and Russell Leong are also available if you have questions about the initiative or on Chinese American Studies at the Center.

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## Discussion over Faculty Diversity Initiative Continues

FEBRUARY 13, 2004—The Center co-hosted with the three other ethnic studies centers a Town Hall on Faculty Diversity at UCLA, focusing on the Faculty Diversity Initiative that the four centers submitted to Chancellor Carnesale last year. Vice Chancellor Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, who undertook a review of the Initiative at the request of the chancellor, delivered the keynote address. Chairs of the Faculty Advisory Committees of the four centers, along with community and elected officials, gave brief responses.

The Faculty Diversity Initiative, which was proposed first on February 18, 2003, recommends that the Chancellor's Office allocate six tenure-track faculty positions to each of the four ethnic studies research centers, make a commitment to develop the strongest possible degree programs in African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, and Chicano Studies at UCLA, and provide needed resources to the newly created position of Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Diversity. It can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/fdi/>.

## Center Welcomes Volunteer Prosy Delacruz

Photograph courtesy of Prosy Delacruz



Prosy (second from the right) with her family.

The Center has always operated on the hard work of its staff, faculty, and students, and recently, it added volunteer PROSY DELACRUZ to its roster. Why did Prosy decide to generously donate her time and energy to the Center? "Very simply, I believe in the Center's mission of serving the people. I believe in Don Nakanishi's leadership of the Center that has a mission-fueled passion, and every staff member I have met over the last two to three decades—Glenn Omatsu, Russell Leong, Mary Kao, Brandy Worrall, Dennis Arguelles, and prior, Enrique Delacruz—all exhibited this passion in their work in the community. I figured with that kind of synchronicity of mission implementation from the staff, I would like to be infused with the same mission-fueled passion of serving the people for the remaining chapters of my life."

Prosy's history with the Center began in the early 1970s, when she was a new immigrant to the U.S. She volunteered to help with many Center fundraisers, and she also wrote several

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articles for *Amerasia Journal* and an essay entitled "Holding the Pigeon in My Hand" for *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment* (UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 2001).

Prosy is doing all sorts of odd jobs at the Center—"from the mundane to what is needed or critical. Whatever jobs assigned to me, whether small or large, from cleaning microwaves, doing journal mail-outs to writing concept papers to re-facing a bulletin board. . . I hope to expand my volunteer contributions to include more writing and perhaps fundraising for the Philippine American Studies Initiative next year. I am being supervised by Meg Thornton and Russell Leong, whom I will be assisting more as I finish my short story writing class."

Prosy is making very good use of her time at the Center, as she has taken a creative writing class with adjunct English professor and *Amerasia Journal* editor Russell Leong: "I am enjoying myself so much that time flies. . . Russell is comfortable with his style, jokes with us, makes good observations, shares a lot of nut and bolts about writing that are so critical; his handout is a gem and makes his ideas so clear. . . It is a revolutionary writing class for me, as it is turning my writing upside down and has made me more disciplined in observing conversations, details of place, face and race (these are Russell's use of terms that make me remember what he has taught)."

From her long history with the Center, Prosy has these insights about Center staff and their community involvement outside the workplace: "I observed that the Center is made up of many superstars, individually strong in their field and scope of work, like Brandy Worrall and her mentoring of community writers through Wide Eyed Workshops; Meg Thornton's liaison with the community, through her leadership of *Through My Father's Eyes* with the Filipino American Library and Filipino American National Historical Society; Mary Kao's gift of graphics imagery and artistic work that have graced the Center Press's publications and her good work in the community; Glenn Omatsu's teaching of students and as past associate editor of *Amerasia Journal* created incredible work-products from community folks; Don Nakanishi's effective national leadership that when one thinks Asian American, he is at the top of the national scholars who unselfishly shares knowledge and vision whenever you get a chance to talk to him. I am eager to become acquainted with other staff at the Center over time and learn of their talents as well."

Prosy seems to fit right in at the Center, as she enthusiastically states, "I love being a volunteer at the Center—it is affording me a rare opportunity of growing intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Even some days are a surprise for me, like Tritia Toyota hanging out in my room to eat her slice of pizza while waiting for other graduate students. It is not just a fun place to work in for me, it is a growth place for me to nurture and deepen my Asian American sensibilities. I am home!"

## Center Co-Sponsors Historic Conference with Harvard Civil Rights Project

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1, 2003—Along with the Harvard Civil Rights Project and other Harvard programs, the Center co-sponsored the "Colorlines" conference at which renowned researchers, civic leaders, educators, business people, elected official, union activists, attorneys, and religious leaders came together to examine racial integration and other aspects of race for the 21st century. Julian Bond, Antonia Hernandez, William Julius Wilson, Bill Lucy, Karen Narasaki, and many other leading figures from a wide range of academic disciplines and professional sectors presented cutting-edge research and information and exchanged perspectives on race at the conference. For more information about conference proceedings, see <http://www.civilrightsproject.harvard.edu/colorlines.php>.

## Teach-In on Pilipino Studies Draws Alumni, Students, Faculty

FEBRUARY 28, 2004—The UCLA Pilipino Alumni Association, Samahang Pilipino, and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies co-sponsored a teach-in on Pilipino Studies at UCLA, at which center staff DENNIS ARGUELLES and MEG THORNTON made presentations. The teach-in commenced with a welcome statement from Frank Divinigracia, chair of the Pilipino Alumni Association, and John Samson from the Samahang Pilipino and Committee for Pilipino Studies. Panels included:

- Efforts by Asian American Studies to Strengthen Pilipino American Studies
- Efforts to Strengthen Philippine Studies curriculum at UCLA
- Efforts by UCLA Students and Alumni to build Pilipino Studies at UCLA
- Student Protest and Organizing for Pilipino Studies

The day ended with a review of the discussion groups' conversations and plans for future activities.

Photograph courtesy of Marji Lee



JUNE 30, 2004—The Center held its annual staff retreat, this year at May's Landing in Malibu. Center staff: (kneeling, from left to right) Thao Cha, Irene Suico Soriano, Melany Dela Cruz, Sheila Davis, Mary Kao, Marji Lee; (standing, from left to right) Dennis Arguelles, Russell Leong, Jaya Vaswani, Meg Thornton, Sefa Aina, Bob Nakamura, Stacey Hirose, Judy Soo Hoo, Vivian Wong, Tam Nguyen, and Don Nakanishi.



## EthnoCom Establishes New Community Media Center in Downtown Los Angeles

by Vivian Wong

In March 2002 the Center for EthnoCommunications, in partnership with the Little Tokyo Services Center, announced the establishment of the Downtown Community Media Center (DCMC). This new community partnership marked the launching of EthnoCommunications Campus To Community Program, created to build student media service/learning bridges into local Asian American and Asian Pacific American communities. Ethnocom is a program of the Asian American Studies Center.

This year DCMC moved into office space in LTSC's administrative headquarters in Little Tokyo and is currently negotiating for space to house its Visual Life History & Community Documentation Facility. LTSC Director Bill Watanabe, who is working with DCMC's Community Projects Coordinator Tad Nakamura, is confident that a suitable site will be located and ready in time for EthnoCom students to begin their video documentation of Little Tokyo residences in Fall Quarter 2004.

After receiving basic instruction in videography, sound recording and interview transcribing and archiving, students from EthnoCom's "Documenting Multi-Ethnic Communities" course will begin life history interviews in late October under the supervision of Tad Nakamura, Vivian Wong and LTSC staffer Sheri Kamiura, who recently completed an CBO Media Training Program conducted by EthnoCom.

According to EthnoCom Assistant Director Vivian Wong, the DCMC program and facility hopes to create a stimulating training and service/learning environment for UCLA students and community members who want to develop skills in emerging digital media and who recognize the critical need to document and preserve our communities, which have long been neglected and underserved by the mainstream.

## Center Holds Screening of Spencer Nakasako's *Refugee*

OCTOBER 23, 2003—The Center hosted a free screening of Emmy award-winning filmmaker SPENCER NAKASAKO's latest film *Refugee*, which follows Mike Siv and his friends as they travel back to Cambodia for the first time since their arrival in the U.S. The film has been recognized and screened at numerous film festivals around the world. After the screening, Nakasako, Siv, and co-editor Aram Collier were on hand to discuss the film and answer the audience's questions.

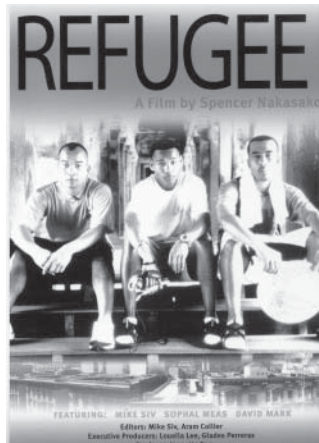


Image courtesy of Mary Uyematsu Kao

## Center Shows *Arirang* to Commemorate Korean American Centennial

NOVEMBER 15, 2003—Along with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program, the UCLA Center for Community Partnerships, and corporate sponsor Farmers Insurance, the Center presented a screening of *Arirang Part I* and the debut screening of *Arirang Part II* at the Korean American Education Foundation. The screenings were followed by a panel discussion with director Tom Coffman, as well as Charles Kim (President of Korean American Coalition) and Terry Hong (Moderator and Project Director of the Smithsonian Korean American Centennial Commemoration), Jae Min Chang (Publisher of The Korea Times), Franklin S. Odo (Director, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program), Bob Nakamura (Associate Director, UCLA Asian American Studies Center), and Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. (Associate Vice Chancellor of Center for Community Partnerships, UCLA).

*Arirang I* tells the story of first-generation Koreans Americans who arrived on Hawaiian sugar plantations, at precisely the time when Korea was conquered by Japan. As American settlers, the Korean sojourners organized around independence for Korea while sinking roots into their new home.

While the first generation of Korean American settlers were involved with independence for Korea, succeeding generations turned to the problems and possibilities of America. A renewed migration expanded Korean America rapidly, to today's population of over one million.

"Dream," or *Arirang II*, is about the distance from Seoul to Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York and New Jersey. It is about the distance from storekeeper to Harvard graduate, and from the devastating Los Angeles riots of 1992 to a heightened involvement in the American scene. "Dream" captures a community in transition from anonymity to national prominence.

Tom Coffman began working on *Arirang* with a small group of Korean Americans in Hawai'i four years ago. Although much of the early migration history was located in Hawai'i, the contemporary story took Coffman repeatedly throughout the United States and Korea, interviewing young and old. The result is a two-hour production covering a 100 of settlement.

## Center Co-Sponsors Talk by Illinois Prof. Martin F. Manalansan

APRIL 29, 2004—Along with the Southeast Asian Studies Center and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies, the Center presented, "Whose Queer Eye?: An Asian American Critique," featuring MARTIN F. MANALANSAN, IV, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign and author of *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. *Global Divas* was published by Duke University Press and was awarded the Ruth Benedict Prize by the Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists for the best LGBT book in anthropology for 2003. Professor Manalansan's current projects include return migration to the Philippines and the cultural politics of space, food, and olfaction in Asian American immigrant communities of New York City.

## Jessica Hagedorn Reads from New Novel



Photograph by Judy Soo Hoo.

OCTOBER 16, 2003—Internationally recognized Filipina American novelist, poet, performance artist, and screenwriter JESSICA HAGEDORN wowed an excited UCLA crowd with a reading from *Dream Jungle*, her first novel in seven years. The event, co-sponsored by the Center and other UCLA organizations (the Pilipina/o American Graduate Student Association, the Asian American Studies Graduate Association, Samahang Pilipino, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies), Filipino American National Historical Society—LA Chapter, and Eastwind Books and Arts—Westwood, was hosted by writers/commu-

nity organizers Michelle Magalong and Steve Moon. The event began with a performance by spoken word artist Dorian Merina, and Ms. Hagedorn was introduced by Professor and *Amerasia Journal* editor Russell Leong. A Q & A with the audience followed the reading.

For more information about *Dream Jungle*, visit <http://www.penguinputnam.com/Book/BookFrame/0,1007,,00.html?id=0670884588>.

## APACRR Presents Wide Array of Community Issues

MARCH 5, 2004—The Center co-sponsored, along with many other community and university organizations, the 2004 Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable (APACRR), held at Cal State University Los Angeles. The APACRR was a day-long conference focusing on the collaboration and relationship between research and community needs within the Asian Pacific American community.

There were many noteworthy speakers and presenters at the conference, including: Warren Furutani, Office of the Speaker, CA State Assembly; John Delloro, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance; Veronica Geronimo, Asian Pacific American Legal Center; Ali Modarres, Geography and Urban Analysis, CSULA; Mary Anne Foo, Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Alliance; Zul Surani, National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service, California Region, Southern California Partnership Program, USC Norris Cancer Center; Edward Park, Asian American Studies, Loyola Marymount University; Dr. Mikyong Kim-Goh, Department of Human Services, CSU, Fullerton; Jennie Park, UCLA Asian American Studies; Jim To, UC Santa Barbara; Chorswan Ngoin, CSULA; Neil Turner, Medical Anthropology, CSULA; Monica Rodriguez, Cultural Anthropology, CSULA

More information about the APACRR can be found at [http://www.a3pcon.org/apacrr/conference\\_2004.html](http://www.a3pcon.org/apacrr/conference_2004.html).

## Center Co-Sponsors "Through My Father's Eyes" Exhibit at Fowler Museum

JUNE 6-AUGUST 1, 2004—The Center co-sponsored, with UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History, the Filipino American Library, Los Angeles, the Wells Fargo Foundation, and the Filipino American National Historical Society, Los Angeles, the Los Angeles showing of "Through My Father's Eyes: The Filipino American Photographs of Ricardo Ocreto Alvarado." This exhibition is curated by Janet Alvarado and Franklin Odo, director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific Program. Created by the Alvarado Project, it was developed by the Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Project in collaboration with the National Museum of American History, Behring Center, and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

"Through My Father's Eyes" is a rare collection of fifty-one black-and-white photographs taken by Ricardo Alvarado (1914-1976) in Northern California during the 1940s and 1950s. Selected from more than 3,000 negatives, these images of ordinary people at work and play provide an intimate view of Filipino life and history in the United States.

Alvarado immigrated to San Francisco in 1928 from the Philippines. He was part of the wave of Filipino immigrants known as the Manong ("older brother") generation, who came to the United States between 1901 and 1935. During World War II, he served as a medical technician in the Army's highly decorated First Filipino Infantry Regiment. When he returned from the Pacific, he supported himself as a cook.

Alvarado satisfied his passion for photography by capturing special events and daily life of the Filipino American community in San Francisco after the war. His camera gave him entree into large social functions—weddings, funerals, baptisms, parties and dances—as well as intimate family gatherings. He recorded street scenes, beauty pageants, cockfights, agricultural workers and entrepreneurs on the job.

When he died in 1976, he left behind a rich trove of historically significant and visually arresting images, yet they remained hidden until his daughter, Janet Alvarado, found his vast collection and recognized their importance. She formed the Alvarado Project to ensure that her father's unique record of Filipino American life would be preserved and seen.

Various related events were held in conjunction with the exhibition, such as a presentation by Janet Alvarado; a "World of Art Family Workshop: Parol Lanterns" in which participants could create their own traditional holiday paper lantern made in the Philippines; a "Kids in the Courtyard" storytelling event; and a Filipino Rondalla Music performance.



One of Alvarado's photographs: "Candidates for Queen, San Francisco, 1950s." This, and other photos from the collection, can be viewed at [http://www.asiansinamerica.org/museum/0403\\_museum.html](http://www.asiansinamerica.org/museum/0403_museum.html), as well as at [http://www.sites.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibit\\_main.asp?id=46](http://www.sites.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibit_main.asp?id=46).



## Ethnocom Holds International Media Conference at Tainan National College

by Vivian Wong

JUNE 2-4, 2004—EthnoCom joined with the Tainan National College of the Arts to hold an international conference on community media and EthnoCommunications. The 3-day conference, which took place at Tainan National College in Taiwan, presented the field of EthnoCom to an international audience.

The conference, "Community, Communication, and Digital Technology: Documenting the Local and Global in the 21st Century," brought together students, scholars, filmmakers, and community representatives from Taiwan and America to showcase the growing work in community media from both sides of the Pacific and offer diverse insights into media and the experience of media-making in the global and digital age.

Representing the Center and EthnoCom were *Amerasia Journal* editor and Adjunct Professor of English RUSSELL LEONG and EthnoCom Assistant Director VIVIAN WONG. Together, they presented nine panels and screened fourteen films produced by EthnoCom.

The panels introduced conference goers to EthnoCommunications—the linking of Ethnic Studies with emerging media technologies to document and serve communities neglected by mainstream media. They covered such topics as visual life history for documentation and preservation and the application of digital technology in the classroom and for research. The films produced by EthnoCom students showed the Taiwan audience the diversity of Asian American experiences, including gender, social, and economic issues.

The presenters from Taiwan offered a unique view of contemporary issues in their society with panels and films that explored land, workers, and aboriginal rights, as well as world trade and globalization. A panel on community documentation brought together community organizers, writers, artists, and filmmakers from various parts of the country to discuss ways they view and use media as an advocacy tool for their social causes.

The conference was also an opportunity for exchange and dialogue between EthnoCom and the Film School at Tainan National College, as the Tainan film students screened their work for their UCLA visitors. Vivian Wong states: "The most rewarding experiences for me at the conference were the exchanges I had with the Tainan film students, listening to their responses to our films, as well as seeing their work. What struck me most about their work was how alike it was to ours; while their language, historical and cultural references are different, the core human experiences and the stories they choose to tell are similar and are things we can all relate to."

Leong chimes in: "What is important about these dialogues and exchanges is that they challenge Asian American Studies to explain itself to folks outside the U.S. (Being both Asian and American sometimes makes us doubly ethnic—or national-centric.) Seeing Taiwanese films about land struggles and movements for indigenous and women's rights reminds us that much remains to be done around basic human, legal, and cultural rights in all societies. Community-based media can play a pivotal role in these movements."

Photograph courtesy of Vivian Wong



Ethnocom Assistant Director Vivian Wong and Prof. Russell Leong present at the conference.

## Center Conducts Survey with Asian Real Estate Association of America

by Melany Dela Cruz

The Asian Homeownership Study is designed to examine barriers to homeownership by underserved Asian American populations—particularly refugee, newer immigrant, low-income, inner city and rural populations—significant segments of the Asian American community that continue to face cultural barriers and fail to realize home ownership potential.

To better understand this segment of the population, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has teamed up with the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA) to conduct a survey of AREAA members and other real estate professionals serving Asian clients and communities. The goal of this survey is to better understand the Asian American housing market, dispel misperceptions about the community and develop policy and programmatic recommendations that can help disadvantaged segments realize their home ownership goals. The Asian Homeownership Study will culminate in a comprehensive report that is real estate industry-focused.

## UC President's Postdoc Adria Imada Gives Talk on "Hula Queens" and "Cinderellas"

NOVEMBER 6, 2003—As part of the Center's Fall Colloquium Series, ADRIA IMADA, a 2003-2004 UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow, presented "'Hula Queens' and 'Cinderellas': Hawaiian Entertainment in the U.S. Empire."

Beginning in the 1930s, Native Hawaiian and Asian American hula dancers entertained in phenomenally popular Hawaiian showrooms on the U.S. continent. Heralded as 'hula queens' and 'cinderellas,' these women left Hawai'i during a period of expanding American control over the territory. This talk suggests connections between female celebrity, colonial hula circuits, and American imperial interests in the Pacific.

Adria L. Imada was a UC President's postdoctoral fellow at UCLA in History and Asian American Studies. She received a Ph.D. from the American Studies Program at New York University. Her dissertation, "Aloha America: Hawaiian Entertainment and Culture in the U.S. Empire," won the 2003 Ralph Henry Gabriel dissertation prize from the American Studies Association. She also directed a short documentary, *Aunty Betty*, a portrait of Betty Puanani Makia, a former hula dancer in New York City. Her article, "Hawaiians on Tour: Hula Circuits through the American Empire," was published in a recent issue of *American Quarterly* (Spring 2004).



## Dr. Lucy Mae San Pablo Burns Becomes Newest Member of AAS Faculty

The Center is very pleased to announce that Dr. LUCY MAE SAN PABLO BURNS, currently a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Santa Cruz, has been selected for a split faculty position as Assistant Professor in Asian American Studies and the World Arts and Cultures Department at UCLA, with special emphasis on Pilipino American Studies and performance studies. Dr. Burns received her Ph.D. in the English, American Studies program at University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2004.

Dr. Burns's scholarly project, "Community Acts: Locating Pilipino American Theater and Performance," is a book-length study of the creative works of Pilipino American theater artists from the 1970s to the present. She has published in the *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Asian Pacific American Journal*, *Black Theater News Network* and *The North American Review*. Burns is also co-editor (with Roberta Uno) of *The Color of Theater: Race, Culture, and Contemporary Performance* (Athlone, 2001).

## UC Davis Prof. Bill Hing Speaks about U.S. Deportation of Cambodians

Photograph by Lung San Louie



Prof. Bill Hing.

FEBRUARY 6, 2004— Professor BILL HING, from UC Davis, came to the Center to speak about the deportation of Cambodians from the U.S. In 2002, the U.S. Department of State announced that Cambodia will accept Cambodians who have been convicted of crimes in the U.S. As Hing discussed, this international agreement has the potential to harm large numbers of Cambodians in the U.S.—citizens as well as people who have not become citizens yet.

From Hing's article, "Deported for Shoplifting?," *Washington Post*, December 29, 2002:

"Would we deport Winona Ryder for shoplifting? Of course not. In fact, for her felony conviction, Ryder will pay restitution, engage in community service and face no jail time. Yet, every day, the United States deports lawful immigrants and refugees who have been convicted of minor offenses such as shoplifting and writing bad checks. Yes, some have committed more serious crimes involving violence or narcotics, but all have been incarcerated, then deported on top of that. . . . Winona Ryder is lucky she did not enter the country as a toddler from a Thai refugee camp. If she had, she might be faced with an armed escort to Phnom Penh."

See <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A46121-2002Dec27?language=printer> for the complete article.

This event was co-sponsored with UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition.

## Professor Anna Lau from Psychology Joins Center's Faculty

The Center welcomed a new member to its Faculty Advisory Committee, which currently consists of nearly 40 faculty across various disciplines at UCLA.

ANNA S. LAU, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology, earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto and her Ph.D. from UCLA. Her general research interests lie in the areas of mental health care for Asian American families, culture and child psychopathology, and parent-child relations in immigrant families.

She states, "I am developing and testing models of cultural influence on risk of physical abuse in ethnic minority families in general, and Asian American families in particular. . . . This project will culminate in the design, implementation and evaluation of a culturally responsive parent management training intervention for Asian American Families." Professor Lau is a recent recipient of a career development award from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). She teaches a large undergraduate class on Asian American personality and mental health that is cross-listed between Psychology and Asian American Studies.

For more information on the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, visit <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/fac/index.html>.



Photograph by Mary Uyematsu Kao

Prof. Anna Lau.

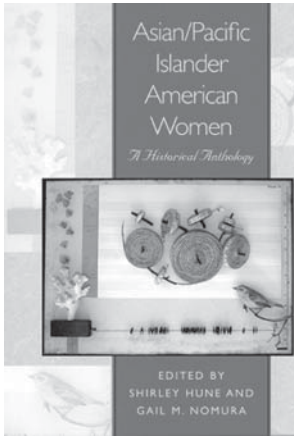
## Center Postdoc Lynn Fujiwara Discusses Immigrant Rights and Welfare

JUNE 10, 2004—Institute of American Cultures (IAC) Postdoctoral Fellow LYNN FUJIWARA discussed major themes to emerge from her field research conducted from 1996-1998 in the San Francisco Bay area. In the immediate aftermath of "the end of welfare," immigrant rights organizations mobilized to restore some of the harshest cuts to non-citizens. Assessing what made the restoration of some benefits possible in post-1996, Dr. Fujiwara discussed what dilemmas and challenges face immigrant rights organizations in sustaining advocacy measures to make welfare policy address poverty more adequately.

Dr. Fujiwara received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She is an Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology at the University of Oregon, and her research focuses on the convergence of welfare and immigration reform under the broader rubric of immigrant rights and the politics of citizenship. She is currently working on a book entitled *Sanctioning Immigrants: Asian Immigrant Women and the Racial Politics of Welfare Reform*.

This talk, held at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center Library, was co-sponsored by the Center, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, and the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council.

## Professors Shirley Hune and Valerie Matsumoto Discuss New Book on A/PIA Women

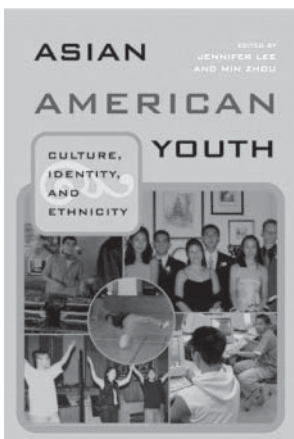


MARCH 11, 2004—In recognition of International Women's Day, the Center, along with the UCLA Center for the Study of Women, held a special talk on the publication of an important new volume, *Asian/Pacific Islander American Women: A Historical Anthology* (New York University Press, 2003). Co-editor SHIRLEY HUNE, Professor of Urban Planning and Asian American Studies and Associate Dean, UCLA Graduate Division, and contributor VALERIE MATSUMOTO, Professor of History and Asian American Studies—both of whom are also members of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee—discussed this first major collection devoted to the historical study of A/PIA women's diverse experiences. The volume presents new findings about a range of groups, including recent immigrants to the U.S. and understudied A/PIA communities. It addresses a wide range of women's experiences—as immigrants, military brides, refugees, American born, lesbians, workers, mothers, beauty contestants, and community activists.

It addresses a wide range of women's experiences—as immigrants, military brides, refugees, American born, lesbians, workers, mothers, beauty contestants, and community activists.

## Professor Min Zhou Co-Edits Groundbreaking Collection on Asian American Youth

*Asian American Youth: Culture, Identity, and Ethnicity*, edited by Jennifer Lee and Department of Asian American Studies Chair MIN ZHOU, has just been released by Routledge. This collection is one of the first to address the important topics



concerning Asian American youth as a distinctive group apart from other groups such as Latinos and African Americans. The essays examine such timely topics as immigration, assimilation, intermarriage, socialization, sexuality, and ethnic identification. This work fills an absence in the existing literature on youth culture while providing a broad look at Asian American youth culture across different Asian ethnic groups. Contributors include: Min Zhou, Jennifer Lee, Frank D. Bean, Valerie J. Matsumoto,

Shirley Jennifer Lim, Gloria Heyung Chun, Sabeen Sandhu, Christy Chiang-Hom, Victoria Namkung, Linda Trinh Võ, Mary Yu Danico, Lakandiwa M. de Leon, James Diego Vigil, Steve C. Yun, Jesse Cheng, Sody Lay, Rebecca Y. Kim, Nancy Wang Yuen, Mark Tristan Ng, Sara S. Lee, and William Wei.

## Professor Vinay Lal Publishes Three New Books

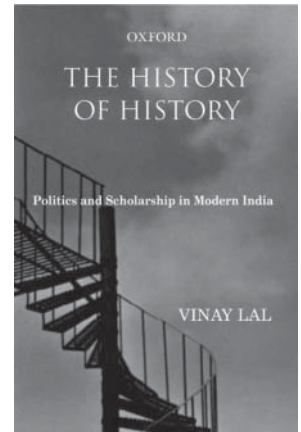
Professor VINAY LAL, of the Department of History and a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, published a book in January 2004, with two more forthcoming in the next few months.

*The History of History: Politics and Scholarship in Modern India* is published by Oxford University Press. Visit <http://www.oup.com/isbn/0-19-566465-5?view=in> for a full description of the text.

*The Future of Knowledge and Culture: A Dictionary for the Twenty-first Century*, co-edited by Professor Lal and Ashis Nandy, will be published by Penguin (India) in December 2004. This book explores the fates of culture and knowledge in the twenty-first century.

Nothing is beyond the scope of this dictionary: Weapons of mass destruction, plague, the philosophy of Coca Cola, spin doctors, maps, sacred groves, Bollywood, coronary bypass and the idea of exile all fall within its ambit. The sixty-five entries appear to cover only a small cross-section of life, but their concern is nothing less than altering an entire way of thinking that has become ingrained in us.

Finally, *Introducing Hinduism* is due out in January 2005 from Icon Books. This is a volume in the "Introducing" series, which includes volumes on Foucault, Buddhism, Cultural Studies, Chomsky, and Postmodernism. This book is a guide to some of the philosophical, literary, mythological and cultural traditions of an extraordinarily expansive faith. This book explores many aspects of the cultural history of Hinduism, and also offers insights into the rise of Hindu extremism, the representation of Hinduism in Bollywood, and the expansion of Hinduism overseas.



## Edward Chang and K. Connie Kang Discuss Korean American Centennial

JUNE 2, 2004—The Center was pleased to present two of America's most prominent Korean American authors: *Los Angeles Times* journalist K.

CONNIE KANG, author of *Home was the Land of Morning Calm*, and UC Riverside Professor EDWARD T. CHANG, guest editor of two special volumes of *Amerasia Journal* commemorating 100 years of Koreans in America. The authors discussed "What it means to be Korean American in the 21st century"—

from immigration, politics, culture, to personal family sagas. A book signing followed.



Chang and Kang.

Photograph by Lung San Louie



## Professor Thu-huong Nguyen-vo Recipient of Two Fellowships

Asian American Studies and Asian Languages and Cultures professor THU-HUONG NGUYEN-VO is the recipient of two grants for her latest project entitled, "Know All Evils: Commercial Sex, Knowledge, Culture, and the Governing of Market Freedoms in Vietnam." Professor Nguyen-vo received the Andrew Mellon/Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement for Junior Faculty Award, and the UC President's Fellowship for Research for the Humanities, both for academic year 2004-2005.

## Professor Ninez Ponce Receives Grant for Research on Cancer Screening

Faculty Advisory Committee member NINEZ PONCE, from the Department of Health Services, has received a five-year career development (K07) award from the National Cancer Institute (NIH) to study the influence of socio-ecological variables on cancer screening behavior. Her project is entitled, "Do socio-ecological variables influence cancer screening behaviors? A multi-level modeling study using the California Health Interview Survey," and her mentor is fellow FAC member Roshan Bastani. The five-year grant will fund Professor Ponce's study, which will examine if socio-ecological

predictors have an effect on population-based cancer screening behaviors, specifically for breast, cervix, colorectal and prostate cancers. The study seeks to understand whether and to what extent social resources, health care delivery systems, and health insurance markets mediate individual decisions to seek preventive cancer screening services, particularly among racial and ethnic minority populations.



Photograph courtesy of Ninez Ponce

## Melany Dela Cruz Receives Center for Community Partnerships Grant for Census Information Center Project

Center staff member and Census Information Center Coordinator MELANY DELA CRUZ is a recipient of a Center for Community Partnerships Grant for her project entitled, "The Socioeconomic Status of American Indians and Asians in Los Angeles: Educational Attainment, Employment and Home Ownership," which will provide critical information to the American Indian and Asian American communities in Los Angeles County. The project examines socioeconomic issues facing American Indians and Asians in Los Angeles County, as well as the nexus between human capital, labor-market status, and home ownership. Dela Cruz, along with the other CCP grant recipients, made a presentation on her project to the UC Regents on February 5, 2004.

For more information about CCP and UCLA in LA, visit <http://la.ucla.edu/>.

## Professor Mitch Chang Recipient of Two Prestigious Awards

Faculty Advisor Committee member MITCH CHANG, from the Department of Education, has been awarded a four-year, \$1.2 million dollar National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, as well as been named the 2004-2005 Sudikoff Fellow.

The specific aim of his national project, funded by the NIH, is to examine underrepresented student access to resources and forms of engagement that result in outcomes (skills, dispositions, and behaviors) necessary for a research career in the biomedical and behavioral sciences. The goal of the project is to:

- Generate new knowledge to guide the preparation and advancement of underrepresented students toward successful research careers

- Provide information on the diversity experiences, access to resources, and issues that impact the engagement of African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American students attending a variety of institutions, including minority-serving institutions

- Inform educators by sharing national research findings, encouraging them to use the data locally, and inviting them to attend a forum to showcase successful practices

The ultimate goal of the project is to assist colleges in their education of racial/ethnic minority students who can serve as role models and address important questions related to their population of origin through a research career.

Professor Chang is the co-PI working with Dr. Sylvia Hurtado, who is the PI and Director of the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA.

Professor Chang has also been selected to be the 2004-2005 Fellow for the Sudikoff Family Institute for Education & New Media. Each year, the Institute brings to the public arena the work of one Graduate School of Education faculty member, and communicates the Fellow's expertise by serving as a liaison with the mainstream media. To learn more about the Sudikoff mission, visit <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/sudikoff>.

## EthnoCom Awarded Two Grants

EthnoCom has been awarded two grants to create educational media products. Funded by the UCLA Center for Community Partnership's UCLA in LA grant, *A Pilgrimage Of Tolerance: December 7th to September 11th* will link the politics of prejudice that occurred after the bombing of Pearl Harbor to similar acts of intolerance that have taken place after the bombing of the World Trade Center. Through the partnership of community and university-based groups in Los Angeles, an educational DVD and accompanying 200-page resource guide for classroom and community workshops will be developed.

EthnoCom's second grant from California Civil Liberties Education Program (CCLPEP) will produce *First Pilgrimage*, another classroom/community use DVD, documenting the first Pilgrimage to Manzanar and its connection to and influence on the early Asian American movement in Los Angeles.

According to EthnoCom Director Robert A. Nakamura, *First Pilgrimage* will be designed as the first of a DVD series tracing the early Asian American Movement. He and EthnoCom staff are currently developing proposals to establish an Asian American movement visual archive.

## MA Class of 2005 Dreams of Teaching, Working for Non-Profits, and Running for Public Office

*THE MA CLASS OF 2005 proves to be ambitious, diverse, and all with a good sense of humor. From the colorful autumns of the East coast to the sandy beaches of California come 14 of the hardest working Asian American Studies graduate students this side of the planet.*

EURIE CHUNG grew up in Connecticut and received her bachelor's in English from Tufts University. As far as her decision to join the MA program is concerned, she states, "I liked the joint social welfare aspect of things—to get a professional degree with my 'personally' fulfilling MA. I didn't consider going anywhere else." For her thesis, Eurie is working on a project involving Korean Americans and labor organizing. At Tufts, a class taught by Professor Jean Wu demonstrated to Eurie all the possibilities of working with Asian American communities: "Prior to that, I was focused on the African American community. After working in the nonprofit sector, I realized how limited people's knowledge is about Asian American issues and decided to pursue my MA. The abundant resources of the west coast called to me." Upon completion of the program, Eurie hopes to be in a position which allows her to "make a decision between furthering her academic career, taking a job with a good Asian American nonprofit organization in New York City, or pursuing more creative projects."

KATHLEEN CUSTODIO grew up in an area of San Diego called the South Bay. She attended USC, where she majored in American Studies & Ethnicity and Mathematics. She joined the Center's MA program in order to learn more about Filipino American experiences and the diaspora. Her thesis research is on San Diego-based Filipino U.S. Navy families and will examine these families in terms of race/ethnicity, gender, class, and generations. Kathleen is a member of FANHS (Filipino American National Historical Society)-LA and of PAGaSA (Pilipino American Graduate Student Association) and AASGSA at UCLA. While at USC, she worked for Asian Pacific American Student Services (APASS) and met several people (e.g. Jeff Murakami, Thomas Yee) who introduced her to Asian American Studies. At USC, she also worked with Professors Jane Iwamura, Janelle Wong, and Viet Nguyen. Her goals include getting a Fulbright scholarship to study/work in the Philippines for a year and to practice Tagalog. She states, "Ultimately, I can imagine myself teaching classes in Asian American Studies at the community college level or

teaching Tagalog/Filipino or math at the high school level." FLORANTE PETER IBANEZ grew up in Wilmington and Carson, California, and attended UC Irvine, where he majored in Comparative Cultures. Florante has a long history with the Center, as he worked there during its beginnings in the 1970s. He is currently pursuing a joint degree in Information Studies and Asian American Studies. He states, "I really enjoy the challenge of learning (even at my advanced age) and the fellowship of my cohorts, and I actually would prefer to call them my compadres." Currently, he is involved in a community project with the

Filipino American Library, which has been awarded a UCLA in LA Grant to increase their patron visitor outreach through research and by utilizing a more interactive website. Florante states that he has been influenced by ". . . my experience as a community activist and student in the Movement of the 1970s [when] I became aware of the need for social change, and I was influenced by many folks I have know over the

years including Philip VeraCruz, Uncle Roy Morales, Warren Furutani, my life partner Roselyn and our daughters Gabriela and Mikaela. I believe that it's important that our stories be told as part of the American Experience." After obtaining his degree, Florante would like to teach part-time at the university and community college level. But, "In the meantime I'll be working on developing an on-line virtual museum hopefully linked to the Filipino American Library and the Pinoy Museum being developed by the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS)." Busy guy!

QUYEN LU was born in Saigon, South Vietnam to a Vietnamese mother and Chinese father. She grew up in North Hollywood, California and attended California State University, Northridge, where she received her Bachelor's in Biology and Asian American Studies. For her thesis, Quyen would like to research the experiences of the post-1975 generation of Vietnamese refugees living in America and produce her own short stories based on these experiences. The issues she is interested in incorporating into work are: hate crimes, domestic violence, home invasion robberies, and multiethnic/biracial families. She states, "I want to bring awareness to this group of people who have made America their permanent home. It has almost been three decades since the arrival of post-1975 generation Vietnamese refugees and yet they are not perceived as Americans. The study of Vietnamese Americans is limited to the study of the Vietnam War in U.S. history classes. There is a lack of awareness about Vietnamese Americans

Photograph by Brandy Worrall-Yu



Class of 2005: (sitting, from left to right) David K. Song, Triet Vo, Calvin Tchiang, Vu Long Le Trinh, Ryan Masaaki Yokota; (standing, from left to right) Julie Anabo Orquiza, Sejal Patel, Eurie Chung, Kathleen Custodio, Quyen Lu, My-Diem Nguyen, Anjali Nath, and AAS 200D professor Jinqi Ling. Missing from photo: Florante Ibanez and Huy Chheng.



within U.S. society, other than broad media images of the 'natives' of the Vietnam War." Quyen would like to someday secure an academic post in an Asian American Studies department, "devoting myself to both creative writing and teaching at the college level." She says, "I believe the Asian American Studies Master's program at UCLA is uniquely equipped to guide me toward these objectives. This program approaches the Asian Pacific American literature with a cross-disciplinary focus, recognizing that the written word has the potential to be an entry point for social and cultural inquiry."

ANJALI NATH grew up in Boston, and majored in Anthropology and Information Studies at UCLA. She states, "As an undergrad, I always wanted the opportunity to fuse South Asian Studies and Asian American Studies, and I am really excited about the freedom that the program gives." For her master's thesis, she will examine the work of Kashmiri American writer Agha Shahid Ali and the cultural translation of memory in homelands of conflict. Anjali says that she has been influenced by "All the people of color who struggle to construct spaces of beauty and resistance in this here world." After completing the MA program, Anjali would like to secure a place in a Ph.D. program that would allow her to do part of her research in India and part of it in the U.S.

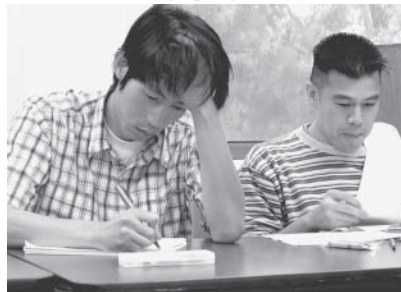
MY-DIEM NGUYEN

grew up in Chula Vista, California, and attended UC Davis, where she obtained her bachelor's in Asian American Studies and Sociology. She joined the MA program in order to further her academic and community organizing training and to build community networks in Los Angeles county. She says, "I came into the program with an interest in second-generation Southeast Asian womyn and mental health, but opted to take the syllabi portfolio option, which includes (1) Asian Pacific American history, (2) contemporary Asian Pacific American communities, and (3) either queering in Asian America, Asian Pacific American womyn, or Southeast Asian American experience." My-Diem is involved in Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association (AASGSA), Womyn Warrior: Asian Sisters in Action (WW:ASIA), National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), and Vietnamese Women's Forum (VWF). She states that post-MA, she would like "to be a tenured community college prof and a professional staff member for a community agency that works with SEA youth, specifically SEA adolescent womyn, that functions similarly to Khmer Girls in Action from Long Beach."

JULIE ANABO ORQUIZA was born in the east coast, lived in the Philippines from two to eight years old, moved to California in the third grade, and has been an L.A. girl ever since. She attended Loyola Marymount University for her undergraduate studies. She has been working at Search To Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA) in the community development department for the last four years. Julie states, "I decided to join the MA program because I wanted to learn how to de-

velop multicultural educational programs for the Asian American organizations I work with by linking the community with the academia. My thesis is a community project that will develop a curriculum and program for a Filipino American Cultural School." Julie is a St. Martha Religious Education Teacher, Filipino American Network (FAN) Founder, Festival of Philippine Arts and Culture (FPAC) Volunteer, Filipino American Library Volunteer, and Pilipino Alumni Association of UCLA (PAA) Member.

Photograph by Brandy Worrall-Yu



David Song and Triet Vo go over some of the issues in the readings.

For her goals, she says, "I want to teach a Filipino American Experience Class someday and develop a Filipino American Cultural School."

DAVID K. SONG grew up in California. He states that he's been a big fan of public schools since the first day of kindergarten, and he will die in California, surrounded by palm trees. He majored in social sciences at a public institution fifteen minutes from the ocean. After he receives his MA, David plans on running for public office.

CALVIN TCHIANG spent the first part of his childhood in Clayton, "a town with one general store." The second half of his life was spent in San Jose. He attended UCLA, where he majored in History and Asian American Studies. He is currently involved in the Evergreen Baptist Community Church, which does work in developing Asian American consciousness and social justice. He has also worked with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. Some of his mentors have included Professors Jim Lee and Julie Cho, with whom Calvin took a summer class on Asian American Communities. He states, "There was a great deal of critical thinking, and for me, passion which came with their teaching. They set me upon the road to asking more critical questions about the nature of the American age and about people's responsibilities in a troubled time." After the program, Calvin would like to become an international lawyer or activist, who spearheads small-business programs aimed at the disenfranchised in the developing world. "My goals would be helping to redistribute funds on a worldwide scale and elevate the standard of living in China or South America."

VU LONG TRINH grew up in San Jose, and he majored in Ethnic Studies at Berkeley. For his thesis, he will work on a creative writing project about Southeast Asian youth. He has been involved with the Southeast Asian Student Coalition (SASC) at Berkeley. His goals include running his own community youth arts/education center.

RYAN MASAACKI YOKOTA grew up in Southern California. He attended UCLA, where he majored in English/American Studies and History, with a specialization in Asian American Studies. His research focus will be on the Okinawan Peruvian community in Los Angeles. In addition to being involved in the Okinawan community, Ryan is also involved in various issues such as anti-military issues and issues related to the prison-industrial complex. Ryan says that after earning his MA, he would like to do "something that allows me to make significant change for all of our communities."

Photograph by Brandy Worrall-Yu



My-Diem Nguyen, Anjali Nath, and Quyen Lu talk about their presentation to their 200D class.

## Center Holds First Ever Joint MA and BA Commencement Ceremony

JUNE 20, 2004—For the first time in the history of the Center, MA graduates and undergraduate majors and minors in Asian American Studies came together in one commencement ceremony, held in the Schoenberg Auditorium. Approximately thirty-five students and over 150 guests participated in this special event. The keynote address was delivered by GLENN OMATSU, professor at California State University, Northridge and former Associate Editor of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press. What follows is a selection of excerpts from his speech; the entire speech can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/>.

### “Unfinished Tasks in Asian American Studies”

by Glenn Omatsu

Graduation ceremonies are typically times for celebrating accomplishments and reflecting on the challenges for the future. Today—with the holding of the first UCLA Asian American Studies departmental graduation ceremony—there is much to celebrate, and I am honored to speak before you and share in this celebration. However, without diminishing all the achievements, I want to focus on the unfinished tasks facing Asian American Studies and graduates today. I want to use this occasion to identify the ways that each person here can use their expertise in Asian American Studies to serve our communities, especially in this critical period of growing poverty in the world, war, and corporate corruption.

Nearly five years ago, Professor Don Nakanishi challenged students, staff, and faculty to create a “department of a new type” at UCLA. At that time, he identified the unique strengths of Asian American Studies at this campus. These strengths included the more than 3,000 students taking classes each year, the research accomplishments of faculty, the scholarship published by UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, and the activism of students both on campus and in communities.

Creating a “department of a new type” requires thinking about our education in new ways. It means moving beyond the mission of a traditional academic department, where students are viewed as consumers with little power over the content of their education. It means upholding the right to a college education for all at a time when that right is being attacked on many fronts. It means finding ways to redirect resources from universities to help transform our communities through support of grassroots movements.

The call to create a “department of a new type” also provides an opportunity to re-emphasize the founding mission of Asian American Studies. The founding mission is rooted in the vision of Freedom Schools and the work of African American activists to create schools of a “new type” during the early stages of the Civil Rights Movement in the racially segregated South. Students in the first Freedom Schools learned basic subjects like reading, writing, math and history. But they also learned about the needs facing their neighborhoods due to the impact of racism and oppression, and they focused on ways they could respond to these problems. In other words, the curriculum of Freedom Schools linked academic subjects to the solving of

community needs. . . . In the words of Meg Malpaya Thornton, the founding mission called upon students to “bring Asian American Studies to the community.”

Today, despite the growing number of classes across the nation, the mission of Asian American Studies has narrowed under the pressures to conform to traditional university practices. In that sense, Asian American Studies has been influenced by the narrow mission of the traditional university rather than transforming higher education with the expanded mission of Freedom Schools. . . . As a result, there are many sectors of our community that will never have a chance to learn about Asian American Studies. These sectors include immigrant workers, senior citizens, prison inmates, high school dropouts, tenants in inner-city housing projects, and almost all immigrant parents. These are sectors that need to be reached by an expanded vision of Asian American Studies. . . .

Gaining a degree in Asian American Studies today means taking up the responsibility to educate and mobilize others around. . . .critical issues of solidarity with immigrant worker struggles, creation of interethnic alliances for justice, opposition to war and new forms of colonialism, and opposition to corporate-driven globalization.

Creating a “department of a new type” also means experimenting with new forms of teaching and learning. These experiments need. . . .promote students’ creative thinking about new ways to bring Asian American Studies to our communities. . . .

Who, then, can provide leadership for these kinds of experiments, large and small? In a traditional university department, leadership would come from administrators and faculty. But a “department of a new type” requires different leaders—leaders who are closely connected to community issues and who understand the power of grassroots movements. These leaders will come from the ranks of students and recent graduates such as those here today.

Thus, in concluding this speech, I ask today’s graduates to think ahead five to ten years from now and ask themselves how they want people to remember the creation of the Asian American Studies department at UCLA and the pioneering role of the first graduating class. Five to ten years from now, will people talk about the efforts to create a “department of a new type” as a noble and idealistic attempt that ultimately failed? Or will they define this period as the time when a cohort of courageous new graduates transformed Asian American Studies with the vision of Freedom Schools and redefined political dynamics in our communities? . . .

### AAS Graduate Students Association Hold Annual *Subverses* Event

MAY 20, 2004—The Asian American Studies Graduate Students Association (AASGSA) held its annual *Subverses* performance at the Cooperage Stage in Ackerman Student Union. The event, subtitled “we will not be moved,” showcased a number of musicians, artists groups, spoken word performers, and community speakers, as well as a showing of the film *we will not be moved*. Performers included: Vinyl Vision (dj), Khmer Girls in Action, Chosen 1 (hip-hop), Nostalgic Progressions (hip-hop), Steve Moon, Mai Piece, South Asian Network, and Carlo Manalang.



## Hmong Student Conference Addresses Hmong American Concerns

Photograph by Mary Uyematsu Kao



Participants of the Hmong Student Conference.

APRIL 17, 2004—The UCLA Association for Hmong Students organized an important conference entitled, “Giving Voice to Hmong-American Experience: Creating Dialogue, Creating Change” in Kerchoff Grand Salon at UCLA. The conference served to engage UCLA faculty, staff, and undergraduate and graduate students in the following concerns:

the unmet needs and concerns of Hmong-American students at UCLA, such as the need for lower and upper division University courses that teach about Hmong history, language, and culture, their socioeconomic conditions and political participation, and their contemporary experiences in the United States;

the possible ways that UCLA faculty and scholars can incorporate and address the concerns of Hmong Americans through teaching and research curricula

Both students and faculty made presentations on such topics as Hmong history, Hmong studies in the larger fields of Southeast Asian and Asian American Studies, and Hmong student needs.

## EthnoCom Student Films Featured at VC's 2004 Asian American Film Festival

by Vivian Wong

Seven works created by EthnoCommunications students were selected for screening at the week-long Visual Communications' 2004 Asian American Film Festival presented at various venues throughout Los Angeles.

*No Vacancy* by Tina Bhaga, Elena Bovetti, and Alexandra Lewis; *Broken Promises* by Christine Araquel, Jose “Bookie” Flores, Michelle Gutierrez, and Amber Ng; and *'81ology* by Hana Jung, Laura Lin, Michelle Reyes, and Eric Tandoc were screened at a special program highlighting young media makers, entitled *Armed With A Camera Meets Ethno: Digital Posse 04*.

Other EthnoCommunications works enjoyed by festival audiences were, *Taking Care of Their Own: The Story of the Yellow Brotherhood* by Tadashi Nakamura; *Art and Activism on the Ones and Twos* by Phuong Tang and Jenny Cho; *Belmont High: Trapping Our Youth* by Jason Yap; and *Selling Louie's Village* by Jason Mak.

## 2004-2005 Center Fellowship, Prize, & Scholarship Awardees

### ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

- Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize (\$250)  
*Genevieve Espinosa*
- Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in AA Literature & Culture (\$250)  
*Mychau Michelle Le*
- Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Prize (\$250)  
*Annie Hsiao*
- Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Prize (\$250)  
*Marissa Lea Andres*
- Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize (\$250)  
*Lucy Chow*
- Royal Morales Prize in Pilipino American Studies (\$250)  
*Sarah Marie P. Mamaril*

### UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award (\$1,000)  
*Don Kim Khuong*
- Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)  
*Adeste Sipin*
- 21st Century Undergraduate Scholarships (\$2,000 each)  
*Ty Mary Goodpaster, Darryl Zamora Molina*
- Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship (\$2,000)  
*Erin Akemi Matsushita*
- Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarships (\$2,000 each)  
*Erin Akemi Matsushita, Keijiro Imura, Aileen Trieu, Lauren Watanabe*
- Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000)  
*Grant Takahashi*
- George and Sakaye Aratani Community Internships (\$3,000)  
*Tracy Eriko Ohara*

### ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR GRADUATES

- Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize (\$250)  
*Huy C. Chheng*
- Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Prize (\$250)  
*Florante Peter Ibanez*

### GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

- Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship (\$1,500)  
*Huy C. Chheng*
- Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship (\$1,500)  
*Eurie Jean Chung*
- 21st Century Graduate Fellowships (\$2,000 each)  
*Eurie Jean Chung, Rita Varisa Patraporn*
- George and Sakaye Aratani Fellowship (\$5,000 each)  
*Ryan Masaaki Yokota, Karalee Mahealani Chieko Vaughn*

### INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN CULTURES (IAC) AWARDS

#### IAC GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Linda Greenberg*, PhD Candidate in English, \$15,000
- Ryan Yokota*, MA Candidate in Asian American Studies, one full year of CA resident registration fees

#### GRADUATE STUDENT IAC GRANTS

- Huy Chheng*, Asian American Studies, \$3,000
- Sathya Burchman*, Ethnomusicology, \$2,500
- Denise Cruz*, English, \$1,000
- Meera Deo*, Sociology, \$1,500
- Loren Kajikawa*, Musicology, \$2,500
- Jenny Lee*, Sociology, \$1,000
- Anjali Nath*, Asian American Studies, \$2,000
- Sejal Patel*, Asian American Studies, \$1,200
- Tzui Tsai*, Public Health, \$3,000
- Joshua Yang*, Public Health, \$1,500
- Yang Xiong*, Sociology, \$2,000

#### FACULTY/STAFF IAC GRANTS

- Mary Kao*, Asian American Studies (staff), \$3,000
- Anna Lau*, Psychology, \$2,000

# A Philippine Vacation

## Globalization, Nativity Scenes, and Mahjong

by Dennis Arguelles

My trip to the Philippines was supposed to be fairly whimsical: lounging at beach resorts, visiting relatives, sightseeing. It had been over 20 years since my last visit, so I planned to spend some time researching my family history and learning more about the province where my parents grew up.

However, I was unaware the trip would take on much greater significance and far exceed my expectations. It would transform such ideas as economic globalization, labor and capital mobility and immigration policy—concepts I had always dealt with on an abstract or academic basis—into very personal issues. Most importantly, it would instill in me the desire to have closer ties to the country of my heritage and the family I have there.

The first thing to grab my attention in Manila's international airport was the special immigration line for Overseas Contract Workers, identified by a banner announcing "Welcome OCWs!" Each year, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos travel abroad to work in the Middle East, Australia and other Asian countries. They work as domestic servants, in blue-collar industries and a range of professional trades, often facing harsh treatment, isolation and exploitation. Few protections exist for these workers, and stories of rape and abuse are common. But remittances by these workers account for up to 15% of the country's GNP. In other words, the Philippines would face economic collapse without their sacrifice. For this, OCWs get a special line at the airport.

I spent a few days on Boracay, an idyllic island resort. While quite lovely, it resembled many developed tourist destinations around the globe: swanky thatched-roofed bungalows and a string of outdoor bars along the beach. One of its more charming characteristics was a lack of a port or dock, requiring you to jump off an outrigger boat and wade through turquoise waters to reach its white sandy shores (rimmed, of course, by swaying palm trees). Other than that, I was ready to move on after just a few days. For me, Boracay's only other significant characteristic was that while all of the workers were Filipino, most of the resort owners were foreigners: Americans, Europeans, Koreans, etc.

My next observations would be those scenes most often associated with the Third World: poverty, pollution and environmental degradation. In Manila, I quickly learned to not roll down the windows in my taxi, lest I attract a crowd of children begging for money and hanging onto the car as it accelerated through the clouds of diesel smoke choking most intersections. Upon reaching my parents' province, I watched anxiously as we crossed a small stone bridge linking the downtown area with their home district. Over 20 years earlier I

had crossed the same bridge and remembered the lush banks of the river rushing underneath. Now, the traffic was so heavy I struggled to catch a glimpse the river, or what was left of it. Lining the banks were homes made of rusted corrugated steel sitting atop bamboo stilts. The river itself was clogged with more garbage than the flow could carry away. I would later learn that many poor families build homes over water; they just can't afford pay rent or purchase land anywhere else.



Photograph by Dennis Arguelles

A typical working-class village in Cebu.

I would spend most of my time in Iloilo, a primarily rural province in the Visayas, a group of islands in the central Philippines. Its capital, Iloilo City, had grown tremendously over the past 20 years, with a population of roughly 700,000. Despite the urban problems associated with this growth, the city's various districts had maintained their charm. Typically, each district is anchored by a plaza, a remnant of several hundred years of Spanish colonial rule, which continues to serve as a center for business and community life. On one end of the plaza stands a Catholic cathedral, often over 500 years old. It was Christmas time, so most of the plazas were bustling with festivities: arts and crafts booths, games, musicians and, of course, lots of food. At night, they exploded in a colorful display of lights and star-shaped lanterns, known as parols. This activity starts about mid-December and continues, day and night, until the end of January. It culminates with Iloilo's famous

Dinagyang Festival, a Mardi Gras-like celebration commemorating the first contact between the island's indigenous inhabitants and the settlers of Malay heritage, the people most of us recognize as "Filipinos."

Everyone told me Dinagyang was not to be missed, so I would vow to return the following year to attend the festival. But it was the roots of the festival that intrigued me most. As a youth, I had visited a reservation for Atis, the aboriginal inhabitants of the island. I met folks who were very similar in appearance to the indigenous Melanesian people of Papua New Guinea and Australia. Now numbering just a few thousand throughout the province, the Atis were a dying race. Pushed aside and neglected for decades, most surviving Atis eked out a living through a combination of subsistence farming, hunting, fishing, selling handicrafts, and unfortunately, begging for handouts in the cities.

With the help of my cousin, I arranged a visit to an Ati settlement on Guimaras, a small neighboring island. After a 20-minute ride on an outrigger boat, we landed and hired a driver to take us to the village. I was somewhat hesitant



about the visit. Visions of anthropologists “displaying” indigenous Filipinos at the 1904 World’s Fair went through my head, and I didn’t want to look like a tourist hoping to see the “natives.” Nonetheless, we reached the settlement and started our visit by chatting with the Catholic nuns who ran the village school, as well as some of the Ati elders. Both the nuns and villagers seemed pleased to see us. Not being on any tourists map or lists of sightseeing destinations, I imagined outside visitors to the village were quite rare.

As luck would have it, we showed up on the day of the village Christmas celebration. The festivities included song and dance competitions, but it was the “live belen” competition that would prove to be one of the most memorable experiences of my trip. I was surprised when one of the nuns asked us to judge the competition. I agreed, and only then realized that a live belen was a life-sized nativity scene, with actual people in the roles of Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the Three Kings, angels and shepherds. Live animals were even used for authenticity. I was handed a score sheet with percentage points assigned to various judging factors: Innovation and Creativity, Completeness of Scene, Use of Indigenous Materials, etc. But the last category amused me the most: “Look of Solemnity on Participants’ Faces.”

It would take every bit of my strength to keep from laughing as I inspected each of the six scenes. Children dressed as cherubs displayed their solemn faces as I came by, but hooted and hollered at kids in the other scenes in an attempt to make them laugh when I was done. Each group put a tremendous amount of work into its scene, weaving coconut husks and palm leaves into intricate costumes and building life-size mangers that could house cows and horses. In the end, I would resort to technicalities to score one scene over the other (I was fairly sure pigs weren’t kept by Hebrew shepherds).

The live belen competition was fun, but it hardly detracted from the abject poverty that characterized the Atis’ everyday existence, as it does many indigenous peoples around the world. Globalization and modernization, the disparity between the First and Third Worlds and the work of missionaries—all have contributed to the impoverishment of indigenous peoples and loss of whole cultures. For the Atis, it meant the conversion to Christianity and the effective elimination of their indigenous language and customs. However, the work of the Catholic nuns also provided one of the few sources of hope for many Atis. The nuns had built a school and were helping numerous Ati youth attend universities, giving them a chance for a better life in the Philippine mainstream. The nuns were carrying out work that no international agencies, NGOs and even the Philippine government could or cared to do. The forces destroying the Ati culture were far greater than any damage the Catholic nuns could exert. Like other indigenous peoples, they were loosing out

to the ugly side of globalization—the effects that are often ignored or overlooked when the benefits of free trade, open markets and economic growth are discussed.

While in Iloilo I also learned about my third cousin Gertrude, who was in Manila after snagging a coveted “call center” job. It wasn’t until I got home that I better understood what a call center was. It’s well known that manufacturing jobs in the U.S. have been moving abroad. But few Americans realize that when receiving customer assistance on the phone, checking on a billing statement, or even getting on-line assistance, they are often talking to or dealing with someone in Asia. To cut labor costs, U.S. corporations out-source various telecommunications jobs to the Philippines, India and other Third World countries, where they can operate the same service centers at a fraction of the cost. At last count, the U.S. had lost roughly 250,000 jobs to overseas call centers. Of course, this means the industry is booming in the Philippines. There, the average call center employee makes less than a fifth of what an American worker makes, but twice what a Filipino bank teller makes. Philippine call center workers are well educated, speak perfect English and even study American slang and regional accents. Ironically, many of them speak better English than the average American.

I had a number of darker encounters in the Philippines as well, including meeting American “consultants” for the U.S. Dept. of Defense, another term for private mercenaries contracted for covert operations in the southern Philippines. At hotels, resorts and other tourist destinations, I observed dozens of very young Filipinas accompanying older white men, a sad reminder of the prevalence of

the Philippine sex-industry. I met a relative who made ends meet by participating in the illegal endangered species trade and learn more about another who, as a member of the national police under the Marcos dictatorship, was responsible for numerous human rights abuses.

I also spent a lot of time participating in everyday activities: going to my niece’s ballet recital, exploring open-air markets and shopping malls, playing mahjong with my aunts and uncles, going to bars and music clubs with my cousins. These activities helped me connect and bond with my family and with new friends, and assured me that despite the country’s economic, social and environmental challenges, it certainly didn’t suffer from a lack of hope and optimism.

The outlook for the Philippine economy is uncertain. There has been healthy growth over the last few years, but the country’s foreign department and unemployment have actually risen. Whatever the future brings to the Philippines, I know I want to retain my connections to the country and do what I can to support Filipino workers and indigenous populations. At the very least I will do everything I can to encourage other Filipino Americans to travel there, in the hopes that they too will get as much out of their visit as I did.

Photograph by Dennis Arguelles



One of the contenders in the live belen competition.

## REGISTER FOR THE L.A./VANCOUVER, B.C. SUMMER PROGRAM!

The Center is pleased to announce the launch of a new and unique summer program to begin in Summer 2005. Offered for summer course credit at UCLA, the program is an opportunity for students to study Chinese migrations to the North American west coast in 2 major metropolitan locales—Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and Los Angeles, California. Jointly offered by the University of British Columbia and UCLA, and featuring the department's popular teacher PROF. HENRY YU, summer students from both institutions will spend a total of three weeks in residence at each campus, engaging in coursework and off-campus field research. The course will run from July 11-August 19, 2005, with the first half of the course held at UBC in Vancouver from July 11-July 29, 2005, and the second half of the course held at UCLA August 1-August 19, 2005. Prof. Yu remarks: "The class will be a chance for UCLA students to spend three weeks in Vancouver, attending class with UBC students and working on team projects examining the old Chinatown in Vancouver, as well as areas of major recent settlement such as Richmond and Burnaby. UBC students will then come down to Los Angeles and together with the UCLA students, go on similar field trips to the original Los Angeles Chinatown and newer areas of Chinese and Taiwanese migration such as San Gabriel and Monterey Park. Because of the unique exchange, students will work together to get to know each other's city. One project will focus on the development of local restaurants that reflect migrant waves as well as local histories. This will be serious learning experience, but students will also get to eat a lot of good food—with Vancouver having the reputation of the best Chinese seafood restaurants in the whole world!" The 6-week course will provide an in-depth look at Chinese migrations to the Vancouver and L.A. areas in the context of larger Pacific migrations.



Photograph by Brandon Morrill-Yu

LA/Vancouver Summer Program Director Professor Henry Yu, of UCLA and University of British Columbia.

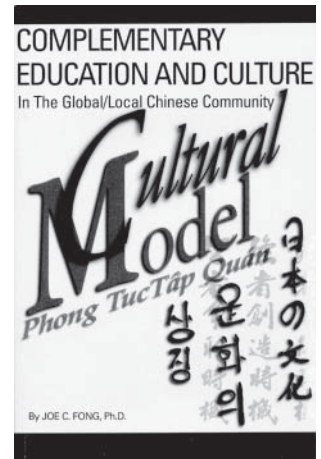
Prof. Yu is currently an Associate Professor in the History departments at both UCLA and UBC. He is developing a joint UCLA-UBC Center for the Study of Pacific Migrations. He sees this summer course as an opportunity to engage students in some of the complex issues of global migration at the heart of the new Center, which on the UCLA campus will be housed in the Asian American Studies Center. UCLA students interested in the summer program should take the suggested prerequisite class taught by Prof. Yu in the Winter 2005 quarter, AAS 130A, "History of Chinese Americans." For more information, contact Prof. Yu at [henryyu@ucla.edu](mailto:henryyu@ucla.edu) or AAS Department SAO Stacey Hirose at [shirose@aasc.ucla.edu](mailto:shirose@aasc.ucla.edu).

## Center Alum Dr. Joe C. Fong Publishes Book on Global/Local Chinese Education

by Mary Uyematsu Kao

JOE CHUNG FONG, who graduated from the Center's MA program in 1988, has published *Complementary Education and Culture: In the Global-Local Chinese Community* (China Books and Periodicals, Inc., 2003). Fong studied under the late Professor John Ogbu, and received his Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Anthropology, UC Berkeley in 2001.

*Complementary Education and Culture* is an ethnographic study conducted in the San Gabriel Valley school district from 1996-1998 to provide some explanations for the academic success of the contemporary global-local Chinese immigrant students in Los Angeles. Dr. Fong relied on several main sources of information: participant observation, in-depth interviews, surveys, and transnational newspapers in San Gabriel Valley. He takes an innovative approach which includes a discussion of Chinese films as the "commonality" or "collective identity" among different Chinese sub-groups; how heritage language schools crystallize students' cultural identities for their parents and community; and how the contemporary global-local community adopted Kwan Kung, the God of War and Literature (and not Confucius), as one of the most pervasive Chinese influences in San Gabriel Valley—offering an alternative cultural belief.



This study has significant implications in terms of anthropological theory of education and minorities / Asian Americans. Fong contends that Chinese students attending heritage language schools reinforce incompatibility with American public schools, but they still do well academically in the American public schools. This study opens a new area of inquiry for the comparative approach to minority education: Fong asks, "Do other studies on minority education consider and include minority language schools?" Dr. Fong questions the Asian "cultural explanation" for Chinese students' high academic levels—"The fact remains that no one has ever seriously addressed or explained how such cultural mechanisms work to the Asian student's advantage."

Dr. Fong is currently a Research Associate with the Berkeley Center for Globalization and Information Technology, working with Professor Michael S. Laguerre to examine the Asian transnational migrants' children's education, their entrepreneurship, and their economic and social impact in the Silicon Valley.

*Complementary Education and Culture: In the Global-Local Chinese Community* can be purchased at: China Books and Periodicals, Inc., 2929 Twenty Fourth Street, San Francisco, CA 94110; (415) 550-1242.



## Center Alum Shirlie Mae Mamaril-Choe Named New Executive Director of APADRC

SHIRLIE MAE MAMARIL-CHOE, who did her MA thesis research under the guidance of Professors Pauline Agbayani-Siewert, Henry Yu, and Don Nakanishi on "Perceptions of Child Physical Abuse Among Filipino American Parents" (in progress), recently became the new Executive Director of the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center (APADRC), which, as she states, "provides culturally and linguistically appropriate conflict management services to the diverse populations of Los Angeles County with a specific focus on Asian and Pacific Islander populations. These services include mediation, group facilitation, and training." The three main programmatic units of APADRC include Community & Intergroup Conflicts (CIC), Youth Mediators United (YMU), and Training programs.

Mamaril-Choe sums up the goals of these units: "CIC focuses on providing mediation services to the diverse communities of LA County. The types of cases we handle range from landlord-tenant, neighbor, consumer-merchant, work related, family disputes, as well as other civil disputes. We do not handle criminal cases such as domestic violence or fraud-related cases. "YMU focuses on training students (7th through 12th grade) in being peer mediators at their schools. Currently we are at four campuses: Foshay Learning Center, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, Le Conte Middle School, and King Drew Medical Magnet High School. We provide support for coordination of peer mediation programs at the schools, as well as provide student, parent, staff, and teacher trainings in conflict management.

"Lastly, through our Training Program, we aim to empower organizations and individuals to effectively work through conflicts when they arise. Different examples of the types of training we offer are: Conflict management in the workplace, Cross-cultural communications Workshop, and Diffusing conflicts. The APADRC tailors each training to the circumstances of the agency, taking into account the organization's mission, structure, and constituency."

As Executive Director, Mamaril-Choe oversees these three programmatic units, reports directly to the Board of Directors, and assists the Board in establishing program missions, goals, and policies. She also focuses on personnel, fundraising, community relations, and grant writing and development as needed for the agency.

Her extensive background in diversity awareness and her work history with various non-profit organizations, starting from her undergraduate years at UC Santa Barbara, has made Mamaril-Choe the ideal candidate for this position. She started out at the APADRC as an AmeriCorps\*Vista volun-

teer as a full-time Outreach Coordinator, and from there, she was hired as a Program Director for the organization's community programs. She states, "While I did not have specific background in mediation or dispute resolution, the work of the APADRC was a natural fit with my background in diversity awareness trainings, especially given the cross-cultural emphasis of the center."

The Center's MA program has given Mamaril-Choe a solid foundation for the type of work in which she is engaged: "Because the APADRC is the only mediation center in Southern California (possibly the nation) that has a focus on the Asian and Pacific Islander communities, it has been very important to have an understanding of the history and intergroup dynamics of the various groups to whom we provide services. The MA program has provided me with such resources. Additionally, we hope that the program can help to provide key contacts for potential volunteers, as well as researchers who can help us develop some of our service areas, such as developing a model to provide mediation services to older adult populations, or a model specifically addressing mediation needs among day laborers."

Mamaril-Choe hopes that in the future, there can be a stronger relationship between her organization (and other community organizations like it) and the Center: "I think there needs to be a stronger partnership between the Center and organizations such as APADRC, especially focusing on community based research. Many organizations need and want to conduct research to support their services, either to evaluate current services or to find justification for new services, and are not sure where to begin. Also, it would be wonderful to build an 'official' internship component or field hours into the MA program. I know we get undergraduate interns now, and it has been a great partnership; we would love to work with some of the MA students as well."

Her advice to the MA students: "I encourage everyone to volunteer, at least for a short while, in one of the numerous Asian or Pacific Islander American non-profits in Los Angeles. It helps you stay grounded in your work and research. You also get an opportunity to see first-hand the research needs of the particular community that you are working with."

One of Mamaril-Choe's goals is to find a way to merge arts and writing with conflict management and diversity trainings. From the sound of it, she is well on her way to achieving what she sets out to do.

For more information on APADRC or to see how you can volunteer at the organization, visit <http://www.apadrc.org>.

Photograph by Brandy Worrall-Yu



Shirlie Mae Mamaril-Choe.

## MA Program Alum Tomoji "Ishi" Nishikawa Dies at 56

Known throughout much of the Asian American community as "ISHI," TOMOJI NISHIKAWA, an alumnus of the UCLA Asian American Studies Master's program Class of 1982, passed away on August 26, 2003, after a ten-year battle with a brain tumor. In addition to being a prolific researcher and teacher, he was also a co-founder of Japan Pacific Resource Network (JPRN), a public interest and educational nonprofit organization promoting civil rights, corporate social responsibility, and community empowerment in the context of U.S.-Japan relations.

Born in 1946 in Shiga Prefecture in Japan, Ishi was the only child of Mrs. Kiyoko Nishikawa and the late Mr. Tomokazu Nishikawa. He graduated from Tokyo University majoring in Sociology in 1971. In 1978, Ishi and his wife Virginia Louie moved to San Francisco, where he became an active member of the Japanese American community, volunteering at Nobirukai Japanese Immigrant Services in San Francisco and working at Asian Manpower Services in Oakland. In 1980, Ishi began his studies in the Asian American Studies MA program at UCLA. His MA thesis, which he completed in 1983, is entitled, "Class Conflict and Linkage: Asian Nurses into the United States," and Professors Don Nakanishi and Edna Bonacich served on his committee. He later received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley in 1995. His dissertation, entitled "Diversifying the State:

Photograph courtesy of Marji Lee



Ishi (back row, third from right) and his AAS MA cohort, 1982.

American Grassroots Groups and Japanese Companies," investigates the unexplored relationships between American grassroots groups and Japanese multinationals in the U.S. and examines how such groups were able to make gains within the American political process.

In addition to his involvement in JPRN, Ishi co-founded the African/Asian American Roundtable (AAART), an interracial support group fostering dialogue between African American and Asian American communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. He also taught Asian American Studies and Sociology at the City College of San Francisco from 1996 until May 2003. Throughout the course of his ten-year struggle, Ishi continued to play an active role as a community activist, educator, lecturer, researcher and writer.

Ishi's areas of teaching and research expertise included political sociology, race and ethnic relations and international migration, modernization and development, sociology of contemporary Japan, Asian American Studies, community

Photograph courtesy of Marji Lee



Ishi (far left) with his family and Professors Ling-chi Wang (back row) and Don Nakanishi (far right), at the 12th annual Association of Asian American Studies conference, Berkeley, 1995.

economic development, globalization, sociological methods, and social problems, business and society. A number of papers and articles by Ishi in both English and Japanese can be found at <http://tomoji.home.igc.org/>.

Ishi is survived by his wife Virginia, his daughter Emi, his son Ken, and his mother Kiyoko. Ishi's family requests that contributions be made to the National Brain Tumor Foundation (<http://www.brainumor.org/contribute/>) or the Wellness Community of the East Bay (<http://www.twc-bayarea.org/donations.htm>) in his honor, using his formal name, "Tomoji Nishikawa."

### Dear SUPPORTERS OF THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER,

On behalf of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the Center, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your support of our Center during the past 35 years. We thank you for helping us in countless ways—for sending us so many of your finest students for our MA program or doctoral studies at UCLA, as well as for hiring them to work at your institutions; for buying, requiring, and for writing for *Amerasia Journal*, *AAPI Nexus*, and our other publications; for evaluating and supporting our faculty for tenure and promotions; and for working with us on a myriad of partnerships to serve our communities, to share the Asian American experience with others across the country and around the world, and to build our thriving field of teaching, research, and service.

We are very happy to report that our proposal for departmentalizing our undergraduate and graduate Interdepartmental Degree Program was approved by our Academic Senate and the Chancellor's Office in August 2004. We now have a Department of Asian American Studies, along with the Asian American Studies Center.

Thank you so very much again for all your support and encouragement over the years.

DON NAKANISHI, Director, Asian American Studies Center

MIN ZHOU, Chair, Department of Asian American Studies

PAUL ONG, Chair, Faculty Advisory Committee,

Asian American Studies Center

ROBERT NAKAMURA, Associate Director, Asian American Studies Center

JINQI LING, Vice Chair, Department of Asian American Studies

DENNIS ARGUELLES, Assistant Director, Asian American Studies Center



## Center Press Publishes Memoirs of Yuri Kochiyama

The Center has published the memoirs of renowned human rights activist Yuri Kochiyama. In celebration of this publication, the Center held a reception on April 10, 2004 at Eastwind Books, Westwood.

At age 77 and as a visiting scholar with Asian American Studies Center, Kochiyama began to write her memoir for her family. "Passing It On—A Memoir" is the account of an extraordinary Asian American woman who spoke out and fought shoulder-to-shoulder with African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and whites for social justice, civil rights, and prisoner and women's rights in the United States and internationally for more than half a century.

"Our center has been privileged to have had a long and meaningful relationship with Yuri throughout our 35-year history," said Don Nakanishi, who first met Kochiyama when he was an undergraduate student at Yale University in 1969. "She has inspired generations of our students, who have gone on to become major leaders in the community, and provided insights and guidance for our faculty and researchers to tackle many of the most compelling and difficult issues of social justice, human rights and race relations facing our country."

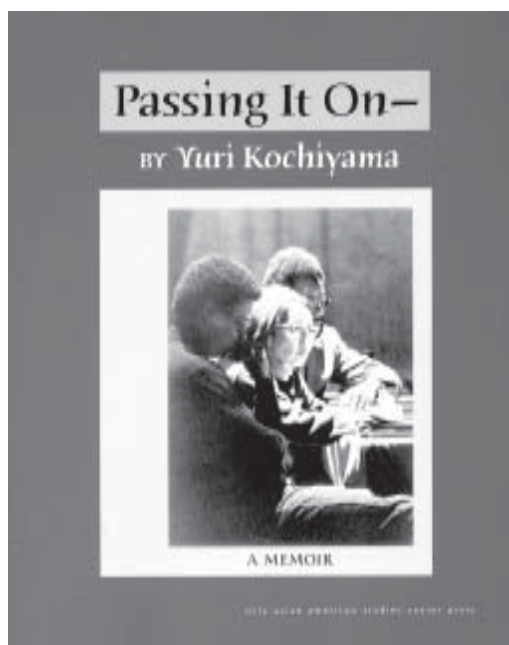
The daughter of Japanese immigrants, Kochiyama was born in San Pedro in 1921. The FBI arrested her father during World War II and labeled him a "prisoner of war." After interrogating him for several weeks and finding no cause for his arrest, they released him. Seiichi Nakahara died several days after his arrest.

In 1942 Kochiyama and her family, along with 120,000 others of Japanese ancestry, were forcibly removed from their homes and imprisoned in internment camps. Kochiyama notes that 70 percent of those removed were American citizens and the remaining 30 percent were Japanese immigrants who had been denied the possibility of citizenship. Kochiyama and her family were sent to the Jerome, Arkansas internment camp.

In 1946 she married Bill Kochiyama, a World War II veteran she had met at the camp. The couple settled in New York City, Bill's hometown, and had six children. In 1960 the Kochiyamas moved to a new low-income housing project in Harlem, where many Latino and African American families lived. Yuri and Bill Kochiyama became active in the Harlem Parents Committee, which created its own school to protest the quality of public schools in Harlem.

The family supported numerous other political and social causes through protests, demonstrations and other organizing efforts. For instance, they picketed schools in Harlem to demand a better education. "I believe our children who grew up in Harlem had one advantage: they were in the circum-

ference of the civil rights movement," Yuri Kochiyama wrote. "Harlem was a university without walls."



A chapter of the book is devoted to the family's association with Malcolm X. In 1964 the family was hosting three writers of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki World Peace Study Mission and the writers wanted to meet Malcolm X. The Kochiyamas wrote to Malcolm X months in advance, but they received no response from him. On the day of the event, Malcolm X showed up, spoke with the journalists, and took pictures with people who had gathered at the Kochiyamas' home. Malcolm X developed a friendship with the family and sent them 11 postcards from his travels abroad.

On February 21, 1965, Yuri Kochiyama was in the audience when Malcolm X gave a speech at the Audubon Ballroom. "I was in the audience when Malcolm X was assassinated and immediately ran on stage as soon as he fell to the floor," Kochiyama wrote.

"Cradling his head in my hands, I was shocked."

In the book Kochiyama also recalls the tragic deaths of her two children, Aichi and Billy, and her son-in-law, Alkamal. She devotes a chapter to her support of political prisoners, which includes writing letters to various prisoners and visiting them. Other chapters focus on Kochiyama's visits to Cuba and Peru, and the Asian American Movement.

Photograph by Florante Ibanez



The family of Yuri Kochiyama: (front row) Kahlil and Aliya; (back row) Jimmy, Christopher, Tom, Traci, Ryan, Miya, Akemi, Malia, Leilani, Marc, Audee, and Herb.

The book includes 90 photographs and 31 historical documents, which are part of the Yuri Kochiyama Collection at UCLA. It was edited by Marjorie Lee, Audee Kochiyama-Holman and Akemi Kochiyama-Sardinha.

See page 23 for information on how to order your copy of *Passing It On*.

## Two New Issues of AAPI Nexus Look at AAPI Civil Rights and Voting

The Center Press is pleased to announce the publication of two new issues of *AAPI Nexus: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Policy, Practice and Community* (2:1 and 2:2).

A stellar group of civil rights advocates and scholars examine civil rights issues facing the rapidly growing and diverse communities of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the second issue of *AAPI Nexus* (2:1).

The journal focuses on the complexities of the Asian American civil rights agenda, such as the necessity of bridging the gaps between activists and scholars to strengthen civil rights advocacy and civil rights research, the limits of pan-Asian frameworks in addressing the needs of specific populations, the problems in developing effective coalitions both within Asian American communities and between Asian Americans and other minority communities, and the changing demography that has shaped and reshaped Asian American civil rights.

The Practitioner's Essay, written by KAREN NARASAKI and JUNE K. HAN, illuminates critical and long-standing gaps that exist between advocates working on issues of anti-Asian violence, racial profiling, abridgments of immigrants' rights, employment discrimination, denials of language rights and unequal access to the justice system, and researchers focusing on Asian American communities.

PETER KIANG focuses on the theme of ethnic diversity within the Asian American population by examining educational equity issues affecting Southeast Asian American communities. Kiang argues that the experiences of Southeast Asian Americans are easily neglected in pan-Asian civil rights frameworks, leading to potential harm in Southeast Asian American communities.

CLAIRE JEAN KIM addresses the challenges that come with developing cross-racial coalitions between Asian Americans and other minority communities. Kim tests the "people of color" construct by exploring the ambiguity of Asian American political identity, the effects of this ambiguity on Asian American alliances with blacks and Latinos, and the successes and failures of two Asian American community organizations that have engaged in cross-racial alliances.

ROWENA ROBLES focuses on the controversial Ho vs. San Francisco Unified School District lawsuit to illustrate some of the legal, political and rhetorical conflicts within Asian American communities. The lawsuit provides an example of how divergent interests can arise within an Asian American community, as well as between Asian Americans and other minority groups.

PAUL ONG analyzes the demographic trends and patterns that have influenced the growth of Asian American populations and the nature of Asian American civil rights. Ong discusses recent trends in migration, population growth, education, segregation and other key areas to show the complexity of Asian American civil rights issues.

The issue's guest editors are ANGELO ANCHETA, director of Legal and Advocacy Programs for the Civil Rights Project at Harvard; JACINTA MA, senior advisor to Commissioner Stuart Ishimaru at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and DON NAKANISHI, director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and associate

editor of *AAPI Nexus*.

The third issue of *AAPI Nexus* (2:2) examines one of the biggest challenges facing Asian Americans today—low voter registration and turnout—and what can be done about it.

"For Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the development of a viable and influential electorate is perhaps the most formidable challenge to their political empowerment," writes Don Nakanishi, while Paul Ong states, "AAPIs have gained increasing visibility with the over 2,000 AAPI-elected and major appointed officials across the country."

Politicians, political activists, and professors contributed commentaries, policy research reports, and detailed accounts of exit polls and voting rights compliance strategies that might be used in AAPI communities across the nation during the November 2004 presidential election and in the future.

S.B. Woo provides an analysis of why AAPIs should adopt a bloc-voting strategy in order to advance their political agenda, particularly in presidential contests, because of the concentration of AAPIs in many of the states with the highest numbers of electoral votes.

JAMES DIEN BUI, SHIRLEY SUET-LING TANG, and PETER KIANG write about how a racially disparaging remark by one of Boston's foremost city council members spurred a coalition of Vietnamese American groups called Viet-Vote to launch a major voter registration campaign and other programs to increase the political awareness and involvement of Vietnamese Americans in Boston politics.

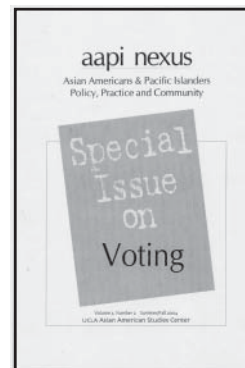
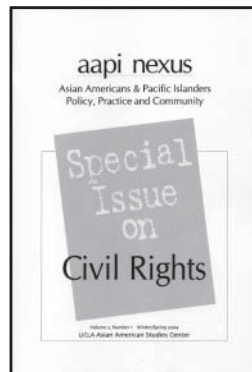
TARRY HUM writes about an extensive survey conducted by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) to determine "communities of interest" among New York City's large and diverse population of AAPIs, which now numbers nearly a million residents. The survey revealed detailed information about the characteristics, issues and concerns of AAPIs in different New York boroughs and neighborhoods.

In the "AAPI Almanac" section, JANELLE WONG writes about an outreach effort undertaken with CAUSE/Vision 21, an organization in Los Angeles County which seeks to increase voter participation among AAPIs in the region. Wong provides an analysis of the different effects that person-to-person telephone canvassing had on voter turnout in a specific election for various ethnic groups and generations of AAPI voters.

DANIEL KIKUO ICHINOSE provides an essay on why AAPI communities should organize exit polls among AAPI voters during elections, how they should go about doing them, and how they should analyze and disseminate the results.

GLENN D. MAGPANTAY of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund writes about the extensive, multifaceted approach that AALDEF and other AAPI organizations in New York City have undertaken for many years to insure that AAPI voters can rightfully and meaningfully participate in the electoral process, particularly by monitoring compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act.

For information on how to order, see page 23.





## Two Special Issues of *Amerasia Journal* Examine 100 Years of Korean America



Professor EDWARD TAEHAN CHANG, of UC Riverside, has gathered various scholars, writers, and leaders to discuss “What does it mean to be Korean Today?” in a two-part series of *Amerasia Journal*.

“Part I: Across Nations, Generations and Identities” (2003/2004, 29:3) examines 100 years of Korean migration to the United States. Utilizing the example of his own family history in former Manchuria, China, Korea, Japan, and the U.S, Prof. Chang argues that the history of Korean Americans today is linked to the historical migration of Koreans to those regions in the 19th and 20th centuries. As Chang states: “Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945), the Korean Independence Movement, and the Korean War (1950-1953)” influenced migration of Koreans abroad.

The 200-page volume includes essays on the Korean population in the U.S. according to the 2000 Census, written by Prof. EUI-YOUNG YU and PETER CHOE. Comparative perspectives on Koreans include: GERMAN KIM on Koreans in the former Soviet Union; SONIA RYANG on

Koreans in Japan; and Edward Chang on Koreans in China. SEIWOONG OH looks at the first Korean fiction in English by Philip Jaisohn, entitled “Hansu’s Journey.” Second-generation Korean American life is covered by emerging Korean American scholars ANNE SOON CHOI and LILI M. KIM. Finally, the legacy of the Korean War and World War II are explored by MIN YOUNG KIM looking at Korean forced laborers, and psychological trauma of Koreans by RAMSAY LIEM.

“Part II: Community in the 21st Century” (2004, 30:1) focuses on Korean Americans in the post-1992 Los Angeles civil unrest, with an emphasis on such topics as race relations in Los Angeles’ Koreatown, Korean swap meets, Korean American youth and literary accounts of what it means to be Korean American.

According to Professor Chang, before the Los Angeles civil unrest, many Korean Americans saw their lives, culture and hopes linked primarily to Korea. After the civil unrest, however, Korean Americans realized that they had to deal with new issues facing their community, including second-generation youth, family and domestic relations, and their own participation in media, politics and the broader American culture. Chang’s own essay, based on his ongoing research, addresses the evolution of a unique Korean American business—the swap meet—during the past 10 years.

In their essay, demographer EUI-YOUNG YU, together with colleagues PETER CHOE, SANG LL HAN and KIMBERLY YU, trace the establishment and development of Los Angeles’ Koreatown from 1990 through 2000. Analyzing new activism of Korean Americans, MIRIAM CHING YOON LOUIE looks at “Korean American Radical Movement After Kwangju,” helping to link the peoples’ movements in Korea with struggles of Korean activist groups in the United States against the Iraq War, and anti-immigrant policies directed against U.S. minorities. In her essay ANGIE Y. CHUNG examines the involvement of Korean American youth in community-based organizations. Other

articles that address current racial attitudes and conflicts include a study by NADIA KIM, and an article by L.S. KIM on the conflicts and contradictions of Asian and Korean Americans in television culture. JUNG-SUN PARK looks at transnational flows of culture among Korean immigrant youth: video, music, television, comic books and pop idols. SUSIE WOO examines how Korean American youth use cyberspace in relation to language, identity, and social status and positioning. JANET CHANG provides a study comparing married and divorced Korean immigrant women, and examines their psychological well-being in relation to gender, class background and family. K.W. LEE, DR. LUKE KIM and GRACE KIM, provide us with the story of Dung Lai Park, a Korean patriot who first went to Shanghai and smuggled himself to the United States in the early 20th century. Poet STEVE HOSIK MOON, in his debut story, “Mountains and Fire,” imagines a grandmother trying to protect her kin against the Japanese, and takes the story to a Korean American family in Chicago. East Coast poet CHUNGMI KIM gives us a story about a student worker, “A Stranger in America.” In addition, two interviews shed light on writers and critics: YOUNG-OAK LEE interviews writer CHANG-RAE LEE and MIN HYOONG SONG talks with professor ELAINE KIM.

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