

CROSSCURRENTS

Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

UC AAPI Policy Multi-campus Research Program Will be Housed at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Policy Research Program on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Established

THE UC ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER Policy Multi-Campus Research Program (UC AAPI Policy MRP) officially started operations last July 1, 2007. The program supports and disseminates applied research on policy issues related to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in California and the nation. The MRP has fifty faculty affiliates from all ten campuses, representing a diverse range of disciplines, including political science, sociology, economics, ethnic studies, law, public health, nursing, urban planning, education, Asian American Studies, and social welfare. It will be housed at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Background of the Program

Prof. Paul Ong, who chairs the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, will serve as the MRP's faculty director. "The MRP," says Professor Ong, "must create and disseminate knowledge that informs public and political debates, and provide a critically needed Asian American perspective."

In addition to Professor Ong, the MRP's executive committee is comprised by Professor Bill Ong Hing of UC Davis as Associate Director, Professor Don Nakanishi of the AASC as Secretariat, and members Linda Vo of UC Irvine and Michael Omi of UC Berkeley. Oiyen Poon, a PhD candidate at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and current president of the UC Student Association, serves as the MRP's Administrative/Community/Legislative Liaison. Christina Lee, a junior at UCLA, is the Faculty Liaison.

The University of California Office of the President will provide funds for core operations for three years. The UCLA Asian American Studies Center will provide matching funds and administrative support. UCLA's Graduate Division within the Chancellor's Office and UCLA's Asian American Studies Department will provide additional support. The Berkeley, Davis, and Irvine campuses will provide matching funds and will sponsor and host annual conferences and workshops to further the MRP's goals.



Photo by Paul Ong

Members of the Legislative Staff discuss welfare reform issues via video teleconference from UC Center Sacramento. They were participating in a research symposium on the impact of welfare reform on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders held on June 29, 2006. The Center and MRP were among the event sponsors.

Current Projects

The UC AAPI Policy MRP brings together UC researchers, community-based organizations, and legislators to identify, implement, and disseminate research related to the AAPI community. For example, the program has given grants to support research on how the welfare-to-work programs affect AAPIs, and on the challenges facing HIV/AIDS educators in AAPI communities.

The MRP is currently working on a research project titled "Asset Building in Asian American Communities." With funding from the Ford Foundation, this research examines the role of ethnic-based organizations, both non- and for-profit, in asset building among Asian Americans. The research examines how much Asian Americans use ethnic-based organizations in areas such as savings, purchasing homes, and raising capital. The second part then examines practices of ethnic-based organizations, focusing on new practices introduced into the financial sector. The tentative sites for research are located in Los Angeles, New York, and Houston.

The dissemination of research findings is an important goal of the MRP. In the past, the program has sponsored events such as a UCLA workshop on "Making Scholarship Accessible," where researchers received training on how to translate scholarly writing into a style that can reach lawmakers.

Continued on page 2

Staff Box

Stephanie Santos, Editor
stephaniesantos@ucla.edu

Contributors and Photographers

Mary Uyematsu Kao, Russell Leong, Marjorie Lee, Judy Soo Hoo, Tam Nguyen, Paul Ong, Jean-Paul deGuzman, Thomas Szymanek, PJ Nadal, Jolie Chea, Mark Villegas

Ying M. Tu, Business Manager
aascpress@aasc.ucla.edu

CrossCurrents, the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, keeps readers abreast of Center programs, including academic 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 yearly and distributed in the community by Center staff. It is also mailed free to all subscribers of *Amerasia Journal*.

For information on how to submit articles, announcements, images, and so forth to *CrossCurrents*, contact the editor at stephaniesantos@ucla.edu

For more information about activities and programs of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, visit 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546; (310) 825-2974; <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu>

In This Issue

UC AAPI Policy Multi-campus Research Program	1
Morgan Chu UCLA Medal	3
Center's Glowing Five-Year Report	3
Japanese American Internment Exhibit	4
<i>Pilgrimage</i> by EthnoCommunications	4
Center Library Flood	5
Faculty and Alumni Awards and Tenure News	6-7
APA Book Festival / Oral History Conference/ Marriage Equality Panel	8
Pacific Islander Community Event	9
Community-based Research Workshop	9
2007 Statistical Portrait of Asian America	10
Asian American Home Ownership Study	10
Korean American Studies Conference	11
Pacific Islanders Lagging Behind in Higher Ed	12
Asian Americans are New Sleeping Giants	13
2007-08 Fellowships	14
Amy Sueyoshi is New IAC Post-doctoral Fellow	14
Center Endowment News	15
Don Nakanishi APAICS Award	16
Center Staff News	16
Commencement Ceremonies	17
Jennifer Yee Appointment	17
MA Class 2008 profiles	18-19
Subverses	19
<i>Education through Struggle</i> Mural	19
APC's "Count Me In" Campaign	20
Hip Hop Panel	20
AAAS Conference	21
<i>New Asian Pacific American Political Almanac</i>	21
Recent publications	22

AAPI Policy MRP, continued from page 1

ers, policy analysts, practitioners, and the community. On March 8, 2007, MRP staffmembers met in Sacramento with members of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus to discuss how the two programs can work effectively with each other and with other elected officials.

Upcoming Events

The MRP is already hard at work preparing for events for the 2007-2008 academic year. For the Fall, the MRP will hold a workshop on "Training a New Generation of Researchers" at UC Irvine, to encourage more UC faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students to conduct applied policy research incorporating a community/academic service-learning component. The workshop, co-sponsored with the UC Irvine Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) and the Asian American Studies Department, will feature panelists sharing their experiences in teaching a course and/or producing research that facilitates community and university interaction. Also in the works is an education policy conference entitled "Rethinking Affirmative Action: AAPIs and Race-conscious Education Policy," to be held at UCLA.

For the winter quarter, the MRP heads to UC Davis, for the Annual Research Conference on AAPI Policy. The conference highlights policy research conducted by faculty and students from the different UC campuses, on specific issues affecting AAPI communities.

In Spring 2008, the MRP remains in Northern California, to join the "University-Community Collaboration Annual Workshop" sponsored by the UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies Department. The workshop will feature panels addressing ethical issues and the nature of community input, especially on policies of concern to the AAPI Community in Southern California.

"The Real Hard Work"

Conceived in early 2004, the UC AAPI Policy MRP has laid strong foundations towards its goal of fostering policy-relevant research on AAPIs. Several community-based groups assisted the MRP at its inception, including National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD), Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC), and the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF).

The formal establishment of the MRP marks a milestone. "Now," says Professor Ong happily, "the real hard work starts. Asian American Studies has the professional opportunity and the moral obligation to become actively engaged through our scholarship in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities."

"By doing so," Professor Ong continues, "we will fulfill one of the core missions of Asian American Studies—to serve the community."

Center Co-Founder Morgan Chu Awarded UCLA Medal



Morgan and Helen Chu.

RENOWNED TRIAL ATTORNEY MORGAN CHU was awarded the UCLA Medal during the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony held at Royce Hall on June 14, 2007. The UCLA Medal is “the highest accolade for exceptional achievement the University of California, Los Angeles may bestow upon an individual . . . as evidence of genuine eminent

distinction.”

Chu is a three-degree alumnus of UCLA, having earned a BA (1971), MA (1972), and PhD (1973). He is also one of the co-founders of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in 1969. He and his wife, Helen, who also helped to establish the Center when she was a UCLA undergraduate, have generously established a scholarship endowment at the Center, which is one among many extraordinary philanthropic gifts that they have provided to a wide range of institutions. Chu also was the keynote speaker at the Center’s thirtieth anniversary dinner.

Recently, the Chus contributed a major gift to their scholarship endowment recognizing the outstanding Asian American undergraduate after his or her freshman year.

Chu also received a M.S.L. from Yale University in

1974, and his J.D. magna cum laude in 1976 from Harvard Law School.

Chu, a partner with the Los Angeles-based law firm of Irell and Manella, is widely acclaimed as one of the most outstanding and accomplished trial attorneys in the nation and world, who has broken new ground in areas of information technology and intellectual property. He was named as one of the “Top Ten Trial Lawyers” in the nation by the National Law Journal, the “Top Intellectual Property Lawyer in the United States” by Chambers USA, and “Number One Super Lawyer in Southern California” by *Los Angeles Magazine*. Chu also lends his talents to many pro bono activities, including the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of Public Counsel since 1993.



From right to left: *Amerasia* Editor Russell Leong, Center Professor Thu-Huong Nguyen-Vo, Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, Morgan and Helen Chu, and Professor Min Zhou.

Center Undergoes Major Five-Year Review: Receives Glowing Report

DURING THE 2006-2007 academic year, the Asian American Studies Center underwent a major five-year review of its many programs, activities, and accomplishments. The review was conducted by a five-member committee consisting of three leading experts in Asian American Studies from institutions across the nation and two UCLA professors, who were not affiliated with the Center.

The review committee evaluated an extensive “Self-Review” report of the Center that was written by Center Director Don Nakanishi and Chair of the Center’s Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Paul Ong, with the assistance of the Center’s staff and faculty advisory committee. It also conducted a three-day site visit in January, 2007 at UCLA, interviewing faculty, staff, students, administrators, community leaders, donors, and others who had knowledge of the Center. The report can be viewed at the Center’s web site: http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/reports/2000_2006/5years.htm

The committee later issued a glowing report of the Center’s programs, achievements, and impact. It also made a series of recommendations, including the need for the university’s central administration to restore the Center’s budget which

had been reduced by over 23 percent during recent California state budget shortfalls; allocate additional faculty positions; find more physical space for the Center’s library and research projects. In its report, the five-year review committee made this overall conclusion:

“We conclude this report the way we began: The Asian American Studies Center at UCLA is indisputably the leading Asian American Studies center in the country and an exemplary ethnic studies center of any kind, the gold standard against which all the rest are measured. It has reached impressive heights of excellence, under the visionary and tireless leadership of Professor Nakanishi, supported by an excellent and academically diverse faculty across many disciplines and professional schools, and a hardworking, dedicated staff. While enjoying widespread community support, particularly in the vast Southern California region, it serves the entire nation through its research and policy work, its publications, library and archives. UCLA should recognize its responsibility to sustain and nurture this national treasure, further solidifying its preeminent leadership role in Asian American Studies.”

From 12/7 to 9/11

Exhibit Commemorates Anniversary of EO 9066

Photo by Mary Kao



Aiko Yoshinaga Herzig.

THE CENTER and Department, together with the UCLA Library organized an exhibit entitled "From 12/7 to 9/11: Lessons on the Japanese American Internment." The exhibit was on view at the UCLA Charles Young Research Library from February to June 30, 2007.

The exhibit was organized in conjunction with the sixty-fifth anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the establishment of military areas wherein Americans of Japanese ancestry were detained in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attacks on December 7, 1941. The material, drawn from the collections of the Center's Reading Room as well as the Young Research Library Department of Special Collections, University Archives, and private collections, told personal stories that raise serious questions about loyalty, racism and government expediency and that plead for tolerance and understanding of other cultures, religions, and points of view.

The exhibit traced analogies between Pearl Harbor and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the government's subsequent treatment of people based solely on their ethnicity. Hoping to preserve civil liberties and keep the government from repeating its mistakes, many Asian American

leaders, organizations and individuals have, since September 11, spoken out for tolerance and understanding and against discrimination and wrongful detention of Muslims, South Asians, and Arab Americans.

On exhibit were proof prints by Ansel Adams of photographs he took at the Manzanar internment camp; oil and watercolor paintings by George Matsusaburo Hibi and Kango Takamura that both document camp life and evoke its bleakness; and intimate drawings by Estelle Ishigo, a Euro-American woman who voluntarily accompanied her husband to the camps, which focus on the lives of families and children. Photographs and publications provide an overview of the military service of Japanese Americans, which included the most decorated units of its size in the U.S. Army. The experiences of UCLA students are reflected through campus memos, personal correspondence, and UCLA yearbooks from the 1940s.

Selected pages from a 1983 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Marilyn Hall Patel that overturned the 1942 conviction of Japanese American Fred Korematsu for disobeying the executive order, as well as materials documenting research conducted by Jack Herzig and his wife, Aiko Yoshinaga-Herzig, on behalf of Korematsu and his defense team, explore the actions that led to the government's acknowledgment that its actions under Executive Order 9066 were wrong. In addition, the photographs, artwork, and personal stories of post-September 11 detainees suggest that racial and ethnic profiling by the government in times of perceived danger is not a thing of the past.

Ethnocommunications Film Wins Award for Cinematic Vision



Pilgrimage, a short documentary produced by the Downtown Community Media Center, a program of the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications of the Asian American Studies Center and the Little Tokyo Service Center, was awarded the Linda

Mabalot New Directors/New Visions Award for original use of cinematic technique and vision at the VC FilmFest 2007, the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

With a hip music track, never-before-seen archival footage and a storytelling style that features both young and old, *Pilgrimage* tells how a small group of Japanese Americans in the late 1960s uncovered their lost history and created the Manzanar Pilgrimage, transforming the abandoned American concentration camp into a vibrant symbol of retrospection and solidarity for people of all ages, races, and nationalities in the post September 11 world.

Pilgrimage is the first film to show how the World War II camps were reclaimed by the Japanese American community and how the Manzanar Pilgrimage now has fresh meaning for diverse generations of people. The film's narrative shows how

a failure of democracy affects all Americans. *Pilgrimage* is a timely and engaging film that brings much-needed insight to the lessons of the past for our post September 11 world.

Jeff Chang, author of *Can't Stop Won't Stop*, called *Pilgrimage* "a powerfully moving piece on the dehumanization and dislocations of war, and the community and hope that can be found in resistance." Film critic B. Ruby Rich said, "*Pilgrimage* updates the model for historic documentaries, creating a new soundtrack for archival footage and transforming a generation's rediscovery of the camps into a veritable incantation."

Pilgrimage is the third educational video produced by the Center for EthnoCommunications, a division of the AASC founded in 1996 to create innovative linkages between communities and university through media. It was directed by EthnoCom graduate Tadashi Nakamura and has also been featured at the Newport Beach Film Festival and other festivals throughout California, as well as in Chicago, Oregon, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, and internationally in Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates. To purchase a DVD or to use *Pilgrimage* in Asian American Studies course, please contact Robert A. Nakamura at robertnakamura@asianam.ucla.edu.

Closed But Not Gone

Center Library's Summer Disaster

By Judy Soo Hoo

SOMETIME DURING THE morning of July 17, 2007, a faulty water pipe broke in the Center's third-floor mail/photocopy room.

Eager to get a head start on numerous summer projects, Center Librarian Marji Lee came to the Center Library at 6:30 a.m., and heard what sounded like someone taking a shower. She lifted her head to discover a waterfall streaming into the library.

"Oh, no—the books!" Marji cried out in shock.

Save the Center's Library

The University's plumbers immediately responded to the emergency calls, closing off the errant sink valve on third floor and utilizing several wet vacuums to extract about two inches of water from the Center's mail/photocopy room and the adjoining reception areas and Directors' offices.

But the most disturbing disaster was on the second floor—just below the broken pipe—where the water runoff streamed directly onto the Center's Library compact move-



Photo by Marji Lee

Books are prepared for storage.

able shelving stacks containing books, pamphlets, and archival materials. Nearly 1,000 books and monographs incurred grave water damage.

With the initial excess water extrusion completed, the daunting challenge of remediation and restoration of the rare and mostly out-of-print materials became the Center's urgent and serious concern. Kristen St. John of UCLA's Conservation Lab at Southern Regional Library Facilities, advised Marji to contact a disaster remediation company and to develop a swift action plan for water remediation and restoration of the rare library collection.

Within forty-eight hours, a disaster recovery company arrived to begin the damage remediation process of UCLA's Asian American Studies Center Library. For the next five days, nearly 1,000 of the most damaged books and pamphlets were identified, boxed, and removed to be placed into either dehumidification chambers or cold storage facilities, depending on extent of damage. The most severely water-distressed materials—over forty



Photo by Russell Leong

A water-damaged book from the collection.

boxes—were shipped to a special company in Northern California or New York for extensive restoration treatment and binding repair. Fortunately, none of the special collection materials sustained damage.

Beyond the Books

For many in Asian American Studies, the damage to the books is more than monetary. In an E-mail announcement to staff and faculty, Center Director Don Nakanishi conveyed that many of the damaged books are one-of-a-kind, out-of-print volumes—treasures of Asian American Studies.

"We noticed quite a few rare first edition books that were soaked," Marji said. "Those are irreplaceable—I hope they can be restored."

Russell Leong, editor of *Amerasia Journal*, also noted that the Center's books hold more profound meaning. "In this Internet age, we don't realize that most of the Asian Pacific American Heritage is found in books and library collections," he said. "The histories of our communities are documented in books."

Closed but not gone

The Asian American Studies Center Library/Reading Room will be closed for public service until all repairs and restoration, both of the books and the compact moveable shelving system, are completed. Limited e-mail and phone reference assistance will be performed. Due to the lengthy process, Marji hopes to reopen the Library/Reading Room in Winter Quarter 2008.

"We will be closed, but not gone," Marji said. "Our goal is reopen again as soon as possible to continue our service to students, faculty, researchers, and community."

Save Our Asian American Heritage

Gifts to support the Center Library will help defray looming expenses associated with the flooding accident. They can be directed to "Friends of the AASC Library" with checks payable to: UCLA Foundation 46-186.

Mail checks to: UCLA Asian American Studies Center
3230 Campbell Hall / Box 951546
Los Angeles, Ca 90095-1546
Attn: Library

You can donate online by going to the Center's website:
<http://www.aasc.ucla.edu>
and click on "UCLA AASC Gift Giving Online."

Valerie Matsumoto Receives University's Distinguished Teaching Award



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR VALERIE J. MATSUMOTO was honored with a Distinguished Teaching Award by the Academic Senate's Committee on Teaching. The award is the highest recognition the Academic Senate gives for academic and professional excellence. Matsumoto is a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. She teaches with the Departments of Asian American Studies and History.

Matsumoto was recognized for her innovative approach-

es to teaching history, such as her popular seminar on Asian American Foodways. She was also cited for her mentorship work with students.

Professor Matsumoto, along with the other Distinguished Teaching Awards recipients, will again be honored this fall by the Academic Senate and the Office of Instructional Development during the Andrea L. Rich Night to Honor Teaching.

Professor Matsumoto has earned numerous awards for her teaching. In addition to the Academic Senate recognition, she is also this year's recipient of the Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association (AASGSA) Mentorship Award. She was also the inaugural recipient of the Doris and Toshio Hoshide Prize for Distinguished Teaching in Asian American Studies for the 2005-06 academic year.

MA Program Alumni Promoted to Tenure

PROFESSOR JAMES LAI, who received his MA in Asian American Studies at UCLA, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Santa Clara University. He currently has a joint appointment in the Department of Political Science and the Ethnic Studies program. In Fall 2008, he will take over as chair of the Ethnic Studies program. After graduating from the MA program in 1994, Professor Lai earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Southern California in 2000.

Professor Lai is currently working on a book on the rise of Asian American political incorporation in U.S. suburbs with an emphasis on California cities—Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Milpitas, Daly City, Garden Grove, Westminster, Gardena—and how contexts in these cities differ from traditional, urban gateway cities. He is also working on an article with MA program alumnus Joe Chung Fong on the global/local nexus between Asian ethnic media and Asian American political incorporation in Silicon Valley. Along with Center Director Don Nakanishi, he also co-edited the thirteenth edition of the *National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac*.

PROFESSOR EIICHIRO AZUMA, who received his MA in Asian American Studies and his PhD in History, both from UCLA, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a faculty member in both History and Asian American Studies. Professor Azuma specializes in Asian American history with an emphasis on Japanese American experiences, as well as emigration/immigration, modern Japanese history, and U.S.-Japan relations. At the University of Pennsylvania, he primarily teaches courses on Asian Americans.

Professor Azuma is author of *Between Two Empires: Race, History, and Transnationalism in Japanese America* (Oxford University Press, 2005), which won the Hiroshi Shimizu Book Award from the Japanese Association for American Studies, the Theodore Saloutos Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, and the Honorable Mention in the Frederick Jackson Turner Award by the Organization of American Historians. He also co-edited *Yuji Ichioka, Before*

Internment: Essays in Japanese American History (Stanford University Press, 2006).

Professor Azuma has published academic articles, including those that won the 1994 Alexander Saxton History Award in *Amerasia Journal* and the 1998 W. Turrentine Jackson Prize of the Pacific Coast Branch of the AHA. His articles have also appeared in the *History of Education Quarterly*, the *Journal of American History*, and *Review: Arts and Literature of the Americas*.

He is currently involved in three new projects. First, he is conducting research on the meaning of race and citizenship in the postwar experiences of Japanese Americans, including their roles as "cultural broker" in occupied Japan and in the resumption of immigration from Japan, as well as the construction of a transnationalized ethnic identity and community among them despite the nationalizing effects of the mass internment. Azuma's second project deals with the formation of a "transborder" Japanese community in U.S.-Mexican Californias between 1900 and 1942, while the third is to compile a collection of essays that look into the intersections of U.S. ethnic studies and Asian area studies through the lenses of Japanese migration and imperial expansion.

Min Zhou Awarded Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize

PROFESSOR MIN ZHOU of the Departments of Sociology and Asian American Studies was honored with this year's C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies. The award was established by an endowment from Chiyoko Doris (UCLA, 1934) and the late Toshio Hoshide. The husband and wife team established the award to recognize outstanding teaching in Asian American Studies, among the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and in the Department. Zhou's research interests include immigration, immigrant adaptation, Asian America, race and ethnicity, and urban sociology.

Ninez Ponce Promoted to Associate Professor

DR. NINEZ PONCE, an active member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Health Services of UCLA's School of Public Health.

Professor Ponce, who received her B.S. from UC Berkeley, M.P.P. from Harvard University and her Ph.D. from UCLA, is also Senior Research Scientist at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, a member of the UCLA/Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research.

Professor Ponce's research focuses on understanding the intersection of race/ethnicity, immigration status, gender, and socioeconomic status to improve access to health insurance, and health care in the United States. She was RAND's resident adviser for health care reform to the Ministry of Health, Republic of Macedonia, and has worked on public health program and policy issues at the World Bank, Catholic Relief Services in Thailand, the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, and the Berkeley Free Clinic.

As Co-Principal Investigator of the California Health Interview Survey, Professor Ponce led the efforts in the measurement of race/ethnicity, acculturation, physician-patient communication, and discrimination. In addition, she conceptualized the rationale and implementation of CHIS 2001's

Asian ethnic oversamples and the cultural and linguistic adaptation of the survey.

Professor Ponce received a five-year career-development award from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to explore neighborhood effects and health care market factors that may explain persisting racial and ethnic disparities in cancer screening. Recently, NCI's Special Populations Health Network recognized Dr. Ponce as a "Rising Star" in cancer disparities research as part of her work with the Asian American Network in Cancer Awareness Research and Training.

Professor Ponce is faculty advisor to UCLA's student-run Samahang Pilipino Education and Retention (SPEAR) Project and Samahang Pilipino Advancing Community Empowerment (SPACE), and serves on several state and national committees: the Cultural and Linguistics Work Group of California's Office of the Patient Advocate, the Policy Board of the California Pan Ethnic Health Network and the Executive Board of the National Health Law program. She is also on the editorial board of the AASC's journal *AAPI Nexus*.



Photo courtesy of Ninéz Ponce

UCLA Alumni Earn Tenure in Asian American Studies Departments

PROFESSOR ALLYSON TINTIANGCO-CUBALES has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department. Professor Tintiangco-Cubales received her PhD in Social Sciences and Comparative Education from UCLA, and was an active participant in the Center's programs. She specializes in Filipina/o American studies with an emphasis on education, critical pedagogy, literature, cultural studies, performance studies, community studies, and women studies.

Professor Tintiangco-Cubales is founder and director of Pin@y Educational Partnerships (PEP), an innovative teaching pipeline of interconnecting mentorship and learn-

ing opportunities that allows San Francisco State University students to teach Filipina/o American Studies to community college, high school, and elementary school students; as well as high school students to teach middle school and elementary school students. It is based on a superb integration of the "new" fields of critical pedagogy, critical Pinay/oy Studies, and community-based service learning, and is a significant contribution to each.

PROFESSOR EUNAI SHRAKE HAS been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at the Asian American Studies Department at California State University, Northridge. She earned her PhD in Education from UCLA, and was an active participant with the Center's many projects. Her teaching and research interests focus on Asian American youth, parenting styles among Asian Americans, intergenerational conflict, and equity and diversity issues in American education. She also works on Korean American community issues.

Professor Shrake serves as the Advising Coordinator for the Department. Her research article "Resistance Behaviors of Asian American Adolescents," co-authored with MA program alumnus Jean Paul deGuzman, will be published as a book chapter in *Adolescent Behavior Research Studies*. She is also currently editing a textbook for the Introduction to Asian American Studies course. Her recent publications include "Unmasking the Self: Struggling with Model Minority Stereotype and Lotus Blossom Image" in *Strangers of the Academy* (Stylus, 2005) and the article "Korean Authoritarian Parenting Style: Is It as Negative as Thought to Be?" in the *Journal of Global Awareness Society International* 6:3 (2005).

Purnima Mankekar Appointed Associate Director of CSW

Professor Purnima Mankekar of the Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and a faculty member in Asian American Studies and Women's Studies has been appointed as Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Women. Mankekar joined the Asian American Studies Department in Spring 2007. She earned her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Washington and taught at Stanford University. Her book, *Screening Culture, Viewing Politics* (Duke University Press, 1999), won the Kovacs Award from the Society for Cinema Studies. Professor Mankekar is working on two new book projects, including a manuscript on racial violence and South Asian American identities after September 11, 2001.

Center Press Joins Inaugural Asian Pacific American Bookfair

THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER PRESS participated as a community partner, organizer, and vendor in the first Asian Pacific American Book Festival held May 12, 2007 in Little Tokyo. This inaugural book festival was launched by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). This event was the first book festival to focus on the literary contributions of writers of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.

Numerous writers, poets, and industry professionals from around the country congregated at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), where the book-fair was held. *Amerasia* editor Russell C. Leong presided over a discussion panel titled "Beyond Borders: How Writers Can Be Published, Read, and Reviewed." He also participated in the afternoon's poetry reading sessions. *Amerasia Journal* editorial board member Ketu Katrak also took part in a panel on "Family Flavors: Storytelling and Food."

Leong also held a book signing event at the AASC Press booth, meeting readers of his books *Phoenix Eyes and Other Stories* and *Countries of Dreams and Dust*. Memoirist Angela



The Center Press' display area at the first APA Book Festival.

Oh also met with her readers and signed copies of her book *Open: One Woman's Journey*.

The community event was free and open to the public, as part of the celebration for Asia Pacific Heritage Month. The festival highlighted both the diversity and talent in contemporary Asian Pacific American literature. As APALC Director Stewart Kwoh stated, "Democracy begins with ideas, and these ideas are expressed through words."

Center Co-sponsors Oral History Conference

By Mary Uyematsu Kao

May 18, 2007 was a big day for oral history at UCLA. As oral history is becoming a more popularly recognized research methodology for ethnic studies, the UCLA Institute of American Cultures (IAC) and UCLA Library's Center for Oral History Research organized a well-attended day-long symposium titled "Why Oral History? Perspectives from Communities of Color."

The downstairs lounge of the UCLA Faculty Center was filled to capacity most of the day, starting with opening remarks by Shirley Hune, Chair of the IAC Executive Committee and Teresa Barnett, head of UCLA Library's Center for Oral History Research. The keynote address "Oral History and Collective Memory: The Culture of the Weekday" by George Lipsitz (UCSB) got the day's session off to an upbeat start. Then a panel on "Oral History in Communities of Color: Four Case Studies" was chaired by Teresa Barnett with panelists who were the four IAC Post-doctoral Scholars to each ethnic studies center in 2006-07: Melissa K. Nelson (SFSU), "Stories along the Southern Paiute Sal Song Trail: History, Land, Healing"; Horacio N. Roque Ramirez (UCSB), "Desire Meanings in Oral History: Queer Latina and Latino Memories for Respeto"; Irum Shiekh (UCB), "Writing Oral Histories of Individuals Arrested/Deported in Connection with 9/11 Attacks"; and Daniel

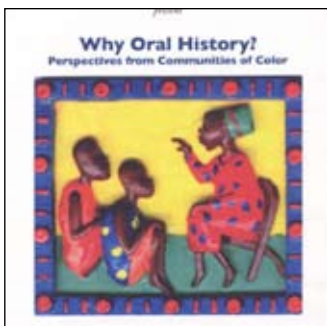
Widener (UCSD), "Black Arts West: Culture and Struggle in an American Metropolis." Doctor Shiekh was the IAC Post-doctoral scholar at the AASC.

The afternoon had two more panels. "Sharing Authority: Ethical, Political, and Theoretical Issues Involved in Doing Oral History with Communities of Color" was moderated by Maylei Blackwell (UCLA) with Nancy Mirabal (SFSU), Ana Rosas (UCI), Judy Yung (professor emerita, UCSC), and Melissa Meyer (UCLA). The second panel was "Oral History as Visual Document: Representing People of Color in Film," moderated by Roberto Tejada (UCSD), with panelists Jeanette Lindsay (Director of Leimert Park), Robert Nakamura (UCLA), and Melissa Nelson (SFSU). The conference marked a bright future ahead for oral history practitioners.

Amerasia Co-sponsors Panel on Marriage Equality

In celebration of Asia Pacific Heritage Month, *Amerasia Journal* co-sponsored "We Do, Too: APIs and the Marriage Equality Debate," a panel discussion of experts held last May 17, 2007 at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy. The panelists discussed the historical, political, religious, and legal implications of the debate on equal marriage rights for lesbians and gay men.

Participants included Karin Wang of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) and journalist Helen Zia, who is also an editorial board member of *Amerasia Journal*. The first thirty attendees of the panel discussion received copies of *Amerasia Journal* 32:1, entitled "Asian Americans on the Marriage Equality Debate."



Center Hosts Pacific Islander Community Event to Introduce Keith Camacho

By Meg Malpaya Thornton

THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER organized a SPECIAL event on June 16, 2007, to introduce Professor Keith Camacho, the first tenure-track faculty hire on Pacific Island Studies at UCLA and also to discuss Pacific Island Studies. More than fifty community leaders, university faculty, students, alumni and staff attended and discussed their issues and recommendations with regards to the research and teaching of Pacific Island Studies.

Professor Camacho spoke about his current research interests with regards to U.S. colonialism in Micronesia and Polynesia. He is working on issues such as hate politics, war crimes, reconciliation, how Islanders work through domestic U.S. colonialism.

“My future research will be community-driven and California-driven,” said Professor Camacho. “I want to bring into the dialogue what is going on in the Islands, to bridge these different spheres.” Professor Camacho hopes to further develop Pacific Island Studies through outstanding scholarship, assisting students in completing their undergraduate and graduate degrees, and increasing university access and outreach for Pacific Island students and community.

A roundtable discussion followed, with presentations from Ka`ala Pang of the Pacific Island Health Partnership, Vaka Faletau of the Tongan American Youth Foundation, UCLA alumni Erin Kahunawaika`ala Wright and Iosefa Aina, UC Berkeley doctoral student and Radio Tonga host Fuifuilupe Niumeitolu, Kare`l Lokeni of the UCLA Pacific Island Education and Recruitment, Nefara Riesch and Christine Santos of the UCLA Pacific Island Students Association, and Prof. Marjorie Kagawa-Singer of the UCLA Departments of Public Health and Asian American Studies.

The panelists and audience members spoke about the importance of fostering responsible and reciprocal relationships between the university and the community. The result-



Photo by Maril Lee

Professor Keith Camacho, Julienne Anesi, Christine Santos, Nefara Riesch, Ty Mary Goodpaster, Joyce Pualani Wilson, and Kare`l Lokeni, members of UCLA Pacific Island Student Association and Pacific Island Education and Recruitment program.

ing recommendations included engaging community leaders and practitioners in research projects, disaggregating current research data, and increasing the recruitment and retention of Pacific Islander students and faculty.

Members from a number of organizations also participated in the round-table discussion including, Ainahau O` Kaleponi Hawaiian Civic Club, Guam Communications Network, National Pacific Island Educators Network, Office of Samoan Affairs, Office of Congressman Xavier Becerra (CA-13), Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Pacific Island Health Partnership, Pacific Islander Community Council, Radio Tonga, Samoan Nurses Association, Special Services for Groups, Tongan American Youth Foundation, UCLA Pacific Island Students Association, UCLA Pacific Island Education & Recruitment, Weaving an Islander Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training, CSU Dominguez Hills Social Welfare, CSU Fullerton, CSULB Educational Opportunity Program, UC Berkeley Department of Ethnic Studies, UC San Diego Department of Ethnic Studies, and the UCLA Department Asian American Studies.

The participants also supported recommendations to develop special editions of the Center's *Amerasia Journal* and *AAPI Nexus* on Pacific Island Studies and community issues and establish a UCLA Pacific Island Alumni Association.

Center Co-Sponsors Community-based Research Workshop

The Center co-sponsored a workshop entitled “Building Common Agendas: A Community-based Curriculum Workshop” at the Japanese American National Museum last November 3, 2006. The workshop was held to encourage faculty members in Asian American Studies to incorporate more community and academic service components in their courses. The panelists spoke of how teaching and research can facilitate greater interaction between members of the university and the Asian American community.

Topics of the workshop included effective community-

based curriculum models, and how faculty can conduct research that fulfills both community needs as well as the expectations of the university regarding research. Representatives of community-based organizations also shared techniques to better facilitate this collaboration.

In addition to the Center, this event was also co-sponsored by the UC Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Policy Initiative, the UC Irvine Department of Asian American Studies, the Japanese American National Museum, and various other community organizations.

Center Research:

Center Releases 2007 Statistical Portrait of Asian America

THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER, as an official U.S. Census Information Center (as a co-partner with National Coalition for Asian Pacific Community Development), has released a report detailing the 2007 statistical portrait of the Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. The report shows that as of July 2005, there are an estimated 14.4 million residents in the United States who were Asian or Asian in combination with one or more race. This group comprises 5 percent of the total population, with California having the largest population of 4.9 million Asians. Additionally, this group grew by 3 percent between 2004 and 2005, the highest growth rate of any other racial or ethnic group during the same period.

Chinese Americans make up the largest share of this population, with 3.3 million members. They are followed by Filipinos (2.8 million), Asian Indians (2.5 million), and Vietnamese (1.5 million).

According to the report, 49 percent of single-race Asians aged 25 or older hold at least a bachelor's degree. Additionally, 86 percent of single race Asians in this age group hold at least a high school diploma. Furthermore, 20 percent of this Asian age group have a graduate or professional degree.

The median household income for Asians in 2005 was

Other Highlights:

1.1 million — number of businesses owned by Asian Americans

\$326 billion+ — receipts of Asian American-owned businesses in 2002

2.2 million — number of people employed by an Asian-owned business

6 in 10 — proportion of all Asian-owned firms that were located in California, New York, Texas, and New Jersey

35.1 — median age in years of the single race Asian population in 2005

293,321 — number of single-race Asian American military veterans

33.4 million — projected number of U.S. residents in 2050 who will identify themselves as single-race Asians

at \$61,094, the highest among all race groups. However, the report notes a large disparity in income among different age groups. Poverty rates among Asians also increased from 9.8 percent to 11.1 percent in 2004, along with an increase in the percentage of Asians with health insurance coverage.

Center Research on Home Buying Trends:

Asian American Home Ownership on Rise, but Still Lags Overall Population

THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER and the Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA) released the first update to their historic and in-depth 2006 study of demographic trends related to home buying within the fast-growing Asian American consumer market.

The update, entitled "Following the Path to Asian American Home Ownership," was released at a "Safeguarding the American Dream" symposium, a national meeting of mortgage industry leaders, real estate professionals, public officials, and consumer groups in the nation's capital. Center Assistant Director Melany DelaCruz-Viesca was the principal author.

"The updated data show that Asian Americans have become a truly national population, with growing and highly visible communities outside of the big three regional concentrations in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York," said said Center Director Don Nakanishi. "Cities from Boston to Houston and from the Washington, DC area to Phoenix are rapidly growing. Asian Americans are setting their roots in these areas through home ownership and increasing civic involvement."

"AREAA is pleased to partner with UCLA to update our historic study regarding the home ownership patterns of the Asian American community," said Allen M. Okamoto, chair of AREAA. "While Asian Americans have increased their rate of

home ownership, we still have work to do. This update serves as a challenge to the entire housing industry to work creatively to solve the unique home ownership challenges facing Asian American consumers."

Based on new data from 2000 to 2005, the update includes several key findings, including:

The Asian American consumer market is still one of the fastest growing markets in the United States, with its population growing 81 percent from 1990 to 2005. In 1990, the buying power of Asian Americans was \$117 billion, and is projected to quintuple to \$579 billion in 2010.

Asian American home ownership is on the rise. In 2000, the nationwide home ownership rate for Asians was 53 percent. As of 2005, it had increased significantly to 59 percent, but it still lags national home ownership rates (67 percent) and non-Hispanic White (74 percent) populations.

The report focuses on the top twenty-five metropolitan areas with the largest Asian American populations: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Fresno, Honolulu, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Norfolk, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Stockton, Tampa, and Washington DC.

Continued on page 11

Conference held on “The Rise of Korean American Studies”

by Thomas Szymanek

ACADEMICS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, members, activists and students from across the United States and as far as Asia, came to the third Korean American Conference held at UCLA on June 9, 2007 to discuss issues affecting the Korean American community. The conference was entitled “Rise of Korean American Studies: 16 Years After the 1992 Los Angeles Civil Unrest” and was sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Professors Kyeyoung Park and Grace Hong, both members of the Center’s Faculty Advisory Committee, organized the conference.

Participants discussed the status of the field of Korean American Studies and its role in the current global context, tackling issues such as the role of Korean American Studies in shaping U.S.-Korea relations. Presenters also discussed the need for Korean American Studies, especially after the 1992 Los Angeles Riots and the more recent shooting at the Virginia Institute of Technology. Some participants in the audience raised concerns regarding the timing of the rise of Korean American Studies and the future of Asian American Studies in general, if community members create disciplines such as Chinese American Studies, Filipino American Studies or Japanese American Studies.

All presenters, however, gave strong reasons regarding the relevance of Korean American Studies. Jae Min Chang from the Korean Times argued that, “Korean American Studies helps critically understand history, identity, ethnicity and cultural understanding. More importantly, it helps link the

past, present and future.” He cited the Virginia Tech shooting and the 1992 Saigu as examples, where the Korean American community’s identity and very existence were questioned and challenged.

Furthermore, the



From left to right: UCLA Professor Grace Hong, UC Berkeley Professor Elaine Kim, and Northwestern University Professor Ji Yeon Yu.

Photo by T. Szymanek

scholars and community leaders agreed that through Korean American Studies, the needs of a diverse community which have previously been neglected in the multidisciplinary and broad focus of Asian American Studies can now be addressed.

Laura Kang of UC Riverside explained, “There are different ethnic groups which do not get addressed. It is a myth that Asian American Studies has all the answers and is knowledgeable of all key major issues. Korean American Studies does not have such an extensiveness as Asian American Studies. It makes sense to follow a similar pattern of development.”

Through Korean American Studies, scholars also argued they are better able to contextualize the experiences of Korean Americans, the changing demographics of the community and how it is being perceived by other communities. Dr. Ji Yeon Yuh of Northwestern University emphasized that a new Korean American history needs to be studied. She stated, “Historians needs to open the Pandora’s Box filled with colonialism, power place, illusions and perceptions and be willing to present the stories of untold. . .We need a more honest, powerful and hopeful representation of our future, past and present. . .Much of Korean American history has been distorted and miscued by the US hegemony. This is because of the culture and society we live in and because of our desire to become American.”

Photo by T. Szymanek



From left to right: UCLA Professor Kyeyoung Park and Professor John Park from UC Santa Barbara.

Continued from page 10

Additional findings show that more than half of the Asian population lived in just three states: California, New York and Texas. Additionally, settlement patterns at the regional level show a greater number of Asian Americans moving to southern metropolitan areas such as: Asian Indians and Vietnamese in Dallas, Texas; Koreans and Vietnamese in Atlanta, Georgia, and Vietnamese in Houston, Texas.

Jim Park, president and CEO of AREAA, addressed attendees about the home ownership gap facing Asian Americans and challenged industry professionals to address this growing market.

“Our community is not only diverse in terms of culture and language, but the housing challenges faced by this community are complex and wide-ranging,” Park said.

He said the major financial and real estate companies have largely ignored the substantial purchasing power and stellar credit among Asian Americans, an audience that could provide enormous business opportunities.

Despite their growth in home ownership rates, the update shows that Asian Americans still face challenges when it comes to attaining home ownership, including language barriers, relevant mortgage products and less familiarity with the U.S. banking and finance systems.

“Mortgage and real estate professionals can stand to prosper significantly by effectively serving this market,” Park said. “Given the educational level, credit profile and income attainment of the Asian Pacific American community, its home ownership rate has tremendous room to grow.”

New Center Research:

Pacific Islanders Lagging Behind in Higher Educational Attainment

AN ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY the Center, in conjunction with the UC Asian American and Pacific Islander Policy Initiative and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, shows that Pacific Islanders have fallen behind in terms of higher educational attainment, and projected trends show that this problem will continue. The analysis uses data released November 14, 2006 from the 2005 American Community Survey, iterated by race, Hispanic origin, ancestry and age released by the U.S. Census Bureau, along with previously released data.

Analysis of other information shows that Pacific Islanders are underrepresented in top universities such as the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). According to the most recent data on applications and admissions for this institution, there were only 166 Pacific Islander applicants, about half of the number expected based on their share of the youth population. Among the applicants, only 26 Pacific Islanders were admitted; an admission rate lower than non-Hispanic white and Asian applicants (16 percent versus 26 percent and 33 percent, respectively). In all, only eleven Pacific Islanders enrolled, only a third of what is expected relative to their share of the population.

According to Center Director Don Nakanishi, the problem is due in part to change in policy. "This is another alarming consequence of the passage of Proposition 209 ten years ago, as well as the ever-increasing competitiveness in getting admitted to UCLA and other selective colleges," said Nakanishi. "There definitely should be more than eleven Pacific Islanders in UCLA's new freshman class of 4809 students."

The Center's findings also show that the problems facing Pacific Islander youths are compounded by social and cultural alienation, which many schools are ill-equipped to accommodate. Many youths also struggle with conflicts between family obligations and their schooling.

The report indicates that improving the educational attainment of Pacific Islanders will require both a change in public policy and enhanced services provided by community-based organizations. However, Pacific Islanders have not been a part of the policy discussion about the need to increase diversity in higher education and to redress underrepresentation of minority groups.

The full nine-page report, *Pacific Islanders Lagging Behind in Higher Educational Attainment*, which includes graphs and tables, is available free on the web site of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/archives/pihigheredpr.htm>

MAJOR FINDINGS

- * Among those 25 years and older, single-race Pacific Islanders are only about half as likely as non-Hispanic whites to have at least a bachelor's degree (15 percent versus 30 percent). The gap is even wider when compared to Asians (49 percent with a bachelor's or more advanced degree).
- * Pacific Islander levels of higher educational attainment (15 percent) are similar to African Americans, in which 17 percent have at least a bachelor's or more advanced degree.
- * Native Hawaiians and Guamanians have the highest level of educational attainment among Pacific Islanders, with roughly about 1 in 6 and 1 in 7 with at least a bachelor's degree.
- * Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i have lower educational attainment than those in the other 49 states.
- * Among Pacific Islanders, Samoans, Tongans, and Fijians have the lowest percentages with a college degree.
- * Prospects for future educational attainment are bleak. Slightly less than a third (29 percent) of Pacific Islanders between the ages of 18 and 24 are enrolled in a college or university, a rate comparable to African Americans (29 percent). In contrast, the college enrollment figures are 39 percent for non-Hispanic whites and 57 percent for Asians.
- * For Pacific Islanders in the three cohorts over the age of 35, younger cohorts have a higher level of educational attainment than older cohorts, both because of increasing educational opportunities and increasing economic returns to education.
- * Public schools are failing to prepare Pacific Islander students for high school and college levels. The lack of culturally-appropriate programs and a hostile educational environment contribute to social alienation and a high dropout rate among Pacific Islander youths.

The Growth of Asian Americans

Center Report Shows Asian Americans as “Sleeping Giants” in California Politics

IN THE 1980S AND 1990S, Hispanics were considered the “sleeping giant” in California politics because of their growing numbers. But according to an analysis conducted by researchers affiliated with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and with the UC AAPI (Asian American & Pacific Islander) Policy Initiative, Asian Americans are now the new “sleeping giant” and are at a point where Hispanics were about two decades ago. Asian Americans have significantly increased their potential power at the polls in California. The analysis uses data from the 2005 American Community Survey (ACS) released on August 15 and 29, 2006 by the U.S. Census Bureau, along with previously released data from the Census Bureau.

The number of Asian Americans in California eligible to register to vote (citizens who are 18 and older) climbed by over a half million between 2000 and 2005, from 2 million to 2.5 million. The Asian American share of the proportion of the state’s population eligible to register as voters increased from 10 percent to 12 percent during this time period.

Two factors behind the emergence of the new “sleeping giant” are the overall increase in the total Asian American population and the higher rate of citizenship. Between 2000 and 2005, the number of Asian Americans residing in California’s households increased from 3.8 million to 4.7 million, accounting for 38 percent of the net gain of 2.2 million persons in California’s population.

Along with population growth, Asian Americans experienced an increase in their citizenship rate—71 percent of Asian American adults are U.S. citizens by birth or naturalization, representing an increase from 67 percent in 2000. These figures show that Asian Americans are not an alien population, but a population that has become fully integrated into American society through citizenship.

The growth in the potential Asian American electorate over the last five years is a continuation of a pattern that began in the 1990s. In 1990, there were slightly more than one million Asian American adult citizens, comprising about 6% of all adult citizens in the state. If recent trends continue, there will be over 3 million Asian American adults eligible to register to vote by the end of the decade, making up about 14 percent of all Californians eligible to register.

The growth in the absolute number of Asian Americans and those eligible to become voters can have political ramifications. California Board of Equalization Member Judy Chu states that the overall growth of the Asian American population will open up new opportunities and challenges. “Asian

Americans continue to contribute to the cultural diversity and economic success of this nation,” Chu states, “but the growing population also means that public services and elected representation will need to grow to accommodate the unique needs of our community.”

This opinion is widely shared by other community leaders, including Lisa Hasegawa (Executive Director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development), JD Hokoyama (President and CEO of Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc.), and Elena Ong (former member, California Commission for Women).

According to Professor Don Nakanishi, a political scientist and director of UCLA’s Asian American Studies Center, “This growth has contributed to the increasing number of

Asian American state and local elected officials in California and nationwide.” He adds that the Asian American political infrastructure of voters, donors, politicians, and community groups has also undergone growth and maturation,

and will likely have an increasingly significant impact on state and national politics.

However, there are still barriers to fully translating the population numbers into voting power. According to Paul Ong, an economist and professor in UCLA’s School of Public Affairs, “The challenge is to convert the growing numbers of Asian American citizens into voters.” Previous research and data for California from the 2002 and 2004 November Current Population Survey show that Asian American citizens are less likely to register and vote than non-Hispanic whites and African Americans.

Leading Asian American scholars believe that this group can become an effective voting bloc by formulating a common political agenda both among Asian Americans and across racial lines. The Asian American population is culturally, linguistically and economically heterogeneous. Despite these divisions, Professor Yen Le Espiritu, a sociologist in the department of Ethnic Studies at UC San Diego and graduate of the UCLA Asian American Studies program, notes that, “history has shown that Asian Americans can overcome differences to build viable pan-Asian political coalitions to promote and protect both their individual and their united interests.” Moreover, Professor Michael Omi, professor of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, predicts, “different racial and ethnic groups will increasingly see the necessity of defining areas of common political concern and mobilizing significant voter blocs to wield political power.

“The Asian American political infrastructure of voters, donors, politicians and community groups will likely have an increasingly significant impact on state and national politics.”

—Don Nakanishi

2006-07 Asian American Studies Center Scholarships, Fellowships, and Academic Prizes

Asian American Studies Center Endowed Graduate Fellowship & Prize Awards

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship (\$1000)
Paul Ocampo

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship (\$2000)
Preeti Sharma

Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship (\$2000)
Cindy Sangalang

21st Century Graduate Fellowship (\$2500 each)
Lindsay Gervacio, Michelle Magalong, Oiyen Poon, Kei Nagao

George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship (\$3,000 each)
Kei Nagao, Carrie Usui

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize (\$500)
Paul Ocampo

Benjamin Cayetano Public Policy and Politics Prize (\$500)
Julie Park

Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize (\$500)
Preeti Sharma

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize (\$500)
Mary Kao

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture (\$500) Paul Julian Nadal

Asian American Studies Center Endowed Undergraduate Scholarships, Internships, Grants, & Awards

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000 each)
Christina Aujean Lee, Alma Riego, Miguel Carvente

Twenty-first Century Undergraduate Scholarship (\$2,500 each)
Amy Zhou

John Kubota Grant in Japanese American Studies (\$1,500)
Candice Shikai

George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship (\$3,000 each)
Marissa Ishida, Mickie Okamoto

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award (\$2,000)
Raja Akhras Gangopadhyaya

Professor Harry L. Kitano Undergraduate Prize (\$500)
Bo Kyung Kim

Benjamin Cayetano Public Policy & Politics Prize (\$500)
Lawrence Lipana

Ben and Alice Hirano Academic Prize (\$500)
Dana Inouye-Heatherton

Tsugio and Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature and Culture (\$500)
Dana Inouye-Heatherton

Rose Eng Chin and Helen Wong Eng Prize (\$500)
Sarah Nguyen

Royal Morales Prize in Pilipino American Studies (\$500)
Lawrence Lipana

Philip Vera Cruz Memorial Prize (\$250) Alma Riego

UCLA Institute of American Cultures Research Projects

IAC Post-doctoral Fellowship
Amy Haruko Sueyoshi, San Francisco State University

IAC Graduate and Pre-Doctoral Fellowships

Oiyen Poon, Preeti Sharma, Satish Kunesi

IAC Research Grant Awardees (Faculty)

Lucy Burns, "At Rise: On Filipino American Theater and Performance"

Grace Hong, "Death as Possibility: Governmentalities of Globalization and Racialized Contradiction"

Jerry Kang, "Implicit Bias against Asian Americans in the Law"

Margie Kagawa-Singer, "Youth Nutrition & Physical Activity Project"

Jinqi Ling, "Across Meridians: History and Imagination in Karen Tei Yamashita's Fictional Art"

Shu-mei Shih, "Sinophone American Literature: A Critical Bibliography"

Min Zhou, "The Push-Pull Forces and Transnational Movements: Highly Skilled Migrants from Mainland China to the U.S."

IAC Research Grant Awardees (Graduate Students)

Jolie Chea, "Routes to 'Freedom': Khmer Rouge Survivors & America"

Nina Farnia, "The Racialization of Iranians and Iranian-Americans in the San Fernando Valley"

Satish Kunesi, "Pain, Penalty, & Capital in Post 9/11 Detentions"

Sangita Shresthova, "It's All About the Hips"

Ravneet Tiwana, "Panjabi Language Instruction at the American Sikh Temple School: A Site for Hybrid Cultural Socialization"

Xiong Yang, "Hmong Americans: The First Generation and their Children"

Fanny Yeung, "Knowing What You Know, Would You Do It Again? Experiences of Asian American Faculty Members in Higher Education"

Amy Sueyoshi is New IAC Post-doctoral Fellow

PROFESSOR AMY SUEYOSHI of San Francisco State University has been selected as the new Institute of American Cultures post-doctoral fellow for 2007 to 2008. Sueyoshi received her PhD in history from UCLA in 2002. She will teach a course on Asian American sexuality, and will continue to work on her manuscript, which will be "an intimate life of Japanese immigrant poet Yone Noguchi . . . which addresses themes of sexual self-determination, gender and racialization." She recently served as a guest editor for *Amerasia Journal's* issue on "Asian Americans in the Marriage Equality Debate."

New Endowment for Chinese American Studies Established

GILBERT HOM of Alhambra, California, who attended UCLA in the late 1960s and is active in the Chinese American community of Los Angeles, has generously provided a major lead gift to the Center to establish the Chinese American Studies Endowment Fund.

The endowment will support research and other activities by UCLA faculty, staff, and students that will serve to benefit and advance Chinese American Studies and the Chinese American community. This goal will be pursued through active collaboration between the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, two groups which have worked together on many community-based research, publications, and archival projects for over thirty years. Hom is currently the Vice President of the historical society.

Mr. Hom's gift serves as a significant building block for the Center's Chinese American Studies Initiative (CASI), which was launched by the Center's faculty, staff, alumni, and friends to establish scholarships, fellowships, research funds,



Photo by Mary Kao.

Gilbert Hom.

publications, support for special collections and library materials, student-community internships, endowed academic chairs, and community partnerships in support of Chinese American Studies. Hom has been a very dedicated founding leader of the CASI.

Center Receives Endowment for Asian Pacific American Mental Health Research

THE CENTER RECEIVED a generous endowment from the Patrick and Lily Okura Trust to establish the Patrick and Lily Okura Research Endowment for Asian Pacific American Mental Health. This endowment provides support for expenses related to research, conference travel, and other activities undertaken by UCLA faculty and students who are studying mental health issues among Asian Americans. The endowment will be managed by the Center.

Patrick Okura graduated from UCLA in 1933, with a BA and an MA in Psychology. As a result of Executive Order 9066, he was the first Asian American in UCLA to receive a varsity letter, in baseball. He and Lily Okura were incarcerated during World War II, and were recruited by Father Edward Flanagan to work at Boy's Town in Omaha, Nebraska. Pat-

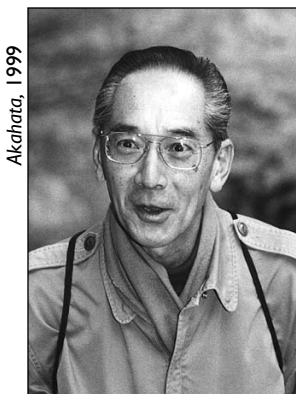
rick later worked as the special assistant to the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), working under then director Dr. Bertram Brown for over twenty years. He also worked with Asian American psychologists like former UCLA professor Stanley Sue, developing the field of Asian American mental health research and training.

Both Patrick and Lily also established a foundation to provide opportunities for mid-career mental health practitioners and researchers interested in Asian American health issues to meet with NIMH officials in Washington, DC. Patrick also received an Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award from UCLA.

Patrick and Lily also donated their personal papers to the Center and UCLA's Special Collections Department.

Update

Yuji Ichioka Endowed Chair Campaign Reaches Halfway Goal



Akahata, 1999

Professor Yuji Ichioka

THE CAMPAIGN to establish an endowed academic chair in social justice and immigration studies in the name of the late Professor Yuji Ichioka reached its halfway point with major gifts from the George and Sakaye Aratani Foundation of Los Angeles and the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation of San Francisco. Hundreds of former students, colleagues, friends, and admirers from across the nation, as well as around the world, have contributed to the endowment campaign.

Professor Ichioka was one of the founders of the Asian American Studies Center in 1969, and taught the first class in Asian American Studies at UCLA. He was widely recognized as the most renowned scholar of Japanese immigrant history. His last book, which was published posthumously by Stanford University Press in 2006, was *Before Internment: Essays in Prewar Japanese American History*.

Contributions to the Yuji Ichioka Endowed Chair campaign can be made through the web site of the Asian American Studies Center (<http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/>) or by writing a check to the "UCLA Foundation" and sending it to "Yuji Ichioka Endowed Chair, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, PO Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546".

Don Nakanishi Receives APAICS Community Achievement Award

CENTER DIRECTOR DON T. NAKANISHI was honored with the Community Achievement Award by the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) in a gala ceremony held last May 15, 2007 in Washington, DC. The APAICS ceremony honored three Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs) who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields and have given back to the community. Nakanishi was recognized for developing the field of Asian American political research. APAICS also cited his instrumental role in helping develop a national leadership academy to train locally elected Asian Pacific Islander Americans to seek higher political office.

In his acceptance speech, he observed the trend towards greater political representation for Asian Pacific Americans over the past forty years.

“There are so many talented and committed people who work and volunteer for these groups,” he said. “We must invest in them and provide them with resources to do their vital work if we are to take APA politics to the next level.”

Nakanishi noted the remaining challenges, such as the continued need for training programs geared to prospective APA leaders at the local and national level. He also emphasized the need to “vigorously and continuously tackle what



Photo courtesy of Don Nakanishi.

Don Nakanishi meets with UCLA alumnus Lisa Hasegawa, executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific Community Development at the APAICS awards gala in Washington, DC.

we should view as our totally unacceptable rates of voter registration and voting among APAs.”

Also presented with Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Awards at the gala ceremony were Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao, and former Governor of Hawai'i George R. Ariyoshi.

Center and Department News



Photo by M. Kao

Professor LANE RYO HIRABAYASHI is the new Chair of the Department of Asian American Studies for 2007-2009. He is also currently the George and Sakaye Aratani Professor of the Japanese American Internment, Redress & Community. He succeeds Professor Cindy Fan, who has served as the Department Chair since 2005. In addition to his teaching and research, Professor Hirabayashi also serves on the editorial board of *Amerasia Journal*.

Professor THU-HUONG NGUYEN-VO is the Department's new Vice Chair. She previously served as the department's Undergraduate Faculty Advisor and was the head of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee. Professor Nguyen-Vo is currently an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Southeast Asian and Asian American Studies



STACEY YUKARI HIROSE has been appointed the Department's full-time Management Services last April. Stacey has served as the Department's Student Affairs Officer for six years. She was the Inter Departmental Program (IDP's) first full-time staff and she played crucial roles in many major developments and activities of the IDP/department, including departmentalization, curriculum restructuring, curriculum planning, and student advising.



Photo by M. Kao

KEHAULANI VAUGHN has recently been appointed as the Asian American Studies Department's Student Affairs Officer. Kehaulani graduated from Occidental College in 2002 with a degree in American Studies. She received an M.A. degree in Asian American Studies and an M.Ed. in Counseling in Student Affairs, both from UCLA. Her research encompasses the trust relationship between Native Hawaiians and the Federal Government. For the past two years, Kehaulani worked as the Asian American Studies Department's Counseling Assistant.



STEPHANIE SANTOS celebrated her first year anniversary this August, as the Center's Assistant Editor. She grew up in the Philippines and obtained her MA in Liberal Studies from New York University. She works on the Center's two peer-reviewed journals—*Amerasia* and *AAPI Nexus*, as well as *CrossCurrents*. Prior to the AASC, she has also worked as a journalist and a teacher. She likes to run and hopes to complete her first marathon next spring.



Photo by M. Kao



Photo by M. Lee.

BETTY LEUNG joined the Center last March 2007 as the new MSO. Betty received her B.Sc. in Biology from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and an MBA in Finance from Pepperdine University. She brings more than eight years of combined experience in financial and fund management. Her hobbies include spending time with her “son” Patton (old English sheepdog) and traditional Chinese dancing.

“Stewards of the Field”

Department Holds Commencement Ceremonies

THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT held commencement ceremonies on June 17, 2007. Beaming graduates and their families were on hand at Schoenberg Hall to celebrate the achievements of the undergraduates who earned their minors in Asian American Studies, students who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Asian American Studies, and the eleven graduate students who earned their Master of Arts in Asian American Studies. Dr. Tritia Toyota, an adjunct professor with the Department, served as the master of ceremonies.

In her keynote address, AASD lecturer Dr. Jennifer A. Yee challenged the students to continue acting as stewards of the field, as “Asian American Studies has been about reconceptualizing the way things have always been.”

“I believe in the people who make it their business to chronicle the lives, experiences, and issues affecting all of the people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in our country,” she stated. She called on the students to join the ranks of “those who take a stand, who are building bridges with other communities to ensure the well-being, equality and opportunity of all in our country.”



(left to right): MA graduate Jean-Paul deGuzman and Asian American studies major Marissa Ishida

The Asian American Studies Graduate Student Association (AASGSA) also presented the Teaching and Mentorship Award to Professor Valerie Matsumoto. MA graduate Mary Uyematsu Kao presented the award, citing Matsumoto’s generosity in spending time and resources with her students.

Graduate student Jean-Paul deGuzman, one of the student speakers, noted that his cohort graduates at a time when “the so-called War on Terror continues its paths of destruction” and “people of color are marked as alleged threats to national security while our immigrant communities are exploited and simultaneously criminalized.” DeGuzman cited the various areas of focus that the new graduates will be taking, from further studies in the academe to working with grassroots and national organizations, to those who head into careers in media and the arts.



Photo courtesy of Mary Kao

(left to right): Dr. Tritia Toyota, Master of Ceremonies; MA graduate and Center publications coordinator Mary Uyematsu Kao; Professor Valerie Matsumoto.

The MA class of 2007 is headed into different directions. DeGuzman begins working on his PhD this fall at the UCLA Department of History, while Paul Nadal joins the PhD program in Literature at Duke University. Others are headed into various levels of teaching. Theresa Jaranilla will be teaching at a charter school, Mark Villegas will begin teaching classes in Sociology at the California State University, Long Beach, and Hye-young Kwon begins teaching with the Asian American Studies program at California State University, Northridge. Mary Kao will continue working as the Center’s publications coordinator and plans to teach classes with the Department. Thomas Szymanek joins the federal government as a program specialist with the Department of Veteran Affairs. Still others join community-based organizations as they continue the work they have begun in the field of Asian American Studies.

Jennifer Yee Appointed to Cal State Fullerton

DR. JENNIFER A. YEE, a former lecturer with the Departments of Asian American Studies and Education at UCLA has been appointed to a tenure-track Assistant Professor post in Asian American Studies at California State University, Fullerton. She earned her PhD in Higher Education and Organizational Change at UCLA. She also holds an AM in Higher Education Administration from Stanford University. She earned her B.A. from California State University, Long Beach.

Doctor Yee was awarded the 2006 Fiar and Open Academic Environment Award from the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity of UCLA’s Academic Senate. Her professional and research interests include Asian Pacific American activists and mentoring, creative, transformative pedagogy, and the application of ethnic studies pedagogy and feminist/critical race theory to higher education curricula.

Meet the M.A. Class of 2006-07

Photographs by JP deGuzman

JOLIE CHEA was born and raised in and around Chinatown, Los Angeles. She slipped through the cracks at the University of California, Riverside with not one but two degrees in Sociology and Ethnic Studies. Following that, she left Los Angeles and moved to Las Vegas for two years because she “wanted to get away.” In due time, she realized that you cannot possibly run from the anguish caused by America’s oppressive systems, especially not if you’re going to resettle in Las Vegas. She joined the MA program at UCLA because it is located in Los Angeles, albeit the west side, and because she loves being a student. Of course, it helps that Asian American Studies is a field of great interest to her. Her research focuses on Cambodian refugees and their families living in the United States, exploring the irony of being a “refugee” in Empire. During her time at UCLA, she plans to let her dog Moose run free around campus to spite those who demand that she keep this living, breathing creature strung around the neck by a leash. After the MA program, she hopes to chase a PhD in American Studies or Ethnic Studies.



work that he pursued his interest in the field of Asian American Studies. Upon realizing the embarrassment and shame of living at home with his parents and having them support him, he worked in the mortgage industry for three years. But he quickly grew tired of a nine-to-five desk job and made the leap to fulfill his goal of getting a Master of Arts degree. His research interest centers on Filipino American history, specifically relating to cultural, immigration, and labor studies. For his thesis, Ronaldo will explore the “rigid dichotomy between the positive American image of life in the U.S. Navy for Filipinos versus the reality of the Filipino experience through the voices (i.e., archived manuscripts and oral interviews) of the pre-1950s cohort of former Filipino U.S. Navy stewards in Los Angeles, California.” Once he graduates from the MA program, he intends to pursue a PhD in History and teach at the California State University level.



LINDSAY GERVACIO is a Bay Area native, born and raised in Palo Alto, California. She attended Stanford University as an undergraduate, where she majored in Human Biology (with a focus in Child Health Policy) and minored in Asian American Studies. Before coming to the MA program, Lindsay spent some time at the California State Capitol as an Assembly Fellow, effect-

ing policy change related to health, labor and immigration. Concurrent to the MA program, Lindsay is also in the MPH program in Community Health Sciences. Her research interests primarily involve the role of cultural competence as it addresses racial and ethnic disparities in health care. Specifically, Lindsay is interested in exploring the social support experience of both Filipino American breast cancer survivors and their spouses. While Lindsay is still thinking about what she wants to be when she grows up, she knows her efforts will be to continue working in the Asian American community for better public health.



PAUL OCAMPO was born in Cavite in the Philippines and immigrated to the U.S. at age eleven. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a BA in English Literature. He worked briefly at UC Office of the President in the compensation department, then taught English in Seoul, Korea, and then for two years, worked at

the Public Library of Science in San Francisco as editorial assistant for the journals PLoS Biology and PLoS Medicine. He assisted Maxine Hong Kingston in editing the anthology *Veterans of War, Veterans of Peace*, which includes his short story “Butterfly.” He is also published in *Lodestar Quarterly*. The mentorship from Maxine Hong Kingston and poet Truong Tran and community activism influenced him to pursue graduate studies in Asian American Studies at UCLA. For his thesis project in Asian American Studies, he will complete a collection of short stories that deals with the transnational migration and displacement of Filipinos in the 9/11 world and the disembodiment of identity and voice that occurs in the process. Because there is a lacuna of published creative work done on the experiences of Filipino immigrants, his creative project intends to foreground the perspectives and voices of the commodified Filipino masses.

RONALDO NOCHE was born in the Philippines and moved to California when he was six years old. He considers the San Gabriel Valley his home, but his trail of former residences span across both Los Angeles and Orange County. A graduate of California State University, Fullerton, he received a Bachelor of Arts in History and it was during his undergraduate course-



PREETI SHARMA originally hails from Florida. She is a recipient of an Institute of American Cultures (IAC) pre-doctoral fellowship for research project examining Arab and South Asian American women’s resistance art to U.S. Orientalisms and War-making. Through an interdisciplinary approach, she will employ a literary analysis to discern how the writings and art resist dominant U.S. constructions.





SATISH KUNISI was born and raised in the chonkyfire of Jacksonville, Florida. He graduated from the University of Florida with degrees in Anthropology and Psychology. After a brief stint as a labor organizer in Ohio, he moved to LA to join the MA program. Satish was and continues to be impressed by

the program's breadth as well as the wonderful and productive relationships between students, faculty, and staff. He is currently working on a project exploring the relations between narrations of pain, penal practices and capital in the experiences of post-9/11 detainees. He remains committed to workers rights and hopes to use the remainder of his time in the program developing research skills that will be useful in progressive struggles.



CARRIE MIDORI USUI was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Carrie attended the University of California, San Diego and in 1999 graduated with a BA in Literatures of the World with minors in history and music-vocal performance. Carrie then started her first job as an Eighth-grade English teacher at Daniel Webster Middle School. In 2003, she went to work for one of the Local District offices as the English Language Arts Advisor/Expert for Secondary Literacy. This past fall, Carrie returned to school at UCLA in the Asian American Studies Program to pursue a Masters degree. Carrie chose to come to UCLA because of its strong reputation in Asian American Studies and the opportunity to work with well-known Asian American writers such as David Wong Louie and Russell Leong. Her area of focus is creative writing and she is excited to research and write a collection of creative nonfiction about the experiences of the Japanese and Okinawan American women in her family. She hopes through the process of capturing the stories of the women in her family that it will represent her own journey of self-discovery in being Asian American.

In 2003, she went to work for one of the Local District offices as the English Language Arts Advisor/Expert for Secondary Literacy. This past fall, Carrie returned to school at UCLA in the Asian American Studies Program to pursue a Masters degree. Carrie chose to come to UCLA because of its strong reputation in Asian American Studies and the opportunity to work with well-known Asian American writers such as David Wong Louie and Russell Leong. Her area of focus is creative writing and she is excited to research and write a collection of creative nonfiction about the experiences of the Japanese and Okinawan American women in her family. She hopes through the process of capturing the stories of the women in her family that it will represent her own journey of self-discovery in being Asian American.

AASGSA holds Subverses 2007

THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION held the annual Subverses event last May 9, 2007 at Kerckhoff Hall. Poet and performance artist Anida Yoeu Ali was the featured guest, in the show entitled "On the Cusp of the Phoenix Rising." The event focused on anti-war issues as they intersect with immigrant rights. Anida's hybrid cultural experiences were reflected in the humor, wit, anger, and storytelling of the performance.



Above: Poet and performance artist Anida Yoeu Ali at Subverses 2007. Below: AASGSA members.



Photos courtesy of Jolie Chea

AP Eyes Features Center's "Education through Struggle" Mural

AP eyes: Catching a Glimpse of Asian American and Pacific Islander Murals in Los Angeles, a booklet and project of the 2007 interns of the Leadership in Action Program (LEAP), features the Center's mural "Education through Struggle." The interns' project aimed to explore how many of the murals in Los Angeles—dubbed the "Mural Capital of the World"—reflected the AAPI community. The booklet also tells the stories of how these murals were created, and gives status reports on the state of the murals today.

"Education through Struggle" is located on the third floor of Campbell Hall, outside the Center's main office. It was unveiled in 1995, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary

of the 1968 San Francisco State College third world liberation strike. It was created by Darryl Mar, a graduate student at the Asian American Studies M.A. program, in collaboration with the Critical Asian Pacific Islander Studies for Action and the course students in the Special Independent Study program. The mural's theme centers on education, identity, and community. Measuring sixteen feet by eight feet, the mural is composed of mixed media on steel.

AP eyes also features murals like "Home is Little Tokyo" at the Japanese Village Plaza, "Bangladeshi Dream Banners" in Artesia, and "A Glorious History, A Golden Legacy" in Historic Filipinotown.

Asian Pacific Coalition Spearheads “Count Me In!” Campaign

By Melissa Pjatharanavik and Candice Shikai

ASIAN-AMERICAN YOUTH are often perceived as academic superstars with an innate love for scholastic activities, held up as examples of what can be accomplished in America. Portrayed as hard working and mathematically brilliant, Asian Americans have been labeled the “model minority,” a concept introduced in the 1960s that placed an unrealistic cultural and societal standard on Asian Americans, while pushing struggling members of the Asian American community into the dark. But as the Asian Pacific Islander population becomes a growing force in California, it is necessary to shed some light.

The reality is there is a segment of the Asian American population consisting of low-income students struggling to become the first in their family to earn a college degree. Most University of California campuses have student bodies with a 40 percent plus Asian population, but the success of some tends to mask the experiences of those who are not doing as well. Responding to the differences, the Asian Pacific Coalition (APC) at UCLA is leading the “Count Me In!” campaign to disaggregate data on Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI). The UC must break down the “Other Asian” category on its application in order to reveal and comprehensively address the diverse needs of AAPI communities.

Currently, the UC system collects data on only a few AAPI communities and condenses underrepresented groups into the “Other Asian” category. The UC needs to enhance its admissions system to include data collection on students of Bangladeshi, Cambodian, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, and Thai backgrounds. The lack of statistical information has resulted in disadvantaged Asian American groups that remain invisible

to the public eye, thus disguising the lack of influence, representation and access that many Asian Americans have to societal institutions.

Disaggregated data is needed to more specifically identify the severe educational inequalities within the AAPI community that are not addressed by university administrators. Claims to diversity may seem supported by the information made public by the UC when the reality is more likely the opposite. According to a report compiled by the Asian

“Disaggregated data is needed to identify the severe educational inequalities within the AAPI community not addressed by university administrators.”

Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC), there are only 50 Pacific-Islander students at UCLA; that’s only .125% of the UCLA student population. The report also revealed that

for the incoming class of 2006, the Hmong community was represented by only one undergraduate, one transfer and one graduate student, which raised the Hmong population on campus to 18 out of approximately 40,000 students at UCLA.

Asian American communities condensed under the “Other Asian” category need more specific statistical information to justify the need for outreach projects that provide tutoring and mentoring services to combat the issue of accessibility to higher education. Without the appropriate data, it is difficult to track the admission and retention rates for AAPI students. As a student advocacy group, APC is working to secure funding for outreach programs that serve AAPI communities that face disadvantages in access to higher education, an effort that can only be successful with improved data collection. APC is currently working to help the UC Office of the President make this a reality and implement the disaggregation process as soon as is feasible, with the help of contacts from organizations like the UC Students Association (UCSA).

MA Alumnus Jeff Chang Facilitates Hip Hop Panel

By Mark Redondo Villegas

THIS SPRING QUARTER, I had the privilege of helping organize a panel called Hip Hop on the Brain: Aesthetics, Activism, and the Academy. Together with Asian American Studies MA alumnus Anna Alves, the Academic Advancement Program, the Department of Anthropology, Hip Hop Congress, USAC Financial Committee, and the Working Group in Hip Hop Cultural Studies, we assembled a panel of hip hop cultural luminaries. Asian American Studies MA alumnus Jeff Chang, editor of *Total Chaos: The Art and Aesthetics of Hip-Hop* (Basic Civitas Books, 2006), moderated the panel on Thursday, May 31 in the Kerckhoff State Rooms.

The panel, James Spady and Samir Meghelli, co-editors of *The Global Capha: Hip Hop Culture and Consciousness*, hip hop dance pioneer Rennie Harris, UCLA Department of Ethnomusicology professor Cheryl Keyes, and muralist Susie

Lundy of the Eastside Arts Alliance Collective, who discussed the role of hip hop culture in academia.

Chang’s first book, *Can’t Stop Won’t Stop: A History of the Hip Hop Generation* (St. Martin’s Press, 2005), is the definitive text on hip hop cultural history to date and demonstrates the energy and creativity that many contemporary scholars are approaching hip hop scholarship. This text—among other books that focus on race, gender, language, and nationhood and their relationship with hip hop culture—are used in college classes all over the country. The UCLA Working Group in Hip Hop Cultural Studies, headed by Department of Anthropology professor H. Samy Alim, consists of a dozen or so graduate students who interrogate discourses on hip hop. In many ways, as Professor Alim and members of the panel pointed out, hip hop is reinvigorating the academy by engaging students with a culture they relate to and connecting academic labor to the “street”—where real, thinking, creative people, artists, performers, and everyday folks in the hustle reside.

Special Issue of *Amerasia Journal* Unveiled

Center Participates in AAAS Conference in New York

Center and Department staff, students, faculty, and alumni headed to New York City to celebrate the 2007 annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS). The theme of the event, held on April 4-8, 2007 at Manhattan's Grand Hyatt hotel, was "Crosstown Connections: Asian American Urbanism and Interracial Encounters."

The AASC Press joined the book exhibitors and generated brisk sales of its journals and other publications. Scholar and activist Professor L. Ling-Chi Wang held a book signing event at the AASC Press exhibit, on the special *Amerasia Journal* on his writings (see page 22). Prior to the book-signing, the AAAS presented Professor Wang with the Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Faculty, students, and staff of the Center also shared their research in several panel discussions held during the three-day event. Former Associate Dean of Graduate Programs Shirley Hune chaired a panel called "Alternative Paradigms: Asian Americans And The K-16 Educational Pipeline," where MA student Theresa Jaranilla presented her findings on Asian American Studies curriculums in public high schools. In a separate panel, Thomas Szymanek, another student of the MA program, presented parts of his thesis research on the effects

of the No Child Left Behind Policy on Asian Pacific American community-based organizations in Chicago. Both Jaranilla and Szymanek were recipients of travel grants from the Center.

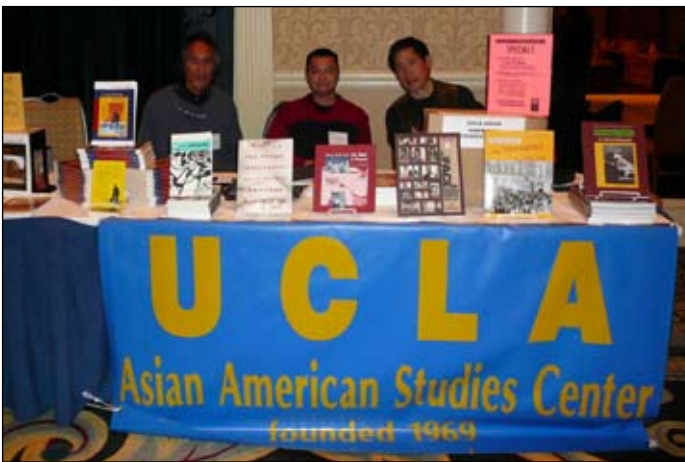
UCLA Professor Kye-young Park, who serves on the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, presented a paper entitled "Re-reading the L.A. Up-risings through Post-riot Films," as part of a panel on "To Read and Buy in LA: The City of Angels as a Discursive State." Professor Min Zhou, also on the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee,

was the discussant in a panel on "Asian American Religion: A Synthesis and Review of Recent Books." Professor Purmina Mankekar, another member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and the Departments of Asian American Studies and Women's Studies, shared her research on "Spectacular Violence: Emergent Maps of (South) Asian America after September 11, 2001."

Amerasia editor Russell Leong moderated a panel on "Asian Women Organizing for a Better World." Center staff members Mary Kao and Stephanie Santos gave presentations on Japanese American women in the 1970s and on the unionization of Filipina workers in the export processing zones in the Philippines. Dana Takagi, an editorial board member of *Amerasia Journal*, served as the discussant.



Above: L. Ling-chi Wang during the book-signing event for *Amerasia Journal*'s special issue on his essays. Below left: Center staffers (left to right) Ying Ming Tu, Tam Nguyen, and Russell Leong at the Center Press' exhibit area.



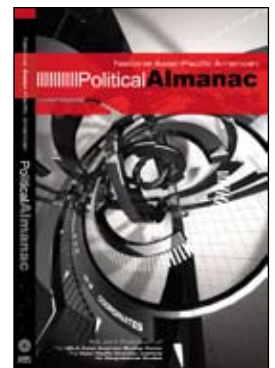
Asian Pacific Political Almanac is Available in New Edition

THE NEW EDITION of the *Asian American Political Almanac* is now available. This issue, edited by Center Director Don T. Nakanishi and Santa Clara University Professor James Lai of Santa Clara University, contains entries for 2000 APA elected officials, in over thirty-five states. This publication is intended to provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date compilation of information regarding the electoral involvement of Asian Pacific Americans in American politics.

This latest edition contains entries for 2000 APA elected officials, in over thirty-five states, as well as American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands. The *Almanac* also features commentaries by a stellar group of political scientists and electoral activists from across the nation, who offer their views on the potential impact of Asian Pacific Americans on the upcoming 2008 presidential

election. In addition, resource sections also include relevant data and research findings on Asian Pacific Americans, such as voter exit polls, census data, research reports, and a national directory of Asian Pacific American political and civil rights organizations.

The thirteenth edition of the *Asian Pacific Political Almanac* is available for purchase for \$20, plus tax and shipping charges. It can be ordered via the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press (please contact aascpress@aasc.ucla.edu) or through the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (apaics@apaics.org).



Recent Center Press Publications



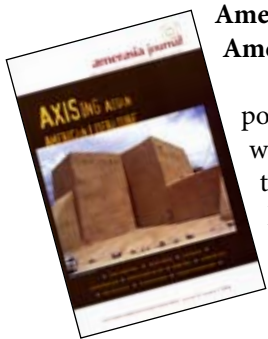
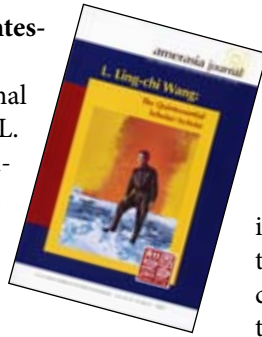
Amerasia 33:2 "Pacific Canada: Beyond the 49th Parallel"

Guest co-editors Henry Yu and Guy Beauregard assemble articles and essays dealing with issues relating to Asian Canadian and Asian North American experience. The various articles address historic transnational nature of Asian exclusion to current efforts to address the exclusion of and racism against

Asian Americans through art exhibits to the growing field of Asian Canadian Studies. Writers in this issue include Christopher Lee, Erica Lee, Alice Ming Wai Jim, Iyko Day, Ashok Mathur, Rita Wong, and Hiromi Goto.

Amerasia 33:1 "L. Ling-chi Wang: Quintessential Scholar-Activist"

This special issue of Amerasia Journal is the first published collection of Prof. L. Ling-chi Wang's writings. Rooted intellectually in thinkers as diverse as the old Testament prophets, Soren Kierkegaard, W.E.B. DuBois, Saul Alinsky, Mao Tse-tung, Sun Tzu, Antonio Gramsci, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Prof. Wang's vision is also grounded in Asian American communities and grassroots organizing. Since the 1960s, Prof. Wang has been a scholar/activist at the forefront of Asian American politics and education, including bilingual education, admissions quotas, the 1996 presidential campaign finance scandal, Wen Ho Lee debacle, and U.S./China relations. The issue includes an introduction written by Center Director Don Nakanishi and Amerasia editor Russell C. Leong.



Amerasia Journal 32:3 "Axising Asian American Literature"

This special issue focuses on contemporary Asian American writers and their work, particularly on works that extend the traditional boundaries of Asian American literature beyond the borders of the United States. This issue includes contributions by Cambodian, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Chinese, Hakka, and Hapa multiracial writers.

Asian American literature has often been viewed, writes Amerasia editor Russell Leong, "in relation to an Eastern ancestral homeland." Moreover, he notes that many writers are seen as Asian American "not necessarily by the place of their birth but by the color of their skin." But what about the entire Asian experience in not only North America, but also Central and South America?

"Through writing, we continue to understand ourselves in critical relation to others," writes Leong. This issue shows how literature, at its best, continues to challenge tradition and

our ways of thinking about the Asian American experience.

Amerasia Journal 32:2 "Meat vs. Rice: New Research on Asian American Foodways"

This collection investigates the political and cultural meanings of practices related to food. The essays examine how factors like globalization and migration have affected what people eat, as well as the rituals and traditions attached to the cultivation and preparation of food. Valerie Matsu-moto and Anita Mannur are the guest editors.



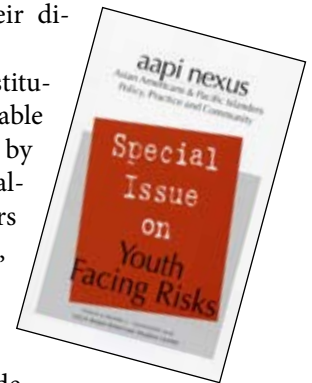
Nexus 5:1 "Art and Cultural Institutions"

From Sandra Oh of Grey's Anatomy to American Idol's Sanjaya, there has been an increase in the presence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in popular media. Unfortunately, popular images of AAPIs have been based on simplistic stereotypes of perpetual foreigners or disease-bearing poor or unfair competitors in the marketplace or "model minorities," images that have had serious negative implications for AAPI communities. Building on the celebration of Asia Pacific American Heritage Month last May, the current issue of AAPI Nexus (5:1) entitled "AAPIs and Cultural Institutions," features how organizations like museums, traveling exhibits, performance troupes, and libraries represent AAPI communities and their diverse experiences.

"The struggle to make cultural institutions more representative and accountable is part and parcel of the larger struggle by people of color and their allies for equality and justice," write the issue co-editors Paul Ong of UCLA and Franklin Odo, the Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American Program. In the early years, activist AAPIs lobbied for change from the outside, participating in protest politics against mainstream institutions. More recently, however, "they have worked their way into the 'belly of the beast' and equally important have established parallel and counter organizations."

In the article "The Challenges of Displaying Asian America," art historian ShiPu Wang writes from a curator's point of view, examining the obstacles and reasons behind the lack of exhibitions of AAPI works in the United States, such as conservation issues and problems in finding lost works in the first place. This is especially true of pre-World War II artists like Lewis Suzuki, whose graphics carried unwavering pro-labor, pro-equality messages and Filipino American painter Carlos Maganti Tagaroma Carvajal, whose work challenged the marriage of Catholicism and European/American Imperialism and its impact on powerless people.

The article "Libraries as Contested Community and Cultural Space" by Clara Chu and Todd Honma explored how



the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library in Monterey Park, CA became a battleground to reclaim “community, access, and representation of Asian Americans.” In the mid-1980s, many long-time residents of the city grew alarmed at the increase of Chinese immigrants. The hostility of English language-only advocates spilled towards library policies, as the Bruggemeyer Library began to carry more foreign language books to meet the needs of its changing demographics.

The issue resurfaced two years ago, revealing unresolved issues regarding community identity. Chu and Honma’s article shows how ethnic communities such as Asian Americans can “effectively wield political power to claim a rightful civic space.”

While many of these cultural institutions are located in cities with large AAPI populations, John P. Rosa, in his article “Small Numbers/Big City: Innovative Presentations of Pacific Islander Art and Culture in Arizona,” examines how the small but growing community in Phoenix, AZ has sustained, developed, and preserved its culture and art in the absence of permanent cultural museums. Phoenix community groups use small, temporary displays at annual AAPI cultural festivals. One approach is a “museum on wheels”—a used tour bus filled with certified reproductions of artifacts on loan from the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. The annual Arizona Aloha Festival also features performances from Tongan choirs based in Tempe as well as ki ho`alu (slack key guitar) artist and Phoenix resident Dana “Moon” Kahele. A quilting group and a canoe-paddling club are further activities that let AAPIs share the “Aloha spirit” with their fellow residents.

Together, the articles in this issue show how AAPI concerns have become more accepted by cultural institutions, ethnic organizations have become more institutionalized, and AAPI activists have become more professionalized. However, editors Ong and Odo warn of a potential downside, of resting on the laurels of these successes.

“Incorporation of AAPIs individually and organizationally by this nation’s cultural sector can lead to political complacency and isolation from the broader social movement long before the ultimate goals are achieved,” the editors write. “The larger challenge before us, then, is renewing the passion for progressive social change.”

Nexus 4:2 “Youth Facing Risks”

Asian American youth are often portrayed as obedient whiz kids who excel academically. This simplistic picture, however, ignores the increasing number of Asian American and Pacific Islander youth who are struggling with school and the juvenile justice system. This issue features new research on youth violence, delinquency and other risk factors facing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) youth.

While much research has gone into youth violence in the United States, observes guest editor Karen Umemoto, Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, little is known about AAPI youth.

However, she says, “the available information shows that certain groups face serious problems.”

Samoan youth in Hawai’i, for example, report higher rates on indicators of high-risk behavior, including weapons possession, involvement in physical fights and substance abuse. In the article “You got to do so much to actually make it,” researchers David Tokiharuru Mayeda, Lisa Pasko and Meda Chesney-Lind point to factors such as unequal gender roles, biases in schools and the lack of positive role models as critical issues for Samoan youth.

The article “Profiling Incarcerated Asian and Pacific Islander Youth” by Isami Arifuku, Delores D. Peacock and Caroline Glesmann further examines AAPI juvenile crime, with a focus on California. While AAPIs constitute only 5 percent of incarcerated youth in the state, the authors found that some ethnicities were overrepresented in the California juvenile justice system. These overrepresented ethnicities, note the authors, comprise groups that immigrated into the U.S. after the mid-1970s.

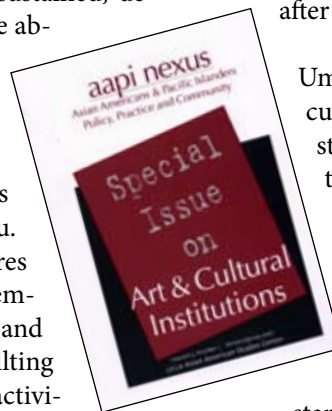
These demographic differences, writes Umemoto, illustrate the importance of “designing culturally appropriate prevention and intervention strategies.” Unfortunately, she continues, most of the policies that aim to curb violence and delinquency “lack grounded understandings of the problem.”

The article “Self-Reported Rates and Risk Factors of Cambodian, Chinese, Lao/Mien and Vietnamese Youth” by Thao N. Le and Judy L. Wallen contributes to this understanding by exploring the factors that place this population at risk for serious violence. Risk factors include difficulties in acculturation, second-generation status, and inconsistent parental supervision and discipline.

Ahn-Luu T. Huynh-Hohnbaum further emphasizes the importance of the home environment in “The Role of the Family in Asian American Delinquency.” She finds that family structure was a predictive factor for AAPI involvement in juvenile delinquency. Parental monitoring, in particular, served to protect youth from involvement in delinquent acts against persons and property. To date, however, the few policies aimed at addressing issues of AAPI juvenile crime neglect these important cultural factors. Such misdirected policies are discussed in the article “Asian Americans on the Streets” by James Diego Vigil, Tomson H. Nguyen, and Jesse Cheng. Focusing on Vietnamese and Cambodian youth gangs in California, the authors propose prevention and intervention strategies that involve the community and schools.

“Policies (should) take into account the nuanced differences between Asian communities,” write the authors. These include, for example, culturally different parenting and communication styles and the availability of various social institutions within the ethnic communities.

Together, the articles in this special issue of AAPI Nexus belie the simplistic “whiz kid” stereotypes. “These articles,” says Umemoto, “contribute to the critical conversation on the risks, challenges, and opportunities facing AAPI youth.”



Order UCLA AASC Press Publications Online!



Check out our new online bookstore featuring all of the Press' available publications. Now you can see the bookcovers and view the Table of Contents of all UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press' titles. You will find the Press titles organized by category to help you find what you are looking for. It is easy to use and a secure site for credit card transactions, if you need a book in a hurry. Be on the lookout for special online sales and discounts!

We still have the regular ordering options, by phone, fax, or email.

INQUIRIES: (310) 825-2968, (310) 825-2974

EMAIL: aascpress@aasc.ucla.edu

WEBSITE: www.aasc.ucla.edu

University of California, Los Angeles
Asian American Studies Center Press
 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546
 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546

AA 55

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
 Organization
 US Postage
 PAID UCLA

ASR

CROSSCurrents

Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center