

CROSSCURRENTS

Annual Newsmagazine of the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center**

PROFESSOR VALERIE MATSUMOTO APPOINTED TO ARATANI CHAIR

With the announcement of **Professor Lane Hirabayashi's** retirement (see p3), the Center began a search for the next **George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair on the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress, and Community (Aratani Chair)**. The UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Department, and the Department of History were extremely pleased to announce the appointment of **Professor Valerie J. Matsumoto** to succeed Professor Hirabayashi as Aratani Chair, effective July 1, 2017.



(Barbra Ramos/UCLA AASC)

The first and only one of its kind in American higher education, the Aratani Chair was established in 2004 by **George and Sakaye Aratani** to support the activities of a renowned scholar, specializing in research and teaching about the unjust incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese from the Americas during World War II and their subsequent postwar campaign to seek redress and a national apology. The scholar would also be well-versed in the issues, challenges, and trends of the Japanese American community.

Professor Hirabayashi was the inaugural chairholder and upon the establishment of the chair position, George Aratani stressed the necessity of remembering and teaching this history of Japanese Americans, noting that “there are many important lessons that Americans and other peoples can learn [from this] so that similar tragedies never happen again.” Leaders in business and philanthropy, the Aratani family has provided remarkable and generous support to the Center for many years, including an endowed program for campus-community partnerships and an internship for UCLA students within the Japanese American community of greater Los Angeles.



Professors Renee Tajima-Peña, Min Zhou and Valerie Matsumoto at this year's Lau Lecture with Erika Lee. (Barbra Ramos/UCLA AASC)

Community members, students, staff, and fellow faculty applauded the choice of Professor Matsumoto. With a split appointment in the departments of History and Asian American

Studies, she has long been recognized among UCLA's finest teachers. She was first Asian American woman to receive tenure in the UCLA History Department and was the inaugural recipient of the Center's **C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize** in 2006, as well as the recipient of the university-wide **Distinguished Teaching Award** in 2007. She has chaired or been a committee member for more than a hundred senior theses, masters theses and doctoral dissertations. The students Professor Matsumoto has mentored include faculty members across the nation, award-winning writers, and leaders in society.

She has authored and edited several publications including *Farming the Home Place*, widely regarded as a classic in Japanese American and Asian American community studies. She also co-edited (with Blake Allmendinger) *Over the Edge: Remapping the American West*. Her newest book *City Girls*, which focuses on Nisei women's social networks before, during, and after World War II, is a major study that breaks new ground across several fields. Professor Matsumoto holds three academic degrees, all in United States History: BA from Arizona State University and MA and PhD from Stanford University.



Professor Matsumoto (center) with Sadie Hifumi, Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, Rose Honda, Vicki Mittwer Littman and Kathi Yamazaki at the book talk for *City Girls* in 2014. (UCLA AASC)

During her career at UCLA, she has been an active member of the **Faculty Advisory Committee** of the Center, serving as Associate Director, guest editing issues of **Amerasia Journal** and engaging in numerous other capacities. She has also been a consultant with local and national museums, historical societies, and other organizations.

“It is a great honor to hold the Aratani Chair, which affirms the significance of Japanese American history, particularly in the light of on-going debates about civil liberties and racial profiling. The Chair also provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge the dynamic networks and creativity of Japanese American communities, past and present,” said Professor Matsumoto.

As the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, **CrossCurrents** keeps readers informed of Center activities, including academic programs, research projects, student achievements, and relevant university and community issues. **CrossCurrents** also covers important events and projects related to Asian American Studies and communities, but not directly sponsored by the Center.

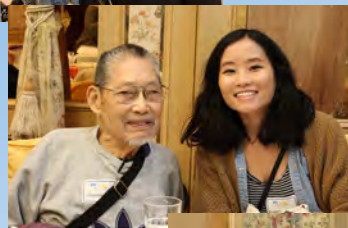
For more information on **CrossCurrents**, please contact the editor.

GIVING TO THE CENTER

If you wish to support the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, please visit <https://giving.ucla.edu/aasc>. Your donation, regardless of amount, has a powerful impact on the research and educational activities that take place within the Center and in the greater AAPI community. We greatly value and appreciate your help in making our work possible.

Alumni and friends interested in making a gift to the Center by endowing a scholarship, supporting faculty research, making a planned gift or other major contribution, should contact:

CHIA YEN, Senior Executive Director
UCLA Foundation
Phone: 310/206-6872
Email: cyen@support.ucla.edu



At the Center's Lunar New Year Luncheon-
1) Emily Lam with Betty Leung;
2) Stanley Lau with Frances Huynh;
and 3) Marjorie Lee and Irene Soriano.
(Barbra Ramos/UCLA AASC)

CENTER STAFF & STUDENTS

Acting Director (July 2017-December 2017)

DAVID K. YOO

Interim Director (2016-July 2017)

MARJORIE KAGAWA SINGER

Assistant Director

MELANY DE LA CRUZ-VIESCA

Chief Administrative Officer

BETTY LEUNG

Information Technology

TAM NGUYEN

Office Manager

IRENE SUICO SORIANO

External Relations Coordinator

MEG MALPAYA THORNTON

Librarian, Archivist and Reading Room Coordinator

MARJORIE LEE

Research Fellow

TRITIA TOYOTA

EthnoCommunications Director

RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA

EthnoCommunications Assistant Director

JANET CHEN

Publications Coordinator

MARY UYEMATSU KAO

Marketing Manager

BARBRA RAMOS

Amerasia Journal Editor

KEITH L. CAMACHO

Amerasia Journal Associate Editor

ARNOLD PAN

AAPI Nexus Journal Senior Editor

PAUL ONG

AAPI Nexus Assistant Managing Editor

ALYCIA CHENG

Student Workers (2017)

LYLYBELL ARAGON

SHIRLEY CHENG

KESIA ENG

CARMELA ESCAREZ

GRACE GAO

JASMIN HAN

HANNA JEON

KRISTY PHAN

PAJA THAO

AMANDA TSAI

Interns (2017)

EMILY ISAKARI

NICOLE NGAOSI

KRISTY PHAN

DEMILIZA SAROMOSING

CINDY TRAN

ARATANI CHAIR PROFESSOR LANE HIRABAYASHI RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS

After 35 years in academe, including a decade at UCLA, **Professor Lane Ryo Hirabayashi** retired at the end of June 2017. Prior to UCLA, Professor Hirabayashi, who received his MA and PhD in Anthropology from University of California, Berkeley, held tenured faculty positions in the School of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University during the 1980s, and in the Ethnic Studies Departments at the University of Colorado at Boulder in the 1990s and University of California, Riverside from 2003-2005.

Joining the UCLA Asian American Studies Department (AASD) in 2006, he was awarded the inaugural **George and Sakaye Aratani Professor of the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community Chair at UCLA**. A sociocultural anthropologist, Professor Hirabayashi went on to publish *Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens*, co-authored the book *A Principled Stand: Gordon Hirabayashi v the United States*, and edited a special issue of *Pan Japan* on diversity within the contemporary Nikkei community. He also initiated the Aratani Endowed Chair-sponsored “Nikkei in the Americas” book series with the University Press of Colorado, which has published four titles and has four more in process as of 2017.

In addition, Professor Hirabayashi served as the Chair of the Asian American Studies Department from 2007 to 2010 during which time the AASD grew with several new faculty members and reached out to a more diverse student body. He taught many courses over the years, including ones related to the Japanese American experience, reparations movements in various Asian American communities, and Asian American documentary films.

Professor Hirabayashi has worked tirelessly to personify the spirit and vision of the Aratani Endowed Chair at UCLA. As Chair, he brought academia to the general community by sponsoring events and providing venues for members of the Japanese American community as well as the broader public. He convened a large conference on trans-Pacific perspectives on Japanese American Studies, co-sponsored with the University of Kyoto’s **Professor Yasuko Takezawa**, as well as countless talks, symposia, and programs co-organized with the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCR), the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, and other Nikkei community-based organizations. He has participated in numerous panels and forums, including “What does the Japanese American

Experience Tell Us About the Proposed Muslim Registry” hosted by Zócalo/UCLA, JANM, and KCRW in January 2017.

Professor Hirabayashi has worked with faculty colleagues and Center staff to implement and run UCLA’s **Aratani Community Advancement Research Endowment (CARE) Grants**, which funds numerous organizations, projects, and individuals to enhance the relationship between UCLA and Japanese American communities at large.



Lane Hirabayashi (right) speaking at the Zócalo/UCLA event in January. (Jake Fabricius/Zócalo)

Looking back on his time spent at UCLA, Professor Hirabayashi notes: “I am grateful to both the Asian American Studies Center and Department for the opportunity to serve as the Aratani Endowed Chair at UCLA (AEC) for the past decade. It’s been an honor. And I especially thank the Aratani family for their support of my varied AEC initiatives.”

Even as Professor Hirabayashi begins his retirement, he continues to assist the NCR editorial team to publish a two-volume history of the organization. This project, entitled **NCR: The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations**, will be co-published with the Center Press. He then plans to finish a book-length manuscript about Japanese American resettlement in Colorado and begin a new project on the impact of the San Francisco State strike, revolving around Japanese American community- and culture-building in the City during the 1970s and 1980s.

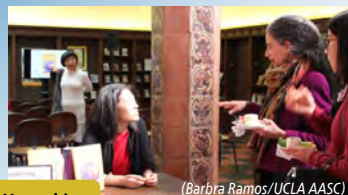
Due to current political events, his continuing work is truly essential in the light of “Lessons our Country should Learn.” Our history is constantly evolving and creating new identities of Asians in America as well as other immigrants new to America who face increasing discrimination. We can count on Professor Hirabayashi to continue lending his analytic lens to these interactions that continually weave new identity formations across time and within ever-changing social, historical and political dynamics.

Please join us in thanking Professor Lane Hirabayashi for all his contributions in the past, now, and into the future!

IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR



Melany De La Cruz-Viesca (far right) at the discussion for *Indivisible & the Resistance*.



Jane Yamashiro at her book talk for *Redefining Japaneseness*.



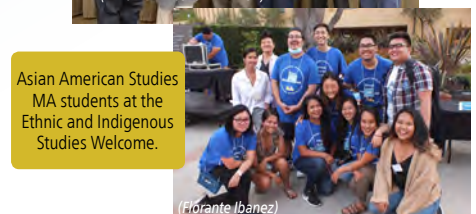
Life After Life screening with Keith Camacho, Tamara Perkins, Harrison Seuga, Jade Alburo, Kirn Kim and Nicole Ngaosi.



Erika Lee at the 2017-18 Lau Lecture.



C3 Conference speakers including Renee Tajima-Peña (2nd from right) for panel on Media and Social Change.



Asian American Studies MA students at the Ethnic and Indigenous Studies Welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2016-2017 HOSHIDE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PRIZE WINNER PROFESSOR RANDALL AKEE!



Assistant Professor Randall Akee of the Department of Public Policy and American Indian Studies is the **2016-17 recipient of the C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA!** A member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Akee received

his PhD in Political Economy from Harvard University, MA in International and Development Economics from Yale University, and BA in Economics from Dartmouth College. He is emerging as one of the most important and influential scholars studying the socioeconomic conditions of indigenous people and formulating strategies to address their marginalization. Since 2013, he has served on the U.S. Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations. Dr. Akee has conducted extensive research on several American Indian reservations, Canadian First Nations, and Pacific Island nations in addition to working in various Native Hawaiian communities.

Colleagues and students compellingly expressed how Professor Akee was well-deserving of the Hoshide Award honor. He has taught key courses that benefit Asian American Studies because of how he incorporates Pacific Islanders, an understudied racial group in the United States. One colleague stated, "He epitomizes a faculty who bridges disciplinary silos—American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies and Public Policy—not an easy task at UCLA." In his "Economic Principles and Economic Development in Indigenous Communities" course, Dr. Akee uses Micronesian migration to Guam and the U.S. and Tongan migration to New Zealand as examples of diaspora of indigenous peoples. The significant international movement of Pacific Islanders makes this group unique among indigenous populations, creating challenges to how students understand the indigenous experience. It is the only course offered at UCLA focusing on the prosperity of Indigenous nations and communities globally through economic subsistence. "I learned first-hand of the high expectations he has for his students.

ALUMNI ESTABLISHES NHAT H. TRAN, M.D. SCHOLARSHIP

This year the Center was proud to announce a new scholarship fund for students with disabilities. Alumnus **Dr. Nhat H. Tran** established the award in his name as a way to give back, sharing that "when I attended UCLA about 20 years ago, I received a scholarship from **John E. Anderson**—whom the UCLA School of Business was named after. At a luncheon, I thanked him and asked how I could repay his generosity in the future. He told me that if I'm able in the future, that I should pay it forward and help other young students."

He further shared that with the **Nhat H. Tran, M.D. Scholarship**, "I specifically wanted to help students with disability, because I too have a disability from Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Because of my disability, it motivated me to become a doctor. I hope to inspire disabled students that through perseverance, they too can

Dr. Akee challenges his students intellectually. As one of a few Pacific Islander students, it made me think about what it meant to be a Pacific Islander scholar," said one student. Another student noted, "With the purpose of using data to show how Native people have successfully approached economic development, Dr. Akee effectively engaged our class in a way that felt both very thorough and intimate."

Professor Akee's "Pacific Island Economic Development" course focuses on the Anglophone former colonies and countries in the Pacific. The class examines the economic and political development of the Hawaiian Islands, Fiji, and the islands of Micronesia, Samoa and Tahiti. A student commented, "I enjoyed every minute of Dr. Akee's class because it challenged me to look beyond the scope of my field and bridge western-indigenous methodologies to critique economically sustainable programs in the South Pacific." He has also worked with Pacific Islander graduate students to establish the **Graduate Student Association for Pasifika**, which was created to support graduate students from Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent or areas. As a student expressed, "Dr. Akee is [not just] a role model, but a mentor to countless Pacific Islander students. He offers unencumbered and relentless support to any student seeking his guidance, which, I believe, reflects his love for teaching, research, but more so his community."

The late **C. Doris Hoshide**, Class of 1934, of Rockville, MD established the teaching prize to annually recognize an outstanding professor in Asian American Studies. She was a longtime supporter of Asian American Studies at her alma mater. The Hoshide Prize includes a one thousand-dollar award.

In 2017, Professor Akee was also among 10 outstanding early- and mid-career scholars and experts selected for the inaugural class of the **Brooking Institution's David M. Rubenstein Fellows**. The fellows will focus on one or more of Brookings' five research programs. These include economic studies, where Akee will be positioned, as well as governance studies, foreign policy, metropolitan policy, and global economy and development.

accomplish whatever they put their hearts and minds to." Dr. Tran received his Bachelors of Science in Biology from UCLA in 1997 and went on to attain his MD from New York Medical College and most recently a Masters of Public Health in Health Management and Policy from UCLA's Fielding School of Public Health.

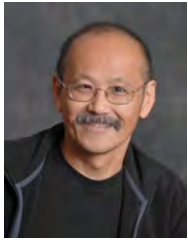
The Center is grateful for alumni and donors like Dr. Tran whose generosity has helped the Center support many students, faculty, researchers and programs for almost fifty years.



Dr. Nhat Tran with Professor Marjorie Kagawa Singer at the Center's 2017 Lunar New Year Luncheon.
(Barbra Ramos/AASC)

COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOLAR PROFESSOR PAUL ONG RETIRES

This year, the Center announced the retirement of **Professor Paul M. Ong**, effective July 2017. Professor Ong served as a longtime member of the Center's **Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC)** and dedicated his 32-year career at UCLA to strengthen the bridge between “gown and town” through distinguished leadership and research.



Professor Ong is a pioneering engaged scholar who has been an influential teacher and mentor as well as a major force in the field of Asian American Studies since the 1980s. **Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer**, Interim Director of the Center, asserted that Professor Ong, considered the “godfather” of Asian American policy and demographics, “is the high standard by which others across the nation—the vast majority of whom he professionally trained—are measured in the policy and applied-research world.”

Professor Ong received his BA from the University of California, Davis, a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Washington, and the PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He has held academic appointments with the Departments of Urban Planning and Asian American Studies and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability. Professor Ong has provided tremendous service and leadership for the UCLA campus, chairing the Department of Urban Planning from 1995 to 1998, directing the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies and for many years chairing the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. Most recently, he has served as the Director of the Center for Neighborhood Knowledge and co-founder and Senior Editor of ***AAPI Nexus Journal: Policy, Practice, and Community***. Moreover, the Center awarded him with the **2013-14 Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship and 2011-12 C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA**.

A prolific scholar, Professor Ong has authored or edited 9 books and published over 100 journal articles and papers, including the influential and often-cited State of Asian American series of policy-related studies for which he served as Research Director. He collaborated with the late professor **Don T. Nakanishi** and the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP) non-profit

organization to develop the **Asian Pacific American Public Policy Program**, the nation's first think tank on Asian American issues. Through the AASC-LEAP decade-long project, Professor Ong raised over \$2M for policy reports that received national coverage from news outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *U.S.A. Today*, CBS Evening News, and from local and ethnic media. Professor Ong has conducted extensive research on issues confronting low-income and immigrant communities, and is particularly known for his research on the economic development pathways of racial and ethnic minorities and environmental justice. The results of his research have helped to create and change U.S. and global policies.

Professor Ong has also taught key service-learning courses for both Asian American Studies and Urban Planning at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His courses are notably multidisciplinary and engaged with community-based research. For over three decades, Professor Ong has helped the AASC become an established leader in scholarship, public policy, academic programs, community-campus partnerships, and policy and research publications on Asian Americans and other vulnerable, understudied populations.

On July 20th, Professor Ong was recognized with the **Individual Leadership Award** from LEAP at their 35th Anniversary Celebration for his vital work helping to use research and data to drive social change and to reshape the national conversation and policy around Asian Pacific Islander communities.

We are truly grateful for Professor Ong's remarkable contributions that he has made to the lives of colleagues, students, and the fields of Asian American Studies and Urban Planning. He will be returning to UCLA as a research professor and we trust that he will continue to urge us all forward in our scholarship and advocacy with his leadership as an emeritus professor, and also continue to blaze new trails through his on-going research projects, such as the Urban Displacement Project, which aims to understand the nature of gentrification and displacement in the Bay Area and Los Angeles.

Please join us in thanking Professor Paul M. Ong for his outstanding leadership and commitment to UCLA and beyond, and to wish him well during his retirement.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

- **“1992 Revisited: Divergent Paths Report” by Center for Neighborhood Knowledge**

This new report by a research team led by Professor Paul Ong found that little has changed in terms of economic development for those areas most damaged during the 1992 LA Uprising. According to Ong, the research shows “a critical need to renew a commitment to bending the trajectory of economic development towards justice, to embrace inclusive people and place strategies.”



At the AAPIs 2040 Creating the Future in an Uncertain World panel with co-editor **Elena Ong** (far left) and contributors to the *AAPI Nexus Journal* Special Issue (from left to right) **Richard Calvin Chang**, **Navdeep Singh**, **Glenn Magpantay**, **Dan Mayeda**, and **Michelle Magalong**. (Barbra Ramos/AASC)

NEW FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR AND MEMBERS

The Center is pleased to announce that **Professor Keith Camacho** will be serving as the **AASC Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) Chair**, as of the 2017-2018 academic year. Professor Camacho of the Asian American Studies Department currently also serves as the Editor for *Amerasia Journal* and is Faculty-in-Residence at the Office of Residential Life. Author of *Cultures of Commemoration: The Politics of War, Memory, and History in the Mariana Islands*, he is a recognized leader, teacher, and researcher. He was the inaugural recipient of the **Don T. Nakanishi Award for Engaged Scholarship in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies** and received the **2009 C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA**.

The Center is grateful to outgoing FAC chair **Professor May Wang** of the Department of Community Health Sciences for her service. We are also excited to welcome several new FAC members this year! They are: **Professors Juliann Anesi** (Gender Studies), **Gina Kim** (Theater, Film and Television), **Suk-Young Kim** (Theater, Film and Television), and **May Sudhinaraset** (Community Health Sciences).

There are currently 50 active faculty members on the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. Members represent a wide array of departments, programs and research interests from across the UCLA campus. They provide assistance with various review committees, give programmatic guidance, and help promote Asian American and Pacific Islander studies in multiple disciplines. The full FAC list can be viewed on the Center's website.



TK Lê, Yumi Sakugawa, Irene Soriano and Barbra Ramos at the AAPI Dialogues "Mindful Healing and Mental Self Care" workshop. (UCLA AASC)

After the presidential election in 2016, a group of AAPI staff came together to form **AAPI Dialogues**, a network to help connect Asian American Pacific Islander staff, faculty, and students at UCLA and to create a space to foster political and social activism. AAPI Dialogues was started especially in the face of increasing racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia that could be observed throughout the United States and the group shares opportunities for people to engage in positive social change.

The group was founded and is organized by Center staff **Barbra Ramos, Irene Soriano, and Janet Chen** with Department staff **TK Lê**. The inaugural session of AAPI Dialogues brought people together to discuss the impact of the elections and later sessions addressed some of the negative impacts through the lenses of mental health, education and art. Informal lunches were also held. Additional programming for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month included de-stressing with **Color Your Troubles**

CSEAS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BARBARA GAERLAN RETIRES

Center staff joined many faculty, students and alumni in wishing **Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) Assistant Director Barbara Gaerlan** all the best as she retired this June.

For many years, Gaerlan has been a wonderful colleague and a major advocate for Southeast Asian Studies, particularly Philippine Studies. She is a graduate of UCLA's Education PhD program, where she was mentored by the late **Don Nakanishi** and other faculty members. As a student organizer with the Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures campaign in the early 1990's, Barbara Gaerlan advocated for classes in Pilipino, Vietnamese, Hindi and Thai languages and for the establishment of CSEAS in 1999 and continued her advocacy in other forms throughout the years - fostering various Study Abroad programs, working with the Pilipino Alumni Association and organizing for the rights of UCLA employees through UPTE.



Meg Thornton, Lina Chhun, and Barbara Gaerlan at Katharya Um's book talk in 2016. (Barbra Ramos/UCLA AASC)

Since she was one of the rare community organizers on campus in an administrative position, her retirement meant the loss of a conscious activist and ally for Pilipino and Southeast Asian Studies, as well as for Administrative Professionals staff. Please join us, CSEAS, and the UCLA community as we thank her for all she has done!

She is succeeded by **Nguyet Tong**, who earned her BA from UCLA's International Development Studies program, with a minor Southeast Asian Studies, and her MA in Asian Studies from Cornell University. She previously worked as the coordinator for Cornell's East Asia Program - Contemporary China Initiative before becoming the new Assistant Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies.

STAFF ORGANIZES NETWORK TO PROMOTE AAPI ACTIVISM AT UCLA

Away, a meditation and visual storytelling workshop with alumni and artist **Yumi Sakugawa**, and a short film showcase by the **Center for EthnoCommunications**.

With the announcement of the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) by the current presidential administration, AAPI Dialogues also organized a flash fundraiser to help with costs of renewal fees for DACA students, as well as to raise awareness around undocumented Bruins and the on-campus resources available to them, such as those offered through UCLA's Undocumented Student Program. Thank you to all who donated - the fundraiser brought in almost \$4,000!

AAPI Dialogues is currently working on planning events, such as discussions and zine-making for 2018, around this year's UCLA Common Book **Thi Bui's** illustrated memoir *The Best We Could Do*. Contact uclaapialogues@gmail.com if you would like to learn more about the group and want to get involved.

PROFESSOR VICTOR BASCARA NAMED CHAIR OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Please join us in congratulating **Professor Victor Bascara!** Effective July 1st, he began a three-year term as **Chair of the Asian American Studies Department** at UCLA. He has been with the department for a decade and has served as Vice Chair, both Graduate and Undergraduate advisor, and is recognized for his exceptional teaching and mentorship of students. He was awarded the Center's **2009-2010 Doris Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize** and received the **2015 Royal Morales Community Achievement Award** from the UCLA Pilipino Alumni Association.

One of the founding faculty for the multi-campus Critical Refugee Studies Collective and the author of *Model Minority Imperialism*, Professor Bascara was a guest editor for the *Amerasia Journal* issue "Cultural Politics Across Platforms" and has contributed to journals such as *American Literary History*, *American Quarterly*, and the *Asian American Law Journal*. His work has appeared in collections such as *Strange Affinities: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Comparative Racialization*, *Imagining Our Americas: Toward a Transnational Frame* and *Techno-Orientalism*.

The Center looks forward to working closely with Professor Bascara, as well as Department staff **Wendy Fujinami, TK Lê, and Kristine Jan Espinoza**, on supporting Asian American and Pacific Islander studies at UCLA and the greater community.

Professor Bascara succeeded **Professor Jinqi Ling**, who has served as Chair for six academic years. The Center thanks Professor Ling for his dedication, service, and advocacy done on behalf of Asian American Studies at UCLA.



At the Ethnic and Indigenous Studies Welcome with **Dean Darnell Hunt, Vice Provost David K. Yoo, Profs. Victor Bascara, Mishuana Goeman, Shannon Speed, Thomas Philip, and Keith Camacho.**
(UCLA AASC)

ETHNIC AND INDIGENOUS STUDIES WELCOME AT UCLA

This year, new students were invited to attend the **Ethnic and Indigenous Studies Welcome** on Tuesday, September 26th at Sunset Village Plaza on the hill, as part of the True Bruin Welcome activities. Attendees were urged to explore African American Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, and Chicana/o Studies with the help of the Institute of American Cultures, the four ethnic studies research centers, academic departments and interdepartmental programs. The event treated students to free food, music and giveaways, as well as the opportunity to meet with other students, faculty, and staff.

The event was organized by the Asian American Studies Department and was sponsored by the Center, Dean of UCLA Social Sciences, First Year Experience, UCLA Institute of American Cultures, and the UCLA Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR MELANY DE LA CRUZ-VIESCA RECOGNIZED WITH CHANCELLOR'S AWARD

The **2017 Chancellor's Excellence in Service Award** has been awarded to the Center's very own **Assistant Director Melany De La Cruz-Viesca!** The Chancellor's Excellence in Service Award recognizes, encourages and reinforces the performance of staff members who go above and beyond the call of duty and who have greatly contributed to UCLA's ongoing mission. Please join us in congratulating and thanking her for her outstanding and unflinching efforts on behalf of the Center and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Melany De La Cruz-Viesca was honored at the Staff Assembly Recognition Awards and Scholarships Reception on Tuesday, June 27th at the James West Alumni Center. Asian American Studies Department Academic Advisor **Kristine Jan Espinoza** was also recognized as a Staff Assembly scholarship recipient at the reception.



Kristine and Melany at the Staff Awards reception.
(Barbra Ramos/UCLA AASC)

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

- **Professor Hiroshi Motomura** was honored with a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship.
- **Professor Min Zhou, Walter and Shirley Wang Endowed Chair in US-China Relations and Communications** and director of the Asia Pacific Center at UCLA, was recognized with the 2017 Distinguished Career Award from the American Sociological Association Section on International Migration.
- Bunche Center Director **Darnell Hunt** was selected as the Dean of UCLA Division of Social Sciences, effective July 1st.
- The Association for Asian American Studies recognized faculty books: **Professor Grace Hong's *Death beyond Disavowal: The Impossible Politics of Difference***, won for humanities and culture studies (multidisciplinary approaches) and **Professor Min Zhou's** publication with **Jennifer Lee** of UC Irvine, ***The Asian American Achievement Paradox***, won in the social sciences category.
- Asian American Studies Department lecturers **Jean-Paul DeGuzman and Lily Anne Welty Tamai** were chosen as recipients of the Unit 18 professional development awards for 2016-2017 by UCLA Academic Personnel Office.
- **Carol Fujino** joined the office of the **Institute of American Cultures** as IAC coordinator.



- Center Office Manager **Irene Suico Soriano** published her book of poetry ***Primates from an Archipelago*** (Rabbit Fool Press).
- **Vice Chancellor Jerry Kang** received the Google Scholar, Classic Papers: Articles That Have Stood the Test of Time—2017 Award for "Fair Measures: A Behavioral Realist Revision of Affirmative Action, 94 CALIF. L. REV. 1063-1118."

2016-2017 NAKANISHI ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES: C. AUJEAN LEE AND EMILY TAING

Congratulations to graduate student **C. Aujean Lee** and undergraduate student **Emily Taing** who were chosen for the **2016-17 Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies at UCLA!** Both students embody extraordinary research and applied scholarship, with strong drives for activism and social change.



C. Aujean Lee received her BA in Psychology and Asian American Studies at UCLA, Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and is currently a PhD candidate in the UCLA Urban Planning Department. She has over a decade of affiliation with the Center—working on **AAPI Nexus Journal** as assistant managing editor and later guest editor; serving as a student committee member for Asian American Studies Department; staffing EthnoCommunications; and conducting research for the Center’s “Building Economic Security Over a Lifetime” project funded by the Ford Foundation. She also founded the Asian American and Pacific Island Studies Undergraduate Association and the cross-discipline Asian American and Pacific Island Graduate Student Group at UCLA.

Ms. Lee’s research has always been at the intersections of research and community engagement. Her Master’s thesis examined how the foreclosure crisis affected Asian American community-based organizations and homeowners and she continues this line of inquiry in her current dissertation research, which analyzes ways that Asian American ethnic neighborhoods can serve as a protective factor for Asian Americans and homeownership, which typically is a household’s single largest asset. Ms. Lee was lead author on the article, “On the Front Lines of Immigrant Homeownership: Asian American Nonprofits during the Great Recession,” which will be published in the *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. She is part of a graduate student research team who received funding from the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA for “Social Protections in the New Administration: Nonprofit Responses Amidst Political Changes,” which will examine how nonprofits have reacted to and dealt with rapid policy changes after the November 2016 Election. She also received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to support her graduate studies.

Ms. Lee’s invaluable scholarship is complemented by her teaching activities. As a Teaching Assistant for AAS185, she was critical in guiding student work with the Sawtelle Japantown Association, which was fighting to preserve the neighborhood’s historical and cultural identity as an ethnic community. She also taught a capstone class in Urban Planning focusing on lessons learned over the last quarter century since the 1992 Los Angeles Unrest/Uprising. In both courses she taught students to conduct community-relevant applied research, and to interact respectfully with community leaders as equal partners. As one colleague noted, “I admire Aujean’s drive to always anchor her research and teaching in the needs of communities, and her efforts to build bridges between UCLA and the outside community.”



Emily Taing graduated June 2017 with a BA in International Development Studies and Asian American Studies, and a minor in European Studies. Ms. Taing is considered an exceptional student dedicated to community through research and activism. As a junior summer research fellow at the Center for Khmer Studies in Siem Reap, Cambodia, she conducted field research and literature reviews on assimilation strategies implemented by anti-human trafficking nongovernment organizations to assist victims of sex trafficking, in particular how to become financially sustainable and self-advocate. She also collaborated with local monks to create lesson plans and teach intermediate English to high school students. Through her work as an undergraduate research assistant for Professor Patrick Heuveline, she contributed greatly to a study on the long-term consequences of orphan hood in Cambodia following the displacement of population caused by the Khmer Rouge. This trajectory of engaged scholarship culminated in her Asian American Studies Departmental Honors senior thesis, “Cambodian Women and Remembering across Generations: Refugees, Trauma, and Resilience.” She has noticeably demonstrated a deep and sustained interest in Cambodia, the Cambodian diaspora and social justice.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Taing has developed a strong background in community service and leadership, through her work with several non-profit organizations, such as Asian Americans Advancing Justice. She has also served as a congressional district intern for the District Office of Congressman Ted W. Lieu (CA-33) in Los Angeles; a parliamentary intern with the Houses of the Oireachtas: National Parliament of Ireland in Dublin, Ireland; and as an Undergraduate Legal Intern for the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, in Washington D.C. She is currently in the Master’s degree program at Columbia University’s Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race.

It is the pleasure of the Center to recognize C. Aujean Lee and Emily Taing for their outstanding practical research, publications, teaching, training, and educational service to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities!

Through the generosity of UCLA faculty, students, staff, and alumni as well as community leaders, an endowment was established that honors the late **Professor Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi**, who served on the UCLA faculty for thirty-five years and who ably directed the Asian American Studies Center (1990-2010). Among his invaluable contributions to Asian American Studies, Professor Nakanishi co-founded two national publications: **Amerasia Journal** and **AAPI Nexus Journal**. Professor Nakanishi published widely in the areas of Asian American politics and education, mentored thousands of students, and provided professional and community-based service locally, nationally, and internationally. The Nakanishi Award includes a \$2,500 cash prize award for each recipient. The award rotates annually between faculty and students. The faculty award will be given during the 2017-2018 academic year.

ANNUAL AWARDS RECOGNIZE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH

On Wednesday, November 8th, the Center honored twenty-five graduate and undergraduate students at its **Annual Awards and Alumni Reception** at the UCLA James West Alumni Center. Family members and friends joined the campus community in congratulating these scholars on their accomplishments.

Faculty advisory committee members **Professors Victor Bascara and Min Zhou** helped announce awardees while students expressed their gratitude and shared a brief description of their work as they received recognition for one of the twenty-six scholarships, fellowships, internships, and academic prizes awarded. The Center also recognized the establishment of the **Nhat H. Tran, M.D. Scholarship**, which will be awarded to help students with disabilities.

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's reception and to all our alumni and donors who have helped create and sustain

these opportunities for students. The Center highly encourages students to explore funding opportunities on our website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/scholarships>.

Applications deadlines for 2018-2019 are as follows:

- **February 20, 2018 - Grants**
- **February 26, 2018 - Fellowships, Scholarships, Internships**
- **March 5, 2018 - Academic Prizes**



Top Row: 1) Meg Thornton with undergraduate awardees Kristy Phan and Khadija Mohamed Shalbi and past awardee/current graduate student Jessica Thach; and 2) Amy Thi Phan (in the white) with Larry Kanow, her mother Tuyet Luu, and Ryan Wong. Bottom Row: 3) Graduate student awardees Mitchell Lee, Frances Huynh, Demiliza Saramosing, Tiffany Wang-Su Tran, and Aujean Lee with Professor Min Zhou (far left); 4) Professor Victor Bascara (far left) with undergraduate awardees Andrew Magat Lopez, Emory Johnson, Khadija Shalbi, Amy Phan, Gareth Ching-Yi Wang, Kristy Phan, Emily Isakari, and Lylybell Aragon; and 5) Awardee Andrew Lopez with his parents Antonio and Maria Lopez. (Mary Uyematsu Kao/AASC)

PACTIES MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On June 8th, 2017, **Pacific Ties Newsmagazine (PacTies)** hosted a Print Issue Launch Party, celebrating the release of their 40th Anniversary print issue. Led by editor-in-chief **Cindy K. Tran**, the theme for the print issue was "RESISTANCE," inspired by ongoing events that continue to place the lives of marginalized Asian Pacific Islander Desi American communities at risk. Through this print issue, PacTies sought to highlight the importance of journalism and the need for alternative forms of resistance.

Several UCLA alumni who were a part of *PacTies* as undergraduates attended the launch party to talk about their experiences in student journalism. These alumni included **Daniel Mayeda** (PT 1977-78), **Lisa Hasegawa** (PT 1989-91), **Julie Ha** (PT 1991-93), **Namju Cho**, **Abe Ferrer**, **Richard Wang**, **Cat Manabat** (PT 2004-08), and **Karin Chan** (PT 2016). By connecting current students with *PacTies* alumni and their stories, students had the opportunity to feel more empowered in their work as journalists.

Contributed by Kristy Phan, former *PacTies* staff and class of 2018.

At the *PacTies* 40th Anniversary Issue Launch with Daniel Mayeda, Abe Ferrer, Cat Manabat, Karin Chan, Cindy Tran, Namju Cho, Julie Ha, Richard Wang, and Lisa Hasegawa. (*PacTies*)



STUDENT, ALUMNI & COMMUNITY NEWS

- Education MA alum **OiYan Poon** joined the faculty at Colorado State University as an Assistant Professor of Higher Education Leadership in the School of Education.
- Asian Am MA graduate **Tiffany Lytle** released her debut album **Cambodian Child**.
- This year's East West Players Visionary Awards honored Asian American Studies alum actor **Randall Park**.
- The Asian Pacific Alumni of UCLA honored comedian, writer, actress **Ali Wong** as their alumna of the year.
- **Judge Ernest Hiroshige** was awarded the 2017 Public Service Award from UCLA Alumni.
- Asian Am MA alum **Alice Hom** was selected as one of the 2017 Soros Equality Fellows.
- Former Center staff **Warren Furutani**, alum **Jean-Paul DeGuzman**, and AASC Assistant Director **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** were featured speakers at the Asian American/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy National Network Convening and Annual Meeting.
- Asian Am MA alum and Santa Clara University Professor **James Lai** worked to establish an endowed award in honor of **Don Nakanishi** for the Western Political Science Association.
- 2014-2015 IAC/AASC Visiting Scholar **Margaret Rhee** released her debut book of poetry **Love, Robot** (The Operating System).

GRADUATIONS CELEBRATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, INSPIRE FOR THE FUTURE

Congratulations to the Class of 2017! This year's graduation ceremonies and celebrations once again brought friends, family and community to UCLA to mark the accomplishments of students and featured several student and guest speakers.

The **Asian American Studies Department Commencement Ceremony** was held on Sunday, June 18th in Schoenberg Hall. This year's keynote was activist, storyteller, politico, and Public Policy alum **Tanzila "Taz" Ahmed**. CSUN Professor and UCLA Asian American Studies MA alum **Allan Aquino** served as the Master of Ceremonies and the event featured undergraduate speaker **Emily Taing** and graduate speaker **Marcus Degnan**.

Several student-organized graduation celebrations also took place that day, including the **Samahang Pilipino Student Celebration** at Royce Hall, the **Vietnamese Student Celebration** in Powell Courtyard, and the **Asian Pacific Islander Graduation (APIG)** at Dickson Court North.

With the theme of "Infinite Beginnings: New Paths of Resilience," APIG was organized by the **Asian Pacific Coalition** and featured performances by **United Khmer Students and Kyodo Taiko**. The event also showcased student speakers **Angela Lisa Yip and Joshua Xiong**, with keynote speaker **Jollene Levid**.

Joshua Xiong shared the story of his family's struggle as a poor Hmong family escaping the Secret War in Laos and how he still managed to make it to and survive UCLA despite hardships,

NEW GUAM TRAVEL STUDY PROGRAM LAUNCHED

This year the Asian American Studies Department was proud to announce the start of a new **Guam Travel Study** program, led by **Professor Keith Camacho**. The program will take place in summer 2018, from July 1st to July 28th at the **University of Guam**. The inaugural cohort will be offered two courses: Asian American Studies 140SL: Community-Based Research in Guam (Power to People: Asian American and Pacific Islander Community-Based Learning) and Asian American Studies 191A: Social Movements in Guam and the Pacific. Both courses fulfill different requirements for the Asian American Studies Major or Minor.

Over the course of four weeks, students will learn more about native justice and the island's legacy of social justice. From the ecological preservation of jungle and reef habitats to the ongoing quest for indigenous Chamorro self-determination, students will be exposed to the social movements of Guam, the Mariana Islands, and the wider Asia-Pacific. Weekly field trips to cultural landmarks, food fairs, local museums, and World War II battle sites will allow students to immerse themselves in the island's political and social landscape. Students will also partner with various non-profit organizations, conduct original research projects for them, and critically reflect on the multiple meanings and applications of social justice.

The program is open to all undergraduate and graduate students of all majors from any institution. Participants need not be enrolled at UCLA to apply. Visit asianam.ucla.edu or ieo.ucla.edu for more information.

such as domestic violence and depression. He credited his major in Asian American Studies for making him "woke" and the Community Programs Office for furthering his drive for activism.

Jollene Levid, who is a union organizer with UTLA and former National Chair of the grassroots organization AF3IRM, emphasized an idea shared by her parents: "There is dignity in all work." She asserted that the students graduating may end up being doctors or lawyers, like their parents want, but others will become writers, community organizers, and educators. Levid also challenged students to think about what they will be doing with their degree and their future work. "What will you do to ensure that our community can live in relative peace and safety, with dignity and justice?" she asked. "Because that to me is the real challenge of entering the real world. That is the challenge. The challenge is that the world is burning and you are the water. In fact, we are the ocean if we learn to hone our skills and talents and collectively move together. That is what community is."



At the Asian American Studies Department Graduation with the Asian American Studies MA and Graduate Concentrators with keynote speaker **Taz Ahmed** (center in stripes) and some of the faculty and lecturers. (UCLA AASD)

UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES SUBMIT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR AAS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In response to a state legislative hearing on Asian American Studies in California's higher education, the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Department** presented a statement in support of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Studies. The hearing on October 24th was organized by the UC Davis Asian American Studies Department in collaboration with the Senate Select Committee on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs and the Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus.

The statement, which was signed by **Vice Provost David K. Yoo, Department Chair Victor Bascara, FAC Chair Keith Camacho, and Center Assistant Director Melany De La Cruz-Viesca**, emphasized the contributions of both the Center and Department in furthering impactful research and knowledge on AAPI communities and increasing community engagement and service learning. It called for more funding for AAPI research and publications and support for disaggregated data; increase of full-time, tenure-track and tenured faculty of multiple disciplines across all California public colleges and universities; academic freedom and protection from harassment and intimidation of ethnic studies; genuine sanctuary for undocumented and Muslim students; and tuition-free higher education.

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS

2017 brought several exciting new and continuing projects for the Center for EthnoCommunications, under the leadership and vision of Director and Professor Renee Tajima-Peña and Assistant Director Janet Chen. These include:

- **The Nikkei Democracy Project:** Professor Tajima-Peña co-founded this multi-media collective that uses video, art, and social media to capture the power of the Japanese American imprisonment story and expose current threats to the Constitutional rights of targeted Americans. Several videos by filmmakers such as **Tajima-Peña, Tad Nakamura and Tani Ikeda** have been featured in the *LA Times* and BuzzFeed. View videos on the Nikkei Democracy Project's Facebook page.
- **Asian American Documentary Network (A-DOC):** Professor Tajima-Peña co-founded A-DOC, which provides job postings, mentorship and social networking for AAPI documentary filmmakers to discuss work, sustainability and the future of AAPI documentaries. Janet Chen is the managing coordinator, leading a group of staff/filmmakers who run A-DOC. See news and events at <https://www.facebook.com/AADocNetwork/>.
- **Lau Chinese American History Mini Docs:** Janet Chen developed this series with **IAC Vice Provost David K. Yoo and Mr. Stanley Lau** and created the pilot short documentary "Chinese Herbalists" and is working on three more mini docs with select students from the EthnoCommunications' Creating Community Media courses. See video and find out more at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/vids/lau/>.
- **AAPI Dialogues:** Janet Chen joined the planning committee of this staff-run organization and programmed a short films screening related to AAPI resistance, activism and identity for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.
- Ethno co-presented panels and screenings at the **2017 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival** in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Los Angeles Uprising.
- **"The Asian Americans"** is a public television documentary series in development by Professor Tajima-Peña and other collaborators. Tajima-Peña and Chen are also developing the new interactive virtual reality component of the series.

HONORS, SCREENINGS AND INTERVIEWS

- Professor Tajima-Peña's documentary **No Más Bebés** was nominated for the 38th annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards. She presented the film at several colleges and university across the nation and the film was also rebroadcast on select PBS stations.
- Professor Tajima-Peña presented her Academy Award-nominated film, **Who Killed Vincent Chin?**, across the country, in recognition of the 35th anniversary of the case. The screenings included a special presentation at CAAM Fest in San Francisco, the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Fort Worth, Texas, the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, Washington, and

Franklin & Marshall College in Pennsylvania.

- Professor Renee Tajima-Peña received the Chingona of the Year Award from California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and was interviewed by the *New York Times*, *Seattle International Examiner*, *UCLA Daily Bruin*, and Giant Robot Media.

STUDENT FILMS

In the Creating Community Media course series, students continue to tell their underrepresented stories. The following films from Asian American Studies 142C were featured at a screening in December 2017:

"The Weight Off My Chest" | Director: Emory Johnson

College student and Star Wars fan, Jesse undergoes top surgery and explores the gender spectrum.

"Hold The Line" | Director: Brittany Hewitt

Sabrina is a Latinx clinic escort who helps women arrive in medical clinics safely.

"Life in Color" | Director: Melody Chen

Undocumented Asian American, Bo relies on his art as a form of activism to express his frustrations on immigration policy.

"Across the Yumiverse" | Director: Kady Le

Artist Yumi Sakugawa uses art, performance and mindfulness to help communities heal.

Student films were also screened at various events. Four student films that were produced in the Creating Community Media courses premiered publicly at the

2017 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival:

"Phetmixay Means Fighter" | Director: Rita Phetmixay

"Muscles & Mascara" | Directors: Michael T. Chang, Janelle Sangalang, Tiffany Wong, Ryan Rodriguez

"The Other Side" | Directors: Hyemin Nancy Kim, Joshua Chin, Bradley Aranha

"The American DREAM" | Directors: Melody Chen, Janna Wang, Christopher Nguyen

Former EthnoCommunications student **Yoh Kawano's** film **"Human Error: Namie City, Japan"**, which was produced in the Creating Community Media courses, was also invited to screen at the **UCLA Trans-Pacific Workshop** with scholars from Japan and the U.S.

Over 100 films like these can be checked out for educational or community screening use. Please contact Assistant Director Janet Chen at jchen@aasc.ucla.edu for

more info, and follow the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications online at <https://www.facebook.com/ethnocommunications>.



Student filmmakers **Melody Chen and Emory Johnson** working on the Lau Chinese American History Mini Docs. (UCLA EthnoCommunications)



EthnoComm filmmakers **Janelle Sangalang, Michael Chang, Rita Phetmixay, Joshua Chin** presenting their films at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. (UCLA EthnoCommunications)

PACIFIC CINE WAVES SHARES PACIFIC ISLANDER FILMS WITH COMMUNITY

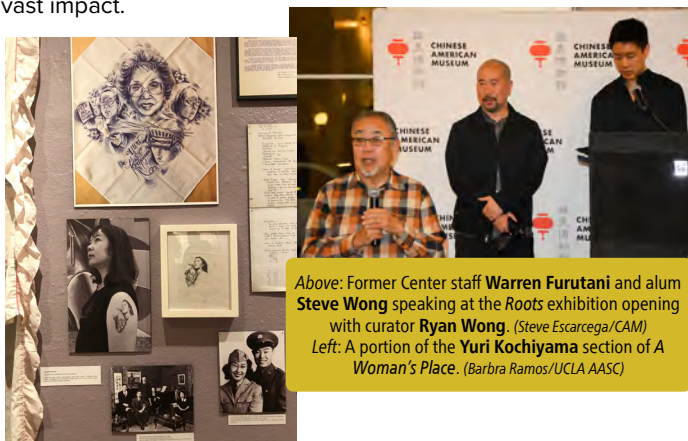
On Friday, August 5th, **Visual Communications (VC), Films By Youth Inside (FYI)**, and the Center presented “**Pacific Cine Waves**” at the Carson Community Center. It brought community members and filmmakers, as well as UCLA students and alumni, together. The program featured inspiring cinematic works created by Pacific Islanders, including ones showcased at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and Hawaii International Film Festival, as well as works from Hawai’i and Guam via personal story telling and digital filmmaking. The films shown were also complemented with performances by the **The Jason J. Project** and the **Kutturan Chamoru Foundation**.

The program was initially conceived by **Alex Munoz**, founder of FYI Films. The event offered the opportunity for Visual Communications as well as the Center to connect and engage with Pacific Islander communities and artists. As shared by VC’s **Abe Ferrer**, the core programmers “sought to create an event that celebrated the full spectrum of Pacific Islander cinematic voices; and locate that event in a community setting that would entice our audience to share, find identification with, and above all else celebrate those stories and perspectives.”

ROOTS AND A WOMAN’S PLACE EXHIBITIONS

The Center was invited to participate and contribute materials in two different exhibitions this year. The **Chinese American Museum** hosted **Roots: Asian American Movements in Los Angeles 1968-80s**, a show curated by **Ryan Wong**. It focused on capturing Los Angeles as a crucial hub for defining Asian America and featured posters, t-shirts, books, photos and other materials that captured that dynamic time period. Some of the Center’s publications such as **Roots** and **Amerasia Journal** were included, as well as several photos by Center Publication Coordinator **Mary Uyematsu Kao** alongside other materials by other UCLA alumni.

A Woman’s Place... was an exhibition curated by **Amitis Motevallii** and presented by the **William Grant Still Arts Center**. It explored the life-work of five extraordinary women of color **Angela Davis, Ericka Huggins, Yuri Kochiyama, Betita Martinez and Jewel Thais-Williams**. The Center provided images from Kochiyama’s memoir **Passing It On** to complement the other archival materials and artwork that showcased Yuri Kochiyama’s vast impact.



Above: Former Center staff **Warren Furutani** and alum **Steve Wong** speaking at the **Roots** exhibition opening with curator **Ryan Wong**. (Steve Escarrega/CAM)
Left: A portion of the **Yuri Kochiyama** section of **A Woman’s Place**. (Barbra Ramos/UCLA AASC)

The Center encourages those interested to stay tuned for more programming around Pacific Islander filmmakers this summer. VC is working to host a possible outdoor screening around two of their key productions—*Omai Fa’atasi: Samoa Mo Samoa* (1978) about a Carson youth development center that helps teens negotiate multiple issues from gangs to teen pregnancy and intergenerational conflicts; and *Vaitafe: Running Waters* (1982), a dramatic short film about a young man from American Samoa who finds his extended “family” in the South Bay, as well as his own sense of self-esteem and self-determination.



Left: At Pacific Cine Waves with the key organizers **Keith Camacho, Francis Cullado, Alex Munoz, and Abe Ferrer**. Below: Dancers from **Kutturan Chamoru**. (Florante Ibanez)



CENTER HOSTS TALKS WITH FILMMAKERS, POETS AND SCHOLARS

Several scholars, community organizers, filmmakers and writers visited UCLA to share their work and research. In the first half of 2017, the Center was proud to be able to host **Professor Rudy Guevarra** of Arizona State University for his book **Becoming Mexipino: Multiethnic Identities and Communities in San Diego** and **Dr. Jane Yamashiro** for her book **Redefining Japanese-ness**. This year’s **David and Tina Yamano Distinguished Lectureship in Asian American Studies** featured **traci kato-kiriyama**, a multi-disciplinary artist, writer/author, actor, arts educator & community organizer. In May, the Center co-sponsored a reading by **Mai Der Vang**, author of **Afterland** and recipient of the 2016 Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets.

The second half of 2017 brought journalist **Raissa Robles** to campus as she talked about her book **Marcos Martial Law: Never Again** and the **2017-2018 Stanley Kwok Lau and Dora Wong Lau Lecture in Chinese American Studies** “From Chinese Exclusion to the Muslim Ban: A History of Xenophobia in America” with **Erika Lee**. The Center also co-sponsored the book talk for interim Bunche Center director **Kelly Lytle Hernandez** for **City of Inmates** and a screening of **Life After Life** with filmmaker **Tamara Perkins** and **Harrison Seuga**, who was featured in Perkins’s documentary.

With **Professor David K. Yoo’s** appointment to Vice Provost of the Institute of American Cultures, the Center was also tasked this year with a search for a new director. After narrowing down the field to three candidates, UCLA welcomed **Professors Linda Trinh Võ** (University of California, Irvine), **Francis Taglao-Aguas** (College of William and Mary) and **Karen Umemoto** (University of Hawaii at Manoa) to campus to meet with students, faculty, staff and community members, as well as to share their research and vision for the Center. The new director will begin their duties in January 2018.

LISA HASEGAWA REFLECTS ON HER TIME AS ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT UCLA

A year ago, I was considering what my life would be after being the executive director of an advocacy organization for 15 years. I was still adjusting to life outside of DC and wrapping my brain around the causes and implications of the 2016 election results. After nearly 20 years in the nation's capital working on federal policy to improve government for low income Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, I deeply felt the unprecedented uncertainty and vulnerability for communities color, immigrants, LGBTQ communities, women, and religious minorities. On a policy level, much had been accomplished and attempted in the past eight years for AAPI communities, for low-income communities and communities of color. Many of these policy "wins" were at risk of being repealed or not being implemented at all, and new policy proposals could have devastating impacts.

The timing of the **UCLA AASC Fellowship** coincided with two significant anniversaries—the 75th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 and the incarceration of Japanese Americans, and the 25th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Uprising against police brutality and the lack of policy accountability. It was sobering to realize that on both fronts, we were, as a country, not far from the circumstances that led to these historical events. At the beginning of 2017 and the beginning of my time as Activist-in-Residence, we had a President who had called for a Muslim ban, and a growing movement against numerous deaths of Black men at the hands of police with Black Lives Matter. Where did Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders fit in the conversation and movement for racial justice in this moment?

I had an opportunity to reflect on the passage of time, and the persistence and intractability of racism. Students interviewed me about being a young person in 1992, recently graduated and in the midst of the LA Uprising. I was 25 years older, but so much was the same. I spoke on a number of panels about Asian Americans and racial justice. I gave a few lectures on institutional racism and public health, Asian American and Pacific Islander data policy, Asian American organizing and about my experience in DC. I got to discuss achievements and challenges faced during the Obama Administration and share my thoughts about how policies could be strengthened, preserved or defended. With each speech or lecture, I had a chance to think about how much I had learned since leaving UCLA, but always, I had an uneasy feeling about how little had actually changed in the world, and how advocacy strategies had fallen short.

I witnessed the inauguration of the first African American President. Twice. We now have Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institutions. Federal agencies like the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Consumer Financial

Protection Bureau have changed policies on collection and reporting of disaggregated AAPI data. However, these milestones seem small and vulnerable in the face of this new administration and Congress, in a time when the CFPB is being dismantled, funding for minority serving institutions and HUD programs are being slashed. As someone who believes in policy change by working with governments and elected officials, it is never been clearer to me that political education, community organizing and resistance is what is most needed.

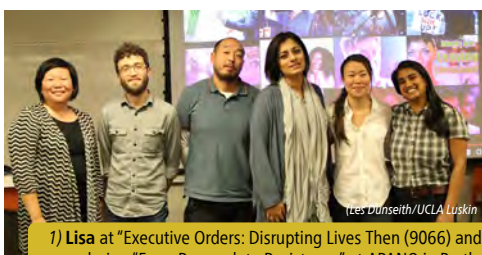


History is important. People who have come before us should be honored. Artist activists are our future. It was an absolute honor to spend this fellowship with the brilliant and inspiring **Funmilola Fagbamila** (pictured left with Lisa) of **Black Lives Matter Los Angeles**. In spending time with her and the current Asian American studies Masters students, I have hope in this generation of multiracial progressive organizers, and the current and coming generations of leadership. They have the smarts, the analysis, the resources, the relationships and most importantly the dedication to self-care and centered-ness on love to transform hearts and minds.

On a more personal level and positive note, I reconnected with mentors like **Glenn Omatsu** and **Valerie Matsumoto**, the professor of my very first Asian American Studies class. One of my favorite things I did was read comic books about **Don Nakanishi's** life as a class assignment for an undergraduate Asian American studies class. I got to see the growth of the Asian American Studies Department that did not even exist when I was an undergraduate. I was gratified to see the new leadership and scholarship for Pacific Islanders. I helped plan a national convening entitled, "**From Research to Resistance: AAPI Activist Scholar and Community Leader Convening,**" prior to the Association for Asian American Studies Conference in Portland. I was able to participate in the public lectures as part of the selection of the new Director for the Center. I absolutely loved reconnecting and spending time with the *Pacific Ties* staff for the *PacTies* 40th Anniversary commemoration and getting to look back at the articles I wrote as a student. It truly was a full circle experience for me.

I will continue to think about what we as a community need moving forward to promote and support progressive leadership in AAPI communities, and to solidify AAPIs as part of a progressive coalition in practice and in perception. I deeply appreciate the **Emma Gee and Yuji Ichioka Endowment** for supporting my return to UCLA and my roots.

Lisa Hasegawa now works as Assistant Director for UCLA Federal Relations.



1) Lisa at "Executive Orders: Disrupting Lives Then (9066) and Now (13769) with **Mustafa Rony Zona**, **Koji Steven Sakai**, **Tanzila "Taz" Ahmed**, **Tani Ikeda**, **Sasha W.**; 2) Lisa moderating a panel during "From Research to Resistance" at APANO in Portland; and 3) at the Center's Lunar New Year Luncheon with **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca**, **Lisa**, **Sandy Lee**, and **Michelle Magalong**.



LATEST AMERASIA JOURNAL NEWS AND RELEASES

EDITORIAL BOARD UPDATES

Editor **Keith Camacho** and *Amerasia* staff were deeply saddened by the passing of editorial board member **Dr. Teresia Teaiwa** on March 21st. A senior lecturer and director of Va'aomanū Pasifika at Victoria University in Wellington, Dr. Teaiwa was an activist and a poet who championed women's rights in Aotearoa New Zealand, Fiji, Hawai'i, Kiribati, Okinawa, West Papua and elsewhere. Her death was a tremendous loss to Pacific Studies and to academia at large. A tribute can be found in "Pacific Languages in Diaspora."

In 2018, *Amerasia* will welcome new editorial board members **Victor Bascara** (UCLA), **Laura Kina** (DePaul University), **Tricia Lizama** (University of Guam), **Enrique Dussel Peters** (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), and **Chandan Reddy** (University of Washington). *Amerasia* is extremely grateful to the contributions of outgoing board members **Cathy Schlund-Vials**, **Alisi Tulua**, **Monna Wong**, and **Lisa Yoneyama**.

OPEN ISSUE 42:3

The 2016 edition of *Amerasia's* annual open issue featured vibrant discussions that stretch the boundaries of Asian American Studies, including works from the **Pacific Empires Working Group**, the **Taiwan-based Summer Institute in Asian American Studies**, and the **Decolonizing Horizons Collective at the University of Southern California**.

The issue's research essays and articles also advanced new ground and make timely interventions into political topics, with pieces by **Phitsamay Uy**, **Kim Compoc**, and **Richard Calvin Chang of Empowering Pacific Islander Communities**. The winner of the **2015-2016 Lucie Cheng Prize** for graduate student research, **Cathleen Kozen's** essay provides a transnational "analytic which follows the ghosts of the Japanese Latin American deportees, the illegible and unredressable victim-subjects of U.S. World War II globalized military violence."

Amerasia also commemorated last year's passing of our founding Publisher, **Don T. Nakanishi**, with tributes from his son **Thomas Nakanishi** and mentee **Jennifer A. Yee**.

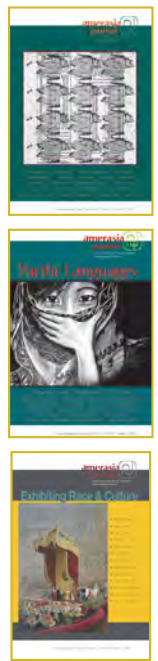
PACIFIC LANGUAGES IN DIASPORA

Guest-edited by **Luafata Simanu-Klutz**, **Akiemi Glenn**, and **Serge Tcherkezoff**, this issue 43:1 of *Amerasia* brings together scholars from different fields such as linguistics, music, and sociology to analyze how and why Pacific Islanders maintain, transform, devalue or protect their languages across Oceania and the greater diaspora. This issue also includes the forum "**Black and Blue in the Pacific: Afro-Diasporic Women Artists on History and Blackness**" convened by **Teresia Teaiwa**, and a book feature for **Jacked Up and Unjust: Pacific Islander Teens Confront Violent Legacies** by **Katherine Irwin** and **Karen Umemoto**.

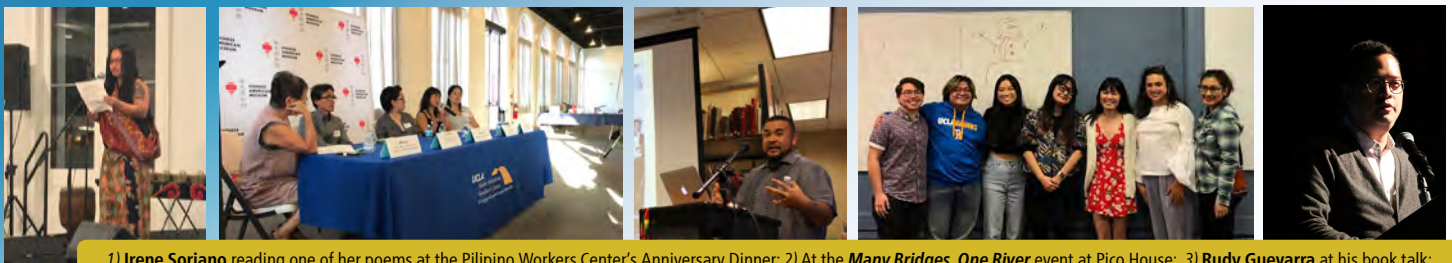
EXHIBITING RACE AND CULTURE

Issue 43:2 was guest-edited by Loyola Marymount's **Constance Chen** and **Melody Rod-ari**. The issue focuses on materiality of race and culture, exploring how Asian and Asian Americans from curators, exhibitionists, choreographers, and writers to politicians employ, represent, contest the nexus of race and culture. The issue also includes a forum on **Visible and Invisible: A Hapa Japanese American History**, which was the first historical exhibition on Japanese multiraciality.

Teaching guides for these issues, which present relevant questions for critical discussions as well as recommended complementary publications and materials, can be found on our website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/eduguides.aspx>.



IMAGES FROM THIS YEAR



1) **Irene Soriano** reading one of her poems at the Pilipino Workers Center's Anniversary Dinner; 2) At the **Many Bridges, One River** event at Pico House; 3) **Rudy Guevarra** at his book talk; 4) EthnoComm students and their film subjects (**Emory Johnson, Jesse Teso, Melody Chen, Yumi Sakugawa, Kady Le, Brittany Hewitt, Priscila Alegría Núñez**) at the Fall screening; and 5) Alum **Jeff Chang** at the J18 event organized by the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA Luskin.



6) Undergraduate and graduate students with **Prof. Lucy Burns** and **Mai Der Vang**; 7) **Meg Thornton** at AAAS with her fellow panelists; and 8) at the book talk for **Raissa Robles** (2nd from left).
(1, 2, 3, 6, 8: **Barbra Ramos/AAASC**; 4: **Janet Chan/EthnoCommunications**); 5: **UCLA Luskin**; 6: **Florante Ibanez**)

NEWS FROM AAPI NEXUS

From Research to Resistance: AAPI Activist Scholar & Community Leader Convening

On Wednesday, April 12th, the fifth annual **AAPI Policy Research Consortium Convening** was held the day before the start of the **Association for Asian American Studies Conference**. It took place at **Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)** in the Jade district of Portland, OR. *AAPI Nexus* Managing Editor **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** gave opening remarks, as well as led one of the break out groups on connecting Asian American studies to advocacy and policy. The event was sponsored by the Center, APANO, AAPI Policy Research Consortium, CUNY Asian American/Asian Research Institute, UC AAPI Policy Multi-Campus Research Program, and UMass Boston Institute for Asian American Studies.

AAPIs 2040 Creating the Future in an Uncertain World: Resisting Bigotry, Ignorance & Hate; Advancing Knowledge; and Forging Unity, Power & Solidarity

In collaboration with the **Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP)**, Nexus presented a special panel for Issue 14:2 at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy. The event featured co-editor **Elena Ong** with contributors **Richard Calvin Chang**, **Glenn Magpantay**, **Navdeep Singh**, **Daniel M. Mayeda**, and **Michelle G. Magalong**.

MANY BRIDGES, ONE RIVER SHARES VOICES FROM VIETNAMESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

With nearly 1.8 million Vietnamese Americans in the U.S., the Vietnamese American community is the fourth largest Asian American group and sixth-largest foreign-born population. The latest book from **UCLA AASC Press**, *Many Bridges, One River: Organizing for Justice in Vietnamese American Communities* offers valuable perspectives, lessons, and advice from a community that is often talked about only in terms of the Vietnam War, neglecting the history and lives of those who still suffer trauma and violence and the future of the generations that follow.

In their introduction, editors **thuan nguyen** and **Vy Nguyen** assert that “organizing within the Viet community is critical” and that fortunately, it continues to grow. *Many Bridges, One River* provides oral history perspectives on social justice work done by Vietnamese Americans starting in the 1970s through the early 2000s. The editors conducted eighteen interviews with organizers and activists that represent an array of groups in the United States, from Little Saigon in California’s Orange County to Biloxi, Mississippi and New Orleans and Massachusetts.

Interviewees share parts of their own personal history—some as children of refugees or as refugees themselves—and their paths towards activism. They speak on their different organizing experiences, such as youth programs, community art spaces, direct services, and civic engagement, as well as their struggles and hopes for the future. This book offer insights into new modes of organizing and serves as a catalyst for discussion. Activists and students, as well as families and communities, can benefit from

U.S. CENSUS RELEASES 2017 AANHPI STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

The Center, as an official **U.S. Census Information Center** (as a co-partner with National Coalition for Asian Pacific Community Development), was pleased to share the 2017 statistical portrait of the Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations produced by the US Census Bureau for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The findings included:

- 21 million U.S. residents in 2015 who identified as Asian alone or in combination.
- 1.5 million residents in 2015 who identified as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone or in combination.
- 21.5% of the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination population age 25 and older who had a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2015. This is compared to 51.55 for Asian alone or in combination age 25 and older and 30.6% for all Americans age 25 and older.

More information can be found on the Center’s website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/cic/stats2017.aspx>.



At the book talk and signing for *Many Bridges, One River* at UCLA with contributors, Center staff, Asian American Studies faculty and students, and visitors. (Barbra Ramos/AASC)

these lessons that are particularly necessary during these times of increased xenophobia and racial injustice.

Many Bridges, One River features a foreword by **Glenn Omatsu** and is a joint publication of the editors and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press. This publication builds upon previous releases by the Center Press, including issues of *Amerasia Journal* (“Vietnamese Americans: Diaspora & Dimensions” and “30 Years AfterWARd: Vietnamese Americans & U.S. Empire”), and the Center’s commitment to documenting Asian American activism, such as through *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment* and *Passing It On: A Memoir by Yuri Kochiyama*.

In conjunction with the book’s release, the Center hosted a talk and signing on Tuesday, April 25th with the co-editors alongside two contributors **TK Lê** and **Hieu Nguyen**. It was hosted by **Professor Thu-Huong Nguyen-vo’s** Asian American Studies 134 class: Vietnamese American Experience.

August 9th brought the book to the historic Pico House, as the Center co-hosted a special event featuring some of the editors and contributors in discussion with Chinese American movement activists on how the Asian American movement impacted the Vietnamese American activism then and now, as well as highlight social justice work taking place in the Vietnamese American community today. It was presented in conjunction with the Chinese American Museum’s exhibit “**Roots: Asian American Movements in Los Angeles, 1968-1980s**”.

EDITORS VY NGUYEN & THUAN NGUYEN REFLECT ON *MANY BRIDGES, ONE RIVER*

We first had the idea for a book about organizing in Vietnamese American communities in the middle of a social justice leadership training for young Viets. Between the guest trainers and the participants, it was clear that more Viets were actively engaged in community organizing in a way we had not seen since the 1970s. We had held the trainings for several years, as well as participated in a number of progressive gatherings for Viets, and each year we learned more about the organizing work taking place. The book would be a way to capture lessons learned and best practices from the work that was growing across the country. The stories could then be shared among organizers to inform their work, generate creative discussions, and strengthen activist networks.

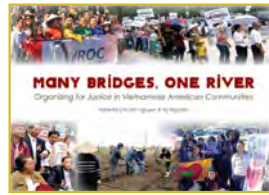
As activists we didn't have much experience with publishing. Luckily, we connected with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and partnered to co-publish. The Center from its inception has supported work that is grounded in communities and focused on making a difference outside of academia. With this project, the Center provided invaluable material and moral support. **Professor Glenn Omatsu**, who has mentored many students over the years, was kind enough to write the foreword. With the UCLA partnership in hand, we began a year-long process of identifying and interviewing Viet organizers doing a variety of social justice work in different regions. The interviews were in person when possible, mostly over the phone, and sometimes by email. It was a privilege to hear their stories and to see the book take shape.

As co-editors who had worked together on other activist projects, we met regularly to discuss what we were hearing, share edits, talk about book design, and plan for fundraising and outreach. We transcribed the interviews ourselves with some much-appreciated help from family. Family and friends copy-edited the Vietnamese words and phrases for correct usage and spelling. Our Viet progressive community also offered valuable advice, feedback on drafts and encouragement.

We see *Many Bridges, One River* as both supportive and part of the growing wave of left/progressive activity in the Viet community. Many in our community arrived as refugees or as the children of refugees, with deep traumas and focusing primarily on survival. We also grew up with a silence, pain, and anger that often made us afraid to ask questions—about our family stories, about the war, about what it means for us to be here today.

Some of us were able to go to college, where Asian American Studies classes connected us to our history and identity as Asian Americans, as well as to social justice movements in the United States. But the classes were also at times a source of even greater confusion. We learned about anti-Viet Nam war efforts that offered a drastically different perspective than the one we'd learned from our families. So even as we developed our activism and commitment to social justice, we also knew that our beliefs and ideologies were growing in a direction that oftentimes conflicted with our families and communities.

As we continued our political work, we actively organized with Asian and Pacific Islander communities and other communities of color around a range of issues and campaigns. But for the most part we remained disconnected from the Viet community and



other progressive/left Viets doing social justice work. We didn't have many opportunities to engage in the complexities of our own history and identities.

For us and others like us, we've found that the intense personal work of at-

tempting to reconcile our identities as progressives/leftists and as Viet can bring a sense of isolation, the dread of opening deep wounds, and a real fear of the potential ramifications that come from challenging the dominant Vietnamese American narrative. It's only been through forming connections with other like-minded Viets that we've been able to more openly engage with these complexities and begin building bridges for ourselves, with one another, and with the broader community. *Many Bridges, One River* is a reflection of this oftentimes tumultuous journey that, we hope, captures some of what can happen when we engage directly in the questions of where we've been, who we are, and what kind of world we want to create. The stories and lessons in this book offer insights and strategies on ways to move forward and show what's possible when we're allowed to ask questions—greater compassion and connection, a more critical understanding of history, and a deeper sense of community and self.

The work to finish the *Many Bridges, One River* manuscript allowed us to connect with an amazing group of Viet organizers and to begin to contextualize our collective experiences as part of a larger narrative and movement. The actual publication of the book, however, was something we anticipated with a little trepidation. How would we all be received as Viet progressives and leftists? How would certain members of our families react? Would the Vietnamese American mainstream see it, and how would more conservative aspects of our community respond?

Since those initial jitters, we've now held a number of panels and events connected to the book, so far all focused on progressive Viet and Asian American audiences. The events have been good spaces to talk about issues that many Viet leftists and progressives continue to grapple with, such as how to engage politically with our parents and older generations, the need to address and heal from trauma, and how to go about organizing within our own communities given these complex conditions. These conversations have a particular sense of urgency in light of today's reality, with the activation of white supremacist forces in this country and the Trump administration's relentless attacks on immigrants and people of color in general.

We hope to have more activities and events connected to the book that will continue to feature those interviewed and highlight their important work and experiences, as well as offer much needed space for critical reflection and discussion. Social justice work in the Viet community is continuing to evolve; and even in the two years it has taken to put *Many Bridges, One River* together, there have been new developments and opportunities that warrant further exploration, learning, and conversation, opportunities that continue to strengthen our collective work and movement towards justice.

thuan Nguyen and Vy Nguyen are the co-editors for Many Bridges, One River and UCLA alumni.

THE CENTER WELCOMES VISITING SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS

For the 2017-2018 academic year, **Dr. Isabela Quintana** returned to the Center as a Visiting Scholar. The Center also welcomed new **IAC Visiting Scholar Crystal Baik** and **Kiri Saliata, UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in Asian American Studies.**

Crystal Baik is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies at UC Riverside. Her fields of expertise include critical oral history studies, memory studies,



At the IAC 2017 Fall Forum with **David K. Yoo, Bernadine Marie Hernandez, Danielle Dupuy, Crystal Baik and Kyle T. Mays.** (UCLA Photography)

visual culture studies, Korean transnational studies, and women of color critique. She is completing her first book manuscript, tentatively entitled

“Reencounters: The Unfinished Korean War & Diasporic Memory Practices,” which pulls together and mobilizes an archive of diasporic cultural memory practices to engage what she describes as the “everydayness,” or routinized impasse, of the protracted Korean conflict. Baik presented on her research at the Institute of American Cultures Fall Forum on Tuesday, November 2nd, in a conversation with **Professor Thu-Huong Nguyen-vo.**

Kiri Saliata completed her PhD in the Department of American Culture at the University of Michigan. Her research interests center on Pacific history, indigeneity, US colonialism, law, militarism, and Native Feminism. While at UCLA, Saliata will be developing her book manuscript, “The Samoan Cause: Colonialism, Culture and the Rule of Law.” This research re-casts debates on Samoan politics, cultural preservation, and citizenship during the fifty-year period of martial rule in American Samoa.

REFLECTIONS FROM 2016-2017 IAC VISITING SCHOLAR MARK PADOONGPATT

The year I spent as an **IAC/AASC Visiting Researcher at the Center** was, in many ways, a homecoming. I was born and raised in Los Angeles – in the predominantly working-class Latino suburbs of Pacoima in the east San Fernando Valley.

I went to graduate school at USC, where I earned my PhD in American Studies & Ethnicity. My parents and most of my family live there. My research was on the history of Thai food and Thai Americans in Los Angeles. This award gave me an opportunity to return home, reconnect with my community, collect more archival materials and oral histories, and finish writing my book. I'm excited to announce that **Flavors of Empire: Food and the Making of Thai America**, is now out with University of California Press (American Crossroads)!

The AASC was an ideal and idyllic (I mean, the campus is gorgeous) place to work through the book's final stages. Just being in historic Campbell Hall and imagining the days of campus activism was inspiring. The Center proved to be what I expected it to be: a vibrant intellectual hub of activist-scholars, artists, and writers with a collective vision and commitment to radical social and political transformation. As an interdisciplinary space, it connected me with researchers from fields not my own, like **May Wang and May Sudhinaraset** from the Department of Community Health Sciences. Our conversations reenergized my passion for creating new knowledge on Asian American and Pacific Islander communities using any and all disciplinary insights, approaches, and methods in order to spark change. For these reasons, I also turn to the Center as a model for what I'd like our own burgeoning Asian American studies program here at my home institution, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, to be.

What I cherish most about my time there are the relationships I built with folks in and around the center. I'm grateful for all the meals, discussions, and abbreviated interactions. I enjoyed running into **Betty, Irene, and Tam**, and the many wonderful exchanges with **Arnold, Mary, Marjorie, and Meg. Melany**

and **David** provided valuable mentorship and were incredibly generous with their energy, time, and ideas. David also opened up opportunities for me to share my research in the *Oxford*

Research Encyclopedia of American History and with the newly formed AAPI History Group. **Keith Camacho, Valerie Matsumoto, and Min Zhou** offered the best kinds of advice and words of wisdom - those ranging between the personal and the professional. I learned a great deal from fellow IAC researchers **Vanessa Diaz, Courtney Thomas, and Natale Zappia**, and look forward to learning more from them and growing our friendship. Yet, one of the greatest experiences was getting to meet and spend time with a fierce and brilliant cadre of graduate

students—**Christina Ayson, Marcus Tran Degnan, Katelyn Hancock, Phúông Uyên Hoàng, James Huynh, Mitchell Lee, Maliya Lor, Tiffany Lytle, Jessica Man, Paul Mendoza, Natalie Santizo (Chicano Studies), Demiliza Saramosing, Tiffany Tran**—who gave me the warmest welcome and shared with me not only their research but also stories about how they are navigating and negotiating this world of academia that wasn't meant for us.

When I found out that I received the IAC award, I was ecstatic. But I'll admit that I wasn't surprised. It made sense. The IAC has been steadfast in their commitment to exploring new social and cultural phenomena in American society, particularly Los Angeles, and the AASC has long valued research on “new” Asian American populations and work that unpacks the complexities and diversity of Asian America. In fact, in 1992 Thai community activist **Chancee Martorell** taught the very first course on the Thai American experience at UCLA through the AASC, at the request of **Glenn Omatsu**. Now, twenty-five years later, with **Flavors of Empire**, the AASC has also been instrumental in the publication of the very first book on the history of Thai Americans. Thank you to the IAC and the AASC for the continued support of this work.

Mark Padoongpatt is currently an Assistant Professor of Asian and Asian American Studies at University of Las Vegas, Nevada.

2017-2018 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AWARDS, GRANTS,

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN CULTURES AWARDEES

2017-2018 IAC/AASC Visiting Scholar/Researcher Fellowship

CRYSTAL MUN-HYE BAIK

PhD American Studies and Ethnicity (USC)

RESEARCH: Demilitarized Futures: Korean Transnational Artists and A Poetics of Division.

2017-2018 IAC/AASC Graduate and Pre-doctoral Fellowship

GREGORY TADASHI TOY

PhD Student English

RESEARCH: Ecology, Infrastructure, and Asian American Literature

2017-2018 IAC/AASC Research Grants - Graduate Students

JENNY LEE

PhD Student Education

RESEARCH: Argonauts of the Ivory Tower: Narratives of Educational Persistence and Success among Pacific Islander College Students

TAMAR KODISH

PhD Student Psychology

RESEARCH: Cultural, Intepersonal and Communication Themes in a Depression Prevention Program with Adolescents from Low-Income Immigrant Families

DEMILIZA SAROMOSING

MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH: Indigenizing Kalihi: Cultivating Solidarities between Working-Class Filipinos and Native Hawaiians in the U.S. Colony of Hawai'i

LATANA THAVISETH

PhD Student Education

RESEARCH: Southeast Asian American Students and the Transfer Process

2017 ARATANI COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT RESEARCH ENDOWMENT (C.A.R.E.) GRANT RECIPIENTS

JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

PROJECT: 2017 Nikkei Community Internship

JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

PROJECT: Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo 2017

ANN KANEKO

PROJECT: "Manzanar, Diverted" Research and Screening

KIZUNA

PROJECT: A Social Justice Service Learning Project for JA Youth Community

NICHI BEI FOUNDATION

PROJECT: 2017 Films of Remembrance

NIKKEI STUDENT UNION ODORI AT UCLA

PROJECT: Satsuko no Mai: Dance of the Azalea

NIKKEI STUDENT UNION AT UCLA

PROJECT: 31st Annual Cultural Night

IRUM SHIEKH AND HOLLY YASUI

PROJECT: December 7, September 11: Japanese American and Muslim Voices on Incarceration and Resistance

AMY SUZUKI

PROJECT: Intercollegiate Taiko Invitational

FACULTY AWARDEES



2016-2017 C. Doris & Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA

RANDALL AKEE

Assistant Professor Public Policy and American Indian Studies

GRADUATE AWARDEES



Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American & Pacific Islander Studies

C. AUJEAN LEE

PhD Candidate Urban Planning



Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship

TIFFANY WANG-SU TRAN

MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare

RESEARCH PROJECT: Chinese-Vietnamese American Community



Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship

PREETI SHARMA

PhD Candidate Gender Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: The Thread between Them: Affective and Intimate Labor in L.A.'s South Asian Threading Salons



Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship

FRANCES HUYNH

MA Student Asian American Studies and Public Health

RESEARCH PROJECT: Reimagining the Future of Ethnic Enclaves: Working-Class Existence as Resistance in Los Angeles Chinatown



21st Century Graduate Fellowship

MALIYA LOR

MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Hmong Feminisms and Oral History



George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship

MITCHELL LEE

MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: "I Want To Be What My Body Wants Me To Be": Performance and Construction of the Racialized Self in Mitski's Music Videos



Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Graduate Internship

JESSICA MAN

MA Student Asian American Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Historical Society



21st Century Graduate Internship

DEMILIZA SAROMOSING

MA Student Asian American Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

ACADEMIC PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS



Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize

Tony VH Tonnu

MA Student Urban Planning
PAPER TITLE: Meet Me at Lee's Sandwiches: Intercity Travel Between Vietnamese Communities



Yuen Fong & Lew Oy Toy Family Internship in Chinese American Studies

GARETH CHING-YI WANG

MAJORS: Geography and International Development Studies
INTERNSHIP SITE: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California



Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize

STEPHANIE H. CHANG

PhD Candidate Gender Studies
PAPER TITLE: Crisis in the Film Archive: The Emergence of Visual Communications in Los Angeles



Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship

PAJA THAO

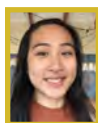
MAJOR: Sociology
ESSAY TITLE: What Community Service Means to Me



Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

SHARON N. TRAN

PhD English—Asian American Literature
PAPER TITLE: The Smell of Solidarity: Stinky Multispecies Assemblages in Larissa Lai's *Salt Fish Girl*



21st Century Undergraduate Internship

KRISTY PHAN

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Preserving Our Histories and Ourselves



Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize

TIFFANY WANG-SU TRAN

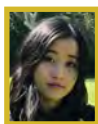
MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
PAPER TITLE: Militourism and Femininity in Crowe's *Aloha*



Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Undergraduate Prize

KHADIJA MOHAMED SHALBI

MAJOR: Neuroscience
PAPER TITLE: Perspectives on the Annexation of Hawaii



Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Prize

FRANCES HUYNH

MA Student Asian American Studies and Public Health
PAPER TITLE: From Chinese Donuts to Leek Cakes: Navigating Los Angeles Chinatown's Golden Waters



Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

EMORY JOHNSON

MAJORS: Asian American Studies; Italian & Special Fields; and Film & Television
PAPER TITLE: More Than a Yellow Face: The Film Career of Sessue Hayakawa



Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans

WENDSOR YAMASHITA

PhD Candidate Gender Studies
PAPER TITLE: Nikkei Student Union Cultural Night and Generational Transmissions of Memory: Performative Disruptions and Other Futures



Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize

JENNY HUANG

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Labor & Workplace Studies
PAPER TITLE: The Destruction of Family Life and Community: Second Generation Nisei Women

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDEES



Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award

AMY THI PHAM

MAJOR: Communications



Royal Morales Prize in Pilipino American Studies

ANDREW MAGAT LOPEZ

MAJOR: Asian American Studies—Pilipino Studies Concentration
MINOR: Labor & Workplace Studies
PAPER TITLE: The "Struggle" for Filipino Visibility: Work and Mobilization in the Filipino American Community



Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American & Pacific Islander Studies

EMILY TAING

MAJORS: International Studies and Asian American Studies
MINOR: European Studies



Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize

LYLYBELL ARAGON

MAJORS: Asian American Studies and Gender Studies
PAPER TITLE: Queering Pilipino Decolonization



Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship

EMILY AYA ISAKARI

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Global Health and Labor & Workplace Studies
PAPER TITLE: Tom Miyasaki: Impact of Loyalty Questionnaire



Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize for the Study of WWII Internment Camps & Japanese Americans

ALI MOHAMAD FARHAT

MAJOR: Bioengineering
PAPER TITLE: Law and the Carceral: Japanese American Incarceration Parallels the War on Terror



SHUKAN AMAR PATEL

MAJOR: Political Science
MINOR: Public Affairs
PAPER TITLE: Legality of Incarceration during Japanese American Incarceration and the War on Terror



STAY CONNECTED WITH THE CENTER!

WWW.AASC.UCLA.EDU

FACEBOOK: UCLAAASC

TWITTER: @UCLAAASCPRESS

INSTAGRAM: @UCLAAASC

DONATE: GIVING.UCLA.EDU/AASC

From left to right: 1) *Amerasia Journal* Associate Editor **Arnold Pan** with former *Amerasia* Editor **Russell Leong**; 2) IAC Vice Provost **David K. Yoo** and Center Librarian/Archivist **Marjorie Lee** (top) with work study student **Kesia Eng** and alum **Nancy Oda** at the Center's Lunar New Year Luncheon; 3) Center MSO **Betty Leung** and AISC's **Jamie Chan** (top) with CSRC's **Rebecca Epstein, Darling Sianez, and Cheyenne Lentz** at the IAC Fall Forum; 4) **Kiri Saliata, Inoke Hafoka, Sarah Soakai and Professor Juliann Anesi** at the *Life After Life* film screening; 5) Alums **Emily Lawsin, Karen Ishizuka, and Lawrence Lan** at the Association for Asian American Studies Conference in Portland; 6) AAPI Dialogues x Color Your Troubles Away session for APAHM with **Irene Soriano, Barbra Ramos, Elaine Dolalas, TK Lê, Lylybell Aragon, Mary Kao, and Jeri Williams**.

(1, 2, 4: Barbra Ramos/UCLA AASC; 3: UCLA Photography; 5: Florante Ibanez; 6: Janet Chen)

UCLA

Asian American
Studies Center

Bridging Research with Community

405 HILGARD AVE, BOX 951546

3230 CAMPBELL HALL

LOS ANGELES, CA 90095-1546

AA55

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID UCLA

ASR