

# CROSSCURRENTS

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



## PROFESSOR KAREN UMEMOTO RETURNS TO UCLA AS CHU DIRECTOR'S CHAIR OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

After a nationwide search, the UCLA community and the Asian American Studies Center were proud to announce the appointment of Professor Karen Umemoto as the inaugural Helen and Morgan Chu Endowed Director's Chair of the Asian American Studies Center, as of January 2018.

On April 24th, alumni, students, faculty and staff filled the courtyard of the Luskin Conference Center at UCLA to welcome back one of their own. Emcee and chair of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, **Professor Keith Camacho** introduced several speakers, who all echoed positive wishes for and praise of the new director of the Asian American Studies Center, **Professor Karen Umemoto**. These speakers included: **Institute of American Cultures Vice Provost David K. Yoo**, **Urban Planning Chair Vinit Mukhija**, **Asian American Studies Department Chair Victor Bascara**, former long-time *Amerasia Journal* editor **Russell Leong**, and alum, lawyer, and donor **Morgan Chu**.

The Helen and Morgan Chu Endowed Director's Chair of the Asian American Studies Center was generously established by UCLA alumni **Helen and Morgan Chu** to better support the Center's leadership in furthering research and community initiatives in Asian American Studies, Ethnic Studies and larger society. Professor Karen Umemoto is the inaugural holder of the Chu Director's Chair and also serves academic appointments with the departments of Urban Planning at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and Asian American Studies.

Professor Umemoto has deep roots in Los Angeles and UCLA. A third-generation Japanese American, she was born and raised in Southern California. She started her college education at UCLA, before transferring to San Francisco State University to finish her undergraduate degree. She returned to UCLA for her Master's Degree in Asian American Studies ('89), where she wrote her dissertation on the history of the San Francisco State College Strike that helped to establish the first ethnic studies programs in the nation.

With a doctorate in Urban Studies from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she has focused her teaching and research on issues of democracy and social justice in multicultural societies. Professor Umemoto's research and practice take a broad view of planning in the context of social inclusion, participatory democracy, and political transformation. Before coming to UCLA, she had taught at University of Hawai'i at Manoa since 1996.

Professor Umemoto succeeds Vice Provost David K. Yoo. The Center thanks the search committee, as well as the numerous faculty, students, staff, alumni, and community members who supported the search and provided welcomed input. Additionally, the Center would like to thank Vice Provost Yoo and **Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer**, who both served terms as interim directors before the search and during this transition period.

The Center is excited to have Professor Umemoto here at UCLA, especially as we near our 50th Anniversary and UCLA Centennial celebrations in 2019 through 2020. Find out more about her vision for the Center on page 3.



1) Karen at her Inauguration Celebration with David Yoo, Morgan and Helen Chu, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, and Keith Camacho; 2) at the UCLA APA Alumni reception for *Allegiance* with alums Al Aubin, Leslie Ito and Daniel Mayeda; 3) at the 2018 Manzanar Pilgrimage with fellow faculty Manjusha Kulkarni, alum Brian Niiya and students; 4) with alums Glen Kitayama and Jim To at the Center's Lunar New Year Luncheon.

(1: UCLA Luskin; 2, 4: UCLA AASC; 3: Bruce Umemoto)

# Asian American Studies Center

*Bridging Research with Community*

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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. Past issues can be found on the Center's website.

### EDITOR & DESIGNER

**BARBRA RAMOS** bramos@aasc.ucla.edu



1) Marjorie Lee, Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, Lisa Hasegawa, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, and Tom Nakanishi at the Lunar New Year Luncheon. 2) Alycia Cheng, Aujean Lee, and Mike Nguyen at Karen's Inauguration Ceremony; 3) Miki Fujimoto, Juliann Anesi and Sarah Soakai celebrating Karen's Inauguration; 4) Jennie Shitakubo, Karen Umemoto and Dr. Kanji Sahara at Lunar New Year. (UCLA AASC)

**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:

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\* UCLA graduate student in Fall 2018 \* Retired June 2018 \* Term ended June 2018



Center Director Karen Umemoto with Asian American Studies Department Chair Victor Bascara speaking at the UCLA Asian American Studies Community-Building and Alumni Mixer in San Francisco on March 30th. (BR/UCLA AASC)

In 2019, we will celebrate our 50th anniversary along with the three other ethnic studies centers under the Institute of American Cultures. UCLA will also arrive at its centennial. We will take this time to celebrate these major milestones and our accomplishments and renew our dedication to a more just, equitable, inclusive and compassionate society.

The Asian American Studies Center and ethnic studies more broadly carry a renewed sense of urgency. The racial chord of political polarization, threats to basic norms of democracy, and the effects of a changing climate pose serious problems that affect our communities as well as the world at large. Our future continues to be shaped by demographic shifts, staggering inequality, economic and technological change.

While many of these are not new, we challenge ourselves to make a greater impact on the world around us as scholars, students and community partners. Now is the time to develop transformational ideas and build partnerships to push those ideas forward to create a better world. Our Center is launching several initiatives to increase our collective impact. One is the buildout of a digital media platform as a site for the creation and distribution of knowledge about our various populations to inform policy debates and to educate the broader public about the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) experience. We will also launch a series of 50th anniversary events, including an AAPI research and community conference in the spirit of “serve the people,” featuring visionary leaders and past, current, and emerging research relevant to our communities and policy makers.

I invite you all to join us at these commemorative events (*see 50th Anniversary Calendar on the back cover*). I would also like to thank the many supporters who make this work possible.

We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

**Karen Umemoto, PhD**

Helen and Morgan Chu Endowed Director’s Chair of the Asian American Studies Center

## CENTER SPOTLIGHT

**At the Inauguration Celebration for Professor Umemoto, she shared her vision for the Center. Here is an excerpt of her speech.**

The hard work of everyone over the years has built an important body of scholarly knowledge, trained a generation of leaders, and amassed a treasure trove of research and historically significant documents. **My vision, in short, is to find ways to scale this work up—to reach larger audiences beyond the walls of the ivory tower, to inform policy and public decision-making, and to change our institutional culture and garner resources so that we can bridge town and gown in more meaningful and lasting ways.**

First: We are at the very beginning stages of developing a **digital media and publications platform** to allow us to share the knowledge we’ve amassed with the rest of the world. [...] We see the digital media platform as a user-friendly portal to access information and programs at UCLA such as our webinars, student film and multimedia projects, ebooks, historical photos and documents, as well as research on current issues. These are just some of the many ways we can deliver our research programs to serve our students, community partners, faculty and alumni.

Second: I’d like to see through **Paul Ong** and the late **Don Nakanishi’s** vision of **establishing a policy and advocacy arm of the Center**. This can be done in a way that provides training for students, grows the pool of policy experts in the field of Asian American Studies, and advances policies that address the needs of vulnerable AAPI communities. We envision working

in partnership with advocacy and community organizations to provide solid, policy-relevant research to inform, inspire and amplify our voices and bring the experiences of our communities into policy and public debates of the day.

Third: We are planning a series of activities to **commemorate our 50th anniversary** starting next year in 2019. I invite you to get involved with our 50th Anniversary efforts.

We’d like to take this landmark occasion as an opportunity to accomplish several things: to rethink Asian American Studies—where have we come and where do we go from here?; to work closely with the Asian American Studies Department, and the other ethnic studies centers and units; to connect more closely with our alumni; strengthen our ties with community and off-campus partners; explore new collaborations; and also preserve the history of the Center. One activity that we’re starting this summer is an oral history project to document the lives and work of those who founded Asian American Studies in Southern California, beginning with UCLA.

**We can’t do this alone.** We invite your participation. And given our changing world, I feel there’s no more urgent time than the present. [...] Our role as a group, privileged with higher education—who value democracy where each person’s voice counts and each life matters—is more critical than ever. Ethnic studies and Asian American Studies shifts the world of ideas in a way that grounds our society in respect for one another, appreciation of difference, in the words of **Iris Marion Young**, as a resource for democratic deliberation, and solidarity in one another’s continued struggles for a better life. It’s in this spirit that I look forward to joining each of you who share this commitment to a brighter day, to carrying the torch of those who have come before us, and to marching forward on this path together.



After 30 years at the Asian American Studies Center, Production Coordinator **Mary Uyematsu Kao** retired from UCLA in June. Mary began working for the Center in October 1987, designing covers for *Amerasia Journal*. Over the years, she brought her artistic eye to ground-breaking books such as *Asian Americans: the Movement and the Moment* and to both of the Center's journals, with her illustrations, photos, designs, and digital creations defining their visual character. She also co-edited the special *Amerasia* issue, "Where Women Tell Stories," and contributed several articles.

Mary and her family have a long history with the Center and UCLA. Her mother, **Elsie Osajima**, was the first full-time staff at the Center. Mary and her sister **Amy** both attended UCLA as undergraduates; Mary was a sophomore art major when the Center was created in 1969 and later graduated from the Asian American Studies MA program. Mary became involved in struggles for social justice and worked with different activists and communities. With her expansive knowledge and invaluable experiences from the Asian American Movement, she often taught as a lecturer and guest speaker for Asian American Studies and other departments at UCLA. Even when she was not teaching, her office door was always open to students seeking to know more about the Asian American movement and the history of activism associated with the Center.

This past June, the Asian American Studies Department honored her as the keynote speaker for their Commencement Ceremony. In her speech, Mary shared some institutional memory—the climate in which the Center was founded, the battles that brought ethnic studies to UCLA—impressing upon them how they are part of an important legacy of cross-community solidarity, and challenged students to use the tools that Asian American Studies taught them to change power relations in the United States today. She sent this year's graduates off with this advice: "Know yourself, stay true to yourself, and then get over yourself—so we can take on the challenges before us with courage. Like we used to say in the 70s, 'Dare to struggle, dare to win!' Power to the Class of 2018! 'All Power to the People.'"

Mary will definitely be missed from the halls of Campbell, but we look forward to the projects she has planned. She is currently working on a book of her photography, which documents and references many activist and community movements and moments. You can also find her writing as a contributor for *Rafu Shimpō* and *Discover Nikkei*.

## PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR MARY KAO RETIRES, REMINDS GRADUATES:

"ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE"



Mary (center) with the 2018 Graduating MA Class at the Asian American Studies Department Commencement Ceremony (UCLA).

If you remember anything from today, let it be this legacy of struggle for ethnic studies. Do not let these battles die in vain. Without your continued support, oversight, and involvement with the Asian American Studies Center and Department, they cannot flourish to meet the challenges confronting us today.

Excerpt from keynote by Mary Uyematsu Kao delivered at AASD graduation.



## AWARD-WINNING WRITER AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS DAVID WONG LOUIE PASSES AWAY

With profound sadness, the Asian American Studies Center and Department shared the news of the passing of **David Wong Louie** on September 19th, at home with family at his side.

David joined the UCLA faculty in 1992, and was the first Asian American writer hired here to teach creative writing in a tenure-track capacity. While at UCLA, David taught and mentored hundreds of students, in the departments of Asian American Studies and English, of diverse ethnicities and genders, some who later themselves became noted writers.

David was a colleague, coach, and writer who brought elegance, wit, and acute observation to his novels, fiction, and essays. His personal essay "Eat, Memory," first published in *Harper's Magazine*, was selected for *The Best American Essays 2018*. The essay is an unusual meditation on life, illness, desire, and absence, which reflected his own struggles, through the metaphor of eating and food.

An expanded edition of his short story volume *Pangs of Love*, which will include "Eat, Memory" and the short story "Cold Hearted,"

as well as a new introduction by Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Viet Thanh Nguyen** and an afterword by **Professor King-Kok Cheung**, is forthcoming from University of Washington Press in 2019. *Pangs of Love* won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Review First Fiction Award, the Ploughshares First Fiction Book Award and was a *New York Times* Book Review Notable Book of 1991 and a Voice Literary Supplement Favorite of 1991. His novel *The Barbarians Are Coming* (2000) won the Association for Asian American Studies Prose Award in 2002. He was also awarded a Lannan Writing Fellowship in 2001. He co-edited *Dissident Song: A Contemporary Asian American Anthology* (1985) with **Marilyn Chin**.

The Center salutes David Wong Louie for his contribution to expanding our understanding of what it means to be Asian in America today. His own prose reflected the tumult, conflicts, and ultimately, grace, of both the encounter with America and the interpretation and expression of its diverse ethnic, racial, and gendered communities.

A memorial service through the UCLA Department of English was held on October 25th at the UCLA Faculty Center. Donations in David's memory can be made to the Simms/Mann UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology at <http://www.cancer.ucla.edu/DavidWongLouie>.



# ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES COLLECTIVE MEMORIES PROJECT



## ALUMNI & STUDENT NEWS

- Asian Am MA alum **Alice Y. Hom** is the new Director of Equity and Social Justice at Northern California Grantmakers
- Asian Am MA alum **Tracy Zhao** was chosen as the Executive Director for API Equality-LA.
- Education PhD alum **Julie Park** released a new book entitled **Race on Campus: Debunking Myths with Data** (Harvard Education Press).
- Asian American Studies MA alum **Leslie Ito** joined the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena as its Executive Director.
- Urban Planning PhD alum **C. Aujan Lee** is now professor of regional and city planning at the Christopher Gibbs College of Architecture at Oklahoma University.
- Community Health Sciences graduate student **Heidi T. Tuason** received the 2018 Asian Pacific Alumni Excellence in Community Service Scholarship and the Ruth Roemer Social Justice Fellowship from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health & Public Health Alumni Association.
- Asian American Studies MA alum **Jeff Chang** is now Vice President for Narrative, Arts, and Culture at Race Forward, after serving as the director of the Institute for Diversity in the Arts at Stanford University.
- Former IAC-AASC Visiting Scholar **Margaret Rhee** will join SUNY Buffalo in 2019 as an Assistant Professor in Media Study. She also was honored with third place for best full-length poetry book in the speculative genre by the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association for **Love, Robot**.
- Law school alum **The Honorable Bruce Iwasaki** was honored by the Asian/Pacific Islander Law Students Association (APILSA) at UCLA with the 2018 Alumni of the Year Award.
- APILSA awarded its first ever Legacy Award to the late **Joyce Yoshioka** for her leadership as the organization's co-founder. Fellow alum **Mia Yamamoto** accepted it on Joyce's behalf.
- Undergraduates **Lylybell Aragon** and **Chloe Qi Pan** and graduate student **Demiliza Saromosing** were chosen as student speakers for the 2018 UCLA Asian American Studies Department Graduation.

From the Collective Memories Project  
1) Amy Uyematsu and Valerie Matsumoto;  
2) Emory Johnson, Christian Gella, Eddie Wong, Janet Chen and Lian Mae Tualla;  
3) Franklin Odo and Karen Umemoto;  
4) Alan Nishio and Karen Ishizuka.  
(1,2, 4: UCLA AASC;  
3: Julia Liu).

As the Center gears up for its 50th anniversary, we have several projects underway. One is the **Collective Memories Project**, which chronicles the early days of the Center and Asian American Studies, particularly at UCLA and in Los Angeles. The team has so far interviewed over 20 people, including **Morgan and Helen Chu, Mike Murase, Duane Kubo, Suzi Wong, Alan Nishio, Mary Uyematsu Kao, Casimiro Tolentino, Florante Ibanez, Eddie Wong, Brenda Paik Sunoo, Rocky Chin, Mary Chen, and Franklin Odo**, with many more interviews planned. These recorded oral histories will be placed online as part of the Center's digital initiative.

The project team includes EthnoCommunications's **Janet Chen** and **Emory Johnson**, along with interns **Christian Gella, Lian Mae Tualla, and Marnie Salvani**. Our oral history subjects have been interviewed by Janet, **Professors Karen Umemoto and Valerie Matsumoto**, alums **Karen Ishizuka and Susie Ling**, and staff **Meg Thornton**.

## UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES COMMUNITY-BUILDING AND ALUMNI MIXER IN SAN FRANCISCO

During the 2018 **Association for Asian American Studies Conference** in San Francisco, the Center teamed up with the **Asian American Studies Department (AASD)** to host an alumni mixer and gathering. Multiple generations of Asian American and Pacific Islander alumni attended and shared stories, research, and ideas with each other.

After informal mingling, **Marketing Manager Barbra Ramos** opened the program and attendees were welcomed by **Center Director Karen Umemoto** and **AASD Chair Victor Bascara**. A short film focused on the rallies and campaign for **Don Nakanishi's** tenure was shown, followed by a few words by **Dale Minami**, who led Nakanishi's legal team at the time. Poems were also shared during the program by alum **Emily Lawsin** and MA students **Christian Gella** and **Jade Verdeflor**.

The event was following by a joint reading with **Rabbit Fool Press**, which was founded by Asian American Studies MA alum and former *Amerasia Journal* editor **Brandy Lien Worrall-Soriano**. It featured authors **Claire Light, Tony Robles, Julie Thi Underhill, Kieu-Linh Caroline Valverde, and Irene Suico Soriano**.

1) Scott Kurashige, Kiri Sailiata, and Josephine Ong; 2) Irene Suico Soriano and Alice Hom; 3) Mark Villegas and Jade Verdeflor - at the mixer. (UCLA AASC).



## REMEMBERING COMMUNITY RESEARCHER & ACTIVIST AIKO HERZIG-YOSHINAGA

The Center was deeply saddened by the loss of **Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga**, who passed away on Wednesday, July 18th at the age of 93. Beloved and celebrated for her leadership and lifetime commitment to justice, she was a hero for her extraordinary work to uncover key documents that led to the recognition of the unjust role of the U.S. government in incarcerating more than 120,000 Japanese residents during World War II. The paper trail that she and her third husband, **John “Jack” Herzig**, discovered, helped to pave the way for the passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, an official apology by the government, reparations of \$20,000 for each camp survivor, and the vacating of wartime convictions of Japanese Americans who challenged the forced removal in Coram nobis cases.

Born in Sacramento in 1924, Aiko was 17 years old when she was incarcerated at Manzanar, and later Jerome and Rohwer, during World War II. She became involved in civil rights work in New York through Asian Americans for Action and related activities. She and Jack would begin their research on the wartime experience of Japanese Americans in earnest after moving to Washington, DC in 1978. Aiko and Jack’s legacy can be found, in part, in the **Jack and Aiko Herzig Papers** housed at UCLA Library Special Collections. This collection represents their decades-long personal research and work with the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, the Office of Redress Administration, the National Council for Japanese American Redress, and the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. Our Center was honored to have partnered with Aiko to archive the Herzig collection for free public community access. Information on the collection can be found at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/herzig451/>.



1) Aiko honored at the Center’s 36th Anniversary Gala in 2005; 2) with her family at the public reception for the Herzig Collection at UCLA in 2016. (UCLA AASC).



## UCLA ALUM AND HISTORIAN DAWN MABALON IS IN THE HEART



1) Dawn; 2) with students at UCLA for the book talk for *Little Manila is in the Heart* in 2013. (1: Jeremy Villaluz 2: UCLA AASC).

The Center joined with our colleagues at San Francisco State University and all over the world in mourning the tragic loss of **Professor Dawn Bohulano Mabalon**, who passed suddenly at age 45, on August 10th in Kauai, Hawaii while vacationing with her family.

A double-alumnus of UCLA, with a BA in history and a MA in Asian American Studies ('97), Dawn was born in Stockton and was the daughter and granddaughter of farmworkers. She earned her PhD in history from Stanford University; her dissertation would later develop into the award-winning publication *Little Manila is in the Heart: The Making of the Filipina/o American Community in Stockton, California*.

She was a respected professor, historian, author, community leader, and activist who leaves us with an important and far-reaching legacy. As **Professor Lucy Burns** shared, “I admired Dawn as a colleague, as a scholar, as a community builder. She and **Allyson [Tintiangco-Cubales]**, and the feminist scholarship and community building they were creating in the late 1990s really made an impact on me, as someone who was doing graduate work far away from the critical mass of Filipino and Asian American cultural community.” **Professor Valerie Matsumoto**, who served on Dawn’s MA thesis committee, said, “Dawn’s work has been so important for my classes, from her research on Filipino American women to her writing on Filipino American history and food. Her vibrancy and vision shine through her words.”

Dawn had an indelible impact on UCLA, co-founding the **Pilipino Transfer Student Partnership**; serving as leadership for **Samahang Pilipino** and the **Pilipino American Graduate Student Association**; receiving the 2003 Pilipino Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award; and much more. **A celebration of Dawn’s life is planned for January 26th from 4pm to 8pm at UCLA’s Ackerman Ballroom; more details will be shared on the Center’s website.**

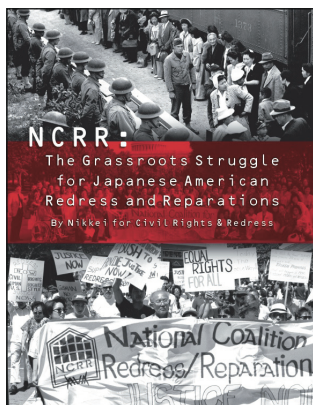
### Events Spotlight | NCRR: THE GRASSROOTS STRUGGLE... BOOK LAUNCH



At the NCRR Book Launch at JACCC in June: 1) NCRR’s Book Committee - Lane Hirabayashi, Qris Yamashita, Richard Katsuda, Kay Ochi, Kathy Masaoka, Suzy Katsuda (partially obscured), and Janice Yen; 2) contributor and alum Tony Osumi; 3) Brian Niya, Richard Katsuda, Akemi Kikumura-Yano, Gary Yano and Karen Umamoto; and 4) Amy Uyematsu (standing), Marlene Lee, Mary Uyematsu Kao, Elsie Osajima, and John Kao (1-2: Gann Matsuda; 3-4: Roy Nakano and Susie Ling).







## NCRR BOOK BRINGS ACTIVIST HISTORY AND HOPES FOR A MORE JUST FUTURE TO LIGHT

LANE HIRABAYASHI | Emeritus Professor

**NCRR: THE GRASSROOTS STRUGGLE...** allowed me to revisit my experiences with the organization and appreciate the many Little Tokyo-based activists I met, as well as the critical insights I garnered about the history of Nikkei removal, incarceration, and its aftermath. My hope is that readers will get a sense of the transformational processes that Nisei, Sansei, and allies engendered with NCRR work, and the passion for social justice that moved so many of us. And if readers can find inspiration in how it all unfolded, based on the principles underlying our efforts, then perhaps this will be of use in addressing the many challenges that confront us today.

KATHY MASAOKA | NCRR Co-Chair

Today, we are a community that speaks out for others and stands up against scapegoating and the violation of civil rights - some examples of this are covered in the book. This was especially clear after 9/11 when individual Japanese Americans called the mosques to offer support and when several hundred people came out to a Little Tokyo vigil on short notice. NCRR formed a 9/11 Committee to build a relationship with the Muslim community through iftars, workshops, and the Bridging Communities program. We continued to show up in solidarity to support the Irvine 11 students, to oppose the surveillance program by the government and to speak out against detention of immigrants. Winning redress transformed the Japanese American community and the individuals who participated in the movement and it is important to share this legacy from the redress victory!

KAY OCHI | NCRR Co-Chair

As the daughter of Kibei parents who were imprisoned for three years by the U.S. government solely because of their racial ancestry, I grew up under a shroud of suspicion, with a lack of self confidence that comes with being marginalized because of the color of my skin. It was not until I joined NCRR's redress movement that I met the courageous community folks who would help change my life through challenging the government for its unconstitutional actions. This book will encourage those who have suffered from the state's sanctioned abuses—that means every person of color.

Given today's volatile political climate - particularly with the separation of children from their families at our borders and the treatment of immigrants and racial minorities, the sharing of the stories of Japanese American incarceration and the outcome of the historical struggle for redress and reparations have tremendous relevance and will, we hope, encourage activism.

RICHARD KATSUDA | NCRR Co-Chair

What is sorely missing in the current narrative about the Redress Movement is the critical role that the grass roots—ordinary, everyday people—played in the movement. For the movement was much more than the apology and compensation—it was a community digging deep down to find their voice and confidence to speak out for justice at the CWRIC hearings. NCRR worked side by side with testifiers to make sure their voices were heard. With the grassroots participation—our community rising up—the redress movement was felt by everyone in the community, not only those incarcerated but their children and grandchildren as well.

JANICE IWANAGA YEN | NCRR Recording Secretary

I was pleased by Qris Yamashita's incorporation of so many photographs in her design of the book. NCRR had documented its history through the snapshots of several of its members, and the editorial team was fortunate to have access to the archived photos of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Visual Communications, and Unity Newspaper. The photos helped to put human faces on the people who made the grassroots movement for redress and reparations possible.

On the afternoon of Saturday, June 16th, around 200 people packed into (and outside) the Garden Room at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo. They had come to witness the launch of a book decades in the making - **NCRR: THE GRASSROOTS STRUGGLE FOR JAPANESE AMERICAN REDRESS AND REPARATIONS** BY NIKKEI FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND REDRESS. The publication is a significant ethnobiography and the first comprehensive account of the history and work of the organization **Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRR)**, previously known as the **National Coalition for Redress/Reparations**. Edited by **Professor Emeritus Lane Hirabayashi** and the NCRR editorial team, **NCRR** is a joint publication by the organization and the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press** that chronicles NCRR's origins in the struggle for redress for Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II and its subsequent work in the following decades.

NCRR not only shares this oft neglected history with first-person accounts, but also provides much-needed insight into the legacy of the Asian American Movement and what it means for current social justice movements. As stated in the overview, this book, already in its second print run, is "essential reading for students, scholars, and anyone concerned with how racialized minority communities shape their image and legacy through political struggle with their governments, both home and abroad".

AASC Press is grateful to the editorial team and the over 40 individual contributors for the time spent and dedication given to the project's publication. We asked the editorial team what the book's publication means to them and here is what a few of them shared with us.

To purchase the book, visit <http://bit.ly/ncrr-aasc>



## PROFESSOR BENJAMIN WOO NAMED 2017-18 RECIPIENT OF THE HOSHIDE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PRIZE IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

**Congratulations to this year's C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize awardee, Associate Clinical Professor Benjamin K. P. Woo of Psychiatry at the David Geffen School of Medicine!**



Dr. Woo serves as Psychiatry Clerkship Director at Olive View - UCLA Medical Center and as a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. He is also the faculty advisor for **Asian Pacific Health Corps**, an undergraduate student organization that promotes health awareness in Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.

Dr. Woo received his medical degree from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and has published more than thirty

peer-reviewed articles addressing mental health care disparities amongst different AAPI ethnic groups in the fields of emergency psychiatry and geriatric mental health. In 2011-13, he developed a culturally sensitive depression collaborative treatment model for a primary care clinic that serves uninsured Chinese patients. Dr. Woo also serves the Chinese community through direct services, research, and community outreach. His outreach efforts include writing newspaper articles, speaking monthly on the only Cantonese radio station in Los Angeles, and serving as a medical expert for the Phoenix North America Chinese TV Channel. In 2013, he was honored with the 2013 Advancing Minority Mental Health Award from the American Psychiatric Foundation.

Recognized as an exceptional educator, including the 2017 Kaiser-Permanente Award for Excellence in Education Award and a 2018 Roeske Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Medical Education, he teaches key courses on mental health care disparities, with a focus on breaking mental health stigma amongst AAPI communities. One student described how Dr. Woo provided students with a foundational knowledge of the challenges Asian Americans face in receiving mental health care. "I thoroughly enjoyed his class because it not only opened my eyes to the advocacy efforts currently dispelling these disparities but also contributed to my future goals as a physician," said another student. Many students attested to how Dr. Woo is an inspiration. "When he talks about his clinical work, I get excited about joining the field just from seeing his own passion for the subject. On top of that, he also takes a true interest in teaching and mentoring his students. Dr. Woo is the type of teacher who invests himself in his students' lives," said one student. In addition, they offered high praise for Dr. Woo's mentorship. "He gives constant support to students searching for guidance, which I believe attests to his love for teaching and for his community. Dr. Woo has imparted not only scientific wisdom and critical thinking among his students but also the valuable lessons of life knowledge," said a student.

The late **C. Doris Hoshide**, Class of 1934, of Rockville, MD established the teaching prize to 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.

### FACULTY & STAFF NEWS & TRANSITIONS

- **Professor Purnima Mankekar** was honored with the 2017-2018 Graduate Student Appreciation Award at the Asian American Studies Department (AASD) Commencement Ceremony.
- **Professor Ninez Ponce** was appointed the new director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research as of July 1st, 2018.
- **Professor Sean Metzger** was promoted to rank of Full Professor in the School of Theater, Film, and Television.
- Information Studies **Professor Michelle Caswell** and **Professor Randall Akee** of Public Policy and American Indian Studies were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure.
- **Professor Shu-mei Shih** received the distinguished alumnae award from National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) in August, and was appointed as honorary chair professor in the Department of Taiwan Culture, Languages and Literature at NTNU for a term of two years.
- **Professor Karen Umemoto's** *Jacked Up and Unjust* (written with **Katherine Irwin**) was selected as co-winner for the 2018 Asian America Book Award from the American Sociological Association.
- Education **Professor Thomas Philip** left UCLA to lead Berkeley Educators for Equity and Excellence as of July 1st, 2018.
- Dentistry **Professor Francesco Chiappelli** retired from UCLA, where he has taught since 1994.
- Alumni **Daniel Mayeda** was appointed as the Associate Director of the Documentary Film Clinic at UCLA School of Law.
- Former AASD Office Manager, who left in November, and Asian Am MA alum **T.K. Lê** was chosen as a PEN Center's 2019 Emerging Voices Fellow.
- Former Vice-President of Programs and Communications at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles **Karin Wang** was named



UCLA professors who attended the Center's FAC retreat in September.  
Top Row: Benjamin Woo, Valerie Matsumoto, Lucy Burns, Juliann Anesi, Jennifer Chun;  
Bottom Row: Purnima Mankekar, Keith Camacho, Natalie Masuoka, Cindy Fan, Min Zhou, Karen Umemoto, Hiroshi Motomura, Robert Chao Romero, Victor Bascara, May Wang, Kyeyoung Park, Jinqi Ling (BR/UCLA AASC)

Executive Director of UCLA Law's David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy.

- The Institute of American Cultures welcomed two new staff members: **Sophia Fischer**, External Relations and Project Coordinator, and **Christi Corpus**, Director of Development.
- The Center currently has 60 members serving on its Faculty Advisory Committee, including these professors welcomed in 2017-18:
  - **Juliann Anesi** (Gender Studies)
  - **Jennifer Chun** (Asian American Studies)
  - **Ju Hui Judy Han** (Gender Studies)
  - **Gina Kim** (Film & Television)
  - **Suk-Young Kim** (Theater)
  - **Natalie Masuoka** (History)
  - **R. Jisung Park** (Environmental Health Sciences and Public Policy)
  - **May Sudhinaraset** (Community Health Sciences)

# PROFESSOR LUCY MAE SAN PABLO BURNS RECOGNIZED WITH DON T. NAKANISHI AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP



**Congratulations to Professor Lucy Burns, the 2017-18 recipient of the Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American Studies at UCLA!**

Professor Burns has provided tremendous service and leadership as an Associate Professor in the Asian American Studies Department, with an academic appointment with World Arts and

Cultures, and a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. Author of the award-winning book *Puro Arte: Filipinos on the Stages of Empire*, she received her PhD in English from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and has taught at UCLA since 2005. In nominating Professor Burns, one colleagues states that she is "a model of engaged scholarship that creates linkages between research, art, and community activism, between faculty, students, and artists. Her work this year has been inspiring to so many of us on and off campus."

Indeed, she has worked tirelessly to translate her own scholarship as well as others' into a series of events and projects that brought together hundreds of students, faculty, and community members. One such series was "**The Philippines and its Elsewheres**," exploring the Philippines as a launching point for discussions of poetics, migration, global citizenship, area studies, higher education, knowledge production, and performance in further developing the field of critical Filipino Studies. Related to this series is her work with Los Angeles-based Pilipinx community art collective **KITAKITS**. Their collective collaboration took the form of a literary reading with immigrant poets **Joi Barrios** and **Zosimo Quibilan Jr.** in historic Filipinotown and support for KITAKITS's reading and panel discussion "PilipinX America: Southern California Pinays Voice Out" as part of the 2018 Pasadena Litfest.

Another impactful series Professor Burns organized is the performance project entitled "**Refugee (Re)Enactments**" in collaboration with singer/songwriter **Tiffany Lytle** and **Dr. Jolie Chea**—both Asian American Studies MA alumni—and **Professor Thu-huong Nguyễn-võ**. These activities remember and revive the history of social and political engagement at UCLA, in particular the 1970 protest against the U.S. war in Vietnam and its bombings of Cambodia and Laos. Noted to be the largest antiwar demonstration on a college campus at the time, this event was part of a series of political protest staged by students beginning in the late 1960s and lasting through the 1970s. On April 17, 2018, a performance event

featuring the music and choreography of Tiffany Lytle, followed by a panel discussion, drew an audience of approximately two hundred students. The Refugee Re/Enactments project leaders worked with undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and various units on campus, including the UCLA Arts Engagement Network and Residential Life, for a special panel discussion, "100 Years of Protest at UCLA" on November 14th. The discussion featured alumni **York Chang**, **Robert Karimi** and **Jolie Chea**.

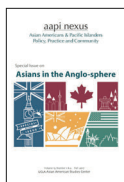
Professor Burns has a long record connecting the university to the arts and community. She redesigned her Asian American Studies 121 theater class to work on-site at the Aratani Theater of the **Japanese American Cultural and Community Center**, where student worked on archiving visual materials, such as photographs and posters that document the history of Asian American performance at the theater. She has also collaborated with key Asian American arts organizations and artists, including **R. Zamora Linmark's** "But, Beautiful" at the East West Players Theater, as well as served as a humanities consultant for the play, "Global Taxi Drivers," at **TeAda Productions**, a community-based theater company that creates original plays rooted in the experiences of immigrants and refugees. The Center is honored to present this well-deserved recognition to Professor Burns for her outstanding contributions as an engaged scholar, teacher, and dramaturg. "She is exactly the type of educational leader that this award sets out to recognize for their outstanding ability to integrate their commitments to community, scholarship, teaching, and service," said one nominator.

Through the generosity of UCLA faculty, students, staff, and alumni as well as community leaders, an endowment for this award 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 from 1990 to 2010. Among his invaluable contributions to Asian American Studies, Professor Nakanishi co-founded two, national publications: **Amerasia Journal** and **AAPI Nexus**. 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 five thousand dollar award. The award rotates annually between faculty and students. The graduate and undergraduate student awards will be given during the 2018-19 academic year.



1) Students performing with **Tiffany Lytle** as part of Refugee Re/enactments in April; 2) Refugee Re/enactments panel discussion with **Lucy Burns**, **Jolie Chea**, **Tiffany Lytle**, **Thu-huong Nguyen-vo**, and **Leisy Abrego**; 3) **York Chang**, **Robert Karimi** and **Jolie Chea** at the 100 Years of Protest panel. (UCLA AASD/AAASC)





## AAPI NEXUS UPDATES

*AAPI Nexus Journal* released “Special Issue on Asians in the Anglosphere” (15:1-2), guest-edited by **Shamit Saggar** and **Eric Fong**. It takes a glimpse into the history and status of Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs) in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom,

and the United States and examines some of the linkages between APIs in these different locales.

This issue also announced *AAPI Nexus Journal*’s upcoming transition to open access. In a message from **Senior Editor Paul M. Ong** and **Managing Editor Melany De La Cruz-Viesca**, they stated that “this approach will better serve our communities in providing them with actionable knowledge to improve policy, practice, advocacy, and organizing. [...] *AAPI Nexus* was established to bridge “town and gown” and dismantle the barriers separating the academy and larger community. We see this as an integral part of ethnic studies’ founding mission to ‘serve the people.’”

## NOT CRAZY RICH ASIANS WEBINAR SERIES

The Center presented the **#NotCrazyRichAsians** webinar series and workshop with advocates, practitioners and researchers who work with low-income Asian American Pacific Islanders and in solidarity with African American, Native American, and Latino communities. The series sought to build discussions around research and programs to close the racial wealth divide, including the need for data disaggregation. All webinars can be found on the Center’s website ([aasc.ucla.edu](http://aasc.ucla.edu)).

### May 31 | Part 1: SHIFTING NARRATIVES: USING AAPI WEALTH DATA FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

A collaborative webinar with the **Asset Building Policy Network** about Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Wealth data and the importance of including more nuanced data about AAPIs in order to counter the post-racial narratives using AAPI wealth status data to support that institutional racism no longer exists.

Speakers: **Seema Agnani**, **Jeremie Greer**, **Soya Jung**, and **C. Aujean Lee**

### June 18 | Workshop: AAPIS & WEALTH INEQUALITIES: UNTANGLING THE DATA

Held at the **National Coalition for Asian Pacific Community Development**’s 2018 convening, it focused on racial wealth inequality and rollbacks of federal commitments to disaggregate AAPI data.

### June 28 | Part 2: SHARING COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH ABOUT NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND CAMBODIAN COMMUNITIES

This webinar shared findings from the **Foundations for the Future** report featuring **Hawaiian Community Assets**’s empowerment economics model of financial capability programming and from soon-to-be-released research on asset building in the Cambodian community through the lens of small business ownership from **UCLA for the Ford Foundation’s Building Economic Security over a Lifetime Initiative**.

Speakers: **Lahela H. Williams**, **Chhandara Pech**

### July 26 | Part 3: HOUSING AND FINANCIAL COUNSELING FOR AAPI COMMUNITIES

This session focused on research that uncovers how and why communities of color were at higher risk of foreclosure and also learn about the network of housing counseling agencies providing services in over 30 languages to resolve housing and financial issues.

Moderator: **Lisa Hasegawa**

Speakers: **Karna Wong**, **Song Hutchins**, and **Sunny Chanthanouvong**

## RELEASED REPORTS & DATA

### • Fifty Years After the Kerner Commission Report: Place, Housing, and Racial Wealth Inequality in Los Angeles

New research by **Center’s Associate Director Melany De La Cruz-Viesca**, **Professor Paul Ong**, and others that examines racial wealth inequality through the lens of home ownership particularly in South Los Angeles where the 1965 Watts riots took place, was featured in the Russell Sage Foundation’s *Journal of the Social Sciences* (<https://www.rsjournal.org/toc/rsf/4/6>).

### • 2018 Statistical Portrait of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders

As an official **U.S. Census Information Center** in co-partnership with the **National Coalition for Asian Pacific Community Development**, the Center released latest census information and population projections. View the data online on our website ([aasc.ucla.edu](http://aasc.ucla.edu)).

From L-R:  
Jerry Kang,  
Chau Ly,  
James Huynh



## CHANG-LIN TIEN AWARD RECOGNIZES VICE CHANCELLOR JERRY KANG AND GRAD STUDENTS

The **Asian Pacific Fund** recognized **Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Jerry Kang** with the **2018 Chang-Lin Tien Leadership in Education Award**, which “was created to address the underrepresentation of AAPI academic leadership in higher education.” This award also funded **Chang-Lin Tien Fellowships** for graduate students at UCLA. The chosen recipients were **Chau Ly**, a Bioengineering PhD student, and **James Huynh**, a dual-degree MPH in Community Health Sciences and MA in Asian American Studies.

### Internship Spotlight | DYLAN HAN



### ARATANI COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP WITH SUSTAINABLE LITTLE TOKYO

Dylan Han (4th from left) at the Atomic Cafe Revival event.  
(Scott Oshima/SLT)

“Overall, the internship went better than I could have ever hoped. I was able to do work that I was passionate about and also help with events that applied to my major and minor. I think one of the things about this internship that I am most grateful about is that I was able to do work that I am very passionate about and can actually see myself doing as a career. [...]”

The Art @341 FSN [341 First Street North] events I was able to help out with were very in line with my goals to use art to get people to care about social issues and community. The problems of gentrification in Little Tokyo is also something that I feel very passionate about and am able to talk to people about in great detail and depth, which made working the table for the petition very fluid and rewarding.”



## LATEST FROM AMERASIA JOURNAL

The Asian American Studies Center and Press staff offer our thanks to **Keith Camacho**, who is stepping down after a successful term as Editor of *Amerasia Journal*. Professor Camacho has expanded the horizons of the journal, as well as Asian American and Pacific Islander studies as a whole during his tenure with *Amerasia*. **Judy Wu** (UC Irvine) will be the incoming Editor of *Amerasia Journal*, beginning in Summer 2019.

We also want to express our appreciation to long-time *Amerasia* production coordinator **Mary Uyematsu Kao**, who retired after 30 years of service to the Center and Press. She has been instrumental in creating the unique look and feel of *Amerasia* and the AASC Press's many publications.

*Amerasia Journal* is excited to announce a new publishing partnership with **Routledge**, which will drastically extend the reach of the journal and increase circulation. Routledge will take over production and sales of the journal, while editorial responsibilities will remain with the AASC Press.

### OPEN ISSUE (43:3)



The 2017 open issue examines how arts and culture can inspire resistance movements and new ways of knowing for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as well as consider how writing and performance can represent new dimensions of experiences encountered by Asians in diaspora.

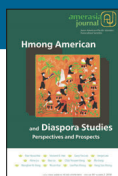
### ARAB AMERICAS: LOCATIONS AND ITERATIONS (44:1)



Guest editors: **Sarah Gualtieri** (University of Southern California) and **Pauline Homsy Vinson** (Diablo Valley College)

This issue explores the relationships between Arab American and Asian American Studies vis-à-vis the historical, cultural, and political dimensions of citizenship, labor, migration, and trade in Europe, Mexico, the Middle East, and the United States.

### HMONG AMERICANS AND DIASPORIC STUDIES: PERSPECTIVES AND PROSPECTS (44:2)



Guest editors: **Yang Sao Xiong** (University of Wisconsin-Madison), **Nengher N. Vang** (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater) and **Chia Youyee Vang** (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

This special issue examines the current and future state of Hmong Americans and studies of the diaspora - particularly through the voices of Hmong Americans themselves and with attention paid to the historical and political contexts.

## AMERASIA GUEST EDITORS SARAH GUALTIERI AND PAULINE VINSON ON THEIR ARAB/AMERICAS ISSUE

Working together as guest editors provided us many pleasures, including an opportunity to meet the editorial team at *Amerasia*, and to enjoy the benefits of seamless and mutually supportive collaboration on issues that each of us was highly invested in and deeply valued. We especially appreciated the opportunity to expand beyond our areas of expertise to consider more deeply the ways in which Asian American and Arab American studies intersect and complement each other. One of our primary discoveries lay in the convergence of Asian American and Arab American studies around particular nodes of critical inquiry: citizenship and immigration; Orientalism; and art and activism. Working from the fields of history (Gualtieri) and literature (Vinson), we found that our approaches were invigorated by enquiries from one another's expertise and academic training. Archival material gave inspiration for literary input and placed it in critical context while literary expression gave voice to historical circumstance and geographical particularity.

The introduction that we co-wrote for "**Arab/Americas: Locations and Iterations**" aimed to capture the importance of place and time to how Arabness is expressed, mobilized, and disavowed in different American contexts, whether political, social, artistic, or legal, and in relation to Asian and Muslim Americans and to the Americas more broadly. We also strove to move-away from conventional "wave" models of Arab American immigration, helpful as this model has been in giving shape to Arab American presence in the United States, in order to probe more deeply the ways in which the category "Arab American" is voiced, elided, or ignored, particularly in relation to racial discourses, gender, ethnicity, law, and geography.

The essays we gathered for the issue reflect the importance of uncovering archival material to address early Arab American

articulations of identity (see for example, **Louise Cainkar**, "Fluid Terror Threat: A Genealogy of the Racialization of Arab, Muslim, and South Asian Americans"; **Maryam Kashani**, "Habib in the Hood: Mobilizing History and Prayer towards anti-Racist Praxis"; **Randa Tawil**, "Racial Borderlines: Ameen Rihani, Mexico, and World War I"; **Rana Razek**, "Trails and Fences: Syrian Migration Networks and Immigration Restriction, 1885-1911"; and the spotlight on the **Arab American National Museum** by **Matthew Jaber Stiffler**). The essays in the volume also reflect an enduring concern with Orientalism, gender, literary expression, and dissent (see **Carol W.N. Fadda**, "Arab, Asian, and Muslim Feminist Dissent: Responding to the 'Global War on Terror' in Related Frameworks"; **Rachel Norman**, "Eating the Matriarch: Locating Identity in the Arab American Female Body"; Interview with **Torange Yeghiazarian**, "ReOrienting Theatre"). Additionally, the contributions to this collection point to exciting new directions in using relational lenses for understanding Arab American, Asian American, and Muslim American experiences (see Fadda; Cainkar; **Maryam Kashani**, "Habib in the Hood: Mobilizing History and Prayer towards anti-Racist Praxis"; Tawil; and Razek).

We hope that this issue opens the way toward fuller analysis and collaboration between Asian American and Arab American studies. We imagine a fruitful set of questions including the following: What are the points of connection, overlap, parallelism, as well as tension between Arab American and Asian American experiences? How might Arab American and Asian American artists collaborate and complement one another's work? What course offerings can be designed to look relationally at Arab American and Asian American experiences and articulations of identity?

## 2018 ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE REFLECTION BY YVONNE YEN LIU

Asian American immigrants to the United States have long survived and persevered by practicing cooperation and mutual aid. New immigrants have faced hostile environments to their participation in the mainstream economy, either because of exclusionary legislation or because they lack paperwork. The standard trope about immigrants is that through hard work and perseverance new arrivals to the U.S. are able to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. In fact, Asian American immigrants have not only survived but also thrived because of these cooperative institutions.

The **Activist-in-Residence** fellowship at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center has provided me with the resources to explore that history. I've learned that cooperation and mutual aid have been a part of the Asian American experience ever since the earliest documented examples of immigration. Collective help took the form of family associations and rotating credit practices. Early Chinese immigrants who arrived in San Francisco were met at the pier by representatives of family associations, who would escort the new arrivals to the association building and provide housing.

The associations also connected immigrants to employment and provided basic social insurance for their membership, such as medicine, burial expenses for the poor, and money for travel back to China for the indigent elderly. Membership was open to descendants of a particular clan or, even broader, those who shared the same regional affiliation in China.

Family associations and benevolent societies weren't unique to immigrants from Asia. Germans had a version, *Landmannschaft*, which supported students from the same part of the country studying abroad. However, what made these institutions unique was the political context of exclusion. Chinese were barred from entering into the U.S. if they were common laborers. Immigrants were admitted if they could prove they were merchants, scholars or diplomats under the 1882 Exclusion Act. In addition, trade unions pitted white workers against Chinese workers, who were portrayed as docile and susceptible to the boss' whims. Mutual aid associations provided benefits for members with shared family or ancestral histories.

Cooperatives flourished in broader Asian American communities as exclusionary laws initially passed to restrict Chinese immigration were applied to all Asians. Pilipinos, for example, started arriving in California in large numbers in the 1930s. The workers organized themselves as informal cooperatives under a leader from the same region who spoke the same language. That leader was responsible for getting farm jobs for his cooperatives and provided accommodations to the new arrivals. Members of the cooperative could borrow money without interest in the winter when seasonal farm work was at a standstill. The cooperative would also cover medical bills and burial expenses for members without resources.

Asian American immigrants also pool financial resources to help each other because, like many immigrants, they face obstacles to

participating in mainstream banking and financial institutions, because they might not have access to financial information needed by banks, encounter strong language barriers, are distrustful of banks, or simply do not have enough money to save. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) recently found that more than 20 percent of Asian Americans are "underbanked" or turned to alternative financial services in the past year.

Asian American immigrants instead turn to rotating credit associations, whose members grew up in the same region or attended the same school, and who contribute a fixed amount of money into a fund which is then distributed, at intervals, to each member in turn. Each ethnicity has its own form of these organizations, including the Chinese (who call this practice *hui* or *ko*), Japanese (*tanomoshi* or *mujin*), Koreans (*kyes*), Indonesians (*arisan*), and Indians (*chits* or *kuries*).

The majority of nail salon workers, for instance, are recent women immigrants. Most don't have a history of work experience in their home countries, and many lack the legal paperwork to live in the U.S. and open a bank account. A study of nail salon workers in New York City found that many participate in these lending circles in order to pay for household expenses, children's college tuition, and mortgage or rent payments. In addition to sharing money, the associations also help to bridge the social isolation and stress the low wage workers often face.

Cooperative practices sometimes originate in the ancestral country and are replicated in the U.S. **Julia Ho**, for instance, is a second generation Taiwanese American whose grandfather started a farmer's cooperative in rural Taiwan. The members of the co-op would pool their money to purchase seeds every year for harvest. Although Julia's mother, **Jui-Lien Chou**, immigrated to the U.S. in the 1980s to study medicine, in 1999 she purchased a 259-acre cotton farm in Lubbock, Texas, which she converted into a USDA-certified organic farm. Named **Tree Grace Farms**, after Chou's father **Shu-En** (樹恩), the farm is now a hub for organic agriculture, supporting edible school gardens, donating produce to a local food bank, and offering shares in a community-supported agriculture.

Ho credits her mother's influence on her decision to become a community organizer against police brutality in Ferguson, Missouri and her work as coordinator of Solidarity Economy St. Louis. "I realize that I'm doing the work my mom does," Ho says. "My goal is to make room in the solidarity economy movement for people like my mom, who doesn't consider herself a social justice organizer, but is clearly doing the things that all of us are talking about."



UCLA Activist-in-Residence Fellows  
Manuel Criollo ('18), Funmilola Fagbamila ('17),  
Lisa Hasegawa ('17) and Yvonne Yen Liu ('18)  
(UCLA Luskin)

### Series Spotlight | ASIAN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY ECONOMIES PROJECT

As the AASC Activist-in-Residence, **Yvonne**, along with **Parag Rajendra Khandhar**, hosted the **2018 Solidarity Economy Webinar Series** and featured several organizations and individuals involved in cooperative economic practices targeted to the assets and needs of Asian American immigrant and refugee communities.

March 19: Introducing Solidarity Economy  
April 2: Introducing Cooperatives  
May 21: Forming Cooperatives  
Oct 12: Legacy Community Businesses  
Nov 5: Incubating Cooperatives

The webinar series featured the following speakers:  
**Emily Kawano, Julia Ho, Mai Nguyen, Anh-Thu Nguyen, Ro McIntyre, Annie Sullivan-Chin, Shevanthi Daniel-Rabkin, Soyun Park, Pakou Hang; Long Luu**

View recordings at <http://solidarityresearch.org/webinars/>.

## UCLA STUDENTS AND ALUMNI LEARN AND CONNECT IN GUAM

This past summer, the first ever **UCLA Guam Travel Study** program took place. This was made possible through the hard work and dedication of program director **Professor Keith Camacho**, Asian American Studies Department Student Advisor **Kristine Jan Espinoza**, and program assistant, Asian Am MA/MPH student, **Paul Mendoza**. While there, Professor Camacho also organized a research symposium with the students and an alumni gathering.

Twenty-five students participated in the UCLA Guam Travel Study Program. They represented UCLA, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz, the University of Guam, and the University of Washington. They also pursued various degrees such as Asian American Studies, Biology, Counseling, Creative Writing, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Dance, Ethnic Studies, Feminist Studies, History, International Development Studies, Physiological Science, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish and Community and Culture, Theater, Urban and Regional Studies, and World Arts and Cultures.

**The Serving Guåhan: A Research Symposium at the Guam Museum** on July 27th was hosted by the Senator Antonio M. Palomo Guam Museum and Chamorro Educational Facility and focused on the travel study student presentations about their community-based research with **Guampedia**, the **Guam Museum**, **Guam Preservation Trust**, **Håya Foundation**, **Hurão Academy**, and the **UOG Center for Sustainability**.

Alumni and students reflected back on these activities and shared their thoughts and experiences with us.



(Above) Students and program coordinators at the University of Guam (Idriss Njike); (top right) a gathering with students and the **Håya Foundation** and the **Yo'ámte Siha** (Healers) at Tumon Bay. (Keith Camacho)



"Guam has such a unique history that there is so much that cannot be learned without truly being there for yourself. I finally got to experience the things I've learned in class and the memories my grandma shared with me when she lived on the island. This Travel Study was more than just class credit or a travel opportunity—I was able to reclaim my roots, learn my history, and live my culture. I've been many places in the world, and it's true—Guam has some of the most beautiful sunsets." - **Alexia George**

"Over the summer I was able to work with the **Håya Foundation** and learn from their stories and experience how they have worked so hard to protect the land and culture on the island. The director **Zita Pangelinan** and the Chamorro aunties expressed how the indigenous healing tradition needs to be revitalized, so my group helped survey youth ages close to 15-25 to gauge their interest, knowledge, and experience with natural healing.

I learned to not take life for granted and am very grateful I was given the opportunity to work with them. There is so much more to healing than alleviating pain. Our medicine is deep like the ocean and could be all around us. It's hard to decolonize, but our earth needs just as much healing as people." - **Amanda Torres**

"Guam is the most beautiful place in the world—both the land and their people. I recall meeting someone and mentioning that I needed a pan, and she promptly let me borrow her pan for four weeks! The program itself allowed me to immerse myself within the community, which not only gave me critical insight to the community conditions on the island but also further enhanced my educational experience. However, I have no way of describing all the amazing things I experienced in a few sentences, let alone a few hours. You just have to go." - **Jade Rivera**



### Alumni Spotlight | CHRISTINE TENORIO '08

At the alumni networking event at Pika's Cafe in Guam. (Keith Camacho)

"2018 marked 10 years since I graduated from UCLA. During my time at UCLA, it was rare to find another Chamorro or Pacific Islander on campus. I didn't realize how underrepresented our ethnic group is in higher education, at less than 1 percent of the total campus population. The **Pacific Islands Student Association** became my home away from home. The **Community Programs Office Pacific Islander Education and Retention** project at the middle school and high schools became the priority, to encourage students to attain a higher education.

It was always my goal to return to my home on the island of Guam, which I did upon graduation from law school in 2011. Since my return, I have realized that local alumni are scarce. It has become increasingly evident to me that there is a need for college outreach and recruitment, as well as a need for a UCLA alumni base to start the recruitment project.

It was **Professor Keith Camacho** that sparked the interest of having a UCLA Alumni Event in Guam. The goal was to host a networking event and provide a forum for UCLA alumni to share their individual UCLA experiences. Through a little detective work using social media and personal connections, and with the assistance of **Bonnie Chen** from

the **UCLA Alumni Affairs Diversity Programs**, we were able to locate both undergraduates and graduates from UCLA College of Letters and Science, Fielding School of Public Health, and School of Law. The event took place on July 6, 2018, featuring a panel of UCLA alumni, including gubernatorial candidates, lawyers, and teachers. The UCLA alumni also had the opportunity to network with the visiting students involved in the UCLA Guam Travel Study Program. We discussed how we Bruins could collaborate to encourage prospective students to join the Bruin family. And in true Bruin progressive nature, the UCLA Guam Alumni Association was born, to be an offshoot of the UCLA Pacific Islander Alumni Association. We are so excited to move forward with our plans for student outreach and Bruin collaboration. This event could not have been possible without the coordination of Professor Keith Camacho and sponsorship by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Asian American Studies Department, Department of Community Health Sciences, Division of Social Sciences, and the James West Alumni Center. Go Bruins!"





At the IAC 2018 Fall Forum with **David K. Yoo, Josen Diaz, Roy Perez, Nancy Mithlo and Yatta Kiazolu.** (UCLA Photography)

2018-2019 academic year brings several scholars to campus. The Center welcomed IAC-AASC Visiting Researcher **Dr. Josen Diaz** of University of San Diego and AASC Visiting Scholars **Dr. Lu Xia** of Peking University and **Dr. Kai Wang** of Minzu University of China. **Dr. Kiri Sailiata**, UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in Asian American Studies, also returned for another year at UCLA to continue her research.

## THE CENTER WELCOMES VISITING SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS FOR 2018-2019

Josen Diaz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies at UC Riverside. Diaz completed her doctorate in Literature at the University of California, San Diego in 2014. She is currently working on a book manuscript exploring the formation of post-1965 Filipino American subjectivity at the intersections of U.S. liberalism, Philippine authoritarianism, and transpacific cold war politics. Diaz grounds her pedagogy in interdisciplinary and student-centered practices. She teaches Introduction to Ethnic Studies, Race and Globalization, and Filipino American Studies.

Lu Xia's research focuses on Vietnamese and Vietnamese American Literature and in particular, the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning

author Viet Thanh Nguyen. She is an expert on Vietnamese-Chinese literature.

Kai Wang is currently working on his research project focused on the Chinese in Peru and the works of Chinese Peruvian writer Siu Kam Wen, a martial arts fiction writer.

Kiri Sailiata, who completed her PhD in the Department of American Culture at the University of Michigan, is continuing to develop 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 2017-2018 IAC VISITING SCHOLAR CRYSTAL MUN-HYE BAIK

During this past academic year, I spent my time as an IAC Visiting Research Scholar graciously hosted by UCLA's iconic Asian American Studies Center (AASC). In many ways, the fellowship was an ideal situation for me: already based and living in Los Angeles, I had the opportunity to spend an entire academic year completing my first book manuscript titled "**Reencounters: On the Korean War & Diasporic Memory Critique**" (forthcoming with Temple University Press). An interdisciplinary project that carefully examines the everyday if not insidious implications of the Korean War across a transnational range of sites, including Korea, Jeju, Western Europe and North America, my book benefited tremendously from the generative conversations I had with UCLA-based scholars and mentors. These scholars include **Professors Keith Camacho, Grace Hong, Thu-Huong Nguyen-Vo, Namhee Lee and David Yoo**, as well as UC Presidential Postdoctoral fellow **Kiri Sailiata** (my wonderful office-mate for the year).

My year at UCLA was also an exciting and pivotal time, given that AASC welcomed a new director, **Karen Umemoto**. Throughout my time at UCLA, Karen and AASC's staff, including **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Irene Soriano, Barbra Ramos, Marjorie Lee and Betty Leung**, provided a warm and receptive writing environment. In fact, each time I saw Karen and Melany, they repeated to me that I should commit as much time and energy to finishing my book project (this became a mantra of sorts last year). Every time I arrived on campus, I realized how fortunate I was to have so much substantive time to write at a center that has supported so many Asian Americanists—I truly felt like a luxury. Graduating from my doctorate program at USC in four years and immediately transitioning into a tenure-track position (without the option of deferring my appointment at UC Riverside), I felt overwhelmed by the prospect of overhauling my dissertation into this thing we call a "book." And given my own family obligations in the Los Angeles area (and also, the crucial social network of peers, allies and other folx who have

Crystal with the 2016-2017 Visiting Scholar **Mark Padoongpatt** at the AASC Community Gathering & Alumni Mixer in SF during the AAAS Conference. (UCLA AASC)



proved to be a crucial source of comfort and sanity these past few years), it would have been tricky and in many ways, unrealistic for me to leave the Southern California area for a writing residency or fellowship. Receiving the IAC Visiting Scholar fellowship, then, came at a perfect time; it's not an understatement to say that I would have never completed my book along with six (yes, six!!) articles, anthology chapters and encyclopedic entries had it not been for this time away from teaching and service obligations at UC Riverside.

But my time at UCLA wasn't only about working quietly at my desk: I also had meaningful opportunities to spend time and organize with UCLA peers and friends. Along with Karen's arrival at UCLA, the Department of Asian American Studies and the Department of Gender Studies welcomed the appointment of two stellar scholars whose research focuses on Korea and the Korean diaspora: **Professors Jennifer Chun and Ju Hui Judy Han**, respectively. Mobilizing critical feminist and queer analyses in their interdisciplinary scholarship, Jennifer and Judy are incredibly important additions to UCLA and I am certain their work will further enrich the university's community of scholars. In April 2018, Professor Grace Hong and I also co-organized a poetry reading with the brilliant writer **Don Mee Choi**, as she read from her collection of poems, **Hardly War** (this particular collection addresses the militarized and colonial implications of the Korean War). In a moving sense, the reading was serendipitous because it overlapped (to the hour) with the Inter-Korean Summit held between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Again, I am so grateful to the IAC and the AASC for supporting my work and the work of other junior scholars who are completing their first books.

*Crystal Baik is currently an Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexuality at University of California, Riverside.*

## PROJECTS

The Center for EthnoCommunications, led by **Director Renee Tajima-Peña** and **Assistant Director Janet Chen**, worked on several projects this past year. As AASC prepares for its 50th anniversary, Janet currently leads the film team for **AASC's Collective Memories Project**, which documents oral histories to examine the events and experiences of campus and local community people that led to the formation of Asian American Studies at UCLA.

EthnoCommunications provided institutional support to the **Asian American Documentary Network (A-DOC)**, which works to increase the visibility and support of Asian Americans in the documentary field. Janet served as A-DOC manager and Renee as core advisor; both were central to organizing convenings and panels of filmmakers at the Association of Asian American Studies Conference in San Francisco, the Asian Americans Advancing Justice Conference in DC, San Francisco's CAAMFest, Visual Communications (VC) Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF) and International Documentary Association's Getting Real '18 Conference. Students from Asian Am 191B (Renee's course on archival research for documentary filmmaking) helped to develop a database of Asian American documentary films that will be incorporated into A-Doc's resources for Asian American Studies and public media users. It can be found online at <https://a-doc.org>.

Janet's "Mr. Lau Goes Herbal: Chinese Herbalists," the first in a series of three short films of the **Lau Chinese American History Documentary Project**, premiered at LAAPFF 2018 and also screened at the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California as part of the special program, "An Evening with Filmmaker Janet Chen," alongside five student films. The next film "Phoenix Bakery, Chinatown" will be completed by the end of 2018. The project was founded by Janet along with **IAC Vice Provost and Professor David K. Yoo** and the late **Mr. Stanley Lau**, who passed away in December 2017.

The **Nikkei Democracy Project**, a multi-media collective Renee co-founded, continued to use video, art, and social media to capture the power of the Japanese American imprisonment story and expose current threats to the Constitutional rights. Four web videos were produced in 2017-18, with several featured in the *LA Times* and BuzzFeed. They were also presented at educational and community venues, including The Seikatsu Room, a space in Little Tokyo celebrating the livelihood of AAPI communities, at LAAPFF 2018.

With Renee as project director and Janet as producer, phases of **Building History 3.0: Learning About Japanese American Incarceration Camps Through Minecraft** near completion. When finished, it will have an online, game-based curriculum that can be taught in a variety of settings, including schools, community and cultural institutions, and at home. The website will be done by the end of 2018 and testing and outreach will start in the new year.

Renee and her team will soon start production on "**The Asian Americans**," a public television documentary series, with Janet working on the series's educational components. While Renee is on sabbatical for the series, award-winning filmmaker and alum **Tadashi Nakamura** will be teaching the Creating Community Media courses.

## EVENTS & HONORS

Renee screened her films, including **No Más Bebés, My America... (or honk if you love Buddha)**, and **Who Killed Vincent Chin?** at various venues across the country and received the following awards: **The Past/Forward Award** at VC's 49th anniversary, the **2018 Golden Spike Storytellers Award** from the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, and a coveted national **News and Documentary Emmy Award nomination** for *No Más Bebés*. In celebration of the 20th anniversary of *My America...*, Renee and Janet organized a screening and discussion with special guest, composer and Alpert School of Music artist-in-residence, **Jon Jang**, moderated by ethnomusicologist and AASD lecturer, **Kim Nguyen Tran**. Janet was also honored as one of the "**Humans of Visual Communications**" for VC's campaign and was also featured in their organization's gala video (edited by **Walt Louie**).

## STUDENT FILMS



In the **Creating Community Media** course series, students (pictured above) continue to tell their under-represented and recent stories. The following films from Asian American Studies 142C were screened at UCLA:

- **"50 Strong" | Dirs: Ashley Chuang, Sophia Ling, Mina Suh**  
Experience the intensity and camaraderie of being part of UCLA's Dragonboat racing team!
- **"LIMBO (Bj Kët)" | Dirs: Lan Nguyen and Daniel Luu**  
A refugee of the Vietnam War in the U.S. is now awaiting deportation as a result of the challenges faced by refugees struggling to integrate into American society.
- **"Chingooz" | Dir: Melanie Nomiya and Stephanie Xu**  
Meet the famous chicken shirt and its human creator.
- **"Culture Night" | Dir: Justin Martin**  
Watch as a performer gets ready for UCLA Samahang's Pilipino Culture Night.
- **"Finding Mauritius" | Dir: Sandra Carbonell-Kiamtia**  
The origins of a remixed family name reveal a multi-ethnic and cultural background that crosses countries.
- **"Lights Up: Asian American Theater at UCLA" | Dir: Arielle Bagood**  
Founded by Randall Park and friends, LCC Theatre Company at UCLA navigates what it means now to be an Asian American theater company.
- **"Missing Piece Project" | Dir: Daniel Luu**  
To honor the Southeast Asian experiences during the Vietnam War, a group of millennials bring handmade pieces to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. for a collective dedication.
- **"Saffron and Rose: Persian Ice Cream" | Dir: Robyn Kim**  
Get a taste of the story of Saffron and Rose, a family-owned Persian ice cream shop in West LA.

Four student films produced in the Creating Community Media courses also premiered publicly at LAAPFF 2018:

- **"Life in Color" | Dir: Melody Chen**
- **"The Weight Off My Chest" | Dir: Emory Johnson**
- **"Cultural Collage" | Dir: 'Inoke Hafoka**
- **"Daughter" | Dir: Amanda Lee**

Recent EthnoCommunications students, **Lan Nguyen and Daniel Luu's** film "LIMBO (Bj Kët)" was also screened at the 2018 Viet Film Fest in Orange County. **Rita Phetmixay's** documentary "Phetmixay Means Fighter," which was produced in EthnoCommunications, earned an CAAMFest's InspirAsian at AT&T Student Film Award.

Over 100 films can be checked out for educational or community screening use. For more information, please contact [jchen@aasc.ucla.edu](mailto:jchen@aasc.ucla.edu). Follow the Center for EthnoCommunications online at <https://www.facebook.com/ethnocommunications>.

# 2018-2019 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AWARDS, GRANTS,

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

### CALIFORNIA JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

PROJECT: 2018 Nikkei Community Internship

### GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

PROJECT: Go for Broke National Education Center 2018 Internship Program

### JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

PROJECT: Fiesta Matsuri

### JAPANESE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION

PROJECT: 20th Annual Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo

### KIZUNA LITTLE TOKYO, INC

PROJECT: Developing the Next Generation of Japanese Americans through Kizuna's High School Leadership Program

### LITTLE TOKYO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROJECT: Sei Fujii: Issei Civil Rights Leader

### LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER

PROJECT: Bridging South Bay Nikkei

### MEDIA BRIDGES, INC

PROJECT: Mineta Legacy Project

### MUSICAL HEALS SOCIAL

PROJECT: Music Therapy Drum Circle Programs for Japanese American & Asian American Seniors Citizens, Long-term Residents, Veterans & the Elderly with Limited Motor Skills

### NICHI BEI FOUNDATION

PROJECT: 2018 Films of Remembrance

### NIKKEI STUDENT UNION AT UCLA

PROJECT: 32nd Annual Cultural Night

### OKAERI LOS ANGELES

PROJECT: Building Nikkei LGBTQ Community

### RISING STARS YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

PROJECT: Rising Stars College Life 101

### WASHIZU FILMS

PROJECT: Preservation of the 1984 Japanese-language Film

### ZENTOKU FOUNDATION

PROJECT: Paper Chase: Curating the JA Experience

## FACULTY & VISITING SCHOLARS/RESEARCHERS AWARDEES

### *C. Doris & Toshio Hoshida Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA*

#### BENJAMIN WOO

Associate Clinical Professor   Psychology

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

#### LUCY MAE SAN PABLO BURNS

Associate Professor   Asian American Studies

### *Institute of American Cultures (IAC)/AASC Faculty Research Grants*

#### RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA

Professor   Asian American Studies  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Three Nikkei Fathers: A Social Documentary Trilogy

#### LORRIE YOKLEY

Assistant Professor   Political Science  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Women of Color, Intersectionality, and the Geography of Electoral Politics in the United States

### *IAC/AASC Visiting Scholar/Researcher Fellowship*

#### JOSEN DIAZ

Assistant Professor   Asian American Studies (University of San Diego)  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Configurations of Martial Law: The U.S.-Philippine Cold War and the Making of Filipino America

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

### *IAC/AASC Graduate Student Research Grants*

#### SHAREE ANZALDO

PhD Student   Nursing  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Filipino American Parental Beliefs and Perceptions about Managing Care for a Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder

#### ARUNA EKANAYAKE

PhD Student   Film & Television  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Incarceration, Immigration & the Police State: Cinema & Decolonization following the Civil Rights Era

#### JAMES HUỠNH

MA/MPH Student   Asian American Studies and Public Health  
RESEARCH PROJECT: We're Here, We're Queer, Happy New Year! LGBTQ Vietnamese American Intergenerational Organizing and its Impacts on Quality of Life

#### TAMAR KODISH

PhD Student   Psychology  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Perspectives on School-Based Suicide Risk Assessment and Referral Procedures: Barriers and Facilitators to Mental Health Services for Ethnic Minority Youth

#### EDWARD NADURATA

MA Student   Asian American Studies  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Who Cares?: Labor, Ability, and Elderly Filipina Migration

#### MIKE HOA NGUYEN

PhD Candidate   Education - Public Policy  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Federally Funded Diversity Initiatives: Building Capacity for Civic Engagement at Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions

#### JOSEPHINE FAITH ONG

MA Student   Asian American Studies  
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Colonial Boundaries of Exile: Contextualizing Mabini's Incarceration in Guåhan

#### BRYAN WILCOX-ARCHULETA

PhD Student   Political Science  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Identity Politics in Context: How Context Shapes Our Connection to Groups and Our Politics

### *George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship*

#### GREGORY TADASHI TOY

PhD Candidate   English - Asian American Literature  
RESEARCH PROJECT: First Street North Project  
PROJECT SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center

### *Chang-Lin Tien Fellowship*

#### CHAU LY

PhD Student   Education - Public Policy

#### JAMES HUỠNH

MA/MPH Student   Asian American Studies and Public Health

### *21st Century Graduate Fellowship*

#### MIKE HOA NGUYEN

PhD Candidate   Education - Public Policy  
RESEARCH PROJECT: Federally Funded Diversity Initiatives: Building Capacity for Civic Engagement at Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions

#### CHRISTIAN GELLA

MA Student   Asian American Studies  
RESEARCH PROJECT: "THE SCOOP... ON PATWIN PROTEST": Critically reframing Filipino-American relationship to Patwin land and tribe

### *Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship*

#### JOSEPHINE FAITH ONG

MA Student   Asian American Studies  
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Colonial Boundaries of Exile: Contextualizing Mabini's Incarceration in Guåhan



# ACADEMIC PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS



Internship Spotlight | CAROLINE CALDERON

Pictured with Little Tokyo Historical Society at Nisei Week.

*"I see that historic preservation is about the importance in community ownership of land and spaces. I am glad that I have been able to incorporate my urban planning knowledge and skills in my internship thus far. For example, I was able to use Planning Department and Assessor Portal data to support the creation of a comprehensive database of small businesses and property owners in the neighborhood. Little Tokyo presents one approach to neighborhood stabilization and historic preservation through a community investment fund, but I hope that through APIAHiP, I will learn other strategies from the forum attendees and community partners."*

## Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Graduate Internship

### CAROLINE CALDERON

MA Student Urban & Regional Planning - Design & Development, Housing & Community Economic Development

RESEARCH PROJECT: Japanese American sites in Little Tokyo for Historic-Cultural Monument designation and 2018 National Asian and Pacific Islander Historic Preservation forum program development

INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Historical Society and Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation

## 21st Century Graduate Internship

### CHRISTIAN GELLA

MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: AAS Collective Memories Project

INTERNSHIP SITE: UCLA Asian American Studies Center and UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications

## Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize

### VIVIEN LEUNG

PhD Student Political Science - Race, Ethnicity & Politics

PAPER TITLE: Shifting Grounds: Diversity, Density, and Asian American Identity

### JAMES HUYNH

MA/MPH Student Asian American Studies and Public Health

PAPER TITLE: I'm Not Sick, I'm Gay

## Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize

### LAN NGUYEN

MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare

PAPER TITLE: The Politics of Remembrance: Commemoration and Forgetting the End of the Vietnam War

## Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

### EDWARD NADURATA

MA Student Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Indigeneity on the Move: The Changing Logics of the Diasporic "Indigenous" Philippine Subject

## Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize

### JADE VERDEFLO

MA Student Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Bahala Na, Leave It Up to God: Exploring Filipino American Caregiver Cultural Values, Mental Health Perceptions, and Coping Strategies

## Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Prize

### TIFFANY WANG-SU TRAN

MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare

PAPER TITLE: Intergenerational Trauma Among Second-Generation Chinese-Vietnamese Americans

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

### JOSEPHINE FAITH ONG

MA Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: The Boundaries of Settler Colonialism: Japanese American Incarceration and Assimilation into Settler Society in Hawai'i

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

## Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award

### ROHAN SINGH KHAJURIA

MAJOR: Computer Science

## Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship

### CHEYENNE AOELUA

MAJOR: Political Science

MINOR: Education

ESSAY TITLE: Community Service in the Pacific Islander Community

## Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship

### NIKKI YAMAMOTO

MAJOR: Physiological Science

PAPER TITLE: Effects of Internment Through Three Generations of Japanese Americans

## 21st Century Undergraduate Scholarship

### LEANN PHAM

MAJORS: Political Science and Asian American Studies

MINOR: Cognitive Science

PAPER TITLE: Asian American Narratives and Campus Sexual Violence

## Nhat H. Tran, M.D. Scholarship

### JENNIFER PHUNG

MAJOR: Psychobiology

MINOR: Disability Studies

ESSAY TITLE: Suffering from Severe Nearsightedness

## 21st Century Undergraduate Internship

### LIAN MAE TUALLA

MAJOR: Environmental Science

MINORS: Environmental Systems & Society and Digital Humanities

RESEARCH PROJECT: AAS Collective Memories Project

INTERNSHIP SITE: UCLA Asian American Studies Center and UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications

## George & Sakaye Aratani Community Internship

### DYLAN KOBAYASHI HAN

MAJOR: Fine Art

MINOR: Asian American Studies and Cognitive Science

INTERNSHIP SITE: Sustainable Little Tokyo - Japanese American Community and Cultural Center

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

### JODIE FUNG

MAJOR: Asian American Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: Chinese American Museum

## Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize

### ANGELA LI

MAJORS: Political Science and Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: From Nineteenth Century to Today: The Feminization of Asian American Men and Its Lasting Effects

## Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize

### LUCY MA

MAJOR: Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Guam: The Pursuit of Equal Protection and Self-Determination

## Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Undergraduate Prize

### JANELLE GAYAC

MAJOR: Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Solidarity & Citizenship

## Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

### ANGELA LI

MAJORS: Political Science and Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Navigating the Grey in the Paradox of America: The Good, the Bad, and the Uncertain Reality

# 2017-2018 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES SUPPORTERS



1) Helen and Morgan Chu; 2) Anne Mizutani, Sandy Toshiyuki, Susan Toy Stern, and Randy Sakamoto; 3) Valerie Matsumoto, Tina Yamano Nishida, and Tritia Toyota; 4) Art Nomura and Nancy Oda; 5) Suellen Cheng Kwok, Karen Umemoto, and Munson Kwok (1,3: UCLA Luskin; 2, 4, 5: UCLA AASC)

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MAJOR ENDOWMENT GIFTS

**Helen and Morgan Chu**  
**Stanley Kwok Lau**

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR MAJOR GIFTS

**Shirley Hune and Kenyon S. Chan**  
**Helen and Herbert Kawahara**  
**Carol K. Mochizuki**  
**Tina Y. and David A. Nishida**  
**Elsie Uyetmasu Osajima**  
**Susan Toy Stern**

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS!\*

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Erica Yamamura and Soren Nielsen  
Carolyn M. Yee and Bill L. Lee  
Janice H. and Chao M. Yen  
Jean Pang Yip  
Margaret York and Lance Ito



# THANK YOU FOR MAKING 2018 A WONDERFUL YEAR!



A partial listing of events hosted by, featuring, and/or co-sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in 2018-

- **Special Receptions** (UCLA Activist-in-Residence Fellows Welcome Reception for Yvonne Yen Liu and Manuel Criollo; [George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair](#) on the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community Reception for Professor Valerie Matsumoto; Inauguration Celebration for the Helen and Morgan Chu Endowed Director's Chair of the Asian American Studies Center Karen Umemoto)
- **Alumni Events** (UCLA Asian American Studies Community-Building and Alumni Mixer in San Francisco; *Allegiance* theater production and UCLA Alumni Reception; Guam Alumni Mixer; UCLA Alumni's Professors in the Pub with IAC/AASC Visiting Scholar Jose Diaz)
- **Book Talks & Readings** (NCCR: *The Grassroots Struggle for Japanese American Redress and Reparations* - by Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress; *This is for the Mostless* by Jason Magabo Perez; *Hapa Japan* - edited by Duncan Ryuken Williams with contributors Velina Hasu Houston, Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu, and Curtis Rooks; *Primates from an Archipelago* by Irene Suico Soriano; *Flavors of Empire: Food and the Making of Thai America* by Mark Padoongpatt in conversation with Robin D. G. Kelley; *Hardly War: A Poetry Reading* with Don Mee Choi; Joint Reading with UCLA AASC and Rabbit Fool Press in San Francisco; *The Displaced Children of Displaced Children* Poetry Reading and Conversation with Faisal Mohyuddin and Tanzila Ahmed; *Golden Children: Legacy of Ethnic Studies, SF State. A Memoir.* by Juanita Tamayo Lott; *Discriminating Sex: White leisure and the making of American "Oriental"* by Amy Sueyoshi)
- **Events with UCLA Common Book *The Best We Could Do* and Author Thi Bui** ([A Conversation and Book Signing featuring Thi Bui with T.K. Lê](#); Common Conversations: A Panel on Southeast Asian Refugee Issues featuring author Thi Bui, with Victor Bascara, Jolie Chea and Thu-huong Nguyen-vo; Common Book Zine-Making Workshop)
- **The Philippines and Its Elsewheres Series** ("International Exchange Studies and the Making of a Global Citizen in the 21st Century" with Rick Bonus, Ninez Ponce, and Stephen Acabado; "A Dialogue on the Challenges of Minoritized Academic Fields at this Time" featuring Neferti Tadiar and Allan Punzalan Isaac, with Steven Nelson; Listening Party/Afterlives of Martial Law -with Christine Balance and DJs Raket and Rambol; PilipinX America: Southern California Pinays Voice Out at Pasadena LitFest)
- **Refugee Re/enactments** (Performance and Panel with Tiffany Lytle, Leisy Abrego, Lucy Burns, Jolie Chea, and Thu-huong Nguyen-vo; 100 Years of Protest at UCLA Panel with York Chang, Robert Karimi, and Jolie Chea; *For Her*: Tiffany Lytle and Joy Alpuerto Ritter at Highways Performance Space)
- **2017-18 UCLA Visiting Speaker Series on Issues in Digital Archiving**
- **UCLA Housing, Equity & Community Series** ("Since the Sixties: The SLA Homeownership Crisis" with Melany De La Cruz-Viesca and Paul Ong; "Beyond Zip Codes: Unpacking the Place-Health Nexus" with Paul Ong)
- **Guest Lectures and Talks** (Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu; William Gao; Helen Zia)
- **Film Screenings and Discussions** (*My America (...or honk if you love Buddha)* film screening with Renee Tajima-Peña, Jon Jang, and Kim Nguyen Tran; Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival by Visual Communications - featuring films from the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications, UCLA's film school's Ethno-Communications Program, and the Nikkei Democracy Project)
- **Conferences and Symposia** (Association for Asian American Studies 38th National Conference: "Solidarity and Resistance: Toward Asian American Commitment to Fierce Alliances"; 2018 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Conference; Edible Feminisms: On Discard, Waste and Metabolism; Symposium on Social Networks in a Transnational World: Chinese and Indian Entrepreneurs in the United States; Korean American Socio-Political Organizing in the Age of Trump conference)
- **Special Topic Panel Discussions** (*The Suyama Project* - Website Presentation plus James Omura and the Heart Mountain Draft Resisters Talk/Discussion with Art Hansen; Being Asian Pacific Islander in Trump's America: Countering Racist Rhetoric and Combatting Xenophobic Policies Against Our Communities with Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and U.S. Representative Ted Lieu; Affirmative Action Panel by Asian Pacific Alumni of UCLA and Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association)
- **Community Events** (Day of Remembrance at Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute with Valerie Matsumoto; Manzanar Pilgrimage; The Japanese American Redress Movement and Social Justice Today: Thirty Years of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 at the Japanese American National Museum)
- **UCLA IAC Events** (UCLA Institute of American Cultures Fall Forum; UCLA Ethnic Studies Holiday Potluck)
- **UCLA Asian American Studies Department Events** (UCLA Ethnic and Indigenous Studies Welcome; UCLA Asian American Studies MA Orientation; UCLA Asian American Studies Department Graduation)
- **UCLA AASC Staff, Faculty and Student Gatherings** ([UCLA AASC End of the Year Celebration](#); UCLA AASC Staff Retreat; UCLA AASC Faculty Advisory Committee Retreat; UCLA AASC Staff and Student Gathering)

\*Events in blue pictured to the left.



# UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

2019

### WINTER

#### **INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN CULTURES FILM FESTIVAL**

*Celebrating 50 Years of Ethnic Studies on Screen by UCLA Alumni*

Friday, February 1, 2019 @ UCLA James West Alumni Center

The Institute of American Cultures and the four ethnic studies centers start off their 50th anniversary celebrations with a special day of film screenings. AASC is presenting “Cruisin’ J-Town” (1974) by Duane Kubo and “My Name is Asiroh” (2013) by Asiroh Cham. Both filmmakers will be in attendance for a panel discussion.

#### **LUNAR NEW YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON**

AASC will be thanking our donors and honoring the students, faculty and scholars recognized for the research and scholarship with awards, grants, fellowships, internships, and scholarships from the Center.

### SPRING

#### **THE DAVID AND TINA YAMANO NISHIDA DISTINGUISHED LECTURESHIP IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

The Nishida Lecture will bring a leading scholar on campus to address important topics related to Asian American Studies and AAPI communities. Previous Nishida lectures were given by Jeff Chang, traci kato-kiriyama, and Erika Lee.

### SUMMER

#### **ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES FOUNDERS REUNION**

Building upon the stories being shared in the Collective Memories Project, the Center will bring together people involved with the founding of the Center and its early days at UCLA.

### FALL

#### **AAPI RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY CONFERENCE**

The Center, in partnership with the Asian American Studies Department, will present a special conference on current academic and community-based research being done on, for, and by Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

### The UCLA Asian American Studies Center was founded in 1969.

AASC, along with the three other ethnic studies centers and the Institute of American Cultures, will be celebrating our 50th anniversaries during 2019 and 2020. These celebrations will also coincide with UCLA’s centennial year.

We’ve come a long way since 1969—from teaching the first Asian American studies courses at UCLA, producing two of the pre-eminent journals in our field, leading the Interdepartmental masters, major and minor programs, launching the Asian American Studies Department, supporting the Center for EthnoCommunications, processing important collections, fostering AAPI researchers and scholars, and so much more. Many people have been with us on this journey—whether as students, faculty, staff, organizational partners or community members—and we thank you for all you have done to help us reach this milestone.

We invite you to connect—or reconnect—with the Center and to join us for our slate of special programming and events that not only mark how far we’ve come and the accomplishments we’ve made, but also look forward to the future of Asian American Studies.

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UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
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2020

### WINTER

#### **ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES COMMEMORATIVE FILM SERIES**

In partnership with the Theater, Film, and Television Department, the Center will present a series of films related to Asian American and Pacific Islander histories, issues, and experiences.

### SPRING

#### **INTERGENERATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ASIAN AMERICAN ACTIVISM**

The Center will present a symposium focused on the historical and current movements within Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

**PLUS MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

To stay up to date, sign up at [bit.ly/AASC50](http://bit.ly/AASC50)