

CROSSCURRENTS

Annual Newsmagazine of the *UCLA Asian American Studies Center*



55 YEARS of Ethnic Studies at UCLA



BRIDGING RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY

SINCE 1969

2024 EDITION

VOLUME 46



Asian American Studies Center

3230 Campbell Hall
405 Hilgard Ave, Box 951546
Los Angeles, CA 90095
www.aasc.ucla.edu
(310) 825-2974

CROSSCURRENTS VOLUME 46 | Published December 2024

EDITOR & DESIGNER MAYA LU **ASSISTANT EDITOR & DESIGNER** CINDY QUACH
CONTRIBUTORS MELANY DE LA CRUZ-VIESCA, KELLY FONG, NANCY MATSUMOTO, ARNOLD PAN,
NIDHI SATYAGAL, RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA, PHIL TIMOTEO, KAREN UMEMOTO, ANOU VANG

For 55 years, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) has worked to deepen scholarship and public understanding of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) lives towards a healthy, just, democratic, and compassionate society for all. As the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, **CrossCurrents** keeps readers informed of Center activities - including initiatives, programs, research projects, achievements, and relevant university and community issues. Past issues can be found on the Center's website.

Cover images: (Top banner, left to right) Flags of American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guåhan (Guam), Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian), Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga at the UCLA Pasifika Community Reception. Together, they represent all the homes of UCLA's new Pasifika scholars. (Center image) Celebration of Helen and Morgan Chu for their \$10 million gift to the Institute of American Cultures. (Left to right) Bunche Center Director Lorrie Frasure, AASC Director Karen Umemoto, Helen Chu, Morgan Chu, CSRC Director Veronica Terriquez, and AISC Director Shannon Speed.



If you wish to support the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, please scan the QR code or 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 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 **CHRISTI CORPUS**, Director of Development, UCLA Institute of American Cultures, at (310) 794-2396 or ccorpus@support.ucla.edu.

CENTER STAFF

Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Director's Chair
and AAPI Multimedia Textbook Project Co-Director

KAREN UMEMOTO

Deputy Director & AAPI Nexus Journal Managing Editor

MELANY DE LA CRUZ-VIESCA

Information Technology Manager

TAM NGUYEN

Senior Management Services Officers

BETTY LEUNG

JAMIE CHAN

Librarian, Information Specialist, and Archivist

MARJORIE LEE

Student & Community Engagement Coordinator

MEG THORNTON

Lead Software Engineer

DANIEL H. KIM

Office Manager

ROLAND FANG

Communications and Publications Coordinator

MAYA LU

Pacific Islander Studies Project Coordinator

PHIL TIMOTEO

AASC Press Editor & Amerasia Journal Associate Editor

ARNOLD PAN

Research Project Coordinator

CHRISTINE WANG

Academic Researcher

TRITIA TOYOTA

EthnoCommunications Director

RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA

Amerasia Journal Editor

VICTOR BASCARA

Executive Assistant

CINDY QUACH

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Project Co-Director

KELLY FONG

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Senior Project Manager

REBECCA APOSTOL

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Managing Editor

ROBERT KU

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Senior Editor

TK LÊ

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Copy Editor

ISABEL NGO

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Content Editor

MISHA CHOUDHRY

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Editorial Assistant

VICTOR XIE

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Communications
and Development Coordinator

ABIGAIL CHUN

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Senior Content Manager

CHRISTINE LEE

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Content and Curriculum Assistant

NATALYA HILL

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Senior Outreach Advisor

ARLENE INOUE

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Outreach Coordinator

CHRISTIAN-JOSEPH MACAHILIG

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Teacher Training Coordinator

EUNICE HO

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Senior Multimedia Producer

JANET CHEN (MA)

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Senior Multimedia
Associate Producer

EMORY CHAO JOHNSON

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Multimedia Associate Producer

MENA DOLINH

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Graphic Designer

WEI YIN

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Front-End Developer

VANESSA LIN

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Data Collection
Management Specialist

PRACH PRASERWIT

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Web Designer

ANDRAE CHIN

Research, Publication, and Archival Project Assistantss

LIEN-JOY CAMPBELL

MISHA CHOUDHRY

LAUREN HO

EMIKO KRANZ

ALBERTO LUCAS

RUETING JIA

CHRISTOPHER NAKATSUKA

MARGARET SEAY

LINH VO

Graduate Student Researchers, Assistants, Coordinators,
& Interns (2023-24)

JAIME DING

BRIAN KOHAYA

JANINE ROGERS

NIDHI SATYAGAL

MAYA SINHA

JASMINE TILL

STEVEN TRAN

ANOU VANG

WYATT WU

Undergraduate Student Assistants, Coordinators
& Interns (2023-24)

SAMANTHA CHEN

SAMANTHA CO

ARCYFAMAE FORTIN

HALEY HOSOKAWA

ANTONI ISON

RISHAB KHURANA

ALEXA LE

LINH LE

JORDAN LIN

EMMI LYNDS

ALAN NGUYEN

SERENA ONG

EMILY OTOSHI

TIFFANY PHAM

YUMA SHIGYO

YLIAH STUART-SERRANO

PHUONG TRANG

We'd like to give a special thank you to AAPI Mutlimedia
Textbook staff Faithy Leong, Kevin Ouyang, and Vi Truong.

LETTER FROM
THE DIRECTOR



To Educate Others, to Educate Ourselves

“Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to assume responsibility for it.” — Hannah Arendt

“Just as human beings make their own history, they also make their cultures and ethnic identities.” — Edward Said

Educational institutions, including UCLA, are facing major threats to civil rights, particularly the right to free speech, protest and academic freedom. The events of last spring highlighted these challenges when counter protesters attacked students, staff, and faculty in the Palestine solidarity encampment on the Royce quad, lasting hours without security protection. This incident underscores the importance of safeguarding the right to political expression, regardless of one’s stance, as it is a fundamental pillar of any democracy.

A second threat is academic freedom. The banning of educational materials on issues of race, gender and LGBTQ+ communities at the national level continues to escalate. The passage of bills like California’s Freedom to Read Act are an important part of the resistance to such censorship and tyranny. It is crucial that we remain vigilant in defending academic freedom to ensure that diverse voices and perspectives are not silenced in our educational institutions.

We stand committed to protecting these fundamental rights and freedoms through all of our endeavors. The AAPI Policy Initiative, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Multimedia Textbook, our publications, library services, archival projects, and educational programs are all integral parts of this mission. Our goal is to foster a society where all can thrive equally without prejudice.

To paraphrase Arendt and Said above, we “assume responsibility” as we continue “to make our own history.” We need each other more than ever and look forward to building support and solidarity in the months ahead.

With gratitude,

Karen Umemoto, Ph.D.

Helen and Morgan Chu Chair and Director
of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

- 02 Center Staff
- 03 Letter from Director
- 04 Foundations and Futures
AAPI Multimedia Textbook

Policy Initiative

- 07 AAPI Policy Summit
- 08 Policy Report Highlight
- 09 AAPI Nexus

Highlights

- 10 Institute of American Culture News
- 12 Yuri Kochiyama Exhibition
- 13 Activist in Residence: Shengxiao “Sole” Yu

- 14 *Free Chol Soo Lee* Documentary Wins Emmy!

- 15 Bruins Rising Initiative Updates
- 16 New Pasifika Scholars
- 18 Featured Events
- 20 Faculty Spotlight and News

Class of 2024 Spotlights

- 21 Undergraduate: Victor Xie
- 22 Graduate: Trinity Gabato

Project News and Updates

- 23 Amerasia Journal
New Publication - *By the Shore of Lake Michigan*
- 24 Center for EthnoCommunications

Acknowledgements

- 25 Retirement Celebrations
- 26 In Memoriam
- 28 Grants and Fellowships
- 29 Scholarships, Internships, and Awards
- 31 Donors and Supporters
- 32 Back Cover (Photo Collage)



FOUNDATIONS and FUTURES

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MULTIMEDIA TEXTBOOK

Cultivating historical empathy for a multicultural democracy through Ethnic Studies

Ethnic Studies in schools and colleges is one of the most powerful tools to address the racial and political divides steeped in the growing inequalities and in anti-immigrant and anti-Asian rhetoric. Ethnic Studies pedagogy encourages us to create safe and imaginative spaces for self-reflection, bridge building, and collaboration to explore and solve urgent problems of our day. Its principles aim to:

1. Build a foundational understanding about the histories and experiences of communities of color and Indigenous peoples
2. Develop skills to communicate, understand, engage and articulate different perspectives and ways of knowing
3. Nurture critical thinking and inquiry on fundamental assumptions and structures creating and reinforcing power and inequality
4. Cultivate holistic well-being amongst all and connections across difference by strengthening historical empathy, self-worth and mutual respect, cultural expression, and cross-cultural understanding
5. Grow wisdom to create new possibilities and solidarities for a more just, equitable, democratic, non-racist, compassionate, and sustainable society

The Asian American Studies Center is creating ***Foundations and Futures: Asian American and Pacific Islander Multimedia Textbook***, with chapters to be released throughout 2025. This will be the most comprehensive collection of free, online multimedia chapters and curricula covering a wide span of histories and experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Written by academic and community experts, we hope it will bring our stories and voices to homes and classrooms around the world.

While some say that Asian American history is American history, we also believe that one cannot fully understand American history if not also through the eyes of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Education has the power to cultivate historical empathy. Our multimedia textbook provides a model for Ethnic Studies pedagogy to foster historical empathy through the life stories and historical narratives held in our communities. This is done through:

- **Contextualization:** Recognizing how past events and decisions influence present-day politics to help analyze the root causes of problems like racial violence or anti-immigrant policies.
- **Perspective-taking:** Encouraging people to put themselves in others' shoes to understand the motivations and beliefs of different groups for more meaningful communication and collaboration.
- **Affective connection and engagement:** Fostering emotional connections with historical narratives to inspire ethical actions and promote social justice within current political discourse and activity.

Teaching Asian American Studies using Ethnic Studies pedagogy can go a long way towards nurturing more engaged, thoughtful, and collaborative leaders for the future. We look forward to your support for Foundations and Futures as we complete the textbook, provide teacher training and introduce it to classrooms across the country!



LEARN | For more information on Foundations and Futures, visit <https://www.aasc.ucla.edu/textbook>.

We are a **narrative change** project that brings together distinguished **scholarship, open access technology, and ethnic studies pedagogy** to deepen public knowledge about who we are, strengthen students' **historical empathy**, and **bring Asian American and Pacific Islander stories into every classroom.**

Sample Chapter Titles

Japanese American Incarceration During World War II
The Tape Family and Chinese American Civil Rights
Pacific Islanders in the US and Diaspora
Indian Americans
Labor and Activism of Filipina/x/o Farmworkers
Vietnamese Americans
Asian American Exclusion and Citizenship
Patsy Mink: The First Woman of Color in Congress
Asian Americans in the Media
Korean Americans
Kanaka 'Ōiwi (Native Hawaiians)
Thai Americans
New York Chinatown Garment Workers, 1970-2001
Indonesian Americans

...and more!



Staff at the office - including Technology, Multimedia, Editorial, Content, Outreach, and Leadership teams

(Back row) Andrae Chin, Wei Yin, Daniel Kim, Steven Tran, Victor Xie, Prach Prasertwit

(Middle row) Rebecca Apostol, Karen Umemoto, Abigail Chun, Vanessa Lin, Eunice Ho, Janet Chen

(Seated front row) Robert Ku, Arlene Inouye, Christine Lee, Mena Dolinh, Natalya Hill, Cindy Quach

1

HISTORICAL NARRATIVES

Leading scholars, writers, and content experts across the U.S. and Pacific will translate over 50 years of AAPI research into chapters, each subject to rigorous peer and editorial review.

2

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Educators and curriculum developers will create curriculum that meets educational standards and is culturally resonant, age appropriate, and ready to use.

3

DYNAMIC ONLINE PLATFORM

Website developers and UX/UI designers will build an interactive platform for textbook content that uses effective online learning strategies and is engaging and easy to navigate.

4

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

Marketing and outreach teams will work with school districts and colleges to adopt the textbook as the resource of choice for Asian American and ethnic studies classes.

5

TEACHER TRAINING

A network of partners will deliver workshops that help teachers integrate materials into new and existing courses and apply ethnic studies pedagogy to create inclusive classrooms.

AAPI Multimedia Textbook Spotlight: 2024 Events and Outreach

In the past year, the Foundations and Futures team has delivered workshops and presentations at over **25 events nationwide**, including the **California Association of Asian & Pasifika Leaders in Education (CAAPLE)**, **Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHs)**, and **Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS) Conferences**. Partnerships were developed with organizations like **Uniting Voices Chicago** and the **Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)**, in addition to the **American Federation of Teachers (AFT)** and **National Education Association (NEA)**.

Throughout the year, the team's interactions with educators and administrators - both in-person and virtual - have been invaluable. These conversations highlighted the need for a comprehensive curriculum on Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. However, the conversations also revealed the significant lack of educators' exposure to AAPI histories and Ethnic Studies pedagogy, which prevents them from teaching about the histories and topics effectively. The gaps in knowledge and collected feedback present the opportunity to develop a comprehensive curriculum and teacher training infrastructure that best supports educator and student needs amid growing AAPI and Ethnic Studies requirements. **The first Textbook Preview event was held on May 11 in Los Angeles**, and centered discussions on the future of Ethnic Studies education and the importance of building solidarities.



Authors present their work at the AAAS Conference

Professors Diane C. Fujino, Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales, Kelly Fong, Thuy Vo Dang, and Theodore S. Gonzalves showcase their work at the Association of Asian American Studies conference in April 2024. The chapter topics included Asian American Activism, Ethnic Studies, Vietnamese Americans, and Filipinx Americans.



Foundations and Futures Outreach Team

Arlene Inouye and Christian-Joseph Macahilig of the project Outreach Team emceed the Preview Event. Remarks were also given by partners at RFK UCLA Community School and National Education Association.



Support from the Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus

Assemblymember Mike Fong and Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi present a commendation to Co-editors and Co-directors Kelly Fong and Karen Umemoto, on behalf of Foundations and Futures. The AAPI Legislative Caucus has been a key supporter of the project with their leadership on educational issues.



What time is it on the clock of the world?

Locating the moment to guide the movement

Teacher Training Coordinator Eunice Ho moderates a panel discussion on ethnic studies pedagogy with speakers Michael Anderson, Levalasi Loi-On, and Victoria Gray. Event workshop topics included: *Critical Book Ban Literacy*, *Framing Pacific Islanders in Ethnic Studies*, *Solidarity from the Classroom to the Streets*.

2024 ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER POLICY SUMMIT

*Moving from Collective
Knowledge to Action*



**Asian American
Studies Center**



**Commission on
Asian & Pacific Islander
American Affairs**

On March 8, 2024, over 250 people gathered for the second **AAPI Policy Summit**, themed "**Moving from Collective Knowledge to Action.**" We want to extend a deep appreciation to those who joined us at UCLA. The Policy Summit brought together legislators, researchers, community leaders, and members from the philanthropic and corporate sectors to discuss pressing issues affecting AAPI populations.

Co-organized with the **California AAPI Legislative Caucus** and the **California Commission on APIA Affairs**, the AAPI Policy Summit featured panel sessions on **Critical Advocacy for Higher Education**, **AAPI Hidden Homelessness**, **AAPI Political Power in 2024 Elections**, **Call to Action: Policy Recommendations & Bringing Community to the Capitol**, and a special lunch keynote address by California Attorney General of California **Rob Bonta**. Attorney General Bonta's keynote address focused on the critical role of civic engagement and elections in community-building, policy, and representation for AAPI communities.

The Summit was made possible in part by the Asian and Pacific Islander Equity Budget, which was a result of a statewide coalition of 116 community-based organizations, including the **Asian American Studies Center**, and the **California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus**, who advocated for these funds to support California's diverse AAPI communities. We are also grateful to our reception sponsors—**The East West Bank Foundation** and the **UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs**.

You can view the video recordings of the sessions, keynote, and other presentation materials from the Summit by visiting:

www.aasc.ucla.edu/aapipolicy/summit2024/



(Top Row) Attorney General Rob Bonta's keynote address; Participants of Session 3: *Asian American and Pacific Islander Power in the 2024 Election* - Natalie Masuoka, Godfrey Plata, Easter Mulipola, Nancy Yap, Andy Tran

(Middle Row) Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, Isa Whalen, Natalie Masuoka, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, IAC VP David Yoo, Karen Umemoto, Lois M. Takahashi

(Bottom Row) Participants of Session 4 *Policy Recommendations and Bringing Community to the Capitol*: Chanchanit Martorell, Faith Lee, Calvin Chang, Angelica Cortez, Priscilla Huang, Karla Thomas, Assemblymember Mike Fong

Asian American Voter Access in LA County



Policy report "**Asian American Voter Access in Los Angeles County**"

was released on August 9, 2024, at the CAUSE pre-event Summer Soiree. Co-authored by Professor **Natalie Masuoka** (UCLA), Professor **Nathan Chan** (Loyola Marymount University), and **Nancy Yap** (Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment), the study offers insights into what the experience of casting a ballot is like for Asian Americans in Los Angeles County and the extent to which they find voting services useful.

The research team collected 1,062 in-person surveys with Asian American adults attending community events held at various locations across Los Angeles County (San Gabriel Valley, Koreatown, Culver City, and East Hollywood) between January 2024 and March 2024. Surveys were available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, and Spanish. The study found that while Asian American respondents commend the government for trying to make voting easier, many report that it is still challenging to vote. Bilingual materials tend not to make the process easier for Asian American voters. The findings offer evidence that language accessibility can be improved.

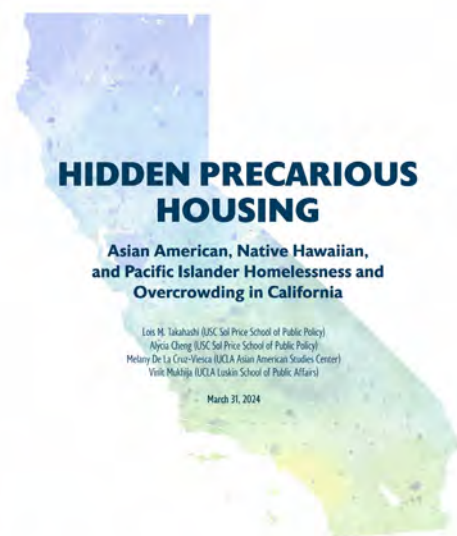
The report was made possible through the support of the **California Department of Social Services** in partnership with the **Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs**, **University of California, Los Angeles**, and **Loyola Marymount University**.

Hidden Precarious Housing: AANHPI Homelessness and Overcrowding in California

The Center co-published a new report, *Hidden Precarious Housing: AANHPI Homelessness and Overcrowding in California*, authored by **Lois M. Takahashi** (USC), **Alycia Cheng** (USC), **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** (UCLA) and Professor **Vinit Mukhija** (UCLA) that examines the hidden implications of AANHPI housing precarity in eleven California counties with the highest concentration of AANHPI populations.

This report aims to understand the California AANHPI experience with housing precarity (often hidden homelessness and overcrowding) which is generally invisible to policy makers and public service providers. The study found that the lack of access and use of eligible public services amongst the California AANHPI community is a result of the flawed ways in which many policy makers count homeless populations, along with the high levels of community stigma and shame of being considered homeless among AANHPI households, and various socioeconomic factors.

The authors' findings and recommendations can be used for policy action and future research to better address the homelessness crisis, in particular AANHPI housing precarity in California. The report was made possible with funding from **AAPIData**.



USCPrice
Sol Price School of Public Policy

UCLA Asian American Studies Center

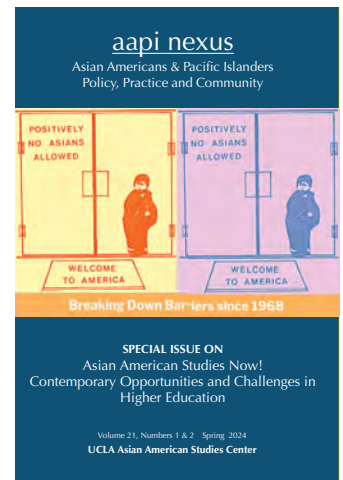
UPDATES FROM AAPI NEXUS JOURNAL

Access issues of *AAPI Nexus Journal*
and download articles for free at
<http://aapinexus.org>.



The *AAPI Nexus Journal* Spring 2024 special issue, “**Asian American Studies Now! Contemporary Opportunities and Challenges in Higher Education**” focuses on the passage of California legislation that requires students in the Cal State University, California community college, and California high school systems to take Ethnic Studies courses in order to graduate. The special issue was guest edited by **Timothy P. Fong** (California State University, Sacramento), **Jocelyn Pacleb** (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona), and **Yvonne Kwan** (San Jose State University).

In August 2020, over 50 years after the first College of Ethnic Studies in the country was established at San Francisco State College (now, SFSU), California Governor Gavin Newsom signed **Assembly Bill 1460** which required students in the 23 California State University campuses to take a three unit course on Native American Studies, African American Studies, Asian American Studies, or Latina and Latino Studies. **AB 1460 made the CSU system the first in the country to require Ethnic Studies courses in order to graduate.** The passage and implementation of AB 1460 led to curricular changes in the Community Colleges and reinvigorated historical and contemporary debates on diversity requirements in the University of California system. In addition, AB 1460 serves as the catalyst for discussions in both K-12 and higher education curriculum across the nation.



(Left to right) Melany De La Cruz Viesca, Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales, Jocelyn Sacramento, Yvonne Y. Kwan, Arlene Daus-Magbual, William Gow, Jocelyn A. Pacleb, Timothy P. Fong, Lauren D. Hom, Emiko Kranz

Melany De La Cruz & Emiko Kranz
AAPI Nexus Journal Spring 2024 Managing Editors

Timothy Fong, Yvonne Kwan, & Jocelyn Pacleb
AAPI Nexus Journal Spring 2024 Guest Editors

This defining historical moment is a “sea change” for Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies. This profound transformational shift altered education to the point that it no longer resembles what it once was. While the passage of **AB 1460** was a tremendous victory, it was only half the battle. Implementing the new law has come with multiple challenges as well as opportunities. There was also a significant “ripple effect” with similar legislation aimed at requiring Ethnic Studies in the California Community College (CCC) system and in California’s secondary schools.

The special issue examines how Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies departments and programs are beginning to evolve with unexpected alterations in circumstances, attitudes, or perspectives.

While it captures a brief snapshot in time, the implications of **AB 1460** in the long-term are definitely to be seen and adapted to, but in the meantime, there are lessons we can glean here and now. The production, printing, and dissemination of this special issue was made possible by the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center, The Asian American Foundation, and the SJSU Ethnic Studies Collaborative.**

UCLA AAPI ALUMNI NEWS

Abe Ferrer was celebrated in a special exhibit by Visual Communications featuring over 400 photos from his 40 years of his community photography. The *Abe AF: The Brain Behind the Beret!* photo exhibit and Abe Tough Talks series ran in October 2024 at the Far East Lounge in Little Tokyo.

Julie Ha ('96)'s documentary *Free Chol Soo Lee* was nominated for two Emmy Awards - Outstanding Historical Documentary and Best Documentary, and won for Historical Documentary.

Ali Wong ('00) wins an Emmy Award for TV show *Beef*, becoming the first woman of Asian descent to win a lead acting award.

Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales ('00) won the Excellence in Mentoring award at the AAAS Conference in Seattle.

Jennifer Tseng ('97) published *Thanks for Letting Us Know You Are Alive*, a collection of poetry that intertwined her voice with letters left behind by her late father.

Mike Hoa Nguyen ('14, '19) won the 2024 American Educational Research Association-Research on the Education of Asian and Pacific Americans Early Career Award.

Jeff Chang ('95) was honored as an awardee at the annual Unapologetically Asian Gala hosted by House of Chow, an Asian hip-hop dance organization based in New York.

Kristina Wong ('00) was awarded Guggenheim Fellowship by the Trustees of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Dolly M. Gee ('81) succeeded as Chief Judge of the Central District of California and was named as a recipient of the American Bar Association's 2024 Spirit of Excellence Award.

York Chang ('96) along with the Agency Assets 2023 Youth Fellows began exhibiting their collective installation *Data (beta): The Labor of Looking* at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

In 2024, **Helen and Morgan Chu**, whose student activism in the late 1960s helped launch UCLA's ethnic studies centers, pledged \$10 million to the UCLA Institute of American Cultures, the largest gift ever made to the institute. This year, UCLA also received the **Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program (AANAPISI)** designation from the U.S. Department of Education as part of its Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) programs. The Institute of American Cultures continued to host Visiting Scholars, Graduate/Predocctoral Fellows, Research Grant Awardees, and a Shirley Hune Awardee.

RANDEEP SINGH HOTHI

IAC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow



Project Highlight

The Massacre and Martyr(dom) of Oak Creek: On the Problem of Diaspora, the Economy of Agonism, and the Extimacy of Relation-Making

Randeep Singh Hothi is a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at UCLA.

His current book project examines race, religion, media, and diaspora in the context of Sikh media activism, building on two years of multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork studying with Sikh communities in the UK, US, Canada, and India.

As a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, Randeep's work has been published in *Cultural Anthropology*. His article "**The Massacre and Martyr(dom)s of Oak Creek: On the Problem of Diaspora, the Economy of Agonism, and the Extimacy of Relation-Making**" investigates Sikh diasporic communities undertaking collective decision-making practices to contest racial violence targeting Sikhs in the United States and India. Randeep was interviewed by **Professor Purnima Mankekar** on his research topic "**Sikh Media: Sovereignty, Religion, and Race**" for the **2024 IAC Fall Forum**.

For the rest of the academic year, Randeep will focus on completing a draft of his book project. In October 2024, Randeep workshopped new critical research probing the intersection of race and religion for the **AAPI History Group** at the **Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West**.

Randeep looks forward to further engaging with colleagues at the Asian American Studies Center. Randeep's work has been funded by the **Social Science Research Council**, **Wenner-Gren Foundation**, **National Science Foundation**, **American Institute for Indian Studies**, and the **Institute for Citizens & Scholars** (formerly the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation) and the **Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship**.

KOJI LAU-OZAWA

IAC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow



Project Highlight

Japanese Diaspora in a WWII Incarceration Camp: Archaeology of Gila River

Koji Lau-Ozawa is a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at UCLA who examines Japanese Diaspora, and the intersections of Asian American and Indigenous histories. His research analyzes landscapes, material culture, and memory by utilizing interdisciplinary methods such as archaeology, oral histories, and archival research. Lau-Ozawa also worked for **Stanford Heritage Services** and with the **National Park Service** at the **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**.

In his first project, Lau-Ozawa focused on the **Gila River Incarceration Camp**, a WWII incarceration camp for Japanese Americans built on the land of the Gila River Indian Community. His second site of investigation was the **Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation**. Lau-Ozawa wanted to build upon literature of Santa Barbara's *Nihonmachi* – Japanese communities that resided in the region pre-WWII.

Building on his dissertation and research projects, Lau-Ozawa has gone on to publish multiple articles focused on the history of Japanese incarceration and its diaspora through an archeological perspective and community-based fieldwork. When approaching his fieldwork, he follows community engagement methods that center ideas of trust, collaboration, listening, dissertation, and participation.

Lau-Ozawa has expressed interest in exploring the connection between the **Gila River Incarceration Camp** and the **Moab Incarceration Camp**. He continues to advocate for a more interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach to archaeology, and has voiced these sentiments in roundtable discussions, at lectures, and conferences.

LALAIE AMEERIAR

IAC Visiting Scholar



Project Highlights

Downwardly Global: Women, Work, and Citizenship in the Pakistani Diaspora

Racializing Reproduction: Maternal Mortality, Asian American Women, and COVID-19

Lalaie Ameeriar is UCLA's Institute of American Culture 2023-2024 Asian American Studies Center Visiting Scholar. She is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at York University. Ameeriar's research incorporates critical race studies, labor studies, feminist studies, globalization, affect, and embodiment. She is particularly interested in transnational Muslim cultures, and deconstructing multicultural belonging through fieldwork.

Ameeriar's second book project is an ethnographic study of medical racism that centers the experiences of pregnant Asian American women during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her project examines how racial differences effect the medical treatment of pregnant women from conception to birth, or in some cases death. This project is especially timely with the recent **Dobbs v. Jackson** Supreme Court case, and subsequent overturning of **Roe v. Wade** in June 2022, which intensified the national divide on access to safe and legal abortions. Ameeriar presented a talk on campus about medical racism and the racialization of reproduction.

During her time as a visiting scholar, Ameeriar has written five chapters for her book proposal. The chapters will complicate stories about care that pre-dates the impact of COVID-19 that pathologized Black and Brown bodies. Her goal is to publish her research findings in an academic book through a university press and a series of articles in anthropology journals. Moreover, she plans on developing a policy report in consultation with social service organizations in order to contribute to the improvement of their practices. She will share the findings of this study with policy makers and front-line organizations to assist in understanding the experiences of women and birth during COVID-19. She intends for this research to be a resource for the improvement of pregnancy experiences during a public health crisis.

ALUMNI HELEN AND MORGAN CHU PLEDGE \$10 MILLION TO BENEFIT UCLA INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN CULTURES



(Left) Morgan and Helen Chu.

(Right) Morgan Chu at the center of a group of students marching up UCLA Bruin Walk.

We are immensely grateful for **Helen and Morgan Chu's landmark pledge of \$10M to the Institute of American Cultures and our ethnic studies centers** in a time when ethnic studies and inclusive excellence have been under attack. Their engagement and leadership, which started when they were undergraduates at UCLA, has spanned decades. Their support ensures that our work will continue for many years to come, bolstering UCLA's public mission to serve all of the people of California and beyond. These are indeed extraordinarily difficult times, and we do not take the future for granted. That said, we have stood the test of time for over fifty years and our commitment to advance research for social justice is unwavering.

Vice Provost David K. Yoo

This past summer, UCLA's Asian American Studies Center debuted its **Yuri Kochiyama Digital Exhibition and Collection** website that includes an exhibition that traces Yuri's journey to activism, new digital collections with unique items, and resources for learning.

Yuri Kochiyama is one of the most iconic figures in Asian American community, civil rights, and social movement history. This digital exhibition and collection contains over 4,000 materials to deepen our understanding of her politicization and growth as a child to later becoming an organizer and social movement activist. Reading letters she wrote to servicemen, political prisoners, politicians, and old friends reveals the complex thinker she was and the concerns that weighed upon her daily decisions in the face of political and personal turmoil. Diary entries about her family's removal to the Santa Anita Detention Center, their time at the Jerome concentration camp, and her messages in the Santa Anita Crusaders' newsletters reveal her empathy towards human suffering and her tenacity of will.

One can see links between her stories of mass incarceration and her work on behalf of political prisoners and many other issues. The exhibition invites researchers, educators, counselors, students, and lifelong learners to learn about the wrongful mass incarceration and one woman's journey for social justice through her rare and revealing documents and ephemera left for posterity.

The exhibition website was made possible by the late Yuri Kochiyama and the Kochiyama family who made this special collection accessible to the public through the University of California and the Asian American Studies Center. Archival materials on the activities of the Crusaders, an organization that Yuri founded with fellow incarcerated, were made available by the **Japanese American National Museum**.

The **Yuri Kochiyama Digital Exhibition and Collection** was launched on July 31, 2024 through an online webinar. The virtual event was moderated by the Center's director **Karen Umemoto**, and the speakers included **Akemi Kochiyama** (scholar/activist), **Marji Lee** (librarian/archivist), **Kristen Hayashi** (curator), **Daniel H. Kim** (website software engineer), **Darlene Lee** (faculty advisor), and **Diane C. Fujino** (scholar), pictured on the right in the same order.

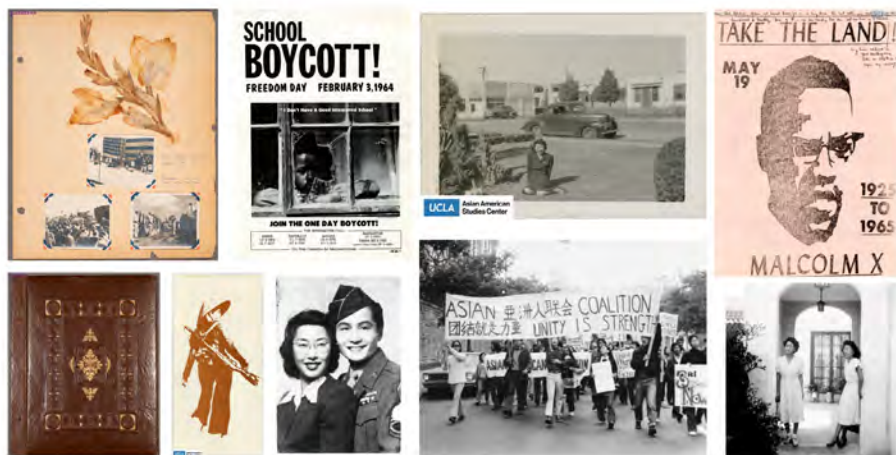
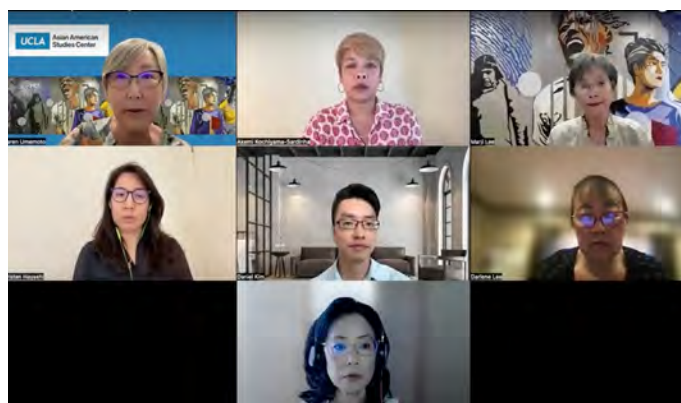
UCLA Asian American Studies Center

YURI KOCHIYAMA

DIGITAL EXHIBITION AND COLLECTION



Family portrait at Yuri's granddaughter Akemi and Marc Sardinha's wedding, 2000. Akemi and Marc standing directly behind Yuri. (Back row, from left) Pam Wu & Eddie; Kai, Masai & Zulu; (Forming a vertical line on the left side of Yuri) Jimmy, Alison, Aliya & Khalil; (Back row on right) Tommy and Herb; (Middle row) Ryan, Julie, Audee; and (Front row) Maya, Tracy, & Christopher.



LEARN | To browse the digital exhibition and collections, please visit:
<https://learn.aasc.ucla.edu/kochiyama>

Selected materials from Yuri Kochiyama Exhibition and Collections

Top (left to right): Page from the Santa Anita Crusaders scrapbook shared by the Japanese American National Museum, 1944; School Boycott Flyer; Yuri sitting in front yard; newsletter regarding passing of Malcolm X

Bottom (left to right): Santa Anita Crusaders scrapbook cover; print of Vietnamese woman with rifle; Bill and Yuri; Anti-war demonstration; Yuri Kochiyama and her mother

SHENGXIAO “SOLE” YU

2024 ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE



Shengxiao Yu, known by her nickname **Sole**, is a speaker, facilitator, writer, and social justice educator. She is the creator of Nectar, a space where she provides political education for the community through giving keynote speeches, facilitating workshops, and providing thought leadership. Sole combines her storytelling and facilitation experiences to ground her social justice education practice in transformative justice principles.

Sole has spent the majority of her career working on intersectional community issues through advocacy, education, direct service, and philanthropy. Sole is the Progressive Partnerships Director at The Management Center, a writer for the Xin Sheng Project, and a fellow of the Leadership Institute at CAUSE. As a generation 1.5 Asian American, Sole is also working to build community among her fellow Asian Americans to build socio-political power and to lift up her lineage.

My time as the **activist-in-residence (AIR)** at the **Asian American Studies Center (AASC)** has contained much learning, reflection, relationship-building, grief, and healing. I received the exciting news that I was selected as AASC’s AIR in November 2023, a month into the devastating genocide in Gaza that is still ongoing and livestreamed. We would come to see grassroots leaders and activists build collective power, demand boycott and divestment, remind us of our deep connection to our humanity and to each other, amplify stories from the ground in Palestine, Sudan, Congo, and beyond. We would also come to see deep fractures within movement spaces and nonprofit organizations, as we surfaced differing underlying political analysis on settler colonialism. These fractures impacted my organizing spaces, and I pivoted my AIR project to focus on a local case study in **California’s 45th Congressional District (CA-45)**.

At the time of this writing (prior to the November 2024 election), CA-45’s incumbent is **Michelle Steel**, a Korean American Republican representative running her third race in this district. In all three races, Steel has run red-baiting campaigns that spread mis and disinformation about her opponents by portraying them as supporters of communism. Steel weaponizes historical memories and traumas from the Cold War, particularly among the Vietnamese American electorate in her district, for her personal and political gains. My AIR project seeks to more deeply understand the impact of Steel’s campaign, the harm caused by the spread of mis and disinformation, and the possibilities of healing justice.

In conducting qualitative interviews with community organizers, Asian American nonprofit leaders, local politicians, and voters in CA-45, I began to see that despite electoral divides, many people share the same underlying values and desires. Vietnamese

RESIDENCY HIGHLIGHTS

March 8: AAPI Policy Summit: Moving from Collective Knowledge to Action

March 13: Westminster City Council Meeting

April 24-27: Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS) Conference in Seattle: Asian American Studies in the 2020s: Disciplinary, Ethnic, Diasporic Identities

Oct 20: Postcard Writing Campaign and Steel / Tran rallies in Orange County

November 14-17: National Women’s Studies Conference: The Journey Not Only the Arrival, Critical Connections Not Only Critical Mass: (Re)Thinking Feminist Movements

November 20-22: Facing Race: National Conference by Race Forward



Top Left: PIVOT: A postcard writing campaign in Orange County organized by PIVOT, a progressive Vietnamese American organization whose goals are to engage and empower Vietnamese Americans. These postcards were intended for Vietnamese American voters in swing states.

Top Right: Shengxiao “Sole” interviewing Cathy Lam over lunch. Lam is a board member of PIVOT, a progressive Vietnamese American organization.

Bottom Left: Shengxiao “Sole” attends a Westminster City Council meeting with Orange County political commentator and organizer Khai Dao.

American refugees who saw their homeland torn up want to feel that their experiences and stories mattered. When we focus on deep storytelling, we realize that folks are not on different sides. However, campaign ads and lawn signs rely on quick soundbites that often do not allow us to get to deep storytelling. They capture emotional responses to produce protests and counter-protests, whose images further entrench divides. This year, for the first time, Steel is running against a Vietnamese American candidate **Derek Tran**. As a son of boat refugees, many Vietnamese Americans in CA-45 see their stories reflected in Tran’s life, and are excited about the possibility of electing Little Saigon’s first Vietnamese American representative. While I believe our long-term organizing cannot solely depend on identity politics, I still affirm the importance of Tran’s identity for voters, for communities to feel that their stories matter, and to further activate our political power.

While there have been many efforts to collect data on Asian American political participation, we still remain a largely understudied group, especially when it comes to disaggregated data. Through my residency, I feel honored to be among a cohort of scholars and activists to contribute to deep storytelling about Asian America, and to show us, time and again, that Asian America is far from being apolitical and that our collective power is strong when we build together.

“Through my residency, I have been able to attend conferences and meetings with Asian American scholar-activists who have helped me to construct my frameworks for analysis and helped to shape my political consciousness. I feel so grateful and honored to share space with them.”

DOCUMENTARY FILM *FREE CHOL SOO LEE* WINS EMMY AWARD!

by IAC Vice Provost David K. Yoo



Producer Su Kim, Sandra Gin (film participant), Director Julie Ha, Ranko Yamada (film participant) and film narrator Sebastian Yoon celebrate the Emmy win for *Outstanding Historical Documentary* at the Sept. 26 ceremony in New York City.

UCLA alumna **Julie Ha** is one of the directors (along with **Eugene Yi**) of the film, *Free Chol Soo Lee*, that was awarded the **Emmy for Outstanding Historical Documentary** by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences on September 26, 2024. The film tells the story of the wrongful incarceration of **Chol Soo Lee** (1952-2014), a Korean immigrant, who spent 10 years in prison (1973-1983), including on death row in San Quentin, California. But that is only part of the story, as the documentary also chronicles the multi-racial, inter-generational, and transnational social movement that fought for his release, sparked by the investigative articles written by journalist **K.W. Lee** for the **Sacramento Union**.

Professional journalist, Julie, was a recurring guest to my UCLA class on the **History of the Asian American Movement**. She spoke about her student experiences as the editor of **Pacific Ties** (established 1977), the oldest student-run Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) newsmagazine in the U.S. She also talked about the formative mentorship of **K.W. Lee** when she interned at the English-language edition of the **Korea Times (Los Angeles)** – a relationship that inspired her storytelling work with a specialization in Asian American-centered stories. These webs of connection surfaced when Julie and I met on campus to discuss a project that would become *Free Chol Soo Lee*.

As director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, I suggested to **Professor Jerry Kang**, the inaugural holder of the **Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo Endowed Chair in Korean American Studies**, that we provide early seed funding from the endowment. It was fitting because *Amerasia Journal* published a forum in 2013, marking the 30th anniversary of Lee's release from prison in 1983.

Accompanying the journal issue was a center-sponsored, community-based forum in West Los Angeles that featured a panel discussion that was among the last public appearances by Chol Soo Lee before his passing. Moreover, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the **University of Hawai'i Press** together published Lee's prison memoirs, *Freedom Without Justice* (2017), edited by **Richard S. Kim**.

Behind the film is the dedication and commitment of so many people who believed that the story of Chol Soo Lee and the launch of a social justice movement needed to be told. Many of those folks have UCLA ties, including faculty member and filmmaker **Renee Tajima-Pena**, who provided valuable mentorship to first-time filmmakers Julie and Eugene. **Dan Mayeda** and his team at the **UCLA Law Documentary Film Clinic** supported the film through critical legal services. Former staff members of the Asian American Studies Center, like **Jai Lee Wong** and **Warren Furutani**, were actively involved in the movement and are featured in the film while others such as **Russell Leong** and **Glenn Omatsu** lent their support. The Asian American Studies Center and the **Film and Television Archive at UCLA** hosted a powerful screening of the film at the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum in 2023, and current center director, Karen Umemoto, and her team, have incorporated a chapter on Chol Soo Lee (written by Julie) for *Foundations and Futures: Asian American and Pacific Islander Multimedia Textbook* that will be launching soon.

On a personal note, I was able to get to know Chol Soo Lee in the last few years of his life. We had occasional phone conversations, and he was incredibly passionate about telling his story, especially to young people. My sense is that Chol Soo wanted people to learn from his difficult journey and that he felt a responsibility to pay forward all of the support that he had received from so many people, many of whom he did not know. I would like to think that he would be deeply gratified by the film's success in reaching multiple audiences. It is wonderful that *Free Chol Soo Lee* has and will continue to invite viewers to learn about a sobering and remarkable part of our collective history.

"This Emmy win for our 'little film that could' is so thrilling. I've often said that our film tells the story of a significant moment in not only Asian American history, but in American history, human history. And yet it was little known and was at risk of staying buried in history. Our film team could not allow that to happen. This film has had an amazing journey from Sundance to PBS' Independent Lens, and now this incredible Emmy recognition. Hopefully all of this will help ensure a long legacy for Chol Soo Lee and the movement he inspired."

Co-Director Julie Ha

UPDATES FROM *BRUINS RISING INITIATIVE*



The Chancellor's **Native American and Pacific Islander Bruins Rising Initiative (BRI)** aims to 1) enhance UCLA's intellectual community devoted to Native American and Pacific Islander peoples, 2) support inclusive and equitable Native American and Pacific Islander student experiences, and 3) provide meaningful support for Native American and Pacific Islander faculty and staff.

2024 has been marked by significant growth and achievement for the Bruins Rising Initiative. With the addition of **6 new faculty members and 2 new staff members**, we are not only expanding our academic and support capacities, but also deepening our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The vision for the initiative is to create a campus wide ecosystem of support for Pasifika research, student learning and community building within and beyond the campus. **With the Bruins Rising Initiative, UCLA is now on track to become one of the largest programs in Pasifika Studies on the continent.**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported and contributed to this initiative, and we invite continued collaboration as we strive for excellence in education, research, and community engagement. We look forward to the continued success of our initiative and the impact it will have on our community and beyond.



Helen and Morgan Endowed Chair Installation of Professor Lisa Uperesa
Jerry Kang, Keith Camacho, Karen Umemoto, Morgan Chu, Helen Chu, Lisa Uperesa, Abel Valenzuela, David Yoo, Natalie Masuoka



Pasifika Scholars and Community Organizers Attend AAPI Policy Summit
Ualani Ho'opai, Taunuu Ve'e, Jimina Afuola, Roy Tongilava, Easter Mulipola, Zach Anderson, Upumoni Ama, Melenait Fifta, Peter Afemata



Undergraduate Students at the UCLA Pasifika Community Reception
Ultei Surangel, Karyss Satele-Pinkney, Jiorden King, Lavon Nightingale Smith, Amani Carsoni from Pacific Islands' Student Association (PISA)



Event Volunteers at UCLA Pasifika Community Reception
Phil Timoteo, Moni Pili, Wyatt Wu

Bruins Rising Initiative *New Pasifika Scholars and Staff on Campus*

Kyle Yoshida



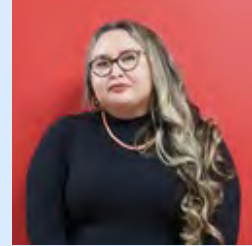
Assistant Professor
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Rebecca Delafield



Assistant Professor
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health,
Community Health Sciences

Angela Robinson



Assistant Professor
Theater, Film, and Television

Alika Bourgette



Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow
University of California, 2024-25

UCLA New Pasifika Scholars

(Back row) Keith Camacho,
Lisa Uperesa, Vicente Diaz,
Rebecca Delafield, Phil Timoteo
(Front row) Kyle Yoshida,
Melody Satele, Alika Bourgette,
Christine Taitano DeLisle,
Karen Umemoto



UCLA Pasifika Community Reception

Speakers Karen Umemoto, Gilbert
Gee, Shalom Staub, Mitchell Chang,
Phil Timoteo, Lisa Uperesa, Melany De
La Cruz-Viesca, Keith Camacho

Vicente M. Diaz



Professor, American Indian Studies
Associate Director for Engagement
American Indian Studies Center

Christine Taitano DeLisle



Associate Professor
American Indian & Gender Studies

Melody Satele



Assistant Director
Pacific Islander Recruitment
UCLA Undergraduate Admissions



(Left to right) Flags of American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guåhan (Guam), Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian), Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga at the UCLA Pasifika Community Reception. Together, they represent all the homes of our new UCLA Pasifika scholars.

Introducing *Pasifika Faculty & Staff at the Asian American Studies Department & Center*

Lisa Uperesa



Associate Professor
Helen and Morgan Chu Endowed Chair
UCLA Asian American Studies Department

Associate Professor Lisa Uperesa works with Pacific communities to understand movement and mobility, and how they shape lives, identities, families, cultures, and futures. Her past research focused on the rise of American football in Samoan communities, and the navigation of sport as both labor and tautua (service). Current research projects include the globalization of Māori haka through sporting routes and digital platforms, Native mascots in Indigenous and multi-ethnic communities, decolonial and culturally sustaining pedagogies, and mapping Pacific Research Methodologies.

She previously served as Head of Pacific Studies and co-Head of **School Te Wānanga o Waipapa | School of Māori Studies and Pacific Studies at Waipapa Taumata Rau | University of Auckland**. She has also had teaching and research appointments in ethnic studies and sociology at **University of Hawai'i-Mānoa** and in anthropology at **Columbia University, The New School for Social Research, and Hofstra University**.

She holds the **Helen and Morgan Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies** and is proud to return to the **University of California**.

Phil Timoteo



Pacific Islander Studies Coordinator
UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Phil Timoteo graduated from UCLA in 2021 with a B.S. in Molecular Cell Developmental Biology. He was born and raised in the Inland Empire (IE), land of the indigenous Serrano people. Growing up in IE taught him endurance - the lack of Pacific Islander representation drove him to advocate for his community and the city where he came from. During his time at UCLA, he was the **Pacific Islands' Student Association (PISA)** President from 2019 to 2021. In collaboration with the American Indian Student Association (AISA), UCLA faculty, staff, and alumni of AISA and PISA, he promoted for more resources to be given to Pacific Islander students at UCLA, which led to the development of the **Chancellor's Native American and Pacific Islander Bruins Rising Initiative**. Timoteo also led student activists to Mauna Kea to stand in solidarity with our Kanaka against the UC Regents. After graduation, he worked as a program coordinator with the **Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement** where he organized produce distribution to Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities in greater Los Angeles. In 2023, he became the **first Pacific Islander Studies Coordinator at UCLA's Asian American Studies Center**.

"The vision for the initiative is to create a campus wide ecosystem of support for Pasifika research, student learning and community building within and beyond the campus. With the Bruins Rising Initiative, UCLA is now on track to become one of the largest programs in Pasifika Studies on the continent."

UCLA Asian American Studies Center Director Karen Umemoto

2023-24 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Stay connected with the Center by signing up at <http://bit.ly/joinaasc>.

UCLA Asian American Studies Center Staff group photo at the AAPI Policy Summit on March 8, 2024.

Intimate Strangers: Shin Issei Women and Contemporary Japanese American Community, 1980-2020 Tritia Toyota's Book Talk in Sawtelle

The social hall of the **West Los Angeles Buddhist Church** was filled to capacity on March 3, 2024 for a panel presentation on **Tritia Toyota's** newly published book, *Intimate Strangers: Shin Issei Women and Contemporary Japanese American Community, 1980-2020*.

At the end of the 20th century, many young Japanese women in their 20s migrated to Southern California with few skills and a lack of human capital. In Toyota's *Intimate Strangers*, these shin Issei women tell stories of precarity, inequality, and continuing marginality, in Japan, where they were restricted by gendered social structures, and in the United States, where their experiences were compounded by issues such as citizenship. Toyota chronicles how these resilient young women became active agents in circumventing social restrictions to fashion new lives of meaning, and describes the tensions around intergroup negotiations over race, identity, and the possibility of common belonging.

Professor **Valerie Matsumoto** (Asian American Studies/History, UCLA) and Professor **Yasuko Takezawa** (Cultural Anthropology/Sociology, Kyoto University) served as panelists offering insights from their own research.

The program was co-sponsored by West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple, West Los Angeles United Methodist Church, Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, Sawtelle Japantown Association, UCLA Nikkei Student Union, and UCLA Asian American Studies Center & Department.



(Top) Group photo with Tritia Toyota, Valerie Matsumoto, Yasuko Takezawa, and co-sponsor organizers (Bottom) NSU students with Tritia Toyota



Bunche Center Director Lorrie Frasure, EVP Darnell Hunt, AASC Director Karen Umemoto, Helen Chu, Morgan Chu, AISC Director Shannon Speed, IAC VP David Yoo

Institute of American Cultures Honors Helen and Morgan Chu for their \$10M Donation

In March 2024, the UCLA community honored alumni **Helen and Morgan Chu** for their historic \$10M donation to the **Institute of American Cultures**. With their gift, UCLA's IAC will establish four endowed chairs for our ethnic studies centers, provide wider support for underrepresented communities, and create an endowment for research and programming. The funding will help the campus remain a leader at a critical time for research and programs related to race and ethnic studies and Native and Indigenous studies.

Foundations and Futures: AAPI Multimedia Textbook Championing Ethnic Studies Towards Solidarity

On May 11, 2024, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center hosted a textbook preview event and workshops titled **Foundations and Futures: AAPI Multimedia Textbook: Championing Ethnic Studies Towards Solidarity** at RFK UCLA Community School. Over 100 students, educators, community members, alumni, and supporters attended. The event showcased an overview of the Textbook, a close look at the WWII Japanese American Incarceration chapter, breakout workshops with ethnic studies educators, and a closing session focused on the importance of ethnic studies in diverse classrooms. Together, we explored the future of Ethnic Studies education and affirmed our dedication towards building solidarity with one another.



James Okazaki, Suzi Wong, Robert Ku, Stan Yogi at lunch



Students and faculty from UTS, UCLA, and CSULA attended the symposium

Asian American Studies x Asian Australian Symposium

The **Asian Australian x Asian American Studies Symposium** was held at the University of California, Los Angeles, from June 4-6, 2024. 20 undergraduate, MA, and PhD students from University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and UCLA, alongside faculty from UTS, UCLA, and California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) participated.

The goal of this symposium was to exchange dialogue around contemporary Australian and US Asian diaspora, Indigenous and Pacific studies research. This symposium was funded by a grant from the **US Embassy in Australia**, with support from the **Asia Pacific Center** and **Asian American Studies** Department at UCLA. We'd like to give a special thank you to UTS faculty **Tisha Dejmamee** and **Christina Ho** for reaching out to UCLA AASD, and for opening up new spaces for transnational dialogue and collaboration.



(Left and right) Class of 2024 undergraduate and graduate students of the Asian American Studies Department

UCLA Class of 2024 Asian American Studies Department Commencement

In June 2024, the UCLA Asian American Studies Department was joined by family, friends, and loved ones at the **Japanese American National Museum** to celebrate the **graduating class of 2024**. A total of 70 students walked across the stage. Of those 70, there were 7 MA graduates, 18 BA graduates, 40 Asian American Studies minor graduates, 4 Pilipino Studies minor graduates, and 1 graduate student concentrator. On behalf of the graduating graduate cohort, Professor **Lee Ann Wang** was awarded the **AAS Graduate Student Association Annual Award** for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring and Teaching.



(Top) Min Zhou, Cindy Fan, Shirley Wang, Karen Umemoto (Right) Min Zhou with students, colleagues, speakers, UCLA Asian American Studies Center staff, and UCLA Asia Pacific Center staff

Tribute to Dr. Min Zhou with Appreciation to Walter and Shirley Wang

On November 14, 2023, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the UCLA Asia Pacific Center was thrilled to honor Professor **Min Zhou** for 15 years of service as the **Walter and Shirley Wang Chair in US-China Relations and Communications** (2009-2024), as well as her recent induction into **The American Academy of Arts and Sciences** and **The National Academy of Sciences**. The event also celebrated **Walter and Shirley Wang** for establishing the Chair and advancing research on US-China relations. Tributes were made by **Vice Provosts David Yoo and Cindy Fan, Shirley Wang**, department chairs, colleagues, and students.



NEWS HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES FROM AASC FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hiroshi Motomura was selected for a Residency at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center in Italy to complete work on *Borders and Belonging: Toward A Fair Immigration Policy*, which is to be released in 2025. He also became a Nonresident Fellow of Carnegie California, part of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Jerry Kang was appointed the Ralph and Shirely Shapiro Distinguished Chair in Law. He also trained Brooklyn, Alameda, and Los Angeles district attorneys' offices, and the NY Police Academy about Anti-Asian Hate Crimes, with the Alliance for Asian American Justice.

Jolie Chea won the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's 2023-2024 Toshide Distinguished Teaching Award. Her recent publications include "Epiphytic Lives: Cambodian American Nonmemory and the Value of Silence" in *Social Text* 41.4 (2023), and "Toward a Trans* Refugee Critique of the Southeast Asian American Anti-Deportation Movement" in *Transgender Studies Quarterly* 11.1 (2024).

Lucy MSP Burns served as dramaturg for the inaugural 10-minute Play Festival at the 2024 Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists, as well as for a theater-making residency at the Mercury Store for an immersive theater piece delving into the complexities of migration and the challenges of border crossing in today's political turmoils.

Min Zhou was elected as 2024-25 President of the Sociological Research Association (SRA). Her recent publications include *Tang Ren Jie* (2024) (30th anniversary re-translated Chinese edition by Sam N. Guo with a preface to the new edition), "The Trajectory of the Color Line in a US Immigrant Gateway: Hyperdiverse Spatialization in Los Angeles"

in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 46.11 (2023), and "Evolving Trust and Rising Discrimination during the COVID-19 Global Pandemic in the United States and Canada" in *Canadian Diversity* 18.3 (2023).

Ninez Ponce received the 2024 Elizabeth Fries Health Education Award for her trailblazing work in health and data equity.

Nour Joudah was one of Foundation for Middle East Peace's 2024 Non-Resident Palestinian Fellows. She was also invited to Northwestern University to give a talk as part of the Middle East and North African Studies department's guest speaker series, *Palestine in Context*.

Thuy Vo Dang was a recipient of the 2024-25 Society of Hellman Fellows award, which enabled her research on the British Vietnamese diaspora through community archiving and oral history. She is also serving as PI (with co-PI Thu-huong Nguyen-vo) on an exploratory Social Impact Collaborative grant from the UCLA Center for Community Engagement to explore bringing Vietnamese language resources for early childhood development to public library story time.

Thu-huong Nguyen-Vo published a new book titled *Almost Futures: Sovereignty and Refuge at World's End* (UC Press, 2024).

Vinay Lai spent the first half of his 2024-25 sabbatical as a Fellow at the Stellenbosch institute for Advanced Study, South Africa. He was also the recipient of the Fulbright-Nehru Professional and Academic Excellence Fellowship for 2025 in India. His recent publications include *Insurgency and the Artist: The Art of the Freedom Struggle in India* (Delhi, 2023) and *India and Its Intellectual Traditions* (Oxford University Press, 2024).

VICTOR XIE



Victor Xie (he/him) is a second-generation Chinese American from unceded Ohlone lands, also known as San Jose, CA. He is an undergraduate alumnus of the **Asian American Studies Department** at UCLA. His senior honors thesis explores how memories of the Cultural Revolution have been preserved in Chinese/American archives and these materials can offer a framework for critical remembrance.

During his time at UCLA, Victor was president of the **Association of Chinese Americans**, leadership development coordinator for the **Asian Pacific Coalition**, the 21st century intern for the **Asian American Studies Center**, and a Keck Scholar. After graduating in 2024, he joined the **Foundations and Futures Multimedia Textbook Project** as an editorial assistant.



Victor & Professor Evyn Lê Espiritu Gandhi at graduation

Talk about your time in student organizations.

I spent the majority of my time as an undergraduate focused on the political education of my community. The UCLA Asian American Studies Department gave me indispensable tools to critically examine the world around me, and I am rooted in the belief that this knowledge cannot be kept in the classroom.

Asian American Studies taught me that the cultural is political, but as a member (and eventually, President) of the **Association of Chinese Americans (ACA)**, I recognized that my community had largely bought into an apolitical, passive stance as a cultural organization. I was therefore inspired by the historical roots of Asian American Studies to reignite the past politicized nature of cultural organizations, such as the **Asian American Political Alliance (AAPA)** and **Gidra**.

With the help of my friends who also saw the importance of socially engaging our community, we were able to reinstate our connections with **LA Chinatown** and initiate general meetings that educated members on social issues. However, this is not to romanticize the process of my work. I was actually met with a lot of pushback from those in the organization who did not want ACA to be political, or considered a political stance alienating towards members who were just looking for a social organization. I think this internal conflict will always occur in a cultural organization, especially when members in an organization like ACA are not facing barriers to higher education, nor see themselves as part of a campus-wide movement.

Still, I see a lot of worth in politicizing such a large community such as ACA, and I am content with the political foundations I laid and the education I provided—even if there is so much work to be done. Concepts that would be familiar to any Asian American Studies major, such as Orientalism or the model minority myth, were pivotal for members to see themselves in history and understand the cultural as political. I will always keep the lessons I learned from organizing in ACA close to my heart, as they remind me what it means to truly love your community, to share your knowledge and gain some in return.



UCLA's Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) visiting LA Chinatown

Future plans?

I'm so excited to return to the Multimedia Textbook Project as a full-time staff member! As a **21st Century Intern for the Asian American Studies Center**, I worked on the Textbook as an Outreach Intern. Now as an Editorial Assistant, I work on the glossary and other proofreading to make sure the textbook is accessible for high school students.

Working on the textbook is such a unique experience that I am honored to be a part of. Especially for someone like me who attended a high school where more than 60% of the student population identifies as Asian American and Pacific Islander, reading through the Textbook drafts gives me a feeling of hope that students will finally learn about their histories from the perspective of their own communities.

After my time with the Textbook, I hope to pursue a graduate degree either in Ethnic Studies or English. There, I want to continue my academic journey as a critical researcher and educator. Who knows—maybe someday I'll be writing a chapter in a new edition of the Textbook!

TRINITY GABATO

Trinity Gabato (she/her) is a current Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at the College of the Sequoias in California's Central Valley. She is a third-generation Filipina and Vietnamese American activist, educator, and first-generation scholar from the Bay Area (Ohlone Land). Trinity recently received her M.A. in the Asian American Studies program at UCLA studying intergenerational communication, memory, militarism, gendered violence, and feminist methodologies. For her undergraduate studies, she received her Bachelor's in Sociology, Film and Asian American Studies at Claremont McKenna College. Trinity currently organizes with CentralValley4Palestine and is dedicated to expanding Asian American and Pasifika Studies in the Central Valley.



My experience in the UCLA Asian American and Pasifika Studies program has exposed me to worldmaking that is founded in community, collaboration, and radical care. I am grateful to have not only learned about theory in the classroom, but also to have experienced Ethnic Studies praxis throughout the program.

The unconditional support, kindness, and love from my cohort was one of the most special gifts of the program. I continue to be inspired by every single cohort member as they continually challenge me to think deeply about myself, my community and research. The program as a whole allowed me to make lifelong friends, learn more about my family history and gain knowledge from incredible faculty members.

As a first-generation, low-income student, I faced many challenges, but this program provided encouragement in multiple ways. During my graduate studies, I received the **Martha Ogata Grant to study Domestic Violence and Abuse in APA Communities from the Asian American Studies Center**. This grant enabled me to complete my thesis titled "**Feminist Oral Histories Against U.S. Empire: Examining Violence, Resistance, and Love Across Three Generations of Vietnamese American Women.**" Additionally, I received a travel grant from the **Center for the Study of Women**, which was crucial for conducting in-person oral history interviews with multiple family members.

This thesis project profoundly impacted my connection to my family and allowed me to create a family archive, offering hope for a future grounded in radical love and resistance.

In addition to the grants, my thesis would not have been possible without the patience, kindness and knowledge of **Dr. Evyn Lê Espiritu Gandhi, Dr. Jolie Chea, and Dr. Grace Hong**. I also had the opportunity of presenting my thesis alongside my inspiring cohort mates **Estie Kim and Kristi Mai** at both the **Asian American Studies and American Studies Conferences**. Their work centering the importance and continued care of their interlocutors has inspired me immensely. I also recently had the opportunity to present my work at the **Vietnamese Curriculum Conference for the Santa Clara Office of Education**, allowing me to witness the wonderful work that the community is doing to implement Vietnamese American Studies on a K-12 level.

Without my time and experience gained as a community member, teaching assistant, I would not have the position I do today.

I was also inspired by so many other faculty members and gained crucial knowledge from **Dr. Keith Camcho, Dr. Lucy Burns, Dr. Victor Bascara, Dr. Grace Hong, Dr. Thuy Vo Dang, Dr. Valerie Matsumoto, Dr. Thu-Huong Nguyen-Vo, Dr. Purnima Mankekar, Dr. Min Zhou, and Dr. Cindy Nguyen**. While these faculty have shaped my knowledge and worldview, I also owe a great thanks to **Justin Dela Cruz, Wendy Fujinami, and Xuan-Mai Vo**, who provided support on a day to day basis.

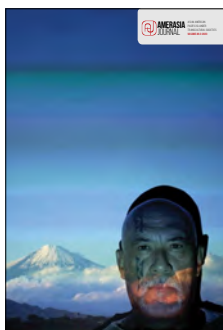
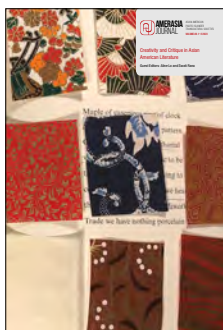
I am also particularly grateful to have been granted the **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)** that allowed me to learn **Tagalog** with **Tita Domingo** during my entire educational journey who showed me the significance of *kapwa*. While my language skills improved, it also helped me to build a deeper connection with my grandparents and with myself.

During my program, I participated in the **Compton College Ethnic Studies Summer Training Institute**, recommended by **Jolie Chea**. This experience equipped me with essential skills for working in the community college setting. I also received invaluable mentorship from Asian American Studies and UCLA alumni, including **Beth Au and Alonzo Campos**, who generously dedicated their time to guide me through the interview process and keep me motivated after many rejections.

Thanks to the support of community members, faculty, cohort mates, and loved ones, I have successfully started a new position as an **Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at the College of the Sequoias**. I will always be grateful for my time in the program and hope to continue the legacy of providing the same radical care to my students.



Dr. Evyn Lê Espiritu Gandhi, Trinity Gabato, Dr. Grace Hong, and Dr. Jolie Chea at June 2024 UCLA Asian American Studies Department Commencement



In 2024, *Amerasia Journal* published an innovative double issue on Asian American literature entitled “**Creativity and Critique in Asian American Literature.**” It is the first time in recent memory that *Amerasia Journal* has presented an issue primarily devoted primarily to Asian American fiction, poetry, mixed media work, and literary criticism. Guest edited by **Aline Lo** (Colorado College) and **Swati Rana** (University of California, Santa Barbara), the double issue connects the creative and the critical together to take Asian American literature in new directions. Whether creativity and critique are reinforcing one another or are put in tension, the relationship between them is a dynamic one that pushes forward a field that continues to develop and redefine itself.

Through our open-topic issues, *Amerasia Journal* covered a broader range of topics that both push the boundaries of research as well as offer trenchant and engaged perspectives on current events. In our **2023 Open Issue**, we provided a platform for scholars in Asian American studies to tackle timely topics that place Asian Americans front and center in the public square. Particularly salient is a forum that unpacks myths that Asian Americans benefit from the dismantling of affirmative action policies in higher education as a result of the **June 2023 Supreme Court ruling on Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College**. In a similar vein, this issue features a roundtable on the uses of public history to combat stereotypes and misconceptions of Asian Americans in venues beyond academia and the classroom, in the wake of the COVID pandemic and the concomitant rise in anti-Asian violence and hate rhetoric. Our **2024 Open Issue** made space available for the personal perspectives that inform research and analysis. Articles on the Subaru telescope on Mauna Kea in Hawai‘i and information studies approaches to Chinese immigration at Angel Island delve into individual experiences and subjective points-of-view, while presenting a critical understanding of such topics. Typified by **King-Kok Cheung’s** review essay of **Fae Myenne Ng’s** latest book *Orphan Bachelors*, the issue as a whole powerfully demonstrates how personal insight goes hand in hand with intellectual analysis.

By the Shore of Lake Michigan

A translation of WWII-era Japanese concentration camp poetry, this new AASC Press publication recovers the lost voices of Japanese immigrants.

By the Shore of Lake Michigan, Tomiko and Ryokuyo Matsumoto’s collection of Japanese tanka poetry, is now accessible to English-language readers for the first time. The volume offers a rare look into the inner lives of an often-overlooked generation during the most difficult period of their lives. In 1960, the Matsumotos, **Issei (first-generation)** immigrants, published their collection, *Mishigan Kohan/By the Shore of Lake Michigan*. Their **tanka** — a traditional form of Japanese poetry — chronicled their lives over a seventeen-year period, from their 1942 forced relocation from Los Angeles to the **Heart Mountain**, Wyoming prison camp, through their resettlement in Chicago at war’s end.

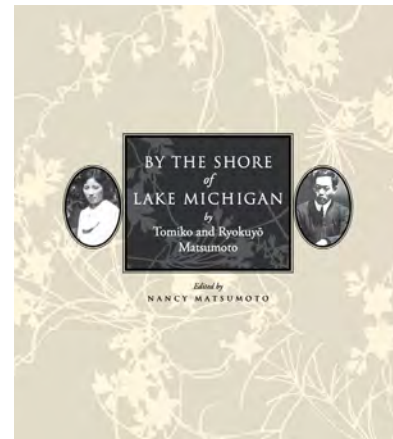
Tomiko and Ryokuyo’s immersion in the U.S.-Japan tanka world of their time led to the selection of one of Tomiko’s poem’s to be read at the Emperor’s annual poetry party in 1955, then to the publication of their poetry collection.

While many second- and third-generation Japanese American voices have told the story of the wartime incarceration in fiction, essays, on stage, and in film, very little of the voluminous Japanese-language writings of this era have been translated into English. *By the Shore of Lake Michigan* is a rare and frank account of the tumultuous events of World War II and its aftermath, from an Issei point of view.

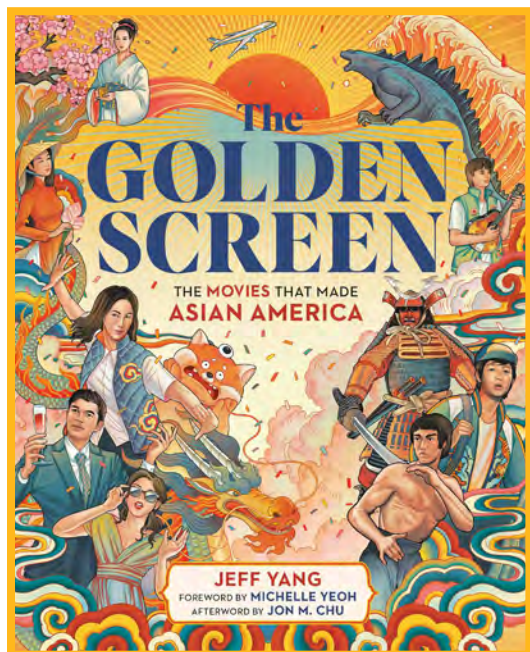
Released in October 2024 after nearly fifteen years in the making, the book is a collaboration between editor **Nancy Matsumoto** (granddaughter of Tomiko and Ryokuyo) and accomplished translators **Mariko Aratani** (*The Ink Dark Moon*) and **Kyoko Miyabe**. Ranging from the lyrical to the objective, the political to the deeply personal, the poems trace the Matsumotos’ passage through the darkest chapter of Japanese American history, the unconstitutional incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent.

Tanka is the oldest form of Japanese poetry, and the most beloved and widely practiced genre today. Five lines in length, with a 5-7-5-7-7 meter, it is two lines longer than the haiku format. Unlike haiku, which usually describes nature, the passing of the seasons, and the feelings they evoke, tanka can cover any topic the writer would like to address, from politics and public events to the most personal and private of feelings. It was a form ideally suited to Issei immigrants who gathered in after-work poetry salons to discuss tanka and share their poems with each other, and an important outlet for the feeling of loss, dislocation, shame, and trauma they experienced during and after their unjust World War II incarceration.

NEW PUBLICATION



CENTER FOR ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS



This past year, the Center for EthnoCommunications along with director Professor Renee Tajima-Peña has continued to develop and produce creative and community-driven work that follows stories of hardship, empowerment, and resistance.

Professor Tajima-Peña is currently working on a new multi-part docuseries and public media initiative with Jeff Yang, author of *The Golden Screen: The Movies That Made Asian America* and the Center for Asian American Media. The project looks at the ways that motion picture images have shaped the perception and identity of Asians in the U.S. and of American culture itself. Like her previous project, the 5-part PBS *Asian Americans*, the development of this docuseries will also give opportunities for students to gain production experience through internships and research assistantships.

Tajima-Peña is also co-executive producing filmmaker Jun Yamagishi Stinson's *Jun-san and the Drum*, a profile of Jun Yasuda, a 75 year-old Japanese Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist nun who has dedicated the last 45 years of her life advocating for nuclear disarmament, the rights of Native Americans, environmental sustainability and peace.

Throughout the year, Professor Tajima-Peña continued to screen films related to the Japanese American experience at venues across the country, including *Asian Americans* (Series), *May 19th Project*, *Skate Manzanar*, *My America... or Honk if You Love Buddha*, and *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*

Inside the classroom, EthnoCommunications continues to bring notable Asian American filmmakers working in the community to its classes for workshops as a way to introduce students to independent filmmaking. The filmmakers screen their work and speak on topics ranging from digital video editing, grant-making, independent film production, and sound recording and design. During the winter 2024 quarter, filmmakers such as Vivek Bald, S. Leo Chiang, Tad Nakamura, and Duc Nguyen were invited to speak with students taking the course **Yellow Peril's Revenge: Asian American Independent Cinema**.

Students from the EthnoCommunications Center have also been working on their own projects. Topics of student-produced documentaries have included stories of a Hmong refugee shaman and his wife discussing their respective roles in carrying out rituals and cultural traditions, a documentary that follows Asian American students on the pilgrimage to the Manzanar incarceration camp, a narrative about a Chinese-born college student who was adopted and raised by a Japanese American mother, and many more that focus on the experiences of underrepresented communities.

Throughout the rest of the academic year, the EthnoCommunications Center continues to take an active role working with AASC on the multimedia components of *Foundations and Futures: Asian American and Pacific Islander Multimedia Textbook* with Professor Tajima-Peña serving as Executive Producer of Moving Images.



LEARN | To learn more about the Center for EthnoCommunications, please visit:
<https://aasc.ucla.edu/ethno/>



Leo Chiang, Taiwanese-American documentary filmmaker, speaking with Professor Tajima-Peña's students in her *Yellow Peril's Revenge: Asian American Independent Cinema* course.

PROFESSOR JINQI LING

Congratulations to **Professor Jinqi Ling** on his retirement. Professor Ling joined UCLA faculty in 1992 with joint appointments in **Asian American Studies and English**. Over the past 30 years at UCLA, Professor Ling served as chair of the Asian American Studies Department from 2011-17 and Vice Chair from 2004-07. As Vice Chair, Professor Ling also served as the Graduate Faculty Advisor, the chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee, and the chair of the Curriculum Committee. In a 1999 interview with UCLA Today, Professor Ling said *"I came to Asian American Studies partly by historical accident, but also partly by historical inevitability."*

PROFESSOR MAY WANG

Congratulations to **Professor May Wang** on her retirement. Professor Wang has been a professor in the **Department of Community Health Sciences** in UCLA Fielding School of Public Health since 2008. Professor Wang was Chair of the Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee from 2013-17. In 2020, along with Center Director Karen Umemoto and Professor Gilbert Gee, Professor Wang led an effort to create the **COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub at TranslateCovid.org**. She was appointed to the external advisory committee for the Los Angeles County Food Equity Roundtable in 2022.

Professor Jinqi Ling Advances Asian American Literary Studies



English and Asian American Studies Professor Jinqi Ling, writer Frank Chin, English and Asian American Studies Professor King-Kok Cheung and her son participating in the conference.



Class of 2005: (sitting, from left to right) David K. Song, Trist Vu, Calvin Tshiang, Vu Long L. Trinh, Ben Masashi Yokota (standing, from left to right) Julie Anshu Chouinard, Seid Patel

CHRISTINE WANG

Happy wishes to **Christine Wang** on her upcoming retirement.

Christine graduated from UCLA with an undergraduate degree in economics. She first joined the Center in 1991 as an administrative assistant. In this role, she oversaw the Center's financial matters—particularly budgets and grants. Christine rejoined the center in 2021 as Research Project Coordinator, working on grants and funding for special projects.

We are grateful for all of Christine's work at the Center over the past three decades.

BETTY LEUNG

Happy wishes to **Betty Leung** on her upcoming retirement.

Betty joined the Center in 2007 as the Management Services Officer. In 2016, she became the Center's Chief Administrative Officer. Betty has been an integral part of the Asian American Studies Center community for the last 17 years. We hope that Betty will have more time for her many interests and hobbies in retirement which include: spending time with her old English sheepdog Patton, traditional Chinese dancing of the Han and minority peoples, and exploring new cultures and cuisines.

IN MEMORIAM

MIKE WATANABE (1946-2023)



Community leader, educator, and mentor **Mike Watanabe** passed away on November 3, 2023.

Mike was a founding leader and president emeritus of the **Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP)** where he began as a counselor. He pursued a master's degree in social work at UCLA through a scholarship from the **National Institute of Mental Health**. After he completed his masters he was placed at AADAP. Mike was an advocate for the destigmatization of addiction, and he aimed to expand services and access for those seeking substance abuse and mental health support. He also worked with community-based organizations to transform social and economic inequality in Los Angeles.

KAREN ITO (1947-2023)



Anthropologist and community organizer **Karen Ito** passed away on November 23, 2023.

Karen blended her academic anthropology training with her dedication to the Asian American community using field studies approaches. She developed the AASC's first-ever project focusing on Asian American women, "**The Health Care Alternatives for Asian American Women (HCAAAW)**" research project.

Karen was also part of establishing Asian American Studies at UCLA and the eventual founding of the Asian American Studies Center. For more than a decade, she helped develop curriculum and syllabi to teach the first UCLA Asian American Studies courses that are still taught today, including the Asian American women's course.

ALAN TAKESHI NISHIO (1945-2023)



Activist, educator, and community leader **Alan Takeshi Nishio** passed away on December 27, 2023.

Alan was an exemplar of activism and service who profoundly influenced generations of students, community organizations, and educational institutions. We are particularly grateful to Alan for his leadership as the Acting Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) in its founding years at the young age of 24. His mark on the Center, however brief, is important, as his selection over traditional faculty was a decisive move among the Center's students and staff to advance research and teaching in service to the community.

Alan worked professionally as an educator and administrator for nearly 40 years, and perhaps his most significant legacy is the successful movement for **redress and reparations** for Japanese Americans.

SAKAYE ARATANI (1919-2024)



Philanthropist and community leader **Sakaye Aratani** passed away on March 18, 2024.

Sakaye was a beloved mother and community member known for her kind spirit and devotion to the Japanese American community. At UCLA, Sakaye and her husband George established the **George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair on the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress, and Community** dedicated to studying the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The Aratanis also established award programs and fellowships that support students at the Asian American Studies Center. Sakaye's innate grace and modesty belied a strong inner core. When called upon, she was an accomplished public speaker who always reminded people about the importance of preserving community.

IN MEMORIAM

GARY OKIHIRO (1945-2024)



Community leader, scholar, and educator **Gary Okihiro** passed away on May 20, 2024.

Gary was a bridge builder and key leader in Asian American Studies, and played crucial roles in its development over the span of four decades. He began his career at UCLA's Asian American Studies Center in 1973 as a **Ford Foundation Fellow** to develop undergraduate curriculum for Asian American students. Gary created intellectual spaces and institutional support for Asian American Studies at five universities throughout his career. Gary served as the Associate Editor of AASC's *Amerasia Journal* in 1977. He later founded the **Journal of Asian American Studies (JAAS)**, the journal of the **Association of Asian American Studies**. He helped organize the East of California conferences that gave voice to Asian American Studies programs on the East Coast, Midwest, and the South.

STANLEY SUE (1944-2024)



Psychologist and scholar **Stanley Sue** passed away on June 6, 2024.

Stanley was known for pioneering Asian American and contemporary multicultural psychology. He began his career at the University of Oregon for his undergraduate, and pursued a M.A. and PhD in clinical psychology at UCLA. He was Professor of Psychology at UCLA from 1981 to 1996. Stanley served as the director of the **National Research Center on Asian American Mental Health** and the chair of the Asian American Studies program at UC Davis, and co-founded the **Asian American Psychological Association**. Stanley advocated against discrimination and prejudice within the field of psychology, and encouraged a multicultural approach to understanding the mental health of ethnic minorities.

GANN MATSUDA (1963-2024)



Community activist, educator, and journalist **Gann Matsuda** passed away on October 12, 2024.

Gann began his activism and community involvement at UCLA when he helped reenergize the **UCLA Nikkei Student Union (NSU)** in 1981. He was an advocate for redress and reparations for Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II. He also encouraged other Nikkei students to be politically engaged in campaigns, such as supporting the late and former AASC Director Don Nakanishi's tenure case. Gann was a member of the **Manzanar Committee** and also a mentor at **Katari**, where he educated Japanese youth about cultural preservation and social justice. He was selected to be on the **Manzanar Advisory Committee** concerning the future of the **National Historic Site**.

PETER JAMERO (1930-2024)



Filipino American trailblazer, community leader, and educator **Peter Jamero** passed away on November 22, 2024.

Peter was known for dedicating his life to serving his community through mentorship and advocacy. After completing a master's degree in social work at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, he went on to become a founding member of the **Filipino American National Historical Society**. Peter was committed to sharing and preserving the histories of Filipino Americans, including his own experiences growing up on a farmworker camp in Livingston, California. In addition to his involvement in the Filipino American community, Peter also served in executive positions in various government-led health and human service programs and was instrumental in building social service networks for Asian Americans at a local and federal level.

2023-2024 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AWARDS,

FACULTY AND POSTDOCTORAL AWARDEES

C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA

JOLIE CHEA

Assistant Professor Asian American Studies

Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship

BENJAMIN K.P. WOO 胡啟贊

Professor Clinical Psychiatry and Asian American Studies

Institute of American Cultures (IAC) Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow

RANDEEP SINGH HOTHI

PROJECT TITLE: Sikhism Will Be Televised: Postcolonial Dispossession, Multicultural Cunning, and the Broadcast of Global Sikhism

IAC/AASC Faculty and Postdoctoral Fellow Research Grants

WEI-TI CHEN

Professor Nursing

PROJECT TITLE: Testing a Stigma and Structural Racism Reduction Intervention in Asian Pacific Americans Living with HIV in New York

EVYN LÊ ESPIRITU GANDHI

Professor Asian American Studies

PROJECT TITLE: Remembering Operation New Life and Guam's Role during the Vietnam War: A Public History Exhibit

QIANWEN SUN

Postdoctoral Fellow Anderson School of Management

PROJECT TITLE: Dissecting the Dynamics of Race and Conversational Behaviors: A Multi-Study Investigation into Asian American Social Interactions

ARATANI COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT RESEARCH ENDOWMENT (C.A.R.E.) AWARDEES

AIKO MATSUMURA DZIKOWSKI

PROJECT: Japanese American Princess: A Linguistic Anthropological Approach to Race, Gender, and Transnationalism within the Nikkei Community

EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY JAPANESE COMMUNITY CENTER

PROJECT: ESGVJCC's Camp Chibikko – Youth Cultural Camps

GARDENA VALLEY JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

PROJECT: GVJCI Day of Remembrance 2024 - Terminal Island: Lost but Not Forgotten

GREATER LOS ANGELES JA CL

PROJECT: Southern California Intercollegiate Nikkei Council's Nikkei Professionals Event

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

PROJECT: Japanese American Experience - World War II in New York and the Upper East Coast

JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

PROJECT: DÔ (THE WAY): Traditional Japanese Arts for Young Adults

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE NIHONGO TEAM

PROJECT: The Ono Letters Project – Letters from the Incarceration Camps

SACHIKO AND DOM MAGWILI (BOOK AND LYRICS); DAN TAGUCHI (COMPOSER)

PROJECT: One Puka Puka Christmas

NICHI BEI FOUNDATION

PROJECT: 6th Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage

PRESERVE ORANGE COUNTY

PROJECT: Nomination of Historic Wintersburg to the National Register of Historical Sites

JANICE D. TANAKA

PROJECT: June Okida Kuramoto Legacy Event

TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION COALITION

PROJECT: Only the Oaks Remain – World War II Tuna Canyon Detention Station

UCLA KYODO TAIKO

PROJECT: Kyodo Taiko's 25th Annual Spring Concert

UCLA NIKKEI STUDENT UNION

PROJECT: Nikkei Student Union's 38th Annual Cultural Night

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS LLC

PROJECT: Tule Lake Segregation Center and Renunciation - Screening & Symposium

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

PROJECT: Stand Up for Justice: A Legacy of Friendship - Screening & Discussion

WILLIAM WAY LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

PROJECT: The Kiyoshi Project

WORLD WAR II CAMP WALL

PROJECT: WWII Camp Wall Educational Display Panel Design

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

IAC/AASC Graduate Student Research Grants

BELINDA CHEN

PhD Student Psychology

PROJECT TITLE: Looking Beyond Culture: Ecological Factors and Reinforcement Processes Underlying Self-Criticism in Asian Americans

RICHIE CHU

MA Student Community Health Sciences and Asian American Studies

PROJECT TITLE: The Impact of Adverse and Positive Childhood Experiences On Mental Health Outcomes in Vietnamese American Young Adults

TOMI CHUNG

PhD Student Geography

PROJECT TITLE: "Concrete Vietnam": Narrating Race, Rebellion, and Place in South Central Los Angeles

DAMANJIT SINGH GILL

PhD Student Anthropology

PROJECT TITLE: *Paintra*

JOYCE NGUY

PhD Student Political Science

PROJECT TITLE: Minority Candidates and the Boundaries of Racial Rhetoric in American Campaigns

NICOLE YIU

PhD Student Gender Studies

PROJECT: Listening to Quietness: Asian American Massage Workers and Articulations of the Political

Martha Ogata Grant to Study Domestic Violence & Abuse in APA Communities

HARMEET KAUR KALS

PhD Student Higher Education and Organizational Change

PROJECT TITLE: Shernis - Punjabi Sikh Women's Intergenerational Resilience

KRISTI V. MAI

MA Student Asian American Studies

PROJECT TITLE: Building Refugee Homes Through Feminist Compassion

YEE THAO

MA Student Asian American Studies

PROJECT TITLE: Occupational Vtubing: Feminized Labors, Community, and Intimacy

Patrick and Lily Okura Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health

ANGELINA ARIYA KARNSOUVONG

MA Student Asian American Studies

PROJECT TITLE: Indigenous Healing and Decolonial Health: Approaches to Khmu Wellbeing in Refugee Diaspora

JASMINE JICHING TILL

MA Student Public Policy - Asian American Studies/Ethnic Studies

PROJECT TITLE: Is Self-Care Selfish or Selfless? An intersectional study on the Mental Health of Asian American Women Activists

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

MATTHEW J. YAN

MD/MPH Student Concentration in Health Policy & Management
PROJECT TITLE: Project A-Team Med: "Accepting All Bodies" – Pilot Study of Eating Disorder Education & Empowerment Among Asian Ams in Los Angeles

Pearl Wang Fellowship

QIANYUN WANG

PhD Student Social Welfare
PROJECT TITLE: Visions of Healing: Documenting Grief and Bereavement among Older Chinese Immigrants through Photovoice

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship

MADS K. LE

PhD Student Information Studies - Archives
PROJECT TITLE: Chronic Possibilities: Writing a Historiography of Care, Disability, and Illness in Vietnamese American Diaspora

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship

WEI SI NIC YIU

PhD Student Gender Studies - Asian/American Women, Migration, Gender & Race, Care, Sound & Resistance
PROJECT TITLE: Listening to Quietness: Chinese Massage Workers and Articulations of the Political

Tritia Toyota Fellowship

CAROLYN PARK

PhD Student Linguistic Anthropology
PROJECT TITLE: Understanding Immigrant Workers' Beliefs about the Value of Spanish, English, and Korean in the Labor Market

George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship

AIKO MATSUMURA DZIKOWSKI

PhD Student Anthropology - Linguistic Anthropology
PROJECT TITLE: Japanese American Princess: A Linguistic Anthropological Approach to Generational Change, Cultural Diplomacy, and Pageantry within the Nikkei Community

Dr. Paul and Hisako Terasaki Research Fellowship

AMELIA INO

PhD Student Comparative Literature - Memory Studies; Asian-American Literature
PROJECT TITLE: Teaching Memory: Examining the Role of Literature Curricula and Literary Representation in Shaping Collective Memory of Japanese American Incarceration in World War II

21st Century Graduate Internship

ANOU VANG

MA Student Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Best Paper Scholarship

EMMA TRAN

PhD Student Community Health Sciences
PAPER TITLE: Expanding Right-Wing Studies into Public Health: Race, Place, and a Vietnamese American Story

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

JASMINE JICHING TILL

MA Student Public Policy - Asian American Studies/Ethnic Studies
PAPER TITLE: Navigating Interdisciplinarity: A Critical Look at Asian American Studies With Three Asian American Women Leaders and Scholars

Ben & Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

SIYUE LENA WANG

PhD Student Education - Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration
PAPER TITLE: A Critical Review of Asian American Pacific Islander Immigrant Students in Selected Higher Educational Literature

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Best Paper Scholarship in Asian American Literature & Culture

MAYA SINHA

MA Student Asian American Studies - South Asian Diaspora
PAPER TITLE: Chinese or Japanese? The Eaton Sisters, Racial Flexibility, and Asian American Female Literary Agency

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

Jane Lin Memorial Scholarship

MIYAKO KATO

MAJOR: Psychobiology
ESSAY TITLE: Perspective. Purpose. Progress.

Nhat H. Tran, M.D. Scholarship

RYAN HORIO

MAJORS: Human Biology & Society, Asian American Studies
ESSAY TITLE: Resilience in Identity: Navigating Legacy, Disability, and Advocacy Towards Health Equity

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship

MELODY YUAN

MAJORS: Public Affairs, Psychology MINOR: Asian American Studies
ESSAY TITLE: Education and Action Must Be Intertwined

Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship

SAMANTHA LEONG

MAJORS: Political Science, Asian American Studies
ESSAY TITLE: Who is the Enemy?

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

ELLE HATAMIYA

MAJOR: Psychology MINOR: Asian American Studies
ESSAY TITLE: The AAPI Response to Militarization, Colonization, and Racism

LILY JIANG

MAJOR: Neuroscience
ESSAY TITLE: Harmony

LANA KOBAYASHI

MAJOR: Public Affairs MINOR: Asian American Studies
ESSAY TITLE: No-No Boy and the 21st-Century Asian American Experience

EMILY OTOSHI

MAJOR: Cognitive Science
ESSAY TITLE: Japanese American Arts: The Pulse of a Great Wave

Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship

JONAH HIRATA

MAJOR: Political Science
ESSAY TITLE: Strength Through Community

John Kubota Scholarship in Japanese American Studies

RYAN HORIO

MAJORS: Human Biology & Society, Asian American Studies
PROJECT TITLE: What makes a social movement successful? a case-study on the "Voices of Japanese American Redress" Conference at UCLA

George and Lily Kagawa Award for Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Research Internship

ELLE HATAMIYA

MAJOR: Psychology MINOR: Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP: Asian Health Services

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

Stanley Kwok Lau & Dora Wong Lau Memorial Internship

MELODY YUAN

MAJOR: Public Affairs and Psychology MINOR: Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

21st Century Undergraduate Internship

SAMANTHA CHEN

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Gold Shield Alumnae of UCLA Internship

VIVIAN NGUYEN

MAJOR: International Development Studies MINOR: Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP: AAPI for Civic Empowerment Education Fund

Hiram Wheeler Edwards Best Paper Scholarship for the Study of World War II Internment Camps & Japanese Americans

SAMANTHA CHEN

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Effects of Criminalization on Asian American and Pacific Islander Youth Mental Health

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Best Paper Scholarship

COLEMAN LEUNG

MAJOR: Cognitive Science MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: I Can't Speak My Parents' Native Language: Who is to Blame?

Rose Eng Chin and Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

SYDNEY GAW

MAJOR: English MINOR: Creative Writing
PAPER TITLE: Literature as a Lens into Asian American Women's Lives

Ben and Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

CAROLINE PANGALINAN

MAJOR: Social Sciences
PAPER TITLE: A Brown Body Armed with a Pen, Paintbrush, and Turntable: How Pacific Islander Youth Utilize Art to Navigate their Postcolonial Identities

KATELYN LEE

MAJOR: Political Science
PAPER TITLE: The Disembodiment of Asian America for the Western Gaze

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

NOAH MARIS

MAJORS: Education and Social Transformation, Economics
PAPER TITLE: Racist Love, Societal Expectations, and the 'model' Asian American Youth

Professor Benjamin K.P. Woo 胡啟贊 Awarded 2023-2024 Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American Studies at UCLA

Dr. Woo joined the UCLA faculty in 2009 and is currently Professor of Clinical Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences with a joint appointment in Asian American Studies. He is also the Psychiatry Clerkship Director at the Olive View – UCLA Medical Center and directs the Chinese American Health Promotion Laboratory at UCLA. Professor Woo is being acknowledged for his extraordinary impact on Asian American communities, particularly his contributions in the field of Asian American Gerontology and Mental Health. He has played a major role as a clinician, administrator and teacher in improving culturally sensitive care through mentorship of countless undergraduate students, medical students, and resident physicians, as well as through research and publications, and community outreach. Woo's career has focused largely on developing accessible mental health education programs for Chinese immigrants.

"As the Chinese proverb goes 'One generation plants the trees, the next generation enjoys the shade'. I am truly grateful to all the pioneers in the field of Asian American Studies," said Dr. Woo. We are honored to present this well-deserved recognition to Professor Woo for his outstanding contributions as an engaged scholar, researcher, mentor, and advocate.



Assistant Professor Jolie Chea Awarded 2023-2024 C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA

Professor Chea is being recognized for their exemplary teaching and mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students, especially first-generation, queer/trans, working class, and other underrepresented backgrounds. Their expertise in the U.S. Empire in Southeast Asia and American carceral culture has transformed the curricular offerings by the Asian American Studies Department, in their outstanding instruction of courses such as AS 171F: US Empire in Southeast Asia and AAS 135: Southeast Asian Refugee Communities in the US, along with the guidance they provided in the writing course AAS 107A and the graduate core course AAS 200C.

Over the past few years, Chea has inspired students through teaching alternative forms of analyzing academic literature through a creative lens, encouraging students to embrace their unique voices and lived experiences through critical autoethnography. One student shared how Chea is a selfless, generous, kind and supportive teacher and how Chea's class "...turned out to be the most rewarding class of my entire graduate experience." Professor Chea is thankful to their colleagues and students for the nomination. "It is incredibly humbling to receive this award, especially because I have learned so much from those whom I have been tasked to 'teach.' This means a lot to me and I deeply appreciate your generosity," said Chea. We are honored to award this well-deserved recognition to Professor Jolie Chea for their extraordinary contributions and impact as a teacher, mentor, and extraordinary scholar for Asian American Studies.



THANK YOU

TO SUPPORTERS OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

\$2,000,0000+

Helen and Morgan Chu

\$100,000-\$249,999

Raul Contreras in Memory of Amy Uyematsu '69, MED '72
Nhat Tran '97, MPH '17

\$50,000-\$99,999

Carol K. Mochizuki '70
Corinne and Chris Tachiki
in Memory of Amy Uyematsu '69, MED '72
National Education Association
Terasaki Family Foundation

\$10,000-\$49,999

Ares Management LLC
Angela Oh '77, MPH '81 and Yingming Tu
BlackRock
Colin K. Watanabe '65, MS '67
Letritia Miyake MJ '70, PHD '04 and Michael Yamaki '71
Lydia and Michael King MBA '96
Mark DeAngelis and Henry Jung '87
Shirley Hune and Kenyon Chan '70, MA '72, PHD '74
Strada Education Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Cathay Bank
Christia Kaminsky-Ogawa and Rodney Ogawa '70
East West Bancorp, Inc.
Ellen Wong and Dominic Ng
Mamie '72 and Hai Nguyen '79
Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi and Don Nakanishi
Michelle M. Gosom '97

\$1,000 -\$4,999

Ann and John Liu MA '74, PHD '85
Beth M. Fujishige '87
Buck Y. Wong MA '71
Candice '82, JD '96 and Steven Yokomizo '83
Chong Cao MFE '19
Elma O. Severson
Erica Yamamura '01, MA '03, PHD '06 and Soren Nielsen
Haruko '81 and Akira Kawasaki
Howard S. Wang MA '81, PHD '92
Janet and John Fossum
Jina and Roger Wakimoto
Katherine Jew MPH '88
Kathryn A. Bannai
Lilly and Beaumont Hall '62
Marjorie and Irving Weiser
May Ying Chen MED '72 and Rockwell Chin
Microsoft Corporation
Norma Corral
Patsy and James Matsushita
Rosaly Pham
Rose and Florante Ibanez MA '06, MLI '06
Susan T. Stern '74
Suzi Wong '70 and Jed Rasula
Teradata - Anonymous
The Asian American Foundation
Thrivent Charitable Liu Social Equity Fund

\$500 -\$999

Christine K. Oka '74, MLS '90
Faye F. Yamada '70
Glenn Omatsu
Karen '76, JD '79 and Martin Tachiki '75, JD '78
Kenson T. Harada '76
Maria Dungo '90 and David Niz
Mary Nishimoto '80 and David Stephan
Nancy A. Yoshihara '71, MJ '71
Nancy and Milton Louie MD '75
Some Anonymous Gifts

\$100 -\$499

Ada and Howard Wong '76, MS '77
Akemi and Gary Yano
Alex De Ocampo and Todd Sargent '96
Angela C. Wong '99
Anna Wang
Brynn Saito
Carolyn '66 and Donald Novin
Carolyn Iwata
Christina Wong
Christine Chin '84 and Jeffrey Giannini
Christine Ryu
Christy and Lyle Sakamoto '74
Deborah A. Ledford
Debra Suh and Robin Toma JD '88, MA '88
Derrick Que '00
Diane and Bruce Shimano P
Dolly M. Gee '81, JD '84
Fidelity Charitable Ling Ying Wong Memorial Fund
George Sya MBA '08
Ghaliah A. Fakhoury
James K. Murakami '82
Janet and Rex Takahashi '71
Jennifer '76 and Casimiro Tolentino '72, JD '75
Jennifer L. Wong MD '87
Jon G. Low '97
Joyce and Richard Yamashita '84
Joyce N. Okazaki '56

Judy Wada '85 and Edward Weisberger
Julie '89 and Craig Suen '85
Julie Cho MFA '99 and James Lee MA '95, MA '97, PHD '00
Julie Ha '94 and Sean Chung MD '95
Kana Enomoto '92, MA '94
Kevin Leung '90
Kristen K. Tadokoro '98
Kyle Kim '95
Lee Herrick
Lesley and Russell Wong '04
Linda and Roger Rasmussen PHD '74
Linda McDonnell and Gary Tokumori '85
Liv Torgerson and Richard Chew '64
Lourdes and Gordon Yamamoto '80
Lynn C. Mikami '66
Machico and Toyotomi Morimoto MA '83, PHD '89
Marcella Whang Ridge '64 and Donald Ridge
Marianne T. Sing '84
Meiko '60 and Mitsuru Inaba
Michael C. Gong JD '85
Michael H. Ma '07
Michael S. Li '05
Michelle Banta-Tessier '01, MFA '07 and William Tessier MFA '07
Michiko J. Takahashi '67
Mike Hoa T. Nguyen MA '14, PHD '19
Mimi '81 and James Horiuchi
Nancy Tse Chin and Robin Chin EDM '95, MAT '95

Noreen Nishiki '83
Peter H. Liu '04
Phuong Tang MSW '05, MA '08 and Jeff Liu '96
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
R. W. Sakai '94, JD '97
Rafael Elbaz
Ru Du and Zhuang Fang MS '91
Rumi Yasutake MA '94, PHD '98 and August Arikawa
Sally T. Yamashita '70, MA '72
Samuel A. Balimbin '93
Schwab Charitable Robin & Nancy Chin DAF
Sheldon Lim '98
Some Anonymous Gifts
Sunni Won '86 and Jeff Littrell
Susan '77 and Robert Yoneda
Susan Rosales '81, MA '83 and Daniel Mayeda '79, JD '82
Susan S. Matsui '87
The Walt Disney Company
Thomas Oshiro '91, MS '98, PHD '00
Tina M. Wong '98, MS '99, MBA '07
Wanda Chin '74 and Terry Dickey
Wendy MA '70 and Rockne Tokumine
Wenzhi Li MS '98 P
William B. Wong JD '85
Yang Wu MS '04
Yukiko Tsuji-Maki MA '91

Up to \$100

Alexander C. Ha '08
Alexander Siu '12
Arlene M. Fukai '83
Brenda Huey and Randall Lem MBA '76
Brian Ly '10, DDS '15, MPH '17
Brian W. Woon '05
Bryan K. Yogi '95
Carol and Steve Lau '85
Caryn and Corey Matsuoka '94
Cheryl N. Yamashita '69
Ching W. Loong '86
Dean E. Okamura '75
Diana Yu Rewinski MS '83, MBA '90
Diane Tan and King Cheung '72
Dorie J. Iwata '71
Edward Win P
Emily H. Morishima MA '06, PHD '10

Emiri Araki '15
Erin M. Nakamura MSW '12
Ethylene '93 and John Ziegler '91
Fiserv Inc.
Gary B. Kawaguchi '76
Haoyu Zhou MBA '22
Heidi N. Crane MBA '23
Janice PHD '72 and Chao Yen
Jessica Perry
Julie Tieu '06
Karen '89 and John Luo '88
Karen and Eddie Takata
Kathryn Contreras
King-Kok Cheung
Kyle K. Ishii '07
Lam Research
Leon Sun

Leslie P. Wang '96
Linda O. Hash '89
Liting Wang MA '22 and Dajie Sun
Marc Aaron Y. Takagaki '11
Marilyn MN '92 and Michael Harris
Michelle H. Chan '23
Misono and Ronald Miller
Nels C. Christianson
Patricia and Brian Fukuma '84
Ralph Thurston
Shirley and Shuji Yamada '89
Some Anonymous Gifts
Staci Y. Yamanishi '09, EDM '11
Susan Liu and Darrell Leong '96
Tim G. H. Shimizu JD '12
Tuyet M. Ontiveros '95
Yuan Ye '16

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center was founded in 1969.

We've come a long way since then—from teaching the first Asian American studies courses at UCLA, producing two of the preeminent 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, launching digital archives and projects, and so much more. Many people have been with us on this journey—whether as students, faculty, staff, volunteers, organizational partners or community members—and we thank you for all you have done to help us bring Asian American Studies forward.

We invite you to connect with the Center, support our key initiatives, and join us for our slate of special programming and events that examine this current moment and look towards the future of Asian American Studies.



Stay connected with the Center by signing up at <http://bit.ly/joinaasc>.

**SUPPORT
ASIAN
AMERICAN
STUDIES**

UCLA Asian American Studies Center
<https://aasc.ucla.edu>



Follow us @ucla_aasc



- 1/ Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Abe Ferrer, Cheryl Samson, Monica Wayie Ly at Abe's Visual Communications photo exhibit
- 2/ UCLA Asian American Studies Department Barbecue
- 3/ Chinatown Lunar New Year Firecracker 5K/10K Run, with AASC staff participating
- 4/ Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Maya Lu, Arlene Inouye, Kelly Fong at the AAAS 2024 Conference book table
- 5/ Foundations and Futures AAPI Multimedia Textbook Staff Christine Lee, Mena Dolinh, Natalya Hill, Abigail Chun
- 6/ Kelani Silk and Audrey Alo Aofia Kawaiohua at the UCLA Pasifika Community Reception
- 7/ Volunteer Coordinators Emiko Kranz and Haley Hosokawa with flower arrangements at the AAPI Policy Summit
- 8/ AASC Staff and Supporters at Activist-In-Residence Welcome Reception