

CROSSCurrents

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

VOLUME 35
2013

ENDOWMENT GIFTS SUPPORT NEW ASIAN AM FACULTY & RESEARCH

Two outstanding and accomplished scholars, filmmaker **Renee Tajima-Peña** and educational policy researcher **Robert Teranishi**, have come to UCLA through two endowments established at the Center. These endowed chairs help fill voids in scholarship and pedagogy, securing spaces for Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies to expand and thrive.

The chairs are indicative of the wide range of generous support that the Center was built upon and by which it continues to be sustained into the future. The Alumni and Friends of Japanese American Ancestry Endowed Chair was started in the 1970s with over 300 people raising funds to establish the chair, while the Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies was established by Center Co-Founders and alumni Morgan and Helen Chu, whose tremendous generosity to the Center and UCLA have supported many students and programs.



ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF JAPANESE AMERICAN ANCESTRY ENDOWED CHAIR

With Professor Robert Nakamura's retirement last year, Professor Renee Tajima-Peña was appointed from a talented pool of applicants as the new Chairholder and to the Department of Asian American Studies. The Center also welcomed her as the new Director of the Center of EthnoCommunications.

Tajima-Peña was a Professor of Film & Digital Media at UC Santa Cruz, where she was instrumental in the launch of their Social Documentation graduate program. She has produced award-winning works, including *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*, and has been deeply involved in the independent film community, serving as the first paid director of Asian Cine-Vision in New York and a founding member of the Center for Asian American Media. Recently selected for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, her current work includes the documentary, *No Más Bebés Por Vida*, about the sterilization of Mexican-origin women at Los Angeles County-USC Medical in the

1960s and 1970s, and the transmedia project, *Building History 3.0: Learning About Japanese American Incarceration Camps Through Minecraft*.

MORGAN AND HELEN CHU ENDOWED CHAIR IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Professor Robert Teranishi was appointed as the inaugural holder of the Chu Endowed Chair. Formerly faculty at New York University, Teranishi's new position marks his return to UCLA, where he received his MA and PhD in Higher Education and Organizational Change. In 2011, he was named to the U.S. Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission. He is now a professor in the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies (GSE&IS) and serves as co-Director of the Institute for Immigration, Globalization, and Education.



The UCLA community welcomed Professor Teranishi on October 21st at a reception sponsored by the Center, GSE&IS, and the Institute of American Cultures (IAC). IAC's Vice Provost M. Belinda Tucker, GSE&IS Dean Marcelo Suárez-Orozco and Center Director David Yoo shared congratulatory remarks and recognized the Chus for their philanthropy. With many students, faculty, and policymakers in attendance, Teranishi shared his research on educational mobility of Asian Americans and why they must be at the forefront of educational policy priorities.



Professor Robert Teranishi, Helen & Morgan Chu, Dean Marcelo Suárez-Orozco & Professor David Yoo

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

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

GIVING TO THE CENTER

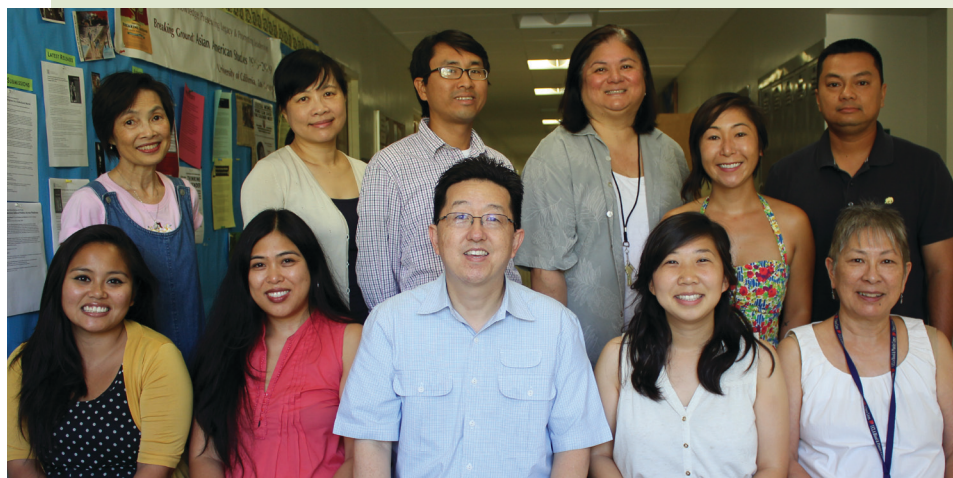
If you are interested in supporting the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, please visit our website (www.aasc.ucla.edu) and click on the "Donate" button at the far right of the navigation bar. Your donation, regardless of amount, has a powerful impact on the research and educational activities that take place within the Center. We greatly value and appreciate your help in making our work possible.

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

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(from left to right, top to bottom)
Marjorie Lee, Betty Leung, Arnold Pan,
Meg Thornton, Gena Hamamoto, Tam
Nguyen, Barbra Ramos, Melany De La
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR



Grace Lee Boggs with Center Co-Founder Emma Gee at "Grace Lee Boggs: A Conversation on Revolution" at East West Players



Center Professors Robert Teranishi, Ninez Ponce, & Paul Ong with Dan Ichinose of AAJA-LA & UC Riverside Professor Karthick Ramakrishnan at 15% and Growing Panel



Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer with Professor Emeritus Claudia Mitchell-Kernan at the Chu Endowed Chair Welcome Reception

CENTER'S COMINGS & GOINGS

This year, the Center welcomed two new staff members, Sarah Chong and Garrett Giffin, and bid farewell to Ann Chau and Mengning Li.

Sarah Chong is the new Office Manager for the Center. A recent graduate from UCLA with a BA in History, Sarah previously worked at a CPA firm based in Koreatown. Although she was born in Los Angeles, Sarah grew up in the Central California city of Santa Maria, a place well-known for their tri-tip BBQ and strawberries. She has also directed Korean Culture Night and been a part of Korean-American Campus Missions at UCLA.

Sarah replaced long-time Office Manager **Ann Chau**, who left the Center to gain experience in fundraising and development. She did not go far though - she is currently using her all talent and skills to support the UCLA Health System.

Former Events Coordinator **Mengning Li** also bid farewell to the Center after working here since 2011. She is back on the East Coast as a part of Teach for America.

After completing his master's degree in linguistics from University College London, **Garrett Giffin** was recruited back to Southern California in October to work as the Center's Archival Research Associate for the K. Patrick and Lily A. Okura Collection and as an assistant to the Center's Library. While pursuing his undergraduate degree in linguistics at UCLA, he had also worked at the Center's Library as a student assistant for four years.



Sarah Chong & Garrett Giffin at the Annual Awards Reception

NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Professor Thu-huong Nguyen-vo began her appointment as the new Associate Director of the Center on July 1, 2013. She is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Asian Languages and Cultures and Asian American Studies. Her work researches governance and the neoliberal global economy, and currently focuses on questions of politics in relation to the epistemology and ontology of death. Her most recent book project explores collective action, as well as literary and visual art by Vietnamese nationals and diasporics who must live with violence in economy and politics. Select publications of hers include: *The Ironies of Freedom: Sex, Culture, and Neoliberal Governance in Vietnam* (University of Washington Press) and "Forking Paths: How Shall We Mourn the Dead?" in *Amerasia Journal* 31:2 (2005).



Nguyen-vo has been involved in community arts organizations and publications since a young teen. She now serves as an advisor to the Vietnamese American Arts and Letters Association, the Vietnamese International Film Festival, and various Vietnamese American student organizations.

Professor Nguyen-vo earned her PhD in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine. Before joining UCLA faculty in 2001, she taught at California State University, Los Angeles.

The Center draws on its remarkable Faculty Advisory Committee members to bring their research into the Center. With the rotating Associate Director position, Center-affiliated faculty have the opportunity to showcase their work and that of their graduate students and engage in bridging their research with community.

The Center is thankful for the service and valuable contributions of her predecessor, **Professor Ninez Ponce** of the School of Public Health.

STUDENTS, CHAIRHOLDER CELEBRATED AT ANNUAL AWARDS

Almost three dozen undergraduate and graduate students were recognized for their research and scholarship at the Center's Annual Awards and Alumni Reception. Many of their parents and friends came to support them as they received certificates commemorating their achievements, which have earned them scholarships, fellowships, internships, and academic prizes. Several of the donors, whose ongoing support makes these awards possible, attended the event, including Mr. Stanley Kwok Lau and Mr. James Kwon.

The reception also publicly welcomed Professor Tajima-Peña to UCLA as the Alumni & Friends of Japanese American Ancestry Endowed Chair. Caretakers of the endowment, Ruth Watanabe, Minoru Tonai, and Herb Kawahara, represented the community that helped make the appointment possible. Mr. Kawahara spoke on their behalf and shared the chair's grassroots' beginnings. PhD candidate Jean Paul deGuzman and undergraduate Alice Li both shared their personal experiences and appreciation for what the awards have done for them.

This year's Annual Awards was another success and the Center looks forward to seeing everyone next year!



Graduate student awardees with faculty presenters, Professors May Wang, Victor Bascara, Thu-huong Nguyen-vo, & Kyeyoung Park.



Awardees Alice Li, Jean Paul deGuzman & Linda Ton



Professor Kyeyoung Park (middle) with Mrs. & Mr. James Kwon



Professors David Yoo & Renee Tajima-Peña with endowment representatives Ruth Watanabe, Herb Kawahara, & Minoru Tonai



Undergraduate awardees Jeffrey Wong, Kristine Ueda, Gabriel Sanchez, Tiffany Tonnu, Annie Chen, Crystal Deedas, Jeffrey Kho, & Ken Huang



Staff & volunteers Beth Kopacz, Barbra Ramos, Gena Hamamoto, Sarah Chong, Jennifer Xiong & Katie Wang

AUTHORS, SCHOLARS SHARE WORK AT UCLA

This past year, the Center has helped invite many writers and scholars to share their recent publications with the UCLA community. These included: Amy Suyoshi's *Queer Compulsions*, Yoon Sun Lee's *Modern Minority: Asian American Literature and Everyday Life*, Wing Tek Lum's *The Nanjing Massacre*, and Gish Jen's book talk for the release of *Tiger Writing*.

COLLOQUIUM SERIES RELAUNCH

The Center, along with the Department of Asian American Studies, revived its colloquium series, aimed at bringing together students and staff. These talks and discussions, usually during lunch, cover a wide range of topics and are now scheduled to occur once a quarter.

The first of the series commemorated International Women's Day. Structured as an open dialogue, participants shared some of their female heroines, including Mazie Hirono and Gabriela Silang. The other events featured talks by Visiting Scholar and alum Dr. Akemi Kikumura-Yano and Professor Yang Sao Xiong. Professor Xiong's talk can be viewed online at the Center website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/vids/>.

Future events are being planned with scholars and student groups. If you have an idea for a colloquium, please contact Mary Kao (mugao@ucla.edu).

IN REMEMBRANCE

Since the Center's inception, we have been fortunate to work and interact with many important individuals in the Asian American community. We remember some of those whom we have lost this past year.

- **Senator Daniel K. Inouye**, the highest ranking Asian American politician in U.S. history and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, passed away on December 17, 2012.
- **Karin Higa**, Art History MA alum and pioneering advocate and curator of Asian American art, passed away on October 29, 2013.

ENDLESS GRATITUDE TO GEORGE ARATANI

George Aratani, longtime supporter of the Center and philanthropist, passed away on February 19, 2013 at the age of 95. Aratani was a successful businessman and community leader and it was through the generosity of him and his wife Sakaye that the Center has been able to support research and scholarship on the Japanese American experience, as well as foster connections between different communities.

They established the George and Sakaye Aratani Chair on the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community. The chair, held by Professor Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, was the first of its kind in American higher education and it focused on the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans and their campaign to gain redress. Additionally, they supported endowments for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and undergraduate community internships.

The Aratanis not only worked towards building more research and scholarship, but also supported linkages between campus and community. In this vein, they established the George and Sakaye Aratani Community Advancement Research Endowment, otherwise known as Aratani CARE grants. Each year, organizations and individuals are awarded funding for projects that will: 1) benefit and advance the Japanese American community, as well as 2) strengthen ties between the Japanese American community and UCLA students, staff, and faculty.

His own personal experiences fueled the desire to give back. In 1942, Aratani and 120,000 other Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps and,

according to Aratani, the experience forever changed the lives of all Japanese Americans, especially those of his parents' immigrant generation, most of whom never recovered financially or psychologically from the injustice. Post-war, he founded Mikasa, a highly successful dinnerware company, and later Kenwood, a leading electronics company. Aratani attributed his success to his father, a hardworking man who created numerous businesses of his own.

In 2004, UCLA bestowed upon Aratani its highest award, the UCLA Medal, to recognize his dedication and support of the university. According to Professor Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi, former director of the Center, "Mr. Aratani believes it is the duty of those like him, who have been fortunate to succeed in society to give back as much as possible through their donations or voluntary activities in order to ensure the continued growth and vitality of the Japanese American community."

Many of the Center's faculty, staff, and students have benefited from the generosity and vision of the Aratanis. The legacy George Aratani has left behind will be remembered for decades to come.

DR. MARY SAKAGUCHI ODA

The Center was sad to note the passing of **Dr. Mary Sakaguchi Oda** on October 18, 2013. A graduate of UCLA, she and her husband established the Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans at the Center to be awarded to graduate and undergraduate students. The topic was very close to her—Dr. Oda's medical studies at UC Berkeley came to a halt after Executive Order 9066 and her wartime relocation to the Manzanar internment camp. While there, she re-applied to medical schools and was later able to earn her degree at Woman's Medical College (now Drexel University). Named after one of Dr. Oda's UCLA professors who wrote her a letter of recommendation and had presented here with news of her acceptance to Woman's Medical College, the Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize was emblematic of the Odas' support for education and students. Dr. Oda also participated in the Commission Hearings on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians that lead to redress. The Center is eternally grateful for the Odas' support throughout the years.



Irene Hirano Inouye, Professor Lane Hirabayashi,
George Aratani, Senator Daniel K. Inouye,
Sakaye Aratani & Professor Emeritus Don Nakanishi

COMPLETION OF YUJI ICHIOKA AND EMMA GEE ENDOWED FUND IN SOCIAL JUSTICE AND IMMIGRATION STUDIES

This year marks the completion of the **Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowed Fund in Social Justice and Immigration Studies**. The fund was started after Yuji Ichioka's death in 2002.

Yuji Ichioka was a renowned historian, scholar, and activist, who is credited for coining the phrase "Asian American." He taught at UCLA for nearly 33 years, after he was recruited by the Center to teach its first Asian American Studies class in 1969. Ichioka was considered the preeminent scholar of Japanese American history and he worked to compile the Japanese American Research Projection Collection (JARP), the largest historical archive on Japanese Americans in the United States.

Emma Gee is an Asian American Studies pioneer and scholar in her own right. She edited the foundational text *Counterpoint: Perspectives on Asian America* and put

together the Asian American Women's Writer Group. She also was a member of *Amerasia Journal's* editorial board and continues to support the Center to this day.

This fund honors the many contributions of these two key Center founders. It recognizes their groundbreaking and important work in Asian American studies and reflects their spirit and commitment to social justice and immigrant communities.

The fund has already helped to support Grace Lee Boggs's recent trip to Los Angeles for a special conversation on revolution and book signing at East West Players and in support of the documentary film *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*.

A community celebration for the fund will be held in the spring quarter.

LATEST ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS FILMS AND UPDATES

After the ushering in of the program's new director, Renee Tajima-Peña, and another year of student filmmaking, the latest documentary shorts from Asian American Studies 142C: EthnoCommunications Creating Community Media class debuted to the UCLA community at the annual screening in June. The spring productions were:

MY MOTHER'S DISPOSITION

Dir. Natalie Yip

Being in an interracial relationship can lead to many experiences. When Natalie is faced with her mother's fervent wishes, she must re-evaluate her own desires in life.

MAE KRUA (MOTHER OF THE KITCHEN)

Dir. Wanda Pathomrit

A Thai immigrant mother redefines courage, love, and happiness through the labor of love she endures for her family in America.

WHO IS VIETNAMESE AMERICA?

Dirs. Jennifer Giang & Beth Kopacz

In the aftermath of an LGBT Vietnamese American group's exclusion from the annual Tet parade, two members work to build a stronger community through compassion.

REMEMBER ME

Dir. Anny Lim

After surviving dramatic times in Korea, Grandmother Yu Jai Hwang reluctantly immigrated to the United States. This film tells her story as an outsider in the US, and her struggle to uphold her role as mother and grandmother while living in a foreign country.

FAMILY TIME

Dir. Jean Okamoto

Upon going away to school, a college student explores life, family, and the dinner table.



Robert Nakamura, Renee Tajima-Peña, Jonathan Reinert, Gena Hamamoto, & Tadashi Nakamura at *I Want the Wide American Earth*

Every year films developed in EthnoCommunications classes, as well as films from the program's alumni, are screened at festivals and special events, such as the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. This year, two alumni films have also been broadcasted on PBS stations and online—Tadashi Nakamura's *Jake Shimabukuro: Life on Four Strings*, which gave audiences an inside glimpse into the ukulele phenom, and Christopher Woon's *Among B-boys* that documented the intersections between b-boy and Hmong cultures.

A few EthnoCommunications shorts were also screened as part of the Los Angeles showing of the Smithsonian's *I Want the Wide American Earth* exhibition at the Japanese American National Museum. The exhibit highlighted how Asian Pacific Americans shape and have been shaped by history.

Student films are available for educational use. For more information or to request a catalog of 100+ student films, please contact Gena at ghamamoto@ucla.edu.

PROFESSOR KEITH CAMACHO PROMOTED WITH TENURE



The Center congratulates **Professor Keith Camacho** of the Asian American Studies Department on his promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. A rigorous researcher and scholar, Professor Camacho has been an instrumental force in the mentorship and growth of many of his students and is a committed and supportive colleague. His work with Pacific Islander and indigenous studies has resulted in award-winning publications and research appointments at institutions such as University of Canterbury, New Zealand and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Camacho was a recipient of the C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies as well as the inaugural winner of the Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies.

2012-2013 C. DORIS AND TOSHIO HOSHIDE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PRIZE WINNER: PROFESSOR KING-KOK CHEUNG

Congratulations to **Professor King-Kok Cheung** of the Departments of Asian American Studies and English! She is the 2012-2013 recipient of the C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA. She was enthusiastically endorsed for the award, with her students and colleagues acknowledging her as a "titan" of a scholar and pointing to her ability to engage her students in dialogue and her commitment to connecting activists and fellow artists and writers with students and scholars.

Cheung received her PhD in English from UC Berkeley and her research fields include American ethnic literatures, Asian American literature, and world literature, and gender studies. She is the author of *Articulate Silences: Hisaye Yamamoto, Maxine Hong Kingston, Joy Kagawa* and has been the editor for several significant literary anthologies, including *An Interethnic Companion to Asian American Literature* and *Words Matter: Conversations with Asian American Writers*.

She has been recognized for her expertise both here and abroad. Professor Cheung sits on the International Advisory Boards of *Feminist Studies in English Literature* (Korea) and *EuroAmerica* (Taiwan), while serving as the associate editor of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Professor Cheung is the recipient of an ACLS fellowship, a Mellon fellowship, a Fulbright lecturing and research award, and a resident fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford. She also recently served as the Director of



the University of California EAP Study Center in Beijing from 2008 to 2010.

The late C. Doris Hoshide, Class of 1934, of Rockville, MD, established the teaching prize to recognize an outstanding professor in Asian American Studies. She and her husband were longtime supporters of Asian American Studies at UCLA. The Hoshide Prize includes a one thousand dollar reward.

PROFESSOR MIN ZHOU HEADS NTU'S CHINESE HERITAGE CENTRE

This past year, **Professor Min Zhou** was appointed the Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor of Sociology at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Since July, she has served as the chair and also as the head of the sociology department at their School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

She took on a new title in November, as she became the Director for NTU's Chinese Heritage Centre. The organization is a research center that promotes and studies ethnic Chinese communities around the world.

FAC NEWS

- **Professor Valerie Matsumoto** was chosen by the Asian American Studies MA students for the 2012-2013 Graduate Student Appreciation Award.
- **Professor Hiroshi Motomura** received the 2013 Professor Chris Kando Iijima Teacher and Mentor Award by the Conference of Asian Pacific American Law Faculty.
- **Professor Lois Takahashi** received the Legacy Award for Civil Rights from Assemblyman Mike Eng.
- **Professor Tritia Toyota** was profiled as part of KTLA's series for Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, recognizing her trailblazing work as a journalist.
- Co-edited by **Professor Purnima Mankekar**, *Media, Erotics, and Transnational Asia* was published by Duke University Press.
- **Professor Randall Akee** was named to the U.S. Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations.
- **Russell Leong**, who lead *Amerasia Journal* for thirty-three years, brings his years of experience with the Center to serve as founding editor of *CUNY Forum*, a new journal on Asian American and Asian issues.

BOOK COLLECTIONS CONTINUE JOHN DELLORO'S LEGACY

The Center, along with many UCLA students, faculty, and alumni, remember the spirited leadership and service of **John Delloro**. He was a community leader, teacher, activist, and advocate for workers, students, and Asian American Studies at UCLA. A graduate of the Asian American Studies Masters program in 2007 and the undergraduate AAS Specialization program in 1994, he passed away on June 5, 2010.

Recently, books from his personal library were donated to UCLA Asian American Studies by the Delloro-Suh family. These books became the basis for the John Delloro Library Legacy Collections, which serve as an ongoing tribute to John's intellectual and political growth in Asian American Studies and Labor Studies. The collections are available to students as a lasting source of inspiration from John's contributions to the community and future generations of students. The reading collections were established at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Department of Asian American Studies.

A very special dedication event was held on Thursday, May 30, at the Charles E. Young Research Library, with his wife and UCLA alum Susan Suh and his parents Celinia and Winfred Delloro sharing their memories and appreciation. Tributes to Delloro were also shared by Professor Emeri-



John Delloro



Marji Lee, Meg Thornton, Professor Valerie Matsumoto, April Enriquez, Susan Suh, Professor Emeritus Karen Brodtkin, Winfred & Celinia Delloro, Alvin Delloro & Professor David Yoo

tus Karen Brodtkin, Professor Valerie Matsumoto, and student April Enriquez. Russell "Bong" Vergara and Vernon Villanueva performed a musical tribute.

It was a touching event that brought together many of the people who will never forget the impact of John on their lives and who continue to carry on his spirit.

Students and visitors are welcome to view the book collections in the four different sites within Campbell and Rolfe Halls— 2230 Campbell Hall (AASC Library & Reading Room); 3221 Campbell Hall (AASC Student Organization Room); 3336 [3333] Rolfe Hall (Department of Asian American Studies); and 2339 Rolfe Hall (DAAS Graduate Student Lounge).

"LINKING OUR LIVES" FILM ON LUCIE CHENG

A screening of a film documenting the life of the late **Professor Lucie Cheng**, former Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, took place on February 12, 2013. *Linking Our Lives: Lucie's Life Exploration* by filmmaker Diane Ying won Taiwan's prestigious 2012 Golden Harvest Award for Best Documentary.

The program remembered Cheng who was a pioneering scholar of feminist issues, immigration, disadvantaged groups, and social change. In a panel following the discussion, speakers touched upon the widespread impact she had and they represented the different projects and scholarly pursuits of which she was a part.

Speakers at the event included the filmmaker, Eileen Cheng-yin Chow of Duke University, Cheng Chang and Yun-Chang Liao of *Lih Bao* and *Sifang Bao*, Hsiao-chuan Hsia of Shih Hsin University, and UCLA Asian American Studies Professors Tritia Toyota and Min Zhou.

This Center event was also sponsored by the UCLA Richard C. Randolph East Asian Library.



Panelists and special guests gathered for a picture after the screening and discussion



PURO ARTE LAUNCH BRINGS ART TO LIFE

On April 10th, **Professor Lucy Burns** (above) of Asian American Studies celebrated the release of her book *Puro Arte: Filipinos on the Stages of Empire* (New York University Press, 2012) with a talk about the publication coupled with lively performances and a delicious reception. The book examines Filipino American theater and performance, starting with the 20th century to the present. The event featured performance artist Aloha Tolentino and a reading of an excerpt from R. Zamora Linmark's *Rolling the R's* by Linmark, joined by writers Irene Suico Soriano and Napoleon C. A. Lustre. Sponsored by the Center and the Department and co-sponsored by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the room was packed with students, faculty, staff, and community members.



Irene Suico Soriano & R. Zamora Linmark

ALUM MABALON COMES HOME TO UCLA WITH *LITTLE MANILA*



Center Librarian Marji Lee, author Dawn Mabalon & Professor Valerie Matsumoto

Dawn Mabalon, Asian American Studies (AAS) MA graduate and currently Professor of History at San Francisco State University, returned to UCLA with a book talk and signing on November 7th at Young Research Library for her latest publication *Little Manila Is in the Heart*:

The Making of the Filipina/o American Community in Stockton, California (Duke University Press, 2013). The result of over two decades of research, her book uncovers the history and experience of Filipina/o Americans who made Stockton their home, including the pivotal roles many of them, such as Larry Itliong, played in the farmworkers rights strikes in the 60s. Sales from books purchased from the Little Manila Foundation's website (www.littlemanila.org) will help to support the foundation and its work.

COMMUNITY AND ALUMNI NEWS

- **Leslie Ito**, AAS MA alum, became President and CEO of the Japanese American Cultural Center in March.
- Education MA alum and former IAC graduate fellowship recipient, **Tracy Buenavista** was promoted to Associate Professor of Asian American Studies with tenure at California State University, Northridge.
- AAS MA alum **Susie Woo** joined the faculty of the American Studies Department at California State University, Fullerton.
- **Jennifer Tseng**, the first AAS MA alum to do a creative thesis, won the 2012 Marick Press Poetry Prize for her manuscript *Red Flower, White Flower*.
- **Jean-Paul DeGuzman**, AAS MA alum and current History PhD candidate, won the Distinguished Teaching Award for 2012-13 at UCLA.
- **Steven Wong**, AAS MA alum, was named Interim Director of the Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles.
- **Erin Kahunawaika'ala Wright**, Education PhD alum, received the NASPA Region VI Innovative Program Award for Kokua a Puni.
- **Ryth Mendez**, a recent graduate in Asian American Studies major with an LGBT minor, was awarded the Outstanding Youth Leadership Award by Barangay, Los Angeles.

PROFESSOR YANG SAO XIONG TAKES HMONG AMERICAN STUDIES TO UW-MADISON

The Center is pleased to acknowledge that in Fall 2014, Sociology PhD alum **Professor Yang Sao Xiong** will be an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in the Asian American Studies Program and the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. His position is particularly important because it is the first tenure-track position for Hmong American Studies. When asked about the position, Xiong expressed excitement about his first course offering because it will expose students to social movement theories and give them opportunities to research about Hmong Americans' and other Southeast Asian Americans' protest movements in the U.S. The Center wishes him all the best! Professor Xiong currently holds the prestigious Anna Julia Cooper Post-Doctoral Fellowship at UW-Madison.

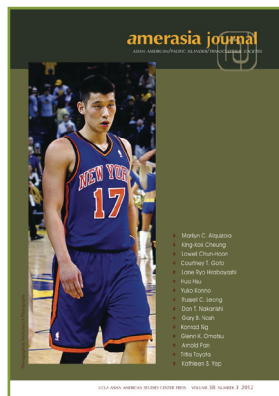
AMERASIA REVAMPS BOARD

Center Director and *Amerasia Journal* Editor, David Yoo, along with Associate Editor Arnold Pan, announced a restructuring of the Editorial Board late last year. An advisory board is now in place that recognizes the pioneering contributions and enduring support of former Editorial Board members. Selected for the Advisory Board were Edward Chang, Emma Gee, Jessica Hagedorn, Russell Leong, Don Nakanishi, Glenn Omatsu, and Tritia Toyota.

New members have joined the Editorial Board: Augusto Espiritu (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign); Khyati Joshi (Farleigh Dickinson University); James Lee (UC Irvine); Gary Pak (University of Hawai'i, Manoa); and Chia Vang (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee). *Amerasia* also brought on two international correspondents—Brian Hayashi (Kyoto University) and Jacqueline Lo (Australian National University). The Editorial Board will help *Amerasia* grow, as well as push to promote its use in classrooms, especially with the new curriculum guides developed this past year.

LATEST ISSUES BRING NEW FOCUS WITH FORUMS, BREAK NEW GROUND WITH SPECIAL TOPICS

OPEN-SUBMISSIONS ISSUES



Last year marked *Amerasia's* return to the open submission format. For one issue per year, the journal features a diverse offering of articles, essays, and literary pieces that would not normally be showcased within the special topic rubric. The switch allowed Allison Truitt's research on a Vietnamese charter school in post-Katrina New Orleans to be published, as well

as Michael Masatsugu's recent work on the writings of Albert Saijo. Scholars and writers such as Tritia Toyota, Marilyn Alquizola, Lane Hirabayashi, Courtney Goto, and Hannah Nahm have also been featured.

AMERASIA FORUMS

The recent *Amerasia* forums reflect the journal's effort to continue to provide timely discussion and reflections with the help of scholars, specialists, and community activists. Issue 38:3 featured a forum on the impact of NBA's Jeremy Lin and Issue 39:2 presented a much needed response to the controversial allegations against Richard Aoki. The latest forum in Issue 39:3 reminds readers about the case of Korean immigrant Chol Soo Lee, whose ultimate freedom from prison was earned with the help of a nationwide, pan-Asian effort and whose story of incarceration and life after incarceration still needs to be shared with people today.

NEW EDITOR TO JOIN JOURNAL

In January 2014, *Amerasia Journal* will welcome **Professor Keith Camacho** as its latest editor. He is grateful to be following in a prestigious line of previous editors that include founder Don Nakanishi, Russell Leong, and most recently, David Yoo. Camacho is no stranger to the journal – he guest-edited the issue "Transoceanic Flows: Pacific Islander Interventions across the American Empire" (2011).

As he prepares to join *Amerasia*, Camacho looks forward to furthering the intersectional methodologies within Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies, while also supporting the research, history, art, and performance that are specific to a community or issue. As editor, he hopes the journal can continue to build upon local and regional discussions with a global sensibility in the background and to retain the Center's commitment to supporting grassroots organizations and the work being done around labor, gender and sexuality, and other areas that might not otherwise be represented.

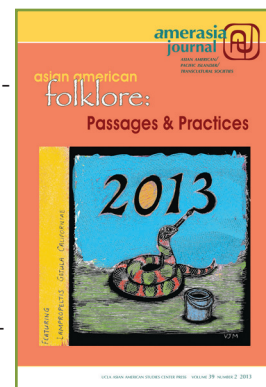
STATE OF ILLNESS & DISABILITY IN ASIAN AMERICA

Amerasia 39:1 is the first issue that was dedicated entirely to disability studies. Spearheaded by Jennifer Ho (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) and James Kyung-Jin Lee (University of California, Irvine), it tackles illness and disability from the vantage points of poetics, ethics, and politics, presenting subjects that have been previously overlooked in Asian American Studies, including autism and representations of deafness, personal accounts of undergoing breast cancer treatments or providing hospice care, and discussions on how disability impacts the way they teach and think about teaching.

ASIAN AMERICAN FOLKLORE: PASSAGES AND PRACTICES

Issue 39:2 was another first for *Amerasia* – it was devoted exclusively to Asian American Folklore Studies. Jonathan H. X. Lee (San Francisco State University) and Kathleen Nadeau (California State University, San Bernardino) served as guest editors.

The issue explores how Asian American Studies and folklore studies converge and it offers the idea that Asian American folk practices are alive and constantly transforming and not simply vestiges of immigrant pasts. Topics covered include Asian American graphic narratives, origami, Chinese American children's folk literature, and Chinatown architecture.



ASIAN AMERICA IN TRANSLATION

The Center Press, in association with the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica Taiwan, published two volumes of ***Global Identities, Local Voices: Amerasia Journal at 40 Years***. The books offered Chinese translations of articles spanning the years of Asian American and Pacific Islander scholarship and research that *Amerasia* has shared since 1971. With the guidance of editors Russell Leong, Professor Emeritus Don Nakanishi, and Professor Te-hsing Shan, this collaborative project is the first time many of these articles have appeared in translation. Some of the scholars and writers featured include: Him Mark Lai, Yuji Ichioka, Sau-ling Wong, Wu Bing, Glenn Omatsu, Carlos Bulosan, Maxine Hong Kingston, Hisaye Yamamoto, Jessica Hagedorn, Lawson Fusao Inada, Lucie Cheng, Tritia Toyota, Arif Dirlik, Roshni Rostumji, Henry Yu, Katie Quan, and Marlon Hom. Copies are available for \$24.95.



LUCIE CHENG PRIZE WINNER

The Lucie Cheng Prize for outstanding graduate research was awarded this year to **Linh Nguyen** of the University of California, San Diego for her essay "Recalling the Refugee: Culture Clash and Melancholic Racial Formation in Daughter from Danang." She is a current PhD candidate in Ethnic Studies, with a focus on Critical Refugee Studies. Her advisor, Professor Yen Le Espiritu, nominated Nguyen's essay for consideration.



Linh Nguyen

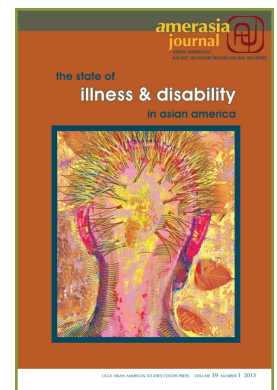
Started in 2011, the prize is named after Professor Cheng who served as Director of the Center from 1972 to 1987. She was a pioneering scholar who brought an early transnational focus to the study of Asian Americans and issues such as gender, labor, and immigration. Recipients of the prize receive \$1500 and publication of their essay in *Amerasia*.

AMERASIA GUEST EDITOR JAMES LEE ON "STATE OF ILLNESS AND DISABILITY IN ASIAN AMERICA"

It's been so heartening to have received such an amazing response to the special issue on illness and disability that Jen Ho and I co-guest edited. When she and I first began talking about pulling something together, we knew that *Amerasia* was the perfect venue to begin a conversation: *Amerasia* has served as the crucible for so many issues that are now integral aspects of the field of Asian American Studies.

For me, putting together this issue was less about inaugurating some new cutting edge to our scholarship but to simply reveal what has been under our individual and collective noses throughout our history. Asian American are no less ill or disabled than other communities, and their experiences of illness and disability are no less meaningful, for those people who live with their respective conditions, and those who love and care for them. And really, the experience of ill and disabled embodiment isn't anomalous to Asian American experience, but rather where we are all headed. All of us will die, and most of us will do so via some experience of protracted illness and disabled experience. While such a trajectory of life may not feel triumphant, it may not be inherently tragic. Rather, to take seriously that illness, disability, and other modes of living beyond some imposed fantasy of health and ablebodiedness may be meaningful in and of themselves was one of our goals in this issue. If we've pushed that question a bit, then I'll count the issue a success.

My hope also is the special issue might help us imagine and make visible the kinds of relationality that illness and disability demand if we take seriously the experiences of the ill and the disabled. Illness and disability often require the attention and care of others, and rather than view this as a power dynamic of dependency, might we imagine a sustained politics of interdependency and community that might inform how we move forward in the Asian American community? I'll admit to a personal anecdote: the germ of this issue took place the moment I learned of Jen's breast cancer diagnosis. I picked up the phone and called her, and over the next year she and I talked and corresponded. Before doing so, I'd already admired her work as a scholar, and I now have such deep affection for her not in spite of, but rather because of how she has journeyed with her cancer and her treatment. This isn't to romanticize her illness, but to honor how her illness has deepened her, as a scholar, and as a friend and loved one to so many. She has modeled what I hope might emerge from our issue: a renewal of generosity, borne of scholarship but that extends far beyond into our everyday lives, our individual and collective political and ethical commitments.



U.S. CENSUS RELEASES 2013 AANHPI STATISTICAL PORTRAIT

As part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May and as an official U.S. Census Information Center, the Center shared data from the latest statistical portrait of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. Some key findings include:

- 18.2 million U.S. residents who identified as Asian, either alone or in combination.
- Asians had the highest percentage growth (46%) of any other major race group between the 2000 and 2010 census.
- 80% of Asians in 2009 living in a household with Internet use - the highest rate among race and ethnic groups.
- 1.4 million U.S. residents identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

More information can be found on the Center's website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/cic/stats2013.aspx>.



Julian Aguon

JULIAN AGUON LECTURES ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The Center was proud to present, along with the American Indian Studies Center, a special lecture by **Julian Aguon**. Aguon is an indigenous Chamoru activist, attorney, and author, specializing in international human rights. His work actively engages in promoting the wellbeing of indigenous peoples of the larger Micronesian region and Oceania as a whole. He lives in Tumhom, Guam. His stimulating and informative lecture titled "The Poaching of Our Wildest Dreams: Indigenous Peoples, Predation and the Law" was presented as part of the UCLA Environmental Justice Initiative in front of a packed lecture hall, as well as live-streamed via webcast. Questions were taken from the audience in person and online. A recording of his lecture can be found at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/vids/>.

AAPI NEXUS JOURNAL CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

The latest issue of *AAPI Nexus Journal* 11:1-2, "**Asian American and Pacific Islander Environmentalism: Expansions, Connections, and Social Change,**" focuses on the timely topics of Environmental Justice, Education, and Immigration. The special double issue aims to inform policy debates and arenas with research on understudied populations and topics related to Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

One part of the issue features papers addressing alternative methods for Asian American Studies, Indian Immigrant Women Support Networks, and U.S. Immigration and Filipino Labor Export Policies in Human Trafficking. Another part of the issue examines the intersection of Asian American Studies and Environmental Studies, revealing information and insights that can be useful in environmental and social justice advocacy, strategic planning, policy development and programming. Professor Julie Sze (UC Davis) and Charles Lee (Deputy Associate Administrator for Environmental Justice, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) served as the consulting guest editors for this volume.

PAUL ONG RETURNS AS SENIOR EDITOR FOR AAPI NEXUS

This past summer, **Professor Paul Ong** of the Luskin School of Public Affairs and Asian American Studies began serving as the interim Senior Editor for the Center's journal, *AAPI Nexus: Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Policy, Practice and Community*. He takes the place of Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, who has held the position since 2008. Ong served as the founding Senior Editor starting in 2003 until he stepped down in 2007.

His expertise and experience in policy and community-based research will surely help the journal continue to grow and develop.



Audience at UCLA listening intently to Aguon's lecture

CENTER SHARES RESEARCH ON FORECLOSURE CRISIS

Last year the Center was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to further an existing study on the impact of the foreclosure crisis on Asian Americans. Ford's Building Economic Security Over a Lifetime Initiative (BESOL) helped the Center along with project partners, the Luskin School of Public Affairs and the Center for the Study of Inequality, to better understand and investigate, through quantitative and qualitative research, the economic well-being of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander families and to inevitably help expand their economic opportunities and financial security.

Narrative and technical demographic reports developed for BESOL were released in the spring. The five geographic focus areas were: California, Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas, and Southeast region of the United States (Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi). Analysis was given on the state level to show comparisons among major racial groups, and for the metropolitan level, analysis revealed trends for the total population, as well as disaggregated data on Asian ethnic subgroups. A separate case study report was also produced on Los Angeles's East Gabriel Valley. Policy advocates and researchers are encouraged to use the data produced from the study. These reports are available to view and download on the Center's website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/besol/>.

"WHAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ECONOMIC INEQUALITY IN ASIAN AMERICA" WEBINAR

The Center teamed up with PolicyLink to host a webinar to discuss latest trends in housing, assets and poverty, as well as data that shows how Asian Americans are doing in the foreclosure crisis, the recession, and slow economic recovery on the national and statewide levels.

The session was hosted by PolicyLink's Solana Rice and featured Kilolo Kijakazi, Program Officer at the Ford Foundation; Urban Planning Professor Paul Ong; Center Assistant Director Melany De La Cruz-Viesca; and Lisa Hasegawa, Executive Director of National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development.

Over 200 people joined the webinar and participated in the discussion. Those interested can view it at <http://cc.readytalk.com/play?id=fq0zd2>.

PROJECT FEATURED AT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

In August, the interactive housing exhibition "Dream Home Resource Center" at the Hammer Museum also featured findings from the foreclosure crisis project. By examining the displayed data and maps, visitors could explore the temporal and spatial patterns of foreclosures with subprime lending in urban Los Angeles County neighborhoods from 2007-2013.

PROFESSOR NINEZ PONCE AND CHIS RELEASE NEW HEALTH DATA

This past August, the **California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)** released data about the health and well-being of the state's residents. Covering a vast number of topics and gathered from more than 44,000 households, the data can be accessed via the CHIS website or the AskCHIS portal (www.askchis.ucla.edu). CHIS is the largest health survey in the nation. Its latest surveys have purposefully moved towards garnering a more representative sample from all 58 counties in the state.

As Principal Investigator for CHIS, **Professor Ninez Ponce** of the School of Public Health has helped to make the survey more accessible. UCLA Center for Health Policy Research now conducts the survey in more languages besides English, including Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Korean, and will later administer them in Tagalog for the next CHIS cycle. The survey also includes cell phones numbers when doing interviews, reaching a growing part of the population that mainly use cell phones instead of landlines.

In addition, the data gathered through the survey has become increasingly more important and more useful as the team moves to collecting information on a continuous basis across a two-year period, providing a base for researchers to study trends and do more comparative analyses. The survey has amassed a very diverse and rich amount of data that can be examined on the state, regional, and county levels.

The Center encourages students, scholars, and policymakers to explore the CHIS website and to make use of this valuable resource for their own scholarship and research.

PROFESSOR LOIS TAKAHASHI RECEIVES NIH GRANT TO STUDY AIDS PREVENTION IN SEX INDUSTRY

The National Institutes of Health have awarded **Professor Lois Takahashi** of the Luskin School of Public Affairs a two-year, \$430,000 grant. Takahashi, along with Hunter College Professor John Chin, will work together on the project, titled "Examining the Geographies of Immigrant Sex Work: An Exploratory Study of HIV Risk."

Their team strives to provide a better understanding of "indoor venue-based sex work" in both New York City and Los Angeles and to develop strategies to lead to HIV risk-reduction in those areas.

The APAIT Health Center in California and the Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS in New York are serving as the project's community partners.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES: SERVICE LEARNING CLASS PROVIDES UNIQUE EXPERIENCE - BY KASSY SAEPPUNH

In Fall 2012, I took Asian American Studies 140SL during my junior year. Although things were hectic in terms of scheduling to go to my internship site (I was also Director of the Asian Pacific Coalition at the time), taking the class was one of the best choices I made at UCLA. I had such a successful experience in class for multiple reasons: the students in class, my partner, and my community-based organization (CBO) Visual Communications (VC).

In class, Professor Yoo and our amazing TA, Sophia Cheng, continually emphasized the importance of Service Learning. What is unique about these classes is that students get the best of both worlds. Not only are you providing service, but in return, you are learning at the same time. It is such a unique and special way of learning because, in the end, students discover how easily their experiences have made their education relevant to them. It is a reciprocal process where both the CBO and students are benefitting.

The class that year was an amazing, dedicated group who enjoyed the CBOs they were placed in. During class we would report back on our progress and hearing the work others did inspired me. At the end of the quarter, we all presented our projects and that in itself motivated people to understand the meaning of Service Learning and why it is important to bring it back to their communities.

While students were put into groups, I had a partner and I have to say, most of my best experiences were thanks to her. During our bus rides and getting lost together a few times, we bonded and discovered our likes and dislikes. It was great because I not only had an amazing partner who made me feel safe, I formed a new friendship as well.

We were placed at Visual Communications. VC was on my list of sites because I simply wanted to know more. VC is such a historic place and people fail to realize how important it is in Asian American and Pacific Islander (API) media. On top of organizing the LA Asian Pacific Film Festival, VC has the largest collection of API images in the nation. It just amazes me on how lucky I was to be placed there. I did a lot of things during my nine weeks there. I had a Photo Index Project with the preservation manager where I updated a huge binder of photos and I created an online version of their photo index because no one had made it. It was a big responsibility for me because this photo index had all of their photos—did I mention VC had the largest collection of API images in the nation? But by creating the photo index, although tedious, I realized the importance of the project and the change I was a part of, and I must say, it was a wonderful feeling when I completed it. Being proud is a simplified version of how I felt. I also wrote entries for VC's "From the Vault". These blog pieces took a photo from their archives to show the historical importances of these images and how it related to the greater Los Angeles community. It definitely made me appreciate the rich history of APIs.

So to sum it up, my experience was amazing. I can go on for days, but being part of a Service Learning class is hard to explain. You just have to be part of it. It is not an internship. It is not community service. The knowledge and connections you make through the process is absolutely priceless because you grow as a person to not only be compassionate, but inspired and proud of your community—proud of all the accomplishments and achievements of the API community and inspired to be part of it during and after your college career.



Organizers, including PhD student Preeti Sharma, at CCED's photo exhibit "The Streets Between Us"



Members of the Hmong Students Association at the Spring Colloquium with Professor Yang Sao Xiong



Cathy He (right) & keynote Kristina Wong (middle) from "Dinner with 12 AAPI Strangers"

SOPHIA CHENG, JENNY CHHEA RECEIVE THE 2012-2013 DON NAKANISHI AWARD FOR ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

The **Don Nakanishi Award for Engaged Scholarship** is from an endowment established to reward faculty and students who embody the work and contributions of former Center Director and Professor Emeritus Don Nakanishi. Last year's winner was Professor Keith Camacho.

This year, the focus of the prize was students. Recent Asian American Studies MA graduate **Sophia Cheng** was one of the recipients. Her research and activities demonstrated her strong commitment to community and progressive social change. While at UCLA, she served as a Teaching Assistant to different Asian American Studies classes and as a researcher for the Food Chain Workers Alliance and the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative. She helped launch Chinatown Community for Equitable Development (CCED), a multi-generational, multi-racial and multi-lingual grassroots organization, which began in



protest to the construction of Walmart in Chinatown. She is currently working in her dream career, bringing together her scholarly passions with organizing, as the Research and Policy Coordinator at Restaurant Opportunities Center of Los Angeles.

History major **Jenny Chhea** was chosen as the undergraduate recipient. Now a junior, she is a UC Regents and Mortar Board Society Scholar and also is minoring in Political Science and Asian American Studies. Chhea has been involved with many community organizations including CCED, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (now Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA), Pacific Clinics - Asian Pacific Family Center, and Workers' Rights Clinic of Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County. She is dedicated to bridging campus and community, grounding her work and research in the issues and histories of Asian Americans.



"DINNER WITH 12 AAPI STRANGERS" - BY CATHY HE

"Dinner with 12 AAPI Strangers" was the kick-off event to celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPIHM) in May. As the Social and Cultural Affairs Coordinator for the Asian Pacific Coalition, the organization that serves as the official Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) voice on campus, I wanted to create an event that would highlight the diversity of career paths that have traditionally been under-represented by AAPI, queer, and/or women.

We invited Kristina Wong as our keynote speaker, whose most notable touring show "Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" looked at the high rates of depression and suicide among Asian American women and toured to over 40 venues since 2006. The "12 AAPI Strangers" came from various professional backgrounds, ranging from theatrical artists to leaders of nonprofits to medical researchers. Not only was Ms. Wong a UCLA alum, but many of the AAPI Strangers were also UCLA alumni with Asian American Studies backgrounds, such as Linda Lam, Lai Wa Wu, Susan Nakaoka, Alice Hom, and Leslie Ito. With an undergraduate Asian American Studies discipline, Ms. Lam currently works as the Coordinator for the Center of Asian Pacific American Studies at the Claremont Colleges. Ms. Wu was a student of the Asian American Studies MA Program, completing a creative writing thesis on an epistolary fictional counter narrative to complicate and decentralize mainstream "coming out" tropes for diasporic, intergenerational families that increasingly rely on new media (online media) to

communicate and find support networks/community. Ms. Nakaoka, Ms. Hom, and Ms. Ito, all of whom received a Masters of Arts in the Asian American Studies at UCLA, are currently the Director of Field Education at CSU Dominguez Hills, Director of the Queer Justice Fund, and President of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, respectively.

Not only was I amazed at the path that an Asian American Studies discipline took these AAPI and/or queer women, but also at the success of their career paths. I gained so much knowledge about what it feels like to be on the journey to one's intended profession as an underrepresented group, how to overcome those barriers, and how to strive for one's ultimate end goal. This event gave me an opportunity to meet AAPI and/or queer women that were all in very different disciplines, but all doing something they loved. It made me realize that we all can and should strive for a profession that we would be happy in; we should never be intimidated by a career path based on the sole fact that we do not have exposure to it, because there are always people in that profession willing to help if you just ask. Everyone I met at that "Dinner with 12 AAPI Strangers" serves as an inspiration to me. They encouraged me to let my Asian American Studies discipline carry me to a profession that suited me, especially if I was a minority in that career path, because I should never be afraid to stand out from the crowd when serving my community. And that is exactly what I will do.

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN CULTURES

CHIA YEN JOINS IAC DEVELOPMENT

The Center, as a part of the Institute of American Cultures (IAC), welcomes **Chia Yen** to his appointment as the Executive Director of Development for IAC. Yen will oversee the fundraising efforts of the four ethnic studies research centers, working closely with Vice Provost M. Belinda Tucker and the centers' Directors. An experienced leader in development for over twenty years, he previously served as the Director of Development at the UCLA School of Law. He is a UCLA alum with a BA in Economics.

SHARON LUK JOINS CENTER AS IAC VISITING RESEARCHER

IAC hosted its fall forum on November 5th, celebrating the newest IAC fellowship and grant recipients and showcasing some of their research. The 2013-2014 IAC Visiting Researcher **Sharon Luk** was featured in conversation with Professor Grace Hong of the Departments of Asian American Studies and Gender Studies. Luk received her PhD from the University of Southern California in American Studies and Ethnicity and was most recently a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow at Stanford University. Her research residency with the Center marks her return to UCLA, where Luk earned her Masters in Education. Her doctoral research, "The Life of Paper: A Poetics," explores the role of letter correspondence in practices of social reproduction.



Sharon Luk at the IAC Fall Forum

THE CENTER HOSTS VISITING SCHOLARS AND LECTURERS

Dr. Akemi Kikumura-Yano returns for another year as a 2013-2014 Visiting Scholar. She will continue to work on her manuscript, centered around the life of a young Sansei (third generation Japanese American) female born in the aftermath of World War II in Los Angeles, California. She shared a part of her novel-in-progress at the Fall installment of the Center-Department Colloquium Series.

The Center is also host to 2013-2014 Visiting Scholar **Yun Ling**, a doctoral student and professor from Beijing Institute of Technology in China.

Renowned photographer **Corky Lee** was one of the recipients of the 2013-2014 Regents' Lecturers Award. Along with the Asian American Studies Department (Social Science Division) and the Luskin School of Public Affairs's Department of Urban Planning, the Center will be co-hosting Lee for two weeks during the winter quarter.

INAUGURAL IAC "SUPERDIVERSITY" CONFERENCE

The first annual IAC conference was held February 28th to March 1st, 2013 at UCLA. Entitled "Superdiversity California Style: New Understandings of Race, Civil Rights, Governance and Cultural Production," the event featured many prominent scholars and educators. These included Professors Scott Kurashige, Taeku Lee, Michael Omi, Jerry Kang, Bill Ong Hing, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Renee Tajima-Peña, and David Yoo.

2013-2014 IAC RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES

LUCY BURNS ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

TITLE: Starring Ms. Roboto: Human-Robot Sociality in Asian American Theatre

PATRICIA GREENFIELD PSYCHOLOGY

TITLE: Cultural Differences in Support to Stress

SEAN METZGER THEATER

TITLE: Reconceptualizing Asian American: Montreal and the Chinese Atlantic

PAUL ONG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

TITLE: Immigrant Earnings in an Era of Growing Economic Inequality

RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

TITLE: *No Mas Bebes* Interactive

LAURA ENRIQUEZ PhD Student, SOCIOLOGY

TITLE: "Border Hopping Mexicans" and "Law-Abiding Asians": The Consequences of Racialized Undocumented Immigration Status for Undocumented Students

AAKASH KISHORE PhD Student, PSYCHOLOGY

TITLE: Parental Rejections and Psychological Distress in South Asian LGBT Americans

JACOB LAU PhD Student, GENDER STUDIES

TITLE: Sistership as Survival: Looking after Sylvia, Marsha and Queens in Exile

CAITLIN PATLER PhD Student, SOCIOLOGY

TITLE: The Educational, Economic, Civic Engagement, and Health Trajectories of DACA Applicants

PREETI SHARMA PhD Student, GENDER STUDIES

TITLE: Raising Eyebrows: Affective, Intimate, and Body Labor in LA's Asian Threading Salons

RACHEL SHUEN MA Student, ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

TITLE: La Fiesta de Los Angeles: Race, Ethnicity, and History on Parada in Late 19th and Early 20th Century Los Angeles

STARS ALIGN: REFLECTIONS FROM 2012-2013 IAC VISITING RESEARCHER LILY ANNE WELTY TAMAI

Last year, I had the honor to hold the Visiting Researcher position at the Asian American Studies Center. After receiving my PhD in History from UC Santa Barbara in 2012, coming to UCLA was a welcomed change filled with many opportunities. UCLA hosts four ethnic studies centers, houses *Amerasia Journal*, has “academic rock star” professors and many collegial departments, a stellar staff at the Center, possesses a world-class research library, and its location allows for the development of city-wide connections and inter-university networking.

The Institute for American Culture’s Visiting Researcher position provided the space, time, and support to conduct research and teach. Since my research focus is on post-World War II mixed-race Asian Americans, I was able to work with Professor Lane Hirabayashi and James Ong to create a new course, Asian American Studies 191D, Multiracial Asian Americans. I learned new teaching methods and techniques. The course content from our class served as a beta version of a mixed-race studies course in conjunction with the *Asian American Literary Review*’s national classroom curriculum of which AAS 191D will be associated during 2013-2014. In addition, working so closely with Lane Hirabayashi gave me the opportunity to observe a seasoned scholar in his element.

During my time at the Center, I conducted research and built up a community network. Being at UCLA allowed me to network with scholars in Los Angeles. I collaborated with Duncan Williams, Director of the University of Southern California’s (USC) Center for Japanese Religions and Culture. We planned a scholarly conference titled, *Hapa Japan*, and I served as co-curator for an exhibit at the Japanese

American National Museum called, “Visible and Invisible: A Hapa Japanese History” (installed from April through August 2013). I learned a tremendous amount through my work as a historical curator for the exhibit. Often ethnic studies scholars consider themselves conscious of their community in their research. However, I found that creating a museum exhibition for the public from scratch



Duncan Williams &
Lily Anne Welty Tamai at *Visible
and Invisible*

is a much harder task than it appears. Scholars know a vast amount about their field, but their intense focus may inadvertently create a distance between their ability to convey this information. I pulled from my research to help shape parts of the exhibit. One of the most important things I learned was that artifacts and archival materials that appeal to researchers and

scholars are not necessarily considered compelling or even interesting to museum-goers. Sadly, documents and diaries do not always make for very cool pieces in display cases. This experience made me even more conscious of the importance of accessibility and conveying scholarship to a broader audience.

Working as the IAC Visiting Researcher for the Asian American Studies Center provided the time to do things like advance my research and book project, and improve my teaching arsenal. Furthermore, balancing the roles of a researcher and a historical curator opened my eyes and gave me a chance to reflect on my work as a scholar and my role in the community. This was living the (nerd’s) dream, and my stars aligned in all of the right ways.

Dr. Welty is now at USC as the Andrew W. Mellon John E. Sawyer Seminars Postdoctoral Fellow in Critical Mixed-Race Studies.



Hapa Japan Conference Flier

IAC PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO JOYCE PUALANI WARREN

A member of the Graduate Coalition of the Native Pacific, doctoral student **Joyce Pualani Warren** received the 2013-14 IAC UCLA Graduate/Predocorol Fellowship for “Recuperating Institutionalized Tropes: Blackness and Bodies in Pacific Islands Literature.” Her research explores the ways concepts of race travel across various geographic boundaries in the Pacific. In particular, she takes a close look at the construct of “blackness” in Hawai’i through Pacific Island literature. She received her BA in American Literature and Culture with a minor in Afro-American Studies from UCLA and is currently working towards her PhD in the Department of English.



2013-2014 GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE GRANTS, ACADEMIC

GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship



KATE VIERNES

MA Student, Asian American Studies & Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: Filipino American Students and Racial Microaggressions in Education

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship



GITANJALI KAUR SINGH

PhD Student, Gender Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Sikh-American Girls: Blogs, Nationalism and Resistance

Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship



PHI HONG SU

PhD Student, Sociology
RESEARCH PROJECT: Learning Human Rights: How State Relations Affect Vietnamese Immigrants' and Refugees' Political Attitudes and Incorporation

21st Century Graduate Fellowship



JAMES ONG

MA Student, Asian American Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Conceptualizing Alternative Peoplehood and Ethnic Racialization through Multiethnic Japanese Amerasian Experiences

George and Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship



SUSAN KEIKO NAKAOKA

PhD Student, Urban Planning
RESEARCH PROJECT: Towards Jackpots and Tilts: The Pinball Game of Ethnic-based Community Development

Dr. Paul and Hisako Terasaki Fellowship



AKI YAMADA

PhD Student, Education
RESEARCH PROJECT: The New Japanese Community in Los Angeles: Shin-Issei and their Educational Strategies

21st Century Graduate Internship



RANDY XUAN MAI

MA Student, Urban and Regional Planning
INTERNSHIP SITE: Asian American Studies Center

RESEARCH GRANT

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



AAKASH KISHORE

PhD Student, Psychology
RESEARCH PROJECT: Parental Rejections and Suicidal Behaviors in South Asian LGBT Americans

ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

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



JEAN-PAUL DEGUZMAN

PhD Candidate, History
PAPER TITLE: "Look, Even God in Heaven is Crying for Us:" Hidden History of Incarceration in "America's Suburb"

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Graduate Prize



LINA CHHUN

PhD Student, Gender Studies
PAPER TITLE: Meditations on the Meanings of Shame, Guilt, and Subjectivities in the Afterlives of Violence

Benjamin Cayetano Public Policy and Politics Prize



THERESA ARRIOLA

PhD Student, Anthropology
PAPER TITLE: Legally Brown: Law, Militarism, and Indigeneity in the Mariana Islands

Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Prize



RACHEL SHUEN

MA Student, Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: San Francisco Chinatown's Path of Resistance: Challenging Health Measures in Federal Court

Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize



JAMES ONG

MA Student, Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: A Lens of Multiethnic Pedagogy

PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize



ELENA SHIH

PhD Student, Sociology
PAPER TITLE: The High Price of Freedom: the Transnational Moral Economy of Low Wage Women's Work in Anti-Human Trafficking Movement in Beijing, Bangkok and Los Angeles

21st Century Undergraduate Internship



ALICE LI

MAJORS: Gender Studies & Asian American Studies
MINOR: Asian Languages and Culture
INTERNSHIP SITE: Asian American Studies Center

ACADEMIC PRIZES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture



KATE VIERNES

MA Student, Asian American Studies & Social Welfare
PAPER TITLE: Rethinking How Cultural Production is Made and Viewed: Reading for Political Representation and Mediation in *My Hollywood* and *How Do I Begin?*

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship



TIFFANY TONNU

MAJORS: American Literature and Culture & Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: The FAIR Education Act: Implication for LGBT AAPI's in California

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Undergraduate Prize



JEFFREY KHO

MAJOR: Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology
MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Intersections of Asian American Panethnicity with the Vietnamese American Community

21st Century Undergraduate Scholarship



GABRIEL SANCHEZ

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Education
RESEARCH PROJECT: Redefining Space: Examining Pilipina/o American Social Incorporation in Higher Education

Benjamin Cayetano Public Policy and Politics Prize



JENNY CHHEA

MAJOR: History
MINORS: Political Science & Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Expansion of California's AB1088 to Other State Departments

Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship



KRISTINE UEDA

MAJORS: Political Science & History
PAPER TITLE: Japanese Americans: Vindicated as the Model Minority

Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize



CRYSTAL DEEDAS

MAJOR: Integrative Biology and Physiological Science
PAPER TITLE: Asian Americans Against the Model Minority Myth in Health Care

George and Sakaye Aratani Community Internship



NANCY MATSUKAWA

MAJOR: Psychology
INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture



ANNIE CHEN

MAJOR: Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics
PAPER TITLE: Asian Americans in Mainstream Music

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award



JEFFREY NIOUK-SHIN WONG

MAJOR: Electrical Engineering

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize



LINDA TON

MAJORS: Asian American Studies & Art History
PAPER TITLE: The Nature of Vietnamese War Brides

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