

# Cross Currents

UCLA Asian American Studies Center News Magazine  
40th Anniversary Edition 1969-2009

## UCLA Establishes Endowed Chair and Program on U.S.-China Relations and Chinese American Studies

### 21st Century Visionaries Walter and Shirley Wang

**P**HILANTHROPISTS and business leaders Walter and Shirley Wang of Los Angeles have donated \$1 million to the Asian American Studies Center to establish the first program and endowed academic chair focused on both U.S.-China relations and Chinese American studies in American higher education.

The U.S.-China Relations and Communications Program will seek to educate the American public and policymakers about U.S.-China relations and Chinese Americans through a variety of media. Among these will be an informational Web site, media and policy publications, and a clearinghouse of experts on U.S.-China issues. See story on the U.S.-China Media Brief (p. 12).

A renowned, tenured UCLA professor specializing in both U.S.-China relations and Chinese American studies will be chosen to hold the new Walter and Shirley Wang Chair in U.S.-China Relations and Communications.

**“We are very passionate about fostering an accurate understanding of the role Chinese Americans have played in our nation’s history, and we are honored to support the center’s mission.”**

“UCLA’s Asian American Studies Center is the premier research institution on these issues in the nation and the world,” Walter Wang said. “Shirley and I are impressed by the quality, range and impact of its scholarship and significant policy research and by the positive contributions it has made and can continue to make in the years ahead.

“We are very passionate about fostering an accurate understanding of the role Chinese Americans have played in our nation’s history, and we are honored to support the center’s mission,” he said.

“Effective communication is one of the biggest barriers to achieving greater understanding and appreciation of U.S.-China relations, and mass media is a vital vehicle for changing perceptions,” Shirley

Wang said. “By educating the public about the historical significance of these cultures and the important economic, social and political changes they have helped create, we can enhance cross-cultural communication and achieve a deeper understanding.”

Walter Wang is president and chief executive officer of JM Eagle, the world’s largest plastic pipe manufacturer. Shirley Wang, who graduated from UCLA in 1990 with a bachelor’s degree in communication studies, is CEO of Plastpro, a leading manufacturer of fiberglass doors and home products.

The Wangs have supported philanthropic and civic leadership endeavors that promote a better understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture. They are active members of the Committee of 100, a national organization of Chinese American leaders, and they support the China AIDS Initiative, an alliance led by the Aaron

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*CrossCurrents*, the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, keeps readers abreast of Center programs, including academic programs, research projects, publications, faculty activities, student perspectives, relevant university and community issues, as well as programs not sponsored by the Center but in the province of Asian American Studies.

*CrossCurrents* is published yearly and distributed in the community by Center staff. It is also mailed free to all subscribers of *Amerasia Journal*.

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

For information about activities and programs of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, visit  
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A special thanks to AASC staff for their contributions.

## EthnoCommunications: Student F

### “Enabling Young People to Tell Their Own Sto

ON MAY 7, 2008, I attended Visual Communications’ (VC) Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival “Digital Posse Screening,” a program partnered yearly by UCLA’s EthnoCommunications program and VC’s Armed With a Camera Fellowship program.

At the joint screening, there were ten short films in total, ranging from documentary to experimental narrative films. Both Armed with a Camera and Ethnocommunications are similar: the former is an intensive fellowship facilitating young adult Asian and Pacific Islander filmmakers to capture their world, the latter is a course at UCLA, teaching students to document their own communities. EthnoCommunications focuses solely on enabling young people to tell their own stories through new, less expensive, and more easily accessible media technologies to document, organize, and serve communities neglected by mainstream media. Since its inception in 1996, students of color have been able to record stories they find integral to their community and their lives.

In taking the course in the 2007-08 school year, I too learned to visually capture and narrate a story that I’ve always been curious about understanding more of in a broader context—that of Desis in the gas station business and that of the diverse Desi community in South Florida. The film *\$40 on Pump 9* explores my family’s relationship to “our” gas station as my father and uncle narrate their own experiences in the small business, the growing South Florida Indian community, and the ways that “9/11” and escalating gas prices have changed the landscape of this small business for the

## PILGRIMAGE Film Featured

### Japanese Americans and Muslim Americans



Photo by Steve and Patty Nagano. From left to right: Wilbur Sato, Kazuoka, Prof. Robert Nakamura, and Affad Shaikh.

### Wangs, from page 1

Diamond AIDS Research Center that is dedicated to helping China accelerate its response to HIV/AIDS. Shirley Wang also serves on the board of the China Institute, a nonprofit educational and cultural institution that promotes understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture, and of Facing History and Ourselves, a group that helps educators teach moral responsibility, tolerance and social action.

In addition to being honored recently by New York City’s Museum of Chinese in America for their continued support and generous donations, the Wangs have been recognized for their support of the award-winning PBS series “Becoming American: The Chinese Experience” and of the film “The Blood of Yingzhou District,” which won the 2007 Academy Award for short subject documentary.

“Walter and Shirley Wang are amazing visionaries, and we are extremely honored that they have given us this extraordinary gift,” said Don Nakanishi, director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. “Their resources will allow us to pursue major projects that seek fair and balanced media coverage - as well as influence policy discussions - on issues that will likely remain prominent throughout the 21st century.”

# Pacific Film Festival

ories”

by Preeti Sharma

many Desis managing and working in these gas stations.

Not only was this an important personal narrative for me, both as a chance to interview my father, mother, and uncle and a chance to explore the context of immigrant small business owners, I felt it was a powerful visual way to share a story on an Asian American community in the U.S. South, an area often not a part of Asian American Studies.

As I had been toiling over this film over a year ago (when \$2.50 for a gallon of gas was expensive!), and as my father joked that I had made him a star, I was pleasantly surprised that my film was chosen to screen alongside my classmates’ film *Propios Patrones* and the eight other *Armed With a Camera* films.

Watching the film on the big screen, and sharing the images and stories from my film with a large audience was quite powerful.

The film festival screening was an exhilarating experience as an audience of mostly friends, film teachers, and supporters gathered together that night. This experience has made me



From left to right: Gena Hamamoto, Adrian Leung, Luis Salguero, Prof. Robert Nakamura, Sofia Marquez, Preeti Sharma, and Vivian Wong.

value the immediacy of the visual form and EthnoCommunications’ style of accessible, community-based documentary making. This project, program, and screening furthered my appreciation of community-based media production and community-participatory media.

## Acknowledge Civil Rights Struggles



aren Ishi-

“THE Japanese American community was the first to reach out to us after 9/11,” said Affad Shaik, Civil Rights Chair of the Greater Los Angeles office of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-LA). “That is why we are educating our community about what happened to Japanese American during World War II and are taking Muslims from Southern California to this year’s Manzanar Pilgrimage.” To educate the Muslim community about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans, CAIR-LA organized five community forums at different Islamic Centers in Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego in conjunction with Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCR).

Each outreach presentation featured the award winning film *Pilgrimage*, a campus to community collaboration between the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications and Little Tokyo Service Center’s Downtown Community Media Center. The twenty-two-minute film, designed for the classroom, was directed and edited by EthnoCommunications alumnus Tadashi Nakamura and has been featured at over sixteen film festivals nationwide. *Pilgrimage* won the LA Asian Pacific Film Festival’s *New Directors/New Visions Award*, *Best Documentary Short*, *Jury Prize* at the Sacramento Film and

Music Festival and was an official selection of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. The film was one of eighty-three short films from seventeen countries that were selected out of 1,107 submissions and had five screenings over the ten-day event, which is attended by more than 45,000 people from around the world each year. The film was funded through grants from the UCLA Center for Community Partnerships, Nathan Cummings Foundation, UCLA Asian American Studies Center and the UCLA Alumni and Friends of Japanese Ancestry Endowed Chair in Japanese American Studies.

**“The Japanese American community was the first to reach out to us after 9/11.”**

Hussam Ayloush, Executive Director of CAIR-LA attended many of the community forums and said that as the United States continues to face challenges to civil liberties, the Japanese American experience during World War II provides important lessons for all people. Imam Yassir Fazaga, religious director of the Orange County Islamic Foundation said, “This is probably one of the most important and provocative programs we have had at this mosque. In order for us to celebrate our diversity, we must appreciate each other’s contributions and acknowledge each other’s struggles.”

CAIR-LA arranged for busses and overnight accommodations for eighty Muslims from throughout Southern California to attend the 39th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 26, 2008. They also participated in the interfaith ceremony and spoke at the pilgrimage.

# Domestic Violence and Abuse in Asian American Communities

## Center Establishes First Endowment to Help Women and Youth

THE Center has received a major gift of \$100,000 to establish the Martha Ogata Endowment Fund. The endowment was created by the two sons of the late Martha Ogata of California, Dr. Fil D. Barrozo, M.D. and Dr. Tobin Barrozo, Ph.D.

The Ogata endowment will focus on women and children of Asian ancestry who are victims of domestic violence or abuse or whose situations put them at risk of such violence or abuse. The endowment, which will be administered by the Asian American Studies Center, will be used to support research by UCLA faculty and students, clinical study and training, community-university partnerships and forums, and other activities that will further the study and provision of services to this vulnerable population.

The annual awards from the endowment will be open to UCLA faculty and students from all disciplines across the University, using different methodologies and theoretical approaches, undertaking scholarly, policy, or artistic projects focusing on the objectives of the endowment.

“We are extremely grateful to Drs. Fil and Tobin Barrozo,” said Professor Don Nakanishi, Center Director, “for entrusting our Center and UCLA with this endowment to undertake research and other activities that will serve to document, analyze, and seek solutions to these tragic and oftentimes unreported situations in Asian American communities. Their mother had a very difficult life, and it was her wish to assist Asian American women and

children, who were victims of domestic violence and abuse. We believe this endowment will make a difference in addressing these issues for many years to come.”

Martha Ogata was born in the state of Washington, and lived in Montana, Washington, and California. Her father, Rinzo Ogata, immigrated from Japan and arrived in Seattle, WA in 1904 when he was twenty-one years old. Like most Japanese immigrants of this era, he made a living working with his hands. Rinzo married Nobu Horiuchi on January 14, 1914. Martha Ogata was born February 15, 1919 at Mabton, WA. Martha left the family home at an early age, and endured considerable hardship, especially during World War II when she faced discrimination like others of Japanese ancestry.

Martha Ogata married Paul Barrozo and they had two sons: Fil and Tobin. She was proud of her boys: Fil became a physician and Tobin a University President. Following her divorce from Paul Barrozo, she lived in Montana, Washington, Minnesota and California. Earning a G.E.D., Ogata was licensed to sell real estate in California and, given her background and many hardships, was successful.

In paying tribute to his mother, Dr. Tobin Barrozo said, “Upon her retirement, our mother did volunteer work with organizations serving minorities and the aged and wanted desperately to believe her life had meaning and purpose. The gift to UCLA is her legacy.”

## Beyond the Myths:

### Center Faculty Release Report on Asian Americans Facing Obstacles to College

BEYOND the stereotype of successful Asian American students, a new report by Center professors and UCLA doctoral students in education shows that more Asians are experiencing obstacles to higher education.

The report finds that more Asian American students now come from low-income homes with limited financial capacity to pay for college, and fewer are attending their first-choice institutions than in past years. In 2005, 51.8 percent reported attending their first-choice school, a significant decline from the 68.0 percent reported in 1974.

“This trend has occurred during a time span when entering Asian American freshmen are becoming increasingly better prepared for college, as measured by high school grades and their own self-ratings of key academic and social skills, and becoming increasingly more civically involved and interested in becoming community leaders,” said report co-author and UCLA professor of Education and Asian American Studies Mitchell J. Chang.

“A substantial number of Asian Pacific American college students come from poor and modest-income families and are likely to have attended high schools that are predominantly minority,” added co-author Don T. Nakanishi,

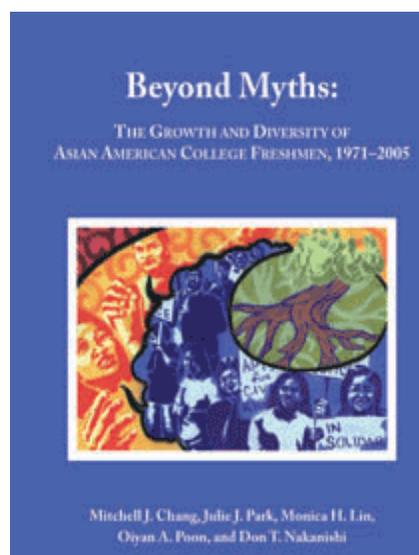
professor of Asian American studies and education and director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. “Moreover, Asian American students and parents do not take full advantage of loans and other financial aid opportunities that can assist in meeting the rising costs of a college education.”

*Beyond the Myths* was awarded the 2008 APAN Outstanding Contribution to APIDA Research Award by the ACPA Asian Pacific American Network.

The percentage of Asian American students who applied to six or more colleges more than tripled between 1980 to 2005; 35.9 percent reported having applied for admission to six or more schools in 2005. Asian American students from low-income backgrounds, however, were least likely to apply to six or more colleges, giving them fewer options.

In addition to Professors Chang and Nakanishi, co-authors of the report include Julie J. Park, Monica H. Lin, and Oiyen A. Poon.

For a copy of *Beyond Myths: The Growth and Diversity of Asian American College Freshmen, 1971-2005*, visit <http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri>.



# Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Directory

## Your Guide to 1000+ Organizations in Los Angeles and Orange County

THE Center has released the 10th Edition of its *Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Directory for Los Angeles and Orange Counties*. The 352-page *Community Directory* provides an updated, annotated, and indexed listing of more than 1,000 community-based organizations, media, museum and arts institutions, Asian American Studies programs, and other groups serving and representing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

To mark the *Community Directory's* release and to express gratitude to the numerous community partners, alumni, and friends who contributed to this project, the Center held a book-launching ceremony on August 22, 2008 at the Empress Pavilion restaurant in Chinatown. The event was organized in cooperation with the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON), the Asian Pacific American Legislative Staff (APALS), and the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA).

Guests at the book-launching included Dr. Judy Chu, chair of the California State Board of Equalization, who congratulated the Center on the book's release and who spoke about how finding the Asian American Studies Center during her undergraduate days at UCLA changed her life and eventually led to a career in public service. California Assemblymember Mike Eng likewise congratulated the Center, and commented on how the *Community Directory* is such a "valuable resource" on organizations and services available to the Asian American community.

Other guest speakers included *Community Directory* founders Roy Nakano and Susie Ling, Dennis Arguelles of A3PCON, Taz Ahmed of Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Mike Fong of the UCLA Asian Pacific American Alumni Association, David Ryu, Vice President of the UCLA Korean American Alumni Association, Aris Tagle of the UCLA Pilipino



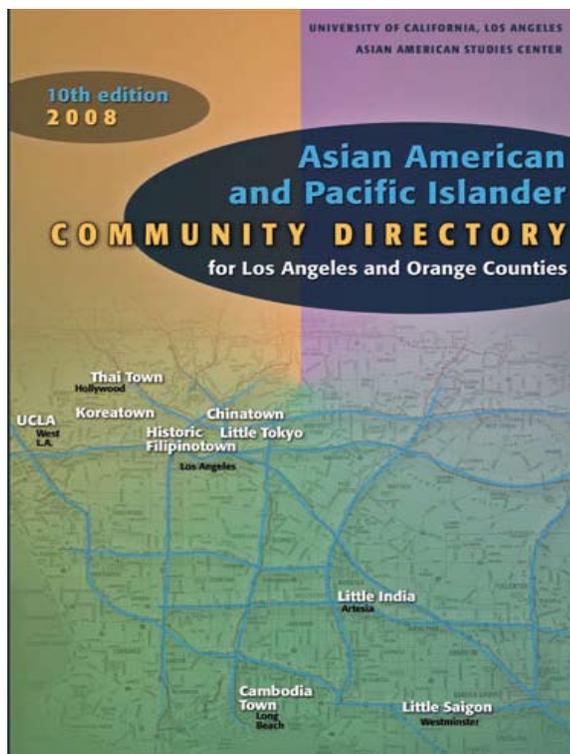
Dr. Judy Chu, Chair of the California State Board of Equalization

Alumni Association, and Monica Gil, who is Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs at The Nielsen Company. Both The Nielsen Company and Toyota Motors Corporation provided funding for the *Community Directory*.

"The best part of the project was being in contact with various community partners and talking about the ongoing work of community organizations," said Meg Malpaya Thornton, Coordinator of the Center's Student & Community Projects unit and editor for the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Community Directory*. "I hope the Community Directory will forge stronger campus to community bridges for partnerships; promote community-based research; and offer greater knowledge about/access to our AA & PI communities."

For the past three decades, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AA&PI) organizations have been one of the fastest growing service sectors in California. Los Angeles and Orange Counties, in particular, are home to the nation's largest and most diverse concentration of Asian American and Pacific Islanders. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the AA&PI population is projected to grow to 20 million by the year 2020. This trend sets the agenda for leaders and activists to develop essential and responsive community organizations that will advocate for and address AAPI needs. The highly acclaimed community directory was first published in 1980 by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Student and Community Projects (SCP) Unit.

The 10th edition of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Directory, (ISBN: 978-0-934052-44-3) can be ordered through the UCLA Asian American Studies Center for \$20 per copy. See our online bookstore at [http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comersus/store/comersus\\_index.asp](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comersus/store/comersus_index.asp) or call the AASC Press at (310) 825-2968.





**Professor Lois M. Takahashi** has been promoted to Full Professor in UCLA's Department of Urban Planning of the School of Public Affairs. Professor Takahashi has actively participated in the Faculty Advisory Committee of

the Asian American Studies Center throughout her UCLA career.

Professor Takahashi received her PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Southern California, an MS in Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University, and an AB in Architecture from UC Berkeley. Her research interests include social capital and health among Asian Pacific Islanders, access to social services for populations in need (e.g., homeless individuals and persons living with HIV/AIDS), the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) syndrome, and community participation and environmental governance in Southeast Asian cities (especially Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City).

Dr. Takahashi's first book on the NIMBY syndrome, *Homelessness, AIDS, and Stigmatization: The NIMBY Syndrome in the United States at the End of the Twentieth Century*, was published in 1998 (Oxford University Press). Her second book, *Rethinking Environmental Management in the Pacific Rim* (2002, with Amrita Danier) assessed the roles of community participation, state intervention, and nongovernmental organizations in managing urban development and environmental degradation in Bangkok (Ashgate Publishing). She also has forty-five published articles and book chapters. She is working on a book that analyzes the disruptive dimensions of social capital for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living with HIV/AIDS.

Professor Takahashi is the new Director of the UC AAPI Policy Multi-campus Research Program, which is housed at the Center. She is also the co-Principal Investigator on a UC HIV-Research grant that is studying HIV and viral hepatitis co-infection among Asians in Los Angeles.

### Professor Thu-huong Nguyen-vo

has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Department, Asian American Studies Department (AAS), and the Southeast Asian Studies Interdepartmental Program (SEAS IDP). She is an involved member of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee, and served as co-editor of a special issue of the Center's *Amerasia Journal*, "30 Years AfterWARD: Vietnamese Americans & U.S. Empire." She has served as Vice Chair of the Asian American Studies Department.

Professor Nguyen-Vo is also this year's recipient of the C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies. The award was established through a gift by Chiyoko Doris (UCLA '34) and the late Toshio Hoshide of Rockville, MD, to recognize annually outstanding undergraduate and graduate teaching in Asian American Studies among the faculty of the Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and the Department of Asian American Studies.

Professor Nguyen-vo has been an extraordinarily committed and popular instructor and mentor since joining the UCLA faculty in 2001, and consistently receives among the highest instructor and course evaluations for her innovative undergraduate and graduate teaching in Asian American Studies. She also has worked tirelessly to develop the curriculum in the undergraduate and graduate degree programs of the Department of Asian American Studies.

**"Asian American Studies can make its contribution to Asians and non-Asians by reminding us we must question injustice past, present, and future if we want justice for each and all."**

Outside of the classroom, she has been working with Vietnamese American and Asian Pacific American student organizations to support their outreach and retention programs, such as Project Higher Opportunity Program for Education (HOPE) and South East Asian Campus Learning Education and Retention (SEACLEAR), to encourage their participation in faculty hiring, and to mentor them in their efforts to learn about and connect with their history and communities.



*Prof. Nguyen-Vo with (left to right): Former AAS Dept SAO Kehau Vaughn and MA Alum Satish Kunisi*

Professor Nguyen-vo's teaching and research interests focus on women, literature, political and cultural practices in the current phase of globalization. She is the author of *The Ironies of Freedom: Sex, Culture, and Neoliberal Governance in Vietnam* (University of Washington Press, 2008), which examines the practices of commercial sex, the governmental policies that address it, and its narration in popular culture to explore how neoliberal freedoms are imagined and governed. This project won two awards—the University of California President's Fellowship in the Humanities, and the 2004-2005 Andrew Mellon/Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Fellowship.

A political scientist, Dr. Nguyen-vo's current research project explores how our sense of the material has been altered by two inter-related phenomena of our time: "spectralization" of global capitalism and large-scale migration. This book project investigates how people re-imagine the material in their understanding of self and history in this new context of globalization in Vietnam and migration in the US by looking at consumption and work among Vietnamese workers, literary representations of them in fiction, poetry and public protest that contest neocolonial government policies; as well as Vietnamese American memorial practices, and Vietnamese American fiction dealing with memory and history.

Born in Saigon, and raised in Vietnam and the United States, Professor Nguyen-vo received her B.A. in Asian Studies from CSULB, and her PhD in Political Science from UC Irvine. Prior to coming to UCLA in 2001, she held a position at CSULA.

# Faculty Promotions and Research

## Politics, Gender, Race, Culture, Global Economy, Immigration, Law, Health Care, AIDS Research and Urbanization

**Dr. Victor Bascara** has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Asian American Studies at UCLA. He is also an active member of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center.

Professor Bascara's research and teaching interests include Asian American literature and cultural politics, postcolonial studies, Filipino / Filipino American studies, comparative ethnic studies, critical race theory, and queer studies. He is the author of *Model Minority Imperialism* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006), which traces U.S. economic, political, and cultural hegemony back to the turn of the century through an examination of Asian American cultural production. His study analyzes how Asian American culture uncovers the repressed story of U.S. imperialism in ways that demand that the imperial present reckon with its imperial pasts. His essays, articles, and reviews have been published in such journals as *American Quarterly*, *Amerasia*, *The Journal of Asian American Studies*, and *Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States (MELUS)* and in such volumes as *Imagining Our Americas: Towards an International Frame*, *East Main Street: Asian*



**Dr. Grace Hong** has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Asian American Studies and the Interdepartmental Program in Women's Studies at UCLA. Professor Hong is also a leading member of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center.

Professor Hong's research and teaching interests include women of color feminism, comparative racialization, Asian American literature and culture, and women and work in the global economy. She is the author of *The Ruptures of American Capital: Women of Color Feminism and The Culture of Immigrant Labor* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006), which examines women of color feminism and racialized immigrant women's cultural production as constitutive contradictions of U.S. liberalism, in both its nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mode organized around possessive individualism and its late twentieth-century formation as manifest in the "flexible" organization common to global capital. She has also published a number of articles in journals such as *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism, American Literature, and Diaspora*. She was a University of California President's Post-Doctoral Fellow in 2001-2002.

Dr. Hong is currently at work on a second monograph project which explores the cultures of people of color in the U.S. as knowledge-producing institutions which contradict or disorganize the ideological mechanisms by which certain lives are

*American Popular Culture, and Q & A: Queer in Asian America.*

Among his current projects is a second monograph near completion on the contestation between colonialism and isolationism in U.S. culture between the World Wars. He is also at work on a book on the emergence of Asian American refugee culture in the Cold War. And he is co-editing, with Professors John D. Blanco of UC-San Diego and Courtney Johnson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a collection of scholarly essays on the transition from Spanish to U.S. colonialisms in the Philippines and other sites in the Pacific, Caribbean, and Latin America, a volume emerging from a multi-year Mellon-funded humanities workshop. He was recently awarded a grant to travel to archives at the University of Puerto Rico and at the University of the Philippines



Photo by PJ Nadal

rendered unrecognizable or illegible as protectable and valuable. Looking at film, art, and literature by Asian American, African American, and Chicano/a authors and artists, this book traces the ways in which these texts gives us access to the heterogeneous, and productive modes of "life" that proliferate in this condition of vulnerability to death. She is also co-editing a collection entitled *Strange Affinities: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Comparative Racialization*, under contract with Duke University Press.

Born in Seoul, South Korea and raised in Los Angeles, Professor Hong received her B.A. in English with a minor in Asian American Studies from UCLA and went on to earn an M.A. in Asian American Studies from UCLA as well. She did her PhD work at UCSD in the Department of Literature. Prior to joining the faculty at UCLA, she held positions at Princeton University and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

in the coming year. This research is part of a study he is writing on the teaching of American literature at universities newly founded as the U.S. acquired territory in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

Dr. Bascara's parents immigrated from the Philippines in the early 1960s, eventually settling down in New Jersey. He received his B.A. in English with a minor in Ethnic Studies from UC Berkeley. He went on to complete an M.A. in English also at Berkeley, writing a thesis under the direction of Oscar Campomanes. His Ph.D. is from the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. Prior to joining the faculty at UCLA, he was a faculty member in English and Asian American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he received tenure in 2006.

**Dr. Mitchell Chang** has been promoted to Full Professor at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. A long-time member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and former Book Review Editor of *Amerasia Journal*, Professor Chang is one of the nation's leading experts on issues dealing with diversity in higher education.

His rigorous, empirically based writings have appeared in the most influential scholarly and policy journals in the field of higher educational research, and have had a substantial impact on the national debate and legal deliberations dealing with affirmative action. His co-edited, highly influential book, *Compelling Interest: Examining the Evidence on Racial Dynamics in Colleges and Universities* (Stanford University Press, 2002) was cited in the majority opinion written by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in the *Grutter v. Bollinger* (University of Michigan Law School) decision. Professor Chang has also received numerous academic accolades, including the Outstanding Outcomes Assessment Research Award by the American College Personnel Association and the National Academy of Education/Spencer Fellowship. In 2006, the national magazine *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* named Professor Chang as one of its Top 10 Emerging Scholars of the nation.

**Dr. Vinit Mukhija** has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at UCLA's Department of Urban Planning. Dr. Mukhija participates fully in the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. He also has an appointment with the Department of Asian American Studies.

Professor Mukhija's research focuses on affordable housing in developing countries, and Third World-like housing conditions in the United States. He is interested in the globalization of ideas and institutions of housing and land development. His research evaluates the potential and pitfalls of institutions from developed countries—such as Transfer of Development Rights, inclusionary housing, property rights, and mortgage finance—in housing delivery in developing countries, and the relevance of housing ideas and frameworks from developing countries—such as incremental development, micro-finance, informality, and collective upgrading—in developed countries.

He argues that comparative approaches deepen and transform our understanding of urbanization and development, and help reveal unexpected avenues for policy and social change. In addition, he is interested in research on institutional actors



He is currently working on a national multi-year study with Sylvia Hurtado on undergraduate science degree completion, funded by both the National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF). Prior to coming to UCLA in 1999, Professor Chang held positions at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, Stanford University, and Loyola Marymount University. He received his PhD from UCLA, MA from Harvard University, and BA from UC Santa Barbara.

performing contrary to conventional wisdom, including effective public sector programs and successful collective action endeavors. Such contrarian approaches also help increase the range of options available to policymakers. His first book, *Squatters As Developers?: Slum Demolition and Redevelopment in Mumbai, India* (King's SOAS Studies in Development Geography, 2003), is based on extensive fieldwork in Mumbai, and makes these arguments by following a case study of a cooperative of slum-dwellers.

Professor Mukhija's fascination with Mumbai is ongoing. His current project examines how the city's redevelopment programs for slums, chawls (tenements), and mills are changing and why. He is particularly interested in how the housing benefits of low-income residents are affected by the changes.

Another project is focused on colonias, border region settlements that lack infrastructure and decent housing, and trailer parks in California. He is also evaluating the effectiveness of existing inclusionary housing programs in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The project, funded by the John Randolph and Dora Haynes Foundation, will provide lessons for inclusionary housing policies in the city of Los Angeles.

Professor Mukhija is trained as an urban planner (Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Urban Planning and Development), urban designer (University of Hong Kong), and architect (University of Texas, Austin, and the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi). Some of his past research and consulting projects have been funded by the Fannie Mae Foundation, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the World Bank.

Professor Mukhija regularly teaches courses on Housing in Developing Countries, Land Use Planning, and the Physical Planning Studio. He has also taught a comprehensive project on increasing housing density in Los Angeles, an international and comparative workshop in Mumbai and a seminar on Los Angeles' Little Tokyo district.





**Dr. Tritia Toyota**, a long-time supporter of the Asian American Studies Center, has been officially appointed as Adjunct Assistant Professor in both the Departments of Anthropology and Asian American Studies at UCLA. An award-winning news anchor, she received her Ph.D. in Anthropology at UCLA in 2004, and specializes in globalization, transnationalism, Asian American politics, race theory, media studies, and social movements. Her classes are among the most popular on campus.

Dr. Toyota is the author of *Envisioning America: New Chinese Americans and the Politics of Belonging*, which will be released by Stanford University Press in Fall 2009. The book is a groundbreaking and richly detailed study of how naturalized Chinese living in Southern California become highly involved civic and political actors. Like other immigrants to the United States, their individual life stories are of survival, becoming, and belonging.

**Professor Clara M. Chu** is the recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) Office for Diversity's Achievement in Library Diversity Research honor. The Office for Diversity began awarding this honor in 2004 as part of its ongoing support for the dissemination of library-based diversity research.

Professor Chu is a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee and is a founding editorial board member of the Center's *AAPI Nexus: Policy, Practice, and Community* and *Amerasia Journal*.

Professor Chu is an Associate Professor at the Department of Information Studies. She has published, presented, and consulted internationally in English and Spanish on multicultural library and information issues. She is a leading voice on the subject matter, and actively recruits people of culturally diverse backgrounds into the information profession. She received her award and gave the opening remarks during the "Charting Courses: Diversity Research Grants" panel program during the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim on June 29, 2008.

The Office of Diversity sponsors the Diversity Research Grants to address critical gaps in the knowledge of diversity issues within library and information science.

Chu has served as co-chair on the Diversity Recruitment and Mentoring Committee at UCLA, where she has led initiatives to diversify LIS education, research and practice. Her leadership includes the role of principal investigator for Program PRAXIS: A Pre-Doctoral and Recruitment Program for Tomorrow's Culturally Diverse Information Studies Faculty, which is supported by a major federal grant. She was a recipient of the 2002 ALA Equality Award and was selected a 2005 Library Journal Mover & Shaker, which recognizes people who are shaping the future of libraries.



But unlike any other Asian immigrant group before them, they have the resources-Western-based educations, entrepreneurial strengths, and widely based social networks in Asia-to become fully accepted in their new homes.

The book challenges the notion that Asian Americans are apathetic or apolitical about civic engagement, reminding us that political involvement would often have been a life-threatening act in their homeland. The Chinese Americans in the book reveal the ways in which these new citizens actively embrace American citizenship and offer a unique perspective on how global identities transplanted across borders become rooted in the local.

**Prof. Marjorie Kagawa-Singer**, a leader of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, was selected as one of four recipients of this year's prestigious campus-wide Ann C. Rosenfeld Distinguished Community Partnership Prize.

The Ann C. Rosenfeld Distinguished Community Partnership Prize's primary goal is to publicly acknowledge outstanding examples of engaged scholarship in which UCLA faculty or staff have collaborated with Los Angeles non-profit organizations to address issues of community concern. Each award was presented jointly to the principal UCLA participant and the community partner, thereby publicly recognizing and uniting the two "halves" of the UCLA in LA partnership.

Selected partnerships received an award of \$25,000 of which \$12,500 was received by the UCLA partner and \$12,500 was given to the community partner. Made possible by the Ann C. Rosenfeld Fund at the UCLA Foundation under the direction of David A. Leveton, this award can be used for any purpose by the recipients. All awards are subject to University of California policies as well as federal and state taxation.



Professor Kagawa-Singer was recognized for the long-standing partnership with the Long Beach, California-based organization, Families in Good Health (Lillian Lew, Executive Director), which has sought to connect the large Southeast Asian American community in the area with health care programs and facilities. (Please see the following about this important organization: <http://www.4children.org/news/700figh.htm>).

Professor Kagawa-Singer, Ph.D., M.N., R.N., is a Professor in the Department of Asian American Studies of the UCLA College of Letters and Science and the Department of Community Health Sciences of the UCLA School of Public Health. Among her many activities, she serves as Senior Editor of *AAPI Nexus: Asian American and Pacific Islander Policy, Practice, and Community*, a journal of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Professor Kagawa-Singer and Lillian Lew of Families in Good Health received the Rosenfeld Prize at the Center for Community Partnerships Anniversary reception on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at the new Broad Art Center on the UCLA campus.

Professor Kagawa-Singer is the fourth member of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center to receive a Rosenfeld Prize. The others were Professors Kenneth Chuang, Robert Nakamura, and Paul Ong.

## Three New Professors join Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee

THE UCLA Asian American Studies Center is very pleased to announce the appointment of three new professors at UCLA, who have joined the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center. Their teaching, research, and professional activities are in the areas of immigration and citizenship law, psychological effects of prejudice and discrimination, and racial and socioeconomic disparities in health and diet.

The new UCLA professors further enhance the multi-disciplinary composition of the forty-five member Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center, who are affiliated with over twenty-five departments at UCLA, including the Department of Asian American Studies. The three new professors are:

### Professor Hiroshi Motomura, Professor, School of Law.



One of the nation's most influential scholars and teachers of immigration and citizenship law. He is a co-author of two immigration-related casebooks: *Immigration and Citizenship: Process and Policy* (now in its sixth edition), and *Forced Migration: Law and Policy*, published in 2007. His book, *Americans in Waiting: The Lost Story of Immigration and Citizenship in the United States*, published in 2006 by Oxford University Press, won the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Award from the Association of American Publishers as the year's best book in Law and Legal Studies. In addition, Professor Motomura has published many significant articles and essays on immigration and citizenship. He has testified as an immigration expert in the U.S. Congress, has served as co-counsel or a volunteer consultant in several cases in the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal appeals courts, has been a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration, and is one of the co-founders of the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN). Originally from San Francisco, Professor Motomura received his BA from Yale and JD from UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall Law School. He was a professor at University of Colorado at Boulder for over twenty years and at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill for the past

five years before joining the UCLA Law School faculty this year.

### Professor Margaret Shih, Associate Professor, Anderson School of Management

Her research focuses on the effects of diversity in organizations, especially social identity and the psychological effects of stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination and stigma in organizations. She serves on the executive committee for the International Society for Self and Identity and is a consulting editor for the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* and *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*. Professor Shih was also an editor for the special issue of the *Journal of Social Issues*. Originally from Vancouver, she received her BA from Stanford and her PhD in Social Psychology from Harvard. Professor Shih spent eight years on the faculty at University of Michigan at Ann Arbor (and also worked at the Rand Corporation) before joining the UCLA Anderson School faculty this year.



### Professor May Wang, Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health.

Her research interests include neighborhood and family environmental influences on diet-related conditions and obesity and osteoporosis risk; socioeconomic disparities in nutrition and health; diet assessment methods for ethnically diverse populations; and diet and health in immigrant Asian and Latino populations. She received her undergraduate education in Singapore, a Master's degree in Nutritional Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin, and a MPH/RD and a DrPH degree (Public Health Nutrition) from UC Berkeley. Professor Wang was on the faculty at San Jose State University and most recently at UC Berkeley prior to coming to UCLA's School of Public Health this year.



## Asian American, Latino, and African American Health Disparities Dr. Roshan Bastani Co-Directs \$4.5 million Grant on Health

THE UCLA School of Public Health has received a Centers for Disease Control grant totaling \$4.25 million over five years to address health disparities related to heart disease, stroke, and cancer among African Americans, Latinos, and Asians at the local, state and national level. The school will provide technical assistance and training to health and social service organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and other institutions.

Dr. Roshan Bastani, a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee, will co-direct the project.

The award will allow the school's Center to Eliminate Health Disparities (CEHD) to build on more than two decades of work with a large and reputable network of community-based organizations and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, one of the largest county health departments in the

nation, to improve health by changing physical activity and nutrition norms and practices at key community institutions.

The grant is part of the CDC's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health across the U.S. (REACH US) initiative, a national, multilevel program to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health. Through REACH US, the CDC supports programs that design, implement and evaluate community-driven strategies to eliminate disparities in several key areas: cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, breast and cervical cancer, adult and older adult immunizations, hepatitis B and tuberculosis, asthma, and infant mortality.

"Obesity and lack of physical activity are the leading cause of cardiovascular disease in this country and are considered to be important for contributors to other diseases, such as cancer," said  
*continued on page 15*

# Asian Americans on the Margins

## AAPI and Educational Equity Addresses Forgotten Groups

THE UC AAPI Policy Multi-Campus Research Program's (MRP), which is based at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, held a conference, "Out of the Margins: AAPIs and Educational Equity" on Friday, November 16, 2007 at UCLA. The conference served to facilitate important discourse about the place of the AAPI community in education policy discourse. The conference accomplished its goals of developing an applied and policy research agenda on AAPIs and education with more than 100 attendees, which included students and faculty members from various UC and Cal State campuses, representatives from the UC Office of the President (UCOP), elected officials, and community leaders.

Keynote speaker Assemblyman Mike Eng of the 49th Assembly District of East Los Angeles County stated his concern about the absence of research into several key issues within the AAPI community. Eng addressed the lack of statistics for forgotten groups within the AAPI community such as those in state prisons, teen pregnancy, and obesity. According to Eng, without these statistics, it is extremely difficult for elected officials to accurately address the needs of the AAPI community along with creating resolutions that would benefit those that need it the most. He called for efforts to address these issues through research to further implement practical solutions.

In addition, Judy Sakaki, newly appointed Vice President for Student Affairs of UCOP, made a land mark announcement in response to the growing demand for ethnic-specific data. The student-initiated campaign, "Count Me In!" by organizations such as



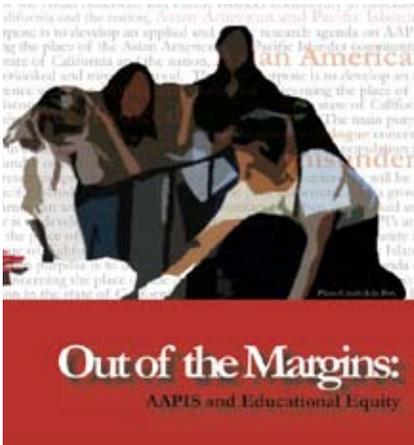
Photo by Paul Ong. Keynote speaker Mike Eng

Asian Pacific Coalition (APC) at UCLA helped to organize this demand for more disaggregated data of AAPI groups. Starting next year, Sakaki stated that the UCs will add new categories for different AAPI groups in order to accurately portray educational disparities between the different AAPI communities. Also, Sakaki commented that the focus of this action is to improve data collection about more "overlooked populations" within students in the UCs.

Panelists, moderators and speakers included UCLA Chancellor Gene Block, Dr. Bob Suzuki, the former President of Cal Poly-Pomona, UCOP Vice President Dr. Judy Sakaki, the University of California All Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity (UC ACCORD) Associate Director Dr. Danny Solorzano, Dr. Rob Teranishi of NYU, ACCORD Director Dr. Jeannie Oakes, UCLA Civil Rights Project/ Proyecto Derechos Civiles Co-Director Dr. Gary Orfield, and student organizations including APC at UCLA and Samahang Pilipino.

The conference was co-hosted by the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. It was co-sponsored by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center & Department, UC/ACCORD, the UCLA Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles, GSA Education, APC, and Samahang Pilipino.

Originally published in the MRP Newsletter "AAPI Connections"



**November 16, 2007**

UCLA ACKERMAN UNION,  
VIEWPOINT CONFERENCE ROOM A201

## Equal Employment and Nondiscrimination

### Melany Dela Cruz-Viesca and Paul Ong Lead Community College Diversity Study

THE UCLA Asian American Studies Center, under the direction of Assistant Director Melany Dela Cruz-Viesca and Professor Paul M. Ong, is conducting an analysis of the racial and ethnic composition of the faculty and staff in the California Community Colleges System. The System is comprised of 72 districts, 109 campuses, 64 approved educational centers, and 20 district offices. In 2006, community colleges had an enrollment of over 1.5 million students, with students of color comprising over half of the students. As a sister institution in the California Higher Educational System, community colleges are feeder institution into the UC System. Transfer students comprises approximately a fifth of UC undergraduates in 2006, most coming from the state's community colleges.

Community colleges are required to review "availability" data every three years, and if necessary submit to the Chancellor's Office

for approval of their Faculty and Staff Diversity Plans. The goals are to ensure equality of employment opportunity and adherence to state and federal nondiscrimination statutes.

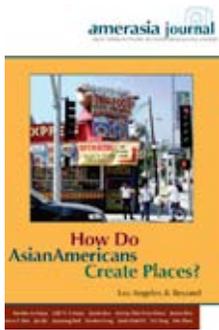
One of the objectives of the analysis being conducted by AASC is to help the community colleges identify the available pool of potential employees and to compare that pool to their current labor force. The analysis will use data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census and other sources. The ultimate goal is to assist the community colleges to have a faculty and staff that are representative and reflective of California's diverse labor force.

The study is being funded by the Yosemite Community College District and Chancellor's Office of California Community Colleges.

Originally published in the MRP Newsletter, "AAPI Connections" ([http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/policy/Newsletter1.3\\_v8.pdf](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/policy/Newsletter1.3_v8.pdf)).

# Amerasia and Nexus

## Flagship Asian American Journals with 50,000+ Pages on the Web



THE UCLA Asian American Studies Center has launched an internet site for its two academic journals, *Amerasia* and *AAPI Nexus*. Starting November 2008, subscribers were able to access *Amerasia Journal* and *AAPI Nexus* articles online. Both journals are recognized core publications in Asian American Studies.

“*Amerasia* articles contain information and perspectives difficult or impossible to locate elsewhere,” adds Serials Review. “This journal is highly recommended for

all academic collections and for large public libraries.” The searchable, full-text database enables subscribing institutions and researchers access to over forty years of *Amerasia* articles.

*Amerasia’s* online database features over 900 articles on topics ranging from diaspora and empire, U.S.-Asia relations, and religion to legal/political/civil rights issues, sexuality and queer studies, and multiracial Asians.

In 2003, the Center launched *AAPI Nexus Journal: Policy, Practice & Community*, a cutting-edge journal focusing on applied social science research for and on the diverse and growing Asian American and Pacific Islander community. *AAPI Nexus* draws from professional schools, applied social science scholars, and practitioners, with the explicit goal of reinvigorating Asian American Studies’ traditional mission of serving communities and generating practical research.

“AAPI Nexus Journal is the nation’s trusted voice for Asian American and Pacific Islander public policy debates, community-based research, and action-orientated advocacy,” said Lisa Hasegawa,

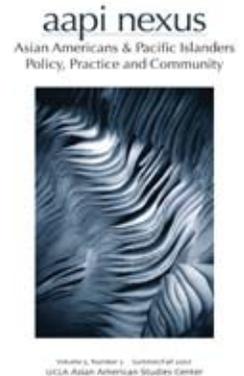
## New Online--and Into IT Coordinator Tam Nguyen Reference Sites and Online

The Center marks the 2008 greater web presence, through reference sites and the expansion

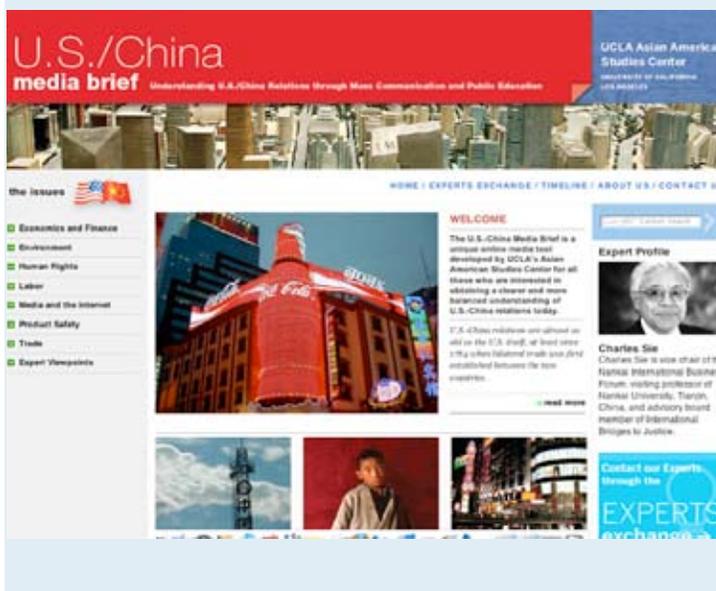
Executive Director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development.

The AAPI Nexus database includes articles covering civil rights, health, and art and cultural institutions from an Asian American perspective. In addition to research and resource articles, AAPI Nexus also features practitioner essays, where professionals and community leaders draw from their experiences to offer discussions and strategies regarding policy issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

The new online databases for *Amerasia Journal* and *AAPI Nexus* are valuable resources for libraries and research institutions. Access to the databases is included as part of a yearly institutional or individual subscription. To subscribe, go to [http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comersus/store/comersus\\_index.asp](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comersus/store/comersus_index.asp).



## Presenting Balanced Media Views on America and China: U.S.-China Media Brief Launches during Beijing Olympics (www.uschinamediabrief.com)



LAUNCHED on the eve of the Beijing Olympics, the U.S.-China Media Brief and its accompanying website were offered as an educational service to journalists, educators, and the public-at-large. The New York Times Olympics blog described the Media Brief as a “handy guide for anyone to peruse, available as a pdf or in greater depth at [www.uschinamediabrief.com](http://www.uschinamediabrief.com). Perhaps most useful is the brief’s concise explanation of the Sino-American argument over human rights.”

The Media Brief was developed, researched, written, and edited as an educational service for the U.S. media by a team at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center including: Professor Don T. Nakanishi; Ms. Sharon Owyang, principal writer and researcher (Harvard-trained writer and Emmy-nominated associate producer of the acclaimed Bill Moyer’s “Chinese in America” series for PBS); and Adjunct Professor Russell C. Leong, editor of *Amerasia Journal*.

Additionally, the Media Brief web site has an Experts Exchange section that gives media access to academic experts with knowledge and viewpoints on current U.S./China issues including geopolitics, health and safety, labor, media, & Chinese Americans. The U.S.-China Media Program was established by a gift from Walter and Shirley Wang.

## o Center's 40th Year: n Facilitates Three New e Bookstore

3-09 academic year with a  
h the launching of three new  
nsion of its online bookstore.



## Children of the Atomic Bomb: UCLA Physician James N. Yamazaki Creates Website to Educate New Generation about Nuclear Threat at [www.childoftheatomicbomb.com](http://www.childoftheatomicbomb.com)

**I**N THE history of humankind, Japan and the Japanese people were the only nation to bear the horrific consequences of the atomic bomb; over 100,000 persons died directly, with hundreds of thousands more being exposed directly and indirectly to the bomb. The children, both living and future generations, were especially vulnerable to the genetic effects of the bomb.

To commemorate this event, and to urge humankind to act today upon new medical and scientific knowledge about the long-term effects of the atomic bomb, UCLA's Asian American Studies Center announced the official August 2008 launching of the innovative website "Children of the Atomic Bomb."

The website, found at (<http://www.childrenoftheatomicbomb.com>), was developed by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in partnership with Dr. James N. Yamazaki, an emeritus professor of medicine at UCLA. Dr. Yamazaki was the lead physician of the 1949 U.S. Atomic Bomb Medical Team, studying the effects of nuclear bombing on children in Nagasaki. The project was funded in part by the Paul I. Terasaki Foundation, along with in-kind funding from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Additional funding came from Ms. Dodie Danchick.

The "Children of the Atomic Bomb" website provides Dr. Yamazaki's eyewitness accounts of his experiences in post-war Nagasaki, Hiroshima, and the Marshall Islands. According to Dr. Yamazaki: "Their tragedy has left a lifelong impact on me. Today, an enormous nuclear disaster simmers that must not be allowed to ignite."

The website also details the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission's findings on the physical and health consequences of the atomic bombs on the survivors. These include increased incidence of leukemia and other cancers and high rates of birth defects such

as malformed brains, caused by radiation injury to developing fetal brain cells. In addition to two video interviews with Dr. Yamazaki, the "Children of the Atomic Bomb" website also features images of drawings and paintings created by survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki blasts.

**"Today, an enormous nuclear disaster simmers that must not be allowed to ignite."**

The Physicians for Social Responsibility organization recognized Dr. Yamazaki with its 2008 Socially Responsible Medicine Award, together with Lawrence Bender (An Inconvenient Truth), and Dr. Hans Blix, former International Atomic Energy General. At 91, Dr. Yamazaki remains a committed speaker and activist against nuclear proliferation.

Dr. Yamazaki is the author of *Children of the Atomic Bomb: An American Physician's Memoir of Nagasaki, Hiroshima, and the Marshall Islands* (Duke University Press, 1995).

"Today," writes Dr. Yamazaki, "six decades into the nuclear era, we of the older generation must convey to younger and future generations the facts about the nuclear threat to the family of man."



Dr. James N. Yamazaki.

## Miracle in Rwanda

### Leslie Lewis Sword Stages One-Woman Play For Filipino Legacy Fund

Leslie is an UCLA alumnus, and is the daughter of Filipina American businesswoman and philanthropist Loida Nicolas-Lewis

UCLA Alumna Leslie Lewis Sword '04 brought to life the inspirational story of Immaculée Ilibagiza in her performance of "Miracle in Rwanda" on Sunday, September 28, 2008. More than 150 people came to see Leslie Lewis Sword's incredibly powerful one-woman "Miracle in Rwanda" play, which was co-organized by the Center's Filipino Legacy Fund. Immaculée survived the 1994 Rwandan genocide including the brutal murder of her own family – emerging as a national voice for hope, peace and forgiveness. Immaculée's amazing true life story was featured on the CBS Television program 60 Minutes. She is the NY Times Bestselling author of *Left to Tell: Finding God in a Genocide* (Hay House).

Professor Don T. Nakanishi told the audience, "One could live for years – and even a lifetime – without learning the profound lessons that Leslie shared in 70 minutes of her theatrical performance."

**"One could live for years—and even a lifetime—without learning the profound lessons that Leslie shared in 70 minutes..."**  
-Prof. Don Nakanishi



Miracle in Rwanda was originally produced by Theatre Zone in Naples, Florida, by Artistic Director Mark Danni.

The mission of the Filipino Legacy Fund is to link UCLA with the broader Filipino American community by supporting campus-community collaboration and the development of Filipino American scholars, leaders, and activists.

For more information, please go to:

<https://giving.ucla.edu/AsianAmerican/donate.asp>.

## David Nishida and Dr. Tina Yamano Nishida Establish Distinguished Scholars Endowment

DAVID Nishida and Dr. Tina Yamano Nishida of Tokyo and Los Angeles have pledged \$250,000 to establish the David Nishida and Tina Yamano Nishida Distinguished Scholars Endowment at the Asian American Studies Center. The endowment will allow the

Center, in perpetuity, "to annually bring highly accomplished individuals and scholars from a broad range of fields – business, the arts, politics, literature, technology, media – to the UCLA campus to speak with students, meet with faculty and present an annual lecture for the campus community and general public."

The Nishidas are both UCLA alumni. David received his BA in economics from UCLA, while Tina received her BA, MA, and PhD in social sciences and comparative education from the university. David Nishida is president and CFO of Hudson Japan, an investment company. Tina Yamano Nishida is an educator and writer, and co-edited (with Don Nakanishi) a book entitled, *The Asian American Educational Experience*. They have two sets of twin boys.

The Nishidas served as the Title Sponsors for the May 16, 2009 event on the UCLA campus celebrating the 40th anniversary of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Center Director Don Nakanishi said, "We were tremendously honored by the Nishidas' visionary leadership gift. Their generosity and commitment will allow the Center to bring exciting, influential, and cutting-edge leaders, thinkers, and artists from across the country and world to meet with and benefit our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the UCLA community. The Nishidas are very special alumni."



# Prof. Gilbert Gee Conducts National Study on Racial Discrimination and Mental Health

THE first national study of Asians living in the United States shows that for some individuals, strong ties to their ethnicity can guard against the negative effects of racism. For others, strong ties to ethnicity can actually make the negative effects of discrimination worse. And the mental health effects of such discrimination may shift over a lifetime as Asian-Americans continue to examine their ethnic ties, say researchers.

Anti-Asian racism is prevalent in the United States but research into the psychological ramifications of those experiences is scarce, said lead author Tiffany Yip, PhD, of Fordham University. Using the first nationally representative sample of Asian adults in the United States, Yip, Gilbert C. Gee, PhD, of UCLA and David T. Takeuchi, PhD, of the University of Washington, examined whether ethnic identity protected a person against the negative effects of discrimination and whether age and birthplace also played a role.



Public Health Professor Gilbert Gee is a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee.

Data came from the National Latino and Asian American Study, a household survey conducted between 2002 and 2003 that included 2,047 Asian adults 18-75 years old. The interviews were conducted at the participants' homes in a variety of languages, including Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

The participants were questioned about any negative feelings they may have had in the previous 30 days. Participants were also

asked about their perceptions of racial and ethnic discrimination. They were asked how often they felt discriminated against because

of their race and how close they felt their ideas and feelings were to other people of the same racial and ethnic descent.

The researchers controlled for socioeconomic status, gender, age at immigration and where the participants lived. Discrimination was associated with psychological distress; respondents said they felt depressed more often if they had been discriminated against.

The analysis found that for those born outside the United States, embracing one's ethnic identity did not guard against the negative effects of discrimination on psychological wellness. However, for Asians born in the United States, ethnic attachment did affect whether discrimination made people feel more distressed, and its effect varied by age. "Among adults in their 40s, feeling strongly about their own background can counteract the negative effects of discrimination," said Yip.

**"..strong ties to their ethnicity can guard against the negative effects of racism."**

Surprisingly, more analysis showed that U.S.-born participants in their 30s and those above the age of 50 who described themselves as having a strong ethnic identity had more mental distress from discrimination than those participants with a weaker ethnic attachment. "This may be because people in their forties, who are entering middle age, cope more effectively with stress and are better able to deal with emotional reactions to negative events, such as racism," said Yip. However, research has suggested that as people enter their 50s, they are actively trying to maximize happiness and minimize unhappiness, so experiencing discrimination during this time may be especially harmful for people who have a strong sense of connection to their ethnic background.

"A better understanding of these issues could help us create resources that can protect against racial discrimination in this country, especially for those who are not born in the United States," said Yip.

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## Bastani, from page 10

Bastani, a professor at the UCLA School of Public Health and the school's associate director for cancer prevention and control research. "Given that approximately 60 percent of all deaths in Los Angeles County are caused by heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes, our goal is to empower communities and cities to take a lead role in prevention and education efforts. We hope to reverse the current obesity and diabetes epidemics that threaten the health and well-being of future generations."

UCLA's CEHD will work with organizations like Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, the California Black Women's Health Project and Latino Health Access to incorporate permanent and culturally relevant changes into their day-to-day activities while also encouraging them to become advocates for healthy eating and active living at the local, state and national levels. Tactics may include a distance-learning certificate course through UCLA Extension for pastors, school administrators, and health

department and clinic staffs and actively disseminating policies and environmental strategies through on-site "train-the-trainer" workshops and culturally targeted audiovisual materials. The CEHD will also provide local communities with funding that will allow these programs to continue after the implementation stage and will expand its information warehouse through its Web site (<http://www.ph.ucla.edu/cehd>) in order to provide training resources to other communities interested in implementing these tactics.

The UCLA School of Public Health is dedicated to enhancing the public's health by conducting innovative research; training future leaders and health professionals; translating research into policy and practice; and serving local, national and international communities. For more information, visit <http://www.ph.ucla.edu>.

## Melany Dela Cruz-Viesca Appointed to Los Angeles Human Relations Commission

MELANY Dela Cruz-Viesca, the Assistant Director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, has been appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to the Human Relations Commission of the City of Los Angeles.

Dela Cruz-Viesca also serves as the Managing Editor of *AAPINexus*,

a nationwide journal published by the Asian American Studies Center focusing on Asian American & Pacific Islanders policy, practice, and community issues, as well as the coordinator and researcher of the Center's highly acclaimed Census Information Center, a joint partnership with the National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD) and the U.S. Census Bureau. She has authored numerous articles on Asian Pacific American demographics, community and economic development, affordable housing and homeownership, small business development, and educational issues.

Ms. Dela Cruz-Viesca is a member of the "Diverse Voices On Assets Clearinghouse" part of Closing the Racial Wealth Gap Convening by the Insight Center for Community Economic Development, hosted by the Ford Foundation. She is also a member of the U.S. Census Bureau, National Census Information Center Program Steering Committee and serves on the Board of Directors for the Association for the Advancement of Filipino Arts and Culture.

Dela Cruz-Viesca holds a master's degree in urban planning from UCLA and a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies and urban studies and planning from UC San Diego.



From left to right: Erika Pulst, Legislative Assistant-Office of the City Clerk, and Assistant Director Melany dela Cruz-Viesca

## Welcome New Staff Members—Ann Chau, Tin Nguyen, & Barry Korerat Asian American Studies Center and Department



Ann Chau is the new Office Manager for the Asian American Studies Center where she was a student staff member at the front desk for two years. She was a student at Long Beach City College before she transferred to UCLA to major in Asian Americans Studies and minor in Public Affairs. In 2007, she participated in the Hawai'i Summer Travel program where she learned about the Native Hawaiian sovereignty movement and she spent the fall semester in the Education Abroad Program in Hanoi,

Vietnam, which was where she learned about Vietnam's rich history and culture.

Her past political experiences involved phone banking for the API Equality Campaign on No on 8 and the Get Out the Vote campaign on behalf of the former Long Beach Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal. Ann admitted that grassroots campaigning was harder than it appears since it depends on countless volunteers who are willing to provide the necessary support in order to get their candidates into the position to make decisions that will improve the livelihood of their constituents. When Ann is not occupied with work, she likes spending time with her family and walking her Chihuahua named Igby around the neighborhood.

Barry Korerat has been appointed the new Student Affairs Officer at the Department of Asian American Studies. Barry is a familiar face in the Department, as he has also served as the

# Center Director Don Nakanishi Receives Yale Medal

YALE University presented the prestigious Yale Medal to UCLA Professor and Center Director Don T. Nakanishi on November 14, 2008 at Yale University.

The Yale Medal is the highest award presented by the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA) and recognizes and honors outstanding individual service to the University. Since its inception in 1952, the Yale Medal has been presented to only 267 individuals. No more than five individuals receive the Yale Medal each year.

Professor Nakanishi, who graduated from Yale with a B.A. in Intensive Political Science in 1971, has been a tireless supporter of the Yale Admissions Office since his undergraduate career. He has been a strong advocate for Yale's diversity efforts in student and faculty recruitment and academic programs.

For nearly three decades, he has chaired the Yale Alumni Schools Committee of Los Angeles County, which interviews over 1,200 applicants annually, and has written a highly praised newsletter that helps incoming Southern California freshmen and their parents make the transition to Yale.

Nakanishi has also served as an AYA delegate and an AYA Board member. Nakanishi, son Thomas, Yale Class of 2005, and wife Marsha established a prize that is awarded annually to two seniors who have contributed most to advancing ethnic relations at Yale. He also co-chaired the effort to establish the Henry Hayase Prize in American Studies, which is given yearly to the outstanding senior thesis in Asian American Studies at Yale.

Nakanishi was born and raised in East Los Angeles, and attended Theodore Roosevelt High School before attending Yale. As an undergraduate, he was an active student leader, and co-founded the Yale Asian American Students Association and MEChA. He also



*Don Nakanishi at Yale Medal ceremony with wife, Marsha, and son, Thomas*

co-founded *Amerasia Journal*, the core journal in the field of Asian American Studies. At graduation, he received the Frank M. Patterson Prize for the Outstanding Senior Thesis on American politics, and the Saybrook College Fellows Prize as the Outstanding Graduating Senior.

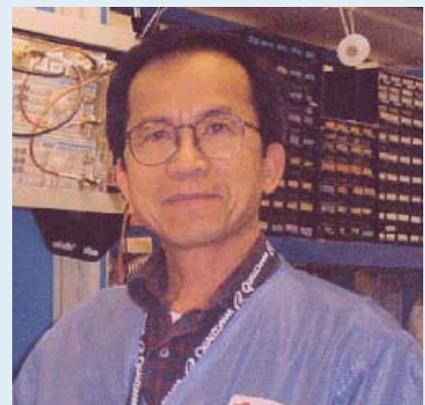
After graduating from Yale, Nakanishi attended Harvard University, where he received his Ph.D. in Political Science. He has been a faculty member at UCLA for 35 years, and has been a pioneering scholar in the areas of political and educational research on Asian Americans and other ethnic and racial groups.

Department's Main Office Coordinator. Barry has assisted faculty, students, and staff in a wide array of capacities. Barry is also a Bruin, having graduated from UCLA in 1997 with a BA in English, Creative Writing.

Prior to his appointment at UCLA, Barrett worked in the entertainment industry for nearly four years and for twelve years in retail management. While working in television/feature development, Barry "rubbed shoulders with the likes of Sponge Bob and the gentlemen who made the Matrix movies." Prior to his work in the entertainment industry, Barry was in retail management with Nike and, in the process, garnered "a nice collection of sneakers."

When he's not at the Department offices, Barry says that you can find him "kicking out the jams" on his iTunes or "hands deep in potting soil, nurturing a newly found love of cacti & succulents."

Tin Nguyen was appointed as IT Coordinator Assistant of the Asian American Studies Center in January, 2009. He received a BA Degree in Public Administration in South Vietnam in 1969 and training in Tax Administration at USC in 1974. He became interested in information technology more than 20 years ago, particularly in IT support and RF (radio frequency technology). In his spare time, he is interested in developing more knowledge and skills in the world of graphic design.



# AASC Fellowships, Prizes, Scholarships, Internships and Grants Awards

*These awards are provided from endowments and special funds that were established by the generosity of donors.*

## Research Grants

### Patrick and Lily Okura Faculty Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health (1 award at \$8,000)

Anna Lau, Assistant Professor, Psychology Department



Prof. Anna Lau

Research Project: "Collaborative research to enhance services for Asian Americans at UCLA's Student Psychological Services"

### Patrick and Lily Okura Graduate student Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health (1 award at \$3,000)

Jennifer Yu Louie, PhD Clinical Psychology  
Research Project: "Understanding Cultural Differences in Affect in Early Childhood"

## Graduate Student Fellowships

### Pearl Wang Fellowship (1 award at \$5,000)

For a continuing UCLA graduate or professional student from the People's Republic of China doing research or a creative project on a significant topic dealing with the Asian Pacific American experience.

Gan Liu, PhD Social Welfare - Mental Health & Gerontology

Research Project: "Reminiscence Therapy: Depression Intervention for Elderly Chinese Immigrants"

### Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship (2 awards at \$1,000)

Student applications and proposal must reflect interest in social issue-oriented research regarding the Asian Pacific American community.

Tam Nguyen, MA Library & Information Science - Informatics / Info Architecture

Research Project: "A Voice To History: An interactive online oral history project"

Mary Keovisai, MA Asian American Studies



Mary Keovisai. Photo by JP deGuzman

Research Project: "Sexual and Domestic Violence in the Asian Pacific American Community"

### Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship (1 award at \$2,000)

Student application and proposal must reflect interest in research on Asian Pacific American women.

Mary Keovisai, MA Asian American Studies  
Research Project: "Sexual and Domestic Violence in the Asian Pacific American Community"

### Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship (1 award at \$2,500)

Student application and proposal must reflect interest in community-oriented research in the Asian Pacific American community of Southern California.

Erica Young-eun Juhn, MA Asian American Studies

Research Project: "Language Access, Healthcare Options, and Choices in the Korean American community"

### 21st Century Graduate Fellowship (4 awards at \$2,000 each)

Student application and proposal must reflect interest in community-oriented research in the Asian Pacific American community.

Andrew Jung, MA Asian American Studies

Research Project: "The Asian American Movement and Leftist Radical Organizations"

Anna Joo Kim, PhD Urban Planning - Community Development

Research Project: "Looking for a Place to Rest: Elderly Mobility and Rights in Koreatown"

Lisa Lih-Woei Liu, PhD Psychology - Clinical

Research Project: "Parent Enculturation and Racialization Practices in relation to College Students' Psychological Adjustment"

Vivian L. Wong, PhD Information Studies - Archives Research Project: "Crossing: Documenting the Chinese Experience in America & Malaysia"

### George and Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship (2 awards at \$3,000 each)

For a continuing UCLA graduate or professional student of Japanese ancestry conducting research or creative project on a significant topic dealing with the Japanese American experience.

Christina Kimiye Suda, MA Asian American Studies

Research Project: "Restoration and Redevelopment of Los Angeles' Little Tokyo"

Natalia Maki Yamashiro, MA Asian American Studies

Research Project: "Power of the State: Okinawan Immigration to Bolivia after World War II"

## Academic Prizes for Graduate Students

### Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize (2 awards of a \$250 prize each)

Most outstanding graduate paper relating to Asian Pacific Americans and social issues they face.

Andrew Jung, MA Asian American Studies

Paper title: "What the Move Meant?: Reconciling the Divergent Origins of the Asian Pacific American Movement"

Monica Lin, PhD Education - Higher Ed. & Org. Change

Paper title: "Asian American Leadership Development: Examining the Impact of Collegiate Environments and Personal Goals"

### Benjamin Cayetano Public Policy and Politics Prize (One \$500 prize)

Most outstanding graduate paper relating to Asian Pacific Americans, public policy and political issues affecting them.



Natalia Yamashiro. Photo by Erica Juhn.



Alfred Peredo Flores, Jr. Photo by MyLinh Nguyen.

# Awards for 2008-2009

## Honors and supporters of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Alfred Peredo Flores, Jr., PhD U.S. History

Paper title: "Citizens in Training: Chamorro Immigration from Guam to the United States, 1898-1962"

### Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Prize (One \$500 prize)

Most outstanding graduate essay or research paper on Chinese immigrants whether in the United States or other countries outside of China, focused on a historical or contemporary topic.

Jean Jinsun Ryoo PhD Education - Urban Schooling

Paper title: "Dangerous to the Well-Being of the State: The Chinese Struggle for Education in San Francisco"

### Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize 2 awards: (One \$500 prize, One \$250 prize)

Most outstanding graduate paper on Asian Pacific American history and/or experience.

Jean-Paul deGuzman, PhD U.S. History



Jean-Paul deGuzman.  
Photo by PJ Nadal.

Paper title: "For Better Japanese Americans in a Greater San Fernando Valley: A Social History of Community Building and Civic Engagement in America's Suburb"

Cheryl Matias-Padua, PhD Education: Social Sci & Comparative Ed; Race & Ethnic: AAS\$250 prize

Paper title: "Racializing Jewish and Asian Immigrants: Summarizing the Experiences of Jewish Immigrants and Asian Immigrants and its Implications to Education"

### Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize (One \$500 prize)

Most outstanding graduate paper, thesis or dissertation on Asian Pacific American women.

Jolie Chea, MA Asian American Studies

Paper title: "Refugee Acts: Articulating Silences through Critical Remembering and Re-Membering"

### Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture (One \$500 prize)

Most outstanding graduate paper on Asian Pacific American literature, arts and culture.

Preeti Sharma, MA Asian American Studies - Women's Studies

Paper title: "Social Art History, Postcolonial Studies, and Chitra Ganesh's *Berna Cruz* in a Post 9/11 Context"

## Undergraduate Student Scholarships, Internships and Research Grants

### Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship (3 awards at \$1,000 each)

Essay on their experience, with regards to community service, on and off campus, and how it enhances their university education.

Anna Sterling, Major: Political Science Minor: Women's Studies and Southeast Asian Studies

Essay: "Translating Classroom Enlightenment to Community Action"

Selwyn Yeh, Majors: Economics and Chinese

Essay: "Empowerment through Community Service and Education"

Tianyi Chen, Major: Biochemistry

Essay: "The Pursuit of Challenges"

### 21st Century Undergraduate Scholarship (3 awards at \$2,000 each)

Student application and proposal must reflect interest in community-oriented research in the Asian Pacific American community of Southern California.

Christina Aujean Lee, Majors: Psychology and Asian American Studies



Christina Aujean Lee.

Research Project: "The Role of Ethnic Identity in Christian Korean American college students and their Attitudes toward Pre-Marital Sexual Behavior"

Hui Min Helen Lei, Major: Global Studies Minors: Asian American Studies and Chinese Language Studies

Research Project: "Chinese Transnationalism: The Reverse Brain Drain of Professional Chinese Americans"

Richard Manirath, Major: Art Minor: Asian American Studies

Research Project: "Inside: A documentary about Human Trafficking in Southern California"

### Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship (1 award at \$3,000)

Student application and paper must reflect interest in Japanese American and/or Japanese Studies.

Judy Show Tran, Major: Music - Vocal Performance

Paper title: "Japanese Pop Culture and the West"

### George and Sakaye Aratani Community Internship (1 award at \$3,000)

For continuing UCLA undergraduate students of Japanese ancestry to intern with a community organizations dedicated to Japanese Americans.

LiAnn Ishizuka, Major: International Development Studies Minor: Global Studies

### Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award (1 award at \$2,000)

For a continuing UCLA Asian Pacific American student with the most outstanding academic record after the completion of freshman year.

Betty Chen-Bey Huang Major: Math

## Academic Prizes for Undergraduate Students

### Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Undergraduate Prize Award (One \$500 prize)

Most outstanding undergraduate paper relating to Asian Pacific Americans in the context of Race Relations.



LiAnn Ishizuka. Photo by Michelle Tang.

## AASC Prizes 2008-2009, from page 19

Lawrence Lipana, Major: Asian American Studies & Biology

Paper title: "Trouble in Paradise: Tensions between Local and Immigrant Filipinos in Hawaii"

**Benjamin Cayetano Public Policy and Politics Prize Award (One \$500 prize)**



Lisa Manirath.

Most outstanding undergraduate paper relating to Asian Pacific Americans, public policy and political issues affecting them.

Amanda Kimura, Major: Psychobiology

Paper title: "A Quiet Epidemic: Eating Disorders within the Chinese American Community"

**Ben & Alice Hirano Academic Prize Award (One \$500 prize)**

Most outstanding undergraduate paper on Asian Pacific American history

and/or experience.

Lisa Manirath, Major: Anthropology Minor: Asian Cultures & Languages

Paper title: "The Influence of Taiko, Japanese American Drums"

**Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture Award (One \$500 prize)**

Most outstanding undergraduate paper about Asian Pacific American literature, arts and culture.

Hui Min Helen Lei, Major: Global Studies Minors: Asian American Studies and Chinese Language Studies

Paper title: "Asians in American Media: Breaking the Model Minority Myth?"

**Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Award (One \$500 prize)**

Most outstanding undergraduate paper on Asian Pacific American women.

Tang Lee, Major: International Development Studies

Paper title: "The Hmong Migrants of Southeast Asia and America"



Tang Lee.

**Royal Morales Prize in Filipino American Studies Award (One \$500 prize)**

Most outstanding undergraduate paper on Filipino American history and/or experience.

Charmaine Jamias, Major: Molecular, Cell Developmental Biology Minor: Gerontology

Paper title: "Filipino Youth Gender Roles: A Regional Study of Filipino American College Students"

## The Other Indians: A Political & Cultural History of South Asians in America

**Prof. Vinay Lal's book debuts "Professor-in-a-Pocket" AASC Press Series**

UCLA's Asian American Studies Center Press announces the publication of Prof. Vinay Lal's book, *The Other Indians: A Political and Cultural History of South Asians in America*. This is the first volume of the Press's "Asia Pacific Ideas/Professor-in-a-Pocket" series that features renowned faculty of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

This 160-page volume is based upon Prof. Lal's path-breaking research on Indian history, comparative colonial histories, and the contemporary politics of knowledge and culture. *The Other Indians* synthesizes, in pocketbook form, his ideas around the emergence of the Indian community in the U.S. with a focus on post-1965 communities. The chapters cover the following topics: Indians in the global setting and their passage to America; early students and rebels; the emergence of new South Asian communities; culture, religion, education, and affluence; and the politics and future of Indians in the U.S and in the Indian diaspora.

**"American Indians and South Asian Indians have sometimes been confused for each other."**

Prof. Vinay Lal is Associate Professor of History at UCLA where he teaches Indian history, comparative colonial histories, contemporary politics and knowledge, and the politics of culture. Lal was awarded the Ph.D with Distinction at the University of Chicago and is the author of many books including: *Empire of Knowledge: Culture and Plurality in the Global Economy* (2005), and *Introducing Hinduism* (2005).

In writing the book, Prof. Lal states in his introduction that: "American Indians and South Asian Indians have sometimes been confused for each other. Vasco da Gama was to arrive in India only a few years after Columbus, who imagined he had reached India, set landfall in the Americas."

*The Other Indians* is the first pocket-sized political and culture history of South Asian Indians in America and designed for the general public as well as classroom usage. Photographs and a handy resource reading guide are included



## Marjorie Lee Honored, Graduating and New Students Celebrate

**M**ARJORIE Lee, the Asian American Studies Center's long-time Librarian, was selected as the Librarian of the Year for 2009 by the Librarians Association of the University of California, Los Angeles, the professional society for all librarians at the university.

The honor "recognizes excellence in librarianship that furthers the teaching and research mission of UCLA and responds to the intellectual, cultural and information needs of the UCLA community. . . The recipient of this award must embody one or more of the following qualities: creativity, innovation, courage, leadership, or scholarship."

Among her many achievements, Lee performed heroically and professionally in rescuing our national treasure -- the Center's Library and Reading Room -- after over a thousand books and other materials (practically all of them first edition and most out of print works in Asian American Studies that the Center Library had been collecting since 1969) were severely damaged due to flooding from a broken water pipe. Her valiant efforts to save, preserve and restore our field's and the Asian Pacific American community's intellectual, creative, and social legacy occupied her attention and her



heart for over a year. The Center Library reopened in April 2008, and is again at the forefront of Asian American Studies collections in the nation.



**D**YLAN RODRIGUEZ, associate professor of Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside, gave the keynote address at the Asian American Studies Department's commencement ceremony in June 17, 2008 at the Schoenberg Music Auditorium at UCLA. He asked the graduates to meet the challenges of domestic war. "Why is it so easy for so many of us to express outrage over what the U.S. state is doing in Iraq and Afghanistan," asked Professor Rodriguez, "while we consent to what the U.S. state does in San Diego, Riverside, South Central LA, and West LA?"

The ceremony was a graduation for Asian American Studies minors, majors, and Master of Arts students.

*Photo by Jean-Paul deGuzman. Asian American Studies MA Graduates (from left to right): Carrie Usui, Preeti Sharma, Paul Ocampo, Jolie Chea, Ronald Noche*

**T**HE Asian American Studies MA second year students hail from around California and from New York.

Christina Suda, who attended Cal State Northridge, is working on a comparative study of Japan Towns in San Jose, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.; Mary Keovisai (UC Santa Barbara) is analyzing sexual assault in the Asian American community; Natalia Yamashiro (Cal State Fullerton) is examining the Japanese/Okinawan communities in Bolivia and Argentina; Evangeline Reyes (University of San Francisco) is researching the trafficking of women; Erica Juhn (UC Berkeley) is studying limited English proficiency among second-generation Korean American students; Danny Dechartivong (Cal State Long Beach) is documenting the Thai diaspora in the greater Los Angeles area; and Andrew Jung (SUNY Binghamton) is analyzing the political and social organizations of Asian Americans during the Civil Rights Movement.



*Photo by Natalia Yamashiro. Asian American Studies MA Students (from left to right): Christina Suda, Mary Keovisai, Natalia Yamashiro, Evangeline Reyes, Erica Juhn, Danny Dechartivong, Andrew Jung*

# Amerasia Journal and Nexus Release New Issues

## “World, War, Watada” and “Majority World Movements” Look at Post-9-11 Communities and Identities in the U.S. and Asia



THE UCLA AASC Press announces the publication of the special wartime edition of *Amerasia Journal*, on the state of Asian Americans and Asians in the U.S. in the six years following September 11, 2001. Entitled “World, War, Watada,” this 170-page special edition focuses on Lt. Ehren Watada, the first commissioned U.S. officer to resist the Iraq War.

“Amerasia Journal is the first and only national scholarly journal to gather, interpret, and present, from varying perspectives, the ideas and voices of Asian Americans themselves on the case of Lt. Ehren Watada and the war,”

writes editor and UCLA professor Russell C. Leong.

This volume examines the multiple dimensions of the Lieutenant Watada case, connecting Watada to the history of Asian American resistance to injustice. From a legal perspective, Prof. Eric K. Yamamoto and Ashley Kaho’omino’aka Kai’ao Obrey of the University of Hawai’i law school view Lieutenant Watada’s stand as part of a “long line of resistance” within the broader context of World War II Japanese American internee draft resistance and executive branch abuses of American civil liberties in the name of national security. They also discuss the applications of the Nuremberg Principles to the Watada case.

This issue also includes letters by Mits Koshiyama, Paul Tsuneishi, and testimony prepared for the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in July 30, 1981 by his father, Satoru Tsuneishi. Koshiyama, a Heart Mountain World War II draft resister, ends his personal letter to Lt. Ehren Watada, as follows: “Do what your conscience tells you what to do. We got punished by a prejudiced court but in the end, we prevailed.”

Other contributors include writer Frank Chin, constitutional lawyer Mari Matsuda, and the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress September 11 Committee, Arif Dirlik, Tariq Ali, and Luo Xuanmin. Mari Matsuda, a professor of law at Georgetown University, in her essay discusses Lt. Watada as a Japanese American, as a citizen, soldier, and patriot, and argues that while Watada may be on trial as an individual Asian American, his principled stand and tribulations challenge all of us to examine our own positions on the war, on citizenship, and the real meaning of patriotism in this era.

**“Do what your conscience tells you what to do.”**

**-Lt. Ehren Watada**

Irum Shiekh, a 2007 post-doctoral fellow with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, talks about her methods of accessing, interviewing, and analyzing the experiences of post 9/11 Middle Eastern detainees through her work as a Muslim woman academic researcher in her essay “Government Spy or Terrorist? Dilemmas of a Post 9/11 Academic Researcher.” Shiekh had done forty interviews with individuals arrested and deported to Pakistan, Egypt, India, and Trinidad between June 2002 and June 2007, and compares these findings to her fieldwork with Muslim detainees

and deportees with her previous research on Japanese-Peruvians who were interned during World War II.

This issue also features a riveting fictionalized account of a Filipino American immigrant family and a marine’s training to fight in the desert sand, a view from inside the theater of war. Marlon M. Layugan’s short story, “Enemy in the Sand” shows the experiences of one among many young women and men of African American, Latino, Native American, Asian American, and Pacific Islander, and Anglo descent drawn into the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. Layugan is an American-born Filipino and a UCLA student who deployed with the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he spent time at Camp Al Asad and Camp Al Qaim.

THIS *Amerasia* Spring 2008 issue is entitled “Majority World Movements,” a term coined by Bangladeshi photojournalist and scholar Shahidul Alam. In the early 1990s, Alam began to advocate for a new expression, to, in his words, challenge the “West’s rhetoric of democracy.”

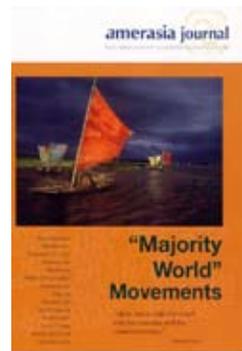
Alam believes that the contemporary photographic image has the “power to validate history” from the majority world perspective, in opposition to manufactured corporate representations. To challenge such media power brokers, in 1994 Alam began to teach photojournalism to working-class children in Dhaka, enabling them to be producers and disseminators of their own images.

Majority World explores both the concept and its implications with contributions by an international array of scholars, writers, and activists including:

Constance J. S. Chen who examines the late nineteenth-century trend of American Orientalism “amidst the dramatic socio-economic transformations taking place on both sides of the Pacific,” and Maxine Hong Kingston works with American War veterans through her writing workshops that combine her expertise, Buddhist theory and practice.

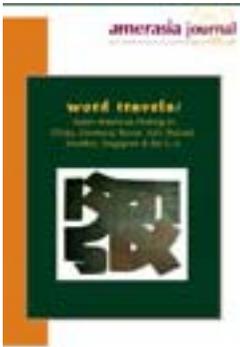
Part Two of this special issue focuses on South Asia, with featured commentary on the culture and countries involved in the political assassination of Benazir Bhutto. These include writings by Roshni Rustomji, Vinay Lal, and Amitava Kumar.

Part Three features new research. Jane Mee Wong examines Pingshe-the Equality Society and the writings of Ray Jones, or Liu Zhongshi, a Chinese American worker and main organizer of the U.S. branch of the China-based anarchist group. See also William Gow’s excerpt of the memoir of his grandfather’s sister, Auntie Kay, from her life growing up in China Alley in Oxnard, California in the years before the 1965 Immigration Act. Gow, a social historian and a graduate of the M.A. program in Asian American Studies at UCLA, also provides an additional research note on how to do Asian American genealogical research utilizing family records, family trees, timelines, and new technologies.



## Asian American Literature Goes International:

**Scholars from China, Korea, Poland, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Singapore, and the U.S. Write for *Amerasia* Journal Edition**



**A**MERASIA *Journal* releases its latest issue entitled “Word Travels: Asian American Literature in China, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Singapore, and the U.S.” Three years in the compiling and edited by adjunct UCLA Professor Russell C. Leong, this international edition gathers leading scholars from the People’s Republic of China, Italy, Korea, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Singapore, and the U.S.

According to Leong, “The publishing, translating, and teaching of Asian American

literature internationally is a relatively new trend, within the past decade, especially in China. This phenomenon has introduced this rich literature to thousands of new readers in Asia, Europe, and the Americas.”

This edition features essays by scholars from the following countries: China—this section features three of the leading proponents of Chinese American literature in China: Prof. Wu Bing, director of the Chinese American Literature Research Center of Beijing Foreign Studies University; Prof. Zhang Ziqing of Nanking University’s Foreign Literature Dept., and Prof. Yingguo Xu of the Tianjian University of Science and Engineering, who edited the first anthology of Chinese American literature in China.

United States—According to U.S. historian Prof. Gordon H. Chang of Stanford University, “Happy Lim was perhaps the most important organic intellectual among Chinese in America.” Chang’s path-breaking essay and translations of selected poems are published here.

Sweden—According to Mona Pers, books like *The Woman Warrior* offered some sociological and cultural understanding of “people from other cultures coming into our homogenous environment.”

Italy—According to Jeffery Paul Chan, themes of Asian American literature—including migration, assimilation, and ethnic prejudice resonate in a society in which Filipinos are the largest group, followed by Chinese, Sri Lankans, and Bangladeshis. Scilla Finetti places Asian American literature within the realm of the emigration experience in Italy.

Germany—The split between North and South Korea, the experiences of Vietnamese who settled earlier in East Germany, and literature around the Japanese American incarceration help provoke discussion around national, cultural, and ethnic German identity, according to writer Thomas Girst.

Korea—Kun Jong Lee, in “Korean-Language American Literary Studies: An Overview,” points out that the breadth and depth of Korean American literature cannot be grasped fully without looking at works written in the Korean language.

Singapore—Walter S. H. Lim notes that the issue of majority/minority identity issues, are much less so for Singaporean students, so that their understanding of Asian American literature differs than

that of Asians who are minorities in the West.

Poland—Dominika Ferens, in “A Pole with a Stake in Asian American Literature,” points out that gaps in historical knowledge, contemporary migrant and immigration experiences, cultural constructions of racial difference affect the way her Polish students read Asian American literature.

To order or to obtain review copies, contact authors, or more information: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress>.

## Other Side of the Model Minority Myth: *AAPI Nexus* Journal features new Senior Editor, Marjorie Kagawa-Singer

**T**HE latest *AAPI Nexus Journal* is the inaugural edition with its new Senior Editor, UCLA Professor Marjorie Kagawa-Singer of Community Health Sciences, School of Public Health. Professor Kagawa-Singer is a member of the Department of Asian American Studies and the School of Public Health. She takes over for UCLA Professor Paul Ong, the first Senior Editor of the journal.

This issue presents pieces that explore the disparities that continue to mark various Asian American communities. The issue begins with the inaugural note from Kagawa-Singer that highlights a new vision, which works to bring visibility and attention to marginalized experiences within the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations through research and policy.

Paul M. Ong, Melany dela Cruz-Viesca, and Don T. Nakanishi explore in the first article how to provide these communities with agency through voting. Ong et al. provide insight into how to create policy changes that can benefit these communities.

This issue also explores three pervasive difficulties that challenge the model minority myth, including:

Su Yeong Kim and colleagues, which examines youth gang members and their challenges in Hawai’i. This piece also includes avenues to help with intervention for these youth who join gangs in order to have agency and protection from discrimination.

Robyn Greenfield Matloff et al. explore Chinese American youth and possible risk factors for the growing epidemic of obesity in Boston’s Chinatown. The study also discusses the role of acculturation and changing lifestyles from immigration experiences.

Jeanne Shimatsu and colleagues include data about the rates of alcohol use and risky sexual behaviors. This paper also includes ways that can help intervene and address the alarmingly high number of unprotected sex and alcohol use found in their study.

Order on-line at:

<http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comensus/store/>

Annual subscriptions for AAPI Nexus are \$25.00 for individuals and \$125.00 for libraries and other institutions. AAPI Nexus is published twice a year: Winter/Spring, and Summer/Fall.



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