



David K. Yoo is Appointed Director and Professor of the Asian American Studies Center

PROFESSOR David K. Yoo of Claremont McKenna College and the Claremont Colleges has been named as the next director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center after a national search to replace retiring director, Don T. Nakanishi. He has also been appointed as Professor in the Asian American Studies Department. Professor Yoo received his Ph.D. from Yale University and holds the M.Div. from Princeton Seminary and a B.A. from Claremont McKenna College.

A native of southern California, Professor Yoo returned after graduate school to his undergraduate alma mater where he compiled an exemplary record as a scholar, teacher, and administrator. His many influential works in the fields of American ethnic history and Asian American Studies include the books — *Growing Up Nisei: Race, Generation and Culture Among Japanese Americans of California, 1924-49* (Univ of Illinois, 2000) and *Contentious Spirits: Religion in Korean American History, 1903-45* (Stanford, 2010) — as well as two edited books, numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Prior to his appointment, Professor Yoo was chair of the highly regarded Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies, which serves students, staff, and faculty at all 5 the Claremont Colleges, as well as a former chair of the Department of History at Claremont McKenna College. He also has worked on a variety of development projects and been active in a variety of community organizations.

“We are very, very fortunate to have David at the helm of our Center.”

- Professor Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi

American Studies Department, says that “the core faculty of the Asian American Studies Department unanimously endorsed the appointment of Professor Yoo. His prolific and pioneering research, expertise in Asian American and American Studies, and years of administrative experience make him an outstanding addition to a list of stellar scholars at UCLA.”

Finally, Professor Yoo has worked with many faculty, staff and students at the Asian American Studies Center over the years. He was a predoctoral fellow for the Rockefeller Foundation program on American Generations; an Institute of American Cultures Postdoctoral Fellow; Guest editor and contributor for *Amerasia Journal*; and one of three outside members of the Center’s major 15-Year Continuation review.

Professor Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi remarked that, “We are very, very fortunate to have David at the helm of our Center.”



Photo by Ruth H. Chung. Professor David K. Yoo.

Professor Lane Hirabayashi, current Chair of the UCLA Asian

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

For information on how to submit articles, announcements, images, and so forth to *CrossCurrents*, contact the editor.

For information about activities and programs of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, visit www.aasc.ucla.edu or 3230 Campbell Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA, 90095.

A special thanks to AASC staff for their contributions.

Chancellor Block Proclaims Recognizing 40 Years of Excellence



Photo by Todd Cheney.
Chancellor Block.

ON October 21, 2009, Chancellor Gene D. Block issued a proclamation that the 2009-2010 school year would be the “Year of Ethnic Studies” at UCLA to celebrate the past 40 years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA.

The following is his statement:

To the Campus Community: Forty years ago, UCLA was among the first universities in the nation to establish comprehensive ethnic studies research centers. Since their founding, the American Indian Studies Center, Asian American Studies Center, Bunche Center for African American Studies, and Chicano Studies Research Center have beautifully reflected the rich ethnic diversity of California.

Home to outstanding faculty and students throughout their history, the centers have earned worldwide recog-

Center Celebrates 40th Anniversary



Photo by Michael (Misha) Tsukerman.
Don T. Nakanishi speaking to the gathering.



Photo by Michael (Misha) Tsukerman.

For its anniversary, the Center has begun a “**Legacies and Visions**” project, which aims to archive significant moments in the history of the Center and the communities it serves. Responses and photos will be posted online and archived in the Reading Room to help fill the gaps in documenting the Center’s history.

We will be collecting memories and photographs until May 2010. Help us honor and recognize those who have helped build and develop the Center for the past 40 years.

Visit: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/lv>

If you have any questions, please contact 40th@aasc.ucla.edu or 310-267-2474. We look forward to seeing your memories and photographs!

“Year of Ethnic Studies at UCLA” with a Celebration Reception



...nition for their scholarly output, archival work and lasting contributions to the vibrant intellectual community on our campus and in Los Angeles.

Today, UCLA remains the only university with dedicated centers in all four subjects. By providing opportunities to engage in vital research relevant to these and other ethnic communities—and by advancing our understanding of the interplay among various sectors of our society—UCLA’s ethnic studies research centers further our mission as a public university.

In celebration of this 40th anniversary, I am pleased to designate 2009-10 as the Year of Ethnic Studies at UCLA. Through June, we will celebrate this important milestone with conferences, lectures, exhibitions and other public programs. More information is available at the Ethnic Studies 40th Anniversary website (www.ethnicstudies40th.ucla.edu)

Please join me in celebrating this unique point of pride for our campus community.

The Chancellor also held a reception at his residence for the four Ethnic Studies Center on November 10, 2009. Staff, faculty, community leaders, and Ethnic Studies Research Centers’ supporters joined together with food and music.

As part of the 40th anniversary celebration, the four Ethnic Stud-

ies Centers are collaborating with the UCLA Fowler Museum for the exhibit, “Art, Activism, Access: 40 Years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA,” which will run from February 28, 2010 to June 13, 2010.

The exhibit highlights not only the scholarship and research contributions of each Center, but also the social movements that helped to form them and establish their place in the community. For example, the exhibit includes the tenure battle for Professor Don T. Nakanishi and the Asian American Studies Center’s role during the 1992 Los Angeles Uprisings. Other pieces highlighted in the exhibit include Darryl Mar and Critical Asian Pacific Islander Students for Action’s mural, “Education through Struggle,” and rare and out of print newspapers such as *Gidra*, *Tozai Times*, and *Korea Times Weekly* (English edition), which covered significant Asian American movements.

There will also be rare items from the Yuri Kochiyama collection in the Center’s reading room. Her buttons and flyers used to community organize around a range of cause such as the International Hotel, Vietnam veterans against the war, and Free Nelson Mandela display the breadth of her organizing experiences. Her speeches are also in the exhibit to share her inspiring words that continue to encourage community workers.

For more information on the exhibit, please visit <http://www.fowler.ucla.edu>.

Anniversary and Pays Tribute to Retiring Director Don T. Nakanishi

STUDENTS, staff, faculty, and community supporters joined together on May 16, 2009 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Center and retiring director, Don T. Nakanishi, at UCLA’s Dickson Court.

Organized by the 2009 40th Anniversary Events Coordinator, Jolie Chea, the reception included performances by the Chinatown Kung Fu and Lion Dance Troupe and Koreatown Immigrant Workers Advocate’s Poongmul drum team, both of which are multi-generational and multi-ethnic grassroots organizations based in Chinatown and Koreatown, respectively. There was also a short film about Don T. Nakanishi screened, which was produced by Tadashi Nakamura. Notable speakers included Assemblymember Mike Eng, Assemblymember Warren Furutani, Field Deputy Mike Fong of Councilmember Ed Reyes’ office, Dean Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, and the Center’s first employee Elsie Uyematsu Osajima.

Student speakers included alumna Dr. Oiyan A. Poon (Education), graduate student Jean-Paul deGuzman (History), and undergraduate students Michael (Misha) Tsukerman and Christina Aujan Lee (Asian American Studies), who shared stories about the Center and Professor Don Nakanishi’s impact on them. Professors Paul M. Ong, Cindy

Fan, and Lane Hirabayashi also paid tribute to Don Nakanishi.

The Center was founded in the academic year of 1969-1970 as a result of faculty, student, alumni, and community advocacy. Through its programs in research, teaching, publications and other endeavors, the Center has pursued its original mission to enrich and inform not only the UCLA community, but also an array of broader audiences and sectors in the state, the nation, and across the globe about Asian American and Pacific Islander issues.

In the past 40 years, the Center has recruited the largest faculty in Asian American Studies in the nation with 45 professors and built the largest teaching program with a B.A. major and minor, an M.A. major, and in 2004, the Asian American Studies Department. Since 1971, it also has published the leading scholarly journal in Asian American Studies, *Amerasia Journal*, and over 200 books on Asian Americans. In 2003, the Center launched a second national journal, *AAPI Nexus: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Policy, Practice, and Community*. Moreover, the Center also has developed the most diverse library and archival resources on Asian Americans in the nation.

A calendar and description of the other 40th anniversary events is available at: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/events.asp>.

The State of Chinese America: A Community Forum *by Andrew Jung*



Photo by Xin Zhang. From left to right: Stewart Kwoh, Former Monterey Park Mayor Lily Chen, Tritia Toyota, David K. Yoo, L. Ling-Chi Wang, and Assemblymember Mike Eng.

ON December 12, 2009, the Center and the Chinese American Studies Endowment along with other Chinese American community organizations presented the first annual “The State of Chinese America: A Community Forum,” held in Monterey Park, the city with the highest concentration of Chinese Americans in the US. The forum sought to bridge the gap existing between academia and the Chinese American community and answer questions e.g., how can Chinese Americans fully participate through politics and education, what are the most pressing issues facing Chinese Americans today, and what will be the next set of issues in the future. The panelists included Professor L. Ling-chi Wang, Dr. Tritia Toyota, Stewart Kwoh, Assemblymember Mike Eng, and Center Director David Yoo. Honorable guests included Lily Chen, the first female Chinese American mayor in the US.

Prof. Wang began his keynote talk by providing context to the present state of Chinese America. One development is the growing concentration of Chinese Americans in ethnoburbs, or ethnic-suburbs. It is within these ethnoburbs that a new Chinese American leadership will emerge. Another development is the Chinese American community becoming further complex and multifaceted. Scholar Dr. Tritia Toyota then emphasized the crucial need to become involved both civically and politically in order for Chinese Americans to participate in the democratic process.

The president of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), Stewart Kwoh, addressed four major civil rights issues: healthcare, language rights, immigration reform, and political engagement. According to an APALC exit poll, 90% of Asian Americans surveyed wanted some form of universal healthcare. Kwoh also shared how Asian Americans rank relatively low for voter turnout proportionate to population size. Language access and bilingual provisions are key factors in increasing political participation. In addition, Kwoh emphasized the necessity for remembrance of Chinese American struggles and reflectively asked, “Will we forget our history? Will we know our history?” David K. Yoo also spoke about the legacy of the past 40 years of Asian American Studies.

Mike Eng, former mayor of Monterey Park and current Assemblymember representing the 49th District of California, addressed the history of Monterey Park, calling the city, “an activist city”

founded by politically engaged citizens who protested the desire to make the city the dumping ground for neighboring urban areas.

The fragility and fragmentation of the Chinese American community stems from a plethora of factors, yet political civic engagement and participation remains the key unifier in establishing a beneficial and progressive Chinese American community. If the community is fragile, then we must be careful in understanding the various dimensions and aspects that are unspoken, controversial, and ostensibly damaging to the community. In this respect, we should not shy away from progressive queer Asian American rights, we must remain vocal against domestic violence, we need to protest against continued labor exploitation of Asian American workers, and we are required to advocate for the rights of undocumented Asians. If the Chinese American community is fragmented, then we must develop ways to re-envision Chinese America in ways that encompass the multifaceted and changing nature of Chinese American communities.

“Will we forget our history? Will we know our history?” - Stewart Kwoh

A divide remains between academia and the community; professional middle-class Chinese Americans and working-class immigrant Chinese Americans; liberal progressives and traditional conservatives; the old guards of Chinese benevolence and “the new kids on the wok.” The State of Chinese America only further accentuates the need to develop new frameworks of coalition-building, solidarity, and encompassing political goals. After 150 years of Chinese peoples in the US, the state of Chinese America remains as it always has: struggling and thriving, endangered and enduring, honorary-white and forever-foreigner, fragile and resilient, fragmented and unified, consistent and contradictory. This community forum was a necessary look at the future of Chinese Americans.

The event was funded by the Chinese American Studies Endowment established by Gilbert Hom, organized by the Center, co-sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California; Center for Asian Americans United for Empowerment; Chinese American Museum; Chin-ese American Citizen’s Alliance, and the U.S.-China Media Brief.

An edited version of the forum is available at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/> and a short excerpt on the www.uschinamediabrief.com.

New Graduate Coalition Forms Focusing on Pacific Islanders

by GCNP

UCLA's Graduate Coalition of the Native Pacific (GCNP) was formed by a group of concerned graduate students and staff in the Fall of 2008. Although there are many organizations on campus that include Pacific Islander interests, we felt the need to form a graduate level group whose mission statement explicitly advocated on behalf of Indigenous Oceanic peoples. From its inception, GCNP has been concerned with an intersectional approach to Pacific Islands Studies. This comes in large part from the variety of our members' academic backgrounds: History, Literature, Asian American Studies, Education, Postcolonial Studies, Critical Race Studies, Student Affairs, and Gender Studies. This varied background allows for a productively nuanced discussion. However valenced our backgrounds may be, all members of GCNP agree with the goals of the mission statement:

1. To advocate on behalf of the Pacific Islander community at UCLA.
2. To educate on behalf of the Pacific Islander community at UCLA.
3. To promote the interests and awareness of the Pacific Islander diasporic experiences within the university and the surrounding communities.
4. To keep Indigenous consciousness at the root of all decisions.



Alfred P. Flores, Jr.

GCNP's identity was forged in large part by our participation in the 2009 "Unlearning the 'American Pacific': A Symposium on Anti-Colonial Pedagogies," spearheaded by Prof. Keith Camacho, who has been supportive of GCNP. This conference was the first of its kind at UCLA and boasted myriad speakers, among them keynotes Maenette Benham and Vicente M. Diaz on topics such as Indigeneity, Race, Gender and Sexuality. Participating in an event that brought established speakers to UCLA afforded us the opportunity to experience firsthand what the future of Pacific Islands Studies contains.

During the 2008-2009 school year, GCNP hosted documentarian Vanessa Warheit during a screening of her film, "The Insular Empire: America in the Marianas," which chronicles the American influence in Micronesia. GCNP also organized a disaster relief fundraiser after 2009's devastating tsunami.

GCNP has also invited filmmaker Keala Kelly to screen her documentary, "Noho Hewa: The Wrongful Occupation of Hawai'i," on April 22, 2010. Kelly's film is described as "a contemporary look at Hawaiian people, politics and resistance in the face of their systematic erasure under U.S. laws, economy, militarism, and real estate speculation." This screening precedes the Islands

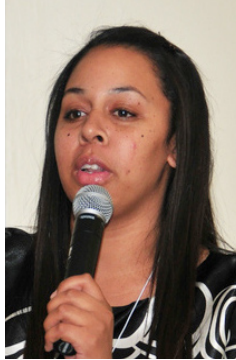


Photo by Michael (Misha) Tsukerman.
Joyce Pualani Warren.



Photo by Kehaulani Vaughn. Asena Taione.

Conference, spearheaded by Prof. Elizabeth DeLoughrey, which will take place on April 23, 2010.

GCNP members will travel to the 2010 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Conference in Arizona. Our planned roundtable will address the contemporary state of Pacific Islands Studies. Although Pacific Islands Studies has established itself in universities throughout Oceania, there is a dearth of well substantiated departments in the continental US. Courses may tangentially address the region via linguistic, anthropological or post-colonial frameworks, but Oceania is rarely the explicit focus.



Photo by Christina Aujean Lee. Jean-Paul deGuzman.

The proposed roundtable seeks to locate the current status of Pacific Islands Studies at UCLA from the perspective of an emerging generation of scholars located in various departments, but who also view Pacific Islander Studies as a locus for centralizing their efforts. Covering the history of advocacy for Pacific Islands Studies by Pacific Islander students, community members and allies will provide a better understanding of the recent expansion.

The Pacific Islander Studies collective at UCLA is at a pivotal stage in its development: It has gone from courses taught sparingly by graduate students to boasting the first tenure-track Pacific Islander Studies professor, Keith Camacho, in both UCLA's Asian American Studies Department and the entire UC system; it has fostered and benefited from ties with other ethnic student groups and academic departments; it has evolved from undergraduate groups which funded their endeavors through student contributions to graduate and professional groups which receive major funding to host scholars from throughout the continent and Oceania. Out of all of this comes a Pacific Islands Studies collective with a unique perspective on the legacy of the field, its contemporary endeavors, and the possibilities for its future.

Current GCNP members include: Jean-Paul deGuzman, Alfred P. Flores, Jr., Kris Kaupalolo (not pictured), Christen Sasaki, Asena Taione, Kehaulani Vaughn, and Joyce Pualani Warren.

If you have any questions, or would like to join GCNP, please contact us at GCNP@ucla.edu.



Photo by Florante Ibanez.
Christen Sasaki.



Photo by Christina Aujean Lee.
Kehaulani Vaughn.

Asian American Studies Center Affiliated Faculty News

Promotions and Research



Professor Valerie Matsumoto has been promoted to Full Professor. Matsumoto holds a split appointment in UCLA's History Department and the Asian American Studies Department, and is actively involved as a member of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center.

A graduate of Arizona State University (B.A.) and Stanford University (Ph.D. History). Professor Matsumoto has a distinguished career that has already spanned over 20 years at UCLA and hundreds of undergraduate and graduate mentees. Her book, *Farming the Home Place*, is widely regarded as a classic in Japanese and Asian American community studies. She also co-edited (with Blake Allmendinger) *Over the Edge: Remapping The American West*. Her newest book manuscript, which focuses on Nisei women's social networks before, during, and after World War II, is a timely, innovative study which promises to be as influential as its predecessor. She was also the first Asian American woman to receive tenure in the UCLA History Department.

Professor Matsumoto is among one of UCLA's finest instructors. She was the inaugural recipient of the C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in 2006, as well as the recipient of the university-wide Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007. She has chaired or been a member of hundreds of senior theses, MA theses and doctoral dissertations, and the students she has mentored are faculty members across the nation, award-winning writers, and leaders in the community and society.

During her UCLA career, Professor Matsumoto has also contributed to the Asian American Studies Center by serving as guest editor of several special issues of *Amerasia Journal*, Associate Director of the Center, organizing conferences and events, and chairing selection committees. She also has served as Vice Chair of the Asian American Studies Department. She is an active volunteer with many local and national museums, historical societies, and other organizations and institutions.

Professor Anna Lau has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Psychology at UCLA. She is also an active member of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Asian American Studies Center, and is an affiliated faculty member of the Asian American Studies Department.

Professor Lau's research interests include Asian American family development and mental health, parenting in immigrant families, racial disparities in mental health services, and the dissemination of evidence-based mental health treatments to ethnic minority families. She has authored over 40 research articles on these topics in peer-reviewed journals including *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, *Journal of Family Psychology*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, and *Child Abuse & Neglect*. Professor Lau has received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health to support her research in the adaptation of parenting interventions for immigrant Chinese American families.

Professor Lau is currently analyzing the results of a preliminary trial of parent training with high-risk immigrant Chinese American families conducted in Chinatown and the San Gabriel Valley. She has proposed a follow-up investigation to examine multiple strategies for enhancing the outcomes of parent training for immigrant families. Meanwhile, she is a consultant to the San Francisco Department of Public Health in their dissemination of evidence-based parenting interventions with immigrant families in several community clinics. Dr. Lau finds great fulfillment in intervention research that helps to translate science into practice in underserved communities.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica and raised in Toronto, Canada, Professor Lau received her B.Sc. in Psychology from the University of Toronto and first came to UCLA to complete her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. She did her postdoctoral training at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego at the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center. She joined the faculty at UCLA in 2003, right around the time she started her other career as a mother to Kasey, age 6, and Cameron, age 2.



C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize

Professor Keith Camacho was one of two 2009 recipients of the C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA. The Hoshide Prize was established by C. Doris Hoshide '34 of Rockville, MD to recognize outstanding professors in Asian American Studies. This is the first time that two faculty members were selected for the award. He received numerous glowing assessments of his teaching, advising, and mentoring from undergraduate and graduate students.



Photo by Michael (Misha) Tsukerman.

Professor Camacho received his BA from the University of Guam and his PhD in history from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. He teaches highly popular core courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs in the Asian American Studies Department and has played a major leadership role in developing courses, research projects, and community partnerships focusing on Pacific Islander Studies. His

students applauded his dynamic and innovative teaching style, deep interest in their welfare, and the multidisciplinary expertise of the history, cultures, and present conditions of the Pacific Islands that he shared with them.

He has been at UCLA since 2006 when he was appointed an Assistant Professor in the Asian American Studies Department. He recently received a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign with the American Indian Studies Program. As a fellow, Camacho is preparing a book manuscript, "Indigeneity on Trial: Colonialism, Law and Punishment in America's Pacific Empire." In this project, he is analyzing the history of the United States Navy's War Crimes Tribunal Program in Guam, a U.S. overseas territory, from 1945-1949.

Professor Lois Takahashi was the second professor to receive the Teaching Prize for 2009. Professor Takahashi received her BA from UC Berkeley, MS in Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University, and her PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Southern California. She teaches graduate courses in Advanced Planning Theory and History, Locational Conflict, Homelessness, Housing and Social Service Issues, and Urban Policy and Planning. Professor Takahashi's students provided glowing reviews of her engaging teaching approach, the extraordinary commitment she makes in advising her students and guiding the development of their dissertations, and the example she sets in being a scholar engaged in real world issues and solutions.



She is also the new Director of the University of California Asian American and Pacific Islander Multi-campus Research Program that is housed at the Asian American Studies Center. On November 18, 2009, the MRP cosponsored a townhall with Assemblymember Mike Eng on Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander mental health. The MRP is working to published the proceedings with Assemblymember Eng's office. The MRP is also embarking on a new project this year, with Assemblymember Eng and the California API Joint Legislative Caucus, that assesses the state of AANHPI education in California. This project's target date for completion is fall 2010. For more information, visit <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/policy>.

Center Remembers Former Founder and Editor of *Amerasia Journal*, M. Dick Osumi

A UCLA alumnus (B.A., M.A., and J.D.), M. Dick Osumi was a prominent civil rights and labor attorney. He was a founder of the Center and the second editor of *Amerasia Journal*. He was active in professional and community activities, and served as president of the Japanese American Bar Association and a board member of the Little Tokyo Service Center. He was also a long-time supporter of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations, Great Leap, and other community groups.

Dick remained active in the development of Asian American Studies even while he was an attorney and later in retirement. He wrote several major articles on Asian American literature and civil rights issues, most notably a 2001 literary analysis of Wakako Yamauchi's "And the Soul Shall Dance," in *Amerasia Journal*, and the widely cited study, "Asians and California's Anti-Miscegenation Laws." He encouraged many students to take classes and pursue academic degrees in Asian American

Studies, as well as to be involved in volunteer activities to improve and advance low-income and minority communities.

The viewing and funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 23, 2009 in Little Tokyo's Fukui Mortuary.

Dick is survived by his wife Janice and daughter Tina.



Photo by Furious Photographers. M. Dick Osumi.

Prof. Min Zhou Appointed to Walter and Shirley Wang Endowed Chair

INTERNATIONALLY renowned and influential scholar, Professor Min Zhou, is the inaugural appointee of the Walter and Shirley Wang Endowed Chair in U.S./China Relations and Communications at UCLA, which focuses on U.S./China relations and Chinese American Studies.



Photo by Rob Hewett.

Professor Min Zhou was born and raised in Zhongshan, China. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the State University of New York at Albany and her B.A. in English from Sun Yat-Sen (Zhongshan) University in China. She has been a faculty member in the Departments of Sociology and Asian American Studies at UCLA since 1994. "Professor Min Zhou is a preeminent scholar, an exceptional teacher, and a highly influential global thinker," said Professor Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi. "She is constantly being asked to speak and share her research

around the world and across the nation. She is also deeply committed to enhancing relationships between the United States and China, and contributing to greater public knowledge of the Chinese American experience."

Professor Zhou has received many academic awards and honors, including the 2007 Chiyoko Doris' 34 and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA, a resident fellowship at the Russell Sage Foundation and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, and the Chang Jiang Scholar Lecture Professor by Sun Yat-sen University in China. She was an elected member of the Council of the American Sociological Association, Chair of the Section on Asia and Asian America of the American Sociological Association, and President of the North American Chinese Sociologists Association.

Professor Zhou teaches and does research on international migration; ethnic and racial relations; ethnic entrepreneurship, edu-

cation and the new second generation; Asia and Asian America; and urban sociology. She has published more than a hundred books, refereed journal articles and book chapters, some of which have translated and published in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

She is the author of *Chinatown: The Socioeconomic Potential of an Urban Enclave* (1992), *The Transformation of Chinese America* (2006), *Contemporary Chinese America: Immigration, Ethnicity, and Community Transformation* (2009), and *The Accidental Sociologist in Asian American Studies* (forthcoming); co-author of *Growing up American: How Vietnamese Children Adapt to Life in the United States* (1998); co-editor of *Contemporary Asian America* (1st ed., 2000; 2nd ed., 2007) and *Asian American Youth: Culture, Identity, and Ethnicity* (2004). Zhou is currently working on three major projects: a book manuscript entitled *Chinatown, Koreatown, and Beyond: How Ethnicity Matters for Immigrant Social Mobility*; a study of Los Angeles' new second generation; and a study of Chinese immigrant transnational organizations.

In a letter to the Wangs, Professor Zhou wrote: "The Wang Chair is an honor that would have been unthinkable for me... I came to the U.S. as a foreign exchange student. I had limited English proficiency and little money... I feel real fortunate with my career and life in my new homeland with the support of extraordinary colleagues, students, friends, and caring Americans."

For more information about Professor Zhou, visit her home page: <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/faculty/zhou/>

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. In 2007, the Wangs made a major gift of \$1 million to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, which established the Walter and Shirley Wang Program in U.S./China Relations and Communications and its U.S./China Media Brief series, along with the endowed academic chair.

Charter High School Named for Prof. William Ouchi

ON January 14, 2010, a Los Angeles 4-year-old charter high school was formally named for Prof. William Ouchi and civic activist Carol Ouchi. Ouchi of the UCLA Anderson School of Management is a member of the Center's faculty advisory committee.

The new William and Carol Ouchi High School consists of a two-story structure with computer labs and is adjacent to a middle school. It is ranked among the best-scoring high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. The school is operated by the Alliance for College-Ready Public Schools, a locally based charter school management organization that also operates other high-scoring schools. All graduates must fulfill entrance requirements to apply for the University of California/Cal State system.

Ouchi's name was nominated by former Mayor Richard Riordan for his expert advice on public education. Professor Ouchi teaches courses in management and organization design. In his recent book, *The Secret of TSL* (2009), he examines 442 schools in 8 decentral-

izing urban school distributes and their success with this system. He has been an advocate for decreasing the Total Student Load (or TSL), which includes the number of students a teacher instructs and the number of papers a teacher grades. Also, Ouchi writes about the need to decentralize schools so that principals have a larger decision in their schools in comparison to school district administrators. He additionally has been named the Sanford and Betty Sigoloff Distinguished Professor in Corporate Renewal.

Carol Ouchi has served on the boards of philanthropic organizations including the Santa Monica YWCA, Santa Monica College Foundation and Children's Home Society.

For more information on the school, visit <http://www.ouchihs.org>.



Center Pays Tribute to Former Director, Lucie Cheng

LUCIE CHENG, former Director of the Center and Professor Emerita of Sociology at UCLA, passed away on January 27, 2010 in Taipei, Taiwan after courageously battling cancer for several years.



Professor Cheng served as the first permanent Director of the Center from 1972-1987 succeeding then interim director, Professor Harry Kitano. She began her UCLA career as an Assistant Professor of Sociology in 1970 after receiving her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa in the same year. Professor Cheng guided and championed the Center during the early years when Ethnic Studies was becoming institutionalized within the university. Hers was an often daunting task which met resistance from traditional area studies.

Under her leadership, the Center developed key areas of the its programming and structure, including the M.A. program which has produced hundreds of scholars, writers, and community leaders. Cheng was a pioneering social scientist who helped to establish the field of Asian American Studies within a transpacific context. Among her many publications, the classic *Labor Immigration Under Capitalism* (co-edited with Edna Bonacich, University of California Press, 1984) situated the study of early Asian Americans within the context of international labor migration. With Paul Ong and Edna Bonacich, she also edited *The New Asian Immigration in the Restructuring Political Economy* (Temple University Press, 1994). Professor Cheng went on to become the founding Director of the Center of Pacific Rim Studies at UCLA (1985-1990).

Lucie Cheng, who established a research team consisting of June Mei, Renqiu Yu, and Zheng Dehua, was one of first scholars to engage in joint research with Chinese universities, brokering field-work projects between Sun Yatsen (Zhongshan) University and UCLA. Her team did research in the emigrant sending area of Toison, and published works on the contributions of Chinese Americans to building railroads in Guangzhou (published in *Amerasia Journal*), and research on remittances, language, and on the bachelor society as well as on early female migrants.

She also grounded her research in the local Los Angeles community: she was active in the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, working with others to support programming and publications such as the path-breaking work on Chinese American women, *Linking Our Lives*, with co-editors Suellen Cheng and Cen-

ter librarian Marjorie Lee. In the book, Cheng notes the courage of pioneering Chinese women in America who overcame geographic, political, and cultural adversities to settle and build their communities.

This courage to forge new thinking also characterizes Cheng's life and work as well, for she opened new scholarly ground, linking Asian Americans to their countries of origin and analyzing their experience from the perspective of class, gender, and labor. Thus, her research broke away from traditional motifs of assimilation and modes of acculturation that had characterized conventional frameworks applied to Asian Americans previously.

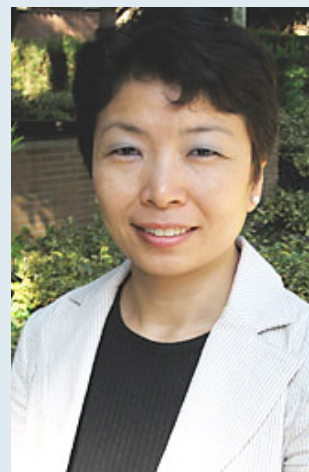
After her retirement from UCLA, Professor Cheng remained an active scholar on both sides of the Pacific, serving as the Founding Dean of the Graduate School for Social Transformation Studies at Shih Hsin University in Taipei. In addition, she worked as a publisher and journalist for two newspapers in Taiwan, including the *Lipao* Newspaper that had been founded by her father, Cheng She-Wo. In 2006, Professor Cheng established the Cheng She-Wo Institute for Chinese Journalism at Shih Hsin University, an archive dedicated to the history of journalism in China.

An online memory book has been created for people to read and to contribute at: <http://www.luciememory.org>. The Center and Department of Sociology will host a memorial tribute for the late Professor Lucie Cheng on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 from 4-6 pm at the UCLA Faculty Center. For RSVP information, please visit: www.aasc.ucla.edu.

Professor C. Cindy Fan has been appointed as Associate Dean of Social Sciences.

A population geographer and a faculty member at UCLA for over 20 years, Cindy is Professor of Geography and Asian American Studies. She has served as Chair of the Asian American Studies Department and of the East Asian Studies Interdepartmental Program. Funded by the National Science Foundation and the Luce Foundation, her research challenges the permanent migrant paradigm and highlights the roles of socialist institutions, household strategies, gender ideology, and spatial and social inequality in fostering long-term circular migration in China. She has collaborated with social scientists from many disciplines and countries. Fan has been an editor of two interdisciplinary journals: *Regional Studies* and *Eurasian Geography and Economics*. She has been a consultant for the World Bank, held a Visiting Professorship at Beijing Normal University, taught a UC Travel Study Program in China, and given keynote speeches at several US and Asian conferences.

As Associate Dean, Prof. Fan will help Dean Duranti's office with faculty personnel cases and with planning and executing a number of new initiatives including a new postdoctoral program in the Division.



Center Counts Students and Communities for 2010 Census

As a designated Census Information Center (CIC), the Center is helping count AAPI communities for the 2010 Census. The CIC program was initiated to increase access to Census data for community-based groups and serves as a clearinghouse of census data, updates and reports. To find the nearest CIC and the services they offer, visit: <http://www.census.gov/clo/www/cic.html>.

The Center held an information session on February 17, 2010, which was cosponsored by the Community Programs Office, the Bunche Center for African American Studies, Asian American and

Pacific Island Studies Undergraduate Association, the Asian American Studies Graduate Students Association, Asian Pacific Coalition, IDEAS (Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success), Laotian American Organization, Latin American Student Association, Nikkei Student Union, PacTies, Samahang Pilipino, Sangam, Thai Smakom, and Vietnamese Student Union. Assistant Director of the Center, Melany dela Cruz-Viesca, and student Census Project Assistant Coordinator, Brian Chiu, presented on why the Census is important, how it is used, and job opportunities. This workshop was particularly important because UCLA was a hard-to-count area during the 2000 Census. (For the *Daily Bruin's* article about this session, visit <http://www.dailybruin.com/articles/2010/2/5/data-gathering-shows-everyone-counts>.)

The 2010 Census is critical for communities because it not only affects the number of seats each state occupies in the House of Representatives, but it also determines how \$400 billion dollars of federal funding is annually spent. Each survey that is completed equals \$1000 in federal funding. The funding goes towards Title I grants, community-based organizations, hospitals, senior center, emergency services, public work projects (e.g., bridges and tunnels), and other public needs. For more information about the 2010 Census, please visit <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/census2010/default.asp>.



UCLA Releases First High School Textbook on Asian Americans

Untold Civil Rights: Asian Americans Speak Out for Justice

Untold Civil Rights Stories is the first textbook created for high school and freshmen college students to learn about and discuss the social and political struggles that 13 million Asian Americans have faced before and after September 11, 2001. *Untold Civil Rights Stories* is co-edited by Adjunct Professor Russell C. Leong, and Asian Pacific American Legal Center President and Executive Director Stewart Kwoh.

According to Leong and Kwoh: "Asian Americans are part of the untold story of America's continuing civil, labor and human rights struggles. For decades, Asian Americans, together with African Americans and others, have fought discriminatory laws around segregation, citizenship and marriage; have helped organize farm workers with Cesar Chavez; and spoken out for the rights of American veterans and others...

...we created *Untold Civil Rights Stories* for all Americans because this is part of America's untold story."

Ten illustrated chapters of *Untold Civil Rights Stories* come with an extensive lesson plan and historical timeline, together with rare newspaper and personal photos. Long-time multicultural curriculum consultant for Los Angeles Unified Schools Esther R. Taira provided lesson plans and a timeline for the book.

Among the surprising stories and photos within the book are: Korean American journalist K.W. Lee reporting on poor whites in Appalachia, Filipino American Philip Vera Cruz working hand-in-hand with Cesar Chavez to organize farmworkers, a born-in-New York Sikh policeman organizing for his rights, and the late veteran actress Beulah Kwoh organizing actors across racial lines.

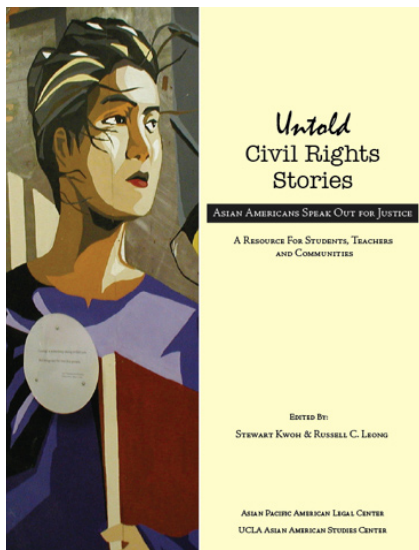
"*Untold Civil Rights Stories* is a social milestone that recognizes the unsung contributions of Asian Americans to America's Civil Rights Movement."

-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Untold Civil Rights Stories gathered nationally known writers, civil rights attorneys, and distinguished journalists to write each chapter, including: May Lee Heye, Bill Ong Hing, Irene Lee, Dale Minami, Karen Narasaki, Angela Oh, Mary Ellen Kwoh Shu, Julie Su, Stewart Kwoh, Casimiro Tolentino, Kent Wong, Eric Yamamoto and Helen Zia. UCLA student Irene Lee also provides a student's perspective on the issues.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa said that "*Untold Civil Rights Stories* is a social milestone that recognizes the unsung contributions of Asian Americans to America's Civil Rights Movement. It shows mothers, daughters, sons and fathers—ordinary Americans—organizing around workplace, racial profiling and other issues that have affected all of us before and after 9/11. It has a broad multicultural experience and is solidly grounded in U.S. history. A must-read and a must-have for educators and students."

Books can be ordered by phone by calling Tu Ying Ming at (310) 825-2968 and cost \$20, with an educational discounts for orders of 25-100 copies.



Breaking Ground Exhibit Displays Center's History

ON October 6, 2009, "40 Years of Breaking Ground: UCLA Asian American Studies" opened at UCLA's Powell College Library Rotunda and ran until December 11, 2009. Staff, students and faculty created a stunning exhibition of artwork, reproductions of vintage photographs, books, and materials that trace four decades of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have taught, studied, and contributed to intellectual diversity at UCLA.

Co-curated by Mary Uyematsu Kao of the Center Press and Marjorie Lee of the Center Reading Room, "Breaking Ground" was the first exhibition at UCLA dedicated entirely to giving the public a visual cultural history of the premiere Asian American Studies program.

Mary Kao stated that "We document[ed] a history of 'firsts'—the first steering committee that started the Center in 1969, the first Tongan American Unity Conference in 1981, and the first Asian American woman to become a tenured professor in UCLA's History Department. We also showcase the Center Press' very popular first book, *Roots: An Asian American Reader* (1972), and a timeline from 1962 to now with 112 items that illustrate events, people, and culture of each decade of UCLA's Asian American Studies."

Rare items from two of the renowned archival collections donated to the Center and university—the Fred T. Korematsu *coram nobis* papers and the Yuri Kochiyama papers—were displayed, along with over 200 books written by faculty, students, and visiting scholars. Co-curator Marjorie Lee, who, like Mary, obtained her M.A. in Asian American Studies at UCLA, said: "The exhibit is

a visual display of the many stakeholders who have helped break ground to forge Asian American Studies at UCLA. What is at Powell is only a sampling of the...thousands of students, scholars, and community leaders, who helped to build Asian American Studies at UCLA."

**"We documented a history of 'firsts.'"
—Co-curator Mary Uyematsu Kao**

The exhibit itself, a montage of ten panels and eight display tables, showcased rare photographs and issues of the decades, as well as a tree created by students and alumni of the Asian American Studies MA Program. The tree is made of recyclable materials on which leaves hang that represent students.

There also was a computer that showed student documentary video projects from the Ethno-communications courses: *\$40 on Pump 9: Desis in the Gas Station Business* (2007); *Inside* (2008); *Troqueros: The Life of an L.A. Port Driver* (2008); *Reverse Discrimination* (2008); and *810LOGY* (2002).

The exhibit was made possible through the support of Chancellor Gene D. Block; Vice Chancellor Claudia Mitchell-Kernan; Institute of American Cultures; and Rosina Becerra, Vice Provost with the Office for Faculty Diversity. The College Library and Library Communications also provided invaluable guidance.

Photographs from the event can be viewed at: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/gallerybreaking.asp>.



Photo by Tam Nguyen. Center staff, affiliated faculty, and students who attended the opening of "Breaking Grounds."

PacTies Editors Share Legacy of Student Media

PACIFIC *Ties* Newsmagazine celebrated its 30th anniversary with the Center on November 18, 2009. "30 Years of Art, Advocacy, and Activism & Breaking Ground" was held in the UCLA Powell Library Rotunda.

Pacific Ties was the 2009 winner of the Best Overall Publication award from Campus Progress. The event featured a *PacTies* Editors in Chief panel: Kendall Jue, ('78-'79); Abe Ferrer, ('81-'82); Mark Pulido, ('89-'90); Julie Ha, ('92-'93); Richard Wang, ('97-'98); Michelle Banta Tessier, ('99-'00); and Malina Tea Tran ('09-'10).

Editors shared how they got involved with *Pacific Ties*, what were the most significant issues covered when they were Editor in Chief, and how *Pacific Ties* influences what they are doing today.



Photo by Tam Nguyen. *PacTies* editors (from left to right): Anthony Pinga, Kendall Jue, Malina Tran, Mark Pulido, Julie Ha, Nam Ju Cho, Richard Wang, Michelle Banta Tessier, Abe Ferrer.

The event was funded by: the Center, Campus Progress, and the College Library. Supporters included Asian Pacific Coalition, Asian American and Pacific Island Studies Undergraduate Association, and the Asian American Studies Department.

Refugee Nation with Laotian Student Group

by Leslie Chanthaphasouk

Laotian American Organization Highlights Southeast Asian Experiences

ON February 1st, 2010 over 300 students, staff, faculty and community members gathered in Ackerman Grand Ballroom for a night of storytelling. The Laotian American Organization, a newly founded student group representing the Lao student voice, joined forces with Leilani Chan and Ova Saopeng from Teada Productions to present *Refugee Nation*, a national theater project on oral histories of Laotian refugees and their descendants. Laotians were part of the post-1975 wave of Southeast Asian refugees that immigrated to America after fleeing communist persecution.

The audience was welcomed with traditional Lao music and an exhibit that showcased the plight of Southeast Asian refugees with war, displacement, resettlement, and issues that they continue to face today. The exhibit was put together with the Association of Hmong Students, United Khmer Students, and Vietnamese Student Union to give a context for the play while also creating a holistic picture of the refugee experience that encompassed Laotians, Hmong, Cambodians, and Vietnamese.

We were taken on a journey into the jungles of the landlocked Southeast Asian country, which became a battleground during the U.S.-waged Secret War in Laos in the 1960s and 1970s. The performance was a mix of educational, engaging, and empowering moments with glimpses of the Laotian American experience, touching upon issues such as the US involvement in the Secret War, displacement, and the struggle of a younger generation trying to uncover their history with an older genera-

tion trying to forget. The cast used different mediums (drama, martial arts, and film) to give life and meaning to 8 personalities that represent the various voices of the Laotian American community.

Despite the performance being “Lao-centric” as described by Ova Saopeng, the characters related with the audience, many of whom came from refugee or immigrant communities and face intergenerational conflict, finding a sense of belonging, and uncovering their histories. It was uplifting to witness history personified on stage through the voices of everyday people. Through the laughter, anger, and emotion evoked, many agreed that the event was a unique opportunity to learn more about the Laotian American experience, a community still working to find their place in history. With the artists’ ability to build cross cultural connections through the story of Laotian Americans, they had the room feeling “Lao and Proud.”

Leslie Chanthaphasouk is a founding member of LAO.



Photo by Lidet Viravong. Leilani Chan and Ova Saopeng.

Asian Pacific Coalition Raises Scholarship Funds for Undocumented Asian American Students

by Dian Sohn

THE Asian Pacific Coalition, a coalition of 24 Asian American and Pacific Island student groups, engaged in a campaign to raise awareness about the plight of undocumented students, push for the DREAM Act, and raise money for a scholarship for an undocumented student at UCLA. The campaign began with an educational phase, and APC held several workshops with its member organizations to inform them about the struggles of their undocumented peers. The workshops and teach-ins also helped to effectively de-racialize the issue of undocumented im-

migration and helped students understand that being undocumented is not merely a Latino/a issue, as 40% of the undocumented student population in the UC system is of Asian American or Pacific Islander background.

Following in APC’s theme of “education in action,” these workshops and teach-ins featured ways for students to get involved in the campaign for the federal DREAM Act, a piece of legislation that would provide undocumented students a path to citizenship. In the Spring of 2009, APC, along with the many other organizations in the Alliance of DREAMs, held a DREAM ACTION week in order to mobilize students to push for the DREAM Act. At one APC workshop, students picked up their cell phones and called Representative Henry Waxman, asking him to cosponsor the DREAM Act, which he eventually did.

In addition to raising consciousness about the struggles of undocumented students and pushing for the DREAM Act, APC raised \$1000 for a scholarship for an undocumented student because undocumented students are ineligible to receive federal, state, or institutional financial aid.

As one of the many people who worked on this campaign, I found it to be a humbling experience. As a Korean American who is often labeled as a “model minority,” I think this is a very important issue to discuss and de-racialize — 1 out of every 5 people in my own community is undocumented!

Dian Sohn was the Assistant Director of Internal Affairs of APC in the 2008-2009 academic year.



Photo by Kristy Lac. Lizeth Eugenia Flores and Andrea Margot Ortega from IDEAS

MA Students Graduate and Welcome New Students



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

KHEAULANI Vaughn, former Student Affairs Officer of the Asian American Studies Department and the first Pacific Islander to graduate from the Asian American Studies MA program, gave the keynote speech for the Asian American Studies Department's commencement on June 14, 2009 at UCLA's Schoenberg Auditorium. She discussed oftentimes neglected issues related to the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and urged graduates to "create more understanding amongst ourselves and others. We can do this by telling our own stories...and we need to be responsible for our own research."

The ceremony also recognized graduates from the Asian American Studies major and minor programs. Karri Mayhan and Sahra Nguyen were the undergraduate speakers who spoke about their journey into Asian American Studies. As Karri noted, she "remember[s] the history of challenges that Asian Americans have faced and continue to face, which gives [her] the humility to put things in perspective." MA graduate students Natalia Yamashiro and Evangeline Reyes also spoke about their experiences in their cohort and program.

THE 1st year MA students: Marie Sato (Musashi U.) is examining the influence of globalization on health, focusing on dietary changes in Asian Americans; Brian Kim (American U.) has been involved with Korean American Coalition and his interests are Korean transnational identities and the transnational connections between Koreatown and South Korea; Jennifer Doane (U of Minnesota-Twin Cities) focuses on transracial adoption of people adopted from Korea, identity formation, and social networks; Chris Woon (UCLA) studies Asian American youth culture; Viet Nam (Indiana University) works with the Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program at UCLA and the Nail Salon Collaborative, and his research interests focus on Vietnamese American Spoken Word poets and how they empower the community; April Limayo (CSUN) looks at Filipino American mental health, examining cultural and generational gaps between Filipino immigrants and their children; May Lin (Columbia) worked with the Chinese American Planning Council and her research revolves around the ramifications of gentrification on communities and how these communities resist and assert their rights to urban spaces; Ren-yo Hwang (Bryn Mawr) examines ideas of assimilation, posturing and passing as actions predicated on the relationship of oneself to the public; Kristen Lee (Michigan State) is directing her first documentary, "SEARCH: Mixed Me," and is analyzing multiethnic identity and community formation online through the collection of oral histories; AJ Lee (UPenn) is involved with AIDS Project Los Angeles and the Equal Roots Coalition, and is interested in concepts of Asian American masculinity within the LGBT community and how historical ascriptions of emasculation impact HIV prevention efforts.



Photo by Erica Juhn. Asian American Studies 1st year MA Students (from left to right, back to front): Marie Sato, Brian Kim, Jennifer Doane, Christopher Woon, Viet Nam, April Limayo, May Lin, Ren-yo Hwang, Kristen Lee, AJ Lee.

The 2nd years also have a range of research interests. Wendi Yamashita (UCSD) is interested in Japanese American studies, oral history methodology, and women's studies; Lisa Ho (Cal State Fullerton) is looking at how the traditional refugee model through a cultural studies perspective does not support the case of North Korean refugees; Chun Mei Lam (Swarthmore) is in the Social Welfare/Asian American Studies dual program and exam-

continued on page 21



Photo by Thun (Bo) Luengsuraswat. Asian American Studies 2nd year MA Students (from left to right): Wendi Yamashita, Lisa Ho, Chun Mei Lam, Jonathan Reinert, Daisy Le, Mai Yang Vang, Leezel Tanglao, Thun (Bo) Luengsuraswat.

Center Welcomes Appointments and New Staff

Meg Thornton Appointed to External Advisory Committee for Santa Monica College

MEG Malpaya Thornton, the Student and Community Projects Coordinator of the Center, has been appointed to the External Advisory Committee for the Santa Monica College-Asian American and Pacific Islander Achievement Project (SMC-AAPIA).

Santa Monica College received a \$2.1 million, two-year federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education Title III-Strengthening Minority Serving Institutions to establish the AAPIA Project,

a comprehensive pilot program targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander students with academic need and other low-income students. The two-year program will serve 300 students with services including specialized tutoring, counseling, establishment of an academic library of interest to this population and other special services tailored to AAPIO's. The goal is to help these students complete their Associate of Arts degree and/or transfer to a four-year university within three years.

"The AAPIO Project provides SMC with a wonderful opportunity to serve a population of students who are often perceived as not needing academic support. With the level of funding that we have received

there are exciting possibilities relating to the type of program we can actually develop. What is starting out as a pilot project, can at some point gain the institutional support to be sustained over time," stated Regina Holden Jennings, AAPIO Manager.

The U.S. Department of Education grant is given to colleges and universities that qualify as Asian American/Pacific Islander-serving institutions. To qualify, a college must have an enrollment of at least 10 percent of this population, and SMC's enrollment of Asian American/Pacific Islander students is 14 percent. Federal guidelines also allow the college to serve some other low-income students who do not fall into this ethnic category.

The grant is funding the pilot program from October 1 2009, through September 30, 2011.

"I'm very honored to serve on this critically important project to actively reach out to students from Pacific Island and Asian American communities striving to succeed in their education goals" said Meg.

Other UCLA representatives on the committee include, Vu Tran of UCLA Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools, Susan Jain Patel with UCLA Summer Sessions - Confucius Institute, Alfred Herrera and Santiago Bernal from the UCLA Center for Community College Partnerships, Carina Salazar of UCLA Academic Advancement Program, Natasha Saelua of the Community Programs Office. UCLA alumni serving on the committee include Iosefa Aina and Sam Joo.

For more information about SMC AAPIO, contact Regina Holden Jennings, Manager, at 310-434-3418 or jennings_regina@smc.edu.



Photo by Christina Lee.
Meg Malpaya Thornton.

Christina Aujean Lee Appointed 40th Anniversary Events Coordinator and Co-Managing Editor of AAPIO Nexus Journal

by Jean-Paul deGuzman

CHRISTINA Aujean Lee is the new 40th Anniversary Special Events Coordinator in addition to continuing to serve as the Co-Managing Editor of *AAPIO Nexus Journal: Policy, Practice, and Community*, one of the two major journals published by the Asian American Studies Center. In her capacity as the Special Events Coordinator, Christina is responsible for organizing a variety of events around campus that highlight the newest research and projects sponsored by the Center. These programs include the "Breaking Ground Speakers Series" featuring Asian American Studies/History Professor Valerie Matsumoto, Institute of American Cultures Post-Doctoral Fellow Thuy Vo Dang, History Doctoral student Alfred P. Flores, Center for EthnoCommunications Director Professor Robert Nakamura, and Asian American Studies Professor Victor Bascara. Christina is also working with other staff members at the Center for the "Art, Activism, Access" Fowler Museum exhibition showcasing the histories of the four Ethnic Studies Centers (see page 20).

Born in Arizona and raised in Maryland, Christina is no stranger to the Center. As an undergraduate Psychology and Asian American Studies double major, she worked in various Center units including Resource Development and Publications and the UC Asian American and Pacific Islander Multi-Campus Research Program as the

Faculty Liaison. Christina was also active in the Asian Pacific Coalition as the Academic Affairs Coordinator in 2008-2009 and was a founding member of the Asian American Pacific Islander Undergraduate Students Association, an organization that reaches out to Asian American Studies students and gives students a voice in their curricula.

She has worked with the K. W. Lee Center for Leadership as the 2009 Director of the Korean American Youth Leaders in Training program, a Koreatown-based non-profit organization that educates Korean American students about the legacy of the 1992 Uprisings and issues in their community.



Photo by Dian Sohn. Christina Aujean Lee.

Discover Nikkei Internship Connects Student to Community

Yoshimi Kawashima Shares Her Experience

by Yoshimi Kawashima

WHEN I first began my internship with Discover Nikkei of the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), I sought to gain knowledge about Japanese American history and culture and contribute to it. Within eight weeks I became immersed in a whole new community, one so generously willing to reach out and embrace any who want to be involved in the Nikkei culture, and forging the bridge between the past and the present.

Although my internship began with perusing the site to check for technical errors such as broken links or missing pages, I found through Discover Nikkei that Nikkei live in over fifty countries, many of which are in South America, as well as about the other vibrant Nikkei communities in the United States. Working online, I saw how Discover Nikkei makes accessible the untold stories of the concentration camps, the struggles of Nikkei in foreign nations, and the effects upon the succeeding generations who encompass a hybrid of the identities of their parents as well as the ones they come to develop of their own accord.

This internship not only provided me the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the website, but also of many Nikkei in the museum and from the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. It was interesting to see that Prof. Don Nakanishi was greatly impacted by the discriminatory remnants of Pearl Harbor, and it was through this discrimination that he became passionately involved in Asian American Studies. Many Japanese Americans were so ashamed or deeply resentful of their experience during WWII that they rejected their heritage altogether or reduced the importance of it. Professor Nakanishi's example still demonstrates a lingering importance of staying close to one's roots. Roy Sakamoto, a docent at JANM, also relayed the difficulties that followed with the war. In leading tours at the museum he is able to share his stories, a conversation uncommon in many history books but like so many others that are shared within the museum. The museum's mission

statement envelops the necessity for tolerance and our edification about our nation's history "To promote understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience." Hopefully others can create the connections of the Nikkei experience to those of other ethnic minorities, or any other group that has faced the discrimination.

As I experienced museum programs such as the First Annual Tanabata Festival, the 11th Annual Summer Festival, and the Mike Shinoda opening of his new gallery "Glorious Excess (Dies)," I thought of how much the museum is engaging with the community. By becoming a more visible entity inviting new groups of individuals, it is clearly evident that the museum knows the value of upholding its customs but adapting to more modern trends.

In the short time that I worked at JANM I cannot express how much I learned and the range of what the museum covers. At times it felt much like how the Nikkei Student Union at UCLA functions—one group is in charge of a certain event but everyone collaborates as one strong force to present an enriching experience. Though there are many divisions within JANM, within it lies a strong community that is not bound by the walls of the building. JANM extends beyond Little Tokyo, and the US to carry its message and encourage those with a Nikkei interest to indulge in what it has to offer, and to further enhance it. One of the great things is that the museum has such wonderful connections that it will be an enriching experience for any student so long as they seek the avenues to open up a wide network.

Yoshimi Kawashima was the 2009 summer Japanese American National Museum Discover Nikkei Intern from the George and Sakaye Aratani Community Internship. She is currently the Secretary of the Nikkei Student Union. For more of her articles and full reflection piece, visit <http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/journal/authors/kawashima-yoshimi>.

UCLA Faces an Unprecedented Level of Budget Cuts

CAMPUSES across California have faced cuts during the 2009-2010 school year due to the 20 percent reduction in education funding for the fiscal year 2009-2010, which equalled approximately \$131 million reduction for UCLA alone. Chancellor Block said that this is an "unprecedented reduction in state support to the University of California system. The effects include larger class sizes, reduced library hours, and faculty and staff salary reductions; student fee increases are looming."

According to Steve Olsen, vice chancellor for budget, UCLA has laid off more than 570 positions in the fall to help with the impact of the budget cuts. In November, the UC Regents also approved a 32 percent increase in student fees to help fray the state funding gap of \$1.2 billion next year amidst two days of protests with an estimated number of 2,000 students, staff, faculty, and community workers from across California.

In January, Governor Schwarzenegger released his 2010-2011 budget, which restores the \$305 million one-time cuts and helps protect funding for the Cal Grant program. He also proposed an amendment to the California Constitution, which would guarantee that the UCs and California State Universities would receive no less

than 10 percent of California's revenue. However, the UC Regents still announced that there is \$902 million in need.

The Center has also faced dramatic cuts as a result of the budget crisis. Between 2002-2009, the Center experienced a severe, 27% reduction in its budget. Please learn how you can make a difference by going to: <https://giving.ucla.edu/Standard/NetDonate.aspx?SiteNum=24>.

For updated information about UCLA's budget, please visit: <http://www.ucla.edu/about/budget>.



Photo by Daily Bruin. Association of Hmong Students staff member, Pao Xiong at the March 2 rallies at UCLA.

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

Martha Ogata Graduate Student Grand to study Domestic Violence and Abuse in Asian Pacific American Communities (1 award at \$2,000)



Chun Mei Lam.
Photo by Erica Juhn.

Chun Mei Lam, MA Asian American Studies and Social Welfare

Research Project: "The History and Contemporary Politics of the Center for the Pacific Asian Family"

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

Shu-wen Wang, PhD Psychology

Research Project: "Cultural Factors that Influence Biological and Psychological Stress Responses to Social Supports and their

Links with Health in Asian American College Students."

Graduate Student Fellowships

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

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

Oiyan Poon, PhD Education-Asian American Studies Concentration
Research Project: "A Critical Race Theory Examination of the Experiences of Asian American Undergraduates with Race and Racism"

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.

Thun Luengsuraswat, MA Asian American Studies - Women's Studies

Research Project: "The Process of Identity Formation of Asian American and Asian Immigrant Female-to-Male Transgender and Gender-Variant Individuals"

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.

Alfred Peredo Flores, PhD History -United States

Research Project: "An Empire of Labor: U.S. Infrastructure Projects in Guam, 1898-1956"

21st Century Graduate Fellowship (3 awards at \$2,000 each)

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

Monica Han-Chun Lin, PhD Education-Higher Education and Organizational Change

Research Project: "A Study of Asian American Student Development and Social Change Leadership"

Cindy Sangalang, PhD Social Welfare- Asian American Mental Health and Adolescents

Research Project: "A Study of Family-Related Factors Impacting Psychological Well-Being of Cambodian Youth and Families in Long Beach, California"

Mai Yang Vang, MA Asian American Studies

Research Project: "Gambling among Hmong Elders"

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.

Karen Ishizuka, PhD Anthropology - Socio-Cultural

Research Project: "Gidra and the Making of Asian America: Political Subjectivities and Creative Expression, 1969-1974"

Christen Sasaki, PhD History

Research Project: "Jumping Ship: Negotiating Nationhood in 19th Century Hawai'i" Research Project: "Restoration and Redevelopment of Los Angeles' Little Tokyo"

Academic Prizes for Graduate Students

Hiram Wheeler Edwards Prize for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans Prize (One \$500 prize)

Most outstanding graduate paper on lessons learned from the World War II Internment of Japanese Americans.

Wendson Yamashita, MA Asian American Studies

Paper title: "Multi-narratives as Strategy: Remaking and Unmaking Japanese American Internment Histories"

Nobu McCarthy Memorial Prize (One \$250 prize)

Most outstanding graduate paper, play or script relating to Asian Pacific American theater and performance arts.

Michael Viola, PhD Education - Urban Schooling

Paper title: "Critical Filipino Hip Hop and Education: Praxis and Possibilities within Cultural Studies"

Eun Ju Koo graduate Prize (One \$250 prize)

Most outstanding paper that addresses issues of domestic violence in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and/or recommendations for the AAPI community and policy-makers on how to address domestic violence.

Mary Keovisai, MA Asian American Studies

Paper title: "Performing Memories: (Re)acting Violence in *Refugee Nation*"

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize (One \$500 prize)

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

Chun Mei Lam, MA Asian American Studies and Social Welfare

Paper title: "Three Figures of Sexual Regulation within American



Mai Yang Vang.



Thun (Bo)
Luengsuraswat.

Awards for 2008-2009

Honors and supporters of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Liberalism: The Chinese Prostitute, Japanese Picture Bridge, and Battered Asian Immigrant Women”

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.

Evangeline Reyes, MA Asian American Studies - Women Studies Concentration

Paper title: “Surviving Sex for Sale”

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.

Andrew Jung, MA Asian American Studies

Paper title: “Chinatown is Not a Town in China: the Struggle over Confucius Plaza in New York City Chinatown, 1968-1978”

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

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

Thun Luengsuraswar, MA Asian American Studies - Women Studies Concentration

Paper title: “Fluxus and Beyond: Redefining the Everyday”

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

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

Lisa Ho, MA Asian American Studies - Specializing in Refugee Studies/Politics of Citizenship

Paper title: “The Search for the Authentic Self in the Shift: A Discussion of Identity Development among Asian American Women”

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

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

Jeffrey Perillo, PhD World Arts and Cultures - Dance Studies Specialization, Concentration in

Asian American Studies

Paper title: “Doin’ the Robot: Pilipino Culture Night Without ‘Traditional’ Dance”

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.

Tri Phyl Nguyen, Major: Business Economics, Minor: Accounting
Essay title: “Teacher for a Day, Student for Life”

Carrie Wong, Major: Asian American Studies and Sociology

Essay title: “Community Service is a Crucial Part of the College Experience”

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.

Yoshimi Kawashima, Major: East Asian Studies - Japanese

Essay title: “Bridging Generations and Building Community”
Internship: Japanese American National Museum

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award (1 award at \$3000)

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

Erika K. Solanki, Major: Political Science Minor: Public Affairs

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

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

Christina Aujean Lee, Major: Psychology and Asian American Studies

Paper title: “Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance: The Evolution of a Multi-Ethnic Worker Center”

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

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

Faris Alikhan, Major: History, Minor:

Political Science

Paper title: “Too Close and Too Far: Indo-Fijians in America”

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

Most outstanding undergraduate paper on Asian Pacific American women.

Cheo Lee, Major: Anthropology, Minor: Asian American Studies

Paper title: “Two Families, One Mom”

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

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

Lindsey Reyes Basbas, Major: History

Paper title: “Family Migration: Lucas and Virgilio Basbas”

Andrew Jung. Photo by Mai Yang Vang.



Christina Aujean Lee.



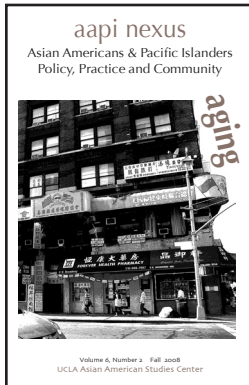
Lisa Ho. Photo by Mai Yang Vang.



Cheo Lee. Photo by Christina Aujean Lee.

Nexus and Amerasia Journal Release New Issues

“Special Issue on Aging” and “Subjugated to Subject: Through Class, Race, & Sex”



THE Center released a new issue of *Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Nexus Journal: Policy, Practice and Community* that focuses on “Aging in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities,” guest edited by Dr. Namkee G. Choi (U.T. Austin) and Dr. James Lubben (Boston College). With an ever growing number of older AAPIs, these older adults face additional challenges such as higher poverty rates among all older adults in the United States, lower rates of having private insurance, and many unmet mental

health needs. Moreover, with the wide heterogeneity among AAPI older adults, it is more difficult to generalize study findings to all AAPI elders. There is a clear need for more research that can help address this population’s challenges.

The practitioners essay by Herb Shon and Ailee Moon describes the outreach and implementation of an education program for an ethnic-specific caregiver group. Because AAPI caregivers oftentimes struggle with cultural and structural barriers in accessing services, the authors model how a culturally relevant outreach program can benefit caregivers who are themselves immigrants.

Jong Won Min and colleagues explore subgroup differences in socioeconomic health factors among Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese elders, which fare less favorably than Non-Hispanic White counterparts. With the significant differences between these populations, the authors provide insight into a range of characteristics that demonstrate the complexity within older Asian American populations.

Poorni G. Otilingam and Margaret Gatz then are the first to explore “Perceptions of Dementia among Asian Indian Americans.” This significant study describes their perceptions of etiology, help-seeking, treatment, and knowledge of Alzheimer’s disease. Their findings call for more public education about Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, especially for Asian Indian Americans.

Then, Sela V. Panapasa and colleagues provides a rare look at the economic status of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander elders. The findings help inform policies that need to account for in-group heterogeneity among these minority populations with high poverty and unmet social service needs. Because of the challenges that aging populations pose to social policy, these papers help shape future culturally sensitive programs and services to AAPI elders and families.

AAPI Nexus copies are \$13.00 plus \$4.00 for shipping and handling and 8.25% sales tax for California residents. Make checks payable to “Regents of U.C.” VISA, MASTERCARD, and DISCOVER are also accepted; include expiration date and phone number on correspondence. Email: aascpres@aasc.ucla.edu

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. For more information about *AAPI Nexus*, visit: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpres/nexuscollection.asp>.

Amerasia Journal released “Through Class, Race, and Sex” with a special focus on the way contemporary Asian American women think, feel, and act upon their status as women in society.

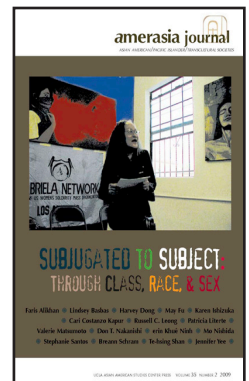
Jennifer Yee, a professor of Asian American Studies at California State University, Fullerton, has “opened up” a new conversation about the “assumptions, values and beliefs that serve as the foundation for personal lives, family and community health” in her article. Upon observing both her female and male students, she has observed a “shifting of consciousness” and the struggle by Asian American women in particular to define, and to defy, traditional expectations. Today’s Asian American women, Yee asserts, must answer for themselves such questions as: “Born to Serve or Born to Lead?” Another choice Asian American women make is whether to adhere to becoming a “good girl” and “ideal female.” The study concludes with ways for Asian American students—both female and male—to recognize the social and cultural forces that surround them and to fashion independent choices.

Other articles in this special edition look at Asian American women activists Grace Lee Boggs and Kazu Iijima, involved respectively in the Black Power and Asian American Movements. Scholars May C. Fu, and Karen L. Ishizuka have separately provided an in-depth look at the context of these two women’s lives from the 1960s and through subsequent decades. Stephanie D. Santos, former assistant editor of *Amerasia*, provides a look at feminist organizing among Filipina Migrant Workers and the role of the State in both neglecting and condoning violence against these workers.

Section two of the issue contains an interview with the late scholar Ron Takaki, conducted by Te-Hsing Shan. UCLA Professor Valerie J. Matsumoto introduces new research by her students which cover: Indo-Fijians in America (Faris Alikhan); Indonesian Dutch Americans (Breann Schram); and Filipino Guamanian Americans (Lindsey Babas).

Section three addresses the ways in which ethnic groups in America are depicted in the media, in museums, and within institutions of higher education. Erin Khue Ninh examines how Vietnamese refugees, long settled in the U.S., maintain and establish memory and nostalgia through internet videos. Cari Costanzo Kapur looks at how the history of Japanese plantation workers is written and exhibited in relation to native Hawaiian peoples at the the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i. Finally, Patricia E. Literte, drawing from her fieldwork at institutions of higher education, looks at the ways in which students of mixed ancestry organize on campus and define themselves socially and politically in relation to other Asian Americans.

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



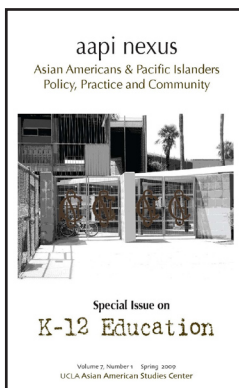
"K-12 Special Issue" and Commemorative issue on Don T. Nakanishi

AS guest editors Peter Nien-chu Kiang (University of Massachusetts Boston) and Mitchell J. Chang (UCLA) write, "AAPI communities have individually and collectively invested enormous trust in US educational institutions on behalf of themselves and their children." *Nexus* will release three new issues on education, the first of which will focus on K-12 Education. With significant economic struggles and budget cuts in this new decade, these issues will help to inform the education policies and changing AAPI populations.

Patricia Espiritu Halagao, Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales, and Joan May T. Cordova contributed a resource article that evaluates thirty-three examples of curricular resources by Filipina/o American educators during the past forty years in terms of critical content, instruction, and impact. This article is useful to others who are similarly involved with school- and community-based curriculum development centered on the voices and experiences of other ethnic-specific groups and may want to adapt the authors' criterion-based critical review framework for their own purposes.

Next, Leena Her's research article looks at the educational achievements of English Learners, including Hmong students within a California high school through an eighteen-month ethnography. The piece specifically analyzes how teachers and administrators "explain failure," which impacts the contradictions that Hmong students face in low-performing schools.

Valerie Ooka Pang then describes how Asian American teacher beliefs and practices "explain success" in Californian schools who have Asian American and Latino students. Through interviews, Pang finds that the teachers give culturally responsive-instructions while balancing state and district standards.



Phisamay Sychitkokhong Uy looks at Vietnamese and Chinese American high school students in an East Coast school district and how ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender are associated with these students dropping out of school. With the interplay between these factors, Uy finds that low-income Chinese and Vietnamese students that are boys have a harder time to graduate in 4 years; Chinese students also had higher odds of dropping out within four years in comparison to Vietnamese peers.

Jean Ryoo next looks at the historically significant Asian Movement newspaper, *Gidra* (1969-1974), and how issues during this time period are tied to the educational issues faced today. Ryoo offers lessons from *Gidra* about community organizing, activism, and documentation for readers today.

Finally, former bilingual teacher Lusa Lo contributes a practitioner's essay on the problems with translation for Individual Education Programs (IEPs) from English to Chinese, which is a federal regulation to help involve families in special education services for children with disabilities. Lo also argues for more studies to examine other AAPI groups who have disability, language, and cultural needs.

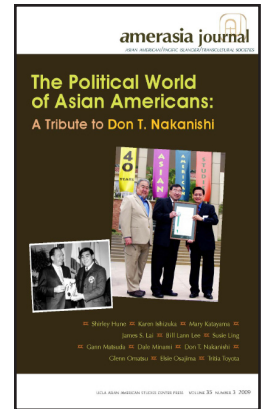
THE Political World of Asian Americans: A Commemorative Issue on Don T. Nakanishi" is the newest *Amerasia Journal*. *Amerasia* has evolved over time to wrestle with controversies in the field of Asian American Studies, which has helped it become a core interdisciplinary journal with national and international readership. It was through Don Nakanishi's support, both at the forefront and behind the scenes, that helped *Amerasia* evolve.

According to editor, Russell Leong, Don Nakanishi has broadened the definition of the "political world of Asian Americans revealing that Asian Americans have historically, and continue to play, a significant role on both the domestic and the international stages of war and peace, minority and constitutional rights, meshing both their local interests with transnational concerns."

This issue has essays from Don T. Nakanishi including his seminal 1975 essay, "In Search of a New Paradigm: Minorities in the Context of International Politics," which still has lessons for today about the relationship between minority groups, the domestic society, and transnational connections. He also wrote "Asian American Politics: An Agenda for Research" (published in *Amerasia* in 1986) that is widely used as a teaching and research tool. Prof. Nakanishi also has demonstrated a synthetic approach to the political world of Asian Americans, which complicates and compares them in relation to other communities. For example, in "Surviving Democracy's 'Mistake': Japanese Americans & the Legacy of Executive Order 9066," he examines Japanese Americans after internment and draws upon other insights from the Holocaust and atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to describe the divergences and convergences of the "collective political and psychological experiences" for ethnic minorities.

This commemorative issue includes invited contributors to give their thoughts on Don Nakanishi's integral role in the field of Asian American Studies. These writers include: Tritia Toyota, Shirley Hune, Bill Lann Lee, Susie Ling, Glenn Omatsu, James S. Lai, Elsie Osajima, Dale Minami, Mary Katayama, Gann Matsuda, and Karen L. Ishizuka.

With the release of this issue and the "Art, Activism, Access" exhibit, the Center is sponsoring "Globalizing Asian American Politics 1971-2010: A Forum with *Amerasia Journal's* Scholars, Activists, & Cultural Workers" on May 20, 2010 at the UCLA Fowler Museum. As *Amerasia* explores the world of Asian American Politics and culture, this event will bring together the scholars, activists and cultural workers who look at both the domestic and international dimensions of Asian American participation. It will be a unique opportunity to hear, see, and read about the globalized world of Asian American Politics first-hand. A special edition of *Amerasia* on this theme will be available at the booksigning. Center Director David Yoo will open the event, followed by a panel with Shirley Hune, Tritia, Toyota, and Susie Ling. For more information, email: 40th@aasc.ucla.edu or call 310-267-2474.



Center Supports New Research through IAC

Thuy Vo Dang Awarded 2009-2010 IAC Postdoctoral Fellowship

by Jean-Paul deGuzman

THE Center is pleased to welcome Dr. Thuy Vo Dang as the 2009-2010 Institute of American Cultures Postdoctoral Fellow. Dr. Dang comes to UCLA from UC San Diego where she earned



Photo by Xuyen Vo. Thuy Vo Dang.

a Masters and Doctoral degrees in Ethnic Studies. Dr. Dang has been working on her research projects focused on Anti-communism, cultural politics and Vietnamese Americans. She delivered portions of her work in February as the inaugural presenter in the Center's Breaking Ground Speakers Series in a talk entitled, "Freedom and Heritage: Vietnamese American Articulations of 'Denizenship' as Polite Critique." She examined the complex politics surrounding the flag of the former South Vietnam, a powerful symbol that has come to be called the "Freedom and Heritage Flag." "Rather than

simply interpreting the political activities of Vietnamese Americans as an indicator of their "Americanization," Dr. Dang argues, "I consider how the navigation of mainstream political channels by Vietnamese Americans at this moment may be a form of 'shape-shifting' that reveals how historically marginalized groups in the US may pose a multifaceted covert challenge to hegemonic ideologies of national belonging, a 'polite critique' of the US nation-state

veiled by its clear-cut anticommunist message." Reflective of her important research interests, Dr. Dang also served as a lecturer in the Department of Asian American Studies teaching the innovative course, "Southeast Asian Refugees and US Humanitarian Discourse."

In 2005, she contributed the article "The Cultural Work of Anti-communism in the San Diego Vietnamese American Community" to *Amerasia Journal*, one of the Center's major publications, and has written "Mediating Diasporic Identities: Vietnamese/American Women in the Musical Landscape of Paris by Night" in the anthology *Le Vietnam Au Feminin*.

For her IAC Postdoctoral Research Project entitled "Refugee Memory through an Anticommunist Prism" and "Reframing Refugee and Human Rights Discourses: the Cultural Politics of Anticommunism in Vietnamese America," she joins together critical analysis of war, migration, and human rights scholarship in order to explore how anticommunist discourse and practices have been deployed to shape identity and community for Vietnamese American on the ground. As tens of millions of the world's population can now be classified as refugees, she closely examines the phenomenon of refugee/displaced persons, in order to better understand global historical processes. She specifically calls attention to how the world's poor and displaced, rather than the world's "flexible citizens" are producing and reformulating our understanding of global social change.

Dang has a 3 1/2 year old daughter, Allyse Minh Kieu, with her partner, Duc Dang.

Chun Mei Lam Studies Gender-Based Violence for Fellowship

CHUN Mei Lam is a 2nd year MA candidate in the joint Asian American Studies & Social Welfare program. She has been awarded with the Institute of American Cultures Predoctoral/Graduate Fellowship for her project entitled, "A Case Study of the Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF)."

For the fellowship, Lam is conducting an in-depth case study of the Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF), a Los Angeles-based antiviolence organization/shelter, who has been serving and working with different communities of color since 1978. She plans to research the ways in which current non-profit, state, mental health, and legal systems that address gender-based violence are implicitly structured by racialized, culturalist, and

gendered assumptions that make such structures less accessible to Asian American and Asian immigrant women, or in many cases, reproduce the conditions that render them vulnerable to violence.

Lam received her Bachelors from Swarthmore College, double majoring in Psychology and Chinese Language. She also served as the Asian Outreach Counselor for Women Organized Against Rape in Philadelphia, PA.



Photo by Mai Yang Vang. Chun Mei Lam

2009-2010 Institute of American Cultures Research Grants

Alfred Peredo Flores, Jr., Ph.D. Candidate, History

Research Project: An Empire of Labor: U.S. Infrastructure Projects in Guam, 1898-1965

Karen Ishizuka, Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology

Research Project: *Gidra*: The Original Asian American Blogsite

Thun (Bo) Luengsurwat, M.A. Candidate, Asian American Studies

Research Project: Remembering Asian Female-To-Male (FTM) Subjectivity through the Performances of Counter-memories

Rican Vue, Ph.D. Candidate, Higher Educational & Organization Change

Research Project: Hmong Student Experiences: Exploring Racialization and Postsecondary Persistence

Buildin' Bridges and Stirrin' Waters at Powell Library

Center celebrates *Amerasia Journal's* first women's issue in 34 years

by Mary Uyematsu Kao and Stephanie Santos

BUILDIN' Bridges and Stirrin' Waters: Women of Color Feminism and Activism" on November 5, 2009 celebrated *Amerasia's* first women's issue in 34 years. A crowd of over 120 students, faculty, and community folks gathered in the Powell Library Rotunda for an event with Professor Ericka Huggins, former Black Panther and widow of John Huggins, who was murdered at Campbell Hall in 1969. Professor Huggins is featured in the women's issue in a conversation with Yuri Kochiyama where they share their experiences in the slaying of Black Liberation leaders Malcolm X (Yuri Kochiyama) and John Huggins. Professor Huggins mentions a women's group in the *Journal* called "Black Women Stirrin' the Waters"—this along with Yuri's penchant for "building bridges" between the Japanese and Black communities—created a captivating title that drew a diverse crowd of mostly women of color.

Kristen Lee (MA student) emceed, and previous Associate Editor Stephanie Santos gave an overview of the women's issue, "Where Women Tell Stories," which she co-guest edited. Carrie Usui (AAS MA alum) read from her story "Mother May I?" which recounts her and her mother's struggle with diabetes. Prof. Huggins gave the keynote and shared her experiences as a Professor of Women's Studies at CSU-East Bay. She spoke of how her classroom encounters with Southeast Asian immigrant youth have broken stereotypes that their African American classmates have of Asians. Mary Uyematsu Kao talked about how the Black Panther Party was an inspiration to people of color in the 1960s, and Mo Nishida declared that the differences between men and women must be seen as one of the contradictions that will help revolutionize the human condition.

The event was co-sponsored by Asian Pacific Coalition, American Indian Studies Center, AASGSA, Asian American & Pacific Island Studies Undergraduate Student Assn, Bunche Center for African American Studies, Center for the Study of Women, Critical Asian & Pacific Islander Students for Action, Department of History, and Powell College Library. It was supported by the Asian American Studies Department, Afrikan Womyn's Collective, Chicano Studies Research Center and the Graduate Coalition of Native Pacific.

"Where Women Tell Stories" includes articles that highlight the ties between AAPI women and their communities and challenge both ethnic and feminist studies to recognize the herstories of Asian Pacific American women. "Subverting the Hierarchy/Collaborating Nar-



"Buildin' Bridges and Stirrin' Waters" Event Attendees. Photo by John Kao.

MA students, from page 13

ines Asian American women narratives of domestic violence and challenging ways in which the social welfare system replicates the unequal power dynamics found in abusive intimate partner and family relations; Jonathan Reinert (DePaul) is working on an documentary film, "Left on Lockett Lane," which addresses his experiences as a Filipino adoptee raised in Missouri. It has been selected for the 2010 Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. Daisy Le (UCLA) is assessing the level of risk for cervical cancer-

atives" by Roshni Rustomji and Luz de la Rosa, explores a "salvation paradigm" which has embedded hierarchies of race, class, education, age, and/or social and political power. Filmmaker Dai-Sil Kim Gibson challenges us to learn about Korea "comfort women" that the Japanese military savagely exploited with "Do You Hear Their Voices?" Laura Pulido's "Immigration Politics and Motherhood," examines how the immigration question has put some U.S. feminists in opposition against Mexican immigrant women raising the specter of nativist racism that continues to plague U.S. social justice movements.

Ketu Katrak examines issues that South Asian women face in the home country versus the U.S. and how that affects women's organizing. "GabNet: A Case Study of Transnational Sisterhood and Organizing" by Annalisa V. Enrile and Jollene Levid reveal an inside view of the U.S. arm of Gabriela, an organization based in the Philippines working for the liberation of women and the nation. Katie Quan's retrospective of the 1982 Garment Workers Strike in New York City's Chinatown provides her experience as a strike organizer. "Practicing Pinayist Pedagogy" by Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales and Jocyl Sacramento demonstrate ways for Filipino women to "connect the global and local to the personal issues and stories of Pinay struggle, survival, service, sisterhood, and strength." "Three Step Boogie" by Mary Uyematsu Kao, describes how the race/class/gender framework emerged to work within the 1970s Asian American Movement setting. Irene Suico Soriano and Fuifui-lupe Niumetolu touch readers with tales from the Philippines and the US, and a woman's struggle from a Mormon-Tongan upbringing.

Tiffany Min, Kimson Kheoum, Amy Horn and Mary Im from Khmer Girls in Action (Long Beach) share their struggles as young women in a transitional Khmer American culture. Jolie Chea's performance piece creates crucial understandings of the Cambodian refugee experi-



Prof. Ericka Huggins and Mary Uyematsu Kao. Photo by John Kao.

related morbidity and mortality for Vietnamese-American women living in Los Angeles; Mai Yang Vang (U of San Francisco) is exploring gambling among Hmong elders in Sacramento; Leezel Tanglao's (LMU) thesis consists of building a multimedia website on Filipino American communities in Southern California; and Thun (Bo) Luengsuraswat (California College of the Arts) is examining cultural studies of popular culture and the intersection of transgender and disability studies.

Dr. Thomas Tam Endowed Chair 2010-2011

Awarded to Professors Ong and Leong

PROFESSORS Paul Ong and Russell Leong were offered the “Dr. Tam Endowed Chair” at the City University of New York’s (CUNY) Graduate Center, along with a Visiting Professorship at CUNY. The chair was established in honor of Dr. Thomas Tam, a former CUNY trustee, alumnus, and prominent Asian-American educator who passed away on February 27, 2008. The Thomas Tam Professorship in Asian American Studies was developed jointly by the CUNY Graduate School and University Center and Queens College.

Dr. Tam was a leader in establishing not only the Asian American/Asian Research Institute, but also helped create organizations including the Chinatown Health Clinic (now the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center), the Asian American Film Festival, and the Asian American Higher Education Council. The Institute is a University-wide scholarly research and resource center that was established in 2001 and focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans. It covers Asian American Studies, East Asian Studies, South Asian Studies, and trade and technology studies.



Photo by Todd Cheney. Paul Ong.



Photo by Ryan Kham-kongsay, APALC. Russell Leong.

Russell Leong, editor and adjunct professor of the Center, will be housed at Hunter College and work with the Asian American/Asian Research Institute in the Spring of 2011. During his tenure, he will teach a course in the Department of English that focuses on Asian Americans.

Leong states: “Humbled by Dr. Tam’s substantial social and artistic contributions to the community, I will attempt to participate and contribute to continue his legacy. Some of the activities I’d like to initiate or continue would include teaching a weekly taiqichuan class and/or writing workshop, and having broader intellectual exchanges among the East Asian, South Asian,

and Southeast Asian scholars, students, and communities. I see art, culture, and literature as strategic political and community-building strategies. These strategies help to rejuvenate human beings in a world that’s often splintered by capitalism, materialism, and exploitation.”

Professor Paul Ong of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Asian American Studies has been offered the position for the Fall 2010 Semester. Professor Ong remarked, “I am greatly honored to have been selected, and I look forward to using this opportunity to strengthen our ties with Asian American Studies programs in New York. It is a fantastic opportunity to learn about our colleagues’ many great accomplishments, and I hope I can make a contribution.” He is proposing to teach a course on “Critical Asian American Issues and Actionable Solutions.”

He also was recently honored by the UCLA Ralph & Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies by naming their newly renovated visiting scholar suite after Professor Ong. He was the Director of the Lewis Center from 1998-2006, the longest term since the Lewis Center began in 1988. The naming was officially announced on March 11, 2010, and it is the first naming of a room in the UCLA School of Public Affairs.

Students Screen Diverse Films

EthnoCommunication Students Explore Issues within the AAPI Community

THE Center for EthnoCommunications successfully screened its winter quarter films on March 17, 2010. The class included 18 students, one of the largest EthnoCommunication classes. The screening brought together over 100 people for lively discussions about what these filmmakers learned through the class.

The first film by Ryoko Onishi (Information Studies, concentration in Asian American Studies), “California Bonsai Man,” was about Ted Oka, a 83-year-old, second generation Japanese American who works with Bonsai, and the audience was happily surprised to see him at the screening. “Thread,” directed by Veena Hampapur and Yuki Akaishi then shared the experiences of Aida, who talked about her perceptions of beauty and belongingness, which she explores in

her threading shop.

“Interspection” explored Asian American Studies MA student, Chun Mei Lam, and her partner’s personal stories about how they experience their queer identities. The film was created by fellow MA students, May Lin and AJ Lee, and Asian American Studies undergraduate student, Carrie Wong. Other MA students in the course included Christopher Woon, Kristen Lee, Viet Nam Nguyen, and Jennifer Doane who worked on “SEARCH: MIXED ME” and “Dandiggity: The Corner Shop Poet.” In the lighthearted “SEARCH,” the directors, Christopher Woon and Nancy Wen, look at Kristen Lee’s experiences in finding a community of other mixed-Asians through the internet who have influenced her

Student Conference Explores 40 Years of Asian American Studies

"Beyond Boundaries: Education in Action"

TO commemorate the 40th anniversary of Asian American Studies and activism at UCLA, Asian Pacific Coalition and the Asian American and Pacific Island Studies Undergraduate Association spearheaded an all-day conference on Saturday, November 15, 2008 with the Center. Other cosponsoring organizations included AASGSA, Association of Hmong Students, IDEAS, Pacific Ties, Samahang Pilipino and the Asian American Studies Department. The event not only educated attendees about the history of Asian American studies, but also gave them the opportunity to directly get involved with current AAPI issues. More than 200 undergraduate students, graduate students, professors and community leaders attended this event.

Current AAS MA students Mai Yang Vang and Jonathan Reinert emceed the event. The day opened up with a morning panel entitled, "Know your history: If you don't, now you know" featuring leaders who spoke about the lessons and experiences they had with the Asian American movement that would help empower and define the future direction of the Asian American and Pacific Island community. The panel was moderated by Center staff, Mary Uyematsu Kao, and included recent appointed Congressman Judy Chu, Mark Pulido, Vy Nguyen, Professor Glenn Omatsu, attorney Angela Oh, and Professor Keith Camacho. During lunch, Sahra Nguyen, Jolie Chea, and Sam Geunjin Kang performed spoken word and music. One of the highlights of the day included the first keynote speaker, Jeff Chang (AAS MA '95), author of

the award-winning book, *Can't Stop Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation* (2005) and founding editor of *ColorLines* magazine. Chang encouraged the audience, saying "the best way to honor our history is to continue to make it." (To view the speech, visit: www.apcla.org/2008/11/jeffchangs-speech.html.)

Attendees could choose from ten working groups that focused on issues such as: member retention in student organizations; Asian American Queer History with guest speaker, Eric Wat; community activism through research with Professors Robert Nakamura and Paul Ong, and Dan Ichinose of APALC; engaged scholarship through the proposed Asian American Studies Department service learning concentration; activism across the generations with guest speakers Michael Liu and Kim Geron; and creating a graduate student network focused on AAPI research. The day ended with Kristina Wong, performer of "Wong Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

To view minutes from the workgroups, visit: www.apcla.org/2008/12/minutes-from-beyond-boundaries.html.



Photo by Jean-Paul deGuzman. Conference organizers and speakers.

identity search thus far. Nancy is an undergraduate student majoring in Asian American Studies. Viet and Jennifer interviewed Danny, a Vietnamese American spoken word artist who struggles to gain independence while working at his parents' Corner Shop Stop in "Dandiggity."

Lucia Lin, Thai Le, and Stephanie Wong interviewed Sarina Sanchez about how she stays motivated as a student activist through her family experiences in "Student Power, ¡Si!" Shaina Pan presented a story about Paul De Partee's struggle with same-sex attraction as a Christian. Finally, directors Suzzane Anau, Herman Chen, and Michael Lutu also explored Polynesian hip-hop artists who use their talents to promote a celebration of culture and community unity through hip-hop.

Founded in 1996, the Center aims to create innovative linkages between communities and universities to document, preserve, and highlight unique ethnic cultures and experiences through the use of emerging media and communications techniques. In 2002, it entered into a partnership with the Little Tokyo Service Center to establish the Downtown Community Media Center and develop a comprehensive community-based media documentation and training program.

The Center for EthnoCommunications also teaches a year-long class on community documentation with Professor Robert Nakamura and Assistant Director, Gena Hamamoto. The Center for EthnoCommunications also For more information, visit www.aasc.ucla.edu/ethno/academic.asp.

Upcoming 40th Anniversary Events



April 24 to April 25, 2010

Los Angeles Times Annual Festival of Books

The *Los Angeles Times* will be hosting the 15th annual Festival of Books. The event brings together story-tellers, popular musicians, chef demonstrations and book-lovers of all ages. The Asian American Studies Center will be holding an exhibitor booth to share about its resources and publications. For more information, please visit <http://www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks/index.html>.

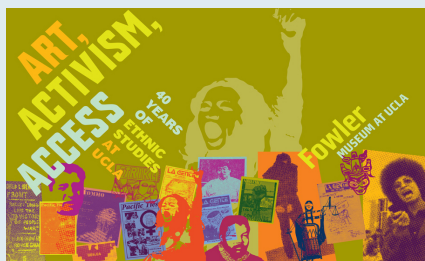
May 10, 2010

EthnoLA: Reinvisioning Community and Culture *Billy Wilder Theater, Hammer Museum*

The UCLA Center for Ethno Communications & the UCLA Hammer Museum are holding a film screening to recognize EthnoCommunications alumni student films and multi-ethnic Los Angeles. Watch short films that highlight a skateboard crew in Long Beach; the Bus Riders' Union and one of its eldest organizers, Grandma Kim; Pilipinos in the LA hip hop scene in the mid -90s; issues students face in the low-income high school, Belmont High School; South Asian motel owners; and the struggles of Latino immigrant truck drivers who work the port of Los Angeles. The program will be followed by light refreshments.



Ongoing Events:



February 28, 2010 to June 13, 2010

"Art, Activism, Access": 40 Years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA

*Exhibit at UCLA
Fowler Museum*

In the late 1960s, UCLA faculty, students, staff, and the community urged the administration to institute Ethnic Studies on campus. In 1969, Chancellor Charles E. Young established four centers: the American Indian Studies Center, Asian American Studies Center, Bunche Center for African American Studies, and the Chicano Studies Research Center. "Art, Activism, Access: 40 Years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA" showcases the efforts and archives of these influential centers, exploring their roles in voicing the most significant issues of underrepresented communities in the fabric of American life. This lively display of murals, graphic art, films, ephemera, and photographs captures key moments in a remarkable history, offering a compelling review of the first forty years of ethnic studies at UCLA. For more information, please visit: www.fowler.ucla.edu.

*This listing is not complete. Please visit our website for more details and updates at
<http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/events.asp>.*

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