

Amerasia Journal/Explores Asian American Postcolonial Identities

Amerasia Journal editor Russell C. Leong has announced publication of two pathbreaking issues exploring Asian American postcolonial identity: the recently published "De/colonizing/Transformation: On Vietnam, Korea, Hong Kong, South Asian, Filipino and Korean Whiteness" and the forthcoming "Dimensions of Desire: Sexualities and Identities in Asian America."

According to Leong, "De/colonizing and Transformation" examines today's Asian American subject through an analysis of South and Southeast Asian texts. He describes the significance of this issue as focusing on the "voices of Southeast Asians critiquing their position in American society and in relation to other Asian Americans." Featuring articles by Montique Huey-Dong Truong, a revelation of writings about Vietnamese sexual refugees; Franklin Ng's study of second-generation Hong Kong history based on his research on the Hingong community in Fresno, California; and Thomas Doherty's critique of theories used to approach the Southeast Asian refugee experience.

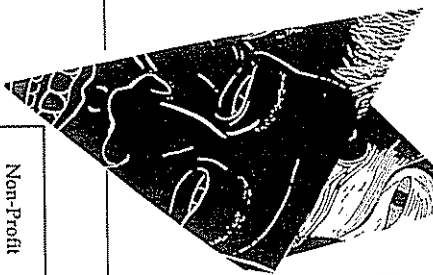
Other contributors to the issue include Qui-Pheo Tran, Bonnie T. Smith, Sulpha Dave, Lery Morodora Strubel, Carol Koh-Spaudling, Peter Bacho, and Khanh Ho.

"New Desires, New Dimensions" examines the emergence of gay, lesbian, queer, and bisexual sexual identities. According to editor Leong, "Gender studies are pushing Asian American Studies to a new place—people can now acknowledge the range of sexualities, lifestyles, and thinking in our community. All of the articles in this forthcoming issue place Asian American sexuality in a context of race, ethnicity, and class."

Featured articles are a feminist critique of Asian American Studies by Dana Takagi; a study of the intersection of sexuality and technology focusing on Asian gay computer dating by Daniel Tsang; and a perspective on Filipino gay activism by Gil Mangosing, a descendant of one of the first Filipino families in Hawaii, according to editor Leong.

Other contributors to this pioneering effort include Martin P. Manubasan, Toek Toek Thongthai, Alice Horn, Kimberly Yuana, Elsa Eder, David Eng, and Eric Wat. The issue also contains creative writings by Filipino, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean writers.

Amerasia Journal is published three times yearly. Subscriptions are \$18. Single issues are priced at \$10, which includes postage and handling. Send checks payable to "UC Regents" to: UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 2330 Campbell Hall, 605 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024-1546.



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CROSSCURRENTS
The Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

CROSSCURRENTS

Newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Spring/Summer 1994)

Rocketteller Foundation Symposium on April 29-30 at UCLA

STRATEGIZING CULTURES An Asian American Dialogue on the Humanities and Arts

The Rocketteller Foundation and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center will bring together scholars, writers, and artists for "Strategizing Cultures: An Asian American Dialogue on the Humanities and Arts" at UCLA April 29 and 30.

The two-day dialogue is organized by the Asian/American Center of Queens College, the Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in America of University of Colorado at Boulder, and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Funding is provided by the Rocketteller Foundation Humanities Division.

According to coordinator Russell C. Leong, one of the major purposes of the symposium is to showcase Rocketteller fellows and scholars from the three campuses who are doing work on Asian Pacific Americans and the humanities. Moreover, several leading Asian Pacific American humanists, artists, and cultural activists are also being invited to participate in the symposium.

The main public symposium will take place on Saturday, April 30, at the Freud Playhouse at UCLA. It will be preceded by a private dialogue for the Rocketteller fellows, staff, and site associates on April 29 in the UCLA Faculty Center.

"What is essential to our dialogue is the creation of a town or community commons, whereby issues can be direct and collective thinking enriched and transformed through diverse voices," said Leong. "It is this notion of gathering in an intellectual 'commons' that underlies the symposium."

Among the public events will be a book signing to benefit the UCLA Friends of the Asian American Studies Reading Room. The event will be held on April 29, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Faculty Center and showcase the following writers: Karen Tai-Yamashita, Frank

- **Sex and Power Issues of Gender Nationalism and Feminism.** The panel will be moderated by Lisa Lowe, with panelists Yung Soon Kim, Toek Toek Thongthai, Mahvan Chel Lam, Lawrence Chua, and Karin Aguilar-San Juan, with commentators Alice Horn, Rachel Parshas, James Kloy, Eric Wat, and Elaine Kim.
 - **Moving the Image: Through the Eyes of Asian American Artists and Commentators.** The panel will be moderated by Linda Habotter, with panelists Loni Ding, Mar Espana, Kyung Ja Lee, Betty Kang, Daryl Mar, and Dan Trietschelski, and commentators Ricardo Trimillos, Victor Baserra, and Bob Nakamura.
 - **Gazing at the Gallery: Exhibiting Asian Americans Visually.** The panel will be moderated by Vishakha Dassi, with panelists Karthi Jiga, Betty Kanno, Noriko Gumbin, Robert Kinoshita, and Yung-Soon Kim, with commentators Margot Hachida, James Leong, Sharon Mizuta, and Yoshiko Kishi.
 - **Strategizing Asian American Literature(s).** The panel will be moderated by King-kok Cheung, with panelists Meena Alexander, Frank Chin, Karen Tai Yamashita, and Peter Bacho, with commentators Ken H. Santak, David Wong Lomie, and Jingqi Ling.
- (continued on page 11)

Bringing Asian American Studies to the Community (see pp. 2-7)



Portion of mural created by Darryl Mar and Tony Susani—both graduate students in our Center—in solidarity with the campaign of students at UC Riverside for Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies.

- **INSIDE**
- Mile Woo Teaching Class at UCLA (p. 3)
- Profiles of Our New Class of First-Year Graduate Students (pp. 8-9)
- National Conference on Impact of Asian Pacific Americans on U.S. Economy (p. 11)
- Friends Organize for Asian American Studies Center Reading Room (p. 15)

A Message to Administrators and Faculty

Why Asian Pacific Students Are Impatient and Demanding

By Jay Mendoza

Co-Chair, Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee



People say that students are impatient. That we desire change. That we desire progressive change. And that we want it now. This is true of the students who have organized the Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee (APLCC) at UCLA.

We students wanted Vietnamese language courses—and we got them. We students wanted Tagalog language classes—and we got them. We students wanted a Thai-American Experience class—and we got it. And might I add, we students got these classes with the help of supportive faculty, staff, community, and some administrators.

And though these victories seem sweet in the face of only three-and-a-half years of organizing, they were not without compromise. Asian Pacific Americans are still marginalized at UCLA. Asian Pacific students have had to settle for Extension courses in Vietnamese language. Asian Pacific students have had to settle for temporary funding for Tagalog classes. And Asian Pacific students have had to settle for a narrowly defined concept of education.

It is good for students to be impatient.

It is good that we desire change.

It is good that we desire progressive change. And that we want it now.

To faculty and administrators, our message is clear. We ask you to remember the students. The students who pay rising registration fees. The students who work part- and full-time jobs, who take out financial aid loans, and who stay up all night to study for exams. The students who pile six people in a small apartment for the over-priced rent of Westwood. The students who suffer from discrimination, stereotypes, sexism, and underrepresentation.

At UCLA, we Asian Pacific students will demand much of administrators and faculty in the years to come. We want Hindi classes, Thai classes, Pilipino classes, Vietnamese classes, and a South and Southeast Asian Studies minor.

However, we students will also *give* to faculty and administrators much in the years to come. We will share our ideas, our cultures, our laughter, shouts, and tears.

Yes, students today are very impatient and demanding. We demand a basic and fundamental right. We demand a relevant education. But we students also have much to give and much to share. We ask administrations and faculty to hear our voices.

(Jay Mendoza is a graduate student in Ethnomusicology and also a member of the Committee for Pilipino Studies.)

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CrossCurrents, the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, keeps readers abreast of new and current developments in Center programs, including graduate and undergraduate programs, research projects, publications, faculty activities, relevant university and community issues, and programs not sponsored by the Center but in the province of Asian American Studies.

CrossCurrents is published twice yearly and distributed in the community by Center staff. It is also mailed free to all subscribers of *Amerasia Journal*. Others who would like to receive *CrossCurrents* through the mail should subscribe to *Amerasia Journal* (see subscription information on page 15 of this newsmagazine).

For more information about activities and programs of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, contact: 3230 Campbell Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1546; phone, (310) 825-2974.

Next Issue of *CrossCurrents* in October 1994

The next issue of *CrossCurrents* (Vol. 17, No. 2) will be published in October 1994.

New Edition of Asian & Pacific Islander Community Directory Due at End of April

The newly-updated version of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community Directory for Los Angeles and Orange counties will be completed by the end of the April 1994, according to Meg Thornton, Coordinator of our Center's Student/Community Projects unit.

The last edition of the directory, published in 1991, contained information about more than 900 groups serving the Southern California community.

The new edition of the directory consists of a comprehensive listing of organizations that either provide social, artistic, or educational services with a specific focus on Asian and Pacific Islanders, or that are involved in social and political advocacy around issues directly related to Asians and Pacific Islanders. Included in the directory are Asian Pacific Islander student support services and Asian American Studies programs on college and

university campuses and "multicultural" organizations that are heavily involved in Asian Pacific Islander communities. Religious groups that offer general community or social services are also listed.

According to Thornton, special efforts have been made to strengthen the directory's listings for Orange County and for groups serving Pacific Islander and Southeast Asian communities.

UC Irvine students and staff—Lily Chow, Anna Gonzales, and Prany Sanamikone—are helping with listings relating to Orange County and the Southeast Asian community. The Pacific Islander Community Council, represented by Ka'ala Pang, is helping with Pacific Islander community information.

For information on ordering the new edition of the directory, contact Meg Thornton at (310) 825-1006.

Bringing Asian American Studies to the Community

Mike Woo Teaching UCLA Class on Asian American Politics

By Vicky Gomelsky, Daily Bruin

While Murphy Hall, Campbell Hall and Kerckhoff Hall certainly don't add up to city hall, they will have to suffice for former mayoral candidate Mike Woo this spring quarter.

As a visiting lecturer in the Asian American Studies Center, Woo, who is currently running for California Secretary of State, will offer students a personal perspective on the topic of Asian Americans and politics.

"Asian Americans in Politics' will focus on the issues of political power and political powerlessness of Asian Pacific Americans, with a particular emphasis on the Los Angeles experience," said Woo, who did his undergraduate work at the University of California, Santa Cruz. "Through this ten-week course, we will explore why the record of political accomplishments among Asian Americans has been so low in comparison to accomplishments in other fields, such as science and business."

The class will provide the basis for an undergraduate concentration in Asian Pacific American public policy research analysis, said Don Nakanishi, Center director. The class has an enrollment of 100.

"The class is part of our anticipated B.A. in Asian American Studies," Nakanishi said. "It will provide students with theoretical perspectives, methodological tools and hands-on experiential learning experiences on major policy issues facing the Asian Pacific American population."

One student expressed his interest in taking a class with Woo, saying that Woo's experience as an Asian American in the field of politics would be enough to lure him to class.

"I think a lot of people would be interested," said Leon Soo, a senior economics major. "There's not a lot of Asian Americans in politics and seeing a prominent minority in politics would be an experience in itself."

But not everyone shared this view.

"They're hiring him because of his status as an Asian American in politics," said David Kao, a junior biology major. "It'd be an interesting

class, but I don't care what race the professor is. If he's knowledgeable in the field, then I'd rather take the class from that professor. And let's ask the question, 'If there were a lot of Asian Americans in politics, would we choose Michael Woo (to teach a class here)?'"

But Woo said that his experience as an Asian American running for political office—particularly in light of his current campaign for Secretary of State—lends him credibility as a teacher.

"I feel I have an advantage over some of my more studied academic counterparts in teaching this class, in that I can relate numerous 'real life' experiences to provide context and texture to the course work of this class," he said. "I also hope to bridge a potential gap in communicating to students who are just starting out... students who are just starting to fully develop an awareness of politics in a political environment like Los Angeles and California."

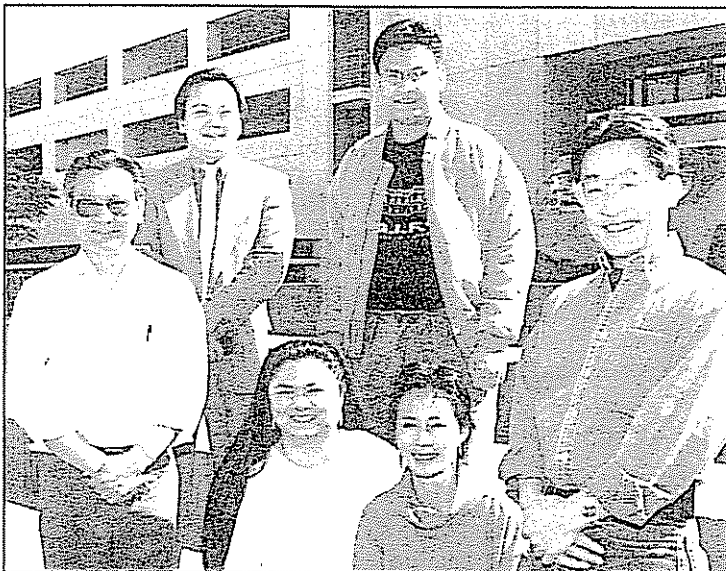
Woo was extended an invitation to be a guest lecturer partly through his personal connections with Nakanishi.

"I have known and worked with Woo for many years, and I believe that he brings a wealth of unique experiences in the political system, along with a professional degree in urban planning, to provide provocative views of the realities and promise of Asian Pacific Americans in American politics," Nakanishi said.

But the main inspiration for bringing him to campus, members of the Center said, was his past experience lecturing at Harvard University. As a fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Woo taught a fall 1993 course on politics and public policy. Woo added that he intends to focus a good deal on issues affecting L.A. while lecturing at UCLA.

"Now that he's done at Harvard, we figured why not bring him here?" said Enrique Dela Cruz, the Center's Assistant Director. "We feel that he has a lot to offer students. And I think he was very glad, very enthusiastic about it."

Research Roundtable on April 15 to Explore Race Relations in L.A.



Organizers and participants of April 15 Research Roundtable—back row, left to right: Jeff Murakami and Johann Diel of USC; front row, left to right: Bill Watanabe of Asian Pacific Planning Council, Meg Thornton of UCLA, Carol Iu of Los Angeles County Human Relations, and George Umezawa of California State University, Los Angeles.

"Responding to Race Realities" is the theme of the 6th Annual Asian Pacific American Community Research Roundtable at UCLA's Ackerman Union Grand Ballroom on Friday, April 15, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

According to Meg Thornton of the planning committee, the purpose of the Roundtable is to encourage campus and community collaboration for research and resources.

Presentations will include information on "U.S. Census Projection to the Year 2050" and "National Service and the Asian Pacific Islander Community: Opportunities for Students and Community Collaborations." Workshops will focus on Economic Justice, Public Policy, and Education.

Speakers and workshop participants include Carol Iu, Bill Watanabe, Meg Thornton, Cindy Choi, Gary Phillips, George Umezawa, Karen Umemoto, Tim Dong, Kathleen Hiyake, Ruben Lizardo, Swan Ngin, and Michael Matsuda.

Also featured at the Roundtable will be an Internship Fair and community information tables.

Sponsors of the Roundtable are the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition, Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, Asian Pacific Planning Council (APPCON), USC Asian Pacific American Student Services, CSULA Educational Participation in the Communities, and Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP).

For more information, call Meg Thornton, (310) 825-1006.

Bringing Asian American Studies to the Community

Center Sponsors Internships with Community Groups

The Asian American Studies Center is sponsoring a number of community internships through a class taught by staff member Eric Wat, "Asian Pacific American Leadership Development Project." Students are working with the following community groups:

Asian Pacific Americans for Higher Education

Asian Pacific Americans for a New Los Angeles

Asian Pacific Health Care Venture

East/West Community Partnership

Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates

Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics

Little Tokyo Service Center

Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission

Los Angeles Mayor's Office National Coalition for Redress and Reparations

Service Network for Asian Pacific Youth

Deadline for Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship April 15

Deadline for applications for the first Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship is April 15, 1994. Recipient of the \$1,000 award will be named in June.

Applicants must be permanent residents of California, have a strong record of community/university service, have financial need, and be an undergraduate student attending UCLA in Fall 1994, Winter and Spring 1995.

The scholarship was set up in memory of UCLA student Angela Kwon who died in a tragic accident in January 1993. She was an active volunteer with the Special Olympics and St. Agnes Church as well as a participant in the Asian Pacific American Leadership Development Project of the Asian American Studies Center.

For more information about the scholarship, contact Eric Wat or Meg Thornton of our Center at (310) 825-1006.



UCLA student leader Sarah Chee (center) is joined by Eric Wat (left) and Paul Moon (right) in supporting campaign for justice for Asian women garment workers. Meanwhile, UCLA senior John Delloro (right) donned Valentine attire to appeal to garment manufacturer Jessica McClintock to "have a heart" during student-led demonstration at McClintock's Beverly Hills boutique.



UCLA Students Demand Justice for Asian Immigrant Garment Workers; Picket Beverly Hills Boutique

"Jessie, Jessie, you're no good — Pay the workers like you should!"

This chant has rocked the streets of Beverly Hills during the past few months, as UCLA Asian Pacific students have held demonstrations outside the Jessica McClintock boutique on Rodeo Drive.

The issue is exploitation of immigrant women in the garment industry—dresses that sell in the boutique for \$175 were made by workers for \$5 a piece. And some immigrant women have yet to be paid.

Jessica McClintock, Inc., is the fifth largest apparel company in San Francisco, taking in \$145 million last year.

However, there are 12 Asian immigrant women in San Francisco who are still waiting for money they earned sewing dresses. The women worked for a contractor supplying dresses to McClintock. They—like thousands of others—worked ten hours a day, seven days a week in sweatshops, often at sub-minimum wage. But when their contractor went bankrupt, these women lost months of pay. For the past year, they and Asian Immigrant Women Advocates, a community group, have urged McClintock to assume moral responsibility for this deplorable situation. Thus far, McClintock has refused, maintaining that she has no legal responsibility to respond.

In Los Angeles, UCLA student groups have picketed the McClintock Beverly Hills boutique in solidarity with the Bay Area garment workers. Leading the student mobilization are two groups: CAPSA (Concerned Asian Pacific Students Association) and KAUSES (Korean American United Students for Education and Service). They have been joined by staff of the Asian Pacific Coalition.

"For me as a student," said CAPSA organizer Lauren Seng, "this issue is about the exploitation of Asian immigrant women. They could easily be our own mothers, aunts, and grandmothers. Asian Americans, even students, cannot truly be free unless all workers are free."

Lauren is a UCLA senior and student assistant in our Center who plans to attend law school next year. An aspiring lawyer, she hopes to help new immigrants, such as garment workers.

For more information about the garment workers' campaign, call CAPSA or KAUSES members at (310) 825-7184.



CAPSA organizer Ryan Yokota, a UCLA senior, joins picket line in Beverly Hills.

Reflections on Student Service and Activism

"The World Doesn't Change for Anyone. We Change the World."

By Eric Wat



A rally, no matter how successful it is, can produce many ulcerous moments. In fact, the more people you are reaching, the more likely you will encounter people who are resistant to your ideas, people whose words can turn your stomach into boy-scout-proof knots.

I met such a person at the Jessica McClintock rally one Saturday. I rebutted every argument she had until she had no more.

Still, she said, "I know you are angry, but I don't think you should be marching in the streets."

The Latino man from the hotel workers' union who stood by me in solidarity with the cheated garment workers asked her, "Ma'am, do you know what the First Amendment is?"

She said she did, but she was convinced that we should not be out there. This is America, of course, we should all be ...

Happy.

You know how it goes. We should be happy that we live in a country that lets us say what we want ... *but just don't say it.* We should be happy that we escaped our little backward, communist countries in Asia or Latin America and survived a long boat trip to reach Disneyland, so in return we should be uncritical, unquestioning, obedient, grateful serfs of the most advanced society in the world. Don't knock society. Just try it. Live it. Just go through "It's a Small World After All" and sing along.

Excuse me for being a little too academic, but that's one hell of a hegemony to suck up in one breath. That's not living; that's just breathing.

I wonder what it is that gave the woman the mistaken impression that I was not a *happy* person. Is there no joy to be found in solidarity? Oscar Zeta Acosta, Chicano revolutionary-lawyer (yes, it's possible) in the seventies, once asked, "Who in the shit ever said that revolution has to be a drag? Why can't one be serious and have fun at the same time?" There is another reason why we call a social movement a "social" *movement*.

Did the woman not understand that I was demonstrating? It's not Disney kind of fun, but I am not ten years old anymore. If I didn't feel passionate about the issues, if I didn't derive any pleasure from empowerment and adrenalin-rush, I wouldn't be spending my free time out there straining my already

strapped throat.

The reality is, the more disenfranchised a group of people is, the less access they have to the power structure, and the more demonstrative form their discourse is going to take. After all, it was Martin Luther King, Jr., not Malcolm X, who said, "Riot is the language of the unheard."

• • •

I was puzzled by the woman's inconsistency for a while because unfortunately it wasn't just hers. Most people recognize that there are injustices in the world, and many of them want to help to "make a difference." They want to contribute by what I sometimes unfairly refer to as the "Greek" model of community service. They might sweep the streets of South Central after the uprisings, deliver meals to people with AIDS, tutor inner-city kids, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. At the same time, they might shriek (or smile condescendingly) at those of us who march the streets and shout the chants.

The woman's inconsistency could be explained by the dichotomy of service and activism, the dichotomy of making a difference and changing the world. This is the same dichotomy that Todd Gitlin cautions against.

Once an activist in Students for a Democratic Society in the sixties and now a professor at Berkeley, Gitlin writes, "Neither [service nor activism] suffices. They are entangled together. Each requires the company of the other. The Sixties did not invent insurgency; the Nineties are not inventing service."

Service is necessary. Even many of us who take part in more demonstrative (and yes, sometimes even confrontational) form of activism have done and are still doing our share of service. But no matter how many alternative spring breaks you participated in, service, like a band-aid on a leaky balloon, will always fall short by itself.

You can tutor as many inner-city children as you like, but if you don't question the diversion of inner-city resources, the ghettoization of people-of-color neighborhoods and the neglect of our public education system, there will always be more children who need tutoring.

Or, you can train or retrain as many unemployed people as you like, but if you don't question how the present economic structure leaves people demoralized and why you have

a hard time looking for a Sizzler or an Alpha-Beta in some of the most decrepit neighborhoods in the most advanced society in the world, in the end you'll just have trained people with no jobs.

Service and activism are not diametrical opposites; their difference is only a matter of degree. This reminds me of the Upstream Theory: If your job is to save drowning babies out of the river, and you have been rescuing one baby after another—eight hours a day, five days a week—at a certain point, you've got to wade upstream and find out who the hell is throwing all these babies down the river.

For those, especially people of color, who think they can escape the injustices of our society by becoming rich and successful, they might as well be riding on a boat through the Disney Kingdom castle. In essence, this new, fictive ride has replaced any boat ride, real or metaphorical, across the ocean to reach this shore.

They might think if everyone worked hard, pulled themselves up by their bootstraps, and worked for personal peace, the world would change for them. But the world has never changed for anyone.

When Clarence Thomas, expounding on the rhetoric of individualism and self-reliance, proclaimed himself to be a black conservative and a bootstrap-puller, Judge A. Leon Higginbotham asked him, "What exactly are you black conservatives trying to conserve?"

A page of history is worth more than a volume of rhetoric. It took a Boston Tea Party, a woman sitting at the back of the bus, many assassinations and even more hunger strikes to make the world budge an inch. The world doesn't change for anyone; we change the world.

This boat has to be rocked. Has our society become so self-involved that people actually think it is possible to achieve personal peace and liberation on one's own and apart from others' struggles?

People want to make a difference: that's all very noble and necessary. However, by refusing to think critically about our society, we leave intact—we "conserve"—the very structure that gives rise to the never-ending need of service. The time has come to go upstream.

(Eric Wat is Assistant Coordinator of our Center's Student/Community Projects.)

For Leadership Training & Curriculum Development

Center and 3 Community Groups Submit Proposal to Kellogg Foundation

The Asian American Studies Center and three Los Angeles community service organizations have been asked to submit a proposal for funding to the Kellogg Foundation for an innovative "Community and Leadership Development Studies Program."

The proposal—which is being developed in conjunction with the Chinatown Service Center, Korean Youth and Community Center, and Search to Involve Pilipino Americans—deals with in-service training for staff of community-based organizations, community internships and field studies for UCLA students, and expansion of the Center's curriculum to meet

growing community needs.

According to Center Director Don Nakanishi, the proposal builds on the Center's existing classes—including its forthcoming undergraduate major in Asian American Studies—and will further encourage students to gain first-hand experiences in the community as well as promote professional career development.

In addition, the proposal addresses the emerging workforce needs of community-based organizations through an accredited training program to improve internal agency capacity, nurture leadership, and promote increased involvement in community service.

Center Gearing Up for 25th Anniversary Activities

The 25th-year anniversary of the founding of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center is coming, and Center Director Don Nakanishi said that plans are now underway to mark the occasion.

According to Nakanishi, the anniversary will likely include a range of activities involving the Center's many constituencies: community groups, alumni, undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty.

Nakanishi announced that two community leaders—Alan Nishio and Aileen Almeria—have agreed to co-chair a special committee to plan a major event. Nishio, currently a vice-president at California State University, Long Beach, served as the Center's Acting Director in its initial years of existence. Almeria, who works for the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, served as director of the UCLA Asian Pacific Coalition in the late 1980s.

Hawaii Summer Program Set for June 27 - July 29

The third UCLA Summer Sessions Asian American Studies Program in Hawaii will be held from June 27 to July 29. Program director is Dr. Jane Takahashi of our Center.

The program is open to all undergraduates in the UC system and selected students from outside the system. This eight-unit travel-study package focuses on Hawaii as a model of multiculturalism. The curriculum consists of two classes—"Asian Pacific American Communities in Hawaii: Critical Issues Past and Present," and "Asian Pacific American Communities in Hawaii: Field Studies."

For more information about summer classes in Asian American Studies, contact Dr. John Accomando, UCLA Summer Sessions Overseas Programs, (310) 794-8307.

Nikkei Student Union Leader on "Wheel of Fortune"

Senior Bernard Lee, a leader of the Nikkei Student Union, recently won an all-expenses paid trip to Orlando, Florida, where he appeared on the popular television show "Wheel of Fortune." The segment featuring Bernard is scheduled to be broadcast nationally April 12. Although he was not the "big winner" on the show, Bernard won cash and prizes amounting to "five figures."

Bernard was one of four UCLA students selected from more than 125 students at auditions held on campus earlier this year.

Bernard is the son of Michiko Lee and Ping Lee. He was born in New York and grew up in Redwood City, California. He has been active in NSU for the past several years and recently served as director of the group's cultural night.

Center Compiles List of More Than 60 Asian Pacific Student Groups on UCLA Campus

Asian Pacific students at UCLA have organized more than 60 campus groups, according to a list compiled recently by Meg Thornton, Coordinator of our Student/Community Projects unit.

According to Thornton, our Center sponsors 24 student groups. Other groups are sponsored by programs and departments on campus, such as the Community Service Commission, Center for Pacific Rim Studies, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Relations, and University Religious Conference.

To obtain a copy of the list of groups, call Thornton at (310) 825-1006.

Center Offering More than 20 Classes in Spring Quarter

More than 20 classes in Asian American Studies are being offered this spring at UCLA—the most classes ever in the history of our Center.

Among classes offered for the first time at UCLA are: "Asian Pacific Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Experience in U.S." by Professor Teresa Williams; "Asian American Aesthetics & Ethnic Identity" by Professor Ricardo Tremillo; "Asian Americans & Public Policy" by Professor Paul Ong; "Third World Literature & Cultures" by Professor Shumei Shih; and "Social Movements in Los Angeles" by Professor Enrique Dela Cruz.

Other classes include "Pacific Islander Experi-

ence," "Thai American Experience," "Vietnamese American Experience," "Asian American Women," "Asian American Community Health Issues," "Internships in Asian Pacific Communities," and "Exploring Asian American Theater."

In addition, former Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Woo is teaching "Asian Americans & American Politics."

"The large number of classes reflects growing student interest in Asian American Studies, especially as we move toward establishment of our undergraduate major," said Enrique Dela Cruz, Center Assistant Director.



Bringing Asian American Studies to the Community

REFLECTIONS ON FACE:

An Asian American Women's Magazine

By Julia Ishimaru



Cosmo, Glamour, Elle. I was about to walk away from the magazine stand when I noticed a glamorous Asian woman staring out at me from a magazine cover. I reached for her. *FACE*, I read. A magazine for Asian American women? This is it, I thought to myself. I've had enough of Asian stereotyped images. Now I finally get to see some pictures that really reflect the features of my Asian face. Or do I?

Shi Kagy, editor-in-chief for *FACE*, believes that since mainstream women's magazines promote negative self-images of Asian women, *FACE* can redefine this image. "*FACE* shows that Asian women can be just as beautiful as other women in mainstream magazines," she asserts.

But does *FACE* offer new images of Asian women, or does it define beauty using standards similar to mainstream magazines—that is, emphasizing physical aspects of women?

Lin, a fourth-year undergraduate student majoring in Chemistry at UCLA, sees *FACE* as forging new possibilities for Asian women. "I think it's great, because we never see Asian women in regular magazines. As Asian women, we live in a society where we are invisible or portrayed in stereotypes, whereas the point of view in *FACE* is not as stereotyped as in other mainstream media. *FACE* is a step forward."

According to Lin, *FACE* focuses on people from her community. "A couple of months ago, I found out that my friend modeled in one of the fashion photos, so I looked forward to buying the issue," she laughs. She immediately recognized her friend's face in the pages of *FACE*, despite the false name her friend had assumed due to the nature of the photograph which required that she pose topless. "She didn't want to risk having her parents find out by someone recognizing her name and mentioning it to them," Lin explains.

When I asked how they felt about the visual images of Asian women in *FACE*, both Lin and her roommate, Gina, said they felt uncomfortable. "The women in these shots, wearing this kind of clothing, are shocking," Gina remarks. "Most Asian women I see and know are conservative, and would never wear those clothes."

Lin nods in agreement. "Some of the pictures are pretty trashy." But Gina adds, "Can we be so critical of *FACE*, when we rarely question the images we see of women everywhere—like the images in *Cosmo* or *Self*?"

Gina did find one article interesting. "After having read 'An Asian Mother's Plea,' I felt I could better understand parents' concerns regarding

their sons and daughters' interracial marriages."

Amanda, a fifth-year undergraduate majoring in Sociology, also found some of the articles interesting, while noting a discrepancy between the visual images of women and the content of some articles. She felt "Secrets of Sex Appeal" was the most disturbing piece in the magazine. The article lists what Asian men find sexy in Asian women. "Asian men they interview make remarks like, 'In general plastic surgery, a little enhancement here and there, is not bad,' or 'I think Asian men go for Asian women who are less traditional, like women with narrower faces, bigger eyes, nose, lips and a more curvaceous body.' How is this person defining 'traditional' anyway? 'Tradition' is not about a person's physical features—it's about culture, beliefs, history."

Although Lin had mixed feelings about the articles in *FACE*—finding some articles interesting but others offensive—she adds that her response is not really that different from how she judges articles in "white" magazines, with one exception. At least *FACE*, she says, "covers Asian women's issues and achievements that mainstream media doesn't bother to focus on. For example, I remember reading in one issue about an Asian woman who had built up a very successful hair-styling business in the Hollywood film industry. An article like this can inspire Asian American teenage girls to achieve the goals they set. It provides a role model they can identify with."

Amanda, however, questions *FACE* as a viable alternative for Asian women. "In some ways, *FACE* is worse than most mainstream publications," she asserts, because while it attempts to portray itself as a magazine by and for Asian women, it actually sells us this 'cultural' package, pushing it as a marketing tool rather than trying to inspire Asian women with a strong sense of cultural identity. *FACE* takes on mainstream values—but with Asian faces."

Does *FACE* broaden "white" standards of beauty by bringing "Asian" standards of beauty to public attention, or do white standards influence and shape *FACE*?

Cathy, also a UCLA student, challenges *FACE* readers. "Is this the way Asian American culture is becoming, or how it would like to be represented? How do Asian Americans develop their sense of identity? Since media plays an important role, shouldn't we then question how a publication that targets Asian Americans defines what it claims are 'Asian values'?"

Is *FACE* for everyone? According to Shi Kagy,

FACE tries to reach out to a range of women, from those in their teens to women in the 50s. "*FACE* offers different things for different people," Kagy explains. "We do not claim to be this way or that way—we just hope that each person who reads our magazine will get something from *FACE*. That 'something' will be different for each reader."

Amanda expresses her own concerns about what *FACE* communicates to readers. "I don't know if it's fair to pass judgment, but when what is offered to Asian Americans is so sparse, it's important that when we do have the resources to put stuff out there, that it instill a pride in who we are *as we are*, that defines beauty not in superficial terms like I see in *FACE* but rather in terms of personal character and integrity. Teaching my daughter that physical features has anything to do with her quality as a human being or as an Asian woman is the last thing I want to teach her."

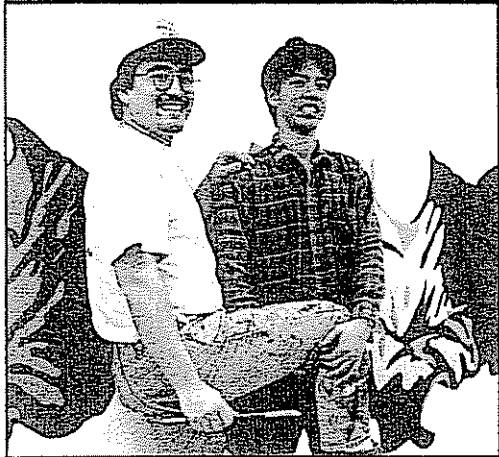
Lin would disagree. She believes that we should not criticize *FACE* because it is no worse than other magazines. "What magazine actually does portray *real* images of women? That's why people look at them. You can see regular people every day. People want to see idealized, glamorous people because it releases you from pressures of the everyday world, letting you escape for a while. That's something we all look for."

What *do* we expect from media? Instead of being constantly bombarded with hyped-up versions of a self most of us can never be, wouldn't it be a relief if one of these days we saw someone familiar—*real* for a change—on the cover of a magazine?

As a magazine for and about Asian American women, *FACE* has the power to shape and influence our values. We also have the power to shape *FACE*. If this magazine presents us with a face of beauty—the physical beauty of Asian women—perhaps this is what we have come to value in ourselves. If so, maybe it's time to reconsider what we hold vital to our identity. Seeing an Asian woman in a magazine is the first step toward rendering us visible. But transforming conventional standards of beauty could really place *FACE* a step ahead of mainstream media.

It's time to take some responsibility for molding a better values system for the generations ahead.

(Julia Ishimaru is a senior at UCLA majoring in Women's Studies.)



Tony Osumi (left) and Darryl Mar (right) at work on the mural commemorating the student struggle for Asian American Studies at UC Riverside.

Darryl Mar and Tony Osumi Receive \$5,000 Grant to Paint Mural in Koreatown

Two graduate students in our M.A. program—Darryl Mar and Tony Osumi—have been awarded \$5,000 from SPARC (Social Public Art Resource Center) to paint a mural in Koreatown. The mural will be displayed on the front of Siyeon Restaurant near the corner of Western and 7th Street. Darryl and Tony will be assisted by Kathryn Cho, also of our M.A. program, and two high school youth. The mural is expected to be completed in June.

For the mural, Darryl and Tony will focus on images from the Korean immigrant community. Also included in the mural will be a drawing of a Latino immigrant based on a recent cover design from *La Gente* newsmagazine, the UCLA student publication serving the Chicano/Latino community.

For the past two months, the two artists have been meeting with staff from SPARC, representatives from the restaurant, and leaders in the Korean community to finalize the mural design.

In winning the \$5,000 grant, Darryl and Tony beat competition from hundreds of other Los Angeles artists. SPARC, the funding agency, is located in Venice, California, and provides grants to artists working with grassroots community organizations interested in social and political change. Currently, SPARC-funded murals are mounted on buildings in several Los Angeles neighborhoods—from East Los Angeles to South Central, from Pico-Union to Fairfax.

Darryl and Tony recently completed a mural for UC Riverside students depicting the struggle for Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies (see cover of this issue of *CrossCurrents*).

Also, this past summer Darryl coordinated an elaborate mural project on Asian American history in recognition of the ongoing struggle of UC Irvine students for Asian American Studies. That mural is now housed on the Irvine campus, and was also the subject of a *Los Angeles Times Orange County Edition* article.

First-Year Graduate Students Bring Diverse Experiences to Our Center

This year's class of first-year students in our Center's M.A. program comes literally from all over the world: from Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines to New York, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota, to Orange County and Pasadena. Among the 14 students in this year's first-year class are two women who have worked with social service agencies in the Los Angeles Pilipino community, a graduate of a law school, a poet, several writers, and the co-editor of a new book on South Asian women.

Students during their first year of graduate work are taking advanced courses in Asian American Studies, including three required core courses taught by professors Valerie Matsumoto, Kyeyoung Park, and Don Nakanishi.

Arthur Ago grew up in New York City and completed his undergraduate work at Amherst College in Massachusetts. "For me, the UCLA Asian American Studies M.A. program is an opportunity for personal development as well as a chance to practice my luge skills," he states. Arthur wants to write his thesis on historical and legal issues surrounding Filipino Amerasians.

Anna Alves was born of a "Tagalog and Ilocano Pilipino union." She grew up on the southside of Sacramento after being "transplanted" from Queens, New York. Anna completed her undergraduate work at UCLA, where she finished a double major in English and History with a minor in Asian American Studies. As an undergraduate, she was heavily involved with UCLA Samahang Pilipino. She is interested in doing her M.A. thesis on issues of identity in Pilipino American literature, especially as they affect and/or express the Pilipina experience.

Raul N. Ebio was born in Quezon City, the Philippines, and raised in San Francisco. He began his undergraduate work at City College of San Francisco and finished at the University of California, Berkeley. "I entered the M.A. program to acquire more knowledge about the dynamic Asian American community. Hopefully, the M.A. will be a step towards a Ph.D.," states Raul. His main research interests are Filipino American history and literature.

Lee Hayakawa grew up in Honolulu and received a B.S. in political science at Santa Clara University. He also holds a J.D. from the University of Hawaii Law School. "I came to the M.A. program so that I could have the opportunity to make a contribution to Asian American Studies, and it was my understanding that there would be no math," says Lee. "Because I plan to teach, I hope that the pro-

gram will provide me with the requisite academic foundation and pedagogical background." Lee plans to do research on Asian American legal organizations, particularly in the Japanese American and Filipino American communities.

Craig Huynh was born in South Vietnam. He left in 1979 and lived in Oklahoma City for two-and-a-half years before coming to Southern California. He received a B.A. in psychology with a minor in Asian American Studies at UCLA in 1993. As an undergraduate, he helped organize the Vietnamese Refugee Aid Committee's High School Conference Day. Currently, he is working as a translator for Pacific Asian Language Service, where he provides English translations for monolingual Vietnamese who are HIV-positive or at-risk with the virus. For his M.A. thesis, he plans to study Vietnamese nail salons in Southern California. "As a former 'boatperson' refugee and now a 1.5 generation Vietnamese American, I am interested in the issues of Vietnamese American experience and identity," states Craig. "Therefore I joined this graduate program just to learn more about myself, and I believe the program will test my (in)sanity in pursuing a Ph.D."

Gina Inocencio was born and raised in the Philippines where she attended the University of Santo Tomas. In Los Angeles, she has been involved in community organizing and has worked with East West Partnership. According to Gina, she entered our M.A. program because "I needed a break from my job. Hopefully, the program will help me gain a better perspective on community and work issues." Gina is interested in research issues relating to recent Pilipino immigration and assimilation. She is also studying Pilipino World War II veterans.

Gen Leigh Lee grew up in Battambang, Cambodia. After coming to the U.S. she studied at Whittier College where she was active with the Asian Students Association. She also did volunteer work at a Cambodian service agency. "I am interested in the M.A. program to satisfy my desire to know more about Asians in the U.S., particularly Cambodians," says Gen. For her M.A. thesis, Gen will explore interactions between parents and children in Cambodian donut shops in Southern California.

Jim Lee grew up "riding the subways of Queens, New York, and Philly." He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in English. He has worked for Asian Americans United in Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania Upward Bound Program. Jim



Members of our Center's new first-year class: front row (left to right) Gen Leigh Lee, Gina Inocencio, Dharini Rasiah, Lee Hayakawa, Kimberly Mancini, Darlene Rodrigues, and Rachele Reyes; back row (left to right) Alex Tan, Anna Alves, Rahpee Thongthiraj, Raul Ebio, Craig Huynh, Jim Lee, and Arthur Ago.

came into our M.A. program "to see if West Coast rap was better than East Coast—it isn't—and I feel (un)comfortable with the Asian 'hordes' here," he states. For his thesis, he is focusing on "narrativity and its disruption of/through Korean American poetry."

Kimberly Mancini grew up in Illinois and Minnesota. She completed her undergraduate work at University of Minnesota, Morris. She came into our M.A. program to learn about the Asian experience in the U.S. "Before coming here, I had little exposure to Asian American issues," she explains. "I believe this program will provide me with knowledge and background." Her thesis will explore the historical, political, and cultural factors in Korea and the United States that have led to the adoption of Korean children by families in the U.S.

Dharini Rasiah was born in Sri Lanka and raised in England, Canada, and California. She completed her B.A. at UC Berkeley in Ethnic Studies, concentrating on Asian American issues, particularly contemporary South Asian communities throughout the diaspora. Through our M.A. program, she is seeking "the historical analysis necessary to contextualize South Asian immigration to the U.S." For her thesis, she will examine the recent Sri Lankan Tamil refugee population in North America through a study of film and ethnography.

Rachele Reyes was born in the Philippines, grew up in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area, and attended UC Berkeley. She is interested in social work and has worked at Search to Involve Pilipino Americans in Los Angeles Pilipinotown. She came into our M.A. program to "learn, participate, offer my own experiences and perspectives, teach, and receive mentoring." She is interested in doing research on Pilipino immigration to the U.S. and Italy.

Darlene Rodrigues was born and raised in Mililani, Hawaii, and graduated from Santa Clara University with a B.A. in psychology. As an undergraduate, she was active in Asian Pacific Islander Student Union (APSU) and later worked in the Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies Programs at Santa Clara. "My research interests lie in Asian American poetry movements, specifically poets of Hawaii's 'local' literature and of the Filipino American poets of the 1960s and 1970s," states Darlene. She came to our M.A. program because "as the only one of its kind in the country, I felt that it would provide the best academic resources and intellectual support necessary for doing work in Asian American Studies."

Alex Tan grew up in Orange County. He completed his undergraduate work at UC Santa Barbara, where he was co-chair of Asian Student Coalition and served as a counselor for the Asian Pacific American Education Opportunity Program. For his M.A. thesis, he is interested in spatial data analysis and identity formation in the Los Angeles Filipino community.

Rahpee Thongthiraj grew up in Pasadena and completed her undergraduate work in English at UCLA where she explored the issues of race and gender, exile and exclusion in Asian American literature. "I would like to work on developing new resource materials specifically about Thai American experiences," she states. "Through the graduate program, I will gain useful research skills and knowledge to enrich my underrepresented Thai American community." For her thesis, Rahpee will focus on issues of race and gender in Thai American literature.

Center's Graduate Students, Faculty, and Visiting Scholars Honored by IAC

Faculty, scholars, and graduate students associated with the Asian American Studies Center were honored recently by the Institute of American Cultures (IAC) Fellowship Program for 1993-94.

Dr. Dorrine Kondo was recognized for her research as a 1993-94 Postdoctoral/Visiting Scholar at the Asian American Studies Center. Dr. Kondo is a MacArthur Associate Professor of Women's Studies at Pomona College and is pursuing a postdoctorate project, "Plays of Identity: Aesthetics, Performance and Culture Politics in Asian American Theatre."

Also honored were six 1993-94 Graduate Predoctoral Fellows associated with Asian American Studies: Jeffrey Chang, Kyungwon Grace Hong, Darcie Iki, Shirley Lim, Rumi Yasutake, and Kariann Yokota.

Faculty receiving IAC research awards for 1993-94 included Professor Clara Chu, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, for her project, "Immigrant Children as Cultural, Linguistic and Informational Mediators"; and Professor Ailee Moon, School of Social Welfare, "Intergenerational Relations in Korean Immigrant Families."

Graduate students from our M.A. program receiving IAC research awards for 1993-94 included Jeffrey Chang, "Pilipino Underrepresentation in the State of Hawaii's Department of Education"; Kathryn Cho, "Korean Brazilian-Latino Relations in the Garment Industry"; Darcie Iki, "Kona Coffee Farmers"; Sharon Park, "Generational Transition within Korean American Churches"; Nathaniel Santa Maria, "Filipina Garment Workers: The Dialectics of Low-Wage Labor and Family Life"; and Kariann Yokota, "Coming Home: The Return of Japanese Americans to Los Angeles upon Release from Internment Camps, 1945-50."

New Book Published about South Asian Women

Our Feet Walk the Sky: Women of the South Asian Diaspora is a new book written by and for South Asian women. Edited by Women of South Asian Descent Collective, the book was published recently by Aunt Lute Foundation in San Francisco.

The book weaves together images of family, sexuality, economic exploitation, and homelands and explores traditional and postcolonial identities.

Among contributors to the book is Dharini Rasiah, a first-year graduate student in our M.A. program.

For information on how to order *Our Feet Walk the Sky*, call Aunt Lute Foundation, (415) 558-8116.

UCLA/MEDTEP Outcomes Research Center

Researchers and Community Leaders Study Medical Treatments in Asian and Pacific Islander Populations

By Nancy Ho, UCLA/MEDTEP

The UCLA/MEDTEP Outcomes Research Center for Asians and Pacific Islanders was established under a grant from the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research in August 1992. One of 11 minority research centers across the U.S., its goal is to evaluate medical treatment effectiveness among the Asian and Pacific Islander populations.

The Research Center is headed by Professor Takashi Makinodan, who is also a member of the Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee. Professor Don Nakanishi, Director of the Studies Center, presides as the chair of the MEDTEP advisory board. The two centers plan to work closely together in future endeavors.

One of the unique aspects of MEDTEP is that it brings together academicians and community clinicians to collaborate on research projects. University researchers contribute methodological expertise to examine specific health problems identified by community clinicians. Some of the community leaders involved in MEDTEP include Kazue Shibata and Dr. Diana Lee of the Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Tessie Guillermo of the Asian American Health Forum, Dr. Mia Choe of the Koryo Health Foundation, Grace Sison of the Asian Health Project of T.H.E. Clinic, and Nampet Panichpant-M of the Asian and Pacific Islander Prevention Institute.

In August 1993, the Research Center funded six pilot research projects, two of which are being conducted at community sites. These projects are currently in progress and will conclude in May 1994. The objectives of the six projects are:

Analysis of Birth Outcomes in Asians and Pacific Islanders: Elizabeth Yano, C.Phil., Sepulveda Veterans Administration Medical Center, is 1) examining birth outcomes, namely birth weight and gestation age, of subgroups of Asian and Pacific Islander women in California, 2) evaluating the relationship between their utilization of care and birth outcomes, and 3) comparing birth outcomes of Asian and Pacific Islander women to those of other racial/ethnic groups, controlling for other risk factors.

Risk Factors and Outcomes of Hip Fractures in Asian American Elderly: Catherine

"One of the unique aspects of MEDTEP is that it brings together academicians and community clinicians to collaborate on research projects."

Eng, M.D., On Lok Senior Health Services, San Francisco, is 1) developing data collection instruments to abstract critical information from existing records on patients under the care of On Lok Senior Health Services, 2) describing the clinical characteristics of this frail Asian American population, 3) determining the availability and quality of data on exposures to various risk factors (e.g., use of sedative-hypnotic drugs), and 4) describing the one-year outcomes of patients who sustain hip fractures in this cohort.

Dental Utilization and Oral Health of an Older Asian Sample: Kathryn Atchison, D.D.S., UCLA School of Dentistry, is exploring differences in dental utilization and dental health among a select elderly Asian sample and their Caucasian counterparts. The specific purposes of the project are two-fold: 1) to explore differences in dental service utilization compared to the sociodemographics and health status of the Asian and Caucasian samples; and 2) to determine longitudinal changes in dental utilization and health status over a two-year period following an intervention of oral examinations and information dispersion to the participants.

Health of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Medical Outcomes Study: Lisa Meredith, Ph.D., RAND, is 1) describing variation in characteristics of the sample of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Medical Outcomes Study (MOS), 2) assessing the reliability and validity of standard MOS health outcomes measures in this sample, 3) determining whether treatment of illness and health status vary systematically for this sample compared to other ethnic groups, and 4) identifying what treatment style factors are associated with better health status in Asian Americans.

Hypertension Outcome Research in Asians and Pacific Islanders: Ka Kit Hui, M.D., UCLA School of Medicine, is assessing the treatment of hypertension in Asians and Pacific Islanders with the emphasis on ethnically-related pharmacological response to antihypertensive therapy. Specifically, the project will 1) investigate the state of current practices of hypertension treatment in Asians and Pacific Islanders in an outpatient setting at UCLA Medical Center, Internal Medicine Practice, and compare these current practices with a control group of Caucasian patients with hypertension; 2) to assess experience of side effects in terms of frequency and severity to different groups of antihypertensive agents in Asian and Pacific Islander patients and compare them with Caucasian patients; 3) to assess whether a preferred antihypertensive agent and/or regimen for Asians and Pacific Islanders can be identified; 4) to assess physicians knowledge and awareness of ethnically-related pharmacological response to antihypertensive treatment; and 5) to examine the degree to which the newly acquired data regarding the response to antihypertensive treatment can influence the clinical outcome and cost effectiveness.

Improving Clinical Data for Community Health Centers Serving Asians and Pacific Islanders: Ying Ying Meng, M.P.H., Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, Oakland, is 1) identifying the major health problems among users of participating health centers; 2) reviewing major clinical interventions available for selected health conditions in these primary care settings; 3) investigating the existence or need for specific outcome measurements for selected health conditions, such as complications, health status, etc.; and 4) exploring the feasibility and devising a methodology, if necessary, for linking clinical data with national, state or local data sources, such as vital statistics, hospital discharge data and/or Medicaid and Medicare data.

For more information on the UCLA/MEDTEP Center or any of the projects described above, contact the Center at (310) 825-4520; or (310) 478-3711, ext. 7369.

STRATEGIZING CULTURES

Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Symposium, April 29-30

(continued from page 1)

• **Institution Building: Toward Multiplicity and Movement.** The panel will be moderated by Judy Mitoma, with panelists Gerald Yoshitomi, Stan Yogi, Jeannie Kim, Lynn Szwaja, Linda Mabalot, and Emma Gee.

The symposium will be followed by an evening performance of "Slice of Rice," featuring Nobuko Miyamoto, Amy Hill, Charlie Chin, Kiha Lee, and Taiji Miyagawa.

The planning committee for the two-day symposium consists of coordinators Russell C. Leong, Celine Salazar Parreñas, and Don T. Nakanishi of UCLA; John Kuo Wei Tchen and Margo Machida of Queens College Asian/American Center, New York; Evelyn Hu-DeHart and Lane Hirabayashi of the Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in America, University of Colorado at Boulder; Valerie Matsumoto, King-Kok Cheung, Judy Mitoma, Nobu McCarthy, David Wong Louie, and Nobuko Miyamoto of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center; Vishakha Desai of the Asia Society, New York; and Lynn Szwaja and Tomas Ybarra-Frasto of the Rockefeller Foundation, Humanities Division.

According to coordinator Leong, the symposium will coincide with the anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising. "The Upris-



UCLA graduate film student Celine Salazar Parreñas is assisting symposium coordinator Russell C. Leong in organizing the Rockefeller Foundation-funded dialogue on arts and the humanities.

ing revealed how historical and global transformations—racial and ethnic migrations, international technology, and the diasporic movements of peoples and cultures across nations and seas—have impacted local Asian American communities," he stated. "Torn between searing images of destruction and struggling amidst provocative actions of anger and of hope, we must find common ground to live together as many peoples. Toward cultural survival, we must unearth

new strategies for ourselves and our children."

Leong called upon artists, academics, and/or activists to ask the following questions:

- How can humanities and arts institutions contribute to social and cultural change across diverse Asian American communities?
- How can Asian American artists, academics, and activists contribute to this transformation?
- In what ways does Asian American scholarship enrich and expand traditional notions of the humanities and the arts?
- How do changing images and ideas of community and college, personal and public space, gender, class and racial differences influence our thoughts, actions and lives?
- What strategies are necessary to better integrate Asian America into our literary and cultural productions?

For more information about the symposium, call Russell Leong or Celine Salazar Parreñas at the Center, (310) 206-2892.

National Conference in Washington, D.C., May 18-20

Center and LEAP Public Policy Institute to Examine Impact of Asian Pacific Americans on U.S. Economy

The Asian American Studies Center and the LEAP Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute will convene a national conference in Washington, D.C., May 18-20, at the Hyatt Regency to present findings of their joint 1994 policy report, *The State of Asian Pacific America: Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S. Economy*. The report examines the critical but largely unrecognized roles that Asian Americans play in the growth of this nation's economy.

The conference will bring together prominent policy-makers, as well as academic, business, and community leaders from throughout the country to discuss the findings of the study and potential strategies to influence the national policy agenda.

The report is the second to be released by the LEAP Asian Pacific American Policy Institute and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The first report—*State of Asian Pacific America: Policy Issues to the Year 2020*—analyzed the implications of the growing Asian Pacific population on issues such as education, race relations, media coverage, health care, and mental health.

The current policy project is headed by Professor Paul Ong of the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning. The Ford Foundation provided \$100,000 to support the policy report.

Key topics in the report include economic analyses of Asian Americans; mainstream misperceptions that all Asian Americans

have succeeded economically; regional analyses of Asian Americans in Los Angeles, San Francisco/Oakland, and New York—which together account for three-fifths of the nation's Asian American population; and policy implications focusing on the areas of health care, high technology, entrepreneurship and inner-city economic development, and welfare.

The report serves to further advance the public policy institute's mission to serve as a national center for information and policy analysis on issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans.

For more information about the conference, contact LEAP at (213) 485-1422.

"An Unprecedented Year of Faculty Recruitment"

Center Welcomes New Faculty in History, Fiction Writing, Sociology, Public Health, Economics, and Psychiatry

"We are headed towards an unprecedented year of faculty recruitment!" said Center Director Don Nakanishi. "If we continue on this pace, we may end up with as many as eight new and outstanding faculty in Asian American Studies. They will make an enormous impact on our research and teaching activities."

In the social sciences, all three faculty searches involving our Center were successful:

- *Wei-Yin Hu*, who will be receiving his doctorate from Stanford, will hold the joint appointment in the Department of Economics and the Asian American Studies Center. He is an expert on child welfare systems and poverty research, and will be teaching classes on Asian American economic issues.

- *Henry Yu*, who will be receiving his doctorate from Princeton, will hold a joint appointment in History and Asian American Studies. He is undertaking an intellectual history analysis of early Asian American social scientists who were trained at the University of Chicago like Rose Hum Lee and S. Frank Miyamoto. He will be teaching undergraduate and graduate classes in Asian American history.

- *Dr. Min Zhou*, who currently is an Assistant Professor at Louisiana State University and the author of *Chinatown: The Socioeconomic Potential of an Urban Enclave* (Temple University Press, 1992), will hold the joint appointment in Asian American Studies and Sociology. She will join the UCLA faculty, beginning in Fall 1995, after spending a year as a Fellow at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York. She will teach classes on Asian

American communities, race relations, and immigration.

In one of the two searches in the humanities, award-winning writer *David Wong Louie*, author of *Pangs of Love* (Knopf, 1991), will be appointed to a joint Fiction Writing and Asian American Studies faculty position along with the UCLA English Department. For the past two years, Louie has served as a Visiting Professor at UCLA, and in his new post he will continue to teach classes in creative writing, Asian American literature, and the Chinese American experience.

Dr. Marjorie Kagawa Singer, an anthropologist specializing in cultural and psychological reactions to cancer and other major medical illnesses among Asian Americans, will hold the joint position with the School of Public Health and the Asian American Studies Center. She will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in public health issues facing the Asian Pacific American population.

As of the deadline for this issue of *CrossCurrents*, the final outcome for faculty searches in Art History and the School of Law were still in process.

In a related appointment, *Dr. David Takeuchi*, a leading specialist in Asian American mental health scholarship, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor-in-residence with the Department of Psychiatry. Currently serving as the Associate Director of the National Research Center for Asian Pacific American Mental Health, a federally funded institute headed by Professor Stanley Sue at UCLA, Dr. Takeuchi plans to be actively involved in the research, teaching, and committee activities of the Asian American Studies Center.

Professor Valerie Matsumoto's New Book Examines Japanese American Rural Community of Cortez

Farming the Home Place: A Japanese American Community in California, 1919-1982 is the title of the new book by Center Associate Director Valerie J. Matsumoto. The book was recently published by Cornell University Press.

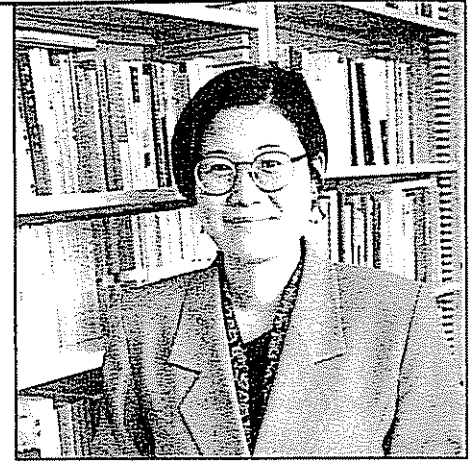
In 1919, against the backdrop of anti-Asian racism, a handful of Japanese immigrant families established Cortez Colony in a bleak pocket of the San Joaquin Valley. In her book, Professor Matsumoto presents a vivid account of three generations of women and men in this community.

Tracing the evolution of the gender and

family roles of members of Cortez as well as their cultural, religious and educational institutions, she documents the persistence and the flexibility of the ethnic community and demonstrates its range of meaning, from geographic location to state of mind.

Noting the important role that food plays in family and community events, Professor Matsumoto has included over 20 recipes for everything from *somen* salad to Jello *mochi*.

Dr. Matsumoto is Associate Professor in the UCLA History Department. A graduate of Arizona State University, she received her Ph.D. from Stanford University.



Professor Shu-mei Shih of Comparative Literature—a "double diasporic" scholar.

Professor Shu-mei Shih Explores Asian and Asian American Literature

By James Kyung-Jin Lee

As a scholar of Asian American literary works, Professor Shu-mei Shih immerses herself in texts that inhabit a marginal position even in the field of Asian American Studies. She attributes this interest to her own unique position as a "double diasporic" scholar. An ethnic Chinese raised in South Korea, she encountered even more displacement when she immigrated to the U.S. in 1983 for doctoral work at UCLA. Here her initial interest in Asian American literature came from a class she took from Professor King-Kok Cheung of the English Department.

Now an Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at UCLA and holding a joint appointment in Asian American Studies, Professor Shih believes that Asian American literature provides her a way to investigate her own struggle in the Asian diaspora.

Her classes—"Korean American Literature," "Chinese Immigrant Literature," and "Third World Literatures and Feminisms"—focus on issues that are directly related to her own immigrant sensibility. "Part of my research interest is related to a growth of personal identity, and the need to understand who I am, where I am," she states. "It was important to find a locus that had a personal connection."

Her research, therefore, is part of the whole struggle of Asian Americans to find that connection. Not only is Professor Shih interested in the marginality of Asian Americans, but her research is moving toward the added sense of displacement that women feel in this society.

Finally, Professor Shih's role as a "double diasporic" scholar leads her to try to reconfigure and expand the multicultural endeavor. She wants to explore issues of nation and culture beyond the U.S. "I insist on both Asian and Asian American literature," she states, "because in me, I embody Asian and Asian American."

(James Kyung-Jin Lee is a first-year graduate student in Asian American Studies.)

Honored at Reception by Center and APLCC

Dr. Pauline Yu Named Dean of Humanities

Dr. Pauline Yu, a renowned scholar of Chinese poetry, has been named Dean of Humanities at UCLA, becoming the highest-ranking Asian American woman in the administration.

Prior to coming to UCLA, Dr. Yu was the founding Chair of the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department at UC Irvine. She has written and contributed to several books, including *The Reading and Imagery in the Chinese Poetry Tradition* (Princeton University Press, 1987) and *Voices of the Song Lyric in China* to be published by University of California Press.

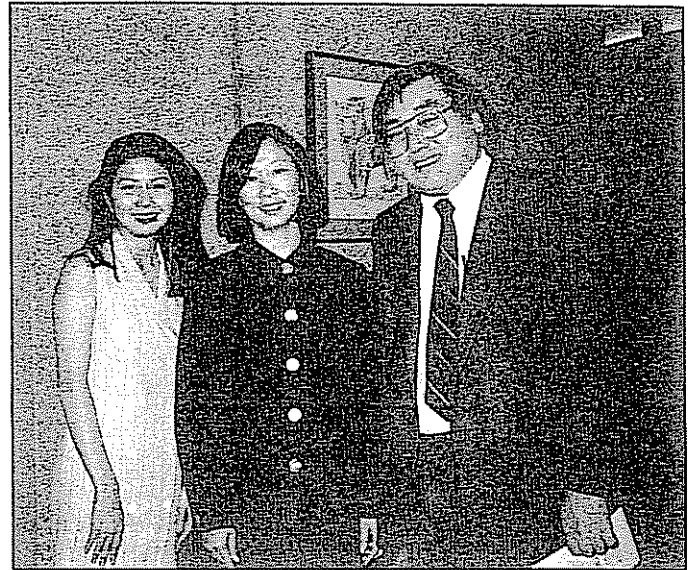
Dr. Yu was honored at a March 7 reception at the James West Alumni Center by the Asian American Studies Center and the Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee (APLCC). Other sponsors of the event were UCLA Asian Pacific Alumni, UCLA Alumni Association, Asian Pacific Coalition, Association of Chinese Americans, Chinese Students Association, and Asian Pacific Faculty and Staff Association.

The reception was chaired by Center Director Don Nakanishi, and undergraduate Cynthia Dinh of APLCC. Speakers included Professor James Lubben, Chair of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee; John Kobara, Executive Director of the UCLA Alumni Association; Dan Mayeda, President of the UCLA Asian Pacific Alumni; Elaine Takahashi, Director of Asian Pacific Faculty and Staff Association; Jay Mendoza, co-chair of APLCC; Took Took Thongthiraj, Director of Asian Pacific Coalition; Linda Chu and Vivian Tseng, presidents of Chinese Students Association and Association of Chinese Americans, respectively; and Travis Kiyota, Assistant to Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan.

Providing entertainment were the Pilipino student singing group, "Tribong Ligau"; Xiao Wu on the Chinese *pipa*; and Chinese American poet Russell C. Leong.

The oldest of four daughters born to two physicians in Rochester, New York, Dr. Yu resisted her parents' pressure to pursue the sciences and a career in medicine.

After a summer exchange program in the Netherlands, she studied at Harvard in French and Germany history and literature. She earned a master's degree and Ph.D. in comparative literature from Stanford, where she studied Chinese, French, and Germany



Dr. Pauline Yu (center) is congratulated on her appointment as Dean of Humanities at a March 7 reception by APLCC co-chair Cynthia Dinh (left) and Asian American Studies Center Director Don Nakanishi (right).

poetry.

She joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota and Columbia before going to UC Irvine in 1989, where she was founding Chair of the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department. Within three years, she had built the new department into one of the finest in the country, recruiting eight distinguished scholars.

As the new Dean of Humanities at UCLA, Dr. Yu's immediate task is to preserve the quality of the humanities at UCLA in the face of budget cuts. She has been meeting with chairs and directors of all departments and programs in the humanities. She has also met with student groups, including leaders of Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee, to hear their concerns for addition of language classes in Tagalog, Hindi, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Center's Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. Dorrine Kondo Researching Asian American Theater and Fashion

By Stacey Hirose

Joining the Asian American Studies Center research staff for 1993-1994 is visiting scholar Dr. Dorrine Kondo. She is a recipient of the Institute of American Cultures (IAC) Postdoctoral Fellowship for Asian American Studies.

Dr. Kondo received her B.A. in anthropology from Stanford University, and her Ph.D., also in anthropology, from Harvard University. At present, she is an associate professor at Pomona College, one of the six Claremont Colleges, where she holds the MacArthur Chair in Women's Studies in the Department of Anthropology.

Dr. Kondo is the author of *Crafting Selves: Power, Gender, and Discourse of Identity in a Japanese Workplace* which was published by

University of Chicago Press in 1990. She briefly summarizes her book as a poststructural ethnography about Japanese identity in a small company factory in Tokyo. In addition to *Crafting Selves*, she has written papers on Asian American theater and plays such as analyses of David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly* and R. A. Shiomi's *Uncle Tadao*.

Currently, Dr. Kondo is using her IAC postdoctoral fellowship to conduct research for an upcoming book. The book will be a compilation of essays that discuss Orientalism, identity, cultural politics, and performance. More specifically, she will be looking at Asian and Asian American sites in fashion and theater.

Outside of academic research and writing, Dr. Kondo has worked on both theatrical and creative projects. She was the dramaturge for Anna Deveare Smith's *Twilight*, a one-woman play about the Los Angeles Rebellion which was at the Mark Taper Forum in summer 1993. Recently, Dr. Kondo wrote "(Dis)Graceful(?) Conduct," a comedic play that deals with women of color in the academy, cross-racial identification, and sexual and racial harassment. Parts of her play have been read at East West Players, and in the future she hopes to have it published and performed in full.

(Stacey Hirose holds an M.A. from UCLA in Asian American Studies.)

Major Resource for Study of Issei Literary Past

Akira Togawa Papers Donated to UCLA Library

The Akira Togawa Papers Reception was held at UCLA on January 16, 1994, at the Department of Special Collections, University Research Library. Sponsored by the Friends of the Asian American Studies Center Reading Room, the reception honored Mrs. Kimi Togawa for the generous donation of her late husband's papers.

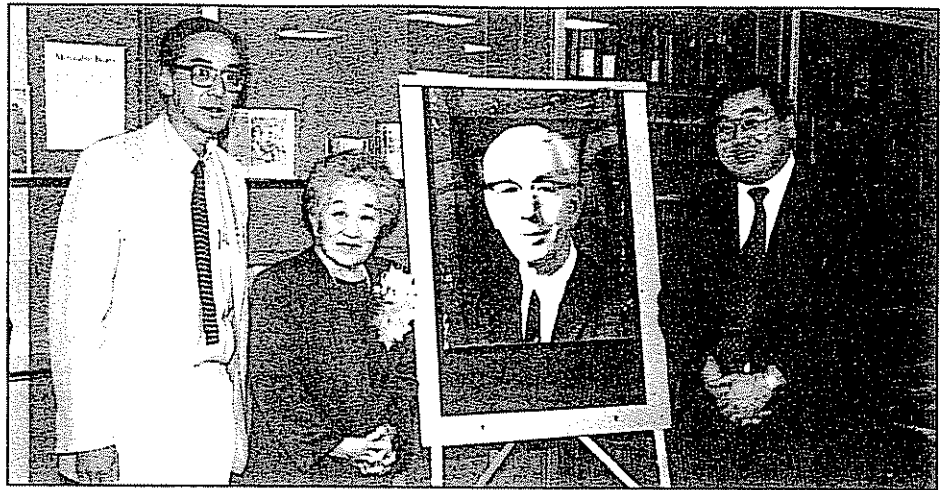
Professor Yuji Ichioka, Research Associate of Asian American Studies and Adjunct Associate Professor of History, served as the host of the reception. In addition to Mrs. Kimi Togawa, members and friends of the Togawa family and UCLA faculty and students attended the reception. Speakers included Professor Ichioka; Professor Don Nakanishi, Director, Asian American Studies Center; Brian Niiya, Friends of the Asian American Studies Center Reading Room; Gloria Werner, University Librarian; Kiyoshi Yano and Machiko Yamanaka, Nanka Bungei; Professor Teruko Kumei, visiting scholar from Japan; and Mrs. Kimi Togawa.

Akira Togawa (1903-1980) was an Issei poet and long-time resident of Los Angeles. He immigrated to the United States in 1923. He and his wife were married in 1929 and had five children: daughter, Akiko, 1930; son, Paul Susumu, 1932; daughter, May Hiroko, 1937; daughter, June Tomiko, 1941; and son, Glenn Noboru, 1946.

Before World War II, Togawa was employed by the M.S. Miura Company, a wholesale produce dealer. He was interned at Poston, Arizona, during the wartime years. In the post-war period, he operated the Brooklyn & Ford Market in East Los Angeles.

Togawa was active as a poet in various literary groups of Southern California before World War II, the Poston Bungei during the war, and the Nanka Bungei after the war. He was also a member of the Sounsha, a poetry society in Japan led by Ogiwara Seisensui who published the works of many Issei poets. Togawa was the author of two poetry anthologies: *Shishu*, 1932, and *Mitsubachi no Uta*, 1962. He was also a frequent contributor to local Japanese American newspapers and Issei poetry anthologies.

The Akira Togawa Papers include diaries, 1921-1978, 57 volumes; incoming correspondence file, 1962-1980; copies of prewar, wartime, and postwar Issei literary journals including a complete set of Nanka Bungei; poetry anthologies, novels and essays, autobiographies and biographies, and other books; copies of the works of prominent Japanese poets and writers with whom Togawa had personal connections; and six oversize scrapbooks of newspaper clippings on art and literature, 1952-1978.



Mrs. Kimi Togawa (center) with Professor Yuji Ichioka (left) and Professor Don Nakanishi (right), alongside a photograph of Akira Togawa.
(Photo by Brian Niiya)

According to Professor Ichioka, everything in the Togawa Papers is of great historical value, especially in terms of researching Issei literary activities and writings. He singled out the collection of poetry anthologies as truly outstanding.

In recent years, the Asian American Studies Center has successively acquired the Edison Uno Papers, Charles Kikuchi Papers, Yoneo Sakai Papers, Karl Yoneda Papers, and Abiko Family Papers—all of which have been added to the original Japanese American Research Project (JARP) Collection at UCLA, which is recognized as the finest collection in the United States of primary sources on Japanese immigration.

The addition of the Akira Togawa Papers further enhances the scope and depth of the

JARP Collection, enabling future researchers to conduct research on the little known, yet very important, Issei literary past.

\$250,000 Raised Thus Far for Remembrance Fund

Over \$250,000 has been raised thus far for the Japanese American Remembrance Fund, marking the half-way mark for the campaign to create a permanent endowment for Japanese American Studies at UCLA.

The campaign was launched during the Asian American Studies Center's year-long series of events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans. The fund is unique in American higher education and was featured in a story in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* (February 23, 1994).

Center Director Don Nakanishi paid special tribute to several major gifts that are directed toward specific goals of the JARF campaign: from Dr. Sanbo and Kay Sakaguchi to benefit archival collection activities of the Japanese American Research Project Collection at the University Research Library; George and Sakaye Aratani to establish a Community Fellowship program to provide opportunities for students undertaking field internships with Japanese American community groups; Blue Cross of California to benefit public educational programs on Japanese American health and medical issues; and John Kubota to establish a scholarship fund to support undergraduate research and creative activities in Japanese American Studies.

On June 26 at UCLA's Wadsworth Theater, a special performance of Okinawan dance, featuring several Living National Treasures of Japan, will be held to benefit JARF.



Mrs. Kimi Togawa and Makoto Arakaki (left) of our Center's M.A. program examine the Togawa papers.
(Photo by Brian Niiya)

Reading Room Creates New Research Tool: An Electronic Database

Librarians Marji Lee and Brian Niya of the Asian American Studies Reading Room have created a new research aid: an electronic cumulative database of all *Amerasia Journal* bibliographies from 1977 to 1993. The database contains more than 10,000 citations of research articles in Asian American Studies. Each record represents the complete reference citation as originally appearing in *Amerasia*.

According to Lee, the database will simplify and speed up research literature searching. Researchers using the database can search the cumulative bibliography through author searches, "key word" searches (e.g., subject categories, ethnic-specific topics, ethnic groups, and general topics), or "descriptor" field searches adapted from *Amerasia's* subject headings. The database is mounted on the Reading Room's Macintosh network and utilizes Pro-Cite software.

The database is described by librarian Lee as "still a work-in-progress." However, she adds that it "represents an efficient, convenient, and important pathway to a wealth of resources unlisted anywhere else."

Reading Room staff hope to have diskettes of the database available for sale in April.

Asian Language Conference in Pasadena on April 23

"Teaching and Testing Asian Languages in California Schools and Communities" will be the focus of a major statewide conference on Saturday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasadena.

Co-sponsored by the Asian American Studies Center, the University of California Task Force on Asian Languages, and other organizations and school districts, the conference will focus attention on Asian language achievement tests that have been developed by the College Board of New York for applicants to colleges. The tests were created at the urging of the UC Task Force in response to issues raised during the Asian American admissions controversy at UC Berkeley and UCLA.

In April 1993, a conference was sponsored by the UC Task Force to spotlight the first administration of the achievement test on Japanese. This year's event will inaugurate the Chinese achievement test, which is slated to be offered nationally on April 26, three days after the gathering. The Task Force, which includes Don Nakanishi and Dean Pauline Yu of UCLA, has urged the College Board to develop additional achievement tests in the future.

For more information, call our Center, (310) 825-2974.

Friends of Reading Room Formed

By Marji Lee

The Asian American Studies Center announces the formation of an organization devoted to the support and enhancement of its library: the Friends of the Reading Room.

The Friends of the Reading Room is dedicated to supporting the growth and potential of this unique and outstanding resource for both campus and community. Charter members Elsie Uyematsu, Haruko Kawasaki, and Judy Soohoo—long-standing friends of the Center—have already hosted several very exciting events.

Featured events have included a book signing reception acknowledging the recent book by Professor King-Kok Cheung of the UCLA English Department, *Articulate Silences: Hisaye Yamamoto, Maxine Hong Kingston, Joy Kogawa* (Cornell University Press, 1993). Co-author of *Asian American Literature: An Annotated Bibliography* (MLA, 1988), Cheung's new volume includes insightful sections on three major Asian American women writers.

The Friends have also hosted a special reception acknowledging the generous donation of Issei poet Akira Togawa's papers into the Japanese American Research Project collection within the University Research Library's Special Collection Department (see article on page 14).

Also recently hosted by the Friends were a poetry reading and book reception featuring Russell C. Leong (*Country of Dreams and Dust*, West End Press, 1993) and Amy Uyematsu (*Thirty Miles from J-Town*, Story Line Press, 1992).

Future events include a book party and Cortez, California, reunion for History Department Professor Valerie Matsumoto and her newly published book, *Farming the Home Place: A Japanese American Community in California, 1919-1982* (Cornell University Press, 1993); and

a book reception and colloquium for Jacqueline Agluca and her forthcoming book, *Domestic Violence and the Filipina in an Abusive Relationship* (Seal Press, 1994).

The Reading Room/Library, established in the early 1970s by the Center to support its research and instructional programs, has long been recognized as one of the leading collections of printed material on the Asian and Pacific Islander American experience. This collection of over 5,000 bound volumes—along with rare and often unique collections of articles, pamphlets, community newspapers, organizational files, student papers, and other print/non-print materials—has been an invaluable resource to generations of students, scholars, and researchers.

However, due to budget cutbacks imposed on California's universities, the Reading Room's fiscal resources have suffered dramatically. Unfortunately, this is occurring at a time when we are seeing a prolific, exciting new wave of works on Asian Pacific Americans. Moreover, new technological developments in information management have the potential to enhance and revolutionize access and research potential in Asian American Studies.

Becoming a Reading Room Friend will not only offer an extraordinary opportunity to travel into the world of Asian Pacific American communities, arts, literature, and scholarship, but can also include circulation access into its rare and valuable collection.

The Friends are seeking energetic, innovative, and interested persons to serve on the steering committee. For more information, call the Center, (310) 825-2974.

(Marji Lee serves as Coordinator of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Reading Room.)

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